



The **MEDIEVAL**
STUDIES INSTITUTE
of Indiana University
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 29 No. 1 Fall 2019

Our Fall 2019 calendar, wonderfully full as usual, opened with a roundtable, “**Objects of Study**,” in which faculty Sarah Bassett (Art History), Heather Blair (Religious Studies), Deborah Deliyannis (History), Ryan Giles (Spanish and Portuguese), Margaret Graves (Art History and Islamic Studies), and Nick Vogt (East Asian Language and Culture) showcased medieval objects that have sparked their curiosity and shaped their research.

Middle English Song School held their first meeting in mid-September, practicing paleography and pronunciation by reading selections according to the theme, “Romance.” The **Queer Medieval Reading Group** also continued to meet to read and discuss foundational and recent texts and questions in queer theory and Medieval Studies.

The annual **Mediaevalia at the Lilly** event took place in October this year in response to the Lilly Library’s renovations. This year’s event featured a lecture by Ray Clemens (Curator of Early Books & Manuscripts, Beinecke Library, Yale University), “**Filling in the Blanks: Manuscript Production and the Lilly**



Library’s Scribal Pattern Books,” followed by a workshop led by Dr. Clemens with the Lilly’s diverse collection of medieval manuscripts the following day, “**How Culture Affects Page Layout: Observations on Production and Mise-en-page**.”

Also in October, MEST held its first **Medieval Game Night**, part of an effort to increase undergraduate events that also included September’s trip to the **Clayshire Castle Medieval Faire** and November’s **Making a Medieval Book** booth at the First Thursdays Festival of the Arts and Humanities.



Our schedule of Fall events wrapped up with GSAC’s **Fall Reader’s Circle & Friendsgiving Potluck** in late November and the **Second Shepherds’ Play Performances and Symposium**, the combined effort of MEST, CMLT, and Theater and Drama that included two performances of a modern translation of the medieval play staged in early December.

IN THIS ISSUE

Fall Events.....1	Undergraduate Outreach.....4-5	Director’s Letter.....8
MAA to Meet at IU.....2	Second Shepherds’ Play.....5	Spring Award Competitions...8
1st Year Award & New Faculty..2	Mediaevalia at the Lilly.....6	Spring Events.....INSERT
Featured Courses.....3	GSAC & Spring Symposium....7	Contact MEST.....INSERT

MAA 2021 ANNUAL MEETING AT IUB

The Medieval Studies Institute and Indiana University will host the 96th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America on April 15-18, 2021. Planning for the conference is already well under way. MEST has assembled the largest Program Committee in MAA meeting history, reflecting the diverse array of areas that participate in medieval studies on our campus. Led by chairs Deborah Deliyannis and Diane Reilly, the Program Committee's 28 members met in early fall to discuss plenary speakers and the program. The Call for Papers was finalized in December and will be distributed imminently. Rather than having a single overarching theme, the committee agreed to propose a set of themes that will allow for sessions to be constructed that put in conversation scholarship from different regions, time periods, and perspectives. Individuals will be able to submit a single paper proposal or a full panel. Thus, some of the conference sessions will focus on narrower geographic, chronological, or disciplinary areas; others may instead juxtapose papers from seemingly divergent times, places, or methodologies.

The deadline for proposal submission will be June 1, 2020; the hundreds of proposals submitted will undergo blind review during the summer, and the conference's schedule of roughly 50 sessions, three plenaries, one presidential address, and business meetings will

be constructed over the course of the Fall, 2020 semester, with the final program posted in December. The conference's Communications Director, Kalani Craig, is leading the complex process of building the proposal submission and review interfaces, and designing the conference's digital presence.

In the meantime, the Local Arrangements Committee, currently chaired by Shannon Gayk, has begun to construct the armature of events, including tours, receptions, exhibitions, and musical performances, and hospitality arrangements (hotels, transportation, catering, audio visual equipment, and ADA accommodations) that surround and support the conference.

