

# Classical News from Denny Hall

Volume 32-- October 1996

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Time flies when you're having fun. I guess that is how I would have to account for the seemingly speedy conclusion of a five-year term as Chair. These have been very good years for the Department. Our students at all levels have fared impressively well. Enrollments have been extremely healthy. This has been true especially in our Latin program, where again this year we have five teeming sections of Latin 101--and could have filled three more. Our graduate program has seen a significant increase in applications, and we have been very pleased with those who have joined our ranks. We have also taken delight in the many visitors we have had in recent years. New ventures with our colleagues in History and Philosophy have enriched us. We weathered University budget cuts of the early and mid '90s pretty much unscathed, and we have just been given a new faculty position. My colleagues have continued to be a vibrant and congenial group and have distinguished themselves as scholars and teachers in many ways. Having enjoyed these past five years so much, I have taken on a second term as Chair, confident it will be equally exciting and gratifying.

**Michael R. Halleran**

## FACULTY NOTES

**Professor Lawrence Bliquez** published "Greek, Etruscan, and Roman Prosthetics" in ANRW. He serves as a contributing editor of *Society for Ancient Medicine Review*.

**Professor Mary Whitlock Blundell**, on leave in the Spring, completed her annotated translation of Euripides' *Medea* (for Routledge) and continued her work on character in Plato.

**Professor James Clauss** for the second year led a group of ten minority students on an intensive ten-day study of Rome during Spring break. He was co-editor, along with Mary DePew, of a special issue of *Syllecta Classica* devoted to Hellenistic studies.

**Professor Sheila Colwell** returns from leave at Monash University in Australia, where she worked on her book on Pindar and the *Psalms*. While "down under," she gave two talks, "Professional Issues in Classics" and "The Future of Classics in the U.S.A."

**Professor Catherine Connors's** *Petronius the Poet: Verse and Literary Tradition in the Satyricon* has been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press.

**Professor Alain Gowing** is on leave for the Autumn Quarter. For the Winter he won a Humanities Center "Teaching Fellowship," designed to encourage interdepartmental teaching. The Center-sponsored seminar will be on "Empire and Memory."

**Professor Michael Halleran** was promoted to the rank of Professor. Last Autumn he presented a paper at the University of Colorado, speaking on "Myth, Adaptation and Allusion in Greek Tragedy."

**Professor Daniel Harmon** led our Classical Seminar in Rome program in the Spring. His article on the Roman *feriae* will appear in *Der Neue Pauly*.

**Professor Stephen Hinds** presented papers on several campuses (including Ohio State, University of Victoria and UCLA) and most recently participated in a colloquium sponsored by the Center for Hellenic Studies--"Matrices of Genre." He has three articles in the forthcoming third edition of the *OCD*.

**Professor Merle Langdon** is spending the Autumn in Athens. Among his projects is plotting the boundary inscriptions of Attica, for which he won a University Royalty Research Award.

### **PROFESSOR MACKAY RETIRES**

After thirty years of distinguished service, Professor Pierre MacKay retired this Spring. Since his arrival in 1966, Pierre has been a vital member of the University. While his primary appointments were in Classics and Near East, he was also a member of Comparative Literature and an adjunct in Computer Science. Over the years Pierre has combined his polymathy and enthusiasm in teaching an extraordinarily wide range of courses, from Ottoman Turkish to second-year Greek, and Epicurus. His erudition has also proved invaluable to dissertation students, especially those working in less commonly ploughed fields. We are very pleased that Pierre has opted to continue his teaching for us and for the Department of Near East through the University's "40% option," which allows retired faculty members to teach part-time for up to five years.

### **DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD**

The University recognizes distinguished teaching annually by making awards to a few truly outstanding teachers. This year **James Clauss** was named one of the recipients, in recognition of his teaching excellence, and especially his classes for minority students. He joins **Professor Emeritus Paul Pascal** as recent Departmental winners of this prestigious award.

### **NEW FACULTY POSITION**

In response to increasing demands for course access, our Department has been awarded a new tenure-track faculty position. We are currently conducting a search for the faculty member who will join the Department next Autumn.

### **DEGREES**

Two of our graduate students received their Ph.D.s in Classics this year: **Brad Cook** ("Demosthenes and His Biographers," directed by Lawrence Bliquez) and **Lynn Napiorski**, ("Petronius and the Greek Parodic Tradition," directed by James Clauss). **Holly Haynes** ("Narrative Anxiety in Tacitus' *Histories*," directed by Alain Gowing) received her Ph.D. in Classics and Critical Theory, and she has joined the Classics Department at New York University.

Three students took their M.A. degrees: **Alexander Bram**, **Christopher Chinn**, and **Marni Dillard**.

