

The Manicule

The Annual Magazine of the Marco Institute | Winter 2023/24

 MARCO INSTITUTE

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WHAT IS *THE MANICULE*? 🖱️

In medieval manuscripts, manicules (literally meaning “little hands”) are small hands or other figures drawn in the margins of texts to direct the reader’s attention to important parts. We’re pleased to use our *Manicule* to point out all the exciting accomplishments and activities of the Marco community this year!

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MESSAGE FROM THE RIGGSBY DIRECTOR

As the new Riggsby Director of the Marco Institute, I am delighted to introduce our newly revamped magazine, *The Manicule*. I also wish to thank **Gregor Kalas**, my predecessor as Riggsby Director, for his outstanding leadership, especially during a time of unprecedented challenges, including the pandemic. At Marco, we pursued our mission with resilience and creativity.

Today, our world is seeing horrific wars, conflicts, and migration crises that affect us all. At Marco, we are shedding light on the historical and cultural background of some of these events. For example, this past year, some of us traveled to participate in a conference we co-sponsored on the “Aftermath of Crisis and War in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods” at the prestigious Center for the Study of Medieval Civilization in Poitiers, France, with whom we have formed a unique academic partnership. In return, we are actively preparing to receive faculty and students from Poitiers to our campus, as our two institutes continue to collaborate for the mutual benefit of our members and community.

We also commemorated the 400-year anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare’s First Folio with our annual Symposium, “The Canon of Shakespeare at 400,” co-organized by **Heather Hirschfeld** (English) and **Gina Di Salvo** (Theatre). Several prominent visiting scholars participated, and Professor Emma Smith, Oxford’s Professor of Shakespeare Studies, gave an enlightening plenary talk.

We are also pleased to celebrate the success of our graduate students who have completed their degrees and secured positions in academia, as well as our faculty who received prestigious fellowships and grants. I look forward to building on these successes with the aid of our newly appointed Associate Director, **Gina Di Salvo**. We happily contemplate the growth of our community with new members whose expertise ranges from Southeast Asia to Africa, from the Middle East to European studies, all of which enrich the quality and diversity of our programs. We remain in dialogue with our community at large regarding the use of digital technologies such as AI and other impactful changes in the Humanities. With such a strong Marco community in place, we look forward to a bright future of pre-modern studies at the University of Tennessee!

Anne-Hélène Miller
Riggsby Director

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS PROFESSOR J. D. BRUCE (1862-1923)



The Marco Institute commemorates one of the university’s earliest medievalists.

In spring 2023, the Marco Institute marked the centenary of the death of Professor **James Douglas Bruce** (1862-1923), and the donation by his estate of over 6,000 volumes on medieval literature and culture to UT Libraries. While medieval literature had been taught at the University of Tennessee before 1923, it was this influx of holdings to the library that created a new strength in medieval studies.

An internationally recognized medieval scholar, Bruce published on Old English and Middle English literature, with a focus on Arthurian tales in several languages. His two-volume survey, *The Evolution of Arthurian Romance* (1923), met with early praise as “a monument of painstaking erudition” in Jessie L. Weston’s review, and as an “extraordinarily complete survey of Arthurian romance” by Roger Sherman Loomis. While both these

distinguished scholars voiced their distress that Bruce discounted the influence of Celtic tales on Arthurian romance in his study, they nevertheless recognized the tome as an invaluable gift to future scholars, teachers, and students.

During the Marco commemoration, Professor Emeritus **Paul Barrette** (English) discussed Bruce’s influence on later scholars of Arthurian traditions, and Dean Emerita **Linda Phillips** (UT Libraries) outlined Bruce’s many contributions to the Knoxville intellectual community at large.

