



GRADUATE NEWS

Last year the "big story" in our Graduate department was the introduction of our new, streamlined M.A. and Ph.D. programs. This year it is the remarkable improvement in the funding that we are able to offer our students as a consequence of the University's commitment to a new graduate funding policy.

Beginning in 2001-2002 we will guarantee funding to selected M.A. students and all doctoral students, up to their fifth year of graduate study counting from their reading list year. The funding guarantee has been set at total fees plus \$12,000, so that our standard of funding is now among the best offered by comparable Classics programs in Canada and abroad. We expect that the new funding will give a great boost to our efforts to attract the most promising students to Toronto.

On February 16, Patricia Fagan successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis, "Horses in the Similes of the *Iliad*." Our hearty congratulations to Dr. Fagan!

Three of our students have spent time researching in Europe this past year. Susan Downie was awarded the Vorres Scholarship for travel in Greece required for her work on panhellenic sanctuaries. David Roselli and Rodney Ast received Norwood Travel Awards: David sojourned in Germany and Athens to study material culture relating to Athenian drama; and Rodney has been learning papyrology in Heidelberg.

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FROM THE CHAIR

Professor Emmet Robbins, who would normally write in this space, is on leave and I have agreed to serve in his place for the next few months. This gives me a chance to express, on behalf of the Department and the larger Classics community, a deep gratitude for the decade of service which Professor Robbins has given to the Department as its Chair.

Not only has he guided us safely through a decade which has been extremely difficult for the humanities, but he has helped to secure our future by helping us to make excellent appointments to the teaching staff, by engineering the move to our new departmental home, by overseeing curriculum renewal, and by many other activities. This newsletter would normally report on his successor as Chair, and so it shall: I have myself agreed to take on this responsibility, starting on July 1. I will do so with mixed feelings, eagerly looking forward to the job of continuing Emmet's work, but at the same time daunted by his achievement. His will be a hard act to follow!

There are always many changes at this time of year. Rebecca Nagel has returned to the University of Alberta and three of our colleagues are retiring on June 30, 2001: Joan Bigwood of Victoria College, Eleanor Irwin of Scarborough College, and Mechtilde O'Mara of St. Michael's College. They will all be missed.

Jonathan Burgess and Alison Keith are going on research and study leave next year, and Emmet Robbins will be on administrative leave. Tim Barnes has won a prestigious Killam Research Fellowship. With all those changes, I am relieved that Michael Dewar and Alexander Jones are staying on as Undergraduate and Graduate Co-ordinators respectively, and that our excellent administrative staff (Ann-Marie Matti and Coral Gavrilovic) continue to serve the department with efficiency and good humour. Christer Bruun has returned from his sojourn in Rome as director of the Finnish Institute, and we are delighted to have him back among us.

We look forward to the chance to make new appointments in the next few years. In September we will begin the search for a colleague who specializes in Greek history and (we hope) for another in the area of Roman studies. We continue to hope that a Jackman Professor will be recruited in the area of ancient and classical studies, but so far our efforts have not borne fruit. The final piece of good news is that we have been authorized to search for a junior Canada Research Chair in the area of ancient philosophy (an appointment which will be shared with the Philosophy Department). More about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

—Brad Inwood, Acting Chair

NEWSNOTES

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Canada Council has named Timothy Barnes a Killam Fellow for the next two academic years. The award comes in recognition of Professor Barnes' distinguished contributions to scholarship and will enable him to devote full-time research to two related subjects. The first is his current project of studying the emperors and legislation in the Later Roman Empire (284—476) with a view to completing his reconstruction of imperial itineraries for late Roman emperors from Diocletian onwards. The second project is to establish principles for dating individual items in the codes of Theodosius (437) and Justinian (529/533) and for identifying how they should be used as historical documents. These principles will then be used to reinterpret the evidence of the Theodosian Code for the important and controversial period between the conversion of Constantine to Christianity in 312 and the accession in 379 of the Emperor Theodosius.

A second honour has come to the Classics Department in the naming of Brad Inwood as the holder of a Canada Research Chair.



CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR

This year saw the first instalment of the federal government's ambitious plan for promoting research in Canadian universities, the Canada Research Chair program. Most of this new funding will go to the sciences, but the humanities have not been excluded. In the first round, the University of Toronto was awarded two Canada Research Chairs in the humanities out of a total of 39. One of these is in the history of philosophy and is housed in the Department of Classics. "Transitions in Ancient Thought," as it is labelled, covers research activity from the beginnings of the Greek tradition down to Boethius and brings together a group of researchers spread across several humanities

departments: Philosophy, History and Philosophy of Science, Medieval Studies, and Classics.

