

# MSN

## Medieval Studies Newsletter

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## NEW STAFF AT THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

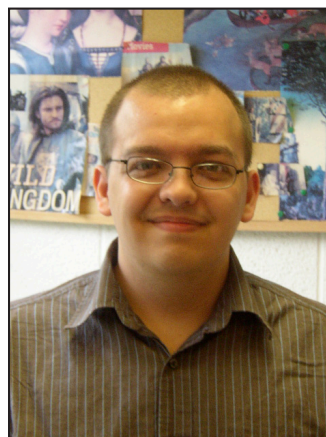
The Medieval Studies Institute welcomes its new director, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, **Rosemarie McGerr**. Prof. McGerr received her B.A. in English and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Medieval Studies from Yale University. She came to Indiana University in 1990, after teaching in the English department at Yale. See her director's note on Page 2.



The Medieval Studies Institute is also pleased to introduce this year's support staff. Or, in the case of **Christine Dunn**, to reintroduce—Christine will be reprising the role of Assistant to the Director, a position she held from 2005–2007. Christine is a PhD candidate in History, and is currently working on her dissertation,

which examines the Heresy of the Free Spirit in Italy. Not much work has been done on this movement in Italy, but Christine noticed warnings against the heresy abounding in letters that circulated within the coterie of Angela of Foligno. This preoccupation, Christine argues, is fueled by a desire to distance their group from the heresy, and to protect themselves against charges of being heretics themselves. This dissertation really brings Christine full circle: she first discovered her medieval calling in the middle of a class lecture on late medieval women. During her undergraduate years at Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, VA, she studied abroad at the University of Reading in England. Coming into her study abroad she knew she wanted to study history, but nothing more spe-

cific, and while taking a general survey course on the Middle Ages, she heard a guest speaker lecture on late medieval



women, including Heloise, Hildegard of Bingen, and Christina of Markate. "By the end of the class," Christine says, "I knew this was what I wanted to do with the rest of my life." Her revelation has taken her to archives in Rome and Perugia, to the Church of St. Foi in Conques, France (which you can read about in Volume 15, issue 1 of this newsletter), to Kalamazoo several times over, and most exotically of all, back to her post at the Medieval Studies Institute.

**Steve Stanzak** joins the Medieval Studies Institute as the Special Projects Assistant. Steve always knew that he would be a medievalist; he just didn't know it would be through folklore. As an undergraduate at NYU, Steve, who has just completed his MA in Folklore and is now working on his PhD, majored in English and minored in Creative Writing, Music, and Irish Studies. Most of his classes touched on the medieval world, but his first exposure to folklore came when he took a class as a junior, "Folklore and Children's Literature," with Professor Marilyn Gaull (an Alumna of the Indiana University departments of Folklore [MA] and English [PhD]).

### BECOME A FAN OF THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE ON FACEBOOK!

The Medieval Studies Institute now has a page on Facebook. We will post announcements, events, conferences, and happenings in our community on the page. In addition, you can post your own announcements to the page and send messages to members of the MEST community.

To become a fan, either type in the link below into your browser or simply search for "Medieval Studies Institute" on the Facebook webpage.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bloomington-IN/Medieval-Studies-Institute-Indiana-University/264035160103>

(Continued on Page 2)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As I begin my appointment as director, I can see even more clearly that the success of the Medieval Studies Institute depends upon the participation of many people. I appreciate the dedication and creativity of the MEST assistants, Christine Dunn and Steve Stanzak, who are vital to the multiple missions of the Institute. I am very grateful for the leadership provided by the faculty

on the Executive Committee: Rob Fulk, Professor of English; Kari Gade, Professor of Germanic Studies; Wendy Gillespie, Professor of Music; Jacques Merçeron, Professor of French; and Joel Silver, Associate Director and Curator of Books at the Lilly Library. I also want to thank Hildegard Keller, Professor of Germanic Studies, and Cherry Williams, Curator of Manuscripts at the Lilly Library, for their work on the "Mediaevalia at the Lilly" lecture series. Medievalists in several departments have also played important roles in suggesting speakers. Together, we are working on an exciting set of events that we hope will provide intellectual engagement and a strong sense of shared interests to a wide range of medievalists during this academic year.

