Letter from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends of UVA Classics,

Greetings from the UVA! In the Classics Department we are enjoying a busy and productive semester. The faculty has been joined by the new Basil L. Gildersleeve Professor of Classics, Professor Anthony Corbeill, after his year in England, at Oxford University and at the Institute of Classical Studies in London. He just delivered an excellent inaugural talk on Cicero. We have also welcomed Giulio Celotto, joining us as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Our enrollments in our undergraduate courses again are very strong and we are encouraged by continued student interest. We are very grateful for the continued engagement of our friends and alumni/ae, who support our guest speakers and lecture series, student travel abroad, and the Constantine Library. The year has seen many distinguished guest speakers come to the department.

The University-funded Humanities Lab, “Dissecting Cultural Pluralism: Religion and Society in the Ancient and Medieval Mediterranean,” co-organized by Professors John Miller and Andrej Petrovic, along with Janet Spittler from Religious Studies, has created truly unique opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and discussion. The laboratory is organized around the overarching theme of ancient and medieval Mediterranean religious pluralism, focusing on topics of cultural inclusivity and cultural translation, in order to identify and follow trajectories of cultural, religious and political pluralism across related religions and societies. We have also had a number of talks by eminent scholars, including Antony Augoustakis of the University of Illinois, who delivered the annual Stocker Lecture. One of the highlights for me was this year’s ‘Friends of Classics’ lecture, which featured the Pulitzer Prize-winning literary journalist Michael Dirda of the Washington Post, a personal hero, who gave a terrific talk to a large audience on how late 19th-century and early modern fantasy writers turned to the ancient Greek god Pan to explore the place of nature, sex, personal freedom and ecstasy in human lives. In March we hosted an interdisciplinary conference entitled “Gendering the Garden,” which brought together faculty from many departments and included a talk by yours truly on gardens in Roman literature. We host a series of informal lunch talks on most Tuesdays, with speakers drawn from Classics faculty and graduate students as well as from other departments. We look forward to further talks and conferences this Spring. As usual, the UVA Classics faculty have been busy giving talks all over the globe (to name a few, Texas, Oxford, Paris, Rome, Brazil, Crete).

We continue to have strong enrollments in the ancient languages, as we develop simultaneously courses of broader general interest, such as those dealing with ancient medicine, ancient leadership, religion, and gender. Our majors say that they appreciate the small classes, close contact with the faculty and the latter’s passion for their subject and care for their students.
Letter from the Chair Continued

Last Spring we graduated a class of thirteen Undergraduate Majors, many of whom were double majors (Economics, Philosophy, Computer Science, Religion), a strong recent trend. The final exercises were on the very muddy, but always beautiful, Lawn, but the diploma ceremony was moved inside. We hope our graduates will stay in touch. One of our majors, Katie Mikos, has begun graduate study in Classics at the University of Michigan. Another graduate, Ashley Mehra, received a Buckley Scholarship from the Classics Faculty at Cambridge for the MPhil.

We had three Classics PhD graduates and one MA graduate. I am the faculty advisor for our newly established chapter of the Classics Honor society, Eta Sigma Phi, and over 20 Classics majors have already been inducted into the Society in a ceremony in the garden of Pavilion IX, followed by a lovely reception. Three students completed their PhD’s (Sarah Teets, Sarah Herbert, and Megan Bowen) and four MA’s were awarded. Our graduate students gave many talks and conferences and organized their yearly graduate conference.

As part of our effort to keep Classics alive and relevant to the larger community, we engage in various Outreach activities every year. Through the Classics Project of the Virginia Center for the Liberal Arts, Department faculty offer classical programs for continuing education for high school teachers. The Department hosted the fall meeting of the Classical Association of Virginia for all secondary school teachers and the Undergraduate Classics Club hosts a yearly Classics Day for all local Middle and High schools.

I hope you will enjoy reading further about the activities and achievements of our faculty and students in this newsletter. We always encourage you to write and share your news with us. I would like to thank you, our alumni/ae and friends, for generously supporting the Classics Department with financial gifts, especially now during the University’s Bicentennial celebration. These gifts help to ensure the future health of the department and our ability to enhance the educational experience for Classics majors and graduate students in ways ranging from Study Abroad to visiting lectures and conferences to the Constantine Library, which remains the heart and soul of the Department.

With best wishes,
Sara Myers, Chair

News of the Graduate Students

Three students received their PhD degree last year: Sarah Teets, Sarah Herbert, and Megan Bowen. Sarah Teets won a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at UVA. Four students received their MA degrees: Holly Maggiore, Christine Boltsi, Sidney Christman and Catherine Daun. In April, the Classics Graduate Student Association organized its twenty-second annual colloquium. The topic was “Corpora Mutata: Modifications and Transformations of the Body in Classical Antiquity,” and the keynote speaker was Brooke Holmes from Princeton University. The colloquium was very successful and well attended.

