Greetings from the Director

The academic year 2010-2011 opened with a lecture by Anna Sapir Abulafia, once Vice-President of Lucy Cavendish College in Cambridge University, entitled “Who Serves Whom in Medieval Jewish-Christian Relations.” Despite the cuts in university budgets, the program is able to hold a major conference on 18 and 19 February of this year on the cultural interactions among princely courts around the Mediterranean Sea during the Middle Ages. Co-sponsoring this event and meeting in conjunction with us is the University of California Multi-Campus Research Group on Mediterranean Studies. This group will be meeting three times a year over the next five years at various UC campuses. The program is delighted to be hosting the second of its workshops.

Three people finished and submitted their dissertations this year: Jessica Weiss, Corinne Wieben and Donna Beth Ellard were granted their Ph.D.’s in the June ceremony. Jessica wrote a dissertation on the education of women in late medieval Italian convents; Corinne produced a thesis on marriage in the Tuscan commune of Lucca. We are looking forward to several other students finishing this year. Karen Frank, who is completing a study of Jewish families in Perugia, gained a tenure-track position at the University of the Ozarks. A number of other students, listed below on p. 6, won fellowships for study in Europe this year. Among our faculty, Carol Lansing is presenting papers this winter and spring at the annual meeting of the American Historical Society in Boston and at a major conference in May of 2011 in Florence as well as at another meeting in Bologna on violence in medieval Italy. Several others have recently published or will soon publish articles and monographs.

The graduate student conference in May will be on the intriguing topic of senses and sensibilities. The keynote speaker is a former colleague of mine at the universities of Toronto and Notre Dame, Kathy Biddick. We are also in the planning stages for a number of noon-time presentations by three local scholars during the coming quarters.

Beside publishing articles on my on-going research on fourteenth-century Siena, I am teaching the introduction to Medieval Studies. One of the main themes of that course is the popular representation of the Middle Ages in film. During the summer of 2010, I was a recipient of a fellowship to attend a NEH Summer Institute in Barcelona on Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Mediterranean. There I pursed comparative research on merchant cultures in the Mediterranean and learned much about the culinary practices and the archives and libraries of Barcelona.

- Edward D. English
Exceptionally well attended, the annual Medieval Studies Colloquium hosted at UC Santa Barbara was the final, exciting conclusion to the first year of the PUF/FACE grant awarded to Cynthia Brown (French and Italian, UCSB) and Anne-Marie Legaré (Art History, Université de Lille-3) for the study of “Women, Art and Culture in Medieval and Renaissance Europe.”

The opening day of the conference saw three presentations: Abby Dowling (History, UCSB) gave a talk entitled, “‘Les gardins de ma dame’: Mahaut d’Artois’ Control and Use of the Park at Hesdin” in which she proposed pragmatic as well as ornamental uses for pleasure gardens of the time. Olga Karaskova (Art History, Université de Lille-3) discussed the methods by which Mary of Burgundy maintained power in her paper, “Saint Bavo at the Service of Princely Propaganda, or the Case of Philip the Handsome and Mary of Burgundy.”

Noa Turel (Art History, UCSB) opened the second day with, “Staging the Court: Aliénor de Poitiers and the 1478 Mise en Scène of a Princely Nativity.” She was followed by keynote speaker Professor Anne-Marie Legaré’s “Constructing the Ideal and Universal Princess: The Entry of Joanna of Castile into the City of Brussels on December 9, 1496.” [See “Constructing the Ideal Woman,” p. 3.] Commencing the afternoon’s activities, Dr. Nicole Archambeau (History, UCSB) discussed how a woman’s sanctity could be shaped by a reading list in, “Remembering Delphine’s Books: Reading as a Means to Shape a Holy Woman’s Sanctity.” Anne Jenny-Clark (Art History, Université de Lille-3) examined the exchange and production of books by women as a method to make themselves known in society; her talk was entitled, “Books in the Noble Women’s Chapter of Sainte-Waudru’s Collegiate in Mons (Hainaut): Hermine de Hairefontaine’s Lectionary (London, B.L., Ms Eg. 2569).” Jessica Weiss (History, UCSB) concluded the conference with her presentation, “To Better Impress Upon the Mind: Manuscript II 232, a Renaissance Textbook for Women?”