The MEST Journals Initiative continues to thrive. This year it provides support for three journals: *Textual Cultures*, edited by H. Wayne Storey, Professor of Italian; *Exemplaria*, edited by Patricia Clare Ingham, Associate Professor of English; and *The Medieval Review*, edited by Diane Reilly, Associate Professor of History of Art, and Deborah Deliyannis, Assistant Professor of History. Holly Silvers, doctoral candidate in History of Art, holds the graduate assistantship for the Journals Initiative. Our events this fall began with a



wonderful lecture in September by our own Prof. Patricia Ingham. Many thanks to Prof. Ingham for

sharing insights from the research for one of her current book projects.

Our next lecture, on October 19th, will be by Anne Walters Robertson, the Claire Dux Swift Distinguished Service Professor of Music and the Humanities at the University of Chicago. Her talk, titled

"The Man with the Pale Face, the Relic, and Du Fay's *Missa Se la face ay pale*," will combine musical and textual interpretation, manuscript study, iconography, and theology to offer a new explanation for why Du Fay chose his *chanson* "*Se la face ay pale*" as the source for his mass. The lecture is at 4:15 p.m. in Ford Hall on the second floor of the Simon Music Building, followed by a reception in the area just outside the hall. Students and faculty who wish to meet with Prof. Robertson before the lecture are invited to a reception at 2:30-3:30 that afternoon in the Slocum Room at the Lilly Library. There will also be a display of some of the library's medieval manuscripts at the reception.

Plans are underway for another lecture in November and two during second semester, in addition to the annual symposium at the end of March. The "Mediaevalia at the Lilly" lecture in April will be given by Dr. Falk Eisermann, Director of the Union Catalogue of Incunabula at the State Library in Berlin, an internationally recognized scholar on medieval manuscripts and early printed books: the title of his talk is "Secrets of Success: Printers, Patrons, and Audiences in 15th Century Leipzig." We are also reviving the Medieval Studies Film Series, beginning in October. Look for additional information in our

email announcements and on the MEST website.

Please let me know if you have questions or suggestions about the Institute's activities. As the reports on recent student and faculty activities and the list of upcoming courses demonstrate, we are an active community of medievalist scholars and performers who thrive on the interdisciplinary mission of the Medieval Studies Institute. I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you during the coming year.

### NEW STAFF (continued from page 1)

Steve realized then that, "Whenever I was working with medieval material, I was looking folklore and just didn't know it." Steve is currently still completing his coursework, but is looking ahead to possible dissertation topics on medieval saints' legends. His recently-completed MA thesis was on such legends in Chaucer's "The Prioress's Tale" and this year he is exploring the 13th century Latin *vita* of Christina the Astonishing. What makes this *Life* interesting to Steve is that it was so popular despite (or perhaps because of) the fact that her miracles (which include jumping into fires, sitting at the bottoms of rivers) are truly astonishing. One potential avenue of decoding her stories that Steve intends to investigate is to look at another work, a bestiary, composed by the same person who wrote her *Life*; so far, Steve has found intriguing similarities.

Beyond the medieval period, Steve also studies contemporary children's folklore on the internet. He is presenting a paper at the upcoming American Folklore Society annual meeting in October on Yo Momma jokes performed on YouTube.

## FRIT STUDENT VALERIO CAPPOZZO NAMED 2009 McROBBIE AWARD RECIPIENT

FRIT graduate student Valerio Capozzo was named this year's Andrea McRobbie Award recipient. The award is presented by the McRobbie family and the Medieval Studies Institute in memory of Andrea McRobbie's interest in medieval studies. The mission of the award is that the annual income from the family's gift to the Medieval Studies Institute should be used to support an advanced graduate student engaged in "scholarship in medieval history, specifically some aspect of its social history or some theme in medieval social history related to its art, philosophy or literature." Consequently, nominees are not limited to graduate students in the History Department, but may come from the fields of art history, literature and philosophy, if their approaches follow socio-historical methods.

