

# NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ∞ FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we begin thinking about our annual pilgrimage to the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, I am so excited about the future of SMFS. We have new Advisory Board members, we have completely relocated our publishing and membership operations, and we are looking ahead to new projects that promise to enhance further the work we do.

First, I want to welcome new board members who joined us in January: Jessica Boon, Jennifer Borland, Dorothy Kim, Lisa Perfetti, Mary Suydam, and Lisa Weston, as well as graduate representative, Laura Saetveit Miles. Laura is also to be congratulated for winning our Graduate Student Prize for her essay, “Looking in the Past for a Discourse of Motherhood: Birgitta of Sweden and Julia Kristeva.” In addition to these new board members, I want to recognize our new Treasurer and Membership Coordinator, Vickie Larsen. We are very pleased to have Vickie take over a huge role that has long been under the Managing Editor and spearhead our efforts to enlarge our membership.

Of late, the Editorial Board of *MFF* has developed new policies for peer review and streamlined our review process. Those who submit essays to *MFF* can expect a timelier turnaround, as well as detailed comments from the reviewers. Likewise, the Editorial Board, comprised of Chris Africa, Jennifer Thibodeaux, Rachel Dressler, Elizabeth Freeman, and Helene Scheck, has been working hard to get us back on our publication schedule, and they deserve our hearty thanks for their efforts. We hope to have another issue online in very short order. I want to encourage you to submit your work to *MFF*, to review books, and to submit your CV to be considered for our pool of external reviewers. We need your help making *MFF* a great publication that offers the very best of medieval feminist scholarship.

Now that we have made a successful change to online publication of

*MFF*, we are in an ideal position to be thinking about new initiatives for the Society. Having these new board members has been energizing, especially as they are generating ideas for the future, such as SMFS conference and travel bursaries for graduate students. We will actively be seeking your input on ways to enhance the initiatives we already support and to develop new projects that will further our collective work. Please know you may contact any of us with ideas, suggestions, or concerns regarding SMFS.

I hope to see you at Kalamazoo!

With my best regards,

*Virginia Blanton*

President, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

*Modern Languages Association* (January 7, 2011)

The SMFS sponsored session, “Gender and Anger in Medieval Culture,” elicited good questions, primarily about the effect of status on expressions of gendered anger. For example, the speakers pointed to the practice of rhetorical (imagined as high-class) figures displaying the proper way to present righteous anger or how angry reactions changed depending on the class milieu of the audience who witness it, often with deadly consequences.

*American Historical Association* (January 6–9, 2011)

The six sessions SMFS sponsored or co-sponsored sessions at the 2011 AHA were double those of the 2010 meeting. The sessions were well attended for the AHA with good papers and time for discussion .

*Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies* (February 2–5, 2011)

SMFS sponsored two sessions, “Creating Female Religious Identity,” and “Knowledge and Learning in Medieval Women’s Convents.” Both were well attended given that there were parallel sessions. A number of graduate students and recent PhDs inquired about membership and the submitting work to MFF.

SMFS at KALAMAZOO

May 12-15, 2011

Friday, May 13

5:15 p.m. *Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship* (SMFS) Fetzner 2016  
Business Meeting

Saturday, May 14

5:15 p.m. *Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship* (SMFS) Bernhard 209  
Graduate Student Reception with cash bar

## SESSIONS

### **40: Speaking the Body**

[Thursday, 10 a.m., Bernhard 159]

Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)

Organizer: Marla Segol, Skidmore College

Presider: Karen Greenspan, Skidmore College

*Speaking Monstrous Bodies in Later Middle English Chivalric Narratives*

Ilan Mitchell-Smith, California State Univ.–Long Beach

*The Anatomy of a Text: Teaching the Body in Medieval Bologna*

Kira L. Robison, Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities

*Speaking the Body in Tenth-Century Hebrew Poetry, Cosmology,  
and Medicine*

Marla Segol

*Praying for (and with) the Body in Medieval Ashkenaz*

David Shyovitz, Northwestern Univ.

### **228: Gendered Spaces in Medieval England**

[Friday, 10 a.m., Bernhard 213]

Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)

Organizer: M. C. Bodden, Marquette Univ.

Presider: M. C. Bodden

*Female Space and Women Travelers in Anglo-Saxon England*

Gretchen Hendrick, Univ. of North Dakota

*Forging the Female: Galenic Medical Discourse and the Destabilization of Gendered Spaces in Guigemar*

Ashley R. Nolan, St. Louis Univ.