The annual UC Santa Barbara Medieval Studies conference would not have been possible without its presenters, the Medieval Studies Chair Cynthia Brown, its planning committee (including Professor Edward D. English (History, UCSB) and Brigit Ferguson (Art and Architecture, UCSB), Chancellor Henry T. Yang, the Partner University Fund/ French American Cultural Exchange, the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, the Graduate Division, the Medieval Studies Program, the Department of French and Italian, the Department of History, and the Department of Art and Architecture.
Constructing the Ideal Woman

By Aria Dalmolin

On February 27, 2010, Anne-Marie Legaré, Professor of Art History at the Université de Lille-3 in France gave a talk entitled "Constructing the Ideal and Universal Princess: The Entry of Joanna of Castile into Brussels in 1496". Her talk was part of the two-day annual Medieval Studies Conference at UCSB.

Legaré focused on the *Livre des Echecs Amoureux* which was dedicated to Joanna of Castile (aka Joanna the Mad). The *Livre des Echecs Amoureux* discussed the various virtues expected of an ideal princess following in the style of Boccaccio’s *De Claris Mulieribus* (a collection of biographies of important women) and Christine de Pizan’s *The City of Ladies*. New and risqué images of female warriors, Amazons, and strong, courageous women with both male and female qualities decorated these books. The *Livre des Echecs Amoureux* introduced women into new chivalric orders and conveyed new courtly values of courage and independence as well as offering an innovative political statement that women should assume chivalric virtues in order to support their husbands.

Legaré examined the illuminations of the manuscript which were examples of the *tableaux vivants* style, in which the images were displayed on scaffolds on which the scenes were acted out. One *tableau vivant*, which was of particular interest to the talk, was the *Domus delicie et jucunditutis* (the house of delight and games). These scenes portrayed women eating, reading, dancing, playing instruments, kissing and other sorts of pleasant as well as virtuous activities. Legaré pondered the possibility that this *tableau vivant* was offering an invitation to hedonism for women of the time. She came to the conclusion, however, that the scenes parallel the 3rd day of Boccaccio’s *Decameron* in that these activities are perfectly acceptable and virtuous as long as morality is still present, thus warning against the excesses of foolish young love.

Joanna of Castile was therefore expected to embody both the female as well as the male qualities presented in the manuscript, evidently “feminizing” the typically “male” qualities. The *Livre des Echecs Amoureux* presents a complex fusion of public and private virtues that were expected of Joanna of Castile.

The virtues and qualities that Legaré posits are much more complicated and interesting than this short summary suggests. Legaré’s talk was accompanied by beautiful images of the many illuminations and *tableaux vivants* that are found in the manuscript. It is nevertheless clear from this talk that Joanna of Castile was considered a very courageous and important woman of her time and that even all the way back in the Middle Ages we can find examples of proto-feminist literature explaining the importance of women and their roles in society.

Graduate Student Exchange

By Anneliese Pollock

Now in its second year, the international PUF/FACE grant allowed Abby Dowling (at left) from History and Anneliese Pollock (at right) from French the opportunity to spend several weeks in Paris and Lille. The two PhD students attended weekly seminars co-taught by Professors Brown and Legaré.

In the spirit of collaboration which the grant is intended to promote, the American students presented papers in the seminar, as did French students of Art History. A pair of these talks promises to be particularly fruitful: Anneliese examined (cont’d p. 4)
Current Faculty Projects

Cynthia Brown’s, French, edited volume, The Cultural and Political Legacy of Anne de Bretagne (D. S. Brewer), and her monograph entitled The Queen’s Library: Image-Making at the Court of Anne of Brittany, 1477-1514 (University of Pennsylvania Press) recently appeared in print, along with four articles on female patronage, Claude de France and Pierre Gringore. In addition, she made presentations at the Sixteenth Century Society Conference in Montreal, the SIEFAR conference on (cont’d p. 5)

New Students

Rachel Levinson-Emley
Interests: Theatre
Department: English
Degree: B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Lauren Griffin
Interests: Catholicism in Early Modern England, Hagiography, Catholic reform
Department: Religious Studies
Degrees: M.A., Vanderbilt University
M. of Education, University of Oklahoma
B.A., University of Oklahoma

Shay Hopkins
Interests: Monstrosity, Psychoanalytic theory
Department: English
Degree: B.A., Seattle University

Grad Student Exchange, cont’d
the treatment of women weavers and writers in the works of Boccaccio, Christine de Pisan, and Antoine Dufour, while Samuel Gras (Art History, Université de Lille-3) examined the iconography surrounding these famous women.

