



Vox Classica



The Newsletter of the Department of Classics University of Virginia, Fall 2024

Letter from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends of UVA Classics,

As I look back on the past year, I am heartened to realize that there is so much to write about. The main event of 23/24 for all of us has been a search for a new colleague and I am delighted to inform you that we have successfully concluded our search by hiring David Williams, a scholar of Greek drama and philosophy with a PhD from The University of Chicago (2022). You can read about David's first impressions of UVA on page 9 of this newsletter.

Our courses have high enrollments, and our majors continue to impress, winning awards and presenting their work at undergraduate conferences. Three of the seven majors who graduated in 2024 completed the Distinguished Majors Program. Two are going on to further degrees (a 'plus-one' Master's in Math at UVA; a Master's in Journalism at NYU), two have jobs lined up in business (consulting, wealth management), one is taking a gap year to study for the LSAT, and two were still undecided at the time we conducted the 'exit interviews'. Our majors continue to appreciate our passion for our subject and our teaching.

We also celebrated three students who completed their PhDs (Evan Brubaker, Jovan Cvjetičanin, Evan Waters) and two who obtained their MA degrees (Carl Hamilton and Mary Clare Young). Additional two students successfully defended their PhD theses in the Fall (Stephen Hill and Nick Rich). As you can see in this photo, the graduation ceremony was held inside due to rain, but that did not dampen our joy at seeing so many excellent students, both undergraduate and graduate, achieve their goals. We are very proud of their accomplishments!



We are also very pleased at the continuing trend of extraordinary amount of awards and prizes for our graduate students. I am especially proud of Nina Raby, who won the All-University Graduate Student Teaching Award for 2023-24 in recognition of her dedication and outstanding achievements in teaching. Zachary Haines and Jess Alexander were awarded fellowships to attend the Summer Session of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 'Alexander to Actium: Archaeology of Hellenistic Greece' in 2024; Zachary Haines also won the Colker & Powell Bicentennial Fellowship in Classics for 23/24. Erica Krause won the Jefferson Fellowship, Mary Clare Young won the Richard Weaver Fellowship (Intercollegiate Studies Initiative); Kaitlyn Martin won the ΗΣΦ scholarship to cover cost of participation in the Classical Summer School at the

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American Academy in Rome. For a small graduate program such as ours (we currently have 14 students), this is a huge success.

Of the five students who defended their dissertations this year, four already had jobs. The fifth, Jovan Cvjetičanin, celebrated a triple triumph this year: he obtained his PhD degree, got married, and was appointed assistant professor of Classics at Belgrade University!

We had many exciting talks, with the Stocker Lecture presented by Michèle Lowrie (The University of Chicago), a talk and a graduate seminar on Theoxeny by Saskia Peels and Felix Budelmann (Groningen University), the annual Lowe Lecture presented by Suzanne Lye (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and the Constantine Lecture by Sheila Murnaghan (UPENN). Jackie Arthur-Montagne, Inger Kuin, and Janet Spittler organized the Second Sophistic Colloquium at UVA in April and Giulio Celotto's co-directed interdisciplinary initiative "[The Siren Project](#): Women's Voice in Literature and the Visual Arts," not only continues to treat us all to a series of stimulating talks, but was also awarded the 2023 Society for Classical Studies Outreach Prize.

Among many successes of our faculty this year, I'd like to single out one outstanding achievement: Jenny Strauss Clay, our William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor Emerita, became a member in the [American Academy of Sciences and Letters](#).

I am continually inspired and amazed by the extraordinary teaching and scholarship of my colleagues! I am thrilled to share their latest activities and achievements with you in this newsletter. We love hearing from you, so please keep sharing your updates and news with us. We are immensely grateful for your generous financial contributions — they are vital in shaping a vibrant future for our department. Your support enables us to create enriching events for undergraduates and to fund various activities, including crucial conference opportunities for our graduate students. And of course, the Constantine Library remains the true heart of our Department.

We would be delighted to welcome you back to Grounds anytime. Come visit us — we always look forward to seeing you!

Ivana Petrovic

Letter from the Director of Graduate Studies

We welcomed two new students into the Grad Program: Bramwell Atkins from Sewanee and the University of Notre Dame, and Casey Steffen from the College of Wooster.

We awarded two MA degrees: to Carl Hamilton and to Mary Clare Young. Also three, yes, three PhDs: to Evan Brubaker, Jovan Cvjetičanin, and Evan Waters. CONGRATULATIONS again to them all!

Zach Haines won a fellowship to the Summer Session at ASCS. Erica Krause won a Jefferson Dissertation Fellowship for 2024/25. Nina Raby was recognized as a superb teacher with the award of a Graduate Student Teaching Award by the College. Mary Clare Young was awarded the Richard Weaver Fellowship for Intercollegiate Studies initiatives. Our Bridge Fellow Kaitlyn Martin won an ΗΣΦ fellowship to cover the cost of participation in the Classical Summer School at the American Academy in Rome. Four students gave papers at the SCS, and one at an equivalent epigraphic conference.

