



# Classics

# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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## EX CATHEDRA



As my first year in administrative office in Classics draws to a close, it is an honour and a privilege to speak from the chair. Having successfully completed the move into the

Lillian Massey Building in 2007-08, the Department has settled comfortably into this glorious new space. Our website will soon reflect our changed circumstances, as Professor Dimitri Nakassis (new this year – see profile on page 2) is redesigning our homepage to feature the new building, with the help of our graduate computer assistant, Kevin Lawson. I invite friends of the department to drop by the Department in person or check out the new website.

The main focus of the Department’s attention this year has been on strengthening our programs, both graduate and undergraduate. We conducted a thorough review of the ‘new’ graduate program, now ten years old, in the light of the University’s recent commitment to guaranteed graduate funding and current encouragement of graduate expansion. Faculty and graduate students worked together to revise our growing graduate program (this year we

had 45 students in the MA and PhD programs combined, a number that will grow to over 50 next year) in accordance with three objectives: to continue to recruit the most talented students despite the ongoing retreat of language training around the world; to enhance breadth of training through varied coursework; and to offer intensive training in professional-level practice in a variety of styles of classical research.

The Department will be working closely with the Faculty of Arts and Science and the School of Graduate Studies next year to implement the new program in 2010-2011. I am particularly grateful to the members of the committee, Professors Bruun, Lytle, Magee, and Wohl, as well as the graduate student members, Jackie Neel (Classics ColPAH) and Jessica Westerhold (Classics & CWGS), for their energy, hard work and creative thinking.

Next year’s task will be a thorough review of our undergraduate classical civilization and language programs, in conjunction with the implementation of a new Arts and Science undergraduate curriculum, and in preparation for that exercise we reviewed course content and delivery at entry and exit levels this past year.

Our undergraduate programs continue to thrive. This year the Department graduated 77 majors and minors and taught over 1,200 FCEs. For the first time ever, in 2008-2009 we were able to offer bi-weekly tutorials in our introductory course (CLA160H), and on the basis of this successful pilot project we have received financial support from the Faculty of Arts and Science to implement weekly tutorials

## NORWOOD AND VORRES REPORTS

Thanks to the generous support of the Norwood and Vorres foundations the Department was able to fund the travel abroad of three graduate students last summer. David Cuff and Marie-Pierre Krück used the Norwood to travel to Germany and the Vorres Scholarship allowed Chris Wallace to journey to Greece.

Marie-Pierre spent six weeks studying at the Goethe Institut in both Bonn and Weimar. David spent time primarily in Köln, where, at the generous invitation of Professor Werner Eck, he conducted research at the Institut für Altertumskunde.

David also visited museums and archaeological sites at Köln, Bonn, Mainz, Nijmegen, and Trier, documenting the rich history of Roman military occupation along the Rhine frontier. That history includes the oldest Latin inscription from Germany, the epitaph of Marcus Caelius, a native of Bononia killed at the battle of the Teutoburg forest (*CIL* 13.8648, see below).



Tombstone of M. Caelius (Photo credit: D. Cuff)

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## NEW FACULTY



Dimitri Nakassis' research primarily focuses on early Greek history and archaeology. His dissertation (University of Texas at Austin, 2006) was a prosopographical study of named individuals from the Linear B texts from Pylos and an analysis of their role in the Mycenaean state. That project is being revised and supplemented for publication. Dimitri's fieldwork has ranged over much of Greece, including projects on Crete, Lesbos and Corfu and in Messenia, Nemea and the Korinthia. He is currently involved in the Pyla-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project, which is in its 6th year of fieldwork and its 2nd year of excavation of three sites near Larnaca, Cyprus. He has published on Aegean scripts, Homer, and archaeological survey, and is currently working on articles on Greek religion, Mycenaean political economy, and Mycenaean feasting.

Katherine Blouin has a Ph.D. in Roman History (Laval and Nice, 2006). Her work centers on Roman Egypt, more specifically on issues dealing with multiculturalism, cultural identities and ancient environments. Her current research seeks to establish how the fluvial and alimentary risk management strategies and policies adopted during the Hellenistic and Roman periods in the Nile Delta and in areas upstream played a role in the major hydrographic reconfiguration of the Nile Delta that occurred between the Roman conquest and the Arab period. In seeking to better understand the history of this too little known yet extremely significant region, Katherine combines traditional training in papyrology with a host of innovative and interdisciplinary approaches.



UofT Classics undergraduates posing amid the ruins at Ostia (Photo credit: Professor Bruun)

## NEW PHD

Congratulations to Jonathan Tracy, who defended his doctoral dissertation on "Science, Egypt, and Escapism in Lucan" (supervised by Professor Michael Dewar) on 12 December 2008 and received his doctorate at the SGS Convocation ceremony on 17 June 2009.

