From the Director

It is hard to believe that more than a year has past since I assumed the directorship of MARS from outgoing chair Ann Astell, and yet so much has happened—courses, conferences, brownbags, film and play outings, awards, receptions, publications, and faculty hirings—over the past twelve months that it is difficult to keep track of it all. Ann’s term ended on a celebratory note in May 2007, with a party jointly sponsored by MARS and the Literature program in English (more on this below). In taking the reins since then, my main goal has been to build upon the achievements of a flourishing interdepartmental program, previously and ably led by Professor Ann Astell (2003-07) and her predecessor, Professor Thomas Ohlgren (1972-2003), both of whom made every effort to involve and embrace faculty and academic interests from across the College of Liberal Arts and beyond. I have tried to emulate their efforts, and indeed the interdisciplinary emphasis is everywhere apparent. Faculty and graduate students from seven different disciplines (Communication, English, French, History, Spanish, and Comparative Literature) presented papers at MARS Mondays lecture series this past year. Perhaps the greatest tribute to this commitment in the MARS undergraduate curriculum is exemplified by student extraordinaire Adrian McClure whose four prizes at Purdue’s Literary Awards competition in 2008 were for essays in Shakespeare, American Literature, Classics, and Philosophy. (Not surprisingly Adrian also won both MARS and Interdisciplinary Studies Student of the Year!) I have followed the lead of Tom and Ann in other respects as well. Tom’s best advice to me last summer was to “delegate, delegate, delegate,” and little did I appreciate at the time that spreading the leadership and authority around meant effectively and efficiently drawing on the talents and energies of other faculty eager to advance MARS interests and goals. That leadership circle now constitutes the MARS Steering Committee which, during 2007-2008, included four assistant directors: Dorsey Armstrong renewed her term as advisor to Comitatus; Michael Ryan became the new MARS Mondays chair; Angelica Duran assumed a new position as organizer of the Renaissance Reading Group chair; and Jay Gates served as Undergraduate Coordinator. All of these assistant directors met with me several times this past year (we were ably assisted by Nina Haberer from the CLA Advising Office and Delayne Graham in IDIS) to coordinate and implement MARS policies and goals.

Also new to the program this year is the annually published MARS Newsletter. Over the years Medieval and Renaissance Studies has issued various bulletins, flyers and publicity documents, but the time now seems ripe for a once-a-year report on sponsored events, program developments and highlights, faculty and student news, as well as future courses and engagements. I hope you enjoy the inaugural issue, and I also hope you plan to be part of our community in the forthcoming year.

For more about MARS, please visit http://www.cla.purdue.edu/medieval-studies/.

Paul W. White, Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies
On April 30, 2007, MARS faculty and students joined with the Literature program in English to honor former MARS Chair and Professor of English Ann Astell with an evening reception at Loeb House in downtown Lafayette. Professor Astell served as chair of MARS from 2003 to 2007, yet she had long been an inspiring leader in the program. She was, for example, responsible for starting up in the mid-1990s “Medieval Mondays,” the successful lunch-time lecture series which became “MARS Mondays” when Medieval Studies expanded to encompass the Renaissance in 2005. Among Professor Astell’s most important contributions to our program was steering us smoothly through the transition from Medieval Studies to Medieval and Renaissance Studies, by welcoming her early modernist colleagues, revising the undergraduate curriculum, and leading and expanding the program in a host of other ways. Through her superlative publishing record—six authored books to date—she led MARS’ commitment to scholarship by example. At the reception, faculty and students from across the College of Liberal Arts and beyond attended the celebratory occasion, many of them offering words of praise and appreciation. She received several gifts, including a facsimile of the beautifully illustrated William Morris Kelmscott Works of Chaucer presented to her by her students.

For many years Professors Dorsey Armstrong and Ryan Schneider have hosted at their West Lafayette home the annual picnic for Comitatus, MARS’s student society of medievalists. This past October, they held a barbeque for the entire MARS program. This was a wonderful occasion of festivity and socializing for faculty and students.
The 2007 MARS Fall Symposium

MARS is justly proud of its annual symposium, which brings to campus each year the world’s leading scholars in medieval and early modern studies. The 2007 Fall Symposium on "Contemporary Old English Philology" was held on September 27, 2007 and featured two internationally renowned medievalists: Robert D. Fulk, Chancellor’s Professor of English at Indiana University, who spoke on “Philology and the Changing Text of Frederick Klaeber's Beowulf,” and Alger N. Doane, Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin, who followed with "Documenting the Death of Old English: The King's English and the Monks." The symposium began, as it always does, with a catered reception; the talks which followed were attended by about 90 students. For information on the Fall 2008 Symposium, see “Upcoming Events” below.

