From the Director

Welcome back to the Medieval and Renaissance Studies (MARS) Annual Newsletter. MARS at Purdue had much to celebrate in 2008-09, its busiest year to date.

- Former MARS director, Thomas Ohlgren, won the Robert L. Kindrick Award for Outstanding Service to Medieval Studies. (story on p. 2)
- Two new interdepartmental courses were added: “The History of Books” (MARS 42000) and “MARS Explorations” (MARS 12000).
- “The Middle Ages on Film” (MARS 22000) was reintroduced as a 70-plus student mega-course.
- MARS hosted its first-ever essay competition, the Ohlgren Award for Best Graduate Student Essay. (p. 2)
- In September, MARS hosted its annual Fall Symposium. (p. 5)
- In November, MARS hosted its first-ever Film Fest. (p. 7)
- In February, Comitatus hosted its 7th Annual Conference. (p. 5)
- In April, MARS co-sponsored a performance by Chaucer hip-hop artist, Baba Brinkman. (p. 7)
- In May, MARS sponsored two sessions at the 44th Annual Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo. (p. 4)
- MARS Mondays and the Renaissance Reading Club continue to thrive. (p. 3, p. 5)
- The MARS Steering Committee added two new members—Yonsoo Kim, Assistant Professor of Spanish, and Gordon McCall, Associate Professor of Theatre. (p. 3)

Please join us in celebrating another exciting and active year of the MARS community. We hope you enjoy this second annual issue of the Newsletter. For more information about MARS at Purdue, visit our website at http://www.cla.purdue.edu/medieval-studies.

Paul Whitfield White

MARS Welcomes Arthuriana to Purdue

Arthuriana, the premiere academic journal focusing on the legend of King Arthur from its inception in the Middle Ages to its enactment in the present moment, is now housed at Purdue. Assistant Director of MARS, Professor Dorsey Armstrong, is Editor-in-Chief.

The editorial board includes Associate Editor Robyn Malo, Book Review Editor Michael Johnston, and editorial assistants Richard Severe, Karen Robinson, and Ryan Naughton, with help and support from a number of other medieval grad students in our program. Congratulations to Professor Armstrong and her team for publishing the first completely Purdue-produced issue of Arthuriana (19.3.).

Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies
This has been a momentous year for Thomas Ohlgren, former Director of MARS, founding Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies, and Professor of English. In the Fall of 2008, MARS threw a retirement party for him, organized by Professors Dorsey Armstrong and Shaun Hughes, with graduate student Kristin Leaman arranging the catered party at lovely Duncan Hall in Lafayette. Several colleagues and students paid tribute to him, including his old friend and team-teaching French medievalist, Tom Kelly.

In March, the Medieval Academy announced that Tom had won the prestigious Robert L. Kindrick Award for Outstanding Service to Medieval Studies. The official citation, read at the annual meeting of the Medieval Society of America in Chicago on Friday, March 17, 2009, states that, “Over the past thirty-five years, Professor Ohlgren has been an important, national advocate for Medieval Studies in his leadership role in CARA [Committee on Centers and Regional Associations of Medieval Studies]; his founding and administering the influential interdepartmental Medieval Studies program at Purdue; his amassing an inspired record of mentoring and teaching; and his commitment through community outreach to educating the general public about the Middle Ages. His scholarly achievements have consistently reinforced these services.”

At the 44th International Medieval Congress at Western Michigan University, two sessions in honor of Professor Ohlgren were organized by his former Ph.D. student, Professor Alex Kaufman, one on “Anglo-Saxon Art and Iconography,” the other on “Medieval Outlaws.” MARS also made Tom guest of honor at its annual dinner at Kalamazoo, where he was joined by his fellow distinguished colleagues Stephen Knight and Ann Astell. The Kindrick Award in particular caps an extraordinary career in teaching, administration, and scholarship for Professor Ohlgren, who officially retired from the Department of English this year. For more details on his career, including an outstanding scholarly record, please see the feature on him in last year’s

MARS is delighted to announce that Brady Spangenberg, Ph.D. student in Comparative Literature, is the first winner of the Ohlgren Award for Best Graduate Student Essay (formerly the MARS Graduate Student Award for Best Essay) for his superb essay, “No Trees Felled in The Faerie Queene: A Look at the Ghost of Environmental Thinking Past.” Brady will receive a $250 grant from Thomas Ohlgren to use towards travel expenses for the 44th Annual Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, where he will be delivering his paper at one of the Congress’s general sessions. MARS is grateful to the IMC and Western Michigan University for granting this privilege, as well as waiving the congress registration fee.

