

CLASSICS

NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2016



FROM THE CHAIR

Every academic year, some events are expected and others not. At the outset, I could never have imagined that we would host four scholarly conferences in the Classics department this past spring. Yet this is what happened: we saw a well attended in-house undergraduate conference, a prestigious international graduate conference, a conference on “Thucydides in Ontario” organized by Professor **Ben Akrigg**, and an international workshop on “The Culture of Labour in the Ancient World” organized by Professor **Eph Lytle**. A very remarkable term, thanks to the initiative and hard work of the many organizers.

Among expected events, we count the successful PhD defenses of **Susan Bilynskyj Dunning**, **John McCormick**, and **Jen Oliver**, and the graduation of some sixty undergraduate students in

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our Classics (now renamed Classical Languages) and Classical Civilization programs. Congratulations to you all!

Unexpected, on the other hand, was the distinguished MacArthur Prize awarded to Associate Professor **Dimitri Nakassis** in the fall for innovative work on Mycenaean society, Linear B texts, and his promising archaeological project in the Greek Argolid (featured in our 2015 Newsletter). Unexpected, because it was a first in U of T history (all units included!), and, as many may have seen, the award immediately made Dimitri “front-page news” on the U of T’s website! There was pure elation in the department at Dimitri’s distinction, and there was equal understanding that he in the end decided to join his partner at the University of Colorado.

It’s very exciting to register admissions among our faculty. **Peter Bing**, a renowned specialist in Hellenistic poetry, joins us as Full Professor for the period 2016-21. **Carrie Fulton** (PhD Cornell 2015) was hired this year as Assistant Professor in Roman History and Material Culture at UT Mississauga. Welcome both! The latter position ties

in especially well with our intention to further strengthen the Ancient History stream at the MA and PhD level. The Faculty has also granted us permission to conduct a search in Greek History and Material Culture this coming year.

Among the unexpected events was another search awarded for a Chancellor Jackman Chair in Ancient Philosophy at the senior level. The permission was another sign of the regard our program in Ancient Philosophy enjoys.

Classical Literature remains the largest graduate stream. Two of our literary



The chair (far left) with faculty, graduate students, and families at the annual departmental ice-skating event at the Dufferin Grove Park Rink (Photo: John Fabiano)

specialists, Professor Jonathan Burgess and Associate Professor Regina Höschele, won prestigious five-year SSHRC research

grants.

This report would be incomplete without mentioning our many prize winning students. In the national Greek and Latin sight translation competition organized by the Classical Associa-

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STUDENT LIFE



The Classics Students' Union (CLASSU) had another busy and successful year.

Incoming president **Willem Crispin-Frei** writes: In September, we hosted our first annual orientation event for prospective first year Classics students where members

of the Summer Senate gave a tour of the Vic and St Mike's campuses as well as the Lillian Massey Building, where attendees were welcomed by the Department Chair.

Continuing the welcome party, Undergraduate Co-ordinator **Ben Akrigg** and the newly-elected eleven member CLASSU Senate hosted a "Welcome to the POS" party for new majors and minors.

The Senate, under direction of Editor-in-Chief **Taylor Stark**, put on a second annual conference, entitled "The Assembly of the Plebs," which resulted in a second issue of *Plebeian: Journal of the Classics Students' Union*. The Assembly of the Plebs drew a crowd of over forty and catering was sponsored by the Arts and Science Students' Union. We would also like to thank the Department for its support in printing *Plebeian* as well as the guidance of our new printer, Coach House Press. The journal is available at E.J. Pratt Library or electronically on our website, and videos from the conference can be found on our website.