MARS and CARA

CARA (“Committee on Centers and Regional Associates”) is a national organization of medieval centers, institutes, libraries, and other regional and local groups across North America and was organized by the Medieval Academy of America to facilitate the interests of those like-minded communities. MARS’s founder, Thomas Ohlgren, was part of the original CARA leadership back in 1969 and, indeed, was inspired to start up the program—then known as “Medieval Studies”—in conjunction with goals and guidelines established by CARA some four decades ago. This past year, MARS renewed its membership with CARA, with Assistant Director, Michael Ryan (History) attending the annual CARA Conference on the campus of the University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he gave a progress report on MARS to CARA’s other members. MARS plans to participate in this year’s conference which will be held at Catholic University in Washington, DC. CARA members also meet for various events at the Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo each May.
**MARS & Theory of Mind**

Through its sponsorship and the participation of its faculty, MARS played a significant role in the Theory of Mind and Literature Conference held at Purdue, November 1-3, 2007. Two MARS faculty from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, Paula E. Leverage and Howard Mancing, organized the conference (alongside Jennifer Marston William [also from FLL] and Richard Schweickhert [Psychology]); they also contributed papers, as did MARS faculty and students, Angelica Duran, Allen Wood, Mary Maxine Browne, and Massimiliano Giorgini.

**Undergraduate Student of the Year, Adrian McClure**

Each year the College of Liberal Arts honors outstanding seniors in each of the departments and from interdisciplinary programs. The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies conducts the competition for the selection from all 10 of the programs under its umbrella which have undergraduate students. This year nominations were received from several excellent candidates and after a careful review of these students, MARS senior Adrian McClure was chosen as the 2008 IDIS Outstanding Senior.

“He is a brilliant analyst of early culture, shows total devotion to academic endeavor, and exudes great joy in the pursuit of his academic work,” according to Paul White, Director of Medieval & Renaissance Studies. For more on Adrian’s accomplishments, see the feature below on MARS and Literary Awards.

The IDIS Office held a “Celebration of Excellence” on April 10, 2008, to honor not only the IDIS Outstanding Senior for the award but also those students in IDIS programs with GPAs of 3.5 or higher.

**Renaissance Brown Bag**

During the Fall 2007 semester, the Medieval and Renaissance Studies program debuted the new Renaissance Brown Bag series. Organized and chaired by MARS Assistant Director Angelica Duran, this informal, interdisciplinary reading group met throughout the fall and spring semesters.

The fall series focused on John Hollander’s *The Figure of Echo* and included readings by Angelica Duran, Charles Ross, Allen Wood, Yonsoo Kim, Clayton Lein and Melinda Zook. The spring series featured the works of Thomas Greene’s *The Light in Troy: Imitation and Discovery* and Roland Greene’s *Unrequited Conquests: Love and Empire*. Readings were given by Angelica Duran, Lynne Miles-Morillo, Brady Spangenberg, Martina Jauch, Simone Caroti, and Paul White.

In 2008-2009, Professor Melinda Zook of the History Department will lead discussions on Bakhtin’s *Rabelais and His World* and other materials relating to carnival and the carnivalesque.
Comitatus and the Comitatus 6th Annual Conference for Medieval Studies

Founded in 1999, Comitatus is one of the great success stories of the MARS program, providing a forum for students at Purdue to share their passion for all things medieval, organize reading groups, and host a widely acclaimed annual graduate-student conference. For the 2008-2009 academic year, outgoing co-presidents Karen Robinson and Richard Sévère are succeeded by Ryan Naughton and Jack Baker; other officers for the coming year are vice president Case Tompkins, secretary Crystal Kirgiss, and treasurer Marisa Buccieri. For the sixth consecutive year, Comitatus organized and hosted at Purdue in February 2007 its annual graduate student Conference for Medieval Studies. The theme for the 2007 meeting was “Authority, Authorship, and Audience in the Middle Ages.” Eve Salisbury, Associate Professor of English at Western Michigan University, gave the plenary address on “Anonymity, Attribution, and the Nearly Known: Medieval Authorship Revisited.” Previous distinguished plenary speakers include Bonnie Wheeler, Claudia Bornholdt, and Patricia Clare Ingham. The 2008 conference, once again, was a terrific success, with participants coming in from all parts of North America.