Several graduate students presented papers at scholarly meetings: Megan Bowen at the SCS convention in Boston; at CAMWS in Albuquerque nine current graduate students presented a paper (Megan Bowen, Kevin Scahill, Sarah Teets, Holly Maggiore, Sarah Herbert, Tim Brannelly, Sidney Christman, Nina Raby, Rebecca Frank). William Stover, who entered the program this Fall, also presented a paper. Brett Evans gave a talk “Playing the Pipes of Pan: The Song of ps-Theocritus’ Syrinx and its Relationship to Theocritus’ Idylls,” at the Hellenistic Literature and Culture workshop organized at UVA in October 2018. Stephen Hill presented a paper entitled “Applying Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) to Ancient Language Pedagogy” at the conference “Transmitting a Heritage: The Teaching of Ancient Languages from Antiquity to the 21st Century,” at the Polis Institute in Jerusalem in April. Rebecca Frank presented a paper “Alexander son of Ammon in an Alexandrian Inscription” at an international conference, “The Courts of Philip II and Alexander the Great: Monarchy and Power in Ancient Macedonia,” in Edmonton, Alberta in May. Rebecca also excavated for her fourth summer season at Cosa. Jovan Cvjetićanin presented a paper about the Homeric Hymn to Dionysus at the 4th regional GLAS student conference in Skopje, Macedonia in August. Jovan
also had the opportunity to visit the newly opened archaeological museum and experience the somewhat controversial monuments and architecture of Skopje.

Sam Crusemire spent several weeks in Berlin, Germany, honing his German language skills. Brett Evans won the Summer Research Grant from the UVA Society of Fellows for his first travel to Greece, where he spent three weeks. After a week driving solo to sites around the Peloponnese, he stayed in Athens with fellow graduate student Christine Boltsi and her family for several days. He and Christine then traveled north to Thessaloniki and the Macedonian sites.

Joseph Zehner and Matt Pincus won Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowships for 2018–19. This Fall we welcomed incoming students Michael Fons, Christopher Mowers, Alison Newman and William Stover.

From the Undergraduate Director

The rhythms of the academic year bring both stability and change. We said farewell to a baker's dozen of majors last December and May, but enrollments remain healthy and a steady stream of students have been trooping through my office in recent weeks to declare a major or minor in Classics. Our 2017/18 faculty visitors, Barbara Blythe and Celia Campbell, are much missed by their students (and by us!), but we're glad to have Daniel Moore returning, and to welcome Giulio Celotto. We're also delighted to have our new Gildersleeve Professor, Tony Corbeill, in place. Tony has gamely taken on first-year Latin in his own first year, and our majors are looking forward to his third-year course on Caesar in the spring. As this issue goes to press, students will be sitting for the CAMWS Latin translation exam, and we'll be getting ready to award Lazenby travel scholarships to one or more applicants.

One of my preoccupations over the past twelve months has been overseeing the creation of a new Latin placement exam, now administered online. (No more early morning testing at summer orientation sessions!) This should also help us accommodate students who arrive intent on taking another language but subsequently find they want to go back to Latin. In the longer term we would like to introduce an off-cycle first-year class, so that students can begin Latin in the spring semester as well as in the fall.

As recent graduates know, the University is in the process of experimenting with a New Curriculum—indeed, with several new curricula—side by side with the old general education and area requirements. All of these involve elaborate new terminology, so it's been a challenge for advisors to try to make sense of all the Forums, Literacies, Engagements, Pillars, Experiences .... The jury is still out on the success of these initiatives, and we're still trying to determine how Classics will fit into them.Whatever the end result, we're confident there will still be room at the University for the ancient languages, and students who want to learn them.
Two trends I’ve noticed in talking to students: an increasing number of our majors are interested in studying abroad, and an increasing number are double-majoring in Classics and something else. The reasons are not far to seek in either case: for the former, a constant drumbeat from the University’s administration and International Studies Office, for the latter a precarious economy in which students (and their parents) look for a “useful” major to pair with a “fun” one. (I’ll let you decide which one Classics is.) There’s a lot to be said in favor of both trends, but I do find myself noticing how cramped our students’ schedules are becoming, and how much less room they have to explore. As I think back on my own college career I find that many of the courses I’m most grateful for in retrospect were the random ones quite unconnected to my major: Introduction to Film Studies with David Rodowick, Bob Herbert’s lectures on French impressionism, Leslie Brisman on Victorian poetry. There’s no arguing with reality (it is what it is, as the students say), but as they work to accumulate credentials, here and abroad, I worry that our students are losing something worth having. The German classicist Ulrich von Wilamowitz used to say that the greatest pleasure in life is lesen ohne Zweck—“to read without a purpose.” There’s something to that, I think.

Gregory Hays

Classics Club

The Classics Club has a full executive board this year! Our executive board is as follows:
President - Apollo Yong
Vice President - Sarah Simmons
Secretary - Savhanna Long
Treasurer/ASC Representative - Jane Nguyen
Social Chair - Marika Gutzman
Certamen Chair/Classics Day Chair - James Wilusz & Wyatt Joyner
Historian - Parker DiPaolo
Webmaster - Ethan Honeycutt

So far this year, the Classics Club has bonded over dinner at Got Dumplings, celebrated Homer’s birthday with karaoke, held our annual kickball tournament with the grad students (and maintained our victory streak!).

We have also created mosaics and wax tablets as part of our Classical Art Night, and celebrated Thanksgiving with a potluck and watching movies. Furthermore, the UVA Classics Club held a major presence at the VJCL Convention in Richmond this year. UVA students Wyatt Joyner and James Wilusz served as VJCL President and Parliamentarian this year, respectively. James Wilusz was elected as the next President and first-year Neah Lekan was elected as the next Parliamentarian. We are planning many more fun events in the future! Upcoming is our annual celebration of Saturnalia on Friday, December 7th, where we will have a White Elephant gift exchange. We are also currently underway with preparing for Classics Day. Please contact Classics Day Chairs Wyatt Joyner (wcj3te) or James Wilusz (jpw5yf) for more information.

