Thus sometimes hath the brightest day a cloud;  
And after summer evermore succeeds  
Barren winter, with his wrathful nipping cold:  
So cares and joys abound, as seasons fleet.  
—William Shakespeare, Henry VI, Part 2

Nota bene:

- CFP deadline for RMMRA 2015 is May 1. See page 3.
- It’s never too early to pay RMMRA dues. See page 4.
- Please read, support, and submit to our journal Quidditas!
- FYI: the RMMRA 2016 Conference is planned for June 17-19 at U New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Michael T. & Phyllis J. Walton Travel Award!

We are pleased to announce that the application window is open for graduate students interested in applying to our newly endowed travel scholarship, designed to encourage participation at our conference by graduate students.

The grant is available to students enrolled in a graduate program in any medieval or Renaissance field at the time of application who are presenting papers at the RMMRA Annual Conference. There will be four awards given, each comprising a $250 check, waiver of registration fee, & waiver of RMMRA membership dues.

This award was established to honor the many years of support, service & enthusiasm for the RMMRA of Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton. Before his passing in August 2013, Mike gave 24 papers during 27 years with us, some joint with his companion in life and scholarship, Phyllis, who also has served in many capacities, including the role of treasurer. The Waltons were committed to fostering academic excellence among our junior colleagues, and this award ensures that the RMMRA will continue to promote the training of our next generation of scholars.

Please visit the RMMRA website or see form on p. 3 for relevant application details.

We especially invite members & colleagues to consider making a tax-deductible contribution to this fund!
2014 RMMRA Award Winners

This summer, the two best RMMRA conference papers – one by a junior and one by a senior scholar – were selected, and these have now been published in *Quidditas*.

The 2014 Breck Award is **Kristin Bovaird-Abbo**, Assistant Prof. of English at the U. of Northern Colorado, for her paper “Is Geoffrey Chaucer’s Tale of Sir Thopas a Rape Narrative?” Prof. Bovaird-Abbo reads the tale in light of the 1382 Statute of Rapes, arguing that it reflects contemporary debates over the legal definition of rape. The reviewers appreciated its awareness of context and its fresh reading of the tale.

**David Strong**, Associate Prof. of Literature at U Texas at Tyler, has won the 2014 West Award for his “The Pilgrim’s Intuitive Cognition in *Pèlerinage de la vie humaine*,” a study of how late Scholastic epistemology informs de Deguileville’s dream vision.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Kristin and David.

RMMRA 2015 Call for Papers

**The Functions and Dysfunctions of the Medieval and Renaissance Family**

August 3-5, 2015 (Cedar City, Utah)

Joint Conference with the Wooden O Symposium

We are delighted that the 2015 annual meeting of the RMMRA will be held in conjunction with the Wooden O Symposium at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah. Both the RMMRA and Wooden O Symposium will organize sessions in this year’s joint conference.

We are especially excited by our conference theme, **“The Functions and Dysfunctions of the Medieval and Renaissance Family.”** Families (especially dysfunctional ones) are always interesting, but this theme should connect in provocative ways with the plays being produced at the Utah Shakespeare Festival, including *King Lear*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Henry IV Part Two*. Participants should note that the conference takes place just a short way from some of the West’s most famous natural attractions, including the Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion.

The RMMRA also welcomes all approaches to the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period, and as always embraces a broad range of disciplines. Abstracts for RMMRA sessions should be sent to Chair Jen McNabb at JLMcnabb@wiu.edu. Participants in these sessions must be members of the RMMRA, and as noted students are encouraged to apply for the Walton Award.

The **Wooden O Symposium** (sponsored by Southern Utah University and Utah Shakespeare Festival) is also a cross-disciplinary conference; its focus is especially on the text and performance of Shakespeare’s plays. The Wooden O invites panel and paper proposals on any topic related to the text and performance of Shakespeare’s plays, as well as papers/panels that investigate how his works intersect with early modern life and culture.

The symposium encourages papers and panels that speak to the plays featured at the Utah Shakespeare Festival season, as noted above. Abstracts for consideration for the Wooden O sessions and individual presentations should be sent to usfeducation@bard.org.

The deadline for proposals is **May 1, 2015**. Chairs and individual presenters will be informed of acceptance no later than May 15. Please include a 250-word abstract or session proposals as well as:

• name of presenter(s)
• participant category (faculty, graduate student, undergraduate, or independent scholar)
• college/university affiliation
• mailing address
• email address
• audio/visual requirements and any other special requests.
Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Award

This award has been established to honor the many years of support, service, and enthusiasm for the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association of Michael T. Walton and Phyllis J. Walton. Over the twenty-seven years he was with us, Michael Walton gave twenty-four papers, some joint with his companion in life and scholarship, his wife Phyllis. He organized two of our conferences (2000 and 2011); he drafted our Constitution; he helped guide our transition from a hard-copy to an electronic journal; and from 1996-2013, he brought continuity to our Board. Phyllis Walton has likewise served the RMMRA in many different and essential capacities, including as treasurer, and with Michael wrote four distinguished monographs. This award is meant to recognize the particular informal support both Waltons have given to junior scholars at the RMMRA conferences and elsewhere.

The Michael and Phyllis Walton Awards will be available to students enrolled in a graduate program in any medieval or Renaissance field at the time of application who are presenting papers at the annual Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference. There will be four awards for each conference: $250, which will be sent out in check form before the conference, plus waiver of the registration and RMMRA membership fees.

Applications

The deadline for applications will be six weeks prior to each year’s conference. Applicants should submit the following:

☐ a one-page abstract of the paper to be presented

☐ a complete copy of the paper to be presented, which may not exceed 12 pages, double-spaced

☐ a curriculum vitae

Applicants will send materials by email to Thomas Klein (kleithom@isu.edu)

The applications will be judged by the RMMRA president and an appointed committee from the Executive Council, using professionalism, academic quality of paper, and likelihood of benefitting from attendance as general criteria. The president and committee should recuse themselves in instances of potential conflicts of interest. If possible, the awards will be advertised on the conference call-for-papers and RMMRA website, and publicized to conference participants. The award amounts may be adjusted according to the state of RMMRA finances; the deadline may also be shifted if appropriate.

For those who would like to make a financial contribution to the Walton Award Fund, please detach this section & remit payment (payable to “RMMRA”) to:

ATTN: Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Award
c/o Todd P. Upton, Ph.D./Treasurer, RMMRA
P.O. Box 270813
Littleton, CO 80127

Donation Amt. $________
Date _________
Check #________
We're on Facebook!

Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association

Please note our web address, as it has changed:

http://rowdy.msudenver.edu/~tayljeff/RMMRA/Index.html

The Fall 2014 RMMRA Newsletter was composed and assembled by Thomas Klein, President of the Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association & Professor of English at Idaho State University. Please direct questions, comments & corrections to: kleithom@isu.edu

Membership Form / Annual Dues 2014-15

Name:

Position & Affiliation (if applicable):

Email:

Preferred Mailing Address:

Research Interests:

Dues Category:

- $25.00 Individual Member
- $30.00 Joint Membership for Civilly Acknowledged Couples  Your partner's name:_____________________________

Remit this form with your check to:

Todd P. Upton, Ph.D.
Treasurer, RMMRA
P.O. Box 270813
Littleton, CO 80127