The Classics Students' Union Senate 2015-2016. Back (L-to-R): Felipe Vallejo, Willem Crispin-Frei, Hadley Staite, Hana Carrozza, Elizabeth Colonna, Toby Keymer; Front: Taylor Stark, Victoria Prepelita, Michal Zabinski, Sam Mazzilli, Seraphina Vasilodimitrakis-Hart (Photo: Seán Stewart)

Other academic events included a fall seminar in which Grad students **Matt Watton** and **John Fabiano** shared their research. At our fall social at Victoria College, Professor **Alison Keith** returned as host of *Vinum et Vergilius* where she entertained audiences with readings from Vergil and Lucretius. January saw CLASSU's first collaboration with other student unions, co-hosting with the History Students' Association a talk entitled "A Tale of Two Cities:

Urban Form in Ancient Rome and Renaissance Florence," led by Departmental Chairs Professor **Christer Bruun** of Classics and Professor **Nick Terpstra** of History.

Professor **Christer Bruun** also resurrected the mock-graduation ceremony for fourth year Classics students at the spring end of term party. The

end of the year also saw the launch of the largest CLASSU initiative yet—the Anti-Calendar. With support from instructors, we collected feedback in eight classes in the style of the old Arts and Science Students' Union Anti-Calendar. **Willem Crispin-Frei** and **Sam Mazzilli** presented the results at the May Department meeting. A second round of surveys were conducted for the first summer term with plans for a full rollout to all classes for the upcoming year in the works.

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

PH.D. DISSERTATIONS DEFENDED IN THE DEPARTMENT

Susan Bilynskyj Dunning, *Roman Ludi Saeculares from the Republic to Empire* (April 19 2016)

Jen Oliver, *Queer World-Making in Petronius' Satyrice* (April 8, 2016)

John McCormick, *The Philosophy of Moral Response in the Imperial Stoa* (March 15, 2016)



Jen Oliver at graduation

NEW FACULTY PROFILES

Carrie Fulton is an archaeologist with a focus on maritime connections in



Carrie Fulton

the ancient Mediterranean, especially the contextualization of shipwrecks in the ancient economy. She holds an A.B. from Bowdoin College in Classics and Biology, a M.A. from Texas A&M University in Anthropology with a specialization in Nautical Archaeology, and a Ph.D. in Classics from Cornell University. Her current book project, *Nautical Networks: Cultural Exchange and the Roman Economy*, examines the cross-cultural circulation of raw materials, finished objects, and people across maritime networks in the ancient Mediterranean (ca. 200 BCE-200 CE). In her prior archaeological fieldwork, Carrie has participated in the underwater excavation of a first-century BCE shipwreck in Turkey and underwater surveys in Cyprus. She has also co-directed an excavation of a ship at the World Trade Center in Manhattan, New York. Her current archaeological project is an un-

derwater survey along the south-central coastline of Cyprus, which emphasizes the trade routes in this region from the Late Bronze Age through Roman Period and focuses on the development of digital technologies for recording and analyzing maritime data.

Peter Bing pursued and deepened his interests in Greek poetry as an undergraduate at Bowdoin College (B.A. '76) and then as a doctoral student in Classical Studies at the Universities of Tübingen (1978/9) and Michigan (M.A. '78, Ph.D. '81). Here, his focus turned to the literature of the Hellenistic era and particularly the scholar/poets who emigrated from far-flung parts of Greece to Egypt with its recently founded capital of Alexandria.

He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania (1981-1987), Case Western Reserve University (1987-1989), and at Emory as Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of the Classics. He has been Junior Fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington D.C. (1984/5), twice a Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the University of

Tübingen (1985 and 1992/3), a Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall, Cambridge University (1999/00), and the Barrington Fellow of the Margo Tytus Visiting Fellowship Program, Univ. of Cincinnati (2005/6). His books include *The Well-Read Muse. Present and Past in Callimachus and the Hellenistic Poets* (1988, 2nd

ed. 2008), *Games of Venus: An Anthology of Greek and Roman Erotic Verse from Sappho to Ovid*, co-authored with R. Cohen (1991), *The Scroll and The Marble: Studies in Reading and Reception in Hellenistic Poetry* (2009) and *Aristaetetus: Erotic Letters. Introduced, Translated and Annotated*, co-authored with Regina Höschele (2014).