A Message from the Ancient Historians

Good Fortune! In the fifth chairmanship of Sara Myers, Kevin, son of Brian, of the county Albemarle, proposed the following.

“We ancient historians, Joshua Mackay, Hank Lanphier, and Kevin Woram, give our thanks to the Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students of the Classics Department. Having welcomed us, humble metics though we are, the people of Cocke Hall have been great benefactors by allowing us to use the Mouseion of Constantinius, the bouleutarion (meeting room) and the Offices of Teaching Assistance. May our friendship continue, forever and ever.”

A memorial of our gratitude will be written up by the Scribe Shelly as a blurb in the coming newsletter.

Ancient Historian Grad Students: Kevin Woram, Hank Lanphier, and Joshua Mackay.
**Giulio Celotto:** I am thrilled to have joined the Department of Classics at UVA this Fall. After teaching one year at Concordia College in cold (but welcoming) Moorhead, MN, it feels good to be back “home” in the South. This semester I am enjoying teaching an Intensive Elementary Latin course, and an advanced course on Pliny the Younger, which is giving me the opportunity to deeply engage with an author that I had guiltily neglected in the past. Next Spring I am very excited to offer an Intermediate Latin course, and two advanced courses on Lucretius and Juvenal. 2018 has been a productive year for me. At the SCS Annual Meeting in Boston this past January I organized a panel on Lucan’s *Bellum Civile* which, in spite of the blizzard, brought together scholars from the US, the UK, and Australia. In April I was pleased to visit New Mexico for the first time on the occasion of the CAMWS Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, where I presented a paper on Empedoclean echoes in Lucan. A few weeks ago I was invited to give a talk on Lucan's Cato at the Seminari Lucanei I, organized by the Department of Classics at the University of Salerno to commemorate Emanuele Narducci, one of the scholars that have most influenced my research. I published two papers this year: an article in *Latomus* on the influence of Ovid’s Orpheus-episode in *Metamorphoses* 10-11 on Lucan’s Erichtho-episode in *Bellum Civile* 6, and a chapter in *Brill’s Companion to the Reception of Alexander the Great* on the paradigmatic function of Alexander in Seneca and Lucan. Furthermore, my article on Juvenal’s and Dante’s rewriting of Vergil’s “pageant of heroes” in light of Lucan’s malicious reading of *Aeneid* 6 was recently accepted for publication in *Illinois Classical Studies*. I also look forward to seeing in print a chapter I wrote on Lucan’s reversal of the elegiac motif of *militia amoris* for the Proceedings of the 2017 Symposium Cumanum. I am currently working on my book project, tentatively entitled *‘Si Tantus Amor Belli Tibi, Roma, Nefandi’. Love and Strife in Lucan’s ‘Bellum Civile.*’

**Sarah Herbert:** I am excited to be teaching again after finishing my PhD at UVA last year, and I’m especially looking forward to collaborating with other members of the General Faculty on the second-year Latin program. This fall I’ve been putting the finishing touches on an article on Herodotus’ story of Croesus and Solon and sitting in on John Dillery’s *Anabasis* class; in the spring I’ll be combining my teaching with a book proposal and work on more Xenophontic material. And, of course, doing some service-puppy snuggling when the opportunity arises.

**Daniel Moore:** This has been an eventful year. Jocelyn and I welcomed a baby girl, Lucia June, to our family this summer! This wonderful addition came right at the start of the Latin SLI, which I directed this year, resulting in an intense but rewarding summer. The program attracted students from as far away as Connecticut and Oregon with an amazing array of interests. I am nearing completion of my book manuscript titled *Polybius: Experience and the Lessons of History*, under contract with Brill. I have been excited to continue teaching Latin and to develop new courses such as “The Scepter and the Podium: Lessons in Leadership from the Ancient World.” This class featured a particularly enthusiastic group of students who explored important questions of evaluating leadership as well as opportunities to practice leadership themselves in the classroom. (Thank you to Jenny Clay for her fascinating guest-lecture on “Zeus the Godfather!”) I am looking forward to teaching classes in the spring on “Ancient Medicine” and “Livy and the Foundations of Rome,” which will compare a number of versions of Roman foundation myths in Latin poetry to those preserved by Livy.
Anthony Corbeill. I am as honored to be joining the UVA Classics Department as I am intimidated to be doing so in the role of Basil L. Gildersleeve Professor, in the wake of two eminent Latinists, Ted Courtney and Tony Woodman. My wife, Jocelyn Kitchen, and I arrived in Charlottesville this past August after nearly three decades in Lawrence, Kansas, where I taught in the Classics Department at KU. That is where I sit in the photo, reading Horace's *Odes* in preparation for a series of notes that I wrote to accompany the recent translation of my KU colleague Stanley Lombardo (Hackett 2018). My past research has focused on various aspects of Roman cultural history--political humor, gesture, studies of sex and gender (including grammatical gender!). During the academic year 2017/2018, however, I returned to the subject of my dissertation, the orator and statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero. For that year the Department generously honored a series of fellowships that I had received to work at the Universities of Oxford and London on a new project: a philological commentary that I am co-writing with Andrew Rigsby (UT, Austin) on Cicero's speech *De haruspicium responsis* (“On the Responses of the Etruscan Priests”). I was able to make substantial progress, and am extraordinarily fortunate to be able to subject some of my results to the critical scrutiny of a fine bunch of graduate students in a “Cicero and Roman Religion” seminar this fall. I am also happily engaged in teaching first-year Latin, where I’ve gotten my first taste of the intellect and enthusiasm of UVA undergraduates. Now if I can only convince them to acknowledge that the so-called “amphitheater” outside my office window is in fact a theater.

