



# Classics UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

VOLUME TWENTY-TWO

SUMMER 2015

<http://chass.classics.utoronto.ca>



## FROM THE CHAIR



An eventful year lies behind the Department of Classics. 29 new Bachelor of Arts students graduated with Majors in Classics and in Classical Civilization this past spring, and during the year the MA degree was completed by **Zoe Forest-Cooter**, **Mufei Jiang**, **Katie Sutor**, and **Joel White**, while successful PhD defences were sustained (in this order) by **Adriana Brook**, **Emilia Barbiero**, **Eirene Seiradaki**, **Jessica Higgins**, and **Nathan Gilbert**. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to our many award winners: In the CAC Junior Latin Sight Translation Contest, **Joshua Zang** won Second Prize, while Honourable Mentions were awarded to **Jessica Zung** (Senior Greek) and

**Matthew Beamish** (Junior Latin). In the CAC Thesis Prize Competition, the winner was **Rob McCutcheon** (PhD 2013). Among our faculty members, both **Rachel Barney** and **Dimitri Nakassis** were awarded prestigious Insight Grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in April. Our undergraduate student association CLASSU deserves special mention: they won the award for best undergraduate student organization in the Faculty of Arts & Science (see p. 2). Fantastic!

Two events drew wider attention to the U of T and our department in the spring. During the month of March, the first strike I have ever experienced at the University of Toronto took place (there have been others since I was hired in 1994, but they occurred during temporary absences). CUPE Unit 1, to which our MA and PhD students belong, voted to go on strike because of dissatisfaction with the new collective agreement offered by the U of T to our Teaching Assistants and graduate student Course Instructors. The University's position was that the term continues so that the undergraduate students can finish their courses, get their credits and, for those whom it concerned, graduate. The strike was a difficult time

for everyone involved, and we were all involved.

What matters most to me is that our undergraduates were not held back in their progress, and that we are able to offer an inspiring and financially sustainable experience to our Classics graduate students while they are enrolled in our program. This past year our PhD students in the funded cohort (years 1 to 4 or 1 to 5) had a minimum income of tuition plus at least \$24,000, and the figure was often higher. We continue in our efforts to make our Classics graduate program financially attractive, regardless of the severe financial problems that the Province of Ontario is experiencing.

Less general publicity, but more attention from the Canadian and interna-  
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PhD graduates Eirene Seiradaki and Emilia Barbiero (centre left and right, respectively) at Fall 2014 convocation, accompanied by (from left to right) professors Boris Chrubasik, Jonathan Burgess, Jarrett Welsh and Seth Bernard.

## STUDENT LIFE



Last September the first Senate of the newly named Classics Students' Union (CLASSU) convened with the primary objective of supporting and bringing together undergraduate students interested in Classics.

To that end the Senate instituted over the course of the 2014-2015 school year a number of initiatives aimed at academic support, such as creating an accessible midterm and syllabus bank and a central hub to answer questions concerning the department and Classics courses.



CLASSU also hosted a large number of events intended to bring students together. These ranged from movie nights to board game days, trivia competitions to socials, pub nights to study sessions. These are promoted through CLASSU's Facebook page as well through a new website ([classu.sa.utoronto.ca](http://classu.sa.utoronto.ca)).

Additionally, CLASSU organized a number of academic seminars. Presenters included, from our own department, Professor **Kevin Wilkinson** and graduate students **Marion Durand** and **Brad Hald**, as well as Professor Elizabeth Greene from Western University, all to great success. As in

previous years, some members participated in the Oral Reading Club's spring performance as well as at the CAC Annual Conference.

One of CLASSU's greatest achievements was hosting its own Undergraduate Conference on the Classical World, the papers from which were compiled and published in the first issue of an undergraduate journal entitled *Plebeian*.

To top off a remarkable year, CLASSU



Left: Members of the CLASSU Senate (from left) Toby Keymer, William Krispin-Frei, Taylor Stark and Hadley Staite (far right) accept the Sanjeev Deweet Course Union of the Year Award from ASSU President Abdullah Shihpar (second from right). Photo credit: Yoko Minoda. Above: Members of CLASSU march in support of the University's graduate students. Photo credit: Tomas Vilde.

was honoured with the Sanjeev Deweet Course Union of the Year Award from the Arts & Science Student Union. This award is presented annually to the most active student course union at the University of Toronto. CLASSU was commended based on its commitment to the Classics student body, involvement in academic life, and support of the graduate students during the 2015 CUPE 3902 strike.