The Program Committee, which includes representatives from IUPUI, Ball State University and Depauw as well as faculty members from across the IU campus, includes Asma Afsaruddin, Daniel Caner, Kalani Craig, Deborah Deliyannis, Giuliano Di Bacco, Nahyan Fancy, Ryan Giles, Margaret Graves, Liz Hebbard, Sarah Ifft Decker, Patty Ingham, Kevin Jaques, Akash Kumar, Jennifer Lee, Amy Livingstone, Karma Lochrie, Manling Luo, Dana Marsh, Rosemarie McGerr, Joey McMullen, Morton Oxenboell, Diane Reilly, Jeremy Schott, Leah Shopkow, Barbara Vance, Sonia Velázquez, Nick Vogt, and Rega Wood.

First-Year Fellowship Recipient: Clara Miller-Broomfield

Clara is a first-year student in the Department of French & Italian. Her research interests are historical linguistics, lexicography, and Occitan studies.



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Joey McMullen, a scholar of early English and Celtic literatures, to IU and to the medieval studies community. Dr. McMullen completed his Ph.D. at Harvard University and began teaching at IU this fall. He is currently completing his first monograph, *Reading the Landscape: Cultural Interplay in the Early British Isles*, a study that traces paths of influence between early medieval England and Ireland and that is particularly interested in how early medieval literature represents the natural world. He has also co-edited several volumes of essays, including one on the legacy of Boethius in medieval England and another on the works of Gerald of Wales.

Dr. McMullen teaches a wide range of courses, but is most looking forward to teaching Old English (scheduled for 2021), Old Irish, and Middle Welsh in the coming years. He is also interested in introducing Old English to undergraduates and plans to teach a Celtic Narratives class. In the Fall of 2020, he will be offering a seminar on the work of J.R.R. Tolkien.

FEATURED FALL COURSES

MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS

This fall's MEST M600 "Medieval Manuscripts" course was designed to initiate students to the main fields of manuscript studies as well as to fundamental considerations of research with primary sources.

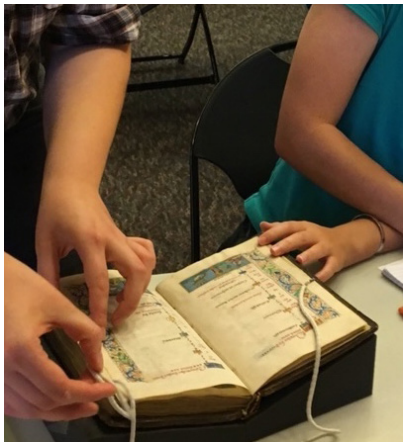
Students in the course experimented with learning by doing. Activities included mixing egg tempera according to medieval recipes, writing with goose feather quills, identifying and transcribing various medieval scripts, and producing mini collaborative critical editions. One objective of this course was to introduce graduate students to experiential learning as a research method.

Students also experimented with presenting research in new ways. In pairs, students recorded a series of podcast episodes over the semester, shaping their discussions according to criteria the group established collaboratively. Among other goals, I hoped that the podcast format would allow students to indulge the exciting spark of archival discovery that often does not figure in formal academic writing, and to connect that spark to the work of research and analysis.

Our course was enriched by the generous contributions of several scholars. Ray Clemens (Curator of Early Books

Dr. Patty Ingham

In recent years, humanist scholars and teachers have been experimenting with uses of the laboratory model for research and teaching. In recent history, the lab has been almost exclusively identified with research techniques in



the sciences. And yet, in the early decades of the 20th century, John Matthews Manley (Chair of English at U of Chicago; first editor of *Modern Philology*; scholar of the literary works of Chaucer; and early president of the MLA) and Edith Rickett (Associate Professor at U of Chicago; scholar of texts of Chaucer and medieval romance) collaborated at the University of Chicago on "The Chaucer Laboratory," a research center dedicated to, among other things, the production of a scholarly edition of the *Canterbury Tales* based on all known manuscripts. On the one hand, this example urges attention to the long history of collaborative research

Dr. Liz Hebbard

and Manuscripts at the Beinecke Library), Cynthia Brown (Distinguished Professor of French at UC Santa Barbara), and Joel Silver (Director of the Lilly Library) all visited our classroom to share their expertise.