John Dillery. In October of 2018 I participated in a conference on Xenophon’s *Anabasis* at Heraklion, Crete. Great fun. I am convinced that the comradeship of Xenophon’s 10,000 has spilled over to the scholars who work on this text. As it happens, I am also teaching the *Anabasis* at both the undergraduate and graduate levels this term: it is great fun and I am learning a lot. Papers on Herodotus Book 2, the Past and the Present in Herodotus and Xenophon, and on the concept of wonder in Xenophon and Isocrates appeared this year. Next term I get to teach undergraduates Homer, something I have not done in a very long time and which I am very much looking forward to.

Coulter George. This year I’m teaching beginning Greek for the first time at UVA, and I’m having a wonderful time with it: I may not have the GREE 101 license plate, but -MI VERB will, I hope, be a worthy successor. I’m fortunate in having outstanding students in both it and my Celtic course, which I’m teaching again this fall. Then, in the spring, I’ll be offering my first Greek prose composition course here. Research progresses steadily: the manuscript of my general-audience book on the idiosyncrasies of different ancient languages is now complete and under consideration with an interested press, which has freed up more time to work on my Greek prose style project. I was able to present a snapshot of some of the relevant material at one of the highlights of the past year, a trip in March to Washington University in St. Louis, where I gave a talk, “The ‘naughty boy of Attic syntax’? Xenophon and Greek prose style” (the title quotes none other than Basil L. Gildersleeve). Zoe Stamatopoulou was an excellent host, and it was a great pleasure to get to know a department with so many personal ties to UVA.

Greg Hays. My teaching schedule this year has brought some novelties. After five or six years of offering my first-year seminar on Edgar Allan Poe I decided to take a break and teach Umberto Eco’s *The Name of the Rose* instead. Then a last-minute switch left me teaching Horace’s *Odes* alongside my regular course on medieval Latin. Advising, serving as Director of Undergraduate Study, and overseeing the Constantine Library all take their share of time. What’s left has mostly gone to a project tracing the origins and growth of the University’s medieval manuscript collection, a long-standing interest of mine. Some non-classical books I’ve enjoyed this year are J.G. Ballard’s *The Drowned World*, William Sloane’s *The Rim of Morning*, and Patrick Leigh-Fermor’s *The Violins of Saint Jacques*. Also Sarah Kendzior’s *The View from Flyover Country*, an island of clear-sightedness and decency in the age of Trump.

John Miller. It’s an exciting time in the Department with the arrival of more new faculty, this year Tony Corbeill as Gildersleeve Professor and Giulio Celotto as a three-year Assistant Professor. Amid all the renewal I am suddenly our elder statesman. Last year four of my publications were in volumes celebrating the careers of retired or deceased colleagues, and four close family members passed away within 18 months, so there’s been a lot to digest. On the cheerier side, since my last report I enjoyed teaching a seminar on Ovid’s late elegies and the big lecture course in Mythology and participating in our new dissertation prospectus seminar; I helped students complete major projects, Jaclyn Lund with her Distinguished Major thesis and Megan Bowen with her dissertation—both on Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*; I traveled to Huelva, Spain and to Rome for conferences celebrating the bimillennium of Ovid’s death, and was at Boston for the SCS in January’s blizzard, CAMWS in
Albuquerque, and the Governor’s Latin Academy and VJCL in Richmond. In June I was in Rostock, Germany as external examiner of the Habilitationsschrift of Anke Walter, who had previously spent a fellowship year at UVA. In August Mary and I accompanied a group of UVA alumni and parents on a tour to Ireland sponsored by Cavalier Travels. While on leave this semester, I will spend some weeks working in Rome where I will also give a couple of talks. As I write this, I’m just back from Washington for the second year of our collaboration with Howard University on workshops for K-12 teachers. As the departmental Director of Graduate Studies for the past two years, I got to appreciate even more than usual the work and achievements of all our graduate students. It is a pleasure to co-direct UVA’s Mellon Lab in Dissecting Cultural Pluralism: Religion and Society in Antiquity and the Middle Ages, which had a terrific first year bringing together students and colleagues from several departments for a full program of activities and supporting many individual projects. One of the visiting speakers was UVA alumna Sarah Bond, now at the University of Iowa. In selecting the Lab’s theme we had in mind a stimulating topic that might also serve as a mirror for our time, but we never realized how sobering the contemporary reflection would turn out to be.