The story still related to medievalists joining the university is that Professor Bruce suffered a stroke while lecturing in class on February 14, 1923. His devoted students carried him in a chair to the campus infirmary, as he continued with his lecture. He died five days later, leaving his personal library to the university, along with a monetary donation for further purchases. 📖



Professor Emeritus **Paul Barrette** (English) poses with the Department of English’s portrait of **J. D. Bruce** (1862-1923) after his celebration of Bruce at the Marco Graduate Fellows Evening in May 2023.



MARCO ABROAD

The Marco Institute strengthens its partnership with the University of Poitiers with a conference and visits to medieval sites in France

Earlier this summer, members of the Marco Institute community traveled to Poitiers, France, for an international colloquium marking a partnership with the Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale (CESCM) at the Université de Poitiers. The partnership, spearheaded by new Riggsby Director of the Marco Institute **Anne-Hélène Miller** (WLC French) and former Riggsby Director **Gregor Kalas** (School of Architecture), is part of a larger project of ongoing collaboration between the two programs.

The collaboration began in 2018 when Martin Aurell, professor of history at Poitiers, visited Knoxville as one of the Marco Institute's Lindsay Young Distinguished Visiting Senior Scholars. Over the past five years, conversations among researchers at both institutions have identified key areas of shared interest, including investigating reactions to conflicts, diseases, and warfare in the Middle Ages. The study of these crises have prompted vigorous scholarly conversations, and these issues come into particular relief now that we have witnessed extreme climate conditions, warfare, and terrible threats of viral contagion in our own time, prompting reflections on how past individuals also tackled hardships through physical and conceptual innovations.

This summer's colloquium, "Aftermath of Conflict and Crisis in the Middle Ages," explored the repercussions of disasters and wars by proposing that responses to afflictions offer critical insights into cultural shifts. The conference featured presentations by Kalas, Miller, and history faculty members **Felege-Selam Yirga** and **Matthew Gillis**, as well as **Thomas Maurer**, who completed his PhD in history at UT this summer. The travel was possible thanks to generous support from the Global Catalyst Faculty Research Grant Program in the UT Center for Global Education. In addition to scholarly discussions, attendees participated in a study day exploring medieval art and architecture. Alongside the medieval cathedral and baptistery in Poitiers itself, sites included the defensive architecture of Chauvigny, the Abbey of St Savin (founded under the protection of Charlemagne and his successors), and the Merovingian cemetery at Civaux.

This trip was an excellent opportunity for Marco members to meet and network with peers in Poitiers, and to celebrate the partnership between the programs. Future goals of the wider collaboration include launching exchanges of scholars, as well as developing larger grant-funded projects, particularly an NEH Summer Institute for College Faculty. 🇫🇷



Members on tour at the Merovingian cemetery at Civaux.



Anne-Hélène Miller presenting as part of the "Aftermath of Conflict and Crisis in the Middle Ages" colloquium at Poitiers.

OPPOSITE: Interior of Abbey of Saint-Savin-sur-Gartempe. **Inset:** The Marco Institute delegation at Saint Savin. (L-R: Felege-Selam Yirga, Gregor Kalas, Matthew Gillis, Anne-Hélène Miller, and Thomas Maurer.)

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Our award-winning faculty have been selected for prestigious fellowships that are taking them across the country and around the world.

Duygu Yildirim (History) was awarded a 2023-24 ACLS Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, one of the most prestigious academic fellowships in the country. The program supports outstanding scholarship in the humanities and interpretive social sciences, this year awarded \$3.8 million in support to 60 exceptional scholars. As part of her fellowship project, *Uncertain Knowledge: The Making of Slow Science between the Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe*, she has conducted research here in Knoxville, in Los Angeles, and in Turkey.

Kelli Wood (Art History) spent 2023 as U.S. Fulbright Scholar to India. Wood's work is based in Goa on the west coast of India where during the 16th and 17th centuries Indian artisans collided and connected with a host of new European, East Asian, African, and New World inhabitants in their lands. During her Fulbright, Wood organized an international symposium, sponsored by the Marco Institute, on "Teaching Goan History Through Art and Architecture" with the Goa College of Architecture and Sunaparanta Art Centre with talks from noted curators, scholars, and writers, and over 100 local students and members of the community attended the event. Goa University also invited Wood to present her ongoing research on materials and makers to students and faculty, and she also co-authored an article with Nagendra Rao, professor of history at Goa University, accepted by *Renaissance Quarterly*.