Valerio is a doctoral candidate in the graduate program in Italian Literature, who hopes to complete his degree in 2010. Valerio's dissertation, on

the popular medieval transmission of the *Somnium Danielis*, examines the socio-historical dimensions of the development of dream interpretation in the vernacular, based on evidence from fourteenth- and fifteenth-century manuscripts. He has given several conference papers on the roles played by medieval guides to geomancy and dream interpretation in Arabic, Latin, and Romance languages. This past summer, Valerio participated in the Mellon Summer Institute in Italian Paleography at the Getty Research Center in California (see an account of his experiences on page 4), and his third journal article is a study and edition of a previously unknown fourteenth-century Italian translation of rules for dream interpretation.

The first recipient of the Andrea McRobbie Award was Christine Dunn from the History Department, and the second winner was Betsy Williamson from the English Department.

## UNDERGRADUATES LEARN ABOUT MEDIEVAL STUDIES AT MAJORS EXPO

Staff from the Medieval Studies Institute greeted incoming freshman at the Majors Expo on August 27, as part of undergraduate Welcome Week. This was the first year that the Institute participated in the event. The Institute's involvement with the Majors Expo is part of its increased efforts to promote an undergraduate medieval community.

Hundreds of students filled Alumni Hall and the Solarium at the Indiana Memorial Union, and many

stopped at the MEST table to learn about courses offered through the institute as well as the minor and area certificate. Christine Dunn passed out MEST bookmarks to over 250 students until supplies ran out while Steve Stan-



Director Rosemarie McGerr encouraged students to sign up for the undergraduate listserv.

zak and Rosemarie McGerr talked with students about the Institute. Over two

dozen freshmen signed up for the newly-created undergraduate listserv.

## GIULIA BENGHI AWARDED MEST FELLOWSHIP

**Giulia Benghi**, graduate student in Italian, has been awarded the 2009 MEST graduate recruitment fellowship. Although the Medieval Studies Institute does not directly admit graduate students, it does offer support to departments in order to encourage medievalists to attend Indiana University. The recruitment fellowship provides one year of fellowship support for a student entering one of the graduate programs participating in MEST. After the first year, the student is eligible for a teaching appointment or some other form of support. Last year's recipient was **Nicholas Hunot**, a graduate student in the History department.

Giulia is from Bologna, and received her B.A. in Italian Literature and Arts and her M.A. in Modern Philology at the Catholic University of Sacred Heart in Milan. She was a teaching fellow at Mount Holyoke College in 2007-2008 and at Smith College in 2008-2009. Giulia's main interest is the shift from the late Middle Ages to the Early Renaissance (or Humanism). She is particularly thrilled by the changes of European culture between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. At IU, Giulia would like to deepen her knowledge in those authors and historical events that helped shape Europe at that time. She is especially eager to acquire more knowledge and skills in Paleography, Manuscript Studies, and History of the Book, as well as learning about romance languages and literature other than Italian.



## IU MEDIEVALISTS ATTEND SUMMER PALEOGRAPHY INSTITUTES

For the past several years, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has supported Summer Institutes in Vernacular Paleography, and this year three graduate students from IU participated in them. Italian medievalists **Jelena Todorovic** (who is now Assistant Professor of Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison) and **Valerio Cappozzo** attended the Mellon Summer Institute in Italian Paleography, held at the J. Paul Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. It was taught by Prof. Maddalena Signorini from the University of Rome-Tor Vergata. Meanwhile, English medievalist **Emily Houlik-Ritchey** participated in the Mellon Summer Institute in Spanish Paleography that took place at the Huntington Library in Los Angeles. This seminar was taught by Prof. Carla Rahn Phillips from the University of Minnesota. An institute in English paleography was also held this summer at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

These three-week institutes are designed to give graduate students and junior faculty from the United States and Canada the experience and skills necessary for reading and transcribing medieval and early modern manuscripts and incunabula. Institutes in French, English, Spanish, and Italian paleography are offered on a rotating schedule each summer, and are hosted by the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies, the Folger Institute at the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Getty Research Institute, the Huntington Library, and the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin. The Mellon Foundation provides full financial support for 15 participants to attend each summer institute.

