

COLLOQUIUM SERIES TAKES UF BACK TO THE MIDDLE AGES

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GAINESVILLE, Fla. – *Lord of the Rings* fans and other medieval lore enthusiasts will have the opportunity to gain a scholarly account of the Middle Ages on March 15 and 16 when the nascent Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies presents its fourth annual “Carnevale, Karneval!” colloquium series at the University of Florida.

Held each year coinciding with the worldwide religious observance of Lent, “Carnevale, Karneval!” explores the origins and evolution of the pre-Lenten celebration, Carnival, recognized in the U.S. as Mardi Gras. This year, the two-day colloquium is focusing on the processions, parades and propaganda of Carnival, from the medieval to the modern era.

“I think what someone interested in the Middle Ages will gain from this is a deeper understanding of the sources that popularized medieval culture,” said Mary Watt, a professor of Italian and co-director of UF’s center. “They will gain a sense of how medieval thought continues to pervade the modern mindset and what have we retained and why.”

UF’s nascent Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies is an interdisciplinary program focusing on the study of medieval and early modern European culture and its influences in the modern world. Established in the late 1990s, the program already offers a minor to undergraduates and is seeking official status within the university. Once it is made official, the center will be the only program of its kind in the Southeast.

The center will soon join a league of medieval studies programs from Columbia University, Arizona State University, Western Michigan University, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Siena, Italy, and the University of Toronto to share resources such as conference space, libraries and teaching facilities and open up an interchange of ideas between students and professors. UF’s program has added a valuable asset to its resources—a medieval studies reading room containing a non-circulating reference set for medieval scholars to enjoy. As part of the colloquium festivities, the medieval studies reading room will officially be opened and dedicated in room 237 Dauer Hall. The public is invited to attend this and all events, free of charge.

Colloquium Schedule:**March 15**

- 2 p.m.** Opening Remarks by David Pharies, Chair of Romance Languages and Literatures, followed by a panel discussion on “Origins and Evolution” involving Italian, English and Classics professors held in room 219 Dauer Hall.
- 3 p.m.** A lecture, “Procession and Progression in Dante’s *Divine Comedy*,” presented by Christopher Kleinhenz, Chair of Medieval Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in room 219 Dauer Hall.
- 4:05 p.m.** Reception and official opening of UF’s Medieval and Early Modern Studies Reading Room in room 237 Dauer Hall.

March 16

- 11:45 p.m.** Panel discussions on modern and early modern perspectives with faculty in English, Germanic and Slavic Studies and Romance Languages and Literatures in room 219 Dauer Hall.
- 1:55 p.m.** A lecture, “Counter-Reformation Culture: Religious Processions in Golden Age Spain,” will be presented by Michael McGrath, a Spanish professor from Georgia Southern University, in room 219 Dauer Hall.

Visit <http://web.germslav.ufl.edu/Programs/mems.htm> for more information.