Toronto's tradition of distinction in this field includes figures such as John Rist, Joseph Owens, Michael O'Brien, Leonard Woodbury and George Grube, and Classics has continued to play a significant role. Alexander Jones, Brad Inwood, and (as of July 1) John Magee all have majority appointments in Classics; Professors Gerson, Gooch, Hutchinson, and Robinson of Philosophy are major contributors to research and professional training in the field. The Canada Research Chair in Ancient Philosophy, held from January 1, 2001 by Brad Inwood, recognizes the strength of this teamwork and provides new resources to enhance the field. The CRC program will fund a junior appointment in the area of ancient philosophy, shared between Classics and Philosophy, for which the search will begin next year; new funds are also available for graduate student support, conferences, and other enhancements. The Department is proud to have been asked to coordinate this activity, and looks forward to playing a vital role in its development.



UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Enrolments continue to rise in Classical Civilisation courses – twenty percent higher than the previous academic year. The increase is particularly high in introductory Greek and Roman History, though Mythology, too, draws ever larger enrolments. Perhaps this change of balance means that the "Xena" effect is starting to give way to the enthusiasm inspired by the Ridley Scott blockbuster *Gladiator*.

Enrolments in the language courses are broadly steady and standards remain high. We recently received a vote of confidence in the discipline from the Wiegand Foundation. Twenty years ago they endowed a still-flourishing prize in

Greek prose composition. This prize, however, is open to both graduate and undergraduate students, and it has tended to go to those enrolled in the M.A. or Ph.D. program. Committed as they are to undergraduate education, the Wiegand Foundation has decided to double its generosity by founding a new prize to be awarded to the B.A. student graduating with the highest grades in Greek. The first winner will emerge when this term's final examinations are over.

Alex Jones has, for several years, taught a popular course in Ancient Science. From next year this will alternate with a new course on Ancient Astronomy. The new course promises to be just as successful in attracting students from the Science side of the Faculty and thus in contributing to what is one of the real strengths of the UofT: the fact that Arts and Science are housed in the same Faculty means that students can, and very often do, combine serious study in both general areas. We trust that our new President will approve.



A CLASSIC PRESIDENT

By this time all alumni know that Robert Birgeneau, who has been President for nearly a year, first came to the University of Toronto (St. Michael's College) on a Classics scholarship, having completed Latin and Greek to the Grade Thirteen Level. At the University of Toronto his first degree was in Maths, Physics and Chemistry (B.Sc. 1963) then to Yale to specialize in physics (Ph.D. 1966). We wish him well in his (fairly) new leadership of the University of Toronto.



SCHOLAR, TEACHER, FRIEND

Desmond Conacher (1918—1999), who died just after our last issue went to press, was one of the leading classical scholars of his generation and a valued

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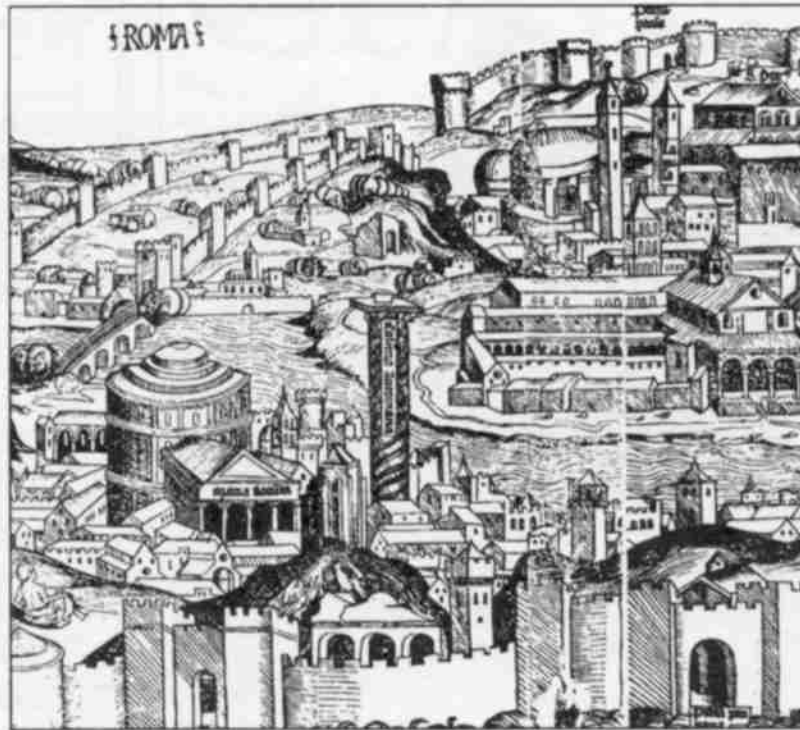
ROMA CAPUT MUNDI

Three years in Rome (1997-2000) confirm the well-known dictum. Living in Rome, sooner or later one will have the opportunity to see, hear, and possibly meet everyone who matters in the field(s) of Roman and Latin studies. As Director of the Finnish Institute for Classical Studies in Rome (while on leave from the UofT), I did my best to reinforce that trend. Besides monthly public lectures from September to June by various scholars, predominantly Finnish or Italian (but also British, Canadian, German), we organized four international conferences with a

total of over fifty speakers. Being free to choose, I focused on topics I felt were "hot" themes and to which I myself could contribute. The first volume of papers has been in print for a year (*The Roman Middle Republic. Politics, Religion and Historiography c. 400-133 B.C.*, ed. C. Bruun, Acta Inst. Rom. Finlandiae 23, Rome 2000). At present, I am editing volumes on Rome's harbour Ostia-Portus, on the Roman brick industry, and on Frontinus and his "Nachleben" from Roman times to the Baroque age.