The most exciting component of this course is the new



knowledge students produced about the Lilly collections. Students chose an uncatalogued item from the Lilly during the second week of the course, worked with the item throughout the semester, incorporated the item into their final research paper, and produced a catalogue description of the item to share with the library.

I am eager to return to the Lilly after renovations are complete to continue this work in future seminars.

THE HUMANITIES LAB

methodologies in medieval studies; on the other hand, it suggests an exemplary model that might extend beyond the specificities of Chaucer, and help us to consider the power, pleasures, and politics of collaboration of the kind now again in vogue in all kinds of humanistic fields.

In this course we experimented with the lab model: we 1) thought in a focused way about the uses of the 'lab' for Humanities Research and Teaching. In the service of this thinking, we 2) collaborated together by working with two specific collections in IU's Lilly Library: late-medieval Books of Hours, taken predominantly from the Rickett's Collection, and the archives surrounding the "Caxton Club," a Book Collecting club from the Chicago area.

First and foremost, our work together was methodological: we considered the history of the Chaucer Laboratory's extraordinary example and asked why this history is largely unknown, certainly under-appreciated outside Chaucer Studies and we considered the range of possibilities that beckon for the future of the Humanities Labs at research universities, particularly those that are not entirely focused on work in DH.

Undergraduate events

This Fall, MEST reaffirmed its commitment to bringing together undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and community members by organizing three events: a trip to the local Clayshire Castle during its annual Medieval Faire, our first (but not last!) Medieval Game Night, and the Making a Medieval Book booth at the First Thursdays Festival of the Arts and Humanities. It also co-sponsored the staging of a medieval play translated by a member of our faculty and performed by IU undergraduate students!

MEDIEVAL GAME NIGHT

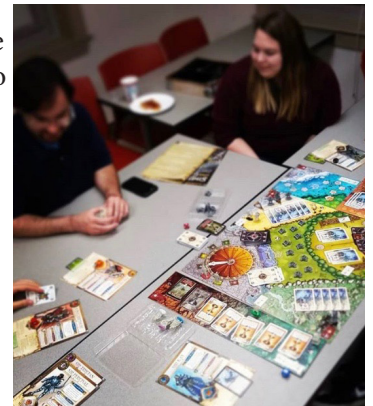
*Contributed by
Andrew Woodworth*

On October 24, a number of community members and IU students, both graduate and undergraduate, met in the Student Building, where the Medieval Studies Institute was hosting a Medieval Game Night.

The event was oriented toward undergraduate and community outreach, and included both board games derived from the Middle Ages and modern board games with medieval themes, provided by MEST.

In addition to the games and refreshments provided by the Institute, many attendees also brought games of their own to share.

Mahjongg, Carcassonne, Shadows Over Camelot, Carolus Magnus, Germania Magna, Tsuru of the Seas, and Chess were all available.



We intend to continue hosting Medieval Game Nights in the future. Be sure to look to our schedule of events to join our next evening of fun, food, and thematic games!

CLAYSHIRE CASTLE MEDIEVAL FAIRE

Contributed by Kortney Stern

We arrived as a group of medievalists, ranging from undergraduates to faculty, under a banner that read: "Clayshire Medieval Faire."