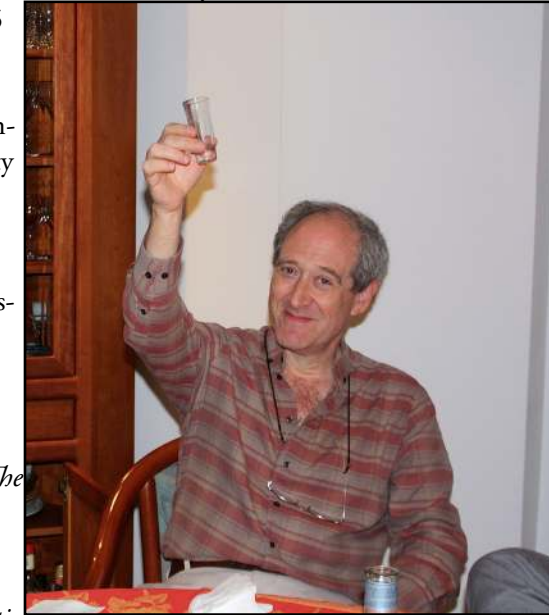
FROM THE CHAIR

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tion of Canada (CAC), our winners were **Joshua Zung** (1st, Senior Latin), **Andrew Mayo** (2nd, Senior Greek), and **Jessica Zung** (3rd, Senior Greek). At the annual CAC conference at the Université Laval in May, **Caitlin Hines** won the prize for best graduate paper. Our students make us proud!

Finally, it's my pleasure to thank the Associate Chairs of the past year: Associate Professor **Ben Akrigg**, for an exceptionally long tenure as Undergraduate Coordinator, and Associate Professor **Regina Höschele** and Professor **Erik Gunderson** who handled the Graduate Coordinatorship. I warmly welcome back Associate Professor **Jarrett Welsh**

as Graduate Coordinator and Associate Professor **Eph Lytle**, our new Undergraduate Coordinator. Ahead of me now lies a one-year leave, and I'm especially grateful to Professor **Alison Keith** for her dedication to the department and her willingness to serve as Acting Chair in 2016-17.



Peter Bing

IN MEMORIAM R. ELAINE FANTHAM (1933-2016)

R. Elaine Fantham, a giant in the field of classical scholarship and generous friend and mentor to generations of students and colleagues, died on Monday 11 July, in hospital in Toronto, at the age of 83. A member of the Classics department at the University of Toronto, first at Trinity College from 1968 to 1986, and then again from 2000 to 2008 after her retirement from Princeton, Elaine was predeceased by her husband Peter, and is survived by her daughter Julia (grandchildren Peter, Alice, and Clare) and her son Roy (wife Jenn and granddaughter Marlee).

Born in Liverpool U.K. in May 1933, Elaine received her B.A. (first class in Literae Humaniores) and first graduate degree at Oxford University before returning to her home city as Leverhulme Research Fellow to earn her Ph.D. in 1965 with a dissertation on Plautus' comedy *Curculio*, "The Boll-Weevil" (examined by R.G. Austin and O. Skutsch). Early training in the ways of roguery naturally equipped her for a meteoric rise in her chosen profession, and she held teaching posts all over the Anglo-American academy. She taught briefly at St Andrews University, as a fellow of St. Salvator's College (1965-1966), before moving with her mathematician husband Peter to Indiana University in Bloomington. There she taught in the Department of Classics as a Visiting Lecturer (1966-1968), before moving again, in 1968, with their Scottish daughter and American son, to Toronto and Trinity College. There she taught for eighteen years, (Assistant to Associate Professor 1968-1978, Professor 1978-86), in a

college department celebrated for its collegiality and scholarship. In retirement she returned and was elected a Senior Fellow of Trinity College in September 2012.

During her professional years in Toronto, Elaine served on the editorial committee of *Phoenix* from 1976 to 1979; gave a series of papers across Canada on both the Atlantic and Western lecture tours sponsored by the Clas-



Elaine Fantham (Photo: Alison Keith)

sical Association of Canada; and served as Vice-President of the Association from 1982-84, during which period she also served as Vice-President and then President of the Canadian Society for the History of Rhetoric (1983-1986). In

1996, she delivered the keynote lecture at the annual meeting of the CAC in St. Catharines, Ontario.