This year, the MARS Graduate Student Award for Best Essay was renamed the Ohlgren Award for Best Graduate Student Essay in honor of founder and longtime director of MARS, Thomas Ohlgren. (see story above)
MARS Mondays

MARS long-running brownbag series, “MARS Mondays,” had another eventful year under the able direction of organizer Michael Ryan, Assistant Professor of History and Assistant Director of MARS. Once again, the presentations reflected a cross-section of the MARS community, featuring speakers from the fields of English (Michael Johnston, Kristin Leaman), Philosophy (Daniel Frank), French (Jessica Raffles), History (Angela Ghionea, Michael Ryan) and Comparative Literature (Charles Ross).

One of the sessions was a round table discussion led by Professor Charles Ross on “Environmental Spencer,” which

Two New Assistant Directors Join Mars in 2008-2009

Yonsoo Kim joined MARS as Assistant Director of Medieval in August 2008. She is an assistant professor of Spanish in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Purdue University. Her research interests include medieval and renaissance literature, medicine, gender studies, and religious studies. She has published articles on these topics, and her manuscript entitled El saber femenino y el sufrimiento corporal en la temprana Edad Moderna (Feminine Knowledge and Corporal Suffering in the Early Modern Ages) was published by the University of Cordoba, Spain in 2008. In Dr. Kim’s book, she studies how deafness influenced Teresa de Cartagena’s writings. With her current research project she intends to investigate physical disabilities and diseases that inflicted pain on people in medieval Europe. Dr. Kim has cofounded a research team called MMEDIS (Medieval Medicine Documents Identification System), where diverse interdisciplinary researchers pursue their goals to create an automatic transcription program with Artificial Intelligence. Apart from the MMEDIS research, Dr. Kim is currently involved in a project of digitalizing Spanish manuscripts of the XVI century with the paleographic specialists of the Universidad Complutense. This is funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.

Gordon McCall joined MARS as Assistant Director of Renaissance in May 2009. He is Associate Professor of Theatre and Head of the Directing program in the Purdue Department of Theatre. Prior to coming to Purdue, Gordon was Artistic/Executive Director of Centaur Theatre Company, Montreal’s leading English-language professional theatre from 1997 to 2007. Previously he was Artistic Director of Vancouver’s Touchstone Theatre, Winnipeg’s Prairie Theatre Exchange, Saskatoon’s Nightcap Productions, The Shakespeare On The Saskatchewan Festival, Kingston’s Garrison Theatre, and Sudbury’s Sudbury Theatre Centre, all in Canada. An MFA graduate in directing from The University of British Columbia, Gordon has worked as a director, actor, playwright, screenwriter, educator and producer throughout Canada, as well as the USA, Ireland and Australia. He has represented Canada internationally at The Edinburgh Festival, The Dublin Theatre Festival, the 1990 World Theatre symposium in London, England and the Tokyo Arts Fair and Symposium in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan. He is the recipient of a Les Masque award for Artistic Direction and was a member of the winning team of the Theatre Category award of the Grand Prix of Montreal in 2006. He has directed over 150 professional productions around the world, most recently directing a critically acclaimed production of Death and The Maiden by Ariel Dorfman for Montreal’s Centaur Theatre and Strawberries in January by Evelyne de Cheneliere for Champlain Theatre, Vermont. As an educator, Gordon has taught as an Assistant Professor at Canada’s Queen’s University, and Simon Fraser University and as a visiting artist/lecturer at The National Theatre School of Canada, McGill University, Concordia University, the University of British Columbia, Ryerson University, The University of Saskatchewan, and The University of Melbourne and Monash Uni-
Undergraduate Student of the Year, Sophia Roumbos

