ASU FOUNDATION PROFESSOR ROBERT E. BJORK ELECTED A FELLOW OF THE PRESTIGIOUS MEDIEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA

By Michele Peters

Professor Robert E. Bjork elected a Fellow in recognition of distinguished contributions to the field of medieval studies

Tempe, AZ – February 21, 2013 – ASU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce that Professor Robert E. Bjork, director of ACMRS (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies) and Foundation Professor of English, has been elected as a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America. He will be inducted on April 6 at the Academy’s annual meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. Fellows are elected on the basis of their scholarly achievements, and the Academy extends this honor to only 125 of their 4,000 members. Professor Monica Green (SHPRS, ASU) is the only other Medieval Academy Fellow in Arizona.

Professor Bjork’s primary research area is Old English poetry (poetry composed before the 11th century) with particular emphasis on Beowulf; he has published 17 books and 25 peer-reviewed articles, some of which have been reprinted in collections published by Yale University Press, Oxford University Press, and the annual journal Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism. He is General Editor of the 4-volume The Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages, published in June, 2010, and he is currently working on two books of Old English poetry in translation for Harvard University Press. Bjork is past President of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, a recipient of an NEH senior fellowship and a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), and a Corresponding Fellow of the English Association (United Kingdom), the Association’s only Corresponding Fellow in Arizona. In addition, he serves on the editorial boards of Anglo-Saxon England (Cambridge University Press), Mediaevistik: Internationale Zeitschrift für Interdisziplinäre Mittelalterforschung (Peter Lang Verlag), and the University of Toronto Press’s “Toronto Old Norse-Icelandic Studies” series as well as the International Advisory Boards of National Sun Yat-sen University Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Taiwan, and of the Medieval Centre, National Chung-Cheng University, Taiwan.

MEDIEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA: Founded in 1925 and based in Cambridge, MA, The Medieval Academy of America is the oldest and largest organization in the United States promoting excellence in the field of medieval studies and supports research, publication, and teaching in medieval art, archaeology, history, law, literature, music, philosophy, religion, science, social and economic institutions, and all other aspects of the Middle Ages.
Leonardo da Vinci Brings Together the Arizona Science Center and ACMRS

The Arizona Science Center and ACMRS are working together to honor, to educate and encourage our community to revel in the genius that was Leonard da Vinci.

*Da Vinci - The Genius* is the most comprehensive exhibition on Leonardo da Vinci to tour the world and brings to life the full range of his genius as an inventor, artist, scientist, anatomist, engineer, architect, sculptor and philosopher. *Da Vinci – The Genius* blends science, engineering, art and culture in an exploration of ten themed areas, including the world exclusive Secrets of Mona Lisa - a ground breaking analysis of Leonardo’s most famous painting. Created over a ten-year span, this amazing exhibition provides a fascinating insight into not only the mind of a genius; but also into the fundamental scientific and artistic principles that he discovered.

Utilizing a myriad of Da Vinci’s sketches, the exhibition spotlights life-sized machine models of his visions created by modern-day artisans in Rome, such as the “Ornitottero Verticale” (precursor to the modern helicopter), the glider, the parachute, the bicycle, the forerunner to the modern military tank, the automobile, the submarine, among so many other things.

This exhibition will introduce Arizonans to the mastermind behind the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, as well as countless scientific inventions and artistic principles that have deeply influenced the world in which we live. Intended to delight patrons of all ages, the works on display explore a variety of themed areas: Physics & Mechanical Principles, Civil Machines, Flight Studies, Military Machines, Hydraulic and Aquatic Machines, Anatomical Studies, Optics and Musical Instruments and Renaissance Art. *Da Vinci–The Genius* will be open at Arizona Science Center between Feb. 10 and June 9, 2013. For more information, visit www.azscience.org or call 602-716-2000.

*Da Vinci - The Genius* was created by Grande Exhibitions, with the assistance of the Anthropos Foundation, Italy, and Pascal Cotte, France. It is sponsored locally by JP Morgan Chase, The Arizona Republic and azcentral.com and located in the Sybil B. Harrington Galleries.

ACMRS will be participating in two major upcoming events with the Arizona Science Center to celebrate the genius of Leonard da Vinci. Watch the upcoming newsletters for more information.
ACMRS AND ASU SIGN CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT WITH CMRS OXFORD

In addition to moving the ACMRS summer program from Cambridge after 17 years to the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) at Oxford, we’ve signed ACMRS/ASU into a consortium of US colleges and universities and CMRS so that students can study at Oxford for a semester, focusing either on medieval and Renaissance studies or general liberal arts, and so that faculty can have a base in England for their own work.

The CMRS Consortium of Colleges and Universities aims to foster CMRS’s relationships with a network of US academic institutions. Every summer CMRS will offer opportunities for faculty members from Consortium colleges and universities to work and research in Oxford. Such opportunities may range from formal Faculty Development Conferences (with a full schedule of academic lectures, papers or open-house discussions, and social events) to the chance to conduct individual research projects and pursue scholarly work in Oxford as “CMRS Research Fellows.” CMRS also hopes to build on the success of the 2012 symposium, “Rhetoric in the Twenty-First Century,” to have short scholarly conferences with a range of international scholars.

Faculty participating in such programs will have access to CMRS accommodations and resources in addition to Oxford’s vast network of specialist libraries, archives, and museums.