An even dozen students received their B.A. degrees: **Jennifer Bert** (Classics), **Max Booher** (Classics), **Robert Holcomb** (Classics), **Brandy Jesse** (Classical Studies; Latin minor), **Kirsten Luginbill** (Latin), **Heather Merry** (Classical Studies), **Catherine Purdy** (Classical Studies), **Kris Su** (Classical Studies), **Meghan Thompson** (Greek; Latin minor), **Amy Tillery** (Classical Studies and Latin), **Emily Warren** (Latin; Classical Studies minor), and **Daniel Weller** (Classical Studies). Congratulations to all our graduates!

### **RECENT GRADUATES**

**SoYoung Kwon** (B.A. 1993) received her J.D. degree this May from Willamette University's College of Law.

**Sarah Burns** (B.A. 1988) is now teaching Latin at Overlake School in Redmond.

## **JIM GREENFIELD SCHOLARS**

Three undergraduate students were selected as Jim Greenfield Scholars. **Mimi Gogh** combines her Classics major with a second major in the Comparative History of Ideas. She is thinking of graduate school in Classics. **Brett Grace** has a less common double major, Classics and Computer Science, the second of which fields will claim him professionally. **Jennifer Herivel** mixes her study of Classics with a pre-med curriculum and she hopes to attend medical school next Autumn. Our congratulations to these three fine students and our deepest gratitude to **Meg Greenfield** for continuing this support of students in Classics by her extraordinary generosity in memory of her brother.

## **DENSMORE SCHOLARSHIP**

**Christy Stocker**, a double major in Classics and Art, was awarded a Harvey Bruce Densmore Scholarship, given in honor of Professor Densmore, long-time member of the Classics faculty.

## **HUMANITIES HONORS**

Two of our students won coveted College honors. **Aislinn Melchior** won an Elizabeth Kerr Macfarlane Endowed Scholarship in the Humanities, and **David Rohrbacher**, who is writing a dissertation on the Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus, was the recipient of the Alvord Award in the Humanities for 1996-97, the College's highest graduate award in the Humanities.

## **CLASSICS AND PHILOSOPHY**

The Departments of Classics and Philosophy, building on our strengths in ancient philosophy, have created a new track within our Ph.D. programs. The aim of this program is "to highlight the essentially interdisciplinary nature of the study of Greek and Latin philosophy by encouraging graduate students in classics and philosophy to have sustained formal contact with faculty and students in the other department." Students in this track will take courses in the "other" Department and have a member from that Department on their Ph.D. orals and supervisory and dissertation committees.

## **CLASSICS IN ROME**

This Spring marked the tenth anniversary of the Department's Classical Seminar in Rome. Daniel Harmon, who conducted the program in its first years, led this past Spring's session. The Seminar had a special emphasis this year upon the legends and traditions of the early city. The course, as usual, included intensive study of Roman topography and visits to major museums and classical sites. There were longer field trips to Ostia, Tivoli, Florence, Fiesoli, Tusculum, Palestrina, Nemi, Naples, Paestum, Pozzuoli, Cumae, Pompeii, Perugia, Assisi, Cerveteri and Tarquinia.

## **SPEAKERS**

Our year began with **Jerome Pollitt**, our local AIA's Ridgway Lecturer, giving an informal Departmental talk on "Polykleitos and Didyma: An Archaeological Solution to a Linguistic Problem." In Winter, **Walter Englert** (Reed College) spoke on "Cicero, Tullia's Death, and the Consolation of Philosophy," a talk attended by as heterogeneous a group (faculty, students, high school teachers and students) as any in recent memory. One of our own, **Diskin Clay** (Duke; UW Ph.D. 1967), returned to give a lecture on "The Cult of Archilochus on Paros." In April, we had two visitors from Cambridge: **Philip Hardie** (New Hall) spoke on

"Why is Rumour Here? Tracing Virgilian and Ovidian Fama," and **Simon Goldhill** (King's) on "Seducing Socrates' Girlfriends: Or How to Look at a Beautiful Courtesan." May was enlivened by **Froma Zeitlin's** (Princeton) lecture on "Redeeming Matricide? Euripides Re-reads the *Oresteia*." Dr. Goldhill and Professors Zeitlin and **Page duBois** (UC-San Diego) also participated in the Center for Western European Studies' series "Incorporating Discourses: Body, Identity and Culture in Europe." Thanks again to all our visitors.

## **ANCIENT ITALY IN SEATTLE**

Graduating senior **Kirsten Luginbill** combined her interests in Latin and Botany and in June gave a delightful tour of ancient Italian flora on the University campus.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

The generosity of many of our alumni and friends greatly enhances our Departmental activities. We have several Departmental funds--including the Densmore Scholarship Fund, Friends of Classics Fund, Classics Endowment Fund, and Classics in Rome Fund--which allow us to support our students, bring visitors to campus, improve our seminar room collection, etc. Contributions to any of these funds can be mailed to the Department. Thank you!

## **DONORS 1995-1996**

The Department is most grateful for the generous support of donors to our various funds:

David Antillon

Jane & Jeremy Barthelmess

Lawrence Bliquez

Mary Whitlock Blundell

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Diskin Clay

Catherine Connors

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