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME

In May 2008, thanks in large part to a very generous subvention from the University of Toronto's "International Course Module" funds, Professor Christer Bruun led a group of Classics undergraduates to Rome for an 11-day course on the "Monuments and History of Ancient Rome."

For Professor Bruun it was a chance to introduce 10 interested students (see photo at lower left) to a city he knows well, having lived there for eight years, including from 1997-2000 as Director of the Finnish Institute. Professor Bruun reports that the students were not only well-prepared by his "Classical Sites: The City of Rome" course the previous Fall, but that they brought an enthusiasm to match his own:

"On the first full day we set out at 9 a.m., and at 4 p.m., outside the Ara Pacis museum, I remarked that we ought also to have visited the Mausoleum of Hadrian, but it was late and the students surely wanted to call it a day. Really? they said, and so we went on for another 2 hours and that set the pace for the rest of the course."

Professor Bruun also reports that the most gratifying part of the trip was witnessing how the first-hand experience of exploring the monuments of ancient Rome in their vibrant, living contexts changed the way his students viewed Roman history and the Classics. Emilia Barbiero, now a graduate student in the department, describes her experience:

"Last May, I had the pleasure of going to Rome with Professor Bruun for a course

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## ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME

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on Roman topography. It was not my first time to Italy or to Rome: I spent a semester as an exchange student at Rome's *La Sapienza* and have been to Rome many times otherwise. It was therefore quite a surprise for me to learn on this trip that I in fact did not know Rome nearly as well as I thought I did.

Our group spent ten days walking the entire city. No museum or monument was neglected and our course went far beyond the usual Colosseum, Roman Forum and Pantheon. We walked the Via Appia and spent a day wandering through the catacombs of Saint Callistus, we climbed the Aventine Hill and admired the wooden doors and Roman pillars in the Basilica of Santa Sabina and we descended into the Mithraeum under the Basilica of San Clemente, to name only a few of our stops.

Nor were our itineraries limited to the sights of ancient Rome: Professor Bruun walked us through Rome as she is today after more than two millennia of inhabitation. Our walks were centered on the neighbourhoods of Rome and Professor Bruun's lectures pointed out features of every era in a particular quarter. Thus we saw how the Theatre of Pompey, though itself no longer visible, has been built into the cityscape and the modern palazzo curves along with Rome's first stone theatre. Professor Bruun thus painted a vivid picture of how Rome really is an eternal city, quilted together seamlessly by countless generations.

I expected to spend May in Italy among the bougainvillea reviewing what I had spent the last four years of my degree studying. Instead, I spent ten days revolutionizing my idea of Rome and of Roman civilization. No longer did I see Rome as shoved into two bookends from the regal period to the fall of the Empire but I came to see Rome as she really is: A dynamic city that has survived era after era, emerging as a wonderful mix of the ancient, the medieval, the baroque, the modern and everything in between. *Roma capoccia*, indeed!"



**SLAVES IN ATTIC COMEDY**

Friday, December 5, 2008  
2 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Founders College,  
Senior Common Room  
York University

Saturday, December 6, 2008  
9:00 a.m. to 6:35 p.m.  
Room #220, Lillian Massey Building  
(125 Queen's Park Ave.)  
St. George Campus,  
University of Toronto

**Keynote Speaker:**  
David Konstan (Brown University)  
Ben Akkrigg (University of Toronto)  
Kate Boshier (Northwestern University)  
Cheryl Cox (University of Memphis)  
Susan Lape (University of Southern California)  
Doug Olson (University of Minnesota)  
Toph Marshall (University of British Columbia)  
Donald Sells (University of Toronto)  
Christina Vester (University of Waterloo)  
Kelly Wrenhaven (Cleveland State University)

In December the new space in Lillian Massey co-hosted (with York University) its first Classics conference, *Slaves in Attic Comedy*, organized by Professors Ben Akkrigg and Rob Tordoff (York).

## PETER DEROW IN TORONTO

A conference was held in Wadham College, Oxford on 2-4 April to honour the memory of Peter Derow, at which Professor Emeritus Timothy Barnes spoke on 'Peter Derow in Toronto.'

Derow joined the Department of Classics at University College in 1969 while still a PhD candidate at Princeton. He would continue to teach at the University of Toronto until 1977, when he departed for Oxford. There he had a remarkably successful career as a tutor in Ancient History at Wadham College until his unexpected death in December 2006.

But according to Professor Barnes, "It was Peter's eight years at Toronto that not only laid the foundations, but also built most of the superstructure for his astonishing success as an Oxford tutor." Professor Barnes further notes that Derow produced the balance of his most important scholarly research while in Toronto. Derow even presented in a series of seminars in the academic year 1974-1975 much of the material later published in his classic article 'Polybius, Rome and the East' (*JRS* 1979). A full text of Professor Barnes' remarks will be published in the projected volume of papers delivered at the conference.