The Graduate Student Conference, Honey and Wormwood: Poetry & Philosophy, was a great success with 8 student papers and a keynote by Katharina Volk from Columbia University.

Jovan Cvjetičanin has now taken up an assistant professorship at the University of Belgrade.

The current academic year is going well, with several of our students giving papers at SCS, and planning already under way for the next grad conference. So more to report next year. Stay tuned!

John Dillery, DGS

Letter from the Director of Undergraduate Studies

In my second year as the Director of Undergraduate Studies, it continues to be a pleasure to help guide our students through the program. So far this academic year, we've seen four new majors declare, renewing our numbers after the Spring 2024 graduation ceremony, in which we were pleased to celebrate the achievements of seven departing majors: Kate Jensen Callaway, Mike Chu, Jay Cunningham, Ryan Knowles, Grace Lebo, John Purtill, and Ryland Wilson. Three of them completed the Distinguished Major Program: Kate Jensen Callaway with the thesis "Mobility impairment and social status in ancient Greece" (with highest distinction), Ryan Knowles with one titled "Imagery of disease in Seneca's tragedies" (with high distinction), and Grace Lebo with "The tombs of women in Archaic and early Classical Attica" (with distinction). Taking their place, three current fourth-years are now working on DMP theses as well, and two more students, Tristan Doan and recent graduate Ryland Wilson, will be presenting their research in the November 2024 Virginia Undergraduate Research Symposium in Classics (VURSIC). The Classics Club is as active ever, with plans underway for the revival of Classics Day in the spring, and, at this September's Margaret Lowe Memorial Lecture, our speaker series for an undergraduate audience, Suzanne Lye of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill gave a talk titled "Bringing Down the House: Women's Anger and Magical Retaliation in the Ancient Greek World" to a very full house. Finally, we're also happy to have our new hire David Williams adding to our roster of undergraduate offerings with a course in the spring called "Classical Jokes for Modern Folks: Aristophanes."

Coulter George, DUS

Events 2024-2025

Sept 19: Lowe Lecture. Suzanne Lye, University of North Carolina. "Bringing Down the House: Women's Anger and Magical Retaliation in the Ancient World"

Oct 07: Classics Talk. Fabio Stok, Università di Roma—Tor Vergata. "Commenting on Vergil in the Early Modern Age"

Oct 24: Constantine Lecture. Sheila Murnaghan, University of Pennsylvania. "The Singularity of the Tragic Day"

Feb 24: Stocker Lecture. James Uden, Boston University

Mar 08: Graduate Student Colloquium

Mar 29: Classics Day

Apr 26: Retirement Conference for John Miller on Roman Literature and Religion

May 17: Finals Weekend

Found in Translation: Female Translators of the Classics

October 16, 2024 at 5 p.m. ET

Jenny Strauss Clay
(University of Virginia)

November 18, 2024 at 5 p.m. ET

Emily Wilson
(University of Pennsylvania)

January 29, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET

Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer
(University of Chicago)

March 31, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET

Stephanie McCarter
(University of the South)

Zoom ID: 944 1142 9239
Passcode: 999293
University of Virginia, Department of Classics
For Info: Giulio Celotto (gc4fw@virginia.edu)

The Siren Project: Women's Voice
in Literature and the Visual Arts



With generous support from:
Directors of Diversity, Equity, &
Inclusion;
The Arts, Humanities, and
Social Sciences

Emeriti

Jenny Strauss Clay. Busy, busy, busy. Old stuff and new adventures. First, the *Theogony* commentary, on which I and Athanassios Vergados (PhD, UVA 2007) collaborated for the Cambridge Green and Yellow series, is finished, but publication will be delayed because of the Cambridge University Press hack. Daniel Mendelsohn's (BA, UVA 1982) *Odyssey* translation for the University of Chicago Press will be published this spring. I'm feeling a bit bereft with no major project in the works but will probably manage to find something to occupy myself with.

I began – and probably finished – my acting career as a member of the chorus in Diane Svarlien's (BA, UVA 1983) spectacular *Lysistrata*. Great fun. Gave a talk on the *Iliad* to the staff of the *New York Times* and attended the fantastic festival of William Christie's Arts Florissants in Thiré, France, with performances of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Gluck's *Orphée*. Finally, I was deeply honored by being elected to the American Academy of Sciences and Letters.