Sara Myers. In between my chair duties in the past year I have enjoyed teaching my courses on Ovid and Catullus. I gave papers at Georgetown and at Oxford University on poems with gardens in the Vergilian Appendix (Copa, Culex, Moretum), which relate to my project on gender and genre in Roman literary gardens. In March I organized a one-day symposium on “Gendering the garden: from Antiquity to the Present: Cross-cultural and Interdisciplinary Perspectives.” This colloquium offered fascinating cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural dialogues about how gardens often become the locus for gender definitions and transgressions in literature and culture. The chronological scope of this conference encompassed antiquity to the present, with topics ranging from literature to garden design. Speakers discussed gardens in Ancient Roman and classical Urdu literature, Hebrew studies, John Donne, Chinese private gardens, women as professional landscape designers, Vita Sackville-West’s Sissinghurst, and the racial history of UVA’s own Pavilion Gardens. It was a wonderful event. Another highlight of the year for me was the talk by Michael Dirda, Pulitzer Prize-winning review editor for the Washington Post. He gave a fantastic talk on the influence of the Greek God Pan on literature and, in general, highlighted the importance of the Classics for the literary imagination. I have long been an admirer of Dirda and was thrilled when he accepted our invitation; in person he was even more charming than in print. Next term I am on leave and have, as usual, grand plans for giving many talks and finishing my manuscript.

Andrei Petrovic. My second year at UVA flew past again in a flash and I can hardly believe that we’re almost at the end of our Fall semester. This year has been very productive and exciting for me: Ivana and I published an edited volume dealing with the materiality of inscriptional texts, co-wrote papers on inscriptions from Rhodes and catacomb texts in Hesiod, and took care of another two issues of Greece and Rome; I also published an article on ‘Paul’s’ letter to the Colossians. In March I gave a talk on the role of intestines in Greek religion; Greeks tended to do funny things with cult statues and the offal – and offal was considered to be by far the best cut of meat. That conference took place in Lubbock, Texas, which was a very interesting place that also allowed me to see a prairie dog town for the first time in my life. I was really delighted to see prairie dogs in their natural habitat, rather than in a zoo: those creatures are magical (and very difficult to photograph). In May I gave a talk with Ivana in Paris, at Collège de France, and that was another first for me: I’ve been to France many times and I’ve visited various places there, but, strangely, this was my first time in Paris. The grandeur, beauty, and elegance of that busy and bustling city are overwhelming. Then we headed to Greece where we spent several weeks in various places. This Fall I gave talks in Berkeley, Sao Paulo, and Porto Alegre. The trip to Brazil was eating and eye-opening in many respects: Classics is developing very quickly in South America in general, and in Brazil in particular, as the country has opened the doors of around 55 (!) new universities during the Lula years: many of these teach Greek and Latin in some form, and the Sao Paulo department now has more than a dozen professors of Greek, even more of Latin. Something to aspire to. I will be thinking of our colleagues, and now already friends, from Brazil as their country is about to face some serious challenges in the immediate future. Let’s hope for the best.

Ivana Petrovic. This has been another busy and exciting year! I spent most of 2018 working on two volumes of conference proceedings, one I co-edited with Andrej and a colleague from Durham on materiality of text in the Greco-Roman culture (published in October), and the other on Greek literary epigram, forthcoming in 2019 with Oxford University Press; in addition, Andrej and I enjoy editing the Greece and Rome journal which keeps us busy throughout the year. As if these collaborations were not enough, we also wrote the annotated bibliography on Greek inscriptional epigram together and presented a joint paper at the conference on ritual norms at Collège de France in May 2018. We enjoyed seeing old friends in Paris and revisiting this beautiful city. After the hustle and bustle of Paris, we headed straight to Greece and had blissful month of peace and tranquility, mostly spent by reading Plato’s Republic to the tune of cicadas.

I also published several papers and have given talks at conferences at Lubbock, Texas, at the Alexandrian
Faculty News Continued

Library in Egypt (alas, per Skype) and at the Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre Departments of Classics in Brazil. The trip to Brazil in November was especially rewarding.

In August this year, I took up the duties of Director of Graduate Studies. In the Spring, I taught New Testament Greek and Advanced Greek. This Fall, I am teaching a graduate course on Greek tragedy and an undergraduate course on Ancient Greek rituals.

I also had the pleasure to direct Katie Mikos’ undergraduate dissertation on the Orphic Hymns. Katie published a chapter from this thesis in the Harvard Undergraduate Classics Journal. Katie has also been admitted to the new Bridge Program at Michigan and is enjoying her graduate work there very much.

The Fourth In A Series On The University’s Early Classics Faculty
From Jon Mikalson’s An Informal, Slightly Hagiographic History of Classics at the University of Virginia, from 1825 to 1970.

Arthur Frederick Stocker, 1947-1984

Arthur Stocker graduated from George Washington High School in New York City in 1930 and as Valedictorian from Williams College in 1934. At Harvard for his Ph.D. in 1939 he wrote a dissertation entitled “De Novo Codicum Servianorum Genere,” a thesis which he said “nobody has ever read ... and nobody ever will because it is written in Latin.” Servius, in fact the notorious “Harvard Servius,” was, however, the subject to which he would devote most of his scholarly efforts. After two years of independent work, Stocker took a position as Instructor of Greek at Bates College in Lewiston, ME, and after two semesters was drafted to serve in WW II in 1942. He served in the Air Force until 1946, mostly in Colorado Springs, as a “historical officer” writing the history of the Second Air Force. He always cheerfully noted that he boarded an airplane only twice in his Air Force career but traveled the country extensively by train, which he loved then and all his life. After the War he continued in the Air Force Reserve, retiring in 1974 as a full colonel.

