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 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 Mycenean 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 additions 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 Missisauga. 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 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 Association.

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**NEW FACULTY PROFILES**

Carrie Fulton is an archaeologist with a focus on maritime connections in 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 underwater 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 (1999/2000), and the Barrington Fellow of the Margo Tytus Visiting Fellowship Program, Univ. of Cincinnati (2005/6). His books include *The Will-Read Muse: Present and Past in Callimachus and the Hellenistic Poet* (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 *Aristaeus: Erotic Letters. Introduced, Translated, Annotated*, co-authored with Regina Höschele (2014).

**FROM THE CHAIR**

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tion of Canada (CAC), our winners were Joshua Zang (1st, Senior Latin), Andrew Mayo (2nd, Senior Greek), and Jessica Zang (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 Lyle, our new Undergraduate Coordinator. Ahead of me now lies a one-year leave, and I’m especially grateful to Professor Alisz Keith for her dedication to the department and her willingness to serve as Acting Chair in 2016-17.

**PH.D. DISSERTATIONS DEFENDED IN THE DEPARTMENT**

Susan Blynskiy Durning, *Roman Lucil Saeculares from the Republic to Empire* (April 19 2016)


**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 Sum- mer Senate gave a tour of the Vic and St Mike’s cam- puses as well as the Lillian Massey Build- ing, where attendees were welcomed by the Depart- ment 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 spon- sored by the Arts and Sciences 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.

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 re- turned as host of Vinum et Vergilus 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 Christi Brunan of Classics and Professor Nick Terpstra of History.

Professor Christi Brunan 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 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 involve- ment with the department, the graduate students, and our own undergraduate student body.

**Our Students Make Us Proud!**

Our students make us proud!
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 Bell-Weevil” (examined by R.G. Austin and O. Skutsch). Early training in the ways of rogosity 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. John’s College, Cambridge and first graduate degree at Oxford University before moving again, in 1968, with their Scottish daughter and American son, to Trinity and Toronto College. There she taught for eighteen years, (Assistant to Associate Professor 1966-1968), before moving with a 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 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 a teaching and research mission 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 1985, 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 a two-day colloquium in her honour as the Honorary President 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, the thought that Elaine’s career was attended by glamour and acclaim. From 1996 on, she contributed commentaries on topical 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 human voice to our discipline as a commentator on NPR.

Elaine was a valuable member of the Classics community not only in her former department 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 among her friends and former students, and her calendar even in retirement was packed with visits of friends from overseas, 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.

IN MEMORIAM
RONALD SHEPHERD
(1925-2016)

Professor Emeritus Ronald M. H. Shepherd passed away on Wednesday 18 May in his ninetieth 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, 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 Alison Keith)
Faculty Focus

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

What have you been working on recently?

Various papers, some for presentation, some for publication; 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 a 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.

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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 Margin).

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 – with students 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 Homeric manuscripts in Canadian libraries.

Sarah McCallum (Ph.D.) 2012 has taught at Brookelyne College 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 Liturgique: Echoes of Vergil in Horace Odes 4.1,” and “Praecon Paetis: The Programmatic Programme in Ovid’s Metamorphoses” on Ovid’s agonistic engagement with pastoral. She is also co-editing a volume called Instability and Permanence: Discovering 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.
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 this fall’s GCCU meeting, we will aim to strike that committee and talk about possible themes for a next conference.