CLASSU is eagerly looking forward to another year of involvement with the department, the graduate students, and our own undergraduate student body, with planning and plotting already underway.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI PROFILES

After finishing her doctorate in the autumn of 2011, **Marie-Pierre Krück** completed an appointment as a postdoctoral researcher with the Laboratoire d'Excellence Orient et Méditerranée, where she worked with Professors Paul Demont (Université de Paris IV-Sorbonne, Paris) and Philip Van der Eijk (Humboldt University, Berlin). She undertook supplementary research with a view to publishing her dissertation, which was awarded the Classical Association of Canada's Prize (2010-2012). It will be published later this year in Éditions Classiques Garnier's "Kainon" collection as *Discours de la corruption dans la Grèce classique*.

During her time in Paris, Marie-Pierre delivered lectures at the Sorbonne on "Corruption and Destruction from Anaximander to Aristotle" as well as on "Thucydides the Incorruptible", and was elected as a member of the Association pour l'encouragement des études grecques en France. Upon her return, Marie-Pierre joined the Literature Department of the Collège de Maisonneuve (Montreal). Continu-

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Marie-Pierre Krück with her son Étienne in Tuscany.



## STUDENT AND ALUMNI PROFILES

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ing her research, she has prepared an article on “Melancholy and Corruption” for the collective work *Mirrors of Melancholy*, currently in press with Éditions Hermann in Paris, as well as a book review of David Leitao’s latest publication (*Phoenix* 2014). She has also joined the Groupe de recherche en histoire des sociabilités (GRHS, Université du Québec à Montréal), where she will be leading a project regarding the history of religious, historiographical, medical and literary discourses on the notion of autopsy from Antiquity to the 19th century. Moreover, she continues to be an active member of the classical studies community, notably as an editorial assistant of the French-language articles for both *Mouseion* and *Phoenix*.

Marie-Pierre is the fortunate mother of two healthy and lovely boys, Paul who is 4 and Étienne who is 18 months. Otherwise her principal interest outside work is cello. She has just started to take lessons, pursuing an old dream.

**David Wallace-Hare** is entering his fourth year in the PhD program. He earned BA and MA degrees at McMaster University and wrote his MA thesis on the treatment of crows and ravens in Graeco-Roman fable. He is currently a member of the Collaborative Programme in Ancient History (ColPAH) and in the Roman history stream at the University of Toronto. David is interested in ancient religion, Latin epigraphy and, above all, onomastics in the Roman west.

Currently his research deals with the connection between Latin nomina and cognomina featuring animal elements and what the choice of such surnames can tell us about different parts of the

Roman empire.

David’s interest in Celtic onomastics and Romanization in the West led him to seek archaeological experience in an area of such interaction in antiquity. During the summer of 2014,



David Wallace-Hare (far right) and fellow members of the excavation team at Pintia, Spain in the summer of 2014. Photo credit: Fernando J. Vera.

with the support of the department, David attended a field school at Pintia, a pre-Roman city in North Central Spain, which was home to the Vaccaei, a powerful Celtiberian tribe that had populated the area since the 5th century BC. The Vaccaei eventually fell under the shadow of Rome but their culture did not disappear.

The excavation team focused on an extensive necropolis called Las Rue-das, in use from the 4th through the 1st centuries BC. The daily excavation schedule was rigorous but rewarding. In the course of the field school the participants (David, three Americans, and one Australian) learned how to dig with care and precision, how to recognize and document stratigraphic layers, how to draw and photograph the site, and finally how to clean, conserve and document artifacts.

