18th Annual Conference:
Erotica and the Erotic in the Middle Ages and Renaissance

The ACMRS 18th Annual Conference in the Middle Ages and Renaissance was recently mentioned on the website Medievalists.net! Our upcoming conference is drawing a lot of attention due to the provocative nature of our theme this year. Here’s what Medievalists.net had to say: “The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) will be hosting its annual interdisciplinary conference next month, which will bring more than seventy scholars to talk about the sexy side of the Middle Ages. Erotica and the Erotic in the Middle Ages and Renaissance is the theme for this year’s conference, and will include papers such as “The Seamy Side of Camelot”, “The Erotic Nature of the Antichrist in 12th and 13th-Century Western Europe”, and “Lust—in Beowulf? Grendel’s Mother for a Modern Generation”. The conference will allow dozens of scholars to speak about the role of sexuality in medieval history and literature. This year’s theme was suggested by members of the ACMRS and found widespread support. “Erotica and eroticism are definitely a bit of a risqué topic, but one that does not get much press in the Middle Ages and Renaissance,” said Kendra Brüning-TerBeek, Outreach Coordinator for the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. The keynote speaker at the conference is Albrecht Classen of the University of Arizona, who will be giving a paper entitled “The Erotic and the Quest for Happiness in the Middle Ages: What Everybody Does and Hardly Anyone Truly Achieves.” Brüning-TerBeek added that “he is one of the world-renowned experts on the topics of erotica and the erotic in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, not to mention that he is one of our faculty affiliates at the University of Arizona.” Erotica and the Erotic in the Middle Ages and Renaissance will be held from February 16-18th at the Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel in Tempe, Arizona.” Click here for more information about our annual conference: www.acmrs.org/conferences/annual-acmrs-conference. Please send an email to acmrs@acmrs.org with any questions or comments. We hope to see you there! Many thanks to our sponsors for their generous contributions that have made this conference possible: ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Faculty of Religious Studies in the ASU School of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies; ASU Department of English; the Melikian Center at ASU; ASU School of Music; ASU’s School of Arts and Letters at the Polytechnic Campus; ASU Jewish Studies; ASU Center for the Study of Race and Democracy; NAU College of Arts and Letters; and the ASU Institute for Humanities Research.
Guest of Honor at the International Commemoration of the 300th Anniversary of the Death of Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, SJ: Imuris, Cocospera, and Hermosillo (Universidad de Kino), 15-19 March 2011.


A “Cronologia” on Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, SJ; presented at the Meeting of Spanish Professionals in America (Thunderbird, 24 April 2011).


The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is coming to ASU! A multidisciplinary team of scholars from ASU has partnered with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, one of the nation’s oldest and most diverse regional classical theatres, to investigate how audiences respond to actors of color playing Shakespearean roles. The symposium will feature talks by Lue Morgan Douthit, the Director of Literary Development and Dramaturgy at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and OSF Associate Producer Claudia Alick. Veteran OSF actors will give an acting demonstration and participate in a panel discussion about playing Shakespeare. The event will take place on Thursday, February 2nd from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Gavin Playhouse in Tempe. Visit the Institute for Humanities Research website for more information: www.ihr.asu.edu/news-events/events/color-shakespeare

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Winner: Alaya Swann

ACMRS is pleased to announce Alaya Swann as the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award for her paper “Navigating ‘That Narrow Space’: Mystical Midwifery and Birgitta of Sweden.” The abstract for her paper is as follows: “Saint Birgitta of Sweden was a fourteenth-century mother, widow, and visionary who faced many obstacles in validating herself to her contemporaries as a true channel for the visions and words she believed God had sent to her. Although women were traditionally and doctrinally forbidden from preaching and sacerdotal duties, medieval scholarship has unearthed a number of ways women visionaries worked around this exclusion. This paper examines how the midwife figure might provide one model for the construction of spiritual authority for Birgitta, especially in her desired role as guide to the spiritual rebirth of souls. Midwives were responsible for making vital decisions about spiritual matters in the course of their regular duties, and in some cases their spiritual responsibilities were considered more important than simply saving the lives of mother and child. Birgitta’s Revelations and Vitae contain a number of descriptions of midwifery in conjunction with the exercise of spiritual power, allowing us to consider how mystical midwifery might provide a model for female spiritual authority.” Ms. Swann is a Ph.D. student in English medieval literature at ASU and has been a dedicated publications assistant at ACMRS for several semesters as well. Alaya will present her winning paper at the annual medieval conference held at Western Michigan University in May 2012. In addition, she will give a pre-conference presentation of her research March 14th at 3:00 p.m. in Coor Hall 4403 on the ASU Tempe Campus. This award provides an all-expenses-paid trip to the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, which is the most prestigious conferences in medieval studies in the world. We are currently accepting submissions for the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2012.

