Dear Alumni and Friends of UVA Classics,

I would like to start my first chair’s letter by expressing my profound gratitude to Sara Myers, who was our chair for six years. Sara lead the department through a difficult period involving a series of retirements and new hires, and at the very end of her term of service, she encountered the most profound challenge the department and the university faced in decades: the devastating global pandemic which required us all to change the way we live and work. We were on a spring break, following ever more alarming news about the spread of the new and terrifying virus when we received the email we’ll never forget: the resumption of the teaching term was postponed, and we were all required to learn how to deliver our courses online. When the news sunk in, the mad scramble started: What in the world is ‘zoom’? When will we be able to access our offices and our books? How will our students continue to learn in the state of national emergency? We all had so many questions and concerns, but we came together as a department (virtually this time) in order to learn from each other, and to comfort and support each other and our graduate students. Sara led us through all this unflinchingly, with a remarkably steady hand, with grace, courage, and patience. If I accomplish half as much in my term as chair, I’ll consider it a great success!

I am immensely proud of the fact that we have actually managed to deliver our courses online this spring and see our students graduate—virtually this time. You can see the recording of the graduation here: https://classics.as.virginia.edu/classics-department-graduation-ceremony (Access Password: 1V*9a+7z).

What gives me most hope for the future is the way we came together as a group throughout this crisis. Some of us were abroad and could not return to Charlottesville for months, some were struggling with new technology or with bad internet connection, some had young children at home and were forced to parent and teach at the same time, and every single one of us was deeply concerned about our students who were told not to come back to Charlottesville. UVa undergraduates continue to amaze me and what they have accomplished this Spring and Fall is simply miraculous—not only did they rise to the challenge of learning online, they returned to grounds this Fall and remain remarkably disciplined in the efforts to minimize the spread of the virus. Tony Corbeill writes about their accomplishments in detail below. I am equally amazed by the collective effort of our graduate students. The dedication, perseverance, and sheer hard work they have invested in delivering their classes online, meeting with undergraduates during virtual office hours, and grading was enormous. Andrej Petrovic, our director of graduate studies, lists their remarkable accomplishments below. This Fall, we were better prepared for online instruction and our (mostly) virtual classes are full of students wishing to learn about the languages and cultures of the Ancient World. The mode of instruction may have changed, but our mission remains the same.

This year, we will be continuing with the new initiative from the Graduate School, as part of its commitment to diversifying the graduate student body. The Department of Classics is seeking to support students from groups that are underrepresented in our discipline and who have not yet received sufficient training and research experience to prepare them for admission to doctoral programs. The Bridge Fellowship is a fully funded two-year program assisting gifted and hard-working students in Classics to acquire research and language skills needed to pursue a Ph.D. in Classics. We think
Letter from the Chair Continued

that this is a fantastic opportunity for us to help diversify the field of Classics more broadly—please spread the word!

I would like to thank you, our alumni/ae and friends, for generously supporting the Classics Department with financial gifts. Your support is particularly appreciated in these troubled times. Our graduate students in particular have sacrificed their limited research time in order to deliver their classes online, which requires additional time and effort. Our goal is to secure as many sixth-year graduate fellowships and summer stipends as we can, and your gifts will contribute towards achieving this goal. Our university library is not operating at full capacity and we have given our graduate students additional funds in order to purchase books and other material they need for research and teaching. Your gifts help to ensure the future health of the department and our ability to enhance the educational experience for Classics majors and Graduate students. We are very grateful for your continuing support and hope that the end of this difficult period is near and that we’ll soon be able to welcome all our students back to classrooms and invite you to visit us on grounds and catch up in person. May it happen soon!

With best wishes,
Ivana Petrovic, Chair

News of the Graduate Students

This Fall, we welcomed two incoming students: William Nichols and Alex Konieczny.

Degrees:
The Ph.D. degrees were conferred on Rebecca Frank, Brett Evans, and Joseph Zehner. Congratulations to them, and to their supervisors, Jenny Strauss Clay (Zehner) and Ivana Petrovic. We are delighted to report that Rebecca Frank accepted the position of Thomas F. Cooper Post-Doctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor at Oberlin College, and that Brett Evans accepted a position in the Office of Citizen Scholar at UVa and he will be teaching for our Department in the Spring. Likewise, Joseph Zehner is teaching (remotely) this year for the University of Richmond.