On certain days of the week participants had the opportu-

nity to go on excursions which ranged from canoeing down the river Duero which is surrounded by high cliffs home to vultures (of great interest to David as there is a notice in Aelian about a local practice of burial that saw dead warriors left exposed to be

eaten by vultures and thus buried in the sky, perhaps indicating a vulture deity), as well as a trip to Segovia (with its fantastically well-preserved aqueduct). David notes: “This field school and trip were the highlight of the year and one of the greatest experiences of my life. I know I will return to Spain some day and hope to engage in more archaeological work there in the future.”

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The Socceratic Methods, a team composed of graduate students, alumni and friends of the Department of Classics, competed in a Toronto city soccer league. Photo credit: Caralia Fabiano.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI PROFILES

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After completing all the requirements for an MA last fall, **Katie Sutor** moved this spring to Washington, DC, and is working as a paralegal at Bancroft PLLC. She edits Supreme Court briefs, manages the firm's filing deadlines, and conducts research for upcoming cases.

Katie reports that her experience at Toronto has been invaluable and that the editing and research skills she learned in her classes and as a research assistant for Professor Welsh left her well prepared for the job. She still reads Cicero in her spare time and was particularly thrilled when Justice Kennedy quoted the man himself in the *Obergefell v. Hodges* opinion, even if Kennedy neglected to mention Cicero's rhetorical genius.



Katie Sutor in front of the United States Supreme Court Building. Photo credit: Stacy Lima.

## VORRES REPORT

It is with regret that we note that Ian Vorres passed away at his home in Pyrgi outside of Athens in February. His lifelong interests in Greece's cultural heritage and in forging lasting

ties between Greece and Canada were acknowledged in 2009 when he was invested with the Order of Canada. His support of Classics in Canada is well known thanks in part to his having endowed the Andrew and Stephanie Vorres Travel Fellowship in our department in 1994. Since then, this fellowship has allowed 17 departmental graduate students to visit Greece. Many of their experiences



Above: Emilia Barbiero on her way up to the Acropolis in Athens.

have been detailed in the pages of this newsletter in our annual Vorres Report. Many of these students were fortunate too to have met Mr. Vorres in Greece, where he never failed to receive them with characteristic hospitality and to provide a personal tour of the famous

Vorres Museum.

**Emilia Barbiero** (PhD 2014) used the fellowship to travel to Greece in the summer of 2014. In late May and early June, she attended the 8th Trends in Classics International Conference in Thessaloniki. The theme was

Roman drama and its contexts and the conference afforded Emilia a fantastic opportunity to meet scholars working in her field. The experience, in fact, led to an invitation to contribute to Wiley-Blackwell's *Companion to Plautine Comedy*.

After the conference Emilia spent time in Athens and the Peloponnese, and visited the Cyclades. She had

the pleasure of privately touring the Vorres Museum and meeting Ian Vorres. Between her exploration of museums and archaeological sites Emilia worked on an article, “Dissing the Δις ἑξαπατῶν”, that is now forthcoming in *Mnemosyne*.

Since returning from Greece Emilia has remained busy. She defended her dissertation, *Reading Between the Lines: Letters in Plautus*, on September 4, 2014 and joined Toronto's Department of Classics as Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2014-15 academic year. Her future plans include working on a book based on her doctoral thesis and beginning a new project on the text and letters in the poetry of Catullus. In September Emilia takes up a post as Visiting Assistant Professor at New York University.



## FACULTY FOCUS

Continuing a feature that offers the opportunity for the Department's faculty to share with readers their research, teaching and other interests, this year we had the pleasure of catching up with Associate Professor **Katherine Blouin** and Professor **Michael Dewar**.

Katherine just finished up a year's sabbatical leave that included among its highlights giving birth to a son in May. She nevertheless found the time to send us this report:

"The past year has been one of transition for me. I had more time to dedicate to research (as well as to chilling in Bali and Kauai, practising hot yoga, and cooking a baby in my belly, but these are other stories!). This allowed me to complete research



projects and start moving towards new scholarly work. My book, *Triangular Landscapes: Environment, Society and the State in the Nile Delta under Roman Rule* (OUP), came out in August 2014. It investigates the complex networks of relationships between environments, socio-economic dynamics, and agro-fiscal policies in the Mendesian nome. Ultimately, it poses the question of the 'otherness' of the Nile Delta, within Egypt and, more broadly, the Roman Empire.