But what exactly does "getting medieval" mean in such a place as the Clayshire Medieval Faire, found in Bowling Green, Indiana? For some, dressing in elaborate costumes helped transport them to an imagined time we endearingly, albeit problematically, call the Middle Ages. As our group moseyed up a gentle slope, we peered in at the abundance of "medieval" soaps, leather, and jewelry for sale that dotted the path to the jousting tournament. As I stepped into one booth, I overheard a customer tell the vendor that she had seen him at the recent Scottish Festival, which caused me to pause and think about the perceived overlap between the Scottish Festival and Medieval Faire. Of course, this assumed overlap is at the forefront of our own academic conversations at this very moment.

While the Faire took my mind to the often-frought nature of our academic field and the largely misinformed public perception of the Middle Ages, I was inspired by how large our community really is. The Faire offered a rare space--fantastical, imaginary, and otherwise--in which two often separated worlds could be joined together under the same banner.





HOW TO MAKE A MEDIEVAL BOOK

In early November, the Medieval Studies Institute participated in the First Thursdays Festival of the Arts and Humanities with our “How to Make a Medieval Book” booth. Dr. Liz Hebbard, graduate students Kayla Lunt and Andrew Woodworth, and a local parchmenter, John Cash, shared their knowledge of the skills, artistry, and materials required to create medieval manuscripts by offering hands-on demonstrations.

Students were able to view and handle a modern book created using medieval methods and materials, to try their own hand at writing with ink and quill, and to compare parchment sourced from a variety of animals.



IU STUDENTS PERFORM SECOND SHEPHERDS' PLAY

On December 6th and 7th, in Collins Dining Hall, over 100 members of the IU and Bloomington community laughed and cheered through performances of the medieval English play known as The Second Shepherds' Play. The play was performed by IU students, most of whom had not studied any medieval drama.

The performances were the culmination of a project to help make the humor, poetry, and social commentary of the medieval text accessible to student performers and contemporary audiences. The production used modern translations of medieval songs where the play calls for singing, and performers in the roles of sheep used hand puppets to highlight the important relationship of sheep and human beings in the play. The students learned about the play's medieval traditions and developed ways to translate them into contemporary terms. The student actors were Joseph Moran (Coll), Macey Policka (Gib), Aryana Rao (Daw), Pratha Bodas (Mak/Joseph), Ava Osowick (Gill/Mary), Jessica Bigelow (Angel), Pooja Rudraraju (Stolen Sheep), and Anushka Silwal and Leathe Thomason (Sheep Flock). Students in production roles were Lydia Spellman (costume, scenic, and poster design), Jessica Bigelow (music director), Sydney Weber (line producer), Gabrielle Datema (assistant director), and Emma Lechner (house manager).

