

Marco News

SPRING 2017

nipulos colliget. **E**t
non dixerunt qui p̄teri-
bant b̄ndictio dñi sup
uos. b̄ndixim⁹ uobis in
nomine dñi. **psalmus.**



Domine non ē
exaltatū cor
meū neq; elati-
sūt oculi mei. **N**e-
q; am-
bulau i magnis neq; in
mirabilib; super me. **E**t
non humiliter sen-



Looking Forward

What an exciting time to become Riggsby Director of Marco!

And what an honor to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors, especially Robert Bast, Heather Hirschfeld, and Thomas Burman, who have built such a vibrant community of scholars, graduate students, and undergraduates dedicated to the study of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Thanks to their accomplishments, the University of Tennessee has gained an international reputation as a leader in our field. I look forward to continuing the traditions they have established with two major events this spring—the Marco Manuscript Workshop, “Envisioning Knowledge,” and the Spring Symposium, “Carolingian Experiences.” We will also be welcoming Professor Martin Aurell from the University of Poitiers in France as our third Lindsay Young Distinguished Visiting Senior Scholar. Thanks to these programs, thanks to the inspired work of my colleagues in Marco and the astonishing achievements of our students, Knoxville truly has become a worldwide crossroads in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. With equal parts humility and delight, I look forward to the rewarding work ahead of us in the coming year!

- **Jay Rubenstein**, Riggsby Director



WITHIN THESE PAGES...

- PAGE 3** X Marco's Fulbright Winners
- PAGE 4** X Lindsay Young Visiting Scholars
- PAGE 5** X Faculty Spotlight
- PAGE 6** X New Admin, Symposium 2016, SEMA
- PAGE 7** X Marco in the Community
- PAGE 8** X Thomas Burman

On the cover and image above: Leaves from books of hours, MS.0714, University of Tennessee Libraries, Knoxville, Special Collections.

The book of hours is a Christian devotional book popular in the Middle Ages. It is the most common type of surviving medieval illuminated manuscript.



Marco's Fulbright Winners

In each of the last two academic years, a Marco graduate student has won a Fulbright Fellowship, recognized around the world as a gold standard of achievement in scholarship and research.

Created in 1946 through legislation passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Truman, the Fulbright Scholar Program has sponsored international exchanges intended to advance learning and bridge cultural boundaries. It has been wildly successful. Fulbright alumni include renowned scholars, scientists, artists, and government leaders. Marco is proud to recognize two of its own, Jeremy Pearson and Lydia Walker, among their number.

Jeremy Pearson (History) spent most of the 2015-16 academic year in the Middle East, dividing his time between Jerusalem (where he was based as a Fulbrighter) and Cairo, with stops in Lebanon, Palestine, and Morocco. His research focuses on how members of different religious groups, particularly Christians and Muslims, talked to each other in the later Middle Ages. His time in the Middle East enabled him to live the topic of his research.

"Every time I got into a taxi or walked into a store, the driver or shop-owner would assume I was Christian," says Pearson. "They would try to connect with me by emphasizing the two religions' shared beliefs and Islam's reverence for Jesus."

Lydia Walker (History) currently holds a Fulbright in Belgium and works in the Royal Library in Brussels and with the academic community at the University of Ghent. Her work focuses on medieval preaching, requiring her to pore over 800-year-old handwritten collections of sermons. Examining manuscripts, however, is only part of the picture.

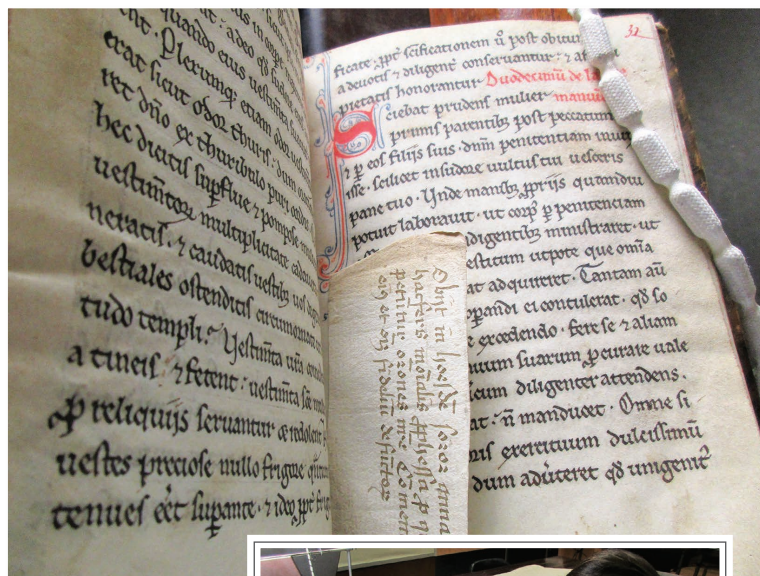
"I also am able to walk into churches from the same period and imagine the sights and sounds of the preacher's performance echoing throughout the immense buildings, decorated with precious paintings, lit by candlelight," says Walker. "The real drama of medieval preaching takes fuller shape."



