

# CLASSICAL NEWS FROM DENNY HALL

Volume 34 -- Winter 1999

## FROM THE CHAIR

This bulletin arrives some months later than usual not because we have been slow to write up our *res gestae* but because we have been doing little else all year. The Department is immersed in a once-per-decade review of all its operations. We have produced a self-study of 80 pages, with a further 150 pages of supporting data. These pages tell an upbeat story. Since 1990 our faculty has grown from nine to twelve. With almost 60 majors (35 of them in language-heavy tracks), we have one of the most flourishing undergraduate programs in Classics in the country. In these same years the graduate program has experienced a surge in national visibility.

The one discordant note amid all this optimism comes from the overall budget picture at UW. The message both from our own university administration and from Olympia is very clear: public funding has eroded in real terms, and will not suffice to pay for all the resources which students and faculty alike demand of a major university. As the new millennium begins we shall value more than ever the support of our alumni and friends, both moral and financial.

Well-wired readers may be interested to dial up our Department website:

<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~dmachle/classics/classics.html>

**Stephen Hinds**

## FACULTY NOTES

**Professor Lawrence Bliquez** is President of the Society for Ancient Medicine. This past year, he was honored with one of the university's Distinguished Teaching Awards: see below.

**Professor Ruby Blondell** continued to work on Plato's use of dramatic characterization; her research was funded in part by an NEH Summer Stipend. She published as co-author *Women on the Edge: Four Plays of Euripides*, with Routledge. Bibliographers take note: Blondell is the author formerly known as Mary Whitlock Blundell. Ruby serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the APA's Women's Classical Caucus.

**Professor James Clauss** once again led a highly successful trip to Rome, organized through the university's Equal Opportunity Program; he serves nationally as chair of APA Committee on Minority Scholarships. Last summer, Jim presented a paper at the Hellenistic Colloquium on Apollonius in Groningen.

**Professor Sheila Colwell** has been increasing our Department's collaborative links with the Near Eastern Department; she also participated in a seminar run under the auspices of the college's new Textual Studies program.

**Professor Joy Connolly** published an article on constructions of identity in Roman oratory, in the Routledge collection *Women and Slaves in Greco-Roman Culture*, edd. Sandra Joshel and Sheila Murnaghan. Her review of Hanson and Heath's *Who Killed Homer?* created quite a buzz in the electronic *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*. In Spring 1998 Joy co-organized the conference *Censorship in Europe* for UW's Center for

West European Studies.

**Professor Catherine Connors** published *Petronius the Poet: Verse and Literary Tradition in the Satyricon*, with Cambridge. She gave a paper at an international workshop on Statius in Dublin last spring, as also did **Stephen Hinds**. Last summer Catherine served as a consultant for a projected production of Sophocles' *Philoctetes* by the Other Voices Project on theater and disability at the Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles.

**Professor Alain Gowing**, developing his work on historical memory in imperial literature and culture, presented a paper on Tacitus at the interdisciplinary conference *History, Memory, Evidence* at New York University last spring; one of the NYU faculty organizers of this event was our own recent PhD alumna **Holly Haynes**. Alain is currently President of the Seattle chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America.

**Professor Michael Halleran** is in his second year as the college's Divisional Dean of Arts and Humanities. One of his tasks has been to oversee the dramatic expansion, made possible by a major donation, of the university's Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities. The enhancement of this resource has already been good news for Classics: several members of the Department have won research or teaching fellowships there.

**Professor Daniel Harmon** continues as Co-Director of the university's Rome Center in Palazzo Pio. His article on 'Feriae' has just appeared in Volume IV of *Der Neue Pauly*.

**Professor Stephen Hinds** published *Allusion and Intertext: Dynamics of Appropriation in Roman Poetry* in the Cambridge series which he co-edits, 'Roman Literature and its Contexts.' He also co-edited a transatlantic collaboration for the Pisan journal *Materiali e Discussioni*, combining in one volume the proceedings of our own recent colloquium on allusion (1995 Newsletter) with a 1995 Oxford colloquium on intertextuality; other UW contributors were **Jim Clauss** and **Michael Halleran**.