Purdue at Kalamazoo: The 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies

MARS has always maintained a strong presence at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, the largest annual gathering of medievalists and early modernists on the planet held on the campus of Western Michigan University, but this year we may have set a record with fifteen affiliated faculty and students participating as organizers, presiders, and presenters of papers at sessions, plus many other participants attending the 43rd International Congress from May 8 through 11. Session organizers included Professors Dorsey Armstrong, Jay Paul Gates, Shaun F. D. Hughes, Paula E. Leverage, and Michael A. Ryan; and the following faculty and students presented in sessions: Dorsey Armstrong, Jack R. Baker, Dana Bisignani, Richard Collins, Octavian Gabor, Jay Paul Gates, Sandor Goodhart, Shaun F. D. Hughes, Yonsoo Kim, Kristin B. Leaman, Paula E. Leverage, Michael A. Ryan, Dongmei Xu. This year was particularly noteworthy because of the three sessions in honor of Dean John J. Contreni, with Dean Contreni himself speaking as respondent in the final session (see related feature on Dean Contreni below). In addition to academic sessions, the Arthuriana exhibit, organized by Professor Armstrong, was staffed by current and alumni members of Comitatus, including co-presidents Karen Robinson and Richard Sévère, as well as Nikki Flores, Ryan Naughton, Crystal Kirgiss, Marisa Buccieri, and Stefan Barkow.
Dean John Contreni Honored at the Medieval Congress: Festschrift Forthcoming

MARS is proud to have among its faculty the Justin S. Morrill Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, **John J. Contreni**, an internationally renowned historian with a focus on the Carolingian Age. It was in recognition of his long and distinguished career in scholarship and teaching that three “Studies in Honor of John J. Contreni” sessions were held at the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies this past May, with Dean Contreni offering his own commentary on the presented papers at the third and final session. At the celebratory dinner on the evening of the meetings, John was presented with an “Epistolae gratulatoriae in honorem Iohannis,” a portfolio containing several dozen testimonials/letters of goodwill from distinguished colleagues around the globe, many of them traveling to the Congress for the specific occasion and in attendance that night.

The Congress sessions were organized by two of Professor Contreni’s former doctoral students, **Steven A. Stofferahn**, now Assistant Professor of History at Indiana State University, and **Cullen Chandler**, Assistant Professor of History at Lycoming College. Professors Stofferahn and Chandler are also editing a published Festschrift commemorating Professor Contreni’s achievements, featuring some twenty essays on full range of topics relating to the literature, history, and culture of the Middle Ages. Formerly the head of the Department of History (1985-97) and Dean of the Graduate School, Dean Contreni was instrumental in the formation of MARS (previously called Medieval Studies) in the early 1970s, and he remains active in the program, having presented at MARS Mondays and participating in other events sponsored by the program.