There is a complacent saying in Finland that "being born a Finn is like winning the lottery." With equal right this could be said about Canadians: both countries are officially bilingual, well-organized, thriving, modern democracies. Being a Canadian professor of Roman history with a Finnish passport is, then, like winning twice. Why? It makes one eligible for the directorship of the Institutum Romanum Finlandiae (the IRF).

The IRF is a teaching and research



Detail from a view of Rome by Hartmann Schedel, 1493.

institution, small (maximum capacity some 15 residents) but with a respectable pedigree (founded in 1954), and a location and premises that the whole world envies us. The Finnish Institute, located in the Villa Lante, looks down upon the whole city. Designed by Giulio Romano, the favourite pupil of Raffaello (of Palazzo Te in Mantua-fame), it was built as a summer palace in the 1520s. Designated a *monumento nazionale* in Italy, it was acquired by the Finnish state through many fortuitous circumstances in the early 1950s.

The duties of the director comprise research, teaching, administration, and representation. Four months of the year I was engaged in teaching Finnish students, whose stay with us was funded by the Institute. During my period, our teaching focused on history, archaeology and topography of the Classical period (but who can resist talking about later periods too, occasionally?). Part of my teaching took place in the Upper Library, overlooking the City. It was pointed out to me that by using a

powerful laser pointer I could have clearly identified the places and buildings on which I was lecturing. More time was spent visiting monuments and museums. In the Institute's van we travelled to Etruria and Campania, the Abruzzi, Aquileia and Aosta. There was more and more to see every year in Rome, as new sites and museums opened in view of the expected masses of visitors during the Holy Year 2000. Nero's Golden House, the New Capitoline Museum, the Palazzo Altemps — many masterpieces were

now shown that had not been on display for decades; sometimes not since their discovery fifty or a hundred years ago: the course program had to be modified every term.

A typical day began at 0900. Rome is made for walking and we set out at a brisk pace. In less than ten minutes we had crossed the Tiber and were in the Campus Martius. Can anyone think of a better and more rewarding work? Around 1300 I left my students and walked back to the Institute for a quick bite and the rest of my duties. Not that my teaching assignments, which I assigned to myself, were not arduous. The history and topography of Rome is a fascinating but limitless subject, and new discoveries and publications accrue daily. Hundreds of hours were spent on preparations, and yet I knew Rome fairly well from before. Today I know how little I knew in 1997, and give full credit to the saying "*non basta una vita*" ... a lifetime is not enough to get to know the City.

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ROMA CAPUT MUNDI

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The international research institutes in Rome, all focusing on various aspects of humanistic research, form a special community. Together they carry considerable weight in the cultural life of the Eternal City and Italy. Rome has been open to strangers since about 753 BC and both the Italian authorities and Italian colleagues have practically always held a most hospitable attitude towards foreigners interested in the common cultural heritage of the west. Responding to invitations and contacting authorities or fellow institutes were part of everyday representational duties.

At the Villa Lante, I received several members of the Finnish government, about a score of MPs, and many visitors who were given a VIP welcome. Our personal guest book is a valuable memento of those years in Rome. Its pages remind us that we had almost 300 lunch or dinner guests in our apartment at the Villa Lante during the last spring. To our satisfaction, there are names of many Canadian colleagues and students, not only from Classics but from other humanistic fields as well.

Back in Toronto, I am more convinced than ever that my mission in life is to stress that studying classical antiquity is not an abstract theoretical



Christer, Greti Dinkova-Bruun, Edvard and Theodora Bruun at the Villa Lante.

exercise. The ancient world was real. It can still be seen, touched and, why not, smelled.

—Christer Bruun

CAN YOU HELP?

One of the biggest and most exciting developments in the University has been the adoption of a completely new approach for the funding of graduate students. Starting this year, the University of Toronto has committed itself to stable and competitive funding packages for doctoral-stream students, a long overdue recognition of the value of their role in the University. The need for contributions to various departmental fellowships remains urgent, however, since the University's policy does not fully recognize the lengthy training needed

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member of Classics and of Trinity College since the late fifties. The Classics Association of Canada meeting this May in Waterloo honoured his memory with three special panels on "Greek Tragedy, Text and Context" in recognition both of his scholarship in tragedy and of his personal contribution to the CAC over the years. Professor Conacher will be remembered with affection by those members of the alumni who experienced his classes or knew him as colleague and friend.

in a discipline like Classics. Special matching funds are available, as well, to enhance the value of donations to a new program, under which Ontario Graduate Scholarships can be "endowed" for the Department's students. Graduate student funding helps to assure the future of Classics as a discipline in the University and in the country, and it remains the first priority for departmental fund-raising. Please contact me at 416-978-3179 or at chair.classics@utoronto.ca.

—Brad Inwood, Acting Chair

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—M.T. O'Mara

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