Dear Members and Friends of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association,

Greetings! As the start of a new academic year looms, I find myself reflecting, as I do late each summer, on my goals and expectations as a teacher-scholar for the coming semester. Along with many other academics, I use August rather than January to make new resolutions, about my approach to my field and to my work both inside and outside of the classroom. These processes of taking stock always renew my enthusiasm for the enterprises of teaching, conducting research, and writing. They also lead me to refine and reconsider my methods and motivations anew. The beginning of a new year offers a wonderful chance to think about what I am doing and why. In these days when sweeping declarations about the demise of the humanities and the impracticality of liberal arts education appear with increasing frequency—even within the academy itself—this type of self-reflection takes on a greater urgency. This year I am reminded of the ways the RMMRA serves as a testament to the vibrancy of the humanities disciplines and to the value of interdisciplinarity, collaboration, and collegiality, all of which I saw on display at this year’s first-rate conference in Albuquerque. I am also able to witness these features throughout the year in my communications with RMMRA members and friends about their work and about our organization. Thank you for helping to make our Association an energetic support system for students and professional scholars and for reminding me that the humanities are thriving in the Rocky Mountain West and beyond!

I would also like to take the opportunity to provide an acknowledgement of this anniversary year, known by some as #Shakespeare400. I was lucky enough to see the First Folio on tour at the Kansas City Public Library earlier this summer and am now collaborating with a colleague on my campus to celebrate Shakespeare with a film series this fall. I hope 2016 has offered you a chance to celebrate Shakespeare’s life and legacy as well.

Best wishes for a happy and productive 2016-2017 academic year, and I hope to see you at next summer’s conference!

—Jennifer McNabb
President, RMMRA

Quidditas is accepting manuscripts for consideration for its next issue. Consider submitting your work for publication in our peer-reviewed, indexed online journal.

Looking for news concerning the 2017 conference later this fall.
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RMMRA, HOSTED
BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO,
ALBUQUERQUE, NM, JUNE 16-18, 2016

This year’s tremendously successful Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association conference was hosted by Tim Graham and the University of New Mexico Institute for Medieval Studies. The program boasted twenty sessions and 65 presenters exploring this year’s theme, “The Past, Present, and Future of Medieval and Renaissance Texts.” Two outstanding plenary speakers offered thoughtful explorations of the conference theme: Siân Echard of the University of British Columbia provided the Friday plenary, “Examin’d with Original”: Facsimiles of Medieval Manuscripts in the Post-Medieval World”; and Adam Zucker of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst concluded the conference at Saturday’s plenary, “Pedantry, Nonsense, and the Text of Love’s Labours Lost.” Attendees enjoyed opportunities to socialize with friends old and new at the Opening Reception held at the St. Clair Winery and Bistro, a Conference Banquet at Seasons Rotisserie and Grill, and the Closing Reception, which featured a lively performance by Música Antigua de Albuquerque of music inspired by the conference sessions.

The conference represented the dedicated efforts of a number of people, and I would like to offer my particular thanks to Tim Graham and his Program Committee (Jonathan Davis-Secord, Sarah Davis-Secord, Kim Klimek, Anita Obermeier, Abigail G. Robertson, and Ginger Smoak). On behalf of the Association, I also offer thanks to the University of New Mexico’s Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, College of Arts & Sciences, and Departments of English Language and Literature and History for their generous support of the 2016 meeting.

Thanks to all participants for your contributions to a stimulating and fun annual conference, and watch for announcements concerning next summer’s meeting in Colorado!
THE RMMRA AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MEDIEVAL STUDIES, KALAMAZOO, MI, MAY 12-15, 2016

In 2016 the Rocky Mountain and Medieval Renaissance Association continued its tradition of contributing to the robust program of the International Congress on Medieval Studies, hosted by Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. May’s conference marked the 51st annual meeting of medievalists from around the globe at ICMS and offered participants an array of exciting sessions, speakers, and activities.

The Association sponsored two sessions at this year’s ICMS based on the theme of last year’s annual RMMRA meeting in Cedar City: “The Functions and Dysfunctions of the Medieval and Renaissance Family.” RMMRA Past President Tom Klein of Idaho State University presided over the first RMMRA session, “Royal Families under Stress.” Panelists included former RMMRA Executive Board Member and newly-elected RMMRA Treasurer Kim Klimek of Metropolitan State University of Denver (“Kinship, Friendship, and Family in the Anglo-Norman Royalty from 1080 to 1135”), Angela Florschuetz of Cheyney University (“Bad Blood: Patrilineal Inheritance and the Body of the Heir in William of Palerne,” featured above left), and Cameron W. Bradley of Macalester College (“A Royal Pain: Louis XI, Charles of France, and the (Mis)Uses of Brotherhood”). Kim Klimek presided over the second session, “Bourgeois Families under Stress.” Panelists included Adam Osborn of Auburn University (“Enriching Allegories: Domestic Discourse and Dispute in Chaucer’s Tale of Melibee,” featured above right), Corinne Wieben of the University of Northern Colorado (“The Family That Slays Together: Interfamilial Violence and Insult in Late Medieval Lucca”), Eileen Kim of Wilfrid Laurier University (“Cowering, Complaining, Commiserating: The Henpecked Husband and Discourses of Spousal Abuse in John Lydgate’s Disguising at Hertford”), and Kathleen Ashley of the University of Southern Maine (“Bourgeois Families under Stress”).

RMMRA 2016 PRIZE WINNERS AND AWARD COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to those members of the RMMRA who won travel grants to present at this year’s annual meeting at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. This conference marked the second year with graduate student attendees supported by the Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Graduate Student Travel Grant. This year’s winners were Leah Pope of the University of Wisconsin Madison and Jon Paul Heyne of the Catholic University of America. Hearty congratulations are due to the winners, and sincere thanks are extended to all of the generous donors who helped bring the award to fruition again this year; please contact Treasurer Kim Klimek for information on how to donate to the Walton Travel Grant fund: klimekk@msudenver.edu.

The deadline for the Allen D. Breck and Delno C. West Awards for this year’s meeting is September 1, 2016. The former recognizes the most outstanding paper by a junior scholar presented at the annual meeting, while the latter recognizes the outstanding paper by a scholar at the rank of Associate Professor or above. Participants of the annual conference may submit essays as they were presented at the 2016 conference by the September 1st deadline for review by the awards subcommittee for prizes and consideration for publication in Quidditas.

To submit your work, email essays (with all identifying information of authorship removed from the file) as well as a brief author bio to RMMRA President Jen McNabb at JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu.

Good luck!
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Your partner's name: __________________________

Remit this form with your check to:
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