Małgorzata (Gosia) Citko-DuPlantis (WLC Japanese Studies) is spending this academic year as a Faculty Fellow with the UT Humanities Center. During this fellowship, she will be working on her monograph, *Embracing Instability: Imagining "Man'yōshū" in Medieval and Modern Japan*, which challenges the exclusive legitimacy of one manuscript of *Man'yōshū*—the first extant collection of Japanese court poetry (*waka*)—as the standard for research, teaching, and translation. She also argues that "Man'yōshū" is not just a text but an image, stabilized construct, genre, label, or matrix of knowledge of "Japaneseness" in Japan and beyond.



Gregor Kalas (Architecture), past Riggsby Director, is spending 2023-24 as a Fellow in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.

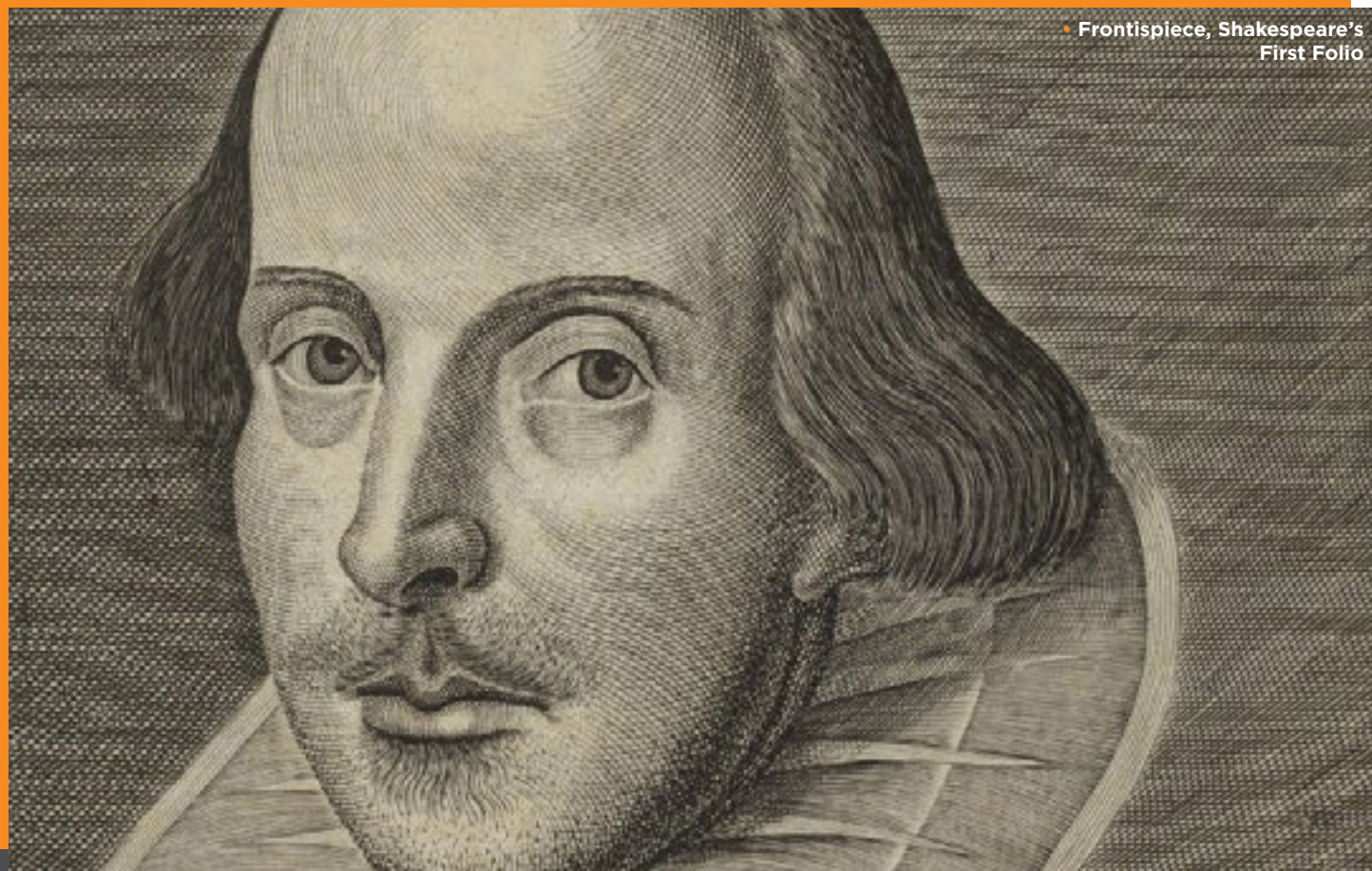


Manuela Ceballos (Religious Studies), right, was awarded an NEH Fellowship, one of the most prestigious awards for humanities scholars in the US.

Gregor Kalas (Architecture) is spending this academic year as a Fellow in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C. Affiliated with Harvard University, the library holdings are unmatched on this side of the Atlantic, since the Center for Byzantine Studies was established around 1941 with the ambition of forming the primary research facility in North America for studies on the eastern Mediterranean during the Middle Ages. While there, Gregor is completing work on his book, *Eternal City of Compassion: The Reuse of Ancient Architecture for Charity Centers in Late Antique and Byzantine Rome*, which argues that Greek migrants to Italy fundamentally shaped the conditions in which private benefactors established strong interconnections between almsgiving and the upkeep of ancient infrastructure. Rome's welfare institutions offered lodgings to destitute travelers at hostels called *xenodochia* and also distributed