Three students received their MA degrees: Alison Newman and Nina Raby, who are continuing their study towards their Ph.D. degrees, and William Stover, who decided to leave the program in order to apply to law schools (and is greatly missed by the faculty and students alike).

The annual Classics Graduate Student Colloquium was held online due to the pandemic. The topic was “Warning: Storm Approaching: Weather, the Environment, and Natural Disasters in the Ancient Mediterranean.” The conference was a great success, and Clara Bosak-Schroeder (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) delivered the keynote.

Papers at scholarly meetings:
Five students presented papers at the SCS convention in Washington (Jovan Cvjetičanin, Brett Evans, Rebecca Frank, Peter Moench, and Vergil Parson). All papers were excellently delivered and met with an enthusiastic response.

The annual CAMWS convention was held online. Two students presented papers: Tim Brannelly and William Stover.

Peter Moench presented a paper on Pindar at the King's College London, “Time, Tense, and Genre” conference (September 12-13th 2019).

Holly Maggiore presented a paper at the 11th Cicero Away Day hosted (online) by Birmingham (UK). The topic was “Varro’s Tripartite Theology’ in Cicero.”

Publications
Stephen Hill submitted two papers for publication, a book chapter for Bloomsbury's Communicative Approaches to Teaching Classical Languages, and a paper for a volume of conference proceedings with the title “Task-Based Language Teaching and Ancient Languages.”

Honors and Awards
Vergil Parson won the GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowships for 2020–21.

We welcomed back Sidney Christman (and Kevin Woram, a graduate student in the History department). Sidney and Kevin spent 2019-2020 the academic year at the American School for Classical Studies in Athens (a stay cut short by the pandemic).

Andrei Petrovic, DGS
From the Undergraduate Director

This year’s report on the undergraduate program and, in particular, our Classics majors, will cover the expected areas, but with events since March 2020 necessitating a strong injection of *mutatis mutandis*. What emerges for me most from all these changes—both those welcome and those less so—is the exceptional resiliency of our undergraduates. In late March, advising appointments for fall enrollment, this enjoyable opportunity in the face-to-face world to catch up with the past recent and to plan for the future threatened to become yet another dozen or so hours of Zooming for a set of already tired eyes. So I was delighted when, after the first couple meetings, the good humor of our majors caused me to look forward to each subsequent one. Commencement ceremonies also occurred online, where we saw off thirteen graduating majors, including two authors of Distinguis**h** Major’s Theses, Alex Balbus and Annika Tallis. Other honorees at the event included Abigail Lund and Kristin Myers, who received Letters of Commendation on the CAMWS Latin exam, and Summer Allen, Alex Balbus, and Aleksander Blumberg, who were elected for membership into Phi Beta Kappa. Kismet marked the awarding of degrees: just as I finished reading off names, the recording of “Pomp & Circumstance” that I had playing in the background ended with a burst of applause, as YouTube spontaneously joined in congratulating our graduates. In September, our new Chair, Ivana Petrovic, and I welcomed our returning majors back to the department when, in lieu of the traditional juice and cookies in the Cocke basement, we were treated to a presentation by Robert Gurval of UCLA about the Thomas Jefferson statue that stands north of the Rotunda.

The academic year also brought a new addition to the Classics major. In response to student interest, we have added a new concentration to those already existing in “Greek” and “Latin,” namely, “Greek & Latin” (I take full credit for the clever title). This concentration gives students the opportunity to study both languages in more depth than the previous options had allowed and will be particularly attractive to those considering post-graduate work in the field. As I write this note, five students have formally declared for this new concentration which, after jumping through a Byzantine array of hoops, at last went into effect this past September.