MedGrad Abroad

Jessica Elliott, History, is in Paris from October 2010 until June 2011 on a Chateaubriand scholarship. She is researching at the Archives nationales, the Bibliothèque nationale of France, and the Institut de recherche et d’histoire des textes as she works on her dissertation, “‘Conversi ad fidem’ or ‘ludaei devocionem simulantes’?: Attitudes towards converted Jews in 13th- and 14th-Century Northern France.”

Colleen Ho, History, began her studies in Rome as a Fulbright scholar in October 2010. She is examining diplomatic letters, sermons, papal and church inventories and a small body of artwork as she researches 13th- and 14th-century European understandings of the Mongols.

Sophia Rochmes, Art History, spent the Fall quarter in Belgium and the Netherlands on an exploratory trip for her dissertation in 14th- and 15th-century Netherlandish painting and manuscript illumination. While there, she studied Dutch, visited numerous museums and libraries, and met with several of the leading experts in medieval Dutch history and literature.

Abby Dowling, History, was in Paris in Fall 2010 participating in a PUF/FACE-supported interdisciplinary program on women’s patronage in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. In addition to researching for her presentation on the library of Mahaut d’Artois, she researched for her dissertation, “The Curious Case of Mahaut of Artois: Aristocratic land management during environmental and economic crisis in northern France, 1302-1329,” at the Bibliothèque nationale of France, the Archives nationales, and the Archives départementales of Pas-de-Calais.

Anneliese Pollock, French, spent three weeks in Paris/Lille in Fall 2010 as part of the PUF/FACE grant studying Women, Arts and Culture in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Current Faculty Projects

Cynthia Brown's, French, edited volume, The Cultural and Political Legacy of Anne de Bretagne (D. S. Brewer), and her monograph entitled The Queen’s Library: Image-Making at the Court of Anne of Brittany, 1477-1514 (University of Pennsylvania Press) recently appeared in print, along with four articles on female patronage, Claude de France and Pierre Gringore. In addition, she made presentations at the Sixteenth Century Society Conference in Montreal, the SIEFAR conference on (cont’d p. 5)
the “Querelle des Femmes” in Paris, and at the Université de Lille-3 and the Université Catholique de Louvain. Under the auspices of the Partner University Fund, she is co-teaching graduate seminars in France and at UCSB this year on medieval and Renaissance female patronage with Anne-Marie Legegaré, Professor of Art History, Université de Lille-3.

Jody Enders, French, has a manuscript on its way to publication, a translation of twelve medieval French farces, entitled *The Farce of the Fart*. The review of Monty Python and the Holy Grail actor Terry Jones reads: “Scurrilous, sexy, stupid, satirical, scatological, side-splitting and probably something else beginning with ‘S’. Jody Enders’ translation of twelve Medieval French farces is a real discovery that goes a long way to re-adjusting our perception of the Middle Ages. Enders is a great champion of comedy at its most vulgar and hilarious. She points out that however silly or banal these farces may appear to us, they nonetheless confront the real controversies of their day over the law, politics, religion, social order or the battle of the sexes. Thoroughly grounded in her academic approach to the subject, Enders nevertheless writes with liveliness and humor and wit. She is unafraid to reference modern comedy in her translations, and insists on the primacy of performance in assessing these comedies from half a millennium ago.”