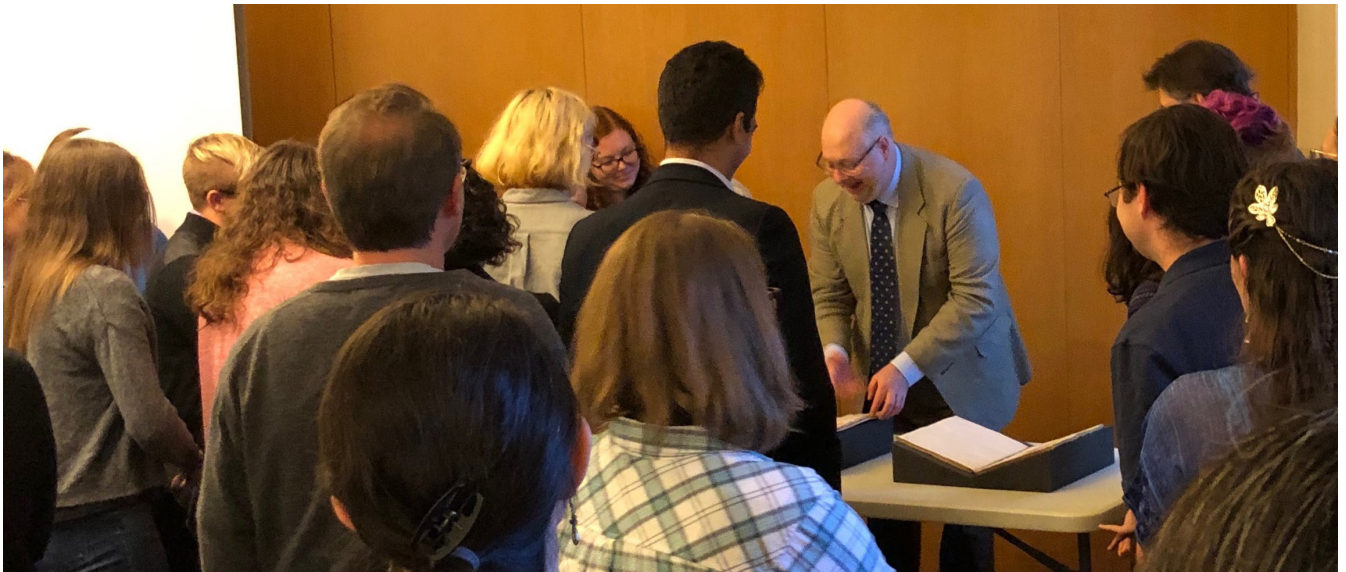
The production was led by guest director Katherine McGerr, Assistant Professor of Drama at Syracuse University. Jennifer Lale, Lecturer in Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance at IUB, consulted on the puppetry. Rosemarie McGerr, Professor of Comparative Literature at IUB, translated the medieval text into modern English poetry. The play performances (supported by the College of Arts and Sciences Ostrom Grants Program, the Medieval Studies Institute, and the Dept. of Comparative Literature) were part of a three-day celebration of medieval drama, with a lecture by Prof. Andrew Galloway (Cornell), a round table discussion by IU faculty and graduate students, and a symposium with presentations by IU and guest faculty.

Contributed by Rosemarie McGerr

MEDIAEVALIA AT THE LILLY

“Filling in the Blanks: Manuscript Production and the Lilly Library’s Scribal Pattern Books”

This year’s Mediaevalia at the Lilly was held during the fall semester to accommodate the library’s upcoming renovations. Dr. Raymond Clemens, Curator of Early Books and Manuscripts at the Beinecke Library at Yale University, focused his lecture on the Lilly’s two pattern books. Dr. Clemens’ lecture carried his audience from questions about learning to read and write in the Middle Ages through the production and marketing of manuscripts in the later Middle Ages (with an illuminating and surprisingly relevant side-trip to the Victorian sale of caskets), before finally turning to modern assumptions about “incomplete” and “unfinished” manuscripts--all with an eye to reconsidering the possible functions or uses of pattern books like those held by the Lilly that in turn requires reconsidering the processes by which medieval manuscripts are believed to have been made.



“How Culture Affects Page Layout: Some Observations on Production and Mise-en-page”

Drawing on the Lilly Library’s deep and broad collection, Dr. Clemens led a workshop during the afternoon following his Mediaevalia lecture. Those interested in manuscript studies received a crash course in the features of manuscripts associated with various periods and methods of production.

From Carolingian miniscule through Humanist white vine initials, participants learned about the general character of a period’s script, decoration, layout, and parchment, which were each connected briefly back to the moment’s cultures of production and/or reception.



MEST GSAC UPDATES

This fall, the Medieval Studies Institute's Graduate Student Advisory Committee continued its tradition of hosting social and professionalization events for graduate students with its Bad Medieval Movie Night, GSAC Happy Hour, a conference-planning workshop, and our second annual Fall Premodern Reader's Circle and Friendsgiving Potluck.

The Premodern Reader's Circle & Friendsgiving was inaugurated in Fall 2018; it is an event to which graduate student readers may bring selections from a range of languages.

With spring soon upon us, GSAC is looking forward to sharing a call for readers for its third Premodern Reader's Circle & Friendsgiving and to hosting another Happy Hour and Bad Medieval Movie Night.

