

# Classical News from Denny Hall

Volume 33-- September 1997

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

An exciting year--hiring a new member of the faculty, seeing three colleagues promoted, having students collect several very distinguished awards. We also have been given the go-ahead to search for a faculty member with a specialty in Greek prose.

Although it was only last year that I began a second term as Chair, I'm now writing to say that I am stepping down as Chair to become the Divisional Dean of Arts and Humanities. This new position leaves some time for teaching and research, so I will continue to be involved in the Department. My six years as Chair have been filled with many satisfactions, and I have taken particular delight in the success of our students and my colleagues. As I leave, I want to thank all of our friends for their support--both moral and financial. To my colleagues and our office staff, I express my deep thanks for all your unstinting help, friendly advice, and glad cooperation. You have made my job both easy and pleasurable.

**Michael R. Halleran**

## FACULTY NOTES

**Professor Lawrence Bliquez** gave a number of talks this year, including one at the Seattle Art Museum. His chief scholarly project is work on *A Handbook of Greco-Roman Surgery and Surgical Tools*.

**Professor Mary Whitlock Blundell** gave a wide variety of talks this year, including "Barbecue at Colonus?" at the "Reason and Religion in Fifth-Century Greece" conference at Austin and "Can't We All Get Along? Politics, Pedagogy, and the Future of Gender Studies" at Princeton's "Feminism and Classics" conference.

**Professor James Clauss** was promoted to the rank of Professor. *Medea: Essays on Medea in Myth, Literature, Philosophy and Art*, which he co-edited with Sarah Iles Johnston, appeared in December. Despite a broken foot, he still led the EOP program to Rome in the Spring. Five recent participants in this program won EOP awards, including the President's Medal, this Spring.

**Professor Sheila Colwell** gave a paper ("Language, Violence and Power in Plautus' *Pseudolus*") at the annual CAPN meeting in April. She was awarded a "mentoring grant" from the College to pursue various scholarly projects this Autumn.

**Professor Catherine Connors** was promoted, with tenure, to the rank of Associate Professor. Her essay "Field and Forum: Culture and Agriculture in Roman Rhetoric" has just appeared in Routledge's volume *Roman Eloquence*.

**Professor Alain Gowing** returned from leave in the Autumn to teach his Humanities Center seminar on "Empire and Memory," which drew students from many departments in the College. At the APA meeting in New York, he presented a paper on "Memory and Silence in Cicero's *Brutus*." This year he serves as our Graduate Program Coordinator.

**Professor Michael Halleran** returned to his alma mater, Kenyon College, to give two talks, "Making

Tragedy: Mythological Adaptation and Intertextuality in Greek Tragedy" and "Decision Making in Early Greek Literature." Locally he presented a talk on "Temporary Like Achilles: the Value of Being Mortal."

**Professor Daniel Harmon** jumped into the breach in the Spring, taking over the Rome program for eight weeks, after Jim Clauss broke his foot. Dan was also in Rome during Winter Quarter, supervising the remodel of the first floor of the Palazzo Pio, our facility in Rome, which now offers living accommodations for our students.

**Professor Stephen Hinds** presented a number of papers this year, at Columbia, Leeds, Stanford, Princeton and, most recently, participated in the Carver Conference on "Perspectives on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*" in Cambridge. He is currently acting Chair of the Department.

**Professor Merle Langdon**, while on sabbatical in Athens, discovered ninety-one archaic inscriptions. He just presented, with Aleydis Van de Moortel, a paper on some of these inscriptions ("Newly Discovered Greek Boat Engravings from Attica") at the Eighth International Symposium on Boat and Ship Archaeology in Gdansk.

## EMERITI

The three emeritus members of the Department continue to be active in various ways. **Pierre MacKay** taught both for us and for Near East and ran a very helpful Greek sight reading group. **John McDiarmid** composed several sections of his much-awaited history of the Department, and **Paul Pascal** gave several professional and public talks, including "Latin in China" and "Modern Latin Inscriptions in Rome."

## TEACHING AWARD

This is not a repeat of an item from last year's Newsletter. For the second year in a row, a member of our Department won a University teaching award. This year, **Brady Mechley** was one of only two Teaching Assistants in the entire University selected to receive an Excellence in Teaching Award. Brady has been superb in all his teaching assignments over the years, in everything from beginning Latin to the epic tradition. His rigor, wit, and caring mark all his teaching. Brady joins **Professor James Clauss** and **Professor Emeritus Paul Pascal** as recent Departmental winners of this prestigious award.

## JOY CONNOLLY JOINS FACULTY

We are delighted to welcome to our faculty **Joy Connolly**. Joy received her undergraduate degree at Princeton and her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Her recently completed dissertation is entitled "Vile Eloquence: The Presence of Woman in Greco-Roman Rhetoric." She will bring to the department special interests in ancient rhetoric, feminist theory and imperial literature, and no small supply of energy.

## DEGREES

**Lorina Quartarone** completed her dissertation ("*Locus Ambiguus: from Otium to Labor in Vergil's Eclogues and Georgics*;" James Clauss supervisor) in the Autumn. She continues to teach in the Classics Department at Whitman College.

M.A. degrees were awarded to **Laurel Cropp** ("The Manuscripts of Tacitus' *Dialogus* and their Renaissance Exemplars;" Alain Gowing supervisor) and **Priscilla Rodgers** ("The Entry of the Chorus in the Prologue of the *Eumenides*;" Michael Halleran supervisor).

