

CLASSICAL STUDIES AT IU

A year in Athens

PhD candidate treasures time at American School of Classical Studies

by Greg Sears, PhD candidate

As I look back on the time I spent at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens last year, it is true enough to say that it was one of the most important experiences of my life, both professionally and personally. It is far less easy, however, to condense all the events of that hectic year into a few short paragraphs.

My first semester was marked by a flurry of journeys — to various parts of mainland Greece and a few islands here and there. For each trip, individual students were assigned a site, historical event, or person on which to report. I remember one presentation on ancient medicine — appropriate for the sanctuary of Asclepius at Epidauros. These reports gave us a chance to really dig in to the archaeological scholarship. Sometimes there was quite a lot to sift through; sometimes it was largely in German. After the first report, though, I started to get my bearings, and it became a much more focused process as I delivered reports on the Chalcidian League; the Nymphaeum of Herodes Atticus at Olympia; the church and mosaics of Hosios Loukas; the Diolkos at the Isthmus of Corinth; and the Palaikastro Hymn (Crete).

During the winter term, we took classes offered by the Whitehead professors. I took “Christian Destruction of Antiquities” with John Pollini, in which we investigated the telltale signs of, and rationale behind, the deliberate defacement of sculptures or inscriptions. This involved not only reading up on the history of early Christianity, but also several trips to museums and sites (such as Eleusis and Corinth) to inspect the statuary personally. It seemed a bit of a monomania with Pollini at first, but after a little time spent looking at the bashed



Athens, Greece

J.D. Denny/Hoosier Travelers

faces and gouged eyes and genitalia of the statues, the course did start to make a lot of sense, and it taught me a new way of looking at these pieces: not focusing on the craft, the finished parts, but rather the broken parts that one is usually trained to “unsee.”

At the same time that semester, we trekked around Greece to various sites in Athens and Attica. We were again given sites to report on, and I gave talks on the Library of Hadrian in Athens and the temple of Athena at Sounion. This last one was particularly challenging, as I had to fill up 20 minutes on a temple whose very foundations had been removed in antiquity! I had a lot of fun with that one, believe it or not. We also had the chance to visit

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From the chair

Many reasons for celebration

As the articles in this newsletter attest, the past school year was a rich and busy one for our students, faculty, and alumni.

Our undergraduate program continues to attract some of the best and brightest students in the College of Arts and Sciences — in fact, both 2008 winners of the College’s Palmer-Brandon prize, the top award for students in the humanities, are pursuing majors within our department. Our graduate program, which has produced many fine classicists since its inception, currently has 30 students enrolled. They are a very active and engaging group, and continue to win competitive scholarships — not least, **Sue Curry**, who won a Rome Prize for the 2008–09 year. And, speaking of Rome, Professor **Eleanor Leach** has won National Endowment for the Humanities support to co-direct a seminar on “Identity and Self-Representation in the Subcultures of Ancient Rome” for college and university teachers at the American Academy in Rome this summer.

With support from the College, we recently launched www.indiana.edu/~classics. The new Web site provides up-to-date information about all facets of our program and even a “giving to the department” link on the home page, which facilitates online donations (we may study the distant past, but we’re now on the cutting edge of modern marketing!).

On the Web site, you will also notice that we welcomed six affiliated faculty members, who are based in other departments at IU Bloomington but work closely with the Greek and Roman worlds: David Brakke (religious studies); Bert Harrill (religious studies); Eric Robinson (history); Julie Van Voorhis (history of art); Edward Watts (history); and Steve Weitzman (religious studies). Be sure to check out the “affiliated

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Flipping the classics

Part II: Remember the Titans?

In hip-hop culture, “flipping” refers to reusing old material, with a different spin, in an original work.