Above: Pearson at the Citadel of Sultan Saladin al-Ayyubiy and Mosque of Mohammed Ali in Cairo, Egypt.



Left: The Adhname of Muhammad, a writ of protection supposedly dictated by the Prophet granting permanent rights and protections to the monks of St. Catherine's Monastery, Egypt.



Above: A 12th-century manuscript of the Vita of Marie D'Oignies, highlighting the death notice for Sister Anna on the small insert slip.

Right: Walker looking at MS 12131-50, a 13th-century collection of sermons in Liege, at the Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique in Brussels.



Lindsay Young Distinguished Visiting Senior Scholars

In 2016, the Marco Institute inaugurated an ambitious new program to bring some of the world's most eminent scholars to Knoxville for extended visits. These Lindsay Young Distinguished Visiting Senior Scholars spend one to two weeks living near campus, working in the library, visiting classes, giving lectures, and getting to know our faculty and graduate students.



Our first distinguished visitor was **James Palmer**, co-director of the University of St. Andrews Institute for Medieval Studies. Professor Palmer is a specialist in Carolingian and Anglo-Saxon history and most recently published *The Apocalypse in the Early Middle Ages* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). During his nearly two-week visit in March, Professor Palmer spoke to fellows at the UT Humanities

Center, participated in a faculty-graduate student research group on the Crusades, met with students informally as part of a graduate seminar taught by Professor Matthew Gillis of the history department, and gave a public lecture called “Climates of Crisis,” part of an ongoing project on the role of climate in medieval history. “I hope this is the beginning of many collaborations between our institutes in Knoxville and Scotland,” says Professor Palmer.

The second distinguished visiting scholar, **Sergio La Porta**, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, arrived on campus in September. Professor La Porta is an expert on Christian-Armenian thought and culture in the period when Armenia was ruled by Muslims, and works with Armenian, Arabic, Greek, and Latin historical sources. In addition to delivering a public lecture called “Religious Conflict and Competition in 12th- and 13th-Century Anatolia,” he led a seminar discussion of medieval Christian-Muslim relations, spoke to an undergraduate course on Islam, met with graduate students, and collaborated with two UT faculty members, Alison Vacca and Thomas Burman, on an ongoing joint research project.



Faculty Spotlight: Jacob Latham

Jacob Latham, assistant professor of history, published his first book, *Performance, Memory, and Processions in Ancient Rome: The Pompa Circensis from the Late Republic to Late Antiquity* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), this past summer.

Ancient Romans loved parades, and the most frequent of these was the procession before the chariot races called the *Pompa Circensis*. In delicious detail, Professor Latham describes what Romans considered the ideal form of this great event, and then tracks the complex changes in the procession from Republican Rome through the Imperial and early Christian periods. In its earliest form this raucous celebration glorified the Roman Republic, but as the centuries passed it increasingly celebrated the event's great sponsors, the authoritarian emperors.

Professor Latham has stayed busy with other scholarly projects, papers, and essays, including an article on Roman veneration of a goddess known as the "Great Mother," delightfully titled, "'Fabulous Clap-Trap': The Cult of Magna Mater and Literary Construction of the *galli* at Rome from the Late Republic to Late Antiquity."

Performance, Memory, and Processions in Ancient Rome

The Pompa Circensis from the Late Republic to Late Antiquity

Jacob A. Latham



“ In delicious detail, Professor Latham describes what Romans considered the ideal form of this great event...



New Marco Administration

We were sad to say farewell over the summer to Vera Pantanizopoulos-Broux, our fearless program coordinator of six years. We were very sorry to see her go and wish her well on her new adventures, which include spending time with her family and teaching German at Pellissippi State Community College. In August, **Katie Hodges-Kluck**, a graduate

of UT's PhD program in history, was hired as the Institute's new program coordinator and research associate. She has been an active member of the Marco community for many years, and we are pleased to have her on board in this new capacity!



In 2016, Marco also added an associate director and appointed **Gregor Kalas**, associate professor of architecture, to the position. Professor Kalas, who specializes in the architecture of late antiquity and the early Middle Ages, is helping oversee Marco's expanding graduate programs, digital humanities projects, and community outreach.



2016 Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association (SEMA)

As a major center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in North America, the Marco Institute frequently hosts large scholarly conferences. Most recently we welcomed 240 faculty and graduate students from across the region for the annual meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association (SEMA), which met in Knoxville from October 6 to 8. UT has a long connection with SEMA—the association was founded at UT in 1974, and the Medieval Studies Program (the predecessor and foundation of Marco) hosted its annual conference in 1999. This year's attendees presented papers connected to the theme of "Place and Power," commemorating the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings (the deciding battle of the Norman conquest of England in 1066).