All three IU attendees have high praise for these institutes. “The experience at the Getty was extraordinary, and I would definitely recommend to everyone to apply,” says Jelena Todorovic. “Having someone

there to show you the tricks and work through the first maddening days of reading these texts makes all the difference. At first, even knowing the top of the document from the bottom can be a matter of guesswork,” says Emily Houlik-Ritchey. The institutes are open to scholars in all academic fields who need these skills, and no prior experience with paleography is required. Indeed, Carla Phillips, who regularly leads the Spanish seminar, regards these institutes as serving a crucial role in the profession: providing a place and time for people to study paleography who do not otherwise have direct access to it or guidance through it. The program for the next three years, as well as further information, can be found at <http://www.newberry.org/renaissance/currentgrants/mellonpaleo2.html>.

— Emily Houlik-Ritchey

## REFLECTIONS ON THE ITALIAN PALEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE

As everybody knows, Los Angeles is a gigantic metropolis where it is very easy to get lost. The Getty Center, shining up on Brentwood Hill, is surely the main reference used to always find your way. The Getty is entirely white and made of Roman marble, on which the California sun finds its perfect place to reflect. Once you arrive down the hill, a white train waits to drive you up to the museum or to the Research Centre. The physical elevation thus becomes a metaphor for a mental path out of the biggest city in the States. The Getty Institute and the nature around it make a perfect and harmonious ensemble, giving you the impression of climbing Mount Olympus.

My three-week learning experience at the Getty was outstanding. The Getty Research Institute was a wonderful place to work, learn, and conduct research in many fields. The whole staff was very kind and helpful

and the paleography workshop was well-organized. The course was finely structured, with the aim of diffusing information and helping us learn.

Professor Maddalena Signorini (University of Rome “Tor Vergata”) did a great job teaching the class to understand how different handwriting styles changed from the Middle Ages to the seventeenth century. We analyzed a wide variety of Italian manuscripts, ranging from literary, legal, notarial, official, ecclesiastical, business, and family documents. We worked with original texts, using inventories, letters, diaries, and other types of manuscripts and documents from the special collections of the Research Library. Professor Signorini directed our paleographical skills to understand how handwriting can explain the function and the origin of a particular manuscript.

She proposed a method for text

analysis that my colleagues and I were able to share and discuss during classes. Her approach to paleography is one of collaboration and shared knowledge, with an emphasis on fostering a community for graduate students and young scholars. Our background and experiences were diverse – we came from different fields such as Italian studies, Art History, and History. Guided by the Getty staff, we also had the chance to go visit the Huntington Library and the Getty Villa, where we had an interesting glimpse behind the scenes.

My experiences at the Getty were particularly important for me, because it was a real enhancement of my Medieval Studies training in the United States.

— Valerio Cappozzo

# FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

**Valerio Cappozzo**, graduate student in FRIT, just published two articles on the manuscript tradition of dreambooks in the context of vernacular Italian literature in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The first, "Libri dei sogni e letteratura: l'espedito narrativo di Dante Alighieri," is published in *Studi di Letteratura italiana in memoria di Achille Tartaro*, edited by G. Natali. The second, "Libri dei sogni e geomanzia: la loro applicazione letteraria tra Islam, medioevo romanzo e Dante," will be published in *Quaderni di studi indo-mediterranei, 2: Dreams and Visions in the Indo-Mediterranean World*.

Professor Emeritus of Art History **W. Eugene Kleinbauer** had an entry on the "Byzantine Empire" published in *The Oxford Companion to Architecture*, edited by Patrick Goode.

Professor **Karma Lochrie** of the Department of English recently had an essay published in the March 2009 *PMLA* Special Issue *Medieval Studies in the Twenty-First Century*: "Provincializing Medieval Europe: Mandeville's Cosmopolitan Utopia."

**Corinne Shirley** of Classical Studies and a MEST minor, is teaching this year in the Classics Department at Southwest Missouri State University. Corinne completed her PhD last month, August 2009, with a dissertation entitled "Ars

temporis: Resisting Age in Ovidian Elegy and Augustan Art."

