***The Fair Unknown Award for best paper on an Arthurian topic presented by a graduate student at the 2016 International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo presentation:*** Usha Vishnuvajjala presented the 2016 Fair Unknown Award to Christopher Lee Pipkin (in absentia) on behalf of the selection committee. The citation read:

“It is my pleasure to present the fourth annual Fair Unknown essay prize to Christopher Lee Pipkin, for his paper, presented here last year, titled, “Monster Relics: The Giant, the Archangel, and Mont-Saint-Michel in the *Alliterative Morte Arthure*.” The paper, and the resulting article of the same title, which appeared in the current issue of*Arthuriana*, 27.1, analyzed the Alliterative *Morte’s* “joke” in which the corpse of the giant is compared with a holy relic. Pipkin argues that the joke neither uses a secular context to undermine a religious one nor uses the sacred to critique the secular institution of war, but rather “wittily and ironically allow[s] two narrative systems (that of pilgrimage to shrines and that of killing giants) to interact in a multifaceted and humorous way, producing suggestive parallels that may be explored but not explained away.” The essay concludes that understanding this is key to understanding the ways in which the giant—and the poem—hold multiple meanings in tension, making the giant’s monstrousness all that much more mysterious and threatening. The selection committee received a number of excellent submissions last year, but agreed with minimal debate that Christopher’s essay was the clear winner. So congratulations to Christopher, in absentia. And please encourage any graduate students you know who are presenting on Arthurian topics this year to submit their papers to this year’s Fair Unknown competition.”