Carol Pasternack, English, published two items, an article online and in print in a new journal, *Postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*, 1.3, Fall/Winter 2010. It is part of a “Critical Exchange” on “The State of Early English Studies,” part of which appeared in the online journal, *The Heroic Age*. Her piece is titled, “Text, sex and politics: Present and past reflections,” and in it she relates the current controversies about law, religion and sex in the Proposition 8 court cases to the interplay of these factors in early 11th-century England, the time of Wulfstan and King Cnut. In addition, she has a much longer theoretical and scholarly article in a volume entitled, *Intersections of Gender, Religion, and Ethnicity in the Middle Ages*, eds. Cordelia Beattie and Kristen Fenton, Palgrave. Her article is “Ruling Masculinities: From Adam to Apollonius of Tyre in Corpus 201b.” The volume and the conference that preceded it were inspired by Sharon Farmer’s and Pasternack’s volume, *Gender and Difference in the Middle Ages*, 2003. She is also currently writing a chapter for a collection, *Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Studies*, on “Sex and Gender.”

Harvey Sharrer, Spanish and Portuguese, presented a paper in July entitled, “A reworking of Diego de Valera’s Ceremonial de principes by António Rodrigues, Manuel I of Portugal’s Principal King of Arms,” at the Thirteenth International Congress, International Courtly Literature Society in Montreal, Canada. The paper is part of a larger study focusing on 15th- and 16th-century translations of heraldic treatises into Portuguese.

### The Medieval Other

by Judy Kingkaysone

On an April afternoon, the UC Santa Barbara Medieval Studies Program held its annual mini-colloquium. This year’s event brought together faculty from other UC’s in order to discuss “The Medieval Other.”

Benjamin M. Liu’s (Hispanic Studies, UC Riverside) lecture titled “Medieval Spain’s Asian Other” analyzed Spanish maps, travel narratives, and poetry concerning Asiatic encounters in the Mediterranean. Liu believed that Spain and Asia would take parts of each others’ cultures based on Foucault’s belief that humans abolish distance by making the other more like us. The description of Moorish clothing was the same in Spain as in the East. Merchant sailors in the Mediterranean tried to annihilate the distance between the West and the East. The Indian Ocean was a mirror of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea a mirror of the Caspian. Liu posited that the Spanish would orientalize objects of their own desires. The culture of catching seed pearls was the same between the two cultures, and then Spanish silk would be melded with Asian seed pearls. Liu brought up the point that by bringing together the Spanish and Asian cultures, Spain became more Western and became the model of Western culture against this Asian backdrop.

The next speaker Christine Chism (English, UC Los Angeles) studied the Mediterranean from its Eastern perspective. Her talk was titled (cont’d p. 7)
Awards and Achievements

Graduate Students: Abby Dowling was an exchange student with the University of Lille-3. She also presented, “‘Les gardins de ma dame’: Mahaut d’Artois’ Control and Use of the Park at Hesdin,” at UCSB’s annual Medieval Colloquium “Women, Arts and Culture in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.” Jessica Elliott (History) received a Chateaubriand scholarship, a Fulbright award (declined), a Borchart Foundation fellowship, and a Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant from UCSB. Jennifer R. Hammerschmidt (Art History) received a DAAD scholarship to spend a year in Germany, a Fulbright award to Germany (declined), and a Borchart Foundation fellowship. Colleen Ho (History) received a Fulbright scholarship. S.C. “Kappie” Kaplan (French) presented, “Divine Providence?: A Study of Oracular Prediction vis-à-vis the Celtic and Christian Supernatural” at the UCSB French Department’s Spring graduate colloquium “Chance and Destiny.” Shannon Meyer (English) won the English Department’s William and Marjorie Frost Memorial Award for best graduate student essay. Anneliese Pollock was an exchange student with the University of Lille-3. Liberty Stanavage (English) published an essay, “Problematizing Textual Authority in the York Register” in Textual Cultures, Cultural Texts, eds. Orietta da Rold and Elaine Treharne. Essays and Studies. DS Brewer, 2010.

Faculty: Donna Beth Ellard graduated in June 2010 with a Ph.D. in English and an emphasis in Medieval Studies. She will be lecturing for medieval literature classes in the UCSB English department during Winter and Spring 2011 quarters. Karen Frank received a tenure-track position at the University of the Ozarks. Jessica Weiss graduated in June 2010 with a Ph.D. in History and an emphasis in Medieval Studies. Corinne Wieben graduated in June 2010 with a Ph.D. in History and an emphasis in Medieval Studies.

