ACMRS and the Arizona Science Center have collaborated once again to celebrate the genius of Leonardo da Vinci through the Scholar Series. For four consecutive Wednesdays in May, ASU scholars and a guest speaker will present on four totally different and distinct areas, highlighting the breadth and depth of DaVinci’s interests. Each event takes place from 7:00-8:00pm.

- **May 8** – Weaponry  
  – Karl Brooks
- **May 15** – Renaissance Art and the Discovery of Anatomy  
  – Dr. Rachel Geschwind
- **May 22** – Alchemy and Chemistry in the Time of Da Vinci  
  – Dr. Kirstin Hendrickson
- **May 29** – Engineering – Renaissance Theories and Feats of Engineering  
  – Dr. Brad Allenby

For this series, the Arizona Science Center is offering tickets at the special price of $12, which includes the presentation in the IMAX theater as well as admission to *DaVinci: The Genius* exhibit. For more information, please visit our website below or email acmrs@acmrs.org with your name, email address, and number of tickets requested.

On April 19th, the progressive International School of Arizona invited ACMRS and the Traveling Classroom to spend the day with all 120 of its students, who range from pre-K children to fifth graders. Everyone who attended was thrilled to walk into a room filled with medieval and Renaissance artifacts and to enjoy the hands-on experience the ACMRS Traveling Classroom provides students of all ages.

The youngest students were able to create their own “stained glass windows” by gluing “gems” to a design of their own making or to affix “jewels” to paper crowns. They could choose from a rainbow of crayons to color a picture of a knight riding his trusty steed, a castle, or a fair maiden. Some children decided to combine the crafts and started to affix the “jewels” to the pages they so artfully colored. One second grader excitedly proclaimed that coloring table was the “beautiful table” and announced that she did not want to leave, even though their time was up and another class was waiting to enter.

As the age of the students progressed, so did the interest in the activities available to them. By the time the third and fourth graders arrived, the “beautiful table” was left vacant as more students tried their hands at the scaled-down catapult and learned about its physics and engineering; inquired about how DaVinci’s bridge was able to stand without supporting pillars; and made their own pomanders to take home as a souvenir of their visit with ACMRS. Some students decided they liked the pomanders so much that they wanted to make a second or third one to take home to their siblings at home or parents.

The upper-grade students were fascinated with calligraphy and were excited to learn how people created magnificent illuminated manuscripts in the Middle Ages. After attempting to write with ink and real goose quills, most students asked one of two questions: “What happened if they made a mistake?” “How long did it take to create just one book?” They could then move to the next table and try to create their own miniature printed books by folding printed sheets in the correct format and creating their own “bindings.” At another station, students learned about heraldry and created their own coats of arms.

All of the students and many of the teachers were eager to try on authentic chain mail and helmets. Everyone was thoroughly amazed at the weight of the chain mail, and they were even more surprised to learn that it was only part of full battle dress. After this experience, none of the students or adults will ever look at knights in quite the same way.

We currently have requests from ten other schools who would like to host the Traveling Classroom, and we look forward to beginning these visits during the upcoming school year. What started as a trial and experiment has now turned into a much-requested project. ACMRS plans to work hard this summer to develop new materials and strategies to meet this overwhelming demand while providing the hands-on experience students so desperately need. For more information on the Traveling Classroom, please contact us at acmrs@acmrs.org.
Join us for the next ACMRS public program series lecture on Queen Morgause, the Mother of Ruin in the Arthurian Legend!

Although she is a minor character in the Arthurian legend, Morgause’s impact on Arthur and the court of Camelot has been pivotal. The half-sister of Arthur, sister of Morgan le Fay, wife of King Lot of Orkney, and mother of Gawain and Mordred, she has fulfilled and even embraced the role of Mother of Ruin. From her brief descriptions in Malory’s *Morte D’Arthur*, Morgause has been developed into a powerful force for destruction and evil in numerous modern retellings of the story, such as *The Once and Future King*, *The Mists of Avalon*, and even the BBC series *Merlin*.

This program is free and open to the public. To learn more about ACMRS public programs, please visit our website at [http://acmrs.org/public-programs/public-lecture-series](http://acmrs.org/public-programs/public-lecture-series).
ASU HISTORY FACULTY’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN A GRADUATING HISTORY MAJOR

Congratulations to ASU undergraduate student Rhiannon Pare, this year’s recipient of the Excellence in a Graduating History Major award! Her performance in the classroom, proficient original research, and unflagging intellectual curiosity and diligence have contributed to this major achievement in her academic career. Rhiannon is a triple major at ASU with concurrent degrees in History, Classics, and Art History, and she has also recently completed the ACMRS Interdisciplinary Certificate in Medieval & Renaissance Studies. She worked as an assistant for the NEH Summer Seminar in 2012 and also presented a paper at the ACMRS Annual Interdisciplinary Conference in February 2013. Her nominating professor, Dr. Monica Green, recently said, “This is tremendous recognition of Rhiannon’s superlative achievements as an undergrad here at ASU, and I am so proud of the credit she brings to medieval studies (and many other fields!) by her accomplishments.” We at ACMRS couldn’t agree more! Congratulations Rhiannon, and best wishes in your future endeavors.

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“ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY” & “MEDIEVAL WORD OF THE DAY”

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Join us for another great Fearless Females event on Isabella Whitney! Isabella Whitney, who served as a maidservant in a wealthy household in London, was the first female writer to publish secular poetry in English. She was also one of Europe’s first female professional poets. She published two volumes of poetry (in 1567 and 1578) in an age when women had few public rights and very limited access to formal education. This is remarkable enough, but what is even more remarkable is that in her poems she asserts her right to be compensated for the labor of writing. In her most famous poem, called “Will and Testament” by critics of her poetry, she ironically bequeaths London to itself and describes in lavish detail its streets filled with butchers and bookbinders, the poor and disenfranchised, and the riotous young men of the Inns of Court. Biting and critical, but linked in obvious kinship with her vibrant city, Whitney offers us a rare look at everyday life for a woman writer when there was really no such thing.

http://acmrs.org/public-programs/public-lecture-series
The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) announces a research award for the outstanding paper written by an ASU, NAU, or UA graduate student working in any aspect of Medieval or early Renaissance Studies. The award provides up to $500 toward the travel expenses of the student to attend the International Congress on Medieval Studies sponsored by the Medieval Institute and held every year in May at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. *Please note that in order to receive the award you must be able to attend the next Medieval Congress. See website for details: http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/.

Applications should consist of a 15-page paper on any subject suitable to the Kalamazoo program and the name and contact information of a faculty mentor ACMRS may consult regarding your work. For more information about the application process, contact the ACMRS Outreach & Media Coordinator (Kendra.TerBeek@acmrs.org). Applications should be emailed to Dr. Robert Bjork, Director, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Arizona State University, at acmrs@acmrs.org by the application due date. (Application Deadline: September 1, 2013 for the 2014 Medieval Congress*)

For more information about this travel award, please visit: http://acmrs.org/academic-programs/awards-grants/graduate-travel-award
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 this address. We’d love to hear from you!

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