

T MARCO INSTITUTE

Marco News

SPRING 2018





I Love It When A Plan Comes Together

I always love my job, but some days I really, really love it.

Across the hall, Maura Lafferty might be poring over a difficult Latin text with a graduate student or two. Next door, Lauren Whitnah will be meeting with undergraduates, one after the other, from her Medieval and Renaissance Studies class, talking to them with the energy and brilliance she brings to all her work. Just a little farther down the hall, Anne-Hélène Miller meets with a seminar, speaking in modern French about texts written in Old French or Occitan. Immediately opposite my office, most days, three or four students will be in the Riggsby Reading Room, our program's library, digging through primary sources, polishing an essay, or perhaps decoding a digitized image of a manuscript on one of our computers. From time-to-time during the day most any day, I can bother our program coordinator, Katie Hodges-Kluck, with questions about the budget or about why Henry II believed that King Arthur had been buried at Glastonbury. As a medieval historian, it's hard to imagine a better place to pass the days.

This was the vision of Marco that my predecessors in this job, the wider community of medievalists and students of the Renaissance, and our generous patrons over the years promoted here in Knoxville—an engaged group of scholars and students drawn together by a shared passion for worlds and languages centuries or millennia old, a love of research and teaching, and talking to the wider public about what we do. Some of our people and activities and events appear in the pages of this newsletter. Others still can be found on our website and in our digital newsletter. Marco is thriving. We are always building on our past successes and looking to launch still more ambitious projects in the coming years. Check our online calendar regularly, take part in our events, and join our community. See how the plans of the past have come together and imagine with us to what future they might still lead!

- **Jay Rubenstein**, Riggsby Director, Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and Alvin and Sally Beaman Professor of History

On the cover:
The medieval town of Rocamadour, France
(photo: Jay Rubenstein)



Ruins of Tintern Abbey, Wales
(photo: Katie Hodges-Kluck)

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*To learn more about Marco,
please visit us online.*

marco.utk.edu



New Faculty Spotlight: Sara Ritchey

Marco is very fortunate this year to have Professor Sara Ritchey join our community. A graduate of the doctoral program at the University of Chicago, Ritchey spent the past 10 years in the history department at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she won an armload of grants and fellowships and established herself as one of the leading scholars of medieval thought on gender, medicine, and sanctity.

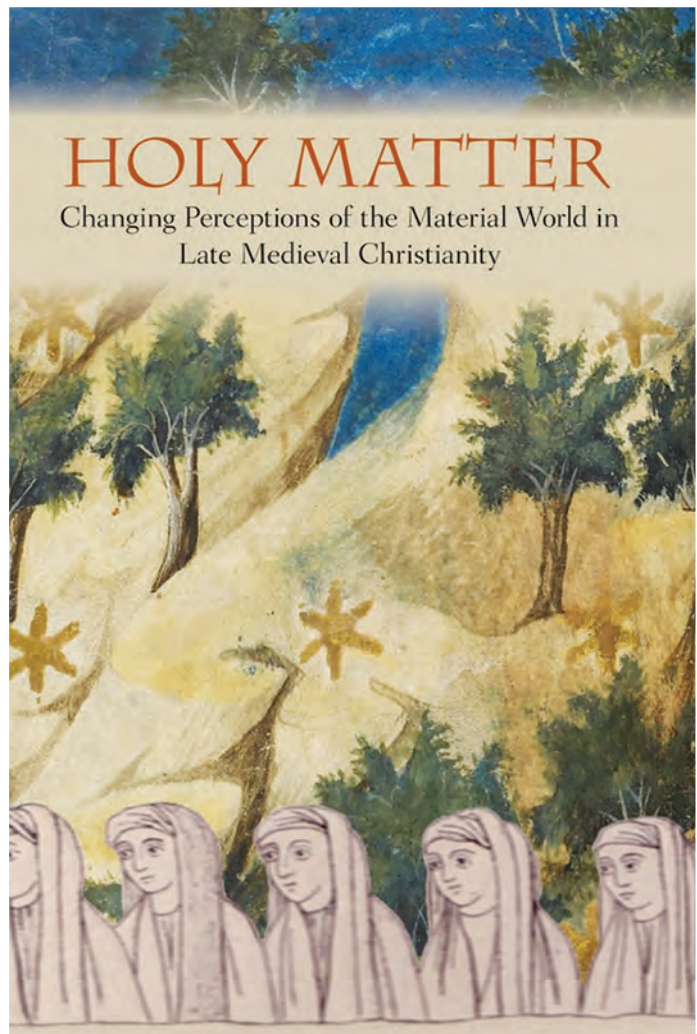
Students of the Middle Ages have long associated late medieval piety with the human body, especially (in the case of women mystics) with eating and, more particularly, not eating. Ritchey's first book, however, *Holy Matter: Changing Perceptions of the Material World in Late Medieval Christianity*, published in 2014, began with trees. Ritchey noticed trees were everywhere in late medieval texts. From there, she was drawn to broader questions about the physical world. Working from a dizzying array of sources—music, plays, theological treatises, agricultural projects, architectural plans, and manuscript illustrations—Ritchey ingeniously finds in earthly expressions of piety revelations about the Incarnation, of a world in the process of transformation, created anew into the Holy Matter that was Christ.



