

Research Matters

A Monthly Publication of RAE

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Notes from Beneath the Blue Awning

Hello, UWF researchers,

The Office of Research Administration and Engagement is here to celebrate and support all aspects of UWF research. This month, I want to highlight two ways that we are supporting the UWF research community.

In service to *research engagement*, we want to help spread the word about campus research presentations, including guest speakers, thesis and dissertation defenses, and research seminars. There are *so many* wonderful research presentations that go on every week across the campus, and many of the announcements never reach the full audience of interested parties. The **UWF Event Calendar** now allows you to add a tag of “research” (without quotation marks) to your event, so that it can be captured on UWF RAE’s **Research Events** feed on our **homepage**.



Please use the **Event Calendar Submission Form** to share information about your next research presentation.

With all of the changes to the “business” end of *research administration* (research integrity compliance, grant prospecting, proposal submission processes), RAE staff have recognized that we need to take a page from our faculty colleagues and establish open office hours to convey updates and respond to your questions. Starting Feb. 25, we will host open office hours every month on the fourth Friday (2-3 p.m.) and second Tuesday (3:30-4:30 p.m.). More details about these office hours can be found on our website under the **Research Events** calendar discussed above.

RAE will use these office hours to share a brief update (5-10 minutes) on a recent issue, and we will use the rest of the time to listen to your questions. If you would like to suggest a topic for our office hours or ask a question in advance, please use the **RAE**

General Service Request service desk to let us know and we'll answer it in the next office hour.

Regards,
Matt Schwartz
Professor & Associate VP of Research Administration

Medieval texts may shed light on how information traveled throughout Europe over centuries

By **JEFFREY CASSADY**
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Nicolaus Maniacutius might not be a household name. But the 12th century clerical scholar was a dedicated writer and philologist in his time, and copies of his works circulated throughout Europe for centuries after he died.

[Dr. Marie-Therese Champagne](#), associate professor in the Department of History and Philosophy and fellow with the Reuben O'D. Askew Institute for Multidisciplinary Studies, has spent decades tracking down and studying surviving early copies of Maniacutius' texts.

While the substance of the writings is worthy of study, Champagne pays special attention to the texts themselves, including their location and condition. Those details, Champagne said, provide insight into how Europeans over the centuries interacted, exchanged information, and traveled.

“(These texts) show how far and wide things spread,” Champagne said. “They open a window into time.”

Ten of Maniacutius' texts still exist in original manuscripts, and all predate the printing press. Champagne's research focuses primarily on the most common of these, “Ad incorrupta,” of which 19 original copies still exist.

“It was a text that was perceived to have high value,” Champagne said, adding that the relatively large number of surviving copies indicates that the text was perhaps copied in greater numbers than Maniacutius' other works.

The location and condition of surviving copies of “Ad incorrupta” may also speak to how European readers and scholars valued the text, Champagne said. Because Maniacutius wrote primarily religious and biblical texts, one would expect to find surviving copies of his texts in abbeys, monasteries, and churches, where monks and clerical scholars would record copies for themselves and their colleagues. But, some copies of “Ad incorrupta” have found their way to general libraries and private collections.

One copy was in the London Guildhall in the 13th century, where the City of London kept official records. Why it was held by a secular entity, and how it was obtained is still a mystery.

“The question is why,” Champagne said. “It’s a detective hunt.”

Evidence of wear also tells a story about the people who copied and valued these texts, Champagne said. Imperfections in the copy (such as missing letters), the remnants of spills, and little creases and holes in the pages offer today’s readers a glimpse into the past that is difficult to get from modern transcriptions of the text.

“It’s so funny because you can see the humanity in these,” Champagne said. “You come into contact with people in a way that can be difficult to do as a historian.”

Champagne recently was approved for a \$6,000 [Franklin Research Grant](#) from the American Philosophical Society to continue her study of Maniacutius’ work. Champagne, who will begin a one-year sabbatical this year, plans to use the funds to travel to London to examine some of Maniacutius’ surviving texts and trace archival records for their origins. Ultimately, Champagne is planning to use her research on Maniacutius’ life and writings in a book to be published by Brepols Pubs. in Belgium.

Champagne also uses her research in the classroom.

“It shows the students an area in the discipline of history that they had no idea existed,” Champagne said. “It shows them a new focus for academic research.”

New publications

The Office of Research Administration and Engagement congratulates the following researchers for their new publications:

- Dr. Perna Masih, Elivet Rodriguez, Mia Vertudez, Mina Motakhaveri, Terelan Le, Minh Kieu Tran, Matthew Cloyd, Cory Kornman and Aimee Phillips for their article "**Synthesis and Evaluation of 3-Halobenzo[b]thiophenes as Potential Antibacterial and Antifungal Agents**" in Pharmaceuticals.
- **Dr. Frank Gilliam**, H.N. Patten and S.K. Rabinowitz for their article "**The University of West Florida Ecosystem: Age-Diameter and Growth Relationship of Longleaf Pine Using Hurricane-induced Windthrows**" in Urban Ecosystems.
- Frank Gilliam, **Dr. Wade Jeffrey**, J.W. Fourqurean and H.M. Swain for their book "**Environmental Threats to the State of Florida: Climate Change and Beyond.**"
- **Dr. Heather Riddell** for her article "**Vaping and Instagram: A Content Analysis of e-Cigarette Posts Using the Content Appealing to Youth (CAY) Index**" in Substance Use & Misuse.
- Heather Riddell and **Dr. Chris Fenner** for their article "**Hey Google: A Thematic Analysis of Twitter Users' Comments on the Privacy of A.I. Devices in the Home**" in Explorations in Media Ecology.

If you or your students have a recent publication you'd like to see highlighted here, please email Jeffrey Cassady at jcassady@uwf.edu and include the names of the researchers, the title of the article, the name of the publication in which it appears, and a link to the article or an abstract. Also, please identify any University of West Florida co-authors.

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