Davis Kovacs. You have not heard from me for a while. As I mentioned in the 2021 Vox Classica, in December 2020 my wife Judith, known to the many classics majors who took her course in New Testament Greek, died of pancreatic cancer. My daughter, who moved with her family from Colorado to Crozet to be with her during her last illness, has been a great blessing to me. She helped me to find a house with everything I need on one level, with a lovely layout and lots of built-in bookshelves. It is also a five-minute drive from her house. I see a lot of my two grandchildren, who are twelve and eight.

Mobility issues make getting into the Department difficult for me, so I have seen little of my wonderful colleagues. Wonderful colleagues, wonderful students, and an endlessly fascinating subject to teach and investigate are among the reasons why I count my forty years on the faculty as good fortune beyond the common run.

Here in Crozet I have enjoyed working on my commentary on Euripides' *Electra*, which I am just about to submit to Oxford University Press. The prevailing climate of critical opinion is that the play is a sour retelling of the Orestes story that cynically diminishes the principal characters and excludes the gods. I argue that this reading is arbitrary and perverse: Euripides (who knew?) was actually a tragic poet, no asterisk needed! Those who know me will not be surprised to learn that I pay a great deal of attention to establishing the text. Besides scholarship, my life manages a goodish bit of sociability as well.

Jon Mikalson. It has been an interesting year. For several months I served as the dramaturg for the Live Arts production of *An Iliad*, written by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare and directed by David Minton. It was fascinating watching the progress from words in a script to the thirteen (sold out) performances in September and October. Another project was preparing my collection of 3400 Greek postage stamps for donation to the American School of Classical Studies where they now will reside in the Archives. I also taught this fall, before the presidential election, a course entitled "Democracy, Demagogues, and Tyranny in Ancient Athens" for twenty students in our local OLLI program. A highlight of the year was a trip to Malta and Sicily – four days in Malta and then a sail on a tall ship (the *Sea Cloud II*) to and around Sicily and back to Malta, with several stops along the way. We also inaugurated, locally, the Claudius Crozet Classical Consortium, with charter members David Kovacs, David Berti, Judith Evans Grubbs, Linda Montross, and me. No meetings, no conferences, no classes, just the occasional lunch together. And, finally, to quote George Jones, "it was good year for the roses."

Emeriti Continued

Tony Woodman. It was my ambition to publish two 'anniversary' books in 2024: a green-and-yellow commentary on Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae*, it being forty years since the APA commentary of John Ramsey, and a Loeb edition of Velleius Paterculus, since the previous Loeb by F.W. Shipley appeared a century ago in 1924. Alas, circumstances conspired to deter me from even submitting my Sallust to the Press; and my Velleius is not scheduled to appear until 2025, although I am led to believe that its official publication date will be 2024. I have been consoling myself with writing a commentary on the first book of Propertius: the work has been hugely enjoyable, although attracting the interest of publishers is proving something of a problem. Next autumn I have been invited to the University of Cincinnati: it will be my first trip back to the US since my retirement in 2017, and there I expect to be seeing Salvador Bartera, Kelly Shannon (who was in my very first undergraduate class at UVA in 2003), and Zoe Stamatopoulou, a reunion to which I am very greatly looking forward.



Memorial to Professor Malcolm Bell III

The Classics Department laments the loss of a dear friend and colleague, Malcolm Bell III ("Mac"), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Art. Mac taught at UVA from 1971 and was an important member of the Charlottesville community for over five decades. The Hellenistic Greek site of Morgantina in central Sicily constituted his second home. In 1967 he first excavated there as a graduate student and remained involved with the project throughout his life, acting as Director for over forty years and introducing dozens of students from UVA and institutions throughout the world to the rigors of archaeology. During this time Mac was also active in repatriating to Morgantina objects that had been looted and found their way into various U.S. collections. Among the several fine artifacts that he returned to the local museum at Aidone are the "Getty Aphrodite" (rechristened the "Morgantina Goddess") and the silver treasure from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 2022 he published his comprehensive study on *The City Plan and Political Agora* (Morgantina Studies VII), the research for which occupied him for much of his career. Mac found a third community in Rome, in particular at the American Academy, where he lived as Fellow (1970) and Resident (1989), served as Professor-in-Charge for much of the 1990s, and was a regular presence in the library up until his death. He passed in Rome after a brief illness on January 7, 2024. His generosity and humanity will be sorely missed.