Congratulations to senior Sophia Roumbos for being selected as MARS Student of the year. Sophia, from Decatur, IN, is pursuing a degree in Anthropology, with minors in Medieval Studies and Psychology. Throughout her college career she has maintained a GPA of 3.93 and has achieved the Dean’s List each semester at Purdue allowing for membership in such prestigious honors organizations as the Golden Key International Honor Society. During her junior year, Sophia studied abroad in both London, England and at the University of Wales-Swansea, focusing on Old English, Chaucerian, and Medieval warfare studies. While in Swansea, she also volunteered her time at the Swansea Egypt Center. That same year, Sophia was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa Liberal Arts honors fraternity.

The summer between her junior and senior years, Sophia procured an internship with the George Washington Fredericksburg Foundation in Fredericksburg, VA. While there, Sophia conducted archaeological fieldwork at the site of George Washington’s boyhood home, and the findings were featured in local and national news when the discovery of the Washington house was made public. As well as being a dedicated member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Sophia is serving as a Liberal Arts Dean’s Ambassador and as Treasurer of the Purdue Anthropology Society. In the fall, she will attend the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. to pursue an MA in Museum Studies. Following that, Sophia hopes to move towards a second degree in Medieval Studies, focusing on Old English manuscript studies, with future goals of conserving and curating abroad. Pictured are

Purdue at Kalamazoo: The 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies

This was a special year for MARS at the 44th Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo. For the first time, the program sponsored a session, entitled “Secular and Sacred in Medieval and Early Modern Texts.” Chaired by Professor Robyn Malo of the Department of English, the session featured three outstanding speakers: Kathleen Davis (U of Rhode Island), Anne F. Harris (DePauw U) and Courtney Skipton Long (U of Pittsburgh). The presentations were followed by a lively discussion in which the speakers found common ground among their talks and contributed fresh insights on the intersection between the sacred and secular.

MARS continued to be well represented at the Congress as organizers, presiders, and presenters of papers at other sessions. Session organizers included Professors Dorsey Armstrong, Robyn Malo, Shaun Hughes, Paula E. Leverage, and Michael Johnston. The following faculty and students presented in sessions: Angela C. Ghionea, Charles Ross, Crystal Kirgiss, Lynne Dahmen, Chad D. Judkins, Francis Tobienne, Jr, Sol Neely, Paul Whitfield White, Dorsey Armstrong (organizer), J. David Schlosser, Paula Leverage, Jessica Raffelson, Emily Redman. And as mentioned earlier, Professor Thomas Ohlgren was honored with two sessions in his name (see page 2). In addition to academic sessions, the Arthuriana exhibit was staffed members of Comitatus. A highlight of the Congress is the annual MARS dinner in which the community can meet together in an atmosphere of festivity. The guest of honor at this year’s dinner was Tom Ohlgren, in
Renaissance Reading Coffee Club

In 2008-2009, Professor Angelica Duran organized this series of meetings featuring an important book and topic for discussion by Renaissance students and faculty. In the Fall, Professor Melinda Zook of the History Department led discussions on Bakhtin’s *Rabelais and His World* and other materials relating to carnival and the carnivalesque. The meetings continued in the Spring under Professor Duran’s leadership with discussions of Spanish picaresque novels *Lazarillo de Tormes* and *The Swindler*.

Renaissance Reading Coffee Club resumes in Fall 2009

Comitatus and the Comitatus 7th Annual Conference for Medieval Studies

2009 marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of Comitatus. The 2009-2010 officers are J. Case Tompkins (President), Chad Judkins (Vice President), Erin Kissick (Secretary), Russell Keck (Treasurer), and David Sweeten (Webmaster). The organization of medieval students continued its tradition of an annual picnic at the home of Professors Dorsey Armstrong and Ryan Schneider. The 7th Annual Graduate Student Conference for Medieval Studies, held in February, was a great success. This year’s theme, “Saints and Sinners of the Middle Ages,” featured five panels with presenters from across the country and a keynote address from Ann Astell, formerly of Purdue University and now Distinguished Professor of Theology at Notre Dame University. For other Comitatus highlights, see...