food to the needy from other charity centers called *diaconiae*, both of which mostly reused ancient buildings and preexisting urban infrastructure. Late antique ascetic traditions of the eastern Mediterranean generated models of humble generosity which laid the groundwork for the adaptation of Rome's preexisting structures for charitable institutions between the fourth and eighth centuries.

Manuela Ceballos (Religious Studies) is also on leave this year, thanks to a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, to finish her first single-author monograph tentatively entitled *Between Dung and Blood: Ritual Purity, Sainthood, and Power in the Early Modern Western Mediterranean*. The project examines the intersection of material and genealogical notions of purity and impurity in early modern Morocco and Iberia through the lives and works of two contemporary saints, one Muslim and one Christian, who were the descendants of converts. In October, she also attended the Medellín Book Fair, a major book festival in Latin America, to present a full-length, annotated translation into Spanish of a series of essays written in French by the Moroccan author Abdelfattah Kilito.

OPPOSITE Top: **Duygu Yildirim** earned an ACLS Fellowship for this year. **Middle:** **Kelli Wood**, center, in Goa, India, on a Fulbright fellowship. **Bottom:** **Małgorzata (Gosia) Citko-DuPlantis** is spending this year as a fellow with the UT Humanities Center.



THE CANON OF SHAKESPEARE AT 400: THE MARCO SYMPOSIUM 2023

Shakespeare's First Folio – the ground-breaking print collection of thirty-six of his plays and among the most studied books in the English language – turned 400 years old in 2023, and this year's **Marco Symposium** was designed to recognize this milestone, bringing together a set of leading international scholars to discuss the volume's production, editing, and reception.