An even (baker's) dozen students received their B.A. degrees: **Augusto Alcantara** (Classical Studies, Latin, and History), **Ian Birk** (Classics), **Brian Buckley** (Classical Studies), **Melissa Campbell** (Classical Studies), **Nicole Ewing** (Classical Studies), **Madeleine Gogh** (Classics and CHID), **Lita Gratrix** (Classical Studies and Anthropology), **David Hartwig** (Latin, Classical Studies Minor), **Jennifer Herivel** (Classics), **Melissa Haynes** (Latin and History), **Amy Tillery** (Classical Studies and Latin), **Daniel Weller** (Classical Studies), **Linda Wright** (Latin). Congratulations to all our graduates!< p> **ALUMNI**

Two alumni recently received significant accolades. **Nora MacDonald** (M.A. 1986) visited Stanford's School of Engineering to celebrate the success of one of her former students. Elizabeth Nelson, a former Latin student at Roosevelt High School, in being recognized for her academic achievement was asked to invite one pre-college teacher who had been influential in the formative stages of her academic career. **Daniel Taylor** (Ph.D. 1970; currently chair of Classics at Lawrence University) spent the past year as an NEH Fellow working on "F: The Biography of a Book," a study of Varro's *De Lingua Latina*.

Alumni, we love to hear from you!

### **MEG GREENFIELD VISIT**

The University recognized **Meg Greenfield's** many journalistic accomplishments by inviting her to be this year's Commencement speaker. The speech was splendid. While in town, Miss Greenfield was also able to have a delightful lunch with five recent Jim Greenfield Scholars. She also donated her speaker's honorarium to the Department. Once again, it is a pleasure to thank Meg for her enormous generosity and interest in our students.

### **JIM GREENFIELD SCHOLARS**

The excellence of our students is something we could almost take for granted, but the annual process of selecting the Jim Greenfield Scholars reminds us of how good they are. This year three were selected as Jim Greenfield Scholars, all of whom are interested in graduate study in Classics. **John T. Glover II** has majors in Latin and History and a minor in Classical studies. **Aislinn Melchior**, a winner also two years ago, is finishing up her degrees in Classics and English. **Ozren Soldo**, a native of Croatia, is studying both Greek and Latin.

### **DENSMORE SCHOLARSHIP**

Congratulations to graduating senior **Ian Birk** and continuing senior **Tristan Goldman**. Both were awarded Densmore Scholarships, given to seniors who have excelled in their study of Greek and intend to go to graduate school.

### **MELLON TO GOGH**

**Mimi Gogh**, who just completed her double major in Classics and the Comparative History of Ideas, was awarded a Mellon Fellowship for her graduate studies, in Classics at Harvard. Mimi wrote her senior essay on "Memory and Empire: Cicero in Imperial Narratives."

### **ALVORD FELLOWSHIP**

For the second consecutive year, one of our graduate students won the Alvord Award in the Humanities, the College's highest graduate award in the Humanities. **Brady Mechley**, a few weeks after winning the Excellence in Teaching Award, learned that he had won the Alvord to complete his dissertation on "Reading

(with) the Animals: Lucretius' Creatures and his Poetic Program," directed, appropriately enough, by both Mary Whitlock Blundell and Stephen Hinds. **David Rohrbacher**, last year's winner, is now putting the finishing touches on his dissertation on Ammianus and is teaching at the University of Puget Sound this year.

## CLASSICS IN ROME

**Dan Harmon** and **Jim Clauss** shared the teaching of the Department's eleventh annual Classical Seminar in Rome. The subject was "The Rome of Julius Caesar," with special attention paid to the concept of *Divus Julius*. In addition to visiting the major sites in the city, the class made trips to Paestum, Cumae, Pompeii, Naples, Tivoli, Horace's Sabine Farm, and the Alban Hills.

## SPEAKERS

Most of those who visited us this year were the result of happy collaboration with our colleagues in Art History, History, and Philosophy, and our friends in the local AIA. The Autumn began with **Alan Cameron** (Columbia) giving several talks, including one on "Callimachus and His Critics Revisited." **James Packer** (Northwestern) gave us a preview of his magisterial study of Trajan's forum with his talk "How to Restore a Forum." **Kurt Raaflaub** (Brown and Center for Hellenic Studies) spoke on "Interstate Relations among Early Greek *Poleis*: Homer and Beyond" and "Soldiers, Citizens, and the Evolution of the Early Greek *Polis*." The William C. Grummel Memorial Lecture was delivered by **Susan Treggiari** (Stanford), who spoke on "The Walls are Witnesses: The Upper-Class House as Symbol and Focus of Emotion in Cicero." Professor Treggiari also gave a seminar on "Caught in the Act: How to Prove Adultery." In Winter Quarter, **David Reeve** (Reed College) spoke on "Aristotelian Education." Spring Quarter also had a philosophical flavor as both **Allan Silverman** (Ohio State) and **Stephen White** (Texas) gave talks--on "Plato's *Metaphysics*: From Two Worlds to Two Theories" and "*Principes Sapientiae*: the First Biography of Philosophy" respectively. Our last speaker of the year was **Carolyn Dewald** (Southern California), a Seattle native and graduate of Roosevelt High School. In attendance at her talk on "Herodotus and the (Re)construction of History" were many current Latin students (and maybe future Classicists) from Roosevelt. The Department also enjoyed talks by several scholars who came to Seattle sponsored by College- and University-wide lectureships. Among those on campus this year were: **Paul Zanker** (Munich), **Ernst Badian** (Harvard), and **Peter Brown** (Princeton). Thanks again to all these speakers.

## 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!

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## DONORS 1996-1997

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