News from the Faculty

Jacqueline Arthur-Montagne. This past year has been a happy whirlwind of Classics travel, conferencing, writing, teaching, and – very gratefully – starting my first semesters of research leave in my time as a faculty member. The 2023-24 academic year felt to me foremost to be characterized by events. Some of these were the real pleasure and privilege of hosting speakers and conferences here at the University of Virginia. The “Paradoxes of Ancient Citizenship” Working Group, on which I collaborated with Elizabeth Meyer and Tyler Jo Smith, featured many wonderful speakers over the fall and spring terms. Some of my favorite presentations had to do with religion and finding the female citizens of democratic Athens, atimia in Attic drama, and the demographics of manumission in Greco-Roman Egypt. Another major highlight of last year was hosting The Second Sophistic Colloquium at UVA with my colleagues Inger Kuin and Janet Spittler, which began with a very memorable session on Babrian fables, featuring outstanding presentations by several Classics graduate students. I also did a fair bit of traveling myself for conferences and talks, including a trip to Stanford to present my newly published volume on Hellenistic Literature and Culture: Studies in Honor of Susan A. Stephens, co-edited with Benjamin Acosta-Hughes and Phiroze Vasunia (also featuring a terrific chapter from our very own Chair, Ivana Petrovic). I had the real treat of visiting Paris, the UK, and Rome for a few conferences on Cicero, fiction, and forgery. However glamorous it all might sound, I can assure my readers that there was an awful lot of crummy airport food and getting lost on public transit too.

This year has been a refreshing start for some new projects. Having at last finished revisions on my first book project, I’m now at the Center for Hellenic Studies breaking ground on a new study that I’m provisionally calling “The Classical Past in the Ancient Classroom.” This project is an investigation into what historical narratives of Classical Greece students of the Postclassical Mediterranean would have gleaned in the course of the *enkuklios paideia*. So far, in a fairly exhaustive trawl through the Hermogenean corpus, I am finding (perhaps unsurprisingly) so much Demosthenes! Thus far, then, students of the Hermogenean rhetorical manuals must have taken away that Aeschines was a real stinker. But then one occasionally comes across a scholastic theme that feels so very relevant to the present moment that it almost takes your breath away. There are a subset of declamation themes I’ve discovered, for instance, on how one would advise with a *suasoria* a group of people forced to emigrate because of an ecological disaster. For instance, “How to advise the Egyptians to emigrate because the Nile has ceased flooding” or “How to advise the Catanians to emigrate when fire continuously flows from Mt. Etna” (Hermogenes, *On Invention* 2.2). After observing the terrible storms Helene and Milton this fall, it struck me just how present these distant declamation themes feel to the climate crisis and the growing attention to ecology in

Classical studies today. Tangentially related to the natural world is also a special issue of *Arethusa* I’ve just finished editing with Edward Kelting (UCSD) on “Animals under Empire.” My own contribution has to do with fables and physiognomy in postclassical rhetoric, but I’m terribly proud to be in the same issue with superlative studies on “pet” children (*pueri minuti*), imperialist ants, and the story of Androcles and the Lion by my fellow contributors. Nature is surprisingly present with me even here in the urban center of DC because the deer at the Center are completely unintimidated by humans (unlike their flightier cousins in the woods of Scottsville).

While I love being on leave, the students from my 2023-24 classes make me very much miss the department and the broader Classics community at UVA. One of the main highlights was the Greek Literary Criticism graduate seminar – perhaps the favorite I’ve taught thus far – whose members helped me see new dimensions in authors familiar and fresh. There was also a consistent chorus of “less Philodemus!” for future iterations of the class, which gave me a real chuckle. But there’s no substitute for grappling with all the challenges of Longinus’ compound verbs just to stumble on his analysis of Sappho 31 and realize that ancient readers were as subsumed by her artistry as we are. The sort of close reading and insightful discussions we have in our seminars is perhaps what I love most about our discipline – endless opportunities to converse with the past, reveling at once in all its strangeness and familiarity.

I’ll close out by saying we’ve added a few more members to the “farm” in Scottsville. Both a new dog, named Buster, and a crew of adventurous chickens. I wish I could say that we’ve given them Classics-y names, but I’ve yet to meet the hen who can quite pull off a “Clytemnestra” or “Eurydice.” We do, however, have a very hilarious rooster named “Cluck Norris.” I’m not sure he’s quite suitable for a department visit, but there will be lots of free eggs on offer next year when I return!

Giulio Celotto. The summer break flew by in a heartbeat. After spending a few weeks surrounded by the beauties of the bay of Naples, I am now looking forward to another exciting school year. This semester I am enjoying teaching an accelerated elementary Latin course for students with previous knowledge of Latin, and a newly designed advanced course on Roman women writers, which aims to expand the male-dominated canon of Latin literature and make students familiar with a number of too often-neglected, yet fascinating texts. Next Spring I will be pleased to offer an Intermediate Latin course on the character of Clodia in Catullus and Cicero, and an advanced course on Sallust. In terms of research, 2024 has been a very productive year. I published two articles, one in *The Classical Journal* on the fluidity of gender roles in Catullus’ poetic collection, and one in *Vichiana* on the influence of Livy on Tacitus’ civil war narratives. In addition, I look forward to seeing in print my paper on Per-

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sius' engagement with Vergil's *Georgics*, recently accepted for publication in *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*, as well as a piece on Servius' use of Persius in his commentary on the *Aeneid*, which will appear in the next issue of *The American Journal of Philology*. This year I was also delighted to give several talks, both virtually and in person. I was especially pleased to accept the invitation to speak at the University of Vermont about the metapoetic function of magic in Ovid's and Lucan's epic. Lastly, I am happy to announce that "The Siren Project," the interdisciplinary research initiative on women's voice in literature and the visual arts that I co-direct with my colleagues Francesca Calamita (Spanish, Italian & Portuguese) and Giulia Paoletti (Art), has been awarded the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant, which will enable us to organize a lecture series on female translators of the Classics.