Anthony Corbeill, DUP

Emeriti

**Jenny Clay.** I have been doing a lot of traveling, writing, lecturing, and attending conferences. To mention only a few: a presentation organized by our Georgia Sermamoglou-Soulmaidhi (PhD 2012) in Athens in honor of Dan Devereux, a lecture in Munich (in German!), organizing a panel on Languages and the Pre-Socratics at SCS in San Diego, a conference in Newcastle on “Arche and Origo,” organized by our Thanasis Vergados and Anke Walter, visiting Ashley Mehr (BA 2018) in Cambridge, and Courtney Evans (PhD 2016) and Harrietie in Omaha; Oh, and I got to be MC at CAMWS in Lincoln Nebraska—what a gas! John Miller and I finally saw the emergence of our volume on Hermes/Mercury from Oxford University Press. But the high point of my career—and most touching and a total surprise!—was a volume in my honor edited by Lucia Athanassaki, Chris Nappa, and Thanasis Vergados on *Gods and Mortals in Greek and Latin Poetry*. A good number of the contributors were UVa students, among whom Diane Arnson Svarlien (BA 1983), Daniel Mendelsohn (BA 1984), Zoe Stamatopoulou (PhD 2008), Anatole Mori (BA 1990), Ben Jasnow (PhD 2014), Daniel Barber (PhD 2010), Blanche Conger McCune (PhD 2014), Chris Nappa (PhD 1996), Thanasis Vergados (PhD 2007), and Stephen Smith (PhD 1996)—and I could not be prouder.

**Jon Mikalson.** I am full of admiration for the energy and hard work that UVa Classics faculty and students are mustering in meeting the challenges of on-line instruction. John Dillery asked me to teach a session in his Greek Novel course yesterday, on Greek religion (of course) in *Daphnis and Chloe*, and I got the chance to experience ZOOM teaching firsthand. It was ok, but very different. All will welcome a return to the casual conversations with colleagues, students, and staff before, during, and after classes. And Shadow, who is very bad about masks and social distancing, misses her scruffs and treats on our weekly visits to the department!

**Tony Woodman.** The events of the year have been completely overshadowed by the sudden and unexpected death in late October of my wife, Dorothy, who will be remembered with great affection by her many friends in Charlottesville, a town which she loved. Her regular visits from England were always the highlight of my time at UVa, and we would take great pleasure in enjoying, as a couple, the routines in which I normally engaged alone. She became as familiar in our favourite haunts—Petit Pois, Fleurie, Tavola, C&O—as I was, and it is devastating to think that now we shall no longer be paying the return visit to Charlottesville that we had been planning. It was a class on Horace’s *Odes* which brought us together more than forty-five years ago, and on the day of her death I despatched to Cambridge University Press the commentary on Horace, *Odes* 3, on which I had been working, no longer able to give it further thought. The book which had been going to be dedicated to her was now dedicated to her memory.

I attach a picture (with the Greek 101 license plate) of my newly refurbished Miata. Colleagues and many alumni will recognize it. ~Jon Mikalson
**Faculty News**

**Giulio Celotto.** It is undeniable that this past year has been rough on all of us. However, after a complicated spring and a strange summer, the first I spent away from my hometown, I look forward to starting a new school year, which promises to be different from the previous ones, but, I am sure, equally rewarding. This semester I am pleased to teach an Intensive Elementary Latin course, and an advanced course on Seneca, primarily focused on the intriguing, and always current, topic of tyranny. Although I miss the feeling of being in the classroom, I am grateful to have such wonderful students, who are able to make Zoom meetings as engaging as face-to-face classes. Next Spring I am thrilled to offer an Intermediate Latin course, an advanced course on Statius’ Silvae, and my first graduate seminar, once again on Seneca. Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic, 2020 has been a very productive year for me. The highlight was certainly the book contract I signed with The University of Michigan Press for my first monograph, entitled ‘Amor Belli: Love and Strife in Lucan’s Bellum Civile’. Furthermore, I published two papers—an article in ICS on Juvenal’s and Dante’s rewriting of Vergil’s “pageant of heroes” in light of Lucan’s malicious reading of Aeneid 6, and a chapter in the volume Seminari Lucanei on the intertextual dialogue between the Bellum Civile and the Pseudo-Senecan tragedy Hercules Oetaeus—and I look forward to seeing in print my article on repetitions in Ovid’s Metamorphoses, recently accepted for publication in PLLS. I also had the chance to present my work at national and international online conferences, such as the CAMWS Annual Meeting, where I gave a talk on Lucan’s epic adaptation of the elegiac trope of militia amoris, and the Symposium Cumanum, where I spoke about Vergil’s and Statius’ engagement with Empedoclean philosophy. Finally, 2020 brought me an exciting collaboration. With my two colleagues Francesca Calamita (Spanish, Italian & Portuguese) and Giulia Paoletti (Art), I am co-directing an interdisciplinary research initiative entitled “The Siren Project: Women’s Voice in Literature and the Visual Arts.” The grants we have recently been awarded will enable us to (virtually) bring to campus a number of scholars and artists committed to giving voice to women’s rights. The inaugural event of this project is the symposium I am organizing on “Women’s Voice in Latin Literature.”