Remember the Titans? Not the movie with Denzel Washington, but the ancient Greek pre-Olympian generation of gods, children of Earth (Gaia) and Sky (Uranos). Can you? Remember them? Cronos and Rhea are parents of the older Olympians, Zeus, Hera, and company. As for the rest, some — Oceanus, Hyperion (father of Helios), Mnemosyne (mother of the Muses) — are fairly memorable, others — Thea, Phoebe, Crius, Coeus — not so much, and all of them are eclipsed by their offspring. What do Titans look like? Could you describe them to a police sketch-artist? Pick them out of a line-up? Not very distinctive, are they, especially in comparison to their much more vividly individualized Olympian successors? Clear exceptions are the second-generation Titans Prometheus, chained to a rock and condemned to daily deliverings, and his brother Atlas, staggering under the weight of the world.

In popular culture, however, Titans have made a colorful comeback. They figure prominently in the video game *God of War II*, where they are behemoths, bulked-up but anthropomorphic, like the game’s protagonist Kratos himself. My favorite recent Titanic avatars, however, appear in the Disney-animated *Hercules*. As you may recall, in that movie Hades frees the Titans from Tartarus and unleashes them on Olympus as part of his takeover plan, which is foiled by Hercules in the film’s climactic reprise of the ancient Titanomachy. These Titans are conceived as gigantic personifications of powerful destructive natural forces: Rock Titan is a two-headed pile of boulders, Ice

Titan, a gaunt icicle-limbed figure, Volcano Titan, a mass of molten lava, and Tornado Titan, the familiar funnel cloud.

Titans also feature in the final episode of the television series *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*. Helios and Oceanos are dim-witted giants, colored red-orange (sun) and blue (water) respectively, who are exploited by Hercules’ nemesis Ares. These Titans have been inadvertently freed from long imprisonment, but as in Disney’s film, a villain tried to use them as the agents of his vengeance on the Olympians. As “elementals,” they morph between human and natural form (much as ancient Greek nymphs and river-gods do), a fact which Hercules exploits to defeat them; when he turns them on each other, they evaporate as steam, recalling Hera’s use of Hephaestus in the *Iliad* to rescue Achilles when the Scamander River is about to drown him.

As children of earth and sky, it seems logical that Titans should be depicted as “elementals,” and yet the anthropomorphizing Greeks did not explore the possibilities of depicting them as more primitive, by contrast, with the more-evolved Olympians and vastly larger than puny mortals. One of the famous metopes from the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, for example, represents the Heracles’ Labor of the Apples of the Hesperides with figures of the goddess Athena, the titan Atlas, and the hero Heracles; these three very different kinds of beings are of equal size, and the hero is distinguished from the Titan only by props from the Labor.

Popular culture has been influenced in its re-imagining of the Titans as elemental

forces, I suspect, by the important role of “elementals” in fantasy art, literature, and games. “Elementals” are, naturally, creatures that have some relationship to the classic four elements of earth, air, fire, and water. *Elementals* is itself the title of a comic book series which featured a team of four humans, each of whom has been granted an elemental power. Morningstar’s abilities, for example, include pyrokinesis. Vortex can fly and direct wind-blasts. Fathom can morph entirely into sentient water (rather like Oceanos in *Legendary Journeys*). And Monolith, as his name suggests, can become a huge stone/earth golem who bears a striking resemblance to Disney’s Rock Titan. Elementals also appear in such games as the classic *Dungeons and Dragons*, and *World of Warcraft*. The latter features “elemental lieutenants” quite similar to Disney’s Titans — Ragnora the Firelord, Therazane the Stonemother, Al’ Akir the Windlord, and Neptulon the Tidehunter.

The ancient Greek Titans feature prominently in the creation narrative of Hesiod’s *Theogony*, but even there they make up a colorless collective. A Titanomachy/Giantomachy is depicted in the powerfully energetic reliefs of the Hellenistic Great Altar of Pergamum, but there too they are not easily distinguishable from one another. In the works of our contemporary pop culture writers and artists, however, who are no longer bound to Greek anthropomorphism, these primal beings have been resurrected in vividly and imaginatively allegorical terms.