The two-day symposium, "**The Canon of Shakespeare at 400**," was organized by **Gina Di Salvo** (Theatre) and **Heather Hirschfeld** (English). It featured Emma Smith, professor of Shakespeare studies at the University of Oxford, as its keynote speaker. Her lecture, "How a Folio Became the First Folio: Shakespearean Cultures in the Age of Slavery," documented with exceptional precision the buying, selling, owning, and editing of Shakespeare's works in the context of 18th-century luxury consumption and enslaved labor. The remaining eight speakers addressed such issues as editing *Othello* and *Macbeth* for the 21st century; the place of Shakespeare in African theatre and in the "Great Books" canon; the textual relations between Shakespeare, Marlowe, and Milton; and competing notions of the timelessness and endurance of print.

The symposium also highlighted the unique holdings of UT's **Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives**, particularly its Shaheen Shakespeare Research Collection of over 300 volumes of Bibles, plays, and poetry from the 16th to 18th centuries. Open to the public, a bespoke exhibit for the symposium featured the library's 1634 second edition of the Folio as well as other 16th- and 17th-century volumes central to Shakespeare's work, including Holinshed's *Chronicles*, Plutarch's *Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans*, and several early Bibles.

LEFT: Symposium participants viewing materials from the Shaheen Shakespeare Research Collection, Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives, UT Libraries.



Celebrating Graduate Student Successes

The Marco Institute is proud to support our graduate students through fellowships, presentation opportunities, travel and research funding, and our graduate colloquium series. We're always sad to see them go, but very happy see their successes after they graduate! 🎓



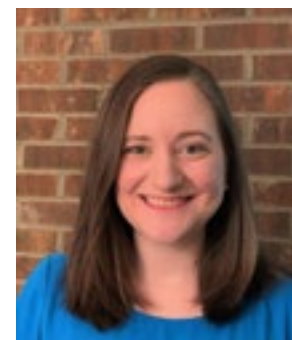
JORDAN AMSPACHER
PhD History '22

Jordan has taken up a position as assistant professor of History at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas.



MICHAEL LOVELL
PhD History '23

Michael joined the Department of History at Florida Atlantic University as a postdoctoral fellow.



KELSEY BLAKE
PhD History '23

Kelsey is now a postdoctoral lecturer in history at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



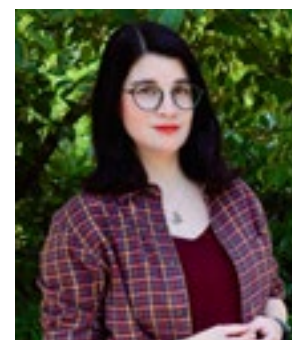
THOMAS MAURER
PhD History '23

Thomas took up a position as assistant professor of history at Ave Maria University in Florida.



HARLEY CAMPBELL
PhD English '23

Harley is currently serving as a postdoctoral lecturer in English at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



KAREN NORWOOD
PhD Candidate English

Karen accepted a position as collections & registration specialist at McClung Museum of Natural History & Culture at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



ALEXANDRA GARNHART-BUSHAKRA
PhD History '21

Alex has joined the Department of History at Carnegie-Mellon University as an academic program manager and affiliated faculty member.



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

The Marco Institute is proud to have over fifty current and emeritus faculty from around the College of Arts & Sciences. These faculty members join us from English, history, world languages & cultures, classics, religious studies, art history, architecture, musicology, philosophy, and political science, and we're growing every year! This year, we had three new faculty join (or rejoin!) our program. You can read more about them below. 🏰



NICOLE HAMONIC

Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Niki Hamonic (Medieval & Renaissance Studies) is returning to the Marco Institute after almost a decade away. She earned her PhD in Medieval Studies at the University of Notre Dame and previously served as the Marco Institute's Lecturer in Medieval & Renaissance Studies from 2008-2014. After time at the University of South Dakota, she returned to Knoxville and a position teaching Latin at Episcopal School of Knoxville. This year, she has returned as Marco's lecturer in medieval & renaissance studies for 2023-24, teaching the Institute's popular undergraduate survey classes.