Stock came to the University in Fall, 1946, as Assistant Professor of Classical Philology, with a salary of $3280. He taught four courses a semester, all Latin. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1952, to Professor in 1960. He served as Chairman of Classics from 1955 to 1963 and 1968 to 1978. Classics was then housed in Old Cabell Hall and moved to New Cabell Hall when it opened in 1952. It remained there, moving from floor to floor, until its (final ?) move into Cocke Hall in 2007. When Stocker arrived, the faculty were five: David Fraser, Robert Henning Webb, Linwood Lehman, James Constantine, and Stocker. During his career the faculty reached a low of three but then, happily, by the time of his retirement rose to a high of nine. Stocker retired in May, 1984, and, although he approved of the then mandatory retirement age, noted that “most people are just as competent at 71 as they were at 70.” As a retirement gift colleagues, former students, and friends endowed the Arthur F. Stocker Lecture Series, lectures of which have been held annually since then. In his will he personally endowed the Arthur F. and Marian W. Stocker Professorship of Latin, first and currently held by Professor John Miller.

In 1949, as President of the Classical Association of Virginia, Stocker met Marian West, a Latin teacher at St. Catharine’s School in Richmond and then Secretary of the Association. After a courtship of nineteen years (“We did not rush things.”) they were married on July 16, 1968. Until his retirement and well beyond Arthur and Marian were dynamic leaders in the CAV and most gracious hosts for the many social activities of the Department, the CAV, and the AIA, usually featuring his favored drink, Virginia Gentleman. The Department of Classics owes the inspiration for much of its highly developed and highly prized social life to Arthur and Marian Stocker. Marian died on July 3, 1997, and an annual prize was established in her honor for a University graduate planning to pursue a high-school Latin
teaching career. Arthur Stocker died on January 13, 2010, at a healthy and vigorous ninety-five years of age, and both he and Marian are buried in the University Cemetery. Before his retirement Stocker had chaired the University Cemetery Committee for several years, what he termed “the last step in the ‘cursus honorum’ of a University of Virginia career.”

Sir Moses Ezekiel’s Homer with, from left to right, Professors Fraser, Stocker, Constantine, Lehman, and Webb, ca. 1950

Of this group Professor Fraser reported in the Alumni News that, apart from himself, they were “avowed disciples of Apollo, Polyhymnia, and Terpsichore.” Webb was a music critic “on whose judgement even the cognoscenti rely.” Lehman was both critic and composer. Constantine was a professional organist, and Stocker had recently gained a “reputation in the recognition and identification of secret and mysterious tunes and melodies.” The last is probably a sly reference to Stocker’s knowledge of, and unbridled enthusiasm to recite, Gilbert and Sullivan.

Professor Fraser also reported that he and Stocker at least once weekly devoted “themselves and their energies to the Royal and Ancient Game of Golf.” They were not good, he added, but they played more quickly than anyone else.

This is an excerpt from Jon Mikalson’s A Slightly Hagiographic History of Classics at the University of Virginia, available at a very reasonable price from Amazon or free as a pdf from the author.

News from Italy

When did Mount Vesuvius bury Pompeii? Apparently not August, AD 79...

Many students of Latin will recall reading Pliny the Younger’s vivid account of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Over twenty years after the event, he describes in two letters written to his friend, the historian Tacitus, how his teenage self witnessed the eruption from across the Bay of Naples, beginning with a mysterious cloud that rose up into the sky in the shape of an umbrella pine (Letters 6.16 and 20). Rather than going to investigate the situation first hand with his uncle, the young man chose to stay and continue his studies while the elder Pliny, originally driven by scholarly curiosity, ultimately died in a brave attempt to save people from the tragedy.

The majority of manuscripts of the Epistulae record the eruption as occurring on the Nones of September (August 24), and that date has been a benchmark for students of Roman history over the more than 500 years since Pliny’s letters were rediscovered. Recently, however, doubts have been cast on the accuracy of August 24: harvested fruits found in recent excavations suggest a date in the fall; heavy clothing among the dead does not accord with August in southern Italy; nor does a coin found on the site that was allegedly minted in September of 79. But it is an inscription recently uncovered by Italian archaeologists that would seem to indicate conclusively that the eruption occurred later than mid-October of 79. That inscription, pictured below, seems to say XVI K NOV IN[D]VLSIT PRO MASVMIS ESVRIT[IONI], which can loosely be translated as “Sixteen days before the Kalends of November (=October 17) s/he over-indulged in food”. Since the inscription is written in charcoal, an impermanent material, this account of our anonymous writer’s appetite must date to the autumn of AD 79, and the eruption that preserved the inscription, and perhaps killed its author, would have occurred soon thereafter.
Emeriti

Jenny Strauss Clay. I’m supposed to be retired, but I have done a lot of lecturing and traipsing and meeting up with UVA friends along the way. I gave talks at Middlebury, in Pisa (at a memorial conference for Graziano Arrighetti), and at the University of California at Davis, where I caught up with Emily Albu and Tim Brelinsky. Tim and I had a ball touring the lovely wine country nearby. April brought CAMWS at Albuquerque, where I talked about the geography of Hesiod’s Tartarus and which included an outing to Santa Fe with John and Mary Miller. The UVA contingent was impressive (see photo, pg. 14). June brought on heavy traipsing: Berlin, and meeting up with Georgia Sermamoglou, Chris Nappa, Steve Smith, and Dylan Rogers in Athens, Delphi for the International Pre-Socratics conference (known as IAPS!), Spetses, for a conference on Greek Lyric and Ritual, then back to Athens for the wedding of Thanasis Vergados, and Cambridge and London for family reunions. Whew. I’m tired already! But that’s not all: in September I went to Turkey, visited Istanbul, which I love, and gave talks in Ankara and hung out with Rachel Bruzzzone (we had a great time!). Closer to home, I was honored to give the Ed Bodner Lecture at Georgetown. Father Bodner was at the American School in Athens with me many years ago, so it was a very touching event. I got to run into David Hewett and his adorable little girl at the reception. At the moment, it is letter-of-recommendation-writing season, so I feel especially close to all former students. Otherwise, I’m still scribbling away and digging in my garden.