*Women's Bodies/Men's Spaces: Domestic Iconography in Medieval English Choir Stalls*

Betsy Chunko, Univ. of Virginia

### **282: Medieval Women's Monstrous Bodies**

[Friday, 1:30 p.m., Bernhard 213]

Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)

Organizer: Misty Urban, Lewis-Clark State College

Presider: Misty Urban

*"Of his redeð euch dei": Transforming Monstrous Interpellation in Women's Anchoritic Writing*

Liz Herbert McAvoy, Swansea University

*The Dragon Lady of Lybeaus Desconus*

Tara Williams, Oregon State Univ.

*Lydgate's Venerean Fortune: Sensual and Monstrous Females in Fall of Princes VI*

Christina Di Gangi, Urbana Univ.

### **339: Medieval Women's Monstrous Bodies II**

[Friday, 3:30 p.m., Bernard 213]

Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)

Organizer: Misty Urban, Lewis-Clark State College

Presider: Misty Urban

*Fiendish Sex: The Making of a Maternal Monster*

Winter Elliot, Brenau Univ.

*Chaucer's Loathly Lady and the Dissolution of Sex*

Stephanie Norris, Univ. of Iowa

*The "Fairier" Sex: The Monstrous Female and the Subversion of Social and Religious Power Structures in Edmund Spenser's The Faerie Queene*

Melissa Ridley-Elmes, Carlbrook School

**359: Flaming Bodies in Ken Russell's *The Devils***

[Saturday, 10 a.m., Fetzner 1005]

[Screening of *The Devils* Friday, 7:30 p.m., Fetzner 1005]

Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)

Organizer: Lynn Arner, Brock Univ.

Presider: Lynn Arner

*Inquisitive Politics, Deviant Bodies: The Trope of Mary Magdalene in Ken Russell's The Devils*

Nhóra Lucía Serrano, California State Univ.–Long Beach

*Queering the Medieval Witch: Asmodiai, Grandier, and Ken Russell's The Devils*

Susannah Mary Chewning, Union County College

**Medieval Foremothers Society**

**346: In Honor of Joan Ferrante I**

[Saturday, 10 a.m., 204 Valley II]

Sponsor: Medieval Foremothers Society

Organizer: Helene Scheck, Univ. at Albany, and Elizabeth Robertson, Univ. of Glasgow

Presider: Elizabeth Robertson

*The Question of Women in the Decameron: a Boccaccian Disputatio ad utramque partem*

Robert W. Hanning, Columbia Univ.

*The French Fabliaux in MS Harley 2253*

David Raybin, Eastern Illinois Univ.

*Medieval Feminist Inspirations*

E. Jane Burns, Univ. of North Carolina–Chapel Hill

**510: In Honor of Joan Ferrante II (A Roundtable)**

[Saturday, 3:30 p.m., Bernhard 210]

Sponsor: Medieval Foremothers Society

Organizer: Helene Scheck, Univ. at Albany, and Elizabeth Robertson, Univ. of Glasgow

Presider: Helene Scheck

*To the Glory of Her Absent Sex: Women and the Issue of the Anonymous Text*

Liz Herbert McAvoy, Swansea University

*Violence and the Glory of Sex: Rethinking Joan Ferrante and Marie de France's Lais*

Wendy Marie Hoofnagle, Univ. of Northern Iowa

*Teaching Women Writing and Written in Medieval Literature*

Celia M. Lewis, Louisiana Tech Univ.

*Joan Ferrante and the Online Epistolae Collection*

Elizabeth A. Hubble, Univ. of Montana

*"Women's" Letters: The Feminine Voice of Ovid's Heroides*

Suzanne Conklin Akbari, Univ. of Toronto

### **Medieval Feminist Art History Project**

#### **503: New Approaches to Medieval Medical and Scientific Imagery**

Sponsor: Medieval Feminist Art History Project

Organizer: Marian Bleeker, Cleveland State Univ., and Jennifer Borland, Oklahoma State Univ.

Presider: Marian Bleeker

*Celestial Sightings and Scientific Study: Terzysko's Gaze Laid Bare*

Eric Ramirez-Weaver, Univ. of Virginia

*Al-Sufi's Book of Constellations of the Fixed Stars: A Presentation of Philosophical Notions of Knowledge*

Margaret Shortle, Boston Univ.

*Books and Bodies: Subjectivity and Experience in an Illustrated Health Guide*

Jennifer Borland