I dedicated the Fall of 2014 to completing a postdoctoral project in Greek

papyrology at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE). I started the project in 2007 under the supervision of Prof. Jean-Luc Fournet, one of the world's foremost papyrologists. The defence took place in December 2014 (I thought I had broken the EPHE's record for the longest postdoc ever, but apparently not!). My project was two-fold. Firstly, I inventoried, restored and catalogued the Greek papyri belonging to the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) in Paris, as well as produced an edition of lists of names and tax payments on leather



Left: Cairo at sunset, a view from the Al-Ahzar gardens. Above: Katherine Blouin in Old Cairo, across from the Khan el-Khalili. Right: The Grand Hall of the Institut français d'archéologie orientale's Palais Mounira. Photo credits: Katherine Blouin.

from 8th-century AD Western Thebes (southern Egypt) that belong to this collection. Preserved on a rare writing material, these documents give us precious information regarding early Arabic Egypt's fiscal administration, onomastics, and palaeography.

Secondly, I edited 26 unpublished Greek ostraca (potsherds) from Greco-Roman Tebtunis (Fayum Oasis, Egypt). This work was conducted in affiliation with the Italian archaeological mission in Tebtunis (Claudio Gallazzi dir.) and in collaboration with the Institut français d'archéologie orientale (Ifao). The ostraca include a private archive of beer tax receipts found in an undisturbed archaeological context, as well as lists of decanies

(group of liturgists) associated with compulsory public service at the dykes and canals of Tebtunis, which are to be linked to the Charta Borgiana (the first Greek papyrus from Egypt ever published). The different components of my project are to be published as part of a collective volume of Greek papyri from the BnF, as well as in the next volume dedicated to the Tebtunis mission. The online database of the BnF papyri should also be available shortly.

I spent part of the Winter of 2015 in Cairo. There, I took intensive Arabic classes, worked on upcoming papers in the amazing Ifao library, and spent time with dear friends. Egypt is one of my very favourite places in the world not only because of my interest in its ancient history, but also because of what it is today. I often say that Cairo is a monster. It is huge, it is chaotic, it



is polluted, and, since the 2011 Revolution, it is, alas, increasingly tense. Yet at the same time, the city, like the country, encompasses historical depth, cultural richness, environmental grace and stellar beauty. Such interwoven paradoxes and complexities explain why Egyptians call their capital Oum el Dounia, "Mother of the World". As an Egyptian friend told me recently, "Egypt has seen it all". This must be why the country is so inspiring – and at times unsettling – a place for historians. I do not mean this in a romantic,

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## FACULTY FOCUS

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Orientalist way, but rather with a sense of humility, respect, and deep curiosity towards human nature.

While in Cairo, I read Amitav Gosh's *In an Antique Land* as well as Alaa al Aswani's latest novel, *Cairo Automobile Club*. If you're interested in learning more about contemporary Egyptian history, politics and culture, I highly recommend these two books.

There seems to be pressure in academia to always know what monograph is coming next and, as a matter of fact, this has been my way of working since I was a graduate student. But over the past two years, as both my book and my postdoc were coming to an end, I felt the need to leave my mind fallow for a bit (if you will allow me an agricultural metaphor), and became eager to see where letting go momentarily of my scholarly agenda would lead me. As for new projects, I am currently mulling over the methodological and theoretical framework of a conference and collective volume on the socio-economics of the Nile Delta in the *longue durée* (my plan is to organize the conference in 2016-2017 at UofT). Finally, I am increasingly interested in questions of reception and in the intersection between ancient history and contemporary nationalistic discourses and politics. I am hoping that my readings and reflections on the matter give rise to a graduate seminar in ancient History in the years to come."

We also had the pleasure of touching base with Professor **Michael Dewar**, who graciously agreed to be interviewed.

*Any new research projects underway or on the horizon that you want to tell us about?*

"Since I recently completed a book-length project I feel free to take some time just to potter about with smaller pieces of research for a while. Right now I'm turning a conference paper on the adaptation of the neoteric poets – Catullus and his chums – in the epic poetry of the Flavian period into a final version for the conference proceedings. And I've just been signed up by a colleague in Australia for a contribution to a collection of essays on Lucan. These days, however, I'm finding that I am more and more interested in the literature of fourth- and fifth-century Roman Gaul. I was recently encouraged by the commissioning editor of a prominent university press to consider submitting a book proposal to her, so all that is starting to look like the context for a major project in the near future."