MARS Prizewinners at the 77th Annual Literary Awards

MARS is making its mark in Purdue’s prestigious Literary Awards competition. Winners include numerous undergraduates. **Marisa Buccieri** received the Peter C. Braeger Award for best undergraduate essay in medieval for “Perceval and Roland: Integrating Chivalry with Religion”; Honorable Mention in this category went to **Daniel Marthaler** for “With Hair Bound Up.” Daniel also won Honorable Mention in the Kneale Awards for Cultural Criticism for his essay, “Death as an Historical Event.” MARS and IDIS Student of the Year **Adrian McClure** walked away with four awards: the Kneale Awards First Prize in Shakespeare for “Hermia’s Doubled Dream”; the Kneale Awards Second Prize in Literary Criticism (excluding Shakespeare) for “Allegory, Ambiguity, and the Multiplicity of Meaning in Hawthorne’s “The Birthmark”; and the Second Prize in the Eric L. Clitheroe Award in the field of Philosophy for “Reincarnation and the Theory of Recollection in Plato’s Meno”; and Honorable Mention in the Foreign Languages & Literatures Awards for “Phaedra and Epistula VII: Reconciling the Two Faces of Seneca.” **Kyle Saubert** won the Department of Sociology & Anthropology Award for “Broken Youth: Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone”, **Jacob Hobson** received Second Prize in the “Best Set of Three Projects Written for English 106 or 108” category for “The Hammering Process”; “Self-Determination in Something Happened”; and “A McMurphy Discrepancy.” The graduate students were **Brady Spangenberg**, who won two awards: the R. W. Babcock Prize for best essay on Shakespeare for “Fortune and the Spirit of Adventure: Nautical Metaphors in Romeo and Juliet.” Brady also won the Foreign Language & Literatures Award for a graduate student for “Hans Sachs: The Non-Subversive Carnival Poet.” **Jack Baker** was honored with the Peter C. Braeger Award for best essay on the Middle Ages by a graduate student; his essay was titled “Equus quondam Piusque futurus: The Dialectical Transformation of Lancelot from Secular Knight to Holy Man in the Morte Darthur.”
Women, Witchcraft, and the Forbidden

Medieval and Renaissance Studies leaders Angelica Duran and Michael Ryan organized back-to-back events in the Spring semester which engaged the Purdue community with the forbidden world of the occult.

Doctor Faustus Performance and Academic Panel

On Tuesday, April 8, 2008, MARS faculty and students were among the busload of about 50 playgoers traveling to Notre Dame to attend a unique staging of Doctor Faustus. Faculty and graduate students participated in a Theology, Literature, and Drama Panel on the play, chaired by Professor Duran. The panelists were MARS director Paul White and theologian Thomas Ryba from Purdue and Notre Dame; and former MARS chair Ann Astell and theologian and Reformation historian Randall Zachman from Notre Dame.

Women, Witchcraft, and Spirituality

MARS joined with Religious Studies and the Department of History in sponsoring a featured presentation on April 9, 2008, by distinguished medieval historian Dyan Elliott of Northwestern University. Professor Elliott delivered her fascinating talk on “A Marriage Made in Hell: Female Spirituality and the Rise of Witchcraft” before a packed audience of faculty and students in the Stewart Center. Organized by MARS Assistant Director Michael Ryan, a small gathering met for dinner after the presentation to discuss the talk.

MARS Mondays

One way MARS showcases the scholarship of its distinguished faculty and graduate student representatives is through its long-running brownbag series, “MARS Mondays,” which meets for one hour at 12:30 p.m. on various Mondays during the academic year. The series has always emphasized “research in progress” rather than finished work so that the feedback speakers receive following talks can benefit their written scholarship. This past year, organizer Michael Ryan from the History Department presided over eight sessions which illustrated the interdisciplinarity of the MARS community, with papers drawn from the fields of History (by Michael Ryan, Angelina Catalina Ghionea, and Joshua Flanery), English (by Jay Gates and Paul White), French (Allen Wood), Spanish (Ana Gomez-Bravo), Communication (Samuel McCormick) and Comparative Literature (Charles Ross). Professor Ryan continues as organizer and presider of MARS Mondays during

Romance and Epic Seminar at the Newberry

MARS and Comparative Literature often coordinate events that serve the interests of both programs. One of those events is the Romance and Epic Seminar at the Newberry Library in Chicago. A contingent of MARS faculty and students traveled to the Newberry to hear Professor Leslie Zarker Morgan (Loyola, Baltimore) speak on “The Importance of the Franco-Italian Romance Epic,” on March 22, 2008. A dinner followed the seminar at a downtown Chicago eatery.
MARS undergraduate and graduate course offerings for 2008-2009 year are typically rich and varied. Graduate students should consult affiliated department web pages for medieval and renaissance courses. Undergraduate MARS majors and minors are directed to the MARS website at http://www.cla.purdue.edu/medieval-studies/ for a full list, but particularly noteworthy are the IDIS 220 and 420 courses for the coming year.