We also look forward to our annual Transcribathon, a paleography and transcription workshop to be led by Dr. Liz Hebbard in early April.

Finally, GSAC is excited to share the schedule for the annual Medieval Studies Spring Symposium, below. This year's theme is:

PAST FORWARD NEW WAYS OF SEEING OLD THINGS

The digital age is presenting us with new technologies for data mining, data management, and forensic analysis of material culture, while interdisciplinary methodologies and modern theories help us pose new questions about the past and enable us to set new boundaries for framing "the bigger picture." Together, contemporary theories and modern technologies provide new perspectives on the past.

This symposium considers new ways of seeing old things. How might applying new--potentially anachronistic--theory to medieval literature or art strengthen or challenge our understanding of the past? What do digital surrogates/avatars/reproductions do for/with/to medieval objects? How can we use Digital Humanities in the classroom and in our research? What can we learn from medieval technology as we continue to develop and refine our own? Finally, how do modern theories and technologies help us better understand the Middle Ages while drawing it into our present?

We invite you to join us as we grapple with these questions.

March 6th

11:00 a.m. Workshop 1: "Diversity, Racial Underrepresentation, and the Future of Medieval Studies"

Michelle R. Warren, Dartmouth College

2:00 p.m. Panel 1: "Coding the Past"

Konrad Bennett Hughes, University of Missouri,
Pouyan Shahidi Marnani, IUB

3:30 p.m. Panel 2: "Mapping the Medieval World"

Eric Ware, Joey McMullen, Kalani Craig, IUB

March 7th

9:30 a.m. Workshop 2: "Digital Edition: Technical and Logistical Considerations"

Liz Hebbard & Akash Kumar, IUB

11:15 a.m. Panel 3: "Knowledge Repositories"

Maggie Slaughter Andrew Bartels, IUB, Stephenie McGucken, Independent Scholar

2:00 p.m. Roundtable: "Collaboration in the Archives"

3:15 p.m. Panel 4: "Manuscript Futures"

Bronwen Carlisle, Alyssa Mertka, IUB, Sarah Noonan, Saint Mary's College

5:00 p.m. Keynote: "*From the Ground to the Cloud: A Medieval Book in the Digital Dark Ages*"

Michelle R. Warren, Dartmouth College

6:30 p.m. Reader's Circle Banquet

Full schedule at: medieval.indiana.edu/news-events/symposium





Letter from the Director

Dear Medieval Studies Friends,

As I write this note, Bloomington is emptying out for the break, and the university is settling into its seasonal quietness. We finished the semester on a high note with our medieval drama extravaganza—a collaboratively-organized series of events, featuring two performances of the late-medieval Second Shepherds' Play directed by Katherine McGerr (Syracuse), a lecture on “woman making drama” by Wertheim visiting lecturer, Andrew Galloway (Cornell), and a Saturday symposium, which included presentations about producing medieval plays in our world and workshops that got participants out of their seats to try out the movements of Noh (a form of Japanese performance) and to experience performed examples of some moments in medieval plays. These events capped off another busy term of scholarly events and outreach efforts to IU undergraduates and the Bloomington community, which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

Compiling the weekly calendars for MEST and speaking with our faculty and students, I have been struck again and again by the vitality of the study of Middle Ages on our campus. We have an embarrassment of riches here: there are always far more events focused on medieval topics than one could possibly attend; our distinguished faculty are teaching innovative courses and shaping their fields of scholarship; and our graduate students are endlessly energetic in organizing medieval events of their own, from our spring symposium, to reading groups, and medieval movie nights. I feel extremely grateful for our community and work together.

With you in all things medieval,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon Gayk".