*Your most recent book, **Leisured Resistance: Villas, Literature, and Politics in the Roman World** (Bloomsbury 2013), has already been reissued in paperback. Is it a different kind of project from your earlier books?*

"Very different, yes, in that it's not primarily philological and linguistic in its focus, but instead takes the form of a series of loosely associated essays on a group of themes that recur throughout Roman literature, both prose and verse, over half a thousand years. It deals with such questions as the relationship between political power and the personal freedom to write as one likes, and the necessity for serenity and detachment to search for meaning in one's private life. It is also quite different in tone and style because it's not aimed at a specialized audience of professional academics. I wrote it for people like its dedicatees, my brothers – smart, well-educated men, but

not professors of Classics. After years of reading and preparation, however, I also ended up writing the first draft very quickly, at a time when, after a long and deeply distressing illness, our father's life was coming to an end. And, for better or worse, that shows in every chapter."

*The Department has changed a great deal since you arrived back in 1997. Is there anything that has not changed?*

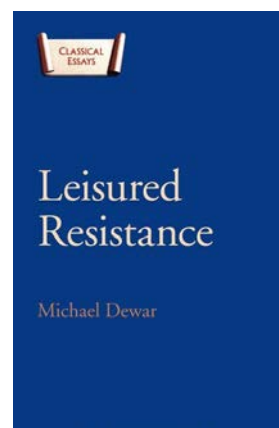
"Yes. Even though the world keeps telling them they would be best advised to stick to programmes that are purely vocational, somehow a lot of impressively talented undergraduates still manage to see how limiting and bloodless such an approach to education must inevitably be. Somehow they still find their way to us."

*Speaking of change, you were instrumental in helping to design the Department's CLA program way back when. Did those changes seem urgent at the time or should we put them down to uncanny foresight?*

"It was fifteen years ago, I think. The real aim at the time was to introduce a degree of coherence that had been missing before, when courses rarely had

prerequisites and the actual level and content and degree of difficulty all depended on the choices of individual instructors. And all kinds of things that interested students weren't really being covered in the curriculum, so we took the opportunity to create new courses, such as 'Spectacle in the Ancient World'. I also like to think that introducing a clearer structure, with core courses serving as prerequisites for upper-level seminars, helped

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## FACULTY FOCUS

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us accommodate in an orderly kind of way the huge increase in enrolments that occurred over the decade that followed, but you would have needed far more insight than I have ever had to predict just how huge that increase has turned out to be.”

*Is the larger state of the field something you worry about?*

“I imagine we all worry about different things in differing degrees. I myself worry that the professional training we expect graduate students to undergo takes far too long and that it teaches them that writing as soon as possible is more important than thoughtful reading. I also worry that the relentless emphasis on professional preparation for a highly competitive form of employment strips away from their education all the things that attracted them to the discipline in the first place. Generations of my Calvinist ancestors may turn in their graves as I say this, but it seems to me that being a graduate student or a junior academic these days just doesn’t involve enough pleasure.”

*That the U of T has acknowledged your success in teaching with its highest teaching award (as too did the University of Calgary) will come as no surprise to our readers, many of whom know firsthand your talent and dedication in the classroom. To what do you attribute that success?*

“If I’ve been successful, it must be primarily because I’m an unusually lucky academic in that I genuinely enjoy teaching as much as research, and just as genuinely enjoy teaching courses both in the languages and in Classical Civilization. I have, of course, also benefited from the wisdom of colleagues. One, whom I knew from my

very first job as a part-time lecturer at the University of Bristol in England, said the best advice he could give me was that you should never, never pretend to know something you didn’t, because if you did the students would be sure to ‘smell it on you’. The other, a friend from the English Department at Calgary, sternly warned me against ever going to the washroom right before a lecture, because, he said, if you did, you would be sure, sooner or later, to have an embarrassing accident. How could you fail to do just fine when you have advice like that to guide you?”