During the 2008-2009 session, IDIS 220 will be offered twice. In the Fall, “Love, Sex, and Gender in Western Europe” will be taught by Professor Allen Wood; and in the Spring, Professor Paula Leverage will teach “The Middle Ages on Film” (see description below). MARS undergraduates should also note the return of the MARS senior-seminar (IDIS 420), being taught by Professor Clayton Lein. It is entitled, “The Renaissance Mind: Florence, 1300-1600” (crosslisted with ENGL 413F; see description below). Please consider enrolling in these exciting classes.

Select Course Descriptions for 2008-2009:

The Renaissance Mind: Florence, 1300-1600  Offered FALL 2008
IDIS 420F (Crosslisted with ENGL 413F-0101)
Professor Clayton Lein

This course will examine the world of the Renaissance by exploring one of the great centers of Renaissance culture in detail. The course insists that cultural activities take place in an interactive environment and should not be studied in isolation. In this case, we will examine as many aspects of “the most self-conscious city in Europe” as possible in one semester. Students will learn about Florentine political, economic, social, and religious life as well as about Florence's stunning cultural achievements in art, literature, music, and architecture. Among the artists, particular attention will be devoted to the work of Giotto, Donatello, Verrocchio, and Botticelli. Among the writers, great attention will be paid to Dante and Boccaccio. Two other figures will provide a special focus. One will be Lorenzo de' Medici, whom many celebrate as the embodiment of the Florentine experience. More important will be Machiavelli, a man the Italians regard as one of their greatest writers and intellectuals, but a man almost never seen whole in American studies. We will examine the full breadth of Machiavelli's writings, ranging from his political discourses, his history of Florence, and his biography, to his short stories, poems, comedies, and letters. The very range of his writings reflects the scope of the “Florentine achievement.” Students will be expected to write a major paper, as well as to take two quizzes, a general mid-term examination and a final examination. We will also try to plan a trip to Indianapolis or Chicago as part of the study of Florentine and Renaissance art. TEXTS: Gene Brucker, Florence: The Golden Age, 1138-1737 (University of California pb); Giorgio Vasari, Lives of the Artists, Vol. I (Penguin pb, 1965); works by Dante, Boccaccio, and Machiavelli.
Courses for 2008-09 (Continued)

Robin Hood  Offered FALL 2008  
English 414R  
Professor Thomas Ohlgren  

The course attempts to explain the continuing popularity of the Robin Hood legends in poetry, drama, novel, and film. The course will examine the historical and literary bases for the outlaw of Sherwood forest. Questions to be considered include: did Robin Hood actually exist? When did he live? Does the early popularity of the legend reflect social, political, and economic conditions in England in the 12th to 15th centuries? Readings will include selections from the 38 surviving ballads, several plays, historical chronicles, and other outlaw tales, such as Hereward the Wake, Eustache the Monk, Fouke fitz Waryn, Tale of Gamelyn, Adam Bell and William Wallace. We will also watch excerpts from a number of films, including The Adventures of Robin Hood, starring Erroll Flynn, Robin and Marian, starring Sean Connery, and Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, starring Kevin Costner. Course requirements include two hour exams, two critical papers, and a final exam. There are no prerequisites.

The Middle Ages on Film  Offered SPRING 2009  
IDIS 220  
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.
Faculty News

**Dorsey Armstrong** was elected to the Executive Committee, MLA Arthurian Discussion Group for a five-year term. She also gave the 2008 Bridwell Medieval Lecture at Southern Methodist University on February 4, 2008 on “Malory and Masculinity.” She is preparing a series of lectures on “The Medieval World” for the Teaching Company, and will take over as Editor-in-Chief of *Arthuriana* when the journal moves to Purdue in January 2009. Professor Armstrong is organizing the MARS Film Festival scheduled for November 2008.

**Angelica Duran** has received great support and interest in her current book project *Milton among Spaniards*. She earned a Newberry Library fellowship that enables her to use the special collections in the Chicago library for summer 2008. A chapter on Bartolomé de las Casas and Milton is set to come out in 2008 in the MLA’s *Approaches to Teaching the Writings of Bartolomé de las Casas*. She will also be delivering plenary talks at a conference in Hungary and at Stanford to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Milton’s birth. At the Stanford gathering, she is coordinating a 10-hour marathon reading of *Paradise Lost*—retrieving the one she conducted here at Purdue a few years back. Along with her for the marathon reading will be her undergraduate students from her University Honors course, “Don’t Read This! Censorship and Censureship.” In 2008, she published her first non-fiction essay in *Mama, PhD: Women Write about Motherhood and Academic Life*. She will be reading that chapter at the West Lafayette Public Library on August 20, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. as part of the English Department’s English Tea Hour.