— Professor Betty Rose Nagle

Paper presentations

CAMWS papers 2008

Susan A. Curry, “From the Bellies of Beasts: Performance and the Co-production of Identity in Apuleius’ *Metamorphoses*”

Gabriel Grabarek, “The Claudii Marcelli in Cicero’s *Brutus*”

Nicholas Gresens, ““Did He Really Believe That?”: Belief and the Past in Strabo’s Geography”

Robert Nichols, “Professions of *penia* by Athenian Litigants”

Gregory Sears, “Safe Thrills: The Minyides as Internal Narrators in the *Metamorphoses*”

Erin Taylor, “The Bastard and the City: Euripides’ Hippolytus as a Social and Sexual Outcast”

Marie Valverde, ““A Greek and Not a Barbarian”: The Barbarian Woman and Civic Ideology in Greek Tragedy”

Michael Vasta, “The Arrival of Berenice in Rome and the Execution of Helvidius Priscus”

Bruce Warren, “A Prosopography of Gaius Matius”

Other venues

Diana Beuster, “*The Papyrus Ebers*” for a conference *Texts and Contexts* at the Ohio State University Center for Epigraphical and Papyrological Studies, October 2007.

----- “*Fine Art Museum, Number 2000.342.319: An Imperial Bronze Coin and its Background.*” Evan F. Lilly Memorial Biennial Lecture Competition at the Fine Arts Museum, November 2007.

Dianne Boetsch, “The Conflict of Dual-Representation of Self in Ovid’s *Heroides* and Heloise’s *Personal Letters* to Abelard.” Medieval Studies Conference, Indiana University, March 2008.

Gabriel Grabarek, “Religious Objections to Caesar’s Consular Legislation,” Indiana University Religious Studies Conference on Religion and the State, March 2008.

Around the department

2007-08 Graduate Report

Grad students achieve success, capture esteemed honors

Awards and honors can claim pride of place in this year's review of our graduate program. At the risk of sounding like the "Twelve Days of Christmas," I begin with a catalogue of our students' achievements: one Future Faculty Fellowship at IUPUI; one part-time position at DePauw University; two completed dissertations; two dissertation fellowships to inspire more completed dissertations; two externally awarded fellowships for the summer programs in Athens and Rome; three Pratt Traveling Fellowships; four new dissertations; four MA degrees; four student conference papers; and nine CAMWS papers.

As these announcements have drifted in during the past three months, spring really has seemed like Christmas, especially since this abundance of honors comes by way of gifts that add luster to our departmental profile and further the careers of those who have captured them.

In the dissertation that **Arti Mehta** defended in January, "How do Fables Teach: Narrative Constructions of the World of the Fable in Greece, Rome and India," fables are by no means children's toys but, as ancient theorists understood them, belong in the category of rhetoric. Approaching the mostly animal characters of the narratives under the categorical headings of workers, rulers and intellectuals, Mehta argues that fabulist narrators, in creating fictive worlds around the behaviors of these characters, strove in rhetorical fashion to persuade their audiences through interactive engagement in situations recognizably pertinent to everyday life.

Elizabeth Richey's Hellenistic dissertation, "Apollonius' *Argonautica*: a Landscape of Nymphs," shows how allusions to nymphs pervade the poem both in narratives and in so-called digressions providing both structural and thematic unity. Sometimes hostile and sometimes benevolent, nymphs interact with the Argo adventurers in ways that highlight such key areas of the poem as landscape, the founding of cities, and the role of women — including in the final analysis Medea herself.

As we turn to dissertations in progress, several of our scholars deserve congratulations on financial support they gained from external sources. In February, **Sue Curry** journeyed to the offices of the American Academy in New York City. Although she tried to pretend that the only goal of her

trip was a visit to the new antiquities galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, she returned as the winner of a Rome Prize pre-doctoral fellowship for her dissertation, "Human Identity and Animal Others in the Second Century B.C.E." During the year she will give her attention, primarily, to the visual component of engagement with animals as can be seen in sculptures and mosaics preserved in Rome. Curry plans an expedition to Tunisia, the home of her anchoring figure, Apuleius, to view the many mosaics of the Bardo Museum that depict animals in farm and in amphitheater settings.