David Kovacs. From April to June of this year I was Visiting Research Fellow at Merton College Oxford. The college provided us with a whole house right opposite the college gate in Merton Street. Merton lays on a lot of sociability, including a number of black-tie guest nights (see photo). We enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones.

In my third year as the emeritus Obear Professor I am still working hard on various classics projects. In Oxford I was able to make a start on my latest project, a commentary on Euripides’ Electra. Much of my time in Oxford, however, was taken up with the proofs of my Troades commentary and making the index. OUP has scheduled it for publication in November of this year. The cover shows the Judgement of Paris as painted by Rubens.

A further project, which has now pushed ahead of Electra, is a verse translation of Oedipus the King preceded by a long introduction that focuses on the role of the gods, especially Apollo, in the play. Some will remember that this was the subject of my inaugural lecture in 2006, but I have discovered that I have quite a bit more to say. I wrote much of the translation when I was hospitalized in eastern Hungary last year. It was an effective way to take my mind off the real possibility that we were going to have to invoke the last clause in our travel insurance, which provides for ‘repatriation of remains’. My hope is that both the introduction and the English version may prove attractive to those who teach the play in translation.

What with going often to Ohio to see my one-hundred-and-four-year-old father and arranging for kitchen and bathroom renovation here at home, life is full.

Jon Mikalson. Retirement has its good moments. The picture shows me at a ten-day ichthyology conference in July with the family on Pawley’s Island, South Carolina. In May Mary and I did some ancestor hunting in Norway and then leisurely cruised on the Baltic from Copenhagen to St. Petersburg. Last November we enjoyed two weeks in Greece, visiting old friends and old places, and celebrating Thanksgiving at the American School. Most welcome was the opportunity to pay tribute to Martin Nilsson, the scholar of Greek religion who most influenced my own work, at a conference in his honor sponsored by the Swedish Institute at Athens. And we are just back from two weeks in Wisconsin, visiting more old friends and old places. Current projects include a third edition of Ancient Greek Religion, with new contributions by Ivana and Andrej Petrovic, and the first autobiography of Isocrates. I enjoyed teaching an adult education (OLLI) course last winter on “Why the Athenians Killed Socrates,” and will do another this winter on Plato’s Republic (in English, alas).

Dear Colleagues,

Lounging down here in Margaritaville with Jimmy Buffett, with the surf not only lapping our stairs from the beach but actually sliding under the house, I send you this picture as a warning how quickly one can go to seed in retirement.

I’d write more, but it’s five o’clock somewhere.

Jon
Emeriti Continued

Mark Morford. I still work in the Special Collections of the Smith College Library, which is not easy since the Library itself has been knocked down. It is being rebuilt according to plans by Maya Lin. Our temporary quarters are spacious and warm, but seeing the ruins reminds me of England in WW 2. *Classical Mythology* had its eleventh edition published this year, to which I contributed some new material, including a fountain with a Centaress as well as a Centaur. We have lots of music here in the Pioneer Valley, and I play a different piece each month before my piano group. Obviously the white supremacy people in Charlottesville are a concern, and some of you may have seen the letter that I wrote to the paper here which I forwarded to Shelly. (https://www.gazettenet.com/Mark-Morford-describes-white-supremacists-rally-at-University-of-Virginia-as-insult-to-memory-of-Thomas-Jefferson-11882517).

Tony Woodman. My *otium scholasticum* continues happily. In the early summer my ‘orange’ commentary on Book 4 of Tacitus’ *Annals* was published by Cambridge University Press, completing the series which was begun by F.R.D. Goodyear in 1972, almost half a century previously. I am now simultaneously working on an edition of the *Annals* for the Oxford Classical Texts series and a commentary on Book 3 of Horace’s *Odes* for the ‘green-and-yellow’ series. It is embarrassing to admit that *The Cambridge Companion to Catullus*, which I am co-editing with Ian Du Quesnay, will be exactly twelve months behind schedule by the time this report appears; but one lives in hope. Occasionally I drive to Newcastle University, my old *alma mater* fifteen miles away, to attend one of their Classics seminars, organised this year by Athanassios Vergados and Anke Walter, whose names will be well known to readers.