**Wolodymyr Smishkewych**, Jacobs School doctoral candidate in Voice Performance and member of the renowned medieval music ensemble *Sequentia*, will be unveiling his final project later this fall: "An Online Digital Facsimile of the Lugo Codex." This Internet resource will include a full digital facsimile of the 13th-century Lugo Codex, the only completely-conserved codex of chant from Galicia (Spain) outside of the Codex Calixtinus. 836 folia, almost 65% of them containing musical notation, will be presented as digital images of high resolution and linked to a searchable database, making the project a valuable resource for performers, musicologists, hispanists, and medievalists in general. The public lecture defense of this project will include a demonstration of the project website and search engine, highlights from the manuscript, and a performance of chant from the manuscript. More information about the project can be found at [www.lugocodex.org](http://www.lugocodex.org).

**Suzanne Stetkevych**, Professor of Arabic Literature in NELC spent December 2008 through June 2009 in Egypt on an NEH grant from the American Research Center in Egypt to study the transition from classical to post-classical (medieval) Arabic poetry as evidenced in the two diwans of the blind 10th–11th centu-

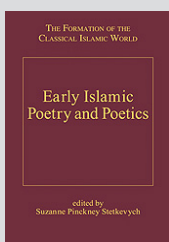
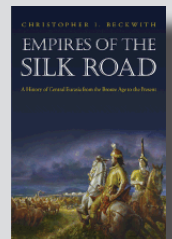
ry Aleppan poet, al-Ma`arri. There she delivered papers on classical and medieval Arabic poetry at international conferences hosted by Cairo University, The Egyptian Supreme Council for Culture, and the Egyptian Comparative Literature Association. She will present a paper at the November 2009 Middle East Studies Association meeting in Boston on her recent research, entitled, "A Long Night's Journey into Day: The Nocturnal Rahils of al-Ma'arri."

**Hans Tischler**, Professor Emeritus of Musicology at the Jacobs School of Music, has been invited to attend the American Musicological Society annual meeting at Philadelphia in November to be honored as one of its 50-year members. He will give there a short paper on "The Master Troubadour Peire Vidal: His Fascinating Life and Tragedy."

Graduate student in comparative literature and English **April Witt** has recently had a chapter accepted in the volume *Postscript to the Middle Ages: Teaching Medieval Studies through Umberto Eco's The Name of the Rose*, edited by Alison Ganze and published by Syracuse University Press. The chapter is based on her M.A. thesis, "Critiques of Courtly Love: Mirroring and Refiguration in Jean de Meuns's *Le Roman de la rose* and Umberto Eco's *Il nome della rosa*." 2004 comparative literature graduate **Kevin West** also has a chapter in the volume.

## New Books by Medieval Studies Faculty

Professor **Christopher I. Beckwith** (Central Eurasian Studies) has published a new book, *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009, 496 pages). He also published *Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages III* (Halle: IITBS GmbH, 2008), and his book on Koguryo, a medieval language of Manchuria and Korea, has been reprinted: *Koguryo, the Language of Japan's Continental Relatives: An Introduction to the Historical-Comparative Study of the Japanese-Koguryoic Languages, with a Preliminary Description of Archaic Northeastern Middle Chinese* (Leiden: Brill, second printing, 2008).



Professor **Suzanne Stetkevych's** book *Abu Tammam and the Poetics of the Abbasid Age* appeared in an Arabic translation in winter 2008 (Egyptian National Translation Center). Her edited volume *Early Islamic Poetry and Poetics* appeared in Fall 2009 as vol. 37 of *The Formation of Classical Islam* series (Ashgate/Variorum). Her new book on *The Mantle Odes: Arabic Praise Poems to the Prophet Muhammad*, which is centered on an exploration of the ritual supplicatory structure of al-Busiri's medieval devotional masterpiece, *The Burdah*, is scheduled to appear with Indiana University Press in Spring 2010.

## MEST CONTACT INFORMATION

The members of the administrative staff of MEST are: **Rosemarie McGerr** (Director), **Christine Dunn** (Assistant to the Director), and **Steve Stanzak** (Special Projects Assistant). If you have communications you would like to have distributed as a general announcement in Medieval Studies, please contact Steve Stanzak at [mest@indiana.edu](mailto:mest@indiana.edu).

**mest@indiana.edu:** for general correspondence with the Institute, or for administrative matters with Christine, or newsletter and publicity issues with Steve.