As a springboard for initial research on her dissertation, Curry had enjoyed the support of an IU College of Arts & Sciences dissertation fellowship. This year sees another winner in this prestige-bearing competition, **Jon Chicken**, for his dissertation, "Clever Generals in Greek Historiography." From spring 2005–2007, Chicken held a teaching position at Knox College in Illinois; returning this fall, he completed his special author exam on Herodotus and planned the dissertation for which **Eric Robinson**, now an adjunct member of Classical Studies, will serve as chair.

In 2008–09, two more dissertators take up part-time off-campus teaching. **Corinne Shirley**, who began her Ovidian dissertation last year, will be our fourth successive representative in the Classics Department at IUPUI. She will work under the guidance of professor **Robert Sutton**. **Greg Sears**, whose project involves abusive language in Greek political discourse, will be traveling back and forth next year to DePauw University to teach classes in Latin and in Culture as replacement for faculty on leave. In August, Sears returned from his yearlong experience as a fellowship-supported regular member of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. As his own narrative in this newsletter (see cover story) reveals, this intensive program was the ideal capstone experience for a Hellenist.

In Athens for the American School of Classical Studies' six-week summer session, **Gabe Grabarek** will have his turn at visiting and reporting on sites and monuments as the winner of a Field Scholarship awarded by the school. Grabarek, a Classical Studies graduate of 2000, came back to Indiana last year as a PhD student with an MA from Florida State University followed by three years of secondary-school teaching. Last

summer he worked as a member of a house-painting team.

Across the Adriatic, MAT candidate **Chelsea Jensen**, as a participant in the six-week summer program in Sites and Monuments of the American Academy in Rome, will take advantage of her Classical Society Scholarship to gather material and information on Roman culture from hut urns to the Arch of Constantine for the benefit of her future classrooms. Jensen has completed the academic component of her MAT degree and will finish her certification next fall, working with classical studies teacher and alumna extraordinaire, **Josephine Stuckey**, BA'67, MAT'68, in Bedford, Ind.

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2008 Awards and Scholarships

CAMWS Award for Excellence in Classical Studies

Jennifer Hoit
Julianne Martin
Andrew Moore

Lillian Gay Berry Latin Scholarship

Elizabeth Johnston

David and Jenny Curry Scholarship

Wendi Ketchem
Jennifer Thompson

Alice Fox Scholarship

Brandon Fouch
Sarah Jones
Ricky Owens

Gertrude Johnson Scholarship

Matthew Uhls

Norton-Mavor Latin Prize

Caitlin Johnston

Verne Schuman Scholarship

Benjamin Miller

Norman T. Pratt Traveling Fellowship

Gabe Grabarek
Jennifer Jarnagin
Chelsea Jensen

Graduate program

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Also making a first visit to the Italian scene will be Pratt winner **Jennifer Jarnagin**, whose travel project involves inspection of a manuscript in the Neapolitan Biblioteca Nazionale that has interested her since her undergraduate days, and, as fringe benefit, a visit to Pompeii to check out what she has learned in Professor Franklin's class. Representing one line of filiation, Jarnagin came to us this fall from Louisiana Scholars' College where she studied with Davina McClain. **Erin Taylor** will also be in Rome as assistant to the NEH Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers.

April's Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS) meeting in Arizona lured the largest-ever number of graduate presenters from IU for a meeting outside driving distance. Some early arrivals were able to see monumental saguaro cactus and desert animals at the Sonora outdoor museum. Almost everyone had one authentic Mexican dinner. The now-traditional Indiana hour following Thursday afternoon papers and the CAMWS reception for graduate students gave everyone a chance to catch up with **Nick Gresens**, who arrived from this year's teaching position at Monmouth College, and also to meet some of our celebrated alumni while breathing relief at the success of their day's presentations or quelling anxiety over those still ahead. Here in Bloomington, **Erin Taylor** keeps the communal life active with Friday-night gatherings at favorite watering holes, as well as end-of-semester markers — such as a bowling expedition after Matt Christ's December pre-exam party and a spring picnic for Parilia, at which baseball revealed some heavy hitters.