Anthony Corbeil. During Spring 2024 I acted as Professor-in-Charge at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome (the "Centro"). The position entailed heavy teaching; in particular a double-credit course team-taught out in the city with three colleagues on the topography, art, and archaeology of Rome and Italy. But there were also perks, beyond the wine and pasta. To begin with, I can't imagine ever again having nineteen students eager and able to take Advanced Latin Prose Composition. Of equal delight, the Centro office provided access to sites I had been longing to visit for decades, such as the underground basilica at Porta Maggiore, with its mysterious stucco of Sappho committing suicide depicted prominently in the apse, or the wet walk through the submerged theater at Herculaneum where there is clearly visible, high up in the vault of a narrow passageway, the spooky profile of Marcus Nonius Balbus, created when his statue was pushed into the pyroclastic flow (see picture). Although this is an imprint from marble, it offers a vivid reminder of the thousands killed in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE. Back in Charlottesville for Fall I am teaching a favorite class (first-year Latin) and a favorite author. In the graduate seminar "Fall 44 BCE" we are reading selections of Cicero's enormous and varied output from this period-- letters, moral treatises, oratory. Without Cicero, life seems a little less full.



John Dillery. I had two papers published, one in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* on repetition in Herodotus. I continue to work on Book 2 of Herodotus, and will be attending a conference in Germany (Kiel) in a matter of days on Herodotus' sources for that book. I am currently teaching a graduate seminar on Herodotus in which my students amaze me with their knowledge and enthusiasm. Undergraduate teaching takes me to Lysias and Aristophanes, where, again, I am thrilled by the ability and good cheer of my students.

Coulter George. The past year has been relatively quiet: I continue to work on my book on Greek prose style, I very much enjoyed teaching Cicero's *Philippics* for the first time, and now that I'm in my second year as the Director of Undergraduate Studies, I'm starting to have a slightly better idea what I'm doing!

Greg Hays. My spring semester was enlivened by a bout of colon cancer (all better now, hopefully). I'm grateful to Sara Myers and Jenny Clay for stepping in to oversee my classes while I was recovering from surgery. I was especially sorry to lose a month with my graduate class while we examined the art and craft of translating Horace. This fall I'm on research leave, working on my longstanding Fulgentius project, and coming in to the office as little as possible. It's been an excellent year for movies, especially by Fritz Lang and Jean-Luc Godard. Other films that stuck with me are *Filibus: The Mysterious Air Pilot*, *Dead Man*, *Under the Silver Lake*, *Observance*, and *La Sapienza*. Non-classical books I enjoyed: Vajra Chandrasekera, *The Saint of Bright Doors*; J.G. Farrell, *The Siege of Krishnapur* and *The Singapore Grip*.

Inger Kuin. It has been a rich and exciting year for me filled with teaching, travel, conferences, and an exciting new research project. In January I traveled to Chicago for the Annual Meeting of the Society of Classical Studies. I saw some of our graduate students give outstanding papers, and had the pleasure of presenting some of my own research on stereotypical representations of enslaved workers in the ancient jokebook *Philogelos*. In April Jacqueline Arthur-Montagne, Janet Spittler from Religious Studies and I hosted a workshop in Charlottesville for The Second Sophistic Colloquium. Scholars from all over the US, and some even from Canada and Australia got to mingle with our colleagues, students, and alumni, for social events, and for a seminar on the poetic fables of Babrius. We also took the opportunity to show our guests around, including a tour of Monticello. Over the summer I started working on a new research project in the Netherlands. Together with a professor from the University of Leiden and two student interns we are studying the ancient Greek and Roman inscriptions in the collection of Baron van Westreenen van Tiellandt (1783-1848), which is housed in his palace, now a museum, in The Hague. This Fall I am teaching a new graduate course together

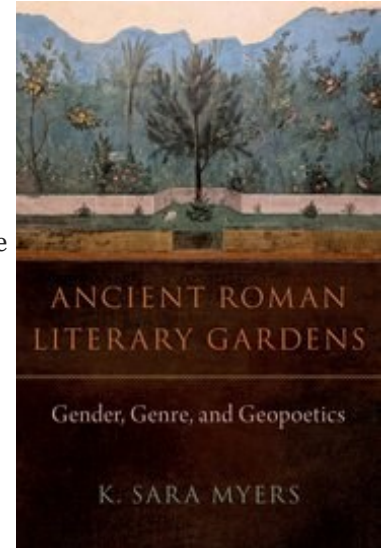
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with Janet Spittler on the incredibly diverse Greek literature written in the Roman Empire concerning religion, which has been very fulfilling. Finally, my contribution to the *Blackwell Companion to Aristophanes* appeared, titled “Aristophanes and the Second Sophistic” this year.