**Clayton Lein** delivered the paper, ”At the Porch to the Temple: George Herbert's Progress to Bemerton” at the International George Herbert Conference ("George Herbert's Pastoral: Poetry, Priesthood, Past and Future") held at Sarum C, Salisbury, UK, October. 5-7, 2007. He has been contracted to write an essay on "Late Donne" for the *Oxford Handbook to John Donne* (to be published in 2009). He also won the Department Teaching Award for Graduate Teaching earlier this year.
Faculty News (continued)

Thomas Ohlgren presented the paper, "Manuscript Contexts of the Earliest Robin Hood Poems," at the Thirty Fourth Annual St. Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies in October 2007. His review of A. J. Pollard’s Imagining Robin Hood (Routledge, 2004) appeared in the April 2008 issue of the Journal of English and Germanic Philology. He also completed an edition of the “rymes of Robyn Hode,” which has been accepted Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies (MRTS). Tom is planning on retiring in May 2009, marking his 40th year at Purdue. He and wife Judy have started a business, Dovetail Antiques, which is located in Antiques & More on Main Street in Lafayette.

Charles Ross recently edited The California Lectura Dantis: Purgatorio. (University of California Press, 2008) with Allen Mandelbaum and Anthony Oldcorn, which includes his essay, “Purgatory 9: The Ritual Keys.” He also published a special issue of the journal Prose Studies 29, No. 3 (December 2007): 293-393, which included selections from the past two Purdue Renaissance Comparative Prose Conferences, including his own “Ariosto in Prose: Nuancing Shakespeare’s Taming of the Shrew.” He also published “Thinking in America about Shakespeare in Asia” in Proceedings of 2007 International Conference on English Learning and Teaching: Linking Theory with Practice (compiled by the Department of English Language and Literature, Chinese Culture University, August 2007, pp. 1-7). He has recently delivered papers at the Loyola College Conference on Epic, the Sixteenth-Century Society and Conference, Minneapolis; the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies; as well as international talks at Tatung University, Taiwan; National Taiwan University; and Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan. He delivered the keynote address at the 2007 International Conference on English Learning and Teaching, Chinese Culture University, Taiwan, June 2, 2007. Professor Ross just published a review essay in the Sidney Journal on Brian Lockey’s Law and Empire in English Renaissance Literature (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).


Melinda S. Zook received Scholar of the Month for April 2008 in the British Scholar Newsletter. She is currently working on a book tentatively titled, Women, Religion and Politics in Restoration England.

Jack Baker presented a paper titled “Old English Electronic Editions: A Generational Perspective” at the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in May. He received the Peter C. Braeger graduate award in the 77th Annual Literary Awards Competition at Purdue University for his essay titled “Eques quondam Piusque futurus: The Dialectical Transformation of Lancelot from Secular Knight to holy Man in the Morte Dartbur.”

Emily Redman presented “Memorable Aesthetics: Associative Systems in Old English Poetry” at the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo in May. She will be presenting another paper titled “Associative Reading of Old English Taxonomies” at the Oral, The Written, and other Verbal Media: Interfaces and Audiences: A Conference and Festival at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, Canada in summer 2008.

Case Tompkins presented a paper titled “She Holds the Stage Alone: The Person of the Grieving Mother in the Chester Gouldsmythes Playe” at the 29th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum at Plymouth State University in April.

New Books by MARS Faculty

Over the past five years, MARS faculty have published over 20 books. Some of those published very recently include *The Age of Milton and the Scientific Revolution* by Professor Angelica Duran and published by Duquesne University Press (2006). In the same year, Professor Duran came out with Blackwell’s *Concise Companion to Milton*. Last Fall, Professor Thomas Ohlgren’s long-awaited study *Robin Hood: The Early Poems, 1465-1560*, appeared to rave reviews by colleagues in the field. *The California Lectura Dantis: Purgatorio* (University of California Press), edited by Professor Charles Ross, with Allen Mandelbaum and Anthony Oldcorn, has just been published, as has *Drama and Religion in English Provincial Society 1485-1660* (Cambridge University Press), by Paul White. MARS is also proud to announce the publication of graduate student Francis Tobienne’s first book, *The Position of Magic In Selected Medieval Spanish Texts*, by Cambridge Scholars Press.