Incorporating members at all stages of progress from first year through dissertation, both on campus and away, the population of our program stands currently at 30. A part of this expanded size owes to the addition of a fall class at the record number of eight. Fall 2008 will see four new members.

Finally, I urge friends and supporters of the department to look at our newly refurbished Web page, enhanced with the assistance of a professional Web designer sent to us by the College. Throughout the site you will find photos of familiar sites and monuments in Greece, Rome, and Turkey, displaying the photographic expertise of our Greek archaeologist, **Margaretha Kramer-Hajos**, and your camera-addicted director of graduate studies.



Graduating seniors: (front row, from left) Kristin Emery, Brooke Owens, Jennifer Hoit, Erika Kvam; (back row, from left) Evan Lewis, Bryan Chappell, Zach Arregui, Julianne Martin.

Graduate alumni

Our graduates in the work force continue to enhance their own records of achievement, especially through their visibility at national meetings. These meetings are the place to catch up.

No program for either the American Philological Association (APA) or CAMWS would be complete without a paper by **Wilkie Major**, either on a literary or a pedagogical topic. This year was no exception, and in addition to his offerings at both meetings, Major performed a satyric role in the Committee on Ancient and Modern Performance production of Euripides' *Cyclops*. As **Davina McClain** settles into her new responsibilities as the editor of the APA Outreach Publication *Amphora*, Major will hold a tenure-line appointment at Louisiana State University.

Another presence at both meetings was **Anthony Leonardis** in his capacity as the current secretary-treasurer of the Vergilian Society. Leonardis, who has spent the years since his graduation contentedly teaching Latin at St. Richards School in Indianapolis, has migrated to Washington, D.C., with a new position at Landon. At the APA, **Noelle Zeiner** was glimpsed briefly with her husband, **Tim Carmichael**, and little Finn Carmichael.

Teresa Ramsby also came to Chicago to preside over a panel of which she had been co-organizer, and while there she learned that she, in company with co-author Beth Severy-Hoven, had been awarded the Women's Classical Caucus Outstanding Essay Prize for "Gender, Sex and the Domestication of Empire in Art of the Augustan Age," published in the winter 2007 issue of *Arethusa*, *Reshaping Rome: Space, Time*

and *Memory in the Augustan Transformation*. This thematic issue had its origins in a panel of the same title that Teresa and Beth had organized for the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America. After the publication of her book in 2007, *Textual Permanence: Roman Elegists and the Epigraphic Tradition*, at Duckworth, Ramsby has experienced another landmark year. She and husband John Berneche announced the arrival of son Michael John Berneche in October. Her year ended triumphantly with a successful tenure review and promotion to associate professor.

At CAMWS, **Byron Stayskal** wore "University of Iowa" on his nametag but was quick to explain that his current status is that of a student in the program of drawing, a recently discovered talent. Seen later sitting with a sketch pad in the upstairs gallery of the Arizona art museum, he showed that this is indeed a talent. At CAMWS, **Rebecca Edwards** presented a glimpse of her newest thinking about the *Annales*. Her article, "Hunting Boars with Pliny and Tacitus," has just appeared in *Classical Antiquity*.

Julie Langford-Johnson, who might be called a CAMWS regular, was absent in 2007–08 for good reason. Langford-Johnson was fully engaged in her work as co-organizer of a meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians on her campus at University of South Florida. This society meets annually with a broad range of geographical and chronological coverage and presentations from European as well as American scholars. In addition to serving as a member of the program committee, she organized a session under the title "Outside Looking In" and presented a segment of her ongoing Severan research in the

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Growth and changes enrich undergraduate program

The undergraduate program grows and changes as we welcome new majors and bid farewell to our seniors. This year, our majors are about evenly divided between the language and civilization areas, and we are happy to include in our community several students working towards a BS in secondary education in preparation for teaching Latin.