For more information on CMRS Oxford, the Consortium, and the incredibly reasonable costs for using CMRS facilities, go to the website at http://www.cmrs.org.uk/. To learn more about the new ACMRS summer study abroad program with CMRS Oxford, please visit our website at http://acmrs.org/academic-programs/oxford.
Night of the Open Door: A Night of Success for ACMRS

By Michele Peters

ACMRS was invited to two separate events on Saturday, March 2nd that proved to be immensely successful in terms of reaching out to the larger community and educating more and more people about the importance of and the importance of the study of the medieval and Renaissance time periods.

One, very unlikely invitation, until one thinks about it, was again from the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering. They graciously invited ACMRS to participate again this year. To the delight of some very surprised attendees, many of whom questioned why a center focusing on Medieval and Renaissance research was at an engineering open house. Once they saw the catapult and how this period was truly the original STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative, they were amazed at how many other inventions, machines, ideas had their foundation in the medieval Renaissance time period. The ACMRS tent attracted over 160 visitors who now know the extent and critical role this time period played in the development of culture and society.

Our second invitation was to participate once again at the CLAS Night of the Open Door. The ACMRS tent was one of the busiest tents at the event. Visitors delighted in trying on helmets and chain mail, experience a catapult, the weight of wearing chain mail, a crown and activities for the younger crowd that included word puzzles and building a castle out of Popsicle sticks. As one visitor exclaimed as he was donning a helmet, chain mail and sword, “Wow! This is the coolest thing ever!” Our “castle walls” became an impromptu photo opportunity that many took advantage of, snapping their pictures with helmet, sword and some with a crown. Others decided full battle gear was more to their liking for a picture. Visitors from age 3 – 73 delighted in experiencing a bit of the middle Ages. In addition to music of the time period, Highland Dancers from the Caledonian Society and a full costumed representative from the Renaissance Festival added to the ambiance of the evening. From 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm we had almost 600 visitors to our tent.

English Speaking Union

One of our partners, the international English Speaking Union has invited English Lord Strathcarron, to address their next meeting on Wednesday evening, April 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

In 1867, Mark Twain was commissioned by the Daily Alta California newspaper to take a six month tour from New York City to the Holy Land, Egypt and other locations in the eastern Mediterranean Sea area. That trip resulted in his book known as Innocents Abroad. In 2010, Lord Strathcarron replicated the trip. He created a book entitled Innocence and War: Mark Twain’s Holy Land Revisited. Lord Strathcarron has created a presentation on what he found through the median of photographs, video and excerpts from both books. Twain traveled on a ship entitled Quaker City and Strathcarron traveled on the Vasco da Gama. Pictures and video will recreate views of: governments, pilgrimages to holy and historical sites and an overview of the Holy Land. Admission fee is $15 to help cover the cost of bringing Lord Strathcarron to the U.S.; a copy of his book will also be available for purchase.
Join us for our next program in the popular series, “Fearless Females: Audacious and Feisty Women of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.” Artemesia Gentileschi (July 8, 1593-c. 1656) was an Italian Baroque painter, today considered one of the most accomplished painters in the generation after Caravaggio. She had the rare opportunity to study art and follow in the footsteps of her father, painter Orazio Gentileschi. In an era when female painters were not easily accepted by the artistic community or patrons, she was the first female painter to become a member of the Accademia di Arte Disegno in Florence. Raped by her teacher and having faced a humiliating public trial, she was quickly married off to a fellow painter and moved out of town. Unlike many women who were publicly shamed by rape, Artemesia sought out patrons, pursued her fame as a painter, and used her femininity to her professional advantage. This program is free and open to the public. To learn more about this new public programs initiative, please visit our website at http://acmrs.org/public-programs/public-lecture-series
Shakespeare in the Desert
Friday, April 26th, 2013
Description: Solis Camerata collaborates with Arizona ProArte for this season finale. Join us as we hear music inspired by Shakespeare’s plays, including excerpts from “Julius Caesar” and Faure’s “Shylock Suite” performed with monologues by Shakespearean actors.

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Paradise Valley United Methodist Church
4455 East Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley AZ
($15 Admission, $10 Student/Senior, Under 18 Free - http://www.azproarte.com/)
UPCOMING ACMRS EVENTS

MARCH

“Artemisia Gentileschi: Proto-Feminist?”
Fearless Females Part VIII
Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 7:00 pm
Rachel Geschwind, Visiting Asst. Prof.
Art History, Herberger, ASU
Changing Hands Bookstore
6428 South McClintock Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283
http://artemesia.eventbrite.com/

APRIL

“Hypothesis Testing in the Humanities?
A Digital Contribution to the Debate on
Early ‘Germanic’ Identity”
Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Travel
Award Winner: Christopher Roberts
School of Human Evolution & Social Change
Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 1:00 pm
Coor Hall, Room 4403
ASU Tempe Campus

For more information about ACMRS news and events, visit our website at
http://acmr.org/news/events or send an email to acmrs@acmrs.org.

Questions? Please feel free to contact
ACMRS with any questions or suggestions
you might have. Send all correspondence
by email to acmrs@acmrs.org or by mail to
the address. We’d love to hear from you!

ACMRS
P.O BOX 874402
TEMPE, AZ 85287-4402
(480) 965-5900
WWW.ACMRS.ORG