## VORRES REPORT

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Thanks to the generosity of the Vorres Foundation, fourth year graduate student Chris Wallace was able to pay for airfare to Greece and tuition for six weeks of study in the summer program of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Chris offers some impressions:

"The American School program comprises an intensive introduction to the history of Greek art and the major monuments of Greek civilisation. It includes visits to all of the major sites and museums in mainland Greece and Crete under the guidance of respected academics, and research papers by participants in the program.

The program was both fun and very useful. Even those sites that initially seemed to have little to do with my own research interests have proved useful. The numerous visits to Minoan palaces, for example, have left me much better equipped to lecture about the Bronze Age.

But the highlight for me was Delphi. The natural beauty of the site and the surviving monuments are equally impressive. I spent a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with my new friends roaming the grounds of the sanctuary deciphering some of the inscribed offerings. The monument of Philopoemen sparked a lively discussion about Polybius and the place of education in hellenistic culture. More generally, it was a fantastic opportunity to take a closer look at a wealth of ancient material and discuss it with both experts and young scholars."



Temple of Apollo at Delphi (Photo: E. Lytle)

## EX CATHEDRA

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in CLA160H, starting next year. I am especially grateful to Professor Hugh Mason for his extraordinary efforts in developing the tutorial assignments and working with graduate student tutors.



Classics undergraduates Laura Hare and Jacob Currie receive their prizes from CAC President Jonathan Edmondson (Photo: D. Nakassis)

Our superb undergraduate Classics program has been nationally recognized this year, with awards of First Prize to Toronto students in all four of the Classical Association of Canada (CAC) National Sight Translation Competitions – Junior and Senior, Greek and Latin. Congratulations to Laura Hare (Equal First Prize, Junior Greek and Equal First Prize, Junior Latin), Jacob Currie (Equal First Prize, Junior Latin), Elias Georgakopoulos (First Prize, Senior Greek), Maria Miller (First Prize, Peter Lawson Smith Prize in Senior Latin), Maayan Adar (Equal Third Prize, Junior Greek and Honourable mention, Junior Latin), Aron Bojti (Third Prize, Senior Greek), and Alessandro Sisti (Second Prize, Peter Lawson Smith Prize in Senior Latin).

This year the Department conducted a successful search for a specialist in Latin Poetry, with expertise in republican Latin literature and/or Roman drama, hiring Jarrett Welsh out of the doctoral program in Classics at Harvard University. Jarrett has just completed an ambitious dissertation on the fragmentary corpus of republican Latin comedy “in Roman dress,” and received his doctorate on 4 June 2009. Despite his youth, he has already published four scholarly notes in leading journals

and he has two more notes and two major articles forthcoming in equally prestigious venues. His appointment complements existing faculty strength in Greek drama and Roman literature.

It is with mixed emotions that I report a number of Department milestones in 2008-2009. Congratulations to Professor Victoria Wohl on her deserved promotion to the rank of Full Professor, effective 1 July 2009. Professor Wohl has generously agreed to serve as Graduate Coordinator in the Department, 2009-2012, and I am pleased to welcome her to the Department Executive. I am very grateful to Professor Christer Bruun who has served in the position for the last four and a half years. His deep knowledge and wide experience of the graduate program have been invaluable to faculty and students in the Department over these years, and it has been a great



pleasure to serve with him on the Executive. Professor Hugh Mason has agreed to serve as Undergraduate Coordinator for two years, 2008-2010, and I would like to record my gratitude for his generous commitment of time and energy to the undergraduate program. It has been a pleasure working with him this year and I look forward to working closely with him again next year on the undergraduate program review. In the spring, the Department received the resignation of Professor Alex Jones, effective 1 July 2009, and we wish him all the best as he continues to build the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University. We will miss him very much.

Finally, three highly valued and distinguished emeritus colleagues died in the course of the last year: Alan Samuel, D.F.S. Thomson, and M.B. Wallace. The Department honoured these distinguished colleagues with memorial resolutions in national and international Classics fora and hosted a Memorial Celebration in honour of M.B. Wallace on 21 November 2008, at which the endowment of the M.B. Wallace Memorial Graduate Award in Classics was announced. We are grateful to the families of Professors Thomson and Wallace for their generous donations of books to the Woodbury Library.

Let me close by thanking the administrative staff, Mrs. Ann-Marie Matti and Ms.

Coral Gavrilovic, for their help and guidance in the Department office. I am grateful to them, and to the faculty and students of the Department for their patience, goodwill, and collegiality during my first year in office.

Alison Keith  
May 2009



Above: Philippa Matheson speaks at the Memorial Celebration in honor of her brother Mac Wallace. Left: Professors Ernest Weinrib and Catherine Rubincam share memories of Mac (Photos: E. Lytle)

## Contact & Credits

We welcome news of our alumni, by email to:

[chair.classics@utoronto.ca](mailto:chair.classics@utoronto.ca)

or by traditional mail to:

Department of Classics  
University of Toronto  
125 Queen's Park Crescent  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C7

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