In recent years, the curriculum has been enriched by innovative course designs. **Betty Nagle**, for example, created Classical Mythology and Culture in Film. The new course considers the various ways modern cinema and television have treated ancient Greek myths. Coursework included weekly screenings of Hollywood feature films, foreign art films, the “sword and sandal” genre, and animation. Professor Nagle focuses the class on films as artistic responses to specific ancient treatments of the myths, primarily literary versions, and also compares ancient visual treatments with the modern ones. Giving C360 Roman Literature in Translation a new twist, **Bridget Balint** drew on her specialty in Medieval Latin to offer a section that explored Roman literature from the Empire through the decay of the Western Empire and the early days of Medieval Europe. The class introduced students to several medieval authors such as Perpetua, Augustine, Jerome, Boethius, and Gregory of Tours. While broadening the horizons of Latin literature in translation, Balint’s course also gave students an opportunity to investigate connections between classical Roman works and medieval literature in a variety of genres.

In addition to fine faculty support, we are lucky to have a fantastic academic advisor, **Kim Hinton**, whose excellent work was recognized this spring by a nomination for College Advisor of the Year Award. We all appreciate her dedication to our students and her helpful approach to all aspects of the undergraduate program!

This April, the annual awards ceremony was especially well attended, filling up the University Club at the Indiana Memorial Union. We always enjoy meeting friends and family who join us to hear about our students’ adventures and accomplishments. We were able to award 12 departmental scholarships this year, thanks to our generous alumni and friends. Everyone at the ceremony heard about the marvelous experiences that these scholarships afford, when **Brooke Owens** and **Bruce Warren**, who won Pratt Traveling Fellowships last year, delighted us with accounts of their travels in



Departmental scholarship winners: (front row, from left) Jennifer Thompson, Elizabeth Johnston, Ricky Owens, Chelsea Jensen; (back row, from left) Gabe Grabarek, Matthew Uhls, Caitlin Johnston, Wendi Ketchem, Sarah Jones.

Italy. The department also recognized three of its outstanding seniors with an award for excellence in classical studies that is sponsored by the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. A full list of award winners appears separately in this newsletter.

Among Classical Studies majors, there were many accomplishments to celebrate. We can claim both winners of the College’s prestigious Palmer-Brandon prize: **Mariah Coley** is a Classical Civilization and Theater major and **Nicholas Marshall** is majoring in Greek and Religious Studies/Philosophy.

Our graduating seniors earned many honors. A record number of Classics majors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa this year. They were: **Mariah Coley, Kristin Emery, Jennifer Hoit, Julianne Martin, Brooke Owens, David Schnee, and Emma Young.** In the senior-recognition portion of our awards ceremony, it was a treat to hear about the varied undergraduate careers of our graduating class and their plans for the future. As usual, their activities took them far away — on outdoor adventures, archaeological digs, and even military service in Iraq. Closer to home, our students raised organic crops, built houses with Habitat for Humanity, worked as peer tutors, and

trained in martial arts.

This year, two seniors earned departmental honors for writing a thesis based on independent research. **Andrew Moore** wrote on “The Road to Greek Democracy,” under the direction of History Professor **Eric Robinson.** **Jennifer Hoit** examined Homeric diction in “Amazement in Early Greek Epic,” supervised by **Jon Ready.**

As usual, our seniors are headed in all directions, some to public service with Teach for America, Americorps, or the Peace Corps, others to work and to contemplate further training — in classics, theology, law, or media studies. Some have already been accepted into graduate programs. We are proud that Hoit will begin graduate study in classical studies at Bryn Mawr in the fall, supported by a generous fellowship. **Erika Kvam** is also headed for professional training, in museum studies at the University of Manchester.

Wherever our majors go, we hope that they find new ways to build on their study of the ancient world, making the classics a living tradition in their lives. — *Cynthia Bannon, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies*

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From the chair

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programs” page and the link to the Ancient Studies Program, in which our department actively participates. This interdisciplinary program, which draws on faculty from 12 departments, was recently recognized in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of the top programs in the nation.