New Faculty

MARS is delighted to introduce two new specialists in medieval studies this Fall; both are experienced scholars and teachers who pursue interdisciplinary research interests which extend into the Renaissance/early modern era.

**Robyn Malo**, who arrives from Austin College in Texas, completed her doctoral research at Ohio State University on the intersection between religion and literature, and this indeed is the focus of her current book-length project entitled *Access and Encounter: Relic Discourse as Material, Social and Poetic Practice 1154-1538*. This study argues that many medieval writers, including Chaucer, were attentive to ways in which relics, and the highly politicized space at saints’ shrines, often functioned as tools for articulating (hierarchical) social, political, and human relationships. Her publications include an article on Chaucer’s Pardoner (The Chaucer Review 43.1), and she has several entries forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of Medieval Pilgrimage*. Current research focuses primarily on Chaucer and late medieval religious literature and culture, medieval devotional practices, and heresy; teaching interests include any and all Chaucer, Gower, and Hoccleve (the medieval modernist), and medieval devotional literature. Robyn is Canadian; she completed graduate studies at the University of Toronto before relocating to the States. She is joining the English Department as an Assistant Professor.

**Michael Johnston** completed his BA at John Carroll University in 2000, his M.Litt. in Mediaeval English at the University of St Andrews (Scotland) in 2001, and his Ph.D. at The Ohio State University in 2007. He has spent the past year teaching at the University of North Texas. Mike is currently working on a monograph entitled *Compilatores generosi: The English Gentry and Romance in the Fifteenth Century*. This study examines how collections of romances, compiled in fifteenth-century households, refract and reflect the economic issues that were of importance to the gentry, a class emerging in late medieval England. His publications include an article on the sixteenth-century printings of William Langland’s *Piers Plowman* (Reformation, 2006) and an article on a new document relating to the life of manuscript compiler Robert Thornton (The Library, 2007). He has an article forthcoming on the relationship between fourteenth-century French exempla and the Middle English romance *Sir Amadace* (Neophilologus). Mike’s research interests include medieval romance, late medieval manuscript culture, the History of the Book, and Marxist literary theory. His teaching interests include Middle English literature, the History of the Book, Theories of Textual Editing, medieval romance, and William Langland’s *Piers Plowman*.

Please join your MARS colleagues in giving these new faculty members a warm welcome this Fall.
Two Medievalists Win Teaching for Tomorrow Awards

Congratulations to Professors Paula Leverage (French) and Michael Ryan (History) for winning two of the twelve coveted “Teaching for Tomorrow” Fellowships awarded annually to Purdue assistant professors. The Purdue Classes of 1944 and 1945 have provided resources to establish these awards to foster continued excellence of teaching and learning on the Purdue campus and to facilitate the development of the teaching potential of the faculty.

MARS Commitment to Interdisciplinarity and Collaboration

MARS is committed to working with other departments and programs in the College of Liberal Arts. This past spring it co-sponsored events with the Departments of History and Foreign Languages & Literatures; it has collaborated with Comparative Literature, Religious Studies, and other IDIS programs on several events and outings. This fall, for the first time, MARS teams up with the Theatre Department in its Fall Symposium on Shakespeare in Production. These collaborative efforts are in keeping with our emphasis on interdisciplinarity, and they provide opportunities for enhancing the learning experience and cultural enrichment of the MARS community.