**Anthony Corbell.** With the state of the world pressing ‘pause’ on all types of research travel—and, sadly, forcing the cancellation of the first North-American “Cicero Awayday” that had been planned for Charlottesville in April 2020—, any notion of having extra time was dashed in the face of the effort required to try to master online teaching. Fortunately, in Spring and Fall of 2020 I have been blessed with outstandingly dedicated students who did their inobtrusive best to make it feel as if things were (almost) normal. A chief difficulty has been gauging student reaction, particularly in larger classes, where sound and often even the cameras are turned off by the students. Perhaps ironically, this has prompted me to require more class participation than I normally would, and students have risen to the challenge, offering PowerPoint presentations on individual sentences of Cicero, or conducting class as teacher for the day. Still, I look forward to the day when I can hold chalk in my hand again, and make irritating noises on the blackboard.

**John Dillery.** This past year has been (not surprisingly) a strange and difficult one. I very much enjoyed teaching Mythology again in the Spring of 2020, even though half way through we had to go to remote teaching. I was most impressed with my TAs who did so well; the same can be said for my TAs this Fall in Greek Civilization. I also taught the Greek Novel this Fall and learned a great deal—I just hope my students did as well! I continue to work on Herodotus Book 2, as well as Xenophon’s Anabasis, Herodotean language, and Xenophon’s Cyropaedia. Participation in an online Herodotus workshop/seminar was great fun and has kept me relatively sane.

**Coulter George.** I am always grateful to be able to work with Greek and Latin on a daily basis, but that has rarely been more than case than in the past year. In dealing with the jolt to teaching (and life) caused by the covid pandemic, nothing has provided greater perspective than taking the long view afforded by regular engagement with the ancient world. It’s obvious to all that teaching on Zoom is a poor substitute for a real classroom, but if that’s the best chance I have to share the joys of -μι verbs with a new generation of students, then, goodness, I’ll take it! So, yes, in spite of everything, teaching continues to be fulfilling (this semester it’s first-year Greek and the Celtic course), and I’m looking forward to offering a new graduate seminar on Demosthenes in the spring. And, amidst all of this, I am also happy to report that my general audience book, How Dead Languages Work, came out with Oxford University Press in June: if you want to revisit all the linguistic features that make Greek and Latin so special (or strike up a first acquaintance with Old English, Sanskrit, Old Irish, and Biblical Hebrew), then this is the book for you!
**Faculty News Continued**

**Greg Hays.** Like everyone, I have been adapting to new conditions. This fall I’ve been occupied with the sophomore outing of my (now virtual) course on Ancient Rome at the Movies, along with Medieval Latin and my first-year seminar on Poe. In January we welcomed a new family member, Jasper, who is part pit bull and/or Staffordshire Terrier and part various kinds of herding dogs. Some non-classical books I’ve enjoyed this year are Tove Jansson’s *The True Deceiver*, Hugh Trevor-Roper’s *Letters from Oxford*, and (appropriately) Defoe’s *Journal of the Plague Year*.

**Inger Kuin.** A little into my second year at UVA I can say I have settled in well, and I am enjoying working with the students and colleagues here tremendously. Just as for everyone, the pandemic has been a major disruption, but I am in awe of how adaptable we all are, students and professors. After teaching the second half of the Spring semester online from the Netherlands, where I had gotten stranded due to the Schengen travel ban, I am now happily teaching my Fall courses ‘in person with remote option’ in Charlottesville after being granted a ‘national interest exception’ to return, and I hope to continue to do the same the Spring. In January a volume I edited titled *After the Crisis. Remembrance, Re-Anchoring, and Recovery in Ancient Greece and Rome* came out with Bloomsbury, and I am presently finishing my book manuscript *Gods and Mortals in Lucian: Religion, Comedy, and Philosophy in the 2nd Century CE*. Over the past year I published two book chapters, one on religious doubt in Lucian, and one on a mysterious Greek saying about Sulla and the philosophers, as well as a review essay about resistance in Roman Greece (all are available on request or on my Academia page). I presented at the SCS Annual Meeting and at the (online) Second Sophistic Colloquium, both times on Lucian. This Fall I organized three guest lectures for my course “The Ancient Roots of Modern Atheism” with the support of the Clay Endowment for the Humanities.