In addition to her valuable service to the Canadian academic community, Elaine was very active across North America, especially after moving to Princeton University in 1986 as Giger Professor of Latin. She enjoyed spells as a Visiting Professor of Classics at Ohio State University (1983) and as Langford Visiting Professor at Florida State University in 2001; and in 1999-2000 she lectured for Phi Beta Kappa across the United States. She also contributed signal service to the American Philological Association, the largest professional classics association in the world, where she was an outstanding advocate for classical scholars and classics departments. She served as member, then chair, of the Goodwin Award Committee (1997-2000), and then, after her retirement from Princeton and return to Toronto in 2000, as President-Elect (2003) and President (2004) of the APA. In January 2009, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Philological Association in recognition of her superlative service to the profession.

After retiring from Princeton University in 2000, Elaine made her primary residence in Toronto, where her grown-up family lives, and she continued to make significant contributions to the research and teaching mission of the graduate department of Classics at the University of Toronto, where she had established her career. In the early years of the new millennium, she took on supplementary graduate teaching for the Toronto department in a wide range of M.A. and Ph.D. courses. In addition, and much more importantly, she was closely involved from the start of her retirement in mentoring across the country and around the world – not only senior graduate and undergraduate

students but also friends and colleagues. She offered us all a model of the very highest standard of professional activity and collegiality. Her commitment to the Department, her colleagues and students – not only nationally and internationally, but also locally and provincially – was particularly valuable in this period, when she also served as the Honorary President of the Classical Association of Canada (2001 to 2006) and delivered the Robson Classical Lectures at Victoria College, in the University of Toronto (Fall 2004). In May 2015 Elaine was honoured with the CAC Award of Merit, richly deserved.

Elaine continued to travel and lecture in the USA, Britain and Italy until recently, as she remained much in demand. Known both for the range and for the accessibility of her scholarship, Elaine was the grande dame of Latin studies in the English-speaking world, though it was not only amongst Anglo-American colleagues that she was celebrated. Her fluent Italian, German and French made her a welcome guest-speaker throughout Europe as well. Outside of her home universities, Professor Fantham presented lectures and conference papers around the world—including in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Argentina, and Australia.

The author of seventeen books and over a hundred articles and book chapters, she also co-authored the standard textbook on women in antiquity and served as Associate Editor in Chief of the seven-volume *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome* (2010). Many of us encountered Latin literature through her scholarship – the comedies of Plautus and Terence in her first book *Comparative Studies in Republican Latin Literature* (Toronto 1972), the plays of Seneca and poetry of Lucan and Ovid in later commentaries (Princeton 1982; Cambridge 1992 and 1998) respectively, and of course her magisterial *Roman Literary Culture from Cicero to Apuleius* (Baltimore 1996), expanded in

a second edition (2012) to cover Latin letters from Plautus to Macrobius. She was also the honoree of two edited collections, the first in a special issue of the Italian journal *Materiali e Discussioni* (Vol. 61, Pisa 2009) and the second in a volume in the *Phoenix Supplementary Series* (Vol. 55, Toronto 2016) in which she published her first book.

She herself said that she was drawn to the study of Classics because of a glamorous ad for a tonic wine, which featured a handsome longhaired young man in a tunic, riding past the Acropolis in a chariot with an equally alluring young woman. Although the modern professoriate may have been something of a disappointment by comparison, there is no question that Elaine's career was attended by glamour and acclaim. From 1996 on, she contributed comments on classical topics to National Public Radio in the United States, where a select company of famous classicists has interested millions in the study of classical antiquity. Always generous with her time and attention to her chosen profession, Elaine gave a public and very human voice to our discipline as a commentator on NPR.

Elaine was a valuable member of the Classics community not only in her former departments but also in both her adoptive countries and on her adoptive continent for nearly fifty years, as a faculty member and staunchly supportive colleague, serving even in retirement as an active participant in the teaching and research mission of classical studies around the world. She provided a model of classical scholarship and personal engagement for generations of students, friends, and colleagues, and served as a warm and generous mentor to many in the profession.