**mestdir@indiana.edu:** for direct and confidential communications with the Director; this is an administrative account we have established that will transfer from director to director. Please note that [dirmest@indiana.edu](mailto:dirmest@indiana.edu) is a personal account of another faculty member.

In addition to these two e-mail accounts, we also maintain three distribution lists: [mest\\_students-l](mailto:mest_students-l), [mest\\_faculty-l](mailto:mest_faculty-l), and [mest\\_undergrads-l](mailto:mest_undergrads-l), which are used to communicate with graduate students, medieval faculty, and undergraduate students respectively.

## MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

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## PATRICIA INGHAM KICKS OFF MEST LECTURE SERIES

**Patricia Ingham**, associate professor of English at Indiana University, gave the first lecture in this year's MEST Lecture Series, sponsored by the Medieval Studies Institute. Her talk "Little Nothings: 'The Squire's Tale' and the Ambition of Gadgets" took place on Monday, September 21, in State Room East at the Indiana Memorial Union and drew more than 40 people.

In her lecture, Professor Ingham considered how, despite advancements in architecture, optics, philosophy, literature, music, and mechanics, the Middle Ages remains more often asso-

ciated with conservation than it is with innovation. Her talk looked at Chaucer's "The Squire's Tale" and analyzed its altogether ambivalent discourse of the medieval "newfangled." The "little nothings" of the title are those items of play and leisure largely ignored by discussions of medieval technology.

Professor Ingham's topic is part of a larger book-length study tentatively titled *All Things New*, which looks at the meaning and reach of medieval accounts of novelty,

## LANGUAGE READING GROUP INFORMATION

### Middle English ("Song School")

The Song school (the Middle English reading and paleography group) meets weekly on Wednesdays from 1–2 in the Pedagogy Room on the 4th floor of Ballantine. All are welcome and no preparation is needed. Anyone with questions can contact Professor Shannon Gayk at ([sgayk@indiana.edu](mailto:sgayk@indiana.edu)) for more information.

### Old French

The Old French reading and translating group meeting weekly on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M. in Room 1015 on the 10th floor of Wells Library. Anyone who is interested should contact Professor Emeritus Samuel N. Rosenberg at [srosenbe@indiana.edu](mailto:srosenbe@indiana.edu)

### Middle High German

There is a Middle High German reading group that is now meeting every Tuesday from 12–1 in BH664 (seminar room at the end of the hall). Currently they are reading Konrad von Würzburg's *Herzmaere* (Reclam edition); the group has an Oncourse site where a pdf of the text can be found, so it does not have to be purchased. Anyone who is interested may contact Megan Barrett ([mbarret@indiana.edu](mailto:mbarret@indiana.edu)) or Sharon Wailles ([smunger@indiana.edu](mailto:smunger@indiana.edu)) to be added as a participant to the site. No prior knowledge or experience of Middle High German is necessary, although some knowledge of

modern German is required. Each person reads as much or as little as he or she wishes, depending on his or her comfort level.

### Greek

The Ecclesiastical Greek Reading Group (select texts from the Septuagint through the Cappadocians) meets every Friday morning at 11 A.M. at the downtown Scholar's Inn Bakehouse ([map](#)). Please contact Diane Fruchtman ([dsfrucht@indiana.edu](mailto:dsfrucht@indiana.edu)) for more information. Graduate students, undergraduates, faculty, and community members are welcome to attend.

### Medieval Latin

The Medieval Latin Reading Group meets weekly in Geology 407 on Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M. The group is currently reading Geoffrey of Monmouth. Please contact Diane Fruchtman ([dsfrucht@indiana.edu](mailto:dsfrucht@indiana.edu)) for more information and a copy of the text.

### Old Norse Saga

The Old Norse Saga reading group meets once a month at a time and place decided at each meeting. The current *goði* (chieftains, i.e. student organizers) are Brent Moberly ([bmoderly@indiana.edu](mailto:bmoderly@indiana.edu)) and Erin Sweany ([esweany@indiana.edu](mailto:esweany@indiana.edu)). If you are interested in joining, please contact Brent or Erin for details about the next meeting. One semester of Old Norse or equivalent experience is required.