**John Miller.** It seems like last year’s fall semester was a world away, back when one traveled for lectures and academic meetings, or when I had the pleasure to co-organize in-person events on Grounds like the conference on Roman Festivals (with Anke Walter) or the final series of talks for our interdepartmental Lab in Dissecting Cultural Pluralism. But in spite of the Pandemic that shut down Grounds back in March, the wonders of Zoom technology have allowed us to continue teaching, in my case enjoyable spring courses in Catullus and Martial for advanced undergraduates, and a graduate seminar in the Age of Augustus. The students were amazingly flexible and worked exceptionally hard under trying circumstances, as are the students I have the pleasure to teach at present, in Elementary Latin and Latin Didactic Poetry. A special challenge this semester is that we did not already know one another in person before starting courses on Zoom. Right before the migration to virtual communication I happened to badly injure my back in a car accident but am getting around ok, even though (alas) I have had to give up running, right about that time I was presented (virtually, of course) with a volume of articles in my honor organized and edited by Jenny Clay and Anke Walter, and to which many friends and colleagues contributed—a humbling gift to receive and which I will never forget. A very stimulating and enjoyable Zoom event (really!) was the symposium on Genre in and After Vergil originally scheduled for the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma that we moved on-line—the co-organizer was Brittny Szempruch of the US Naval Academy. Twenty or so of us gathered for two days from around the world (Italy, Australia, Mexico, UK, Canada, and the US) for great discussions of papers that we circulated in advance. Colleague Giulio Celotto was among the participants. Even with all the Zoom burnout by that time of year, it was energizing to connect with fellow classicists, both seasoned and emerging scholars, to support one another and continue our work and our profession.

**Sara Myers.** In this strange year I continue to work on my book on representations of gardens in Latin literature. Articles on Catullus, the Caiex, and Ovid were also completed. I finished my six-year term as Chair of the Department and now am enjoying a leave. In the Spring my Latin course on Elegy had to jump on-line and I discovered, along with everyone else, the great pleasure and value of in-person courses! I directed an excellent undergraduate Distinguished Majors Project on Vergil’s Aeneid. I still work in my wonderful office and enjoy occasional glimpses of colleagues and students from a safe distance.

**Andrej Petrovic.** This has been a challenging year, and particularly so for our undergraduate students. I feel a great deal of empathy for those among them who graduated this summer and who will be graduating in 2021. Even though most of our students are back this academic year, the Grounds still miss the students as much as students miss the Grounds. And, when I sit in my office, I miss hearing the joyful clamor of student gatherings in the amphitheater and on the lawn. I even miss hearing them jump up and down the stairs directly above my office. And most of all, I miss seeing them in the classroom. We do what we can to save our normally vibrant atmosphere, and I am grateful that I had an opportunity to meet my students for some (policy compliant and socially distant) picnics—they even taught me how to carve a pumpkin for Halloween! Scholarship continues in various guises, graduate students are being trained, articles are being published, and books and journal issues edited, conferences hosted (even if attending a conference on Zoom does not give one an opportunity to learn from colleagues sitting next to you while casually chatting with them). But it is UVA undergraduates who have impressed me immensely this year with their resolve, resilience, vim and vigor. I am very proud of them.

**Ivana Petrovic.** There are many aspects of this academic year I would rather not think about, but there were many happy moments as well. For me, the highlights of the year were the dissertation defenses of...
Faculty Continued

my two graduate students, Brett Evans and Rebecca Frank. I am immensely proud of their achievements, especially considering the fact that they had to present their talks and defend their dissertations on zoom. They were absolutely marvelous! Another very happy moment for me and Andrej was the move to our new home this summer. We found our dream house in the spring, and going through the process in the middle of pandemic was nerve-wracking (to say the least!), but it was worth it. The big housewarming party had to be postponed, but we do hope that everything will be better in 2021, and that we'll be able to make up for all the gatherings and parties we missed in 2020.

In Memoriam

Marvin L. Colker, Professor of Classics Emeritus, passed away in Charlottesville on April 8, 2020, just three weeks after his 93rd birthday. Marvin was born in Pittsburgh in 1927. He attended college at the University of Pittsburgh and three years later (in 1951) earned his Ph.D. at Harvard. After distinguished postdoctoral fellowships (including a Fulbright in Paris), Marvin joined the Department of Classics at UVA in 1953 and spent his entire long career here, serving as Chairman in 1963–68 and retiring in 1998. Nearly every summer he worked in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, accompanied by his wife Hazel, herself an alumna of TCD.