Events to Come

Winter Colloquium: “Mediterranean Princely Courts and the Transmission of Cultures”
Feb 18-19, 2011
Scholars from the UC system and worldwide will come together to discuss how various Mediterranean courts learned from and were influenced by the cultural and artistic ideas and practices of their neighbors.

Spring Colloquium: “Senses and Sensibilities”
May 7, 2011
During this one-day interdisciplinary conference, graduate students will come together to explore the senses, sensibilities, and the dynamic relationship between the two in the Middle Ages. Keynote speaker: Kathy Biddick (History, Temple University).

Winter course: “Le mécénat des femmes en Europe entre Moyen Âge et Renaissance : Traductions, Adaptations, Commentaires“
Offered in French, this course will be co-taught by Cynthia Brown (French) and Anne-Marie Legare (Art History, University of Lille-3). It will include a trip to the Getty for the colloquium on Feb 4th, “The Future of the Past: History in the Medieval Francophone West.”
Medieval Other, cont’d

“Over the Edge: Narrative and Cultural Extremities in the Travels of Ibn Battuta.” Chism analyzed Ibn Battuta’s travel narrative of his twenty-nine-year trip from Morocco to China and back. Battuta felt as if the rest of the world would be knowable if only he went to China. Although Battuta found China beautiful, he hated it there because the Muslims in China were not Muslim enough, and so headed back home to Tangiers. However, Chism argued that Islam was able to survive in foreign places because of its adaptability.

In her talk “Jean Gerson’s the Monstrous Other: the Deadly Sins of Politics,” Nancy McLoughlin (History, UC Irvine) discussed the European other. McLoughlin examined how the priest Jean Gerson actively demonized his religious opponents in early fifteenth century Paris in order to influence the policies of King Charles VI of France. Gerson’s opponents were the religious outsiders and were monsters of the Seven Deadly Sins. This was proof of the monstrosity of the other. In order to fight these monsters and the sins attached to them, Christians had to unite against these demons and their sins. Christian unity could be found in the divine wisdom matriculating from the University of Paris, the institution where Gerson had learned theology. This was the manner by which Gerson collapsed the allegorical world and the real world in an attempt to influence court politics.

This well-attended conference was able to bring together scholars across California in order to broaden knowledge on East and West relations and the medieval other and would not have been possible without its organizers and contributors.

2010 Lectures


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In memoriam: Tom Sizgorich

By now, many of you have learned of the sudden passing of Tom Sizgorich on January 27, 2011, and those of us lucky enough to know Tom are still struggling to comprehend the absence of such a vibrant spirit. With his passing, the academic world has lost a brilliant mind, and the medievalists of UCSB, a beloved friend.

Tom’s groundbreaking work often defied traditional labels, perhaps best exemplified by his book, Violence and Belief in Late Antiquity: Militant Devotion in Christianity and Islam (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009). Tom’s own ability to transcend conventional boundaries may help to explain his ability to blur the artificial divide between the late antique and early Islamic periods and his unique perspective on the rhetoric and practice of boundary formation within both Christianity and Islam.

Indeed, challenging convention was Tom’s great talent, and, I suspect, one of his great joys. Some of my favorite memories of Tom involve examples of his quick and biting wit, but it was always clear that this sometimes gruff exterior concealed a gentle and caring spirit. I met Tom in my first year of graduate study at UCSB, and, like many first-year graduate students, I was young, omniscient, and invincible. Whenever the size of my ego exceeded the quality of my work, Tom was among the first to challenge me, but whenever I was plagued with doubts, Tom was also among the first to comfort me, reminding me that history, like life, is a difficult discipline. He taught by example the necessity for courage and integrity in one’s approach to both history and life.

In his life and work, Tom demonstrated fierce honesty and admirable generosity. As I came to know him and his wife, Nancy, as fellow graduate students in history, I saw that they were an exemplary pair. Their intellects could challenge and even intimidate, but the mutual love and respect they held for one another provided a model of intellectual and personal partnership for the rest of us.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Tom’s family and friends. I am sure that I am joined by all who knew Tom in feeling that the world is poorer for his absence. I am equally sure that we will continue to remember him fondly.

Corinne Wieben
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