MARS Related Events Forthcoming in 2008-2009

- IDIS 220: “LOVE, SEX, AND GENDER IN WESTERN EUROPE”. Offered in Fall 2008. Professor Allen Wood, FLL
- IDIS 220: THE MIDDLE AGES ON FILM. Offered in Spring 2009. Professor Paula Leverage, FLL
- MARS Senior Seminar (IDIS 420): THE RENAISSANCE MIND: FLORENCE 1300-1600. Offered in Fall 2008. Professor Clayton Lein, English
- The Fall Symposium, set for Thursday, September 18, is co-sponsored by the Purdue Theatre and the Department of English. The Symposium will feature presentations by two of the world’s leading Shakespeareans, David Bevington (University of Chicago) and Peter Holland (The University of Notre Dame).
- MARS Fall Film Fest is tentatively scheduled for November 13-16; contact Dorsey Armstrong for details.
- MARS Mondays; schedule TBA. Contact Michael Ryan for details.
- MARS Book Reading Series (formerly Renaissance Brownbag). Professor Melinda Zook reports: This semester we will focus our discussion Rabelais’s Gargantua and Pantagruel and the various meanings and functions of Carnival in the Early Modern world. In addition to Rabelais, we will want to explore Mikhail Bakhtin's Rabelais and His World and Natalie Zemon Davis's famous essay, “The Reasons of Misrule.” Other possible readings include Le Roy Ladurie's Carnival in Romans and Victor Hugo's Notre Dame of Paris.
Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Purdue today—a flourishing, interdisciplinary program encompassing fifteen subject areas—is hugely indebted to the vision, dedication, and tireless work, of Thomas Ohlgren. Tom, along with Thomas Kelly, emeritus Professor of French, launched the interdepartmental undergraduate program in Medieval Studies at Purdue in 1970 shortly after his arrival here from the doctoral program at the University of Michigan, and did so successfully at a university where Liberals Arts had started a mere decade earlier, and where such initiatives were a teaching and administrative overload and largely unrecognized for tenure. Apart from a few years when he was on sabbatical or temporarily replaced by a colleague, Tom served as Medieval Studies Chair from the early 1970s through to 2003, devising an interdepartmental curriculum for the medieval major, coordinating graduate courses in six Liberal Arts departments (in 1973), teaching a range of interdisciplinary courses in the field, mentoring young medieval faculty across the humanities, and organizing lectures, reading groups, and other events that were mutually enriching to faculty and students alike.

During his tenure running Medieval Studies from the 1970s onward, Tom worked hard to provide faculty and students with resources for scholarship. His most remarkable and important contribution in this regard is the Medieval Photographic Archive at Purdue (http://www.cla.purdue.edu/medieval-studies/ohlgren/slides.html), containing over 30,000 color transparencies of medieval illustrated manuscripts and early printed books, a long-term collaboration with the Bodleian Library in Oxford which led to the series of Indexes which Tom published on them from 1977 to 1992.

One of Tom’s most valuable—and underappreciated—traits as Chair of Medieval Studies has been his ability to foster a sense of collegiality and cooperation among colleagues, which has been particularly beneficial to the professional development of young faculty. He has achieved this through various means, including promotion of team-teaching and collaborative scholarship. Among the greatest successes of Medieval Studies at Purdue from the late 1970s through the mid-1990s was the Ohlgren/Kelly team-taught course entitled “The World of King Arthur” (IDIS 220A), the enrollment cap for which was eighty but which often exceeded that. Like Tom Ohlgren’s later class, “The Legends of Robin Hood,” this course was the main gateway into the Medieval Studies major and minor, and it had important consequences for the campus and civic communities, as well as for pedagogical scholarship of the Middle Ages.

Tom Ohlgren’s achievements as an administrator, teacher, and mentor, are matched by his important contributions to scholarship. He has published important articles on Old and Middle English literature and iconography in Speculum, JEGP, Studies in Iconography, among other journals. Over the past decade or so, however, Tom has positioned himself as one of the world’s foremost authorities on early Robin Hood poetry and its contexts, having co-edited with Stephen Knight the monumental Robin Hood and Other Outlaw Tales (1997) and edited alone Medieval Outlaws: Ten Tales in Modern English (1998). His most recent book Robin Hood: The Early Poems 1465-1560 (2007) has already garnered much praise from reviewers and colleagues. “In a field that still attracts a lot of pseudo-scholarship and wishful thinking, writes acclaimed critic Lois Potter, “he has made the most important historical and bibliographical/paleographical contributions of the last fifty years.”

Please join MARS in celebrating the career and achievements of Professor Thomas Ohlgren.
Features Speakers at the Shakespeare Symposium, Thursday, September 18 at 5:00 p.m.

Peter Holland, McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies, The University of Notre Dame: “Passing Through: Shakespeare, Internet and Performance”

David Bevington, Phyllis Fay Horton Professor in the Humanities, The University of Chicago, “As You Like It on stage and in film”