Graduation 2018!
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to our
Graduates

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Rachel Kirby Bryan
Abrianna Dennis
Jayne Elizabeth Gallagher
Kelly Marie Hart
Jaclyn Lund*
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Katelin Ann Mikos**
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*** Distinguished Major Program in Classics (Highest Distinction)

MASTER OF ARTS
Christina Boltsi
Sidney Christman
Catherine Daun
Holly Maggiore

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Sarah E. Herbert
Dissertation Title: *The Philosopher and the Farmer: Spatial metaphor in Three Conversations in Euripides, Plato, and Xenophon.*

Sarah Christine Teets
Dissertation Title: *One is Not Born a Greek: Josephus and Cultural Identity in the Against Apion.*

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Ashely Mehra
Christopher Caterine (M.A. 2009, Ph.D. 2014) reports that he and his wife Mallory welcomed their first child, a baby boy, Caleb Gregory Caterine, on August 19th. The day after Caleb’s birth, Chris said, “The boy already seems inclined to Roman oratory, as the attached picture will attest.”

Erica Eickhoff (B.A. 2012)
Erica Gravely continues to teach Latin in Loudoun County at Riverside High School. She and her husband Jacob welcomed their first child, a baby boy, Valen Thor Gravely, on September 1st of this year. Erica’s debut novel, The Kepos Problem, a work of young adult science fiction, came out this past spring under her pen name, Erica Rue.

Ellen Payne (B.A. 2016) and Paula Rondon-Burgos (B.A. 2009) write: We could not be more thrilled to find ourselves teaching together this year! We are at Oakcrest School in Vienna, Virginia and having a blast with our middle and high school girls reading Caesar, Vergil, Cicero, and following the beloved Caecilius, Quintus, and Metella in the Cambridge textbook series. We feel extremely fortunate to be working at a school with a thriving Latin department of four teachers and classes spanning grades 6-12. Paula is often accompanied by her stuffed animal class mascots, including “neut” the newt. After school, she has been wrapping up her dissertation on Cicero from Durham University, which she will defend this spring. Ellen is teaching a new, introductory Greek course and prepping for Virginia State Latin Convention. Her girls can be frequently heard singing the praises of the non-mathematical “p” and “PIE.” Pictured here is our Halloween spirit day attire: Paula is dressed as the great Cleopatra, and Ellen as Junia from the novel by Michael E. Giesler (a middle school favorite!). Best wishes to everyone back home at Cocke Hall - and thank you for inspiring in us a love for the Classical world. It’s a joy for us to now pass it on to more young people!

C. Wayne Tucker (M.A. 1966, Ph.D. 1972) has very little new to report. He continues to volunteer at the Petersburg Museums (Blandford Church, with fifteen Tiffany windows), Centre Hill Museum, and the Petersburg Visitors Center at the Exchange Building. He is also the executive director of Friends of the Historic Farmers Bank, the group that now owns the 1817 building that housed the Petersburg branch of the Farmers Bank of Virginia until after the Civil War. In May of this year, Preservation turned the property over to the group, which had operated it as both a museum and Petersburg Area Information Center until the Petersburg Visitors Center was opened in June. Tucker edited and wrote the first newsletter, Bank Notes. Tucker is also secretary of the Mediterranean Society of America, which sponsors lectures, day excursions, and trips abroad. No trip abroad this year, but planning is underway for a seminar in Greece (starting in Athens and continuing north to Thessaloniki) next May. He also edits and does considerable writing for the Society’s Newsletter.

Having no desire to become president of the Rotary Club of Petersburg, he has a lifetime (for all practical purposes) appointment as vice president. He has completed his four-year term as chairman of the board of the Atkinson Museum of Hampden-Sydney College. A special treat this year was re-connecting with a fellow graduate student, Vernon “Pat” Powell (M.A. ‘72), who after spending most of his life in Charlottesville decamped to Petersburg and has quickly become a contributing member of the community. Earlier in the summer, Pat took me on a tour of Charlottesville and the Grounds, and I was especially happy to visit the Constantine Library, which was initiated when I was a graduate student. We also visited a former professor, Marvin Colker, and his wife, and it was an enjoyable visit, complete with tea and cookies.

Most recently Tucker was interviewed for the CAMWS Corps project.
Upcoming Events

March 19: Annual Stocker Lecture—Christina Kraus, Yale University
March 23: UVA Classics Day
March 26-28: Daniel Mendelsohn—Page-Barbour Lectures
April 8: Garden Talk—Katharine T. von Stackelberg, Brock University
April 15: Annual Margaret Lowe Memorial Undergraduate Lecture—Andrew Becker, Virginia Tech
May 9-11: Inner Purity Conference
May 18: Final Exercises

News From One of our Graduate Students

Holly Maggiore

Between last April and now there have been quite a few exciting experiences for me. I presented another paper at CAMWS in Albuquerque, NM which was an absolutely lovely place. In late May I traveled to Rome for the (shamefully) first time. During the week that we were there, I made it our mission to visit every major site and museum - I’d like to think we came close, but nevertheless we still failed in this noble endeavor. My favorite experiences from the trip were trekking to the top of St. Peter’s Basilica (so many steps!) and getting a wonderful view of Rome from above; also, stepping back in time with a stroll through Ostia was probably the highlight of the trip for me, especially when we stumbled across a small shrine to Attis! In August, I got married to Sean Higgins, who has stuck it out with me for almost 10 years now as I pursue my never-ending quest for knowledge. It was truly a lovely day and I’m so grateful for everyone who was able to come. I have also been enjoying working for the Dissecting Cultural Pluralism Lab and look forward to the many great scholars coming this Spring! Finally, I will be going to Amsterdam next May and hopefully Greece later in the summer for an epigraphy class.
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