What drew such a talented scholar to Knoxville? “The faculty!” Ritchey answers immediately. “UT is one of the few universities in the United States that offers such a rich concentration of scholars working on medieval and Renaissance studies. It’s an enriching experience to be able to sit down for coffee each week to learn more about the impressive research happening in various corners of the field.”

Ritchey’s current work, tentatively titled *Salvation is Medicine*, combines her interests in theology and the natural world with a focus on medicine. As she describes it, she will focus on the healing practices “that took place in the dozens of hospitals, leprosaria, and infirmaries founded and staffed by beguines and Cistercian nuns in the 13th-century southern Low Countries, and into the historic and historiographic circumstances that have obscured that knowledge from our understood histories of medieval medicine.”

As Ritchey completes this ambitious project, she will be offering a variety of survey courses and seminars to students at UT, including classes on hagiography (that is, writing about saints), which she describes as her “dream class.” The scholars and students at Marco are excited as well and could not be happier to have such a talented, creative, and dynamic scholar join our community here in Tennessee!



Marco in the Field: Exploring the Past *in Situ*

In summer 2017, the Marco Institute cosponsored two archaeological excavations run by Marco-affiliated faculty members with teams that included UT students, staff, and alumni. These important international collaborations preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the Roman and medieval Mediterranean world.

The 'Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project

The 'Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project is directed by UT faculty members Erin Darby, assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies, and Robert Darby, lecturer of art history. The team is excavating a settlement in southern Jordan whose period of occupation stretches from ancient Rome into the Middle Ages. The site includes a Late Roman fortification and bathhouse, as well as burials from the Early Islamic and Mamluk periods. The main objective of the 2017 season was to excavate a fourth-century church. This is one of the oldest churches preserved in the Middle East and is one of the only examples excavated from a fourth-century military fort.



UPDATE FROM THE FIELD

“We have uncovered remains of all the walls, found the door, encountered a surprise extra room to the north of the sanctuary, excavated two chancel screen holders in the church apse, and have confirmed, without a doubt, that the building is a church as indicated by the deeply carved cross in one of the apse stones.”



Images (Left): **UT alumnus and excavation supervisor Tony LoPiano** (Duke University) stands in the apse of the late antique church. (Right): The site's **Geoarchaeologist, Howard Cyr** (UT Archaeological Research Laboratory) uses ground penetrating radar and a gradiometer to help reconstruct the natural history of the site and reconstruct the built landscape during the Byzantine period.



Image: **UT student Bridget Murphy** (L), **UT alumnus David Royce** (second from L), and **Stephen Collins-Elliott** (second from R) explore the ruins at Chellah. Emir Abu Yusuf (r. 1258-1286) built the medieval masjid complex.