Marvin was one of the leading medievalists of his generation in the areas of palaeography and textual criticism. His long list of publications include a groundbreaking critical edition of Walter of Chatillon’s epic *Alexandres* (1978); *Fulcoli Belvacensis Epistolae* (1954); *Analecta Dublinensia: Three Medieval Latin Texts in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin* (1975); and *America Rediscovered in the Thirteenth Century* (1979). In the course of preparing his magisterial two-volume catalogue of the medieval and Renaissance manuscripts at TCD (1991), he rediscovered numerous works. Trinity awarded Marvin an honorary Doctor of Letters in 1987 for what the presenter called the ‘truly Herculean task’ of compiling his catalogue. A Supplement was published in 2008 to include manuscripts purchased by the Trinity Library in the intervening years. In retirement Marvin continued his varied researches and for many years conducted a reading group in Medieval Latin with former students. In the summer of 2013 appeared a special issue of *Hermathena* (the Classics journal of Trinity, Dublin), entitled *Fabellae Dublinenses Revisited and other Essays in Honour of Marvin Colker*, which includes an appreciation of his scholarly accomplishments. Marvin’s extensive papers are housed in UVA’s Special Collections Library.

Gift to Classics Creates New Graduate Fellowship

The Colker & Powell Bicentennial Fellowship Fund in Classics was established by Vernon M. Powell, Jr. (BA 1970, MA 1972) in honor of Marvin L. Colker, a longtime professor in the Department of Classics (1953–1998). This fund will provide fellowships to graduate students in the Department of Classics. The Department is very grateful to Mr. Powell for his exceptional generosity and continued support of the Department.
In Memoriam

Edward Courtney, Basil L. Gildersleeve Professor of Classics Emeritus, passed away peacefully on November 24, 2019. Ted—as he was known familiarly—was born in 1932 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and retained his Belfast accent throughout his life. After an outstanding career as an undergraduate at Trinity College, Dublin, where he won medals for his translations into Greek and Latin verse, he was a Research Lecturer at Christ Church, Oxford, before being appointed in 1959 to a Lectureship at King’s College, London, eventually being promoted to Professor. In 1982 he and his family emigrated to the United States, where he was Ely Professor of Classics at Stanford University; but, when the Gildersleeve Chair of Classics was inaugurated at the University of Virginia, Ted became its first holder in 1993, retiring in 2002.

Among his many publications, which in total amount to over 130 items, are eleven books: critical editions of Valerius Flaccus (1970), Ovid’s Fasti (1978, in collaboration), Juvenal (1984), the poems of Petronius (1984), and Statius’ Silvae (1990); commentaries on Juvenal (1980), the fragmentary Latin poets (1993), Latin verse inscriptions (1995), and archaic Latin prose (1999); in collaboration with his friend Niall Rudd he also wrote a more elementary commentary on selected satires of Juvenal for use in schools (1977). He said at the time that A Companion to Petronius (2001) would be his last book, and so it proved, but for the next decade and a half he continued to produce a stream of incisive articles on a wide range of Latin texts. Reviewing his Fragmentary Latin Poets in 1999, Michael Reeve said that ‘it is hard to think of any other scholar alive today who could have tackled with such erudition and such independence of judgement the whole range from the minor works of Ennius to Tiberianus and Symmachus.’ Twenty years later these words serve as an appropriate memorial of the friend and scholar we have lost. Ted is survived by his wife of 57 years, Brenda, and one son.

Minor Millikin Markle III  1968-1978

From Jon Mikalson’s An Informal, Slightly Hagiographic History of Classics at the University of Virginia, from 1825 to 1970.

From Jonesboro, Arkansas, Minor Markle earned his B.A. from Miami University in Oxford, OH in 1956, a M.A. from Oxford (with a Fulbright) in 1959, and his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1967 where he wrote on the Peace of Philocrates. From 1961 to 1967 he taught at Miami University. In September 1968 he was appointed Visiting Assistant Professor of History at the University and in 1969 Assistant Professor of Classics. During most of his tenure at the University he was 2/3 Classics and 1/3 History, teaching each semester two courses in the former and one in the latter. He was, in a sense, the first ancient historian of the Department.