John Miller. As I write this I am in Rome at the American Academy for the month of November, a wonderful opportunity that I could take advantage of because of my current research leave. I'll also be giving a lecture at the Università di Roma—Tor Vergata. My return home will be via Greece, where I'll attend the retirement event in honor of friend and former UVA colleague Lucia Athanassaki at the University of Crete. During the past year my travels included the usual conventions—SCS in Chicago and CAMWS in St. Louis—plus lecture trips to Washington University in St. Louis and Emory; I also helped launch the International Ovidian Society's on-line series of conversations about a notable recent book on Ovid. I was happy to direct two dissertations to their conclusion, by Evan Brubaker, now a post-doc at UVA, and Jovan Cvjetičanin, who accepted a position at the University of Belgrade. Publications included articles on Ovid and Propertius and an essay in the journal *Arion* entitled 'Musing on Homer at UVA' (about the beloved statue on Jefferson's Lawn). Colleague Inger Kuin and I continued the long tradition at the Center for the Liberal Arts of organizing workshops for K-12 teachers on classical subjects, this time on the subject of African-American reception of the Classics and in collaboration with colleagues from Howard University and the College of William & Mary. It was a pleasure to catch up at points during the year with alumni Karen Donahue, Chris Nappa, Steve Smith, Salvador Bartera, Dan Leon, Sidney Woram, Zoe Stamatopoulou, Brett Evans, Rebecca Frank, Daniel Moore, Jocelyn Moore, Courtney Evans, Tim Brannelly, Emily Master, and John Schafer.

Sara Myers. This Fall my book, *Ancient Roman Literary Gardens: Gender, Genre, and Geopoetics*, was published by Oxford University Press. In the Spring I co-organized with a colleague in Slavic Studies, Edith Clowes, a lively and enlightening symposium entitled “Re-envisioning the Black Sea in Literature and Historiography: Backwater or *oikoumenē*?,” with participants from all the countries around the Black Sea. Ovid and Medea turn out to be still vivid presences in the region. In my classes I was lucky enough to teach both Ovid and Vergil. Finally, I enjoyed giving a talk at FLAVA in Norfolk in October, where I met many enthusiastic Latin secondary school teachers, a number of them UVA grads, who are keeping Latin alive in Virginia.



Andrej Petrovic. I think it's fair to say that this has been an eventful year, but what made me particularly happy since I wrote to you last, was that two of my PhD students defended their theses: Evan Waters on Lucian and Greek historiography, and Stephen Hill on the portrayal of Heracles in the Imperial literature. Also, another graduate student of mine, Will Nichols, had a paper accepted for publication in one of the top journals in the field. It has been not just rewarding, but also a great pleasure to work with all three of them, and it is enormously satisfying to try to support the next generation of scholars. Why mince words, I am also very proud of their achievements. UVA undergraduates, brilliant and hard working as they are, continue to be a source of



Enjoying the sun and an inscription in Istanbul

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great delight: I continued teaching Elementary Greek throughout 2024 and, after a hiatus of a few years, I am again teaching Greek Civilization this Fall. In terms of scholarship, I published a piece on purity, with two more on similar matters to come out soon (one of these co-authored with Ivana), I submitted a piece on the social position of Hellenistic poets, and with Ivana and Saskia Peels, a colleague from Groningen, a longish piece on sacredness in Greek ritual norms. With a colleague from Zurich and a colleague from Antalya, I am currently wrapping up a paper on a highly unusual and unspeakably naughty verse-inscription from Teos which, we believe, may actually have been composed by none other than Anacreon, one of the greatest lyric poets of antiquity. Exciting times.

Ivana Petrovic. This year has been a whirlwind of excitement! I had a blast teaching Greek Myth in the Spring and Greek Rituals this Fall— it was fantastic to dive into these fascinating topics with such enthusiastic students. I also had the chance to present papers at conferences in Groningen (Holland), Syracuse (Italy), and right here at UVA. My work on Apollonius of Rhodes and Ancient Greek apotheosis has been published, with more on the way. Andrej and I are still deep into our joint research on curses and concepts of purity, with a joint article on curses forthcoming in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*. We also wrapped up a rewarding collaboration with our Dutch colleague, Saskia Peels, exploring the idea of sacredness. Up next, I'll be teaming up with Jenny Clay to dive into an article on religion in Hesiod. I also poured a lot of energy into department initiatives and our recent hire, which has been incredibly rewarding. Now, I'm eagerly looking forward to some much-needed time for research during my sabbatical, starting in January!