On the faculty front, **Tim Long**, who began teaching in our department in 1969, retired this past December. Long’s legacy is a substantial one; he has shared his passion for the classics with many thousands of students over the years. Whether working closely with a graduate student writing a doctoral dissertation or addressing hundreds of undergraduates in a large lecture hall, Long has inspired his students to learn about the ancient world. He has been not only one of the most popular teachers in the department, but one of the most generous with his time in meeting with students at all levels. For a full account of Long’s years at IU and his many contributions to the department and university, download his retired faculty biography at www.indiana.edu/~deanfac/retired_fac2008.htm.

With Professor Long in retirement and professors **James Franklin** and **Betty Rose Nagle** on sabbatical in the coming year, the department welcomes two visiting assistant professors to help cover our course offerings. **Greg Jones**, who has been teaching at George Washington University, took his PhD at Johns Hopkins University, with a dissertation entitled “Singing the *Skolion*: A Study of Poetics and Politics in Ancient Greece.” **Micah Myers** comes to us directly from Stanford, where he has just completed his doctoral dissertation, “The Frontiers of the Empire and the Boundaries of the World in the Augustan Poetic Imaginary.” In addition, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of **David H. Porter** (Williams College), who will spend the fall semester with us as our second Case Distinguished Visiting Professor, teaching a large lecture course on Greek culture to undergraduates and a Greek course on Aeschylus to advanced students.

As I complete my third year as chair, I would like to thank the many people who contribute to the success of our department: our office staff, **Derek Vint** and **Yvette Rolins**; **Kim Hinton**, our undergraduate staff advisor, **Cynthia Bannon**, our director of undergraduate studies; **Eleanor Leach**, our director of graduate studies; our dedicated faculty; our outstanding students, undergraduate and graduate; and our alumni, who generously support the department and make it possible for us to run a vibrant program.

— *Matt Christ*



Our faculty, from left: Jonathan Ready, Cynthia Bannon, Bridget Balint, Eleanor Leach, Matthew Christ, Betty Rose Nagle, James Franklin, Margaretha Kramer-Hajos, Tim Long, Madeleine Goh.

Athens

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and revisit the National Museum, Agora, and Acropolis with the professors and let them strut their stuff. The highlights of these morning lectures were Steve Tracy’s epigraphy talk in the Agora storeroom (in which we were given the opportunity to produce a squeeze of an inscription); John Oakley on vases in the National Museum; Olga Palagia on sculpture in the National Museum; and Susanne Hofstra on material in the Cycladic Museum.

I took two school trips in the spring semester: one to Bulgaria and another to central Turkey. The trip to Bulgaria was short but sweet. It was also jam-packed full of things to see, mostly Roman. Highlights of the trip included the city of Sophia, the mosaics at Marcianopolis (modern Devnya), Anchialo (where there is a Thracian tomb with a toroid-shaped interior that is unique in Southeast Europe), and the Valley of the Thracian Kings (Kazanluk), which contains many burial mounds, some of which contained striking works of art.

The crowning touch on the year (not counting my private, four-day stint in Rome just prior to returning home) was the trip to Central Anatolia. Notwithstanding the fact that Turkish food is far and away better than Greek food (don’t tell the Greeks that), it finally made me understand why anybody would want to study the Bronze Age. In Greece, the Bronze Age is rather scraggly, scarce, and unattractive. Much importance is placed on things like post-holes for ancient huts. In Asia Minor, there are exquisite pieces of sculpture and architecture, artifacts of extensive and powerful empires, and actual histories detailing

what these empires did among themselves. It was simply marvelous. Most of what we talked about was Bronze Age material and culture (I gave a report on the Phrygians, for instance), but we also saw some Roman remains. The bilingual *res gestae* on the temple of Augustus and Roma in Ankara was well worth the walk to see it. I would list the highlights, but the entire trip was so full of such very different sites that they all qualify. I will admit to being somewhat underwhelmed by Gordion, important as it is; but the Phrygian highlands and Midas City were stunning. The sites feature many carved tombs, one of which featured a pair of lions in relief, carved into the side of a cliff. I saw Eflatun Pinar, a Hittite water-shrine; Alahan, a fifth century AD monastery atop a mountain; Bogazkoy and Yazilikaya, the Hittite capital and its religious center, respectively; and Goreme, where many small churches are carved right out of the sandstone. Many of the churches still show signs of interior paintings, some of which I found truly remarkable.