Markle left the University in May, 1978, and spent single years at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and at Johns Hopkins. From there he took up a position at the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, the first American to be appointed to any Classics department in Australia. He retired from there in 1998 and on May 30, 2016, at age 81, died at his home in Invergowrie, near Armidale. His home was a widely recognized masterpiece, with strong influences from Monticello and Greek architecture. It was designed by him and in large part built, literally brick by brick, with his own hands. While at the University he published “Support of Athenian Intellectuals for Philip: A Study of Isocrates’ Philippus and Speusippus’ Letter to Philip” (JHS 96 (1976), 80-99) and the widely cited “The Macedonian Sarissa, Spear and Related Armor” (AIA 81 (1977), 323-39). At the University Minor had made a full-scale model of the sarissa (a spear 18 ft. long) and mounted it on the exterior of his Lincoln Continental. This brought new attention to the sarissa from the public and the local police.
News From our Alumni and Alumnae

Kim Curtis, B.A. 2000. started a new job as Communications and Event Coordinator at the Project on Lived Theology, a research initiative within UVA’s Department of Religious Studies. The Project on Lived Theology’s mission is to study the social consequences of theological ideas for the sake of a more just and compassionate world.

Jay Wallace, B.A. 1979. I was prompted to write by the letter from Stephen Williams (B.A. 1967) in the Fall newsletter. Mr. Williams recounted his days in Mr. Colker’s class and asked if anyone recalled Mr. Colker’s mnemonic for dative with special verbs.

“Injure, favor, help and please
Trust, distrust, command, displease
Serve, obey, indulge, resist,
Pardon, spare, are on the list!
Add to these believe, persuade,
Threaten, envy, and dissuade.”

I believe this is what we had to memorize. I too recall the many mnemonics Mr. Colker would have us recite, the constant recognition of every ablative absolute and every use of the gerundive in passage after passage of Ovid’s Ars Amatoria or his Metamorphoses. And my favorite memory was how he would call on one particular student for a response.

After I graduated from UVa, I went on to teach high school Latin in Virginia for 9 years. I then switched careers and became an Information Technology manager, where I have worked for the last 31 years. I’ve never forgotten my Latin roots and in many ways still consider myself a Latin teacher at heart. I still stay in touch with my Latin teacher colleagues and stay aware of what is going on with Latin in Virginia high schools, as I did when I was teaching. I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences as a Latin student and teacher. Afternoons spent on the Lawn at UVa, reading Virgil’s Aeneid under a tree ... sans dictionary! The high marks I received on a paper about the use of the word scientia in Lucretius’s De Rerum Natura, when I thought my ideas were poppycock! Apparently, Mr. Stocker deemed them worthy. The hours and hours I spent struggling with the Greek alphabet under Mr. Mikalson and Mr. Kovacs! And in my teaching career, the many hours of coaching certamen, state and national conventions, my own students’ Saturnalia, FLAVA, CVLTA, CAV, NJCL, VJCL, etc.

I have recently retired and plan to spend some of my time reading the Aeneid. My four years at UVa were among the most rewarding of my life. I certainly carry some of my best memories from these years. As a very nostalgic person, I’ve often quoted that beloved passage from the Aeneid – “Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit!” As I look back over these many years, I can now say, “haec olim meminisse iuvabit.”

At this point, Mr. Colker would remind the class that iuvare does NOT take the dative, except in a few rare cases in medieval Latin literature.

post scriptum – It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Mr. Colker in April, two months after I submitted this note. He was much beloved and admired by his students. Marvin L. Colker, requiescat in pace.

Tom Wright, Ph.D. 1998. Daniel Mendelsohn (B.A. 1984) gave a talk on February 11 at Tom Wright’s (Ph.D., 1998) school, The Brearley School in Manhattan, on Euripides’ Medea. The occasion was our Greek students having just seen the new Simon Stone adaptation of the Euripides’ play at Brooklyn Academy of Music. The junior English students, who also studied the Medea, were also invited. Before the talk we waxed nostalgic about all things Charlottesville!

Left: Tom Wright, Right: Daniel Mendelsohn
Upcoming Events

Mar 23: Margaret Lowe Memorial Undergraduate Lecture—Amy Cohen, Randolph College
Apr 7-10: CAMWS
Apr 17: Graduate Student Colloquium
May 16: Final Exercises
ΚΥΔΩΣ
to our
Graduates

BACHELOR OF ARTS

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