Gardens of the Hesperides:

The Rural Archaeology of the Loukkos Valley, Morocco

UT undergraduates and alumni joined an international team of archaeologists to gain first-hand experience of a field survey in Morocco. The survey team is co-directed by Stephen Collins-Elliott, assistant professor in the UT Department of Classics, and Aomar Akerraz, director of the Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine, Rabat. The team is investigating archaeological remains in the countryside around Lixus, the oldest city in northwestern Africa. Students also visited several important sites for Moroccan history and heritage, including the port city of Tangier, and Chellah, a ruined medieval city near Rabat.

“One more year of survey is planned before the start of excavation,” Collins-Elliott says. The team hopes to learn more about how the ancient agricultural economy changed with the annexation of the region by the Roman Empire.



Distinguished Scholars from France and England Visit UT

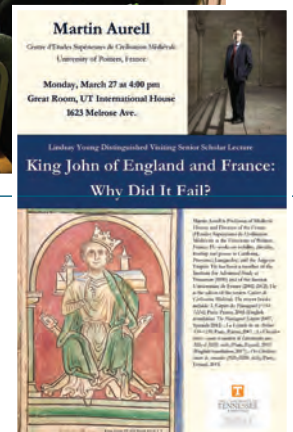
The Lindsay Young Distinguished Visiting Senior Scholar Program began in 2015. Designed to bring a distinguished scholar to campus for an extended visit of one to three weeks, this program enriches faculty research and graduate and undergraduate education on campus.

Martin Aurell

In spring 2017, Marco welcomed Martin Aurell, professor of medieval history at the University of Poitiers, France, where he is also director of the Center for Advanced Studies in Medieval Civilization (Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de Civilisations Médiévales- CESC), one of the world's foremost centers for advanced research and study of the Middle Ages.

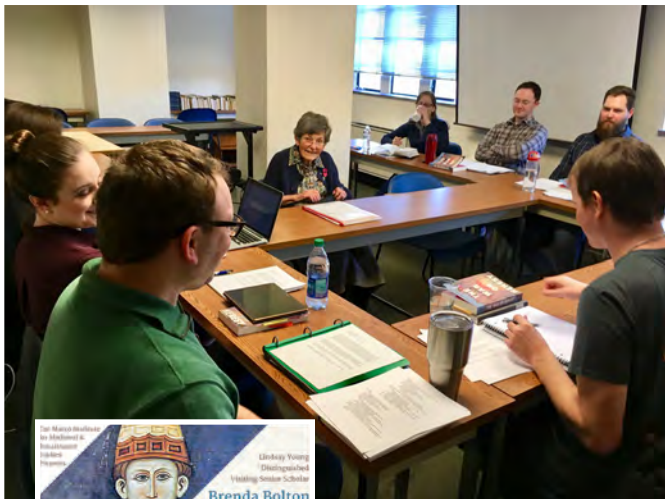
During his visit, Professor Aurell attended the annual Marco Symposium, delivered a public lecture titled "King John of England and France," led a research seminar with Marco faculty and graduate students, and collaborated with members of the Marco community.

"We hope Professor Aurell's visit will lead to future collaborations between our two institutes, including building a graduate student exchange program between UT and Poitiers," says Anne-Hélène Miller, professor of medieval French.



"I have never had so wonderful hosts in a university!"

– Martin Aurell



Brenda Bolton

Brenda Bolton, emerita professor of medieval history at the University of London (Queen Mary & Westfield College), spent nine days at UT in November 2017. Bolton's research focuses on church history, particularly on the career of Pope Innocent III (1198-1216).



During her time in East Tennessee, Bolton delivered a public lecture titled "The Death and After-Life of Pope Innocent III" and led a faculty-graduate research seminar on Pope Eugenius III (1145-53). She visited several Marco-affiliated

classes and joined Lauren Whitnah, lecturer in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and her Medieval Civilization students for a lesson on manuscripts in the UT Special Collections. She also accompanied Marco's Associate Director Gregor Kalas and history graduate students Lydia Walker and Brittany Poe on an all-important pilgrimage to Dollywood.