SYMPOSIUM 2016: "Rome: Beyond the Discourse of Renewal"

The Marco Institute's Spring Symposium celebrated its 13th meeting March 3 to 4, 2016. The theme, "Rome: Beyond the Discourse of Renewal," focused on new scholarly approaches to Rome, centering on how that city fostered innovation despite the traditional emphasis on revival. The Symposium featured stimulating talks by 11 leading scholars from the United States, Canada, and England. Kate Cooper (University of Manchester) gave the keynote address, "City of Martyrs: Rome at the End of Antiquity." Spanning late antiquity until the early modern era, the talks illustrated the city's original developments that were not stifled by the strong legacy of the classical past. Setting aside the assumptions embedded in the concept of rebirth allowed the speakers to shed new light on the local polemics and cultural dynamics of medieval and Renaissance Rome.



The 74 panels focused on a broad range of topics: landscape, boundaries, sacred spaces, power, politics, appropriation, and struggle. The conference offered an excursion to Special Collections at Hodges Library, as well as job market mentoring and roundtables on Alt-Ac careers and academic publishing. Participants also had the great pleasure of hearing from two distinguished plenary speakers: Professor Elizabeth Fowler (English, University of Virginia) and Professor Lawrence Nees (art history, University of Delaware).



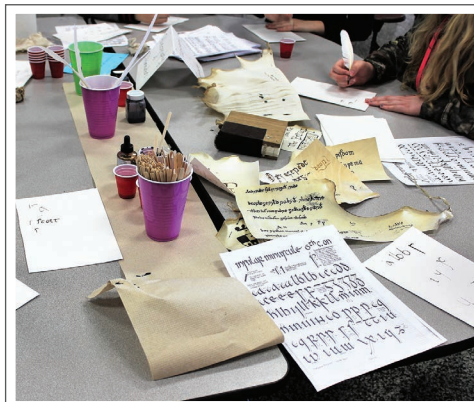


Marco in the Community

The second annual Medieval Day took place on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at Bearden High School (BHS). This community outreach event, sponsored by the Marco Institute, began as “Marco Madness” in April 2016. The first iteration was open to students from BHS and had an attendance of approximately 50 to 60 students. In 2017, we opened the event to all Knox County middle- and high-school students and teachers and had an estimated attendance of 250 to 300!

The event included talks by UT faculty and graduate students on topics including archaeology, the Black Death, medieval monsters, traveling to archives, medieval languages, and more. Students learned about the differences between the lute and the ud, and participated in catapult-shooting contests.

There were hands-on activities that allowed students to design mosaics and heraldry, try their hand at being medieval scribes by writing with quill pens on real parchment, and examine reproductions of medieval manuscripts. Members of the local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism put on fighting demonstrations and brought in samples of medieval craftwork and armor.



“Learn everything. Later, you will see that nothing is superfluous.”

- Hugh of Saint-Victor
(1096-1141)

Join us in making the Middle Ages and Renaissance flourish in Tennessee.

Your support will help provide:

›A variety of programs that bring the world’s leading scholars to Knoxville to meet with students, faculty, and the wider community.

›Research grants that allow our graduate students and faculty to visit archives and libraries across the country and around the world.

›Direct engagement with students and teachers in the public schools of Knoxville.

›Fellowships that allow our students to write books and live dreams.

Thanks for your support of the Marco Institute at UT!



**The Marco Institute for Medieval
and Renaissance Studies**

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Taking Marco with Me:

A Message from Marco's Departing Director



I'm delighted, of course, to be taking over as director of the Medieval Institute at Notre Dame in January 2017. The amazing resources, the huge faculty, the prestigious history: all this made the position so attractive that I couldn't say no. But I hope I find there what I've found in such abundance at UT. No matter how much money you have, there is simply no replacement for visionary and engaged colleagues who are willing

to work together to build something really good. Having twice the faculty that Marco has would not be worth it if those scholars were not willing to think really big and take some daring risks. All the prestige in the world won't make up for a collective failure of initiative. All of you—faculty, students, donors, friends—who have built Marco into an institution envied across the continent (including, by the way, in South Bend where there are many fans) have shown over and over again just the sort of collaborative, imaginative energy (graced by a certain *joie de vivre*) that is the only real lifeblood of a flourishing institution. I've been wondering, in fact, if it can be bottled. That way I could take some of it with me, just in case.

- Thomas Burman



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24-25

14th Annual Marco Symposium:
"Carolingian Experiments"

March 25-31

Martin Aurell, professor of Medieval history at the University of Poitiers and director of the Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale

April 17-18

Sara Lipton, professor of history at the State University of New York at Stony Brook

April 20

Marco Fellows Night, featuring public talks by James Stewart (2016-17 Haslam Dissertation Prize winner) and Bradley Phillis (2016 Anne Marie Van Hook Memorial Travel Fellowship winner)

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Also check us out on social media [@marcoinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/marcoinstitute).