Her generosity was a byword amongst her friends and former students, and her calendar even in retirement was always full of visits from colleagues, who took her out for concerts, cream teas and debauched dinners. A witty raconteur, loyal friend and brilliant cook,

she remained excellent company to the end – on the radio, in the classroom, and over the dinner table. She will be sorely missed by everyone whose life she touched.

Ave atque vale – S.T.T.L.

(Contributed by Professor **Alison Keith**)

IN MEMORIAM RONALD SHEPHERD (1925-2016)

Professor Emeritus **Ronald M. H. Shepherd** passed away on Wednesday 18 May in his ninety-first year. He is survived by his life partner Norma Bliss, two children, one grandchild, and other close relatives.

R. M. H. Shepherd was born in 1925 at St. Kitts in what was then the British West Indies. From 1935 to 1944 he frequented Harrison College in Barbados and was awarded the Barbados Scholarship to go to Oxford or Cambridge in 1945. He entered St. John's College, Cambridge and graduated with a BA in 1948 in the *Classical Tripos*. One post-graduate year was spent at Cambridge, combined with short periods at the British Schools in Rome and Athens; the MA degree was acquired in 1952.

In 1949, Ronald Shepherd joined the Classics staff at University College in Toronto as Lecturer in Greek from 1949 to 1956. He was Assistant Professor 1956-62, Associate Professor 1962-66, and was promoted to Full Professor in 1966. During the period 1961-70 he was the University College Registrar.

(Contributed by Professor **Christer Bruun**)

FACULTY FOCUS

In every newsletter, we catch up with a faculty member about their research. This year, we sat down with **Professor Jonathan Burgess**:

What have you been working on recently?

Various papers, some for presentation, some submitted, some published; mostly on the *Odyssey* and the *Telegony* of the Epic Cycle, but also a major study of the Meleager story in Iliad 9, and general surveys on the state of Cycle studies and on ancient travel literature.

Your most recent book Homer (I.B. Tauris 2015), was written in the Introducing Classics series and for a broader audience. What challenges did this present?

It was a challenge not to use Greek and not to assume prior knowledge, but a liberating one once I thought of it in pedagogical terms, like teaching a lecture course. Most challenging was the comprehensiveness of the project. The two Homeric poems are huge, and the field of Homeric studies is vast. I read all of the many Homer introductions and tried to avoid the two major faults I found in them: favoring only one perspective, and indulging in personal interpretation instead of getting new readers of Homer up to speed.

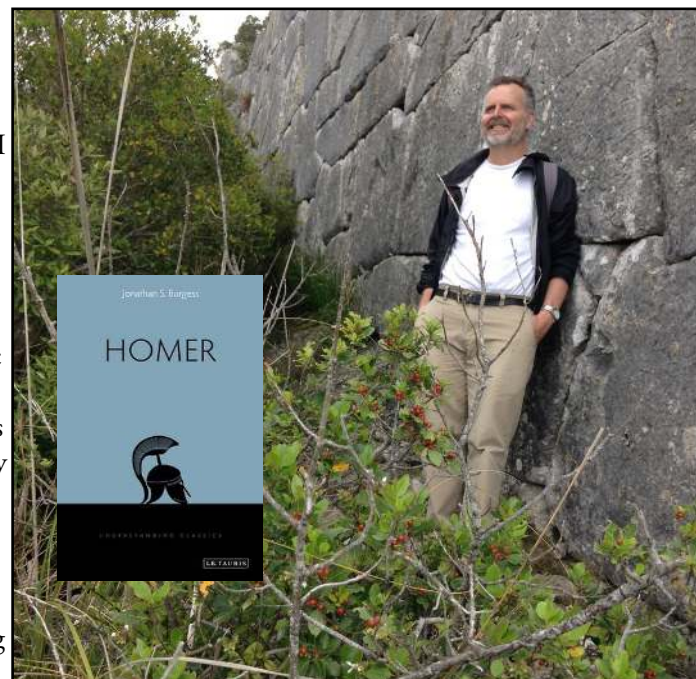
You are the recent recipient of your fourth SSHRC award for a project on travel in antiquity. Tell us more about that.

