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After reforming the constitution of Athens, Solon went into self-imposed exile for ten years. I am glad to say that Victoria Wohl only took six months away after finishing her term as Chair in July – she spent them as Sather Professor at Berkeley, one of the most prestigious appointments in the Classical universe. But meanwhile, we have already started to see fruits from the forward-looking reforms she saw through before she left. Our administrative capacity is expanded and renewed with the arrival of Peter Schwarz, who joins Miriam Moren and Coral Gavrilovic in the department office. Our undergraduate course offerings have been updated to better reflect the research interests of current faculty, and our graduate programmes have been reviewed and revised to give our students greater flexibility and more focussed training. Adriana Brook, an alumna of our PhD programme (with research interests in Greek tragedy), joined us in September on a five-year contract with a brief to review and help us think about the way that we teach the ancient languages. We want to ensure that we can continue to lead the field in attracting and inspiring the widest range of students to our courses in Latin and Greek, and in teaching them to the highest level.

The creativity of the students we have attracted already, even beyond their classroom successes, continues to amaze and inspire. CLASSU's Ancient Food Day is becoming a regular feature of our calendar: it needs a bigger room each time it runs. This term's iteration even drew in students from local schools. The 2023 Robert Beardsley Award for Young Playwrights, given by the Playwrights Guild of Canada, went to one of our Classical Civilization majors, Cass Davey, for a work of Euripidean reception, *Iphigenia in Dreaming*. Our graduate students give papers around the world, and organise inspiring conferences; Sarah Graham-Shaughnessy found time to co-author a book on Lucian and Flavian Epic, published this year by Brill. In November, Naomi, now Dr. Neufeld successfully defended her PhD thesis on Shipwrights and Shipbuilding in the Ancient Mediterranean.

Increasingly important for keeping the intellectual life of the Department fresh is our growing cadre of postdoctoral researchers: Melissande Tomcik (working on Flavian poetry) and Joseph Gerbasi (staying on with new external funding for his work on Plato as philosophy and literature) are joined by Rareş Marinescu (who comes to us from Leuven, with a project on Neoplatonism), and Cristiana Roffi (based at the Jackman Humanities Institute, working on Ovid and his reception).

Needless to say, our faculty have continued to lead the world – and in various ways. Alison Keith became President of the Society for Classical Studies at its annual meeting in Chicago in January: this is the subject association for Classics (formerly known as the American Philological Association), and the most important international

collective and advocate for Classics. Jonathan Burgess won a major grant from Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for a project on the reception of the Homeric Polyphemus. Seth Bernard's *Historical Culture in Iron Age Italy*, published by Oxford University Press this year, promises to change the way we think about the historical consciousness of early inhabitants of Italy. Sarah Murray's book on economic interactions in the Bronze Age and early Iron Age, *Long-Distance Exchange and Inter-Regional Economies*, was published December by Cambridge University Press; she has also secured a Faculty Research Fellow in the Humanities at the Jackman Humanities Institute for 2024-2025, to work on metallurgy, pyrotechnology, and death ritual in early Greece.

Renewal is never over, of course: we find ourselves saying goodbye to John Magee upon his retirement at the end of the year, and are proud of Regina Höschle, though sad to lose her too, as she leaves us to take up a prestigious chair of Greek Literature at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. But we are also excited to see what opportunities will come from the searches we expect to set in motion for their replacements – and we do so inspired by this year's S. J. Stubbs Lecture in Classics, given at University College by Joy Connolly, President of the American Council of Learned Societies. She exhorted us to think about ancient "Greece-and-Rome" as part a more global vision of antiquity. Among things we have to look forward to more immediately, I would especially like to draw your attention to the Donor Lecture (another of Victoria's far-sighted innovations), which this year will be given by Barbara Graziosi, Professor and Chair at Princeton, on Monday, May 6. Barbara is going to talk about her fascinating work using AI as a philological tool. Then, on October 11, there will be a public lecture by our PhD alumna Anne Carson in Victoria College – part of a conference in her honour being organised with our support by the Department of Italian Studies. Look out for information on these and other events – and I hope to see you at one of them, or whenever you feel like dropping into the Department!



*Professor George Boys-Stones
Chair of the Department of
Classics (2023-2029)*