In all, my year at the ASCSA really helped open my eyes to different eras, new parts of the world, and to interdisciplinary areas of study. But perhaps most important of all are all the people I met along the way. I made some very good friends from all over Greece during my stay there and made the acquaintance of a good number of established scholars, who dropped by the school from time to time. The year also gave me a sense of the broader context of the classical studies community. I strongly recommend the full-year program to other students. Yes, it will throw your life into utter chaos. Yes, the qualifying exams are long and difficult. But the rewards to be had at ASCSA — and they are substantial — simply cannot be found any other place.

Class notes

Before 1960

Grace Richardson McConnell, BA'54, and her husband, Thomas, BS'46, write, "We met at Indiana, were married in the church there while Professor [Herman B] Wells [BS'24, MA'27, LLD'62] was president, and our marriage has survived three children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and 64 years. We are now retired and living in Peekskill, N.Y."

1960s

William D. Curtis, MAT'68, has taught Latin at Olympia (Wash.) High School for 36 years. He coaches the school's Knowledge Bowl and Academic Decathlon teams, writing that his decathlon team has won the state championship seven of the past nine years. Curtis lives in Lacey, Wash.

1990s

Andrew J. Matzner, BA'92, is the co-author of *Male Bodies, Women's Souls: Personal Narratives of Thailand's Transgendered Youth*, published in 2007 by Haworth Press. He is a clinical social worker in private practice in Roanoke, Va., and an adjunct professor of women's studies at Hollins University. Matzner is also the author of *'O Au No Keia: Voices from Hawaii's Māhū and Transgender Communities*. He has written peer-reviewed articles on transgenderism in the journals *Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* and *Intersections*. He is a regular contributor to the *International Encyclopedia of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Cultures*.

Graduate report

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paper "Privileging the Liminal: Caracalla's Outside-in Imperial Strategy." In addition to Langford-Johnson, our department has a second Florida transplant in **David Branscome**, who will continue his position at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Locally, another baby picture joins the bulletin board collection, Rowan William Roe, son of **Ed** and **Natasha Roe**. For the event, Natasha took some time off from teaching at Bloomington North High School, where she has been successfully building up her program.

Degrees awarded in 2007–08

PhD in Classical Studies

Arti Mehta, December 2007
Elizabeth Richey, June 2008

MA in Latin

Kenny Draper
Ben Finnegan
Chelsea Jensen (academic component MAT)

MA in Greek

Alan Fleming

BA in Classical Studies and Classical Civilization

August 2007

Virginia Clifton
Marissa Flores
Elizabeth Pfancuff

December 2007

William Adams

Kyle Meehan
David Schnee

May 2008

Madeleine Alexeeva
Zach Arregui
Bryan Chappell
Kristin Emery
Ronnie Hehn
Jennifer Hoit
Erika Kvam
Shannon Larson
Evan Lewis
Julianne Martin
Andrew Moore
J. David Mossler
Brooke Owens
Dane Sabelhaus
April Scheuerell
Adam Stern
Emma Young



2000s

Ann M. Morgan, BA'05, is a teaching assistant at the University of Texas in Austin. She is pursuing a master's degree in Latin and a PhD in classical archaeology. Morgan lives in Houston.

Grace Lin, BS/BA'06, is an MD/PhD student in the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

Kelly Northrup, after her Latin summer in Rome with Father Foster's program, is a resident faculty member teaching all levels of Latin at the Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. On occasional visits to Bloomington, Kelly is so full of ideas and stories that it's hard to believe it is only her first year.

A final word is for our graduates who receive this newsletter and wonder why their names and activities aren't included. Please do send an e-mail line with news of your whereabouts and doings of which you would like your former faculty and fellow students to know. — *Eleanor W. Leach, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies*

Classical Studies

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