**Professor Merle Langdon** has been elected to the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Professorship of Classical Studies at the American School in Athens for 1999-2002. This extended visiting appointment is an archaeologist's dream, bringing unparalleled opportunities for teaching and research in the field.

## EMERITI

**Professors John McDiarmid, Paul Pascal** and **Pierre MacKay** are all active. Pierre continues to teach for Classics and Near East on the '40% option'; this spring Paul will offer his trademark medieval Latin course.

## SUSAN LAPE JOINS FACULTY

In autumn 1998 we welcomed **Professor Susan Lape** in a tenure-track position. Susan received her BA at Bryn Mawr and her PhD at Princeton (1998 dissertation *Menandrian Comedy and Athenian Democracy in Early Hellenistic Athens*). She brings to the Department interests in political theory, Hellenistic history, drama and cultural studies.

## TEACHING AWARD

For a remarkable third year in a row, a member of the Department won one of the university's Distinguished Teaching Awards. **Larry Bliquez** joins **Brady Mechley** (TA winner in 1997) and **Jim Clauss** (1996) on the roll of honor, as also past winner **Paul Pascal**.

## DEGREES

Two graduate students received their PhDs in Classics in 1997-98: **David Rohrbacher** ("Ammianus Marcellinus and the Imperial Bureaucracy;" Alain Gowing supervisor) and **Braden Mechley** ("Reading (with) the Animals: Lucretius' Creatures and his Poetic Program;" Ruby Blondell and Stephen Hinds supervisors). David is teaching this year at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Brady at Davidson College. **Daniel Curley**, who expects to defend his dissertation in Spring 1999, has begun a three-year position at Skidmore College.

Four students took their MA degrees in 1997-98: **Joel Albritton**, **Spencer Cole**, **Patrick Myers** and **Christopher Read**.

It was a bumper year for BAs, with 20 students graduating: **April Bauer** (Latin and Classical Studies), **William Bubelis** (Greek and English, Latin Minor), **Juliet Crawford** (Classics and English), **Michael Furtado** (Classical Studies), **John Glover** (Latin and History, Classical Studies Minor), **Tristan Goldman** (Classics), **Jennifer Herivel** (Classics and Biochemistry), **Jason Horn** (Greek and Sociology), **Jennifer Judge** (Latin), **Kyung Ju Kim** (Classical Studies and Cell and Molecular Biology), **Joseph Klomparens** (Classics), **Camden Malane** (Latin), **Leah Manson** (Classical Studies), **Laura Matz** (Classical Studies and History), **Aislinn Melchior** (Classics and English), **Amanda Powter** (Classics), **Patricia Shaw** (Latin and General Studies, Greek Minor), **Ozren Soldo** (Classics), **Christy Stocker** (Classics and Visual Arts), **David Vondamm** (Classical Studies and Economics)

## ALUMNI

**Mary Ann Burrill** (Latin BA 1972) was awarded the UW Law School 1998 Alumni Service Recognition Award. **Eva von Dassow** (Classics BA 1981, MA 1982), an alumna of UW's Early Entrance Program, recently received her PhD from NYU in Bible and Near Eastern Studies. The Rev'd **James B. Comber** (Classical Studies BA 1976) has received his PhD in theology. Alumni, we love to hear your news!

## JIM GREENFIELD SCHOLARS

Jim Greenfield Scholarships are made possible through the sustained generosity of Meg Greenfield, editorial page editor of the *Washington Post*. In 1998, scholarships were awarded to four of our most distinguished undergraduate majors: **Sejal Desai**, **Amy Harper**, **Joel Kalvesmaki** and **Ian Logan**.