The 2008 MARS Fall Symposium

The 2008 MARS Fall Symposium, “Shakespeare: On Stage, On Film, and Online,” featured two of the world’s leading scholars in the field, David Bevington, the Phyllis Fay Horton Professor at the University of Chicago, and Peter Holland, the McMeel Family Professor in Shakespeare Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Bevington spoke on “As You Like It on Stage and in Film,” while Holland’s paper discussed “Passing Through: Shakespeare, Internet and Performance.” The speakers greeted guests at the Symposium’s reception, then addressed a packed audience in Krannert...
Select Course Descriptions for 2009-2010

In Spring 2009, MARS offered two newly designed courses. Professor Paula Leverage taught “The Middle Ages on Film” (our “mega” course with 70-plus students). It is offered again for Fall 2009. MARS undergraduates also saw the return of the MARS senior-seminar (MARS 42000), with “The History of Books from Beowulf to Shakespeare” taught by Professor Michael Johnston.

**The Middle Ages on Film. Offered FALL 2009**

**MARS 22000**

*Professor Paula Leverage*

This course introduces the Middle Ages through films of various languages and genres from the beginning of film history to the present. Among those featured are Ridley Scott’s *The Kingdom of Heaven*, Carl Theodor Dreyer’s *La Passion de Jeanne d’Arc*, and Ingmar Bergman’s *The Seventh Seal (Det Sjunde Inseglet)*. Screenings take place typically once a week. By reading literary, historical, legal, and film theory texts in conjunction with select films, students critically analyze representations of the Middle Ages and the cultural contexts from which these emerge. The course will mix lecture with discussion. Assignments include two essays, several shorter writing exercises, and a final exam.

**Medieval Drama in English Society: The Chester Cycle. Offered FALL 2009**

**MARS 42000/ENGL 52700**

*Professor Paul White*

The course examines medieval drama by focusing on the Chester Cycle of biblical plays “from Creation to Doomsday” which celebrated the Feast of Pentecost or Whitsun in the West Midlands region of England from the late fifteenth century to its last staging in 1575. Most class days contextualize assigned pageant play readings with discussions of the Chester Cycle’s extant records, dramaturgy, processional staging, language, guild-based actors, its changing religious messages, and its urban setting, among other topics. In addition to discussion, reports, and lectures, the class will consider surviving visual materials from the period, view films of modern adaptations, and engage in the occasional play-acting exercise. Grading is based on an oral report, several papers, two exams, and class participation.

**The Medieval World. Offered SPRING 2010**

**MARS 220/ENGL 232**

*Professor Dorsey Armstrong*

In her course on the "Medieval World" Professor Dorsey Armstrong disproves the theory that the Middle Ages was a dark time marked primarily by wars, plague, and superstition. Through an interdisciplinary approach which examines historical documents, the literature of the day, art, architecture, food, clothing, and social customs, the "Medieval World" course reveals that the period between 500-1500 was a bright and vibrant time that saw many innovations and social, cultural, religious, and political developments that have given rise to our
MARS faculty member and Assistant Professor of English, Robyn Malo, organized and facilitated a visit from hip-hop artist Baba Brinkman, who presented "The Rap Canterbury Tales" on April 13, 2009 at Purdue University. University, high school, and middle school students, along with faculty and staff, packed Krannert auditorium for the event. Brinkman met with Purdue students, faculty and staff during a lunchtime affair, entitled Chaucerpalooza, as well as during a rap-writing workshop co-sponsored by the Black Cultural Center. The event was funded by Purdue's Department of English, Comparative Literature, the College of Liberal Arts Engagement Office, and the Indi-

MARS launched its first annual “Film Fest” over four nights in November 2008. Organized and hosted by Professor Dorsey Armstrong and well attended by enthusiastic students, faculty, and members of the West Lafayette community, the series began on Thursday, November 13, with a showing of the French film, “Les Visiteurs du Soir (“The Devil’s Envoys”) introduced by Professor Paula Leverage.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights featured Beowulf (introduced by Professor Shaun Hughes), The Other Boleyn Girl (opening remarks by Professor Paul White) and

Purdue University believes in hands-on academic advising for undergraduate students and we at MARS are fortunate to have as our Academic Advisor Nina Haberer, who also serves in this capacity for the Department of History, Classical Studies and Jewish Studies. Her overlapping tenures with all three Directors of MARS result in a welcome continuity and institutional memory in her work. She also serves on our Steering Committee, lending valuable insight and perspective to our efforts.