WWW.ACMRS.ORG
ACMRS is very pleased to congratulate affiliated faculty member Asuncion Lavrin for her recent honor in being accepted as a correspondent member of the Academia Mexicana de la Historia. As a correspondent member she will belong to a limited number of academics who cultivate the history of Mexico and who have distinguished themselves in that field. The Academia Mexicana de la Historia (AMH) is a national academy in Mexico whose purpose is to promote and propagate historical studies within Mexico, conduct research into all aspects of the history of Mexico, and contribute towards the preservation of Mexico’s national cultural heritage. It is a correspondent academy to the Real Academia de la Historia in Madrid, the equivalent national academy of history in Spain. When asked about her new position as correspondent to a foreign country, Dr. Lavrin responded, “What this means to me is a reward for many years of dedicated study to the history of Mexico which I accept with due humility and inner joy; especially given the fact that only thirty members form the body of academicians, the Academy’s choice is considered a great distinction to the recipient.” Dr. Lavrin recently published a book with Stanford University Press in 2008 entitled, The Brides of Christ: Conventual Life in Colonial Mexico. She is currently working on a book on friars and masculinity in colonial Mexico and will continue to work on the history of religious women as writers before 1800. We here at ACMRS wish her the best in her future work with the AMH and in giving her acceptance speech in Mexico sometime this year!

ACMRS and ASU Hispanic Research Center are teaming up to present a public lecture entitled “Franciscan Political Economy: Humanism, Spirituality, and Cultural Engagement,” featuring Friar Keith Douglass Warner, OFM. Friar Warner is on the faculty of Santa Clara University. He has an MA in Theology, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies. His research investigates the emergence of environmental and sustainability ethics within scientific and religious institutions, and how these organizations deploy moral discourses to foster a more sustainable society. He is an active participant in the retrieval of the Franciscan intellectual tradition project, especially in economic and environmental ethics. This event will take place on Friday, February 10 from 10:30 a.m. to noon on ASU Tempe campus Coor Hall room 4403.

Step in and explore! Arizona State University welcomes you to an exciting evening of activities and events from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, March 3rd. Join us as we celebrate the sciences, engineering, humanities, arts and the breadth of innovation on ASU’s Tempe campus. Discover the creative energy that powers a world-class university. Teenagers, children, parents, neighbors and entrepreneurs can come into our laboratories, living collections, museums, and participate in artistic performances, talks and hands-on activities. Come celebrate Arizona’s centennial and our state’s leadership in science, technology, innovation and creative enterprise. Who knows? You might even meet a Nobel Laureate or a Pulitzer Prize-winning author! ACMRS will be hosting Medieval Nights, our own open house featuring medieval games, dancing, calligraphy and catapult demonstrations! To learn more about this great event, visit: www.opendoor.asu.edu/
Upcoming ACMRS Events

FEBRUARY

“Franciscan Political Economy: Humanism, Spirituality, and Cultural Engagement”
Friar Keith Douglass Warner, OFM
February 10th at 10:30 AM
Coor Hall 4403
Sponsored by:
The ASU Hispanic Research Center and ACMRS

The 18th Annual ACMRS Conference
Erotica and the Erotic in the Middle Ages and Renaissance
February 16-18th
Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel in Tempe

MARCH

Night of the Open Door at ASU
ACMRS presents: Medieval Nights!
Activities for all ages: including a guided tour of the Center, calligraphy and trebuchet demonstrations, music, dancing, and medieval games!
March 3rd 5:00-9:00 PM
Coor Hall 4401
http://opendoor.asu.edu/

Outstanding Graduate Student Travel Award Recipient Lecture:
“Navigating ‘That Narrow Space’: Mystical Midwifery and Birgitta of Sweden”
Alaya Swann
Ph.D. Student in English at ASU
March 14th at 3:00 PM
Coor Hall 4403