"I want to be working all the time to earn even a fraction of these privileges that the Lindsay Young Bequest is giving me."

– Brenda Bolton





Learn more about these events, including links to the digital version of the exhibit, at mfll.utk.edu/luther.

The Protestant Reformation: 500 Years Later

“October 31, 2017, marked the 500-year anniversary of the German Reformation,” says Robert Bast, associate professor in the Department of History. “In events that took place on campus and in the community, Marco scholars helped to reassess fascinating, flawed, and charismatic Martin Luther, exploring the reformer’s impact on theology, language, music, gender relations, and anti-Semitism.”

To commemorate this key historical moment, Stefanie Ohnesorg, associate professor of German, brought to campus a traveling exhibit, *#HereIStand: Martin Luther, the Reformation and its Consequences*, curated by the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta. The exhibit delved into the time prior to the Reformation, the biography of Martin Luther, and the context and dynamics of the movement that unfolded after Luther’s posting of his 95 theses.

The culminating event of the exhibit was a panel discussion with faculty members from across the UT humanities departments, including Marco professors Bast, Ohnesorg, and Tina Shepardson, professor of religious studies. They highlighted various aspects of Luther’s work, influence, and legacy. The UT Letterpress Studio added to the event by demonstrating how early modern shop printing actually worked.



12th Annual Marco Manuscript Workshop: “Envisioning Knowledge”

Some manuscripts contain sacred texts, brilliantly illuminated; some preserve literary treasures, adorned with elaborately decorated initials. Other manuscripts have a more practical function, from recording transactions of land or

service, to collecting medical recipes or geographical lore, to marking days and years, to charting the scope of the earth or the course of the heavens. These manuscripts may have a more utilitarian appearance, but they often supplement their textual content with diagrams and illustrations, charts and maps, tables and lists. The makers of these books were inventing ways to use the visual space of the page to represent, in one way or another, some truth about the world and their understanding of it, and in the process, they helped map out the pathways of modern science. The 2017 Marco Manuscript Workshop featured a lively weekend of discussion on the subject of “Envisioning Knowledge” in the medieval and early modern periods.



14th Annual Marco Symposium: “Carolingian Experiments”

During the Carolingian era (c. 700–c. 900), the Franks and their allies shaped many of medieval Europe’s political and religious institutions, social structures, and intellectual traditions. The eponymous ruler at the heart of the

Carolingian tradition, Charlemagne (768–814), is remembered as one of the Middle Ages’ most influential kings—regarded by some as the “Father of Europe.” Throughout subsequent centuries, Europeans frequently looked back to the Carolingian Empire as a model to emulate in their own times.

The 2017 Marco Symposium gathered an interdisciplinary, international group of scholars to rethink the Carolingians with a new emphasis: experimentation. They examined the political, social, and cultural experiences of the Carolingians and discussed new experimental approaches that modern scholars can use to better understand the Carolingians and their contributions to history.





MARCUS founders Alanna Heatherly, Becky Hunn, and Martin Ward with Lindsay Young Distinguished Scholar Brenda Bolton

Introducing **MARCUS:** The Medieval and Renaissance Club for Undergraduate Students

Join the club! Over the course of the fall semester, three students dedicated to the Middle Ages and Renaissance worked hard to put together a new club for UT undergraduates interested in exploring the worlds at the heart of Marco's scholarly mission. Though the club has just gotten off the ground, its members have already shared a meal with distinguished visitor Brenda Bolton and attended a trivia night together. More events are planned for the spring. Over two dozen students have already joined MARCUS, and it continues to grow.



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

- Hugh of Saint-Victor
(1096-1141)

Join us in making Late Antique, Medieval, and Renaissance studies 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
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**Dog at the foot
of the tomb of
Sir John Beauchamp
and Elizabeth Pateshull**

(late 14th c.)

Worcester Cathedral,
United Kingdom.

(Photo: Katie Hodges-Kluck)