## MELLON TO MELCHIOR

**Aislinn Melchior**, who in 1998 completed a double major in Classics and in English, won a Mellon Fellowship for her graduate studies in Classics at Penn; she is the third Department major to win a Mellon in recent years, following in the footsteps of **Madeleina Gogh** (1997) and **Dylan Sailor** (1995). Aislinn, a past Jim Greenfield winner, also received the Dean's award for the outstanding graduating student in the Humanities.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM NOTES

Long before NAFTA, we had strong cross-border links with departments of Classics in the Canadian west. Accordingly, it is a pleasure to record that in 1998 two Canadian students in our PhD program, **Pauline Ripat** and **Brad Levett**, won highly competitive multi-year fellowships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Two current graduates published articles in 1997-98: **Dan Curley**, on Ovid, in *Classical Quarterly*, and **Cilla Rodgers**, on Aristophanes, in *Classical Philology*; Cilla's co-author was **Larry Bliquez**. **Owen Ewald** won one of the first round of graduate dissertation fellowships awarded by UW's expanded Humanities Center.

## **A DECADE IN DENNY**

In March 1998, **Douglas Machle** completed ten years as the Department's administrator, undergraduate adviser, and graduate program assistant. We would all be lost without the professionalism and fine sense of collegiality which Doug brings to every aspect of the Department's increasingly complex operations.

## **CLASSICS IN ROME**

Last spring **Alain Gowing** led 12 students in the twelfth annual Classical Seminar in Rome, at UW's facility in Palazzo Pio. On offer were the usual intensive hands-on study of Roman topography and the seminar '*Urbs scripta*: Rome in Latin Literature.' One of the most memorable moments in this year's Seminar came on April 21, Rome's birthday, when the group arose at the crack of dawn to be among a small set of people allowed a first glimpse of the stunning new fresco found beneath the Baths of Trajan on the Colle Oppio.

## **SPEAKERS**

1997-98 was a busy year for visiting speakers. We welcomed in autumn quarter David Potter (Michigan), Sarah Morris (UCLA) and John Kirby (Purdue); Sarah also gave the annual Ridgway Lecture for the Seattle AIA. Winter quarter brought Thomas Schmitz (Kiel) and Joseph Farrell (Penn), followed in spring by Stephen Heyworth (Wadham, Oxford), Mary-Kay Gamel (UC Santa Cruz), Vasily Rudich (Yale), Ann Hanson (Michigan) and Ralph Hexter (UC Berkeley). We also co-sponsored visits by Carlin Barton (U. Mass. Amherst) to the Department of History, and by Athanasios Kalpaxis (Crete) to Art History. Speakers at our informal lunchtime colloquia included Alain Gowing and Christopher Read (both UW Classics) and Michael Williams (UW Near East).

## **K-12 CONTACTS**

In February 1998, our annual Conference on Teaching Classics in the Schools featured talks by **Merle Langdon** on his recent inscriptional finds in Attica and by **Scott Noegel** (UW Near East) on (yes) the ancient Near East. **Jim Clauss**, **Sheila Colwell** and **Catherine Connors** participated in UW's inaugural World Languages Day for high school students.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Friends and alumni can make a real difference by contributing to one of five funds which reach where state dollars cannot reach, helping us to foster a sense of intellectual and collegial community in the Department:

### **\*Friends of Classics**

### **\*Classics Endowment Fund**

These are the funds which enable us to buy books and journals for our seminar room collection, to bring visitors to campus, to organize occasional conferences, to mark key events (including graduation) with modest receptions -- and to give the necessary boost when other kinds of funding fall short for our students and faculty. Donations to 'Friends' give us important short-term flexibility; donations to 'Endowment' help us to build up the capital which can yield a steady source of income for long-term growth.

**\*Classics in Rome Fund** allows us to add enhancements to our annual seminar in Rome, a truly formative experience for many of our undergraduate majors.

**\*Densmore Fund** pays for scholarships to reward distinguished undergraduate students of Greek.

**\*Classics Fellowship Fund**, our newest fund, subsidizes occasional research expenses of graduate students, especially travel. As it grows, we hope that this fund will help us to address graduate fellowship support, one of our most acute needs.

Contributions designated for any of these funds, and/or simply made out to 'University of Washington,' can be mailed to the Department. Every donation makes a difference. The Department will increasingly in the years ahead have to compete for its share of funds raised centrally by the college and university; and one of the ways in which we can best argue our claim to central funding is by showing our own Departmental donors to be strong in number, irrespective of how large or small each donation may be.

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