Shannon Gayk
Director, Medieval Studies Institute
Associate Professor of English

Spring Award Competitions & Deadlines

Via Francigena Study Abroad, MEST M390 This undergraduate course provides an opportunity to experience and write about pilgrimage. Over the course of three weeks, we will travel from Canterbury to Rome, walking over 200km of the pilgrimage route. **Deadline for applications is February 1st.**

C. Clifford Flanigan Fund Provides travel assistance for graduate students studying the Middle Ages to attend conferences. **Deadline for applications is March 13th.**

Shirley Jean Cox Medieval Studies Conference Travel Fund Provides travel support to present academic research at major conferences (excluding Kalamazoo), awarded on a competitive basis. **Deadline for applications is March 13th.**

Undergraduate Cox Thesis & Paper Prize Deadline for submissions is April 20th.

Learn more at medieval.indiana.edu

SPRING 2020 EVENTS

January 22 First meeting of Old Occitan Reading Group

January 27 First meeting of Middle English Song School

February 6 MEST Alumni Lecture by Sigrid Danielson (Art History, Grand Valley State), “Forgotten Texts & Audiences: A History of Carolingian Art in Early 20th Century America”

February 7 Alumni Lecture Workshop & Luncheon

February 15 Medieval Game Night

March 6-7 MEST Symposium, Past Forward: New Ways of Seeing Old Things , Keynote by Michelle R. Warren (Comp Lit, Dartmouth), “From the Ground to the Cloud: A Medieval Book in the Digital Dark Ages”

March 25 Lecture by Anthony Bale (Birkbeck College), “Margery Kempe (c. 1373-1439): Biography and the Mixed Life”

April 10 MEST GSAC Transcribathon

April 17 Lectures by Chris Abram (Old English & Old Norse, Notre Dame) and Amy Mulligan (Old Irish, Notre Dame)

May 4 Spring Awards Luncheon

For more information on these & other events, visit medieval.indiana.edu/news-events

CONTACT MEST

The members of the administrative staff of MEST are:

Shannon Gayk, Director

Andrew Woodworth, Assistant to the Director

Kayla Lunt, Special Projects Assistant

If you have communications you would like to have distributed as a general announcement in Medieval Studies, or for general correspondence with the Institute, please contact Andrew at MEST@INDIANA.EDU.

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 is the personal account of another faculty member.

In addition to these two email accounts, we also maintain six distribution lists: one for undergraduate students, one for graduate students, one for alumni, one for faculty, one for core faculty, and one for community members.

If you would like to be added to any of those lists, please contact Andrew at MEST@INDIANA.EDU.

Indiana University
Ballantine Hall 874 Bloomington, IN
47405-7103
(812) 855-8201
medieval.indiana.edu



Follow us online!

@Medieval_IU



@MedievalStudiesInstitute



@iumedievalstudies

Help Support the Work of the Medieval Studies Institute

Why? Your tax-deductible financial contribution allows MEST to continue to provide a diverse array of lectures, programs, and fellowships that promote the scholarship and teaching of the Middle Ages.

What? Gifts can be directed to any following funds:

- *The Medieval Studies Institute General Fund*: Your donation will provide general support to the Institute, helping us host events, invite speakers, and continue with our outreach.
- *The Medieval Review Support Fund*: Gifts will support the Medieval Review, an open-access journal that publishes reviews of books in medieval studies.
- *The C. Clifford Flanigan Awards*: Your donation will help support medievalist graduate students.
- *The Shirley Jean Cox Undergraduate Fellowships*: Your donation will help fund our two undergraduate prizes (for the best thesis and paper in medieval studies) and several grants to support undergraduate summer study, study abroad, or internships.

How?

- *By mail*: Checks made out to “Indiana University Foundation” may be mailed to The Medieval Studies Institute, 874 Ballantine Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405
- *On our website*: <https://medieval.indiana.edu/about/alumni-giving/index.html>
- *Recurring bank or payroll deductions*: Perhaps the easiest way to offer ongoing support of the work of the Institute, you can make a recurring monthly, quarterly, or annual gift that is deducted from your credit card or bank account. IU Employees can also set up recurring donations through payroll deduction. See <https://www.myiu.org/recurring-gift>.