Nina earned a B.A. in Spanish and History from Indiana University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois law school. Her own intellectual interests lie in Spain and Latin America as well as Native American and Constitutional law.

Nina's duties as Academic Advisor are extensive and varied. She works with students before, during and after their official tenure in our college, from high school students who are prospective majors to alumni in need of assistance. She disseminates information, explains university and program policies and processes, helps with career and graduate school preparation, and connects students to a full spectrum of resources related to their time at Purdue. She also helps students devise individualized educational plans that fulfill degree requirements while accommodating their specific interests, strengths, goals and needs, as well as incorporating courses and activities to advance career objectives. She guides students as they select courses they will
Angelica Duran, former Assistant Director of MARS, became Director of Religious Studies at Purdue on June 1, 2009. This has been a very busy and productive year for Angelica. In addition to her two plenary lectures in Budapest, Hungary and Stanford University, her alma mater, she delivered five other talks at national and international conferences. She published two academic chapters: “The Textual Conversation of Las Casas’s Brevísima Relación and Its 1656 British Translation” in the MLA’s Approaches to Teaching the Writings of Bartolomé de Las Casas and “Resurrecting John Milton” in the collection Displacing the Stage: What Makes Theatre? Her most well-received publication this year, however, has been her non-fiction essay “One Mamá’s Disposable Myths and Indispensable Machines” in Mama, Ph.D.: Women Write about Motherhood and Academic Life. She has brought all this excitement to her classrooms, again teaching a University Honors Course, “Don't Read This! Censorship and Censureship,” and “The Bible as Literature.” The West Lafayette Public Library was the beneficiary of both, hosting a Banned Books presentation and display for the first, and hosting a reading of memorized Biblical Psalms for the second. Professor Duran has been an extraordinarily resourceful leader for MARS, and we are very sorry to see her leave the program’s Steering Committee. The RRCC, which she started and organized, will in particular miss her inspiring presence. MARS, however, wishes her well as she takes over as Director of Religious Studies.

Paula Leverage is the Director of the new Center for Cognitive Literary Studies at Purdue. In addition to her new book, Reception and Memory: A Cognitive Approach to the Chansons de geste, Faux Titre Series, ed. Keith Busby and Michael Freeman (Amsterdam: Rodopi, forthcoming) her co-edited collection of essays titled Theory of Mind and Literature is in the final stage of completion. Professor Leverage taught “The Middle Ages on Film” (MARS 220) in the Spring of 2009 and teaches the course again this Fall.

Shaun Hughes published 6 contributions in The Facts On File Companion to British Poetry before 1600 (2008), including entries on "Beowulf " (77-80) and "Dream of the Rood" (149-51). His review essay of Tolkien and Modernity (2 vols., 2006) appeared in Tolkien Studies 5 (2008): 244-57. His presentations were "Colonial Banditry through Postcolonial Eyes: The Harder They Come and Apata" (African American Culture and Philosophy Symposium, November), and "The Icelandic Exempla as Arbiters of Gender Roles in Late Medieval Iceland" (MLA, December). In February, he gave his fifth "Book and Coffee" talk on Tolkien's The Children of Húrin (2007).
Faculty News (continued)

Michael Johnston has a forthcoming article entitled "Robert Thornton and The Siege of Jerusalem," appearing in *Yearbook of Langland Studies*. It should be out before the end of the year. He also gave two presentations of his research, one at the Early Book Society (Exeter, U.K.) and one at the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies (Columbus, OH). Mike was also awarded several research grants, including a Major Research Grant from the Bibliographical Society (London), the Purdue Research Foundation Summer Research Grant, and Purdue's Library Scholars' Grant. Professor Johnston taught “The History of Books from *Beowulf* to Shakespeare” (MARS 420) in the Spring of 2009, and is organizer of the 2009 Fall Symposium on “Jews and Judaism in Medieval Europe.”