A year ago I thought I would submit a SSHRC application about Polyphemus. But I realized that my recent papers

were pointing toward something else. One was entitled “The Death of Odysseus;” another “The Corpse of Odysseus”: a larger narrative sequence was emerging about myths about Odysseus that contextualized the *Odyssey*. My seemingly disparate interests nicely cohere in the project. For the wanderings of Odysseus, travel literature was relevant. For the post-Odyssey story of the *Telegony*, the Epic Cycle and reception studies were relevant.

You’ve been working previously and again recently on the concept of “localization.” What can this offer scholars of ancient texts?

I actually started a website on localization with some undergraduates twenty years ago. This was about popular travel



Professor Burgess exploring the Cyclopean walls of Monte Circeo (Photo: Jane Aspinall).

books that purported to discover “real” places to which Odysseus wandered. My research now includes the rather more serious localization of Odyssean travel by ancient Greeks and Romans: cultural history that involves important issues of origins, genealogy, and heritage. As well, I am interested in the possibility that the *Odyssey* presents a mythologized

reflection of contemporary expansion of Greeks into the western Mediterranean.

You recently had the opportunity to research at the American Academy in Rome as part of a connection between that institution and the University of Toronto. What brought a Homerist to Italy?

Italy and Sicily feature prominently in ancient accounts of the travels of Odysseus both after the Trojan War, and after his return to Ithaca. The Academy library has a lot of archaeological and historical books about Odyssean sites, and I visited some locations on weekend trips. It’s fun to say that I looked for Sirens off the Sorrento peninsula, Circe at Monte Circeo, and the entrance to the underworld at Lake Avernus (no luck, thank goodness!), but it was also illuminating to traverse the topography in person and observe the ongoing Homeric localization at these places. Bibliography and pictures will be going up on my localization website.

As a U of T PhD and having taught in the department since 1995, you have a deep institutional memories of Classics at this University. Any sense of the continuities and changes in the department over this long time?

We’ve done a great job expanding and organizing our undergraduate non-language program, and just in time, since there’s been a deluge of more students over that time, and they love what we have to offer. At the graduate level, I’d say that we do a better job at teaching larger issues about research, and a better job at preparing students for careers. But language training and the literature remain essential to our mandate. As Emmet Robbins used to say, we’ll always have Homer. Historical context is very important for Homeric studies, so I’m also very happy to now have a history stream and several colleagues who are skilled with material culture.

ALUMNI NOTES

Timothy Perry (PhD 2010) spent two years as a lecturer in Classics at Dartmouth College. While there, he was invited to write a chapter on sport in the Early Iron Age for Blackwell’s *Companion to Sport and Spectacle in Greek and Roman Antiquity* (2014).

Following his time there, Timothy returned to school to complete a Master of Information degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Toronto’s iSchool in 2015. He was also actively involved in the Book History and Print Culture program, helping organize the 2015 colloquium on marginalia, *On the Fringes (and in the Margins)*.

Upon completing his MI, Timothy took up a position as rare book librarian at the University of Missouri. His new job provides plenty of opportunities to practice his Greek and Latin, and he also teaches classes visiting the library from a variety of departments – without having to do any marking. He continues to publish in the field of book history, with recent articles on early depictions of the printing press and facsimiles of Dante Manuscripts in Canadian libraries.

**

Former PhD student **Carl Hope** writes: We left Canada for my native England in Sept. ’12, where I took a Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation post at an all-girls’ private high school in Durham.

Laura Hope (PhD 2012) worked at Durham University teach-



Timothy Perry

ing some language courses and taught Classics in a couple of schools. We had twins Teddy and Josephine (Joey) in June ’14 and now I’m Head of Classics and coach Cricket, Badminton, Squash and Tennis at Durham School, a co-ed boarding school, while Laura teaches Latin, Greek and Ancient History on Mondays through Wednesdays at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, the top school in north-east England.

**

Since graduating, **Sarah McCallum** (Ph.D.) 2012 has taught at Brock University in St. Catharines and then spent three years at Harvard University as a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow and Instructor. Currently, she is Visiting Assistant Professor at Dartmouth College.