GUY SECHRIST

Department of History

Guy Sechrist (History) is a historian of science, technology, and medicine. Originally from Pennsylvania, he spent nearly a decade in the UK where he earned his MPhil and PhD from the University of Cambridge. His research interests center around the production of scientific knowledge, specifically as it pertains to the advancements of state economy and power. He joins the Marco Institute as a lecturer in history, teaching courses in *Development of Western Civilization*; *Science, Medicine, and Technology in World Perspective*; and the *Global History of Collecting*.



EMMA SNOWDEN

Department of History

Emma Snowden (History) joins the university as a new assistant professor of history. She specializes in the history of the Mediterranean, and in particular Iberia and North Africa. She is most interested in "how people from different religious, linguistic, and ethnocultural backgrounds interacted with one another and how this influenced the ways they wrote about their shared histories." She is currently working on her first monograph, *Narrating Conquest and Colonization in the Medieval Western Mediterranean*, supported by the Mellon Foundation, the American Historical Association, and the Medieval Academy of America, amongst others.

MARCO IN THE COMMUNITY

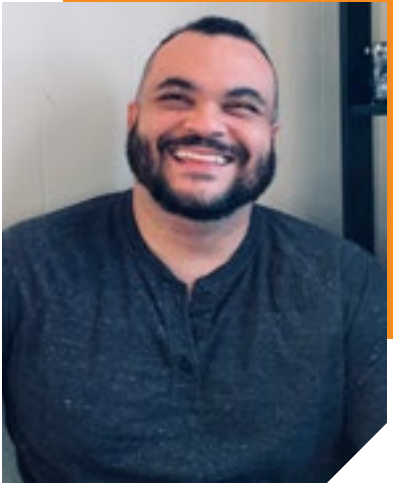
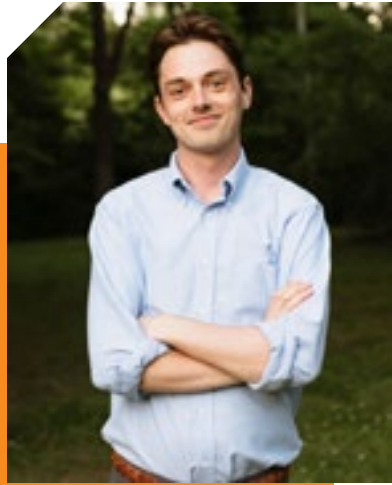


Klayton Tietjen (WLC French) in period costume teaching about the middle ages at the Days of Knights festival in Lancaster, Ohio.

In the early to mid-2000s, the Marco Institute grew out of the MARCO (“Medieval & Renaissance Curriculum & Outreach”) Program at the University of Tennessee. Two decades later, the Institute still continues to embrace and promote that Outreach mission, through a variety of projects in the Knoxville community and beyond.

Our Marco faculty and students contribute to the community and to outreach projects in a number of different ways. This year, the Institute joined with the Department of Classics to host their annual Latin Day, with **Caitlin Branum-Thrash** (Medieval Latin/English) hosting a workshop for high school students to learn about medieval Latin and palaeography. Further afield, **Klayton Tietjen** (WLC French) traveled to Lancaster, OH, to present on medieval culture as part of the Days of Knights public event.

The Institute is also continuing its outreach projects with local schools. Our past and present Public Humanities fellows, **Matthew Baker** (History) and **Joshua Mangle** (English) have been putting work in a new Marco curriculum project which is tentatively going to be launched in spring/summer 2024. We're proud to see our colleagues do so much work in the community! 🏰



ABOVE: The Marco Institute's recent Public Humanities fellows, **Matthew Baker** (History) and **Joshua Mangle** (English) have been working hard on the Marco Institute's new public school curriculum outreach project.



MARCO INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL
AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

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Thank you for your support of the Marco Institute and premodern studies at the University of Tennessee! To help us continue to offer our rich program of student fellowships, faculty research and teaching, public events and outreach, visit our Giving website!

Baptistry of Saint-Jean in Poitiers, one of the sites visited by Marco faculty and students during their summer trip and conference in France. (See *inside*, p. 3-4)