

# OU English Department

OU College of Arts and Sciences

September

2017

## *Get to know the OU English Department!*

### **Rita Keresztesi**

The summer of 2017 Professor Rita Keresztesi led a group of OU students on a Journey to Africa – Tanzania program. During their month-long education abroad, students studied postcolonial African cinema from its beginning in the early 1960s to the present. The class concluded with the group attending the week-long Zanzibar International Film Festival in Stone Town. To augment their learning in the classroom and movie theaters, students learned about postcolonial Africa first-hand through their home-stays with local families, studying Swahili with other students, the travel from Arusha to Dar es Salaam on the public bus with Tanzanian films showing on the screens, and then on to Zanzibar. The group returned home with a deeper appreciation for Africa – Tanzania and Zanzibar in particular, its peoples, culture, and cinema.



### **Geoff Layton**

Geoff Layton edited the Summer 2017 issue of the ATEG (Assembly for the Teaching of English

Grammar) Journal.

### **David Anderson**

Dr. Anderson gave a paper on 1 April at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Boston. The panel was on Milton's relationship to Shakespeare and the title of the paper was "Authors of Themselves: Satan, Coriolanus and Ontological Autonomy."

### **Jason Lubinski**

English Ph.D. student Jason Lubinski was the first recipient of the Derdeyn-CMRS Graduate Student Research-Travel Scholarship this past summer. The scholarship uses unexpended income in the Rudolph C. Bambas Scholarship endowment account to fund travel by OU graduate students in medieval or Renaissance studies to libraries, archives, and historical sites of importance to their research.

The scholarship enabled Jason to visit England for the first time and to do research in the British Library and the Bodleian on medieval English concepts of masculinity. He also visited important historical sites such as Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, and Hampton Court.

# English Events

## **Dream Course**

Thanks to the support of the English Department, the Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies launched an interdisciplinary, interdepartmental course called “Exploring Medieval & Renaissance Studies” (MRS 3023). With a full enrollment of 20 undergraduates (from 13 majors, including English), the course welcomes a different OU professor every class, lecturing in his or her area of expertise.

As a Presidential Dream Course, MRS 3023 has also been able to invite four distinguished scholars to teach a class and give a public lecture. On Sept. 14, Dr. Jane Gilbert of University College London spoke on “Medieval Maps and Monsters” to a packed room in the Memorial Student Union. On Sept. 21, Dr. Nükhet Varlık of Rutgers University, Newark, addressed another large crowd on "Plague, Ecology, and Empire: Rethinking the Black Death Pandemic."