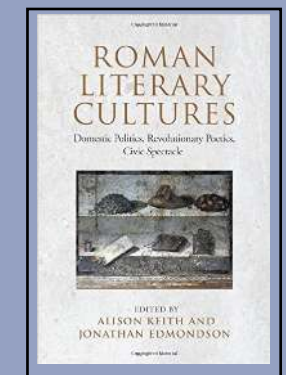
She is working on a book project called *Taking Love Seriously: Elegiac Love and Death in Aeneid 7–12*, which argues that Vergil mediates the epic tradition through the specialized vocabulary of Latin elegy to create a new, Roman mode of epic. Recent publications include “Heu Ligurine: Echoes of Vergil in Horace Odes 4.1,” and “Primus Pastor: The Origins of Pastoral Programme in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*” on Ovid’s agonistic engagement with pastoral. She is also co-editing a volume called *Instability and Permanence: Uncovering Anna Perenna*.

While living in the Upper Valley of New Hampshire, Sarah hopes to make some time for going on adventures in the surrounding wilderness in the nearby mountains with friends and her beloved beagle, Dolly.

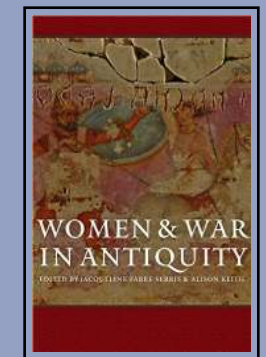


Sarah McCallum

NEW FROM THE FACULTY BOOKSHELF



Alison Keith and Jonathan Edmondson, eds. *Roman Literary Cultures: Domestic Politics, Revolutionary Poetics, Civic Spectacle* (Toronto, 2016).



Alison Keith and Jacqueline Fabre-Seris, eds. *Women and War in Antiquity* (JHU, 2015)



John Magee, ed. and trans. *Calcidius - On Plato's Timaeus* (Harvard, 2016)

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Bradley Hald, Caitlin Hines, and Snejina Sonina spent six weeks this summer in Germany attending a program at the University of Cologne called German for Students of Classical Studies. Joined by students from Italy, Finland, and the States, they worked to improve their knowledge of scholarly German as well as their communication skills in the language through courses tailored to philologists, and a course for reading German Classical scholarship. The Classics department at Cologne generously welcomed all participants to sit in on seminars, guest lectures, classically-themed movie nights, and even a performance of Terence's *Adelphoe* in the original Latin. Weekend excursions included Trier and Aachen. Participants gave fifteen minute presentations of their current research, entirely in German, to an audience of peers and interested members of the Classics department. Brad, Caitlin, and Snejina have this program to thank for a notable improvement in their German skills, although they are admittedly still reeling from their attempts at reading Wilamowitz and Hermann.

Bradley Hald (Head of the Organizing Committee) writes: The Department also came together this spring to organize a successful grad student conference around themes of visuality in the ancient world, drawing from an array of scholarly disciplines. We welcomed an international group of speakers from departments of Philosophy, Art History, Classics, and Archaeology from as

far away as Italy and Germany. Discussions covered a broad range of topics from Epicurean theories on vision, to visuality and visual narratives in ancient poetry and culture. We were fortunate to have had two brilliant keynote speakers in Art History Assistant Professor **SeungJung Kim** and Princeton Professor **Andrew Feldherr**.

The conference presented a great opportunity to interact with students from different areas and scholarly backgrounds. There already seems to be considerable interest in making this conference a regular

Departmental event, and a few brave souls have already volunteered to serve on the next planning committee. At



Left to Right, Caitlin Hines, Bradley Hald, and Snejina Sonina in Germany (Photo: Roosa Kallunki)

this fall's GCCU meeting, we will aim to strike that committee and talk about possible themes for a next conference.



Bradley Hald introduces the keynote speaker Prof. Andrew Feldherr at the Graduate Conference (Photo: Jody Cundy)

Suggestions or news to report? Please contact us:

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