In Memoriam

Shona Kelly Wray, 1963–2012, beloved colleague, friend, and member
of the *Historical Reflections/ Réflexions Historiques* Editorial Board

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It is with great sadness that I report the death of Shona Kelly Wray, Associate Professor of History at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a member of our editorial board. She died, tragically and unexpectedly, on 6 May 2012, of an aneurysm. Shona is survived by her husband, Randall Wray, children Shane and Alina, her parents, Celia and Jim Kelly, and her sister, Maggi Kelly. The UMKC History Department and the Mid-America Medieval Association [MAMA] are going to be developing scholarships and travel grants, respectively, in Shona's memory.

Shona's work on the impact of the Black Death on families in medieval Bologna established her as one of the bright lights in the field of late medieval Italian history. A scrupulous researcher in medieval notarial records and archives, Shona's current project focused on the issue of university faculty wives and families in late medieval Bologna: a project that was going to revolutionize the ways in which medievalists look at the university and its communities. Indeed, at the time of her death she was resident at the prestigious Villa I Tatti, Harvard University's Institute for Renaissance Studies in Florence, Italy, where she had been spending the year completing research on this project. Shona was also a Fulbright scholar alumna and a past recipient of the Rome Prize.

I met Shona at a MAMA conference a few years before she and a couple of her colleagues conspired to bully me into applying for the position I now hold, the endowed professorship in Women's and Gender Studies at UMKC. She and I taught together, mentored graduate students together, and conspired together to advance the profile of both feminist issues and medieval studies on the UMKC campus. She was the kind of colleague we all wish for: engaged, rational, passionate, funny. She was the kind of teacher and mentor all students wish for: demanding, empathetic, expert, funny. Shona had a laugh no one who had ever heard it could forget, and I heard it often at meetings, in the classroom, and on a few memorable roadtrips to conferences. Her passing is leaving a chasm at my university that will not be filled for many a year.

Although Shona was only a recent member of the editorial board, she was planning, once her year at I Tatti was completed, to work with me on a special issue about the history of women and families, medieval and modern. I intend to make sure that this special issue is developed, and that we publish it in her honor. Requiescat in pace, my dear friend.

Linda E. Mitchell, Senior Editor