*Read anything non-Classics-related*

*recently that you would recommend?*

“Jean Rhys’s *Wide Sargasso Sea*. I’d been meaning to read it for many years. It’s moving, passionate, and ingenious. As literature that rewards you for already having read other literature, it’s also naturally appealing to a specialist in Latin poetry.”

*Word has it that on a recent research trip to Europe you had dinner with the U.S. Secretary of State and the very next day he fell off his bicycle and broke his leg. Coincidence?*

“The word on the street can be con-

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## FROM THE FACULTY BOOKSHELF



Clockwise from upper left: Jonathan Burgess, *Homer* (Tauris 2014); Erik Gunderson, *Laughing Awry: Plautus and Tragicomedy* (Oxford 2015) and *The Sublime Seneca: Ethics, Literature, Metaphysics* (Cambridge 2015); Christer Bruun and Jonathan Edmondson, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Epigraphy* (Oxford 2015); Dimitri Nakassis, Joann Gulizio and Sarah A. James, eds., *KE-RA-ME-JA: Studies Presented to Cynthia W. Shelmerdine* (INSTAP 2014); Victoria Wohl, *Euripides and the Politics of Form* (Princeton 2015).

## FROM THE CHAIR

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tional community interested in Greco-Roman matters was generated by the Annual Conference of the Classical Association of Canada. This year, the conference took place in mid-May on our St. George campus, in the hospitable facilities of Victoria College and our own Lillian Massey Building. The conference attracted a record number of participants (close to three hundred), and speakers (over 160, from nine countries and four continents). I'm very grateful to all my colleagues who variously assisted both before and during the conference, to our almost

twenty graduate students volunteers, without whom the conference would not have been possible, and to the enthusiastic inner circle of PhD students who worked so hard all year for the success: **Marion Durand, Caitlin Hines, and Alexander Kirby.**

To give thanks is a pleasing way of ending, and here I want to mention Professor **Jarrett Welsh**, who carried a heavy load in his first year as Graduate Coordinator, among other matters bringing our graduate program reform to conclusion. He now embarks on a year of Research and Study Leave, while Professor **Regina Hörschle** is back for her final year as Graduate Coordinator. I'm equally grateful to Professor **Ben Akrigg**, our Undergraduate Coordinator, for having handled undergraduate business so very expertly, and for agreeing to take on an exceptional fourth year.

Last but not least, I wish to thank University Professor

**Brad Inwood**, who retired on 30 June. Having been hired in 1982, Brad's achievements are far too numerous to mention here. His exemplary dedication to teaching, research, and service stands as an inspiration for the whole department.

Christer Bruun  
August 2015

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firmed by Professor Keith, who was also present when Mr Kerry and his entourage swept into the quiet restaurant in Geneva where the conference organisers had arranged for us to celebrate the end of the event. The cycling accident was indeed the purest possible coincidence, honest guv: anyway, I was on a train to Basle when it happened. It was coincidence, too, that one of Mr Kerry's security detail seemed at one point to be making right for me with a look of grim determination in his eye. Luckily, it turned out that he had just got himself confused over the route to the washroom, and he turned on his heels again before he reached my seat.

But this is nothing. What people really need to know is that, on Easter Sunday, two of my colleagues and I had dinner on Harbord and found ourselves sitting two tables along from Hilary Swank."



## Contact & Credits

If you have suggestions for newsletter features or any news to report please contact us by email to:

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Edited by Eph Lytle with the considerable assistance of graduate student Nicole Daniel.

Printed by The Printing House.



Scenes from the 2015 Annual Meeting of the CAC held at the University of Toronto. Top left: Some of the almost 300 participants in the lobby of Victoria College during a program break. Above: The Chair thanks our graduate student volunteers individually at the banquet in Burwash Hall: "Mufei Jiang, ubi es? Tibi magnas gratias agimus. Ecce Mufei!" Right: The Keynote Address is delivered by Professor Angelos Chaniotis from the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, speaking on "Petrified Feelings: Studying Graffiti in Aphrodisias." Photo credits: Joel White.