Paul Whitfield White’s commissioned review essay, “The Year’s Work in Tudor and Stuart Drama,” was published in *Studies in English Literature 1500-1900*, Volume 49.2, Spring 2009. Also in print this year are “Comedy and Commerce in Early Elizabethan Interludes” (*The Oxford Handbook of Tudor Literature*) and “The Queen’s Men in Elizabethan Cambridge” (*Locating the Queen’s Men 1583-1603*). Professor White will give a keynote address at the Symposium on “The Chester Cycle 2010,” scheduled for May 22-25, 2009 at the University of Toronto. There, he will also lead a Purdue troupe of players to stage “The Fall of Adam and Eve” pageant from the Chester plays.

Robyn Malo has a forthcoming book chapter, “Behaving Paradoxically? Wycliffites, Shrines, and Relics,” in *Wycliffite Controversies*, edited by Mishtooni Bose and J. Patrick Hornbeck II. (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010). She presented a paper and chaired two panels at Kalamazoo. Additionally, Prof. Malo secured an Indiana Humanities Council grant to
**Student News**

**Marisa Buccieri’s** short story “The Garden” won the Margaret Church Memorial Award for a short story at the 78th Annual Literary Awards.

**Francis Tobienne, Jr.** has received an adjunct teaching position at USF-St. Petersburg. He received an honorable mention from the Ford Foundation for his fellowship application. He also received first place in the Literary Awards category of Foreign Languages and Literatures category for his essay titled “In Praise of the Quixotic, or The Valuation of Cervantine Criticism(s)”.

**Chad Judkins** presented his paper “Word Play in the Riddle of the Husband’s Message” at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo.

**Russell Keck** presented his paper “The Sanctified Soul and the Beatific Vision in Pearl” at the Comitatus 7th Annual Conference on Medieval Studies.

**Crystal Kirgiss** received a grant to present “Robin Hood and the Medieval Prosperity Gospel” at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo.

**Karen Robinson** defended her dissertation, “Reflections of Royalty: Late Middle English Arthurian Texts and the Mirrors for Princes Tradition,” and received her Doctorate in Medieval Literature. She also accepted a position on the faculty of Ivy Tech Community College.

**Richard Sévère** presented “Constructing the Sodomite: The ‘De’stabilizing ‘Other’ in Medieval Literature” at the College Language Association Conference in Cambridge, Maryland.

**J. Case Tompkins** presented his paper “Seen and Heard: the Anglo-Saxon Judith” at the Comitatus 7th Annual Conference.

**Emily E. Redman**, who completed her doctorate in December 2008, presented her paper “Recognizable Performances: Adam, Eve and the Devil in Genesis B” at the 44th International Medieval Congress.
MARS Related Events Forthcoming in 2009-2010

• MARS 220: THE MIDDLE AGES ON FILM. Offered Fall 2009. Professor Paula Leverage, FLL.
• MARS 420 (Senior Seminar): MEDIEVAL DRAMA IN ENGLISH SOCIETY. Offered Fall 2009. Professor Paul White, English.
• MARS 220: MEDIEVAL WORLD. Offered Spring 2010. Professor Dorsey Armstrong, English.
• MARS Fall Symposium: “Jews and Judaism in Medieval Europe,” Monday, September 14, is co-sponsored by Religious Studies. Organized and introduced by Professor Michael Johnston. The Symposium features presentations by David Nirenberg (Chicago) and Andrew Scheil (Minnesota).
• Comitatus 8th Annual conference on Medieval Studies, February 5-6, 2009. Theme is “Medieval Urban Life, with keynote by Prof. Lawrence Clopper (Indiana).
• MARS Fall Film Fest on “The Vikings” is tentatively scheduled for January 2010. Contact Dorsey Armstrong for details.
• MARS Mondays, schedule TBA. Contact Michael Ryan for details.
• MARS Renaissance Reading Coffee Club. Contact Lynne Miles Morrillo for details.
• 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 13-16, 2010. MARS-Sponsored Sessions: “Levinas and the Middle Ages” and “Magic and the Occult in the Middle Ages”

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