D. David Williams. Hello! I'm deeply honored and absolutely delighted to have joined the Classics Department this fall. My wife, Lauren, and I arrived in Charlottesville from Madison, WI (via Philadelphia, PA) in July—setting out just two days (!) after returning from Verona, IT, where I presented a paper at a meeting of the International Society of Socratic Studies. Most of our summer was spent settling in as I prepared for my first semester at the University and Lauren prepared for her job teaching art at Baker-Butler Elementary as well as her fall artist residency at New City Arts. It has been exhilarating to be back in the classroom this fall, teaching "Tragedy and Comedy" to a diverse group of undergrads and Livy to advanced Latin students. This spring I'll be keeping things comic with a new course on Aristophanes ("Classical Jokes for Modern Folks: Aristophanes"). I'm also looking forward to finalizing the manuscript of a co-edited volume on the multitalented Hippias of Elis (*Hippias of Elis: Texts, Translations, and Commentary*) and to making progress on my current book project (tentative title: "*Addressing Clouds*": *Aristophanes and the Attic Enlightenment*). While making a big move and starting a new position always presents challenges, I've been so grateful for the generous support of everyone in the department as I've begun my career at UVA and my life in Charlottesville. I'm looking forward to getting to know the broader UVA Classics community, so please do drop me an email (ddk5ad@virginia.edu) to say hello!

Participants from The Second Sophistic Colloquium touring Monticello. Jackie Arthur-Montagne, Rob Cioffi, Janet Downie, & Jeff Ulrich



Taken during our (successful!) apartment-hunting trip to Charlottesville last spring



Congratulations Erica Krause 2024 Jefferson Scholars Fellow

**The ancient Roman bath in
Bath, England**



Because of the generous funding of the Lazenby Summer Research Grant as well as the Renate Voris Fellowship, I was able to spend my fellowship year traveling the world doing research and presenting my research at conferences, in addition to writing. In the fall, I explored the ancient Roman drainage tunnels at Lakes Albano and Nemi with Mario Mazzoli and Marco Vitelli, the founders of A.S.S.O. (*Archeologia Subacquea Speleologia Organizzazione*), along with the permission of the Italian government and the assistance of Prof. Corbeill.

Before embarking on this research trip, I gave an invited talk at the University of Puget Sound, based on the research I presented on the Alban tunnel the previous summer at St. Andrews. In January, I presented my research on the *Georgics* as part of the Vergilian Society panel *Green Vergil II* at SCS in Chicago. In March, I presented my research on Pliny the Elder at the UK Classical Association Conference, one of the themes of which was Ecocriticism. After that conference, I conducted research on ancient Romans' relationship with water in Bath and London.

This year, I became a Jefferson Fellow, and so I have another fellowship year, and next year I will stay at UVA as a Postdoctoral Research Associate, teaching an Engagements course based on my research. I also became the Graduate Liaison for the International Ovidian Society, and am part of the working party for an upcoming IOS conference in Pisa on emerging Ovidian scholarship. Thank you to the UVA Classics faculty and staff – you are helping me achieve my wildest dreams! I could not have accomplished any of what I did this year without your support.



**Erica Krause inside a drainage tunnel
in the Etruscan necropolis at Cerveteri.**

Classical Happenings

Ivana Petrovic presenting at the Re-envisioning the Black Sea Symposium in March.



Inger Kuin with Classics major Tristan Doan, Archeology major Nicole Romero, and one of her students from the "Are You a Stoic?" class, Sophia Go, at the Mead Endowment dinner.

Congratulations 2024 Colker & Powell Fellow

Zachary Haines, Ph.D. Candidate. This year I traveled to Greece for the first time, thanks to the generous support of the Colker and Powell Bicentennial Fellowship. I was able to attend a course at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA), titled 'Alexander to Actium: The Archaeology of Hellenistic Greece'. Beyond Athens, I visited Delphi, Epidaurus, Olympia, the beautiful Mani peninsula, and the Macedonian tombs at Vergina. I also gave a presentation at Chaeronea on the lion monument honoring the Theban Sacred Band (see picture!). This trip to Greece was a major personal and professional milestone for me, and it would not have been possible without support from the Colker and Powell Fellowship, for which I am extremely grateful. More recently, I passed exams and defended my dissertation prospectus. I am writing on divine etymology in the Hellenistic period—that is, how the Greeks explored the 'true' meanings of the gods' names in Hellenistic poetry, philosophy, and scholarship. Finally, I am currently co-directing the graduate colloquium, title 'Nomen est omen: Invention, Power, and Meaning of Personal Names in the Greco-Roman World'. I am looking forward to reviewing abstracts and hosting a great colloquium in the spring.



News From our Students, Alumni, and Friends

Camilla Basile, Ph.D. Candidate. This year has been really eventful for me. In January, I presented a paper titled “Apollonius’ *Μοῦσαι ὑποφῆτορες* and the Interpretation of the Egyptian Tradition” at the Annual SCS meeting in Chicago. A few months later, while I was traveling around Japan, I learned that my paper on Apollonius’ Muses had been accepted for publication with very positive reviews (yay!). The paper will appear as a chapter in a peer-reviewed volume based on the international “Argonautica” workshop, which was held at Trinity College (Dublin) in June 2023. I spent most of my summer in Charlottesville, where I directed and taught in the Latin Summer Language Institute. This is now my last year as a graduate student at UVA—so far, a fair mix of excitement and trepidation for the future!

Jovan Cvjetičanin, Ph.D. 2024. I got married to Meredith Huff, Current Classics Ph.D. Student. The wedding was on June 9, at the Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago, IL. We were happy that some of our friends from UVA were able to join us. Afterwards we did some traveling in West Virginia and Washington, DC.

After graduating, I moved back to Serbia and started my new position as Assistant Instructor at the University of Belgrade, my alma mater. I am happy to be back together with family and friends, and excited to be teaching alongside many old colleagues and professors. This year I am



teaching Introductory and Advanced Latin. Next year we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of our Classics Department with an international conference. Since returning to Europe I have also attended conferences on Flavian poetry in Athens and Lisbon.

Tom Garvey, Ph.D. 2010. After a decade teaching in Las Vegas, I finally completed my *nostos* in true Odyssean fashion by returning to my native Northern California in the summer of 2023 after a total of 20 years away. I now find myself teaching jointly in the English and World Languages Departments at Menlo School in Atherton on the San Francisco Peninsula. In addition to serving as advisor to both my school's JCL (Junior Classical League) chapter and its Trivia Club/competitive Quiz Bowl team, I will also have led international trips to Cambodia, Perú, and Greece within just my first two years here! And while the absolute best thing about being home is the close proximity to my dad, the giant redwood trees and perfectly temperate weather are close seconds.

While I haven't been super active in the kind of scholarly pursuits that yield published articles, I do make a priority of continuing to avail myself of professional development opportunities like the Paideia Institute's Living Greek in Greece program and a recent NEH Summer Institute on "Olympics and Daily Life in Olympia" (both in 2024). And although I have stepped down after completing my term as its First VP, I'm delighted to report that I'll be co-leading the Vergilian Society's study tour through Ancient France this coming summer from June 23 to July 3. Nothing would make me happier than having the chance to reconnect with some old friends on this tour, so don't hesitate to sign up if you'd like to join in on the fun (and NB: the VS offers scholarships!). I'll end with what I consider my biggest professional accomplishment/contribution to our beloved field of Classics by unabashedly bragging that a student from my baby-Greek class at Kenyon College (my first job after completing my PhD back in 2010) has now so far outstripped me that he has secured a tenure-track position at none other than my very own *alma mater*, the University of Virginia! Congratulations, David Williams; I could not be more proud of you!

Zhihan Hu, B.A. 2023. I graduated from UVA in May 2023 with a degree in Classics. After spending a year working at a litigation firm in New Jersey, I returned to Charlottesville in August as a Juris Doctor Candidate at University of Virginia School of Law, being the only Chinese J.D. student in the Class of 2027.

The summer before law school, I embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure across Eurasia. It began with a transatlantic flight from New York to London and spanned cities including London, Cambridge, Paris, Char-

News From our Students, Alumni, and Friends

tres, Illiers-Combray, Geneva, Zurich, Berlin, Florence, Athens, Yerevan, Istanbul, Almaty, and Beijing.

For a Classics major, part of the journey felt like an academic pilgrimage: admiring the Parthenon sculptures in the British Museum, the Persian collection at the Louvre, climbing Acropolis in 38°C/100°F heat, and marveling at the spectacular mosaics in Hagia Sophia. Although I regret that I had to remove Tbilisi and Samarkand from my itinerary due to a lack of time, the journey was still truly unforgettable.

I studied Homer and Greek tragedy during my college years to build a world within myself, to be a more sentient human. While I've taken a different path in law school, those I have learned with heart stay with me forever and will continue to shape me wherever life takes me. And this winter, I'm planning my third trip to Italy--this time to Naples--to visit the archaeological museum, and of course, Pompei!



Prof. Elizabeth Meyer, History. The classical community is delighted to welcome Michael Zerjadtke of the Bundesuniversität Hamburg (Germany's West Point) for an academic-year-long visit. Michael won the highly competitive Feodor Lynen Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung. Michael is here