The 18th Annual ACMRS Interdisciplinary Conference in Medieval and Renaissance Studies was a total success! This year’s topic, “Erotica and the Erotic in the Middle Ages and Renaissance” was a big hit. This topic brought new faces from all over the map to speak at our conference, inspiring a great atmosphere of learning and discussion for all involved. We were delighted to have Professor Albrecht Classen of the University of Arizona as our plenary speaker this year. Prof. Classen has extensive experience in this area of study and gave a wonderful lecture on “The Erotic and the Quest for Happiness in the Middle Ages: What Everybody Does and Hardly Anyone Truly Achieves.” We were also pleased to have a plenary recital of the Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo performed by Ron Brendel, a tenor from Lee University with Andrew Campbell, pianist from Arizona State University. Not only a recital, but a theatrical performance too! The troupe, Les Enfans Sans Abri, performed “Rowley Plowbender: An Erotic Medieval Comedy in Performance” to raucous laughter and thunderous applause – what a treat! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year for another fantastic conference, and can’t wait to find out what the 2013 theme will be! For more information on the ACMRS annual conference and past conferences we have hosted, please visit: http://acmrs.org/conferences/all/past
A beautiful performance of Benjamin Britten’s *Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo* by Ron Brendel, tenor from Lee University, and Andrew Cambell, pianist from Arizona State University (shown with ACMRS Director Robert Bjork)

A Rousing Performance of *Rowley Plowbender: An Erotic Medieval Comedy in Performance*
The ACMRS Cambridge Program is sold out! Due to overwhelming student interest this year, we are at full capacity. The success of this program has been steadily increasing each year despite the economic downturn and increases in tuition. The ACMRS Study Abroad program has experienced a 25% growth from 2010 to 2011 and a 51% growth from 2011 to applications in 2012 with a waiting list for this year's program. This year we are privileged to have Dr. Diane Facinelli from the Barrett Honors College at ASU as the director of the program. Dr. Facinelli will be teaching “The Arthurian Legend in History, Literature and Art” and will be taking the students to visit Glastonbury to acquaint them with the hub of Arthurian mythos. We also have Professor Albrecht Classen from the University of Arizona on board this year, who will be teaching “Medieval Answers to Modern Questions.” Prof. Classen will be taking students to visit the cathedrals of Ely and Norwich and other sites around Norwich as part of his interdisciplinary course curriculum. Our newest member of the Cambridge faculty will be Professor James Harmer of St. John’s College at the University of Cambridge. He will be filling the very big shoes of Paul Hartle, who has taught “Shakespeare in Performance” on the Cambridge program for the last 15 years. We are very excited to have James on our program this year! In keeping with the theme of his course, Prof. Harmer will be taking students to the New Globe Theater, where they will be participating in a workshop and then viewing a performance of *Henry V*. Students will also be traveling to Stratford-upon-Avon to see a Royal Shakespeare Production of *Twelfth Night*. This year’s program will certainly be one to remember! To learn more about the ACMRS Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Cambridge, please visit our website at: [http://acmrs.org/academic-programs/cambridge](http://acmrs.org/academic-programs/cambridge)

Don’t forget! ACMRS needs your support to continue its many activities that not only support students and faculty, but benefit the wider community as well. With your support we can continue to promote medieval and Renaissance studies throughout the world. Please donate today by visiting [www.acmrs.org/friends](http://www.acmrs.org/friends).
Albrecht Classen is University Distinguished Professor of German Studies at the University of Arizona and also one of the faculty of the ACMRS summer program in Cambridge (the 2012 program will be his third time teaching). He has published widely in medieval and early modern German and European literature, and in his approximately 70 scholarly books he has dealt with a wide range of topics concerning marriage, women, gender relationships, children, old age, urban space, sexuality, rape, the chastity belt, meeting the foreign, violence, songbooks, jest narratives, prose romances, autobiographies, comparative approaches, laughter, friendship, and, in many variations, women’s voices and women’s power in the premodern age (just to name a few!). Professor Classen has also published widely in sixteenth-century history and literature, especially with an emphasis on travel literature, medical research, spirituality, and women. See also his edited volumes on *Theophrastus Bombastus of Hohenheim, known as Paracelsus*. Currently he is completing a new volume on *Rural Space in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Time*, and is writing a new monograph on prostitution in medieval literature. Research and teaching go hand-in-hand for him, and so it might not come as a surprise that he has won many awards and prizes both for research and teaching, such as the Five Star Faculty Award in 2009 (completely student-driven) and the Henry and Phyllis Koffler Research Prize in 2008. In 2004 the German government awarded him with the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Band (Order of Merit), its highest award for a civilian, for his contributions and dedication to the teaching and dissemination of the German language, literature, and culture. In 2010 he published a fundamental *Handbook of Medieval Studies*, a compendium of 3 volumes (Berlin and New York: De Gruyter), and currently he is working on a new *Handbook of Medieval Culture*, which will probably also consist of three volumes. Furthermore, Professor Classen is the editor of the journals *Tristania*, *Mediaevistik*, and *Humanities*. He serves as the current President of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, as the President of the Arizona Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, and, more locally, as the undergraduate advisor in the Department of German Studies. He has also published five volumes of his own poetry, and two CDs with readings of medieval poetry. For his classes and for the public, he has produced five videos that you can watch on YouTube. He has been guest professor in Helsinki (Finland), Poznan (Poland), Freiburg (Germany), Triest (Italy), Sevilla and Valencia (Spain), Melbourne (Australia), and Seoul (S-Korea). We were lucky enough to have him as plenary speaker at the most recent ACMRS annual conference in medieval and Renaissance studies where he spoke about the “Erotic and the Quest for Happiness in the Middle Ages.” ACMRS is privileged to have Professor Classen as both an affiliate of the center and an advisory board member. To learn more about Professor Classen’s current research or to contact him, visit his webpage at: [http://aclassen.faculty.arizona.edu/](http://aclassen.faculty.arizona.edu/).
Upcoming ACMRS Events

MARCH

Night of the Open Door at ASU
ACMRS Presents: Medieval (K)Nights!
March 3rd 5:00-9:00 PM
Coor Hall 4401
http://opendoor.asu.edu/

Outstanding Graduate Student Travel Award Recipient:
“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

APRIL

Fearless Females: The Audacious and Uppity Women of the Middle Ages and Renaissance
A New ACMRS Public Program Series
More information coming soon!

Teaching Medieval Art in the Age of Multiculturism
Nancy Wu
Education Director for the Cloisters at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
April 11th at 6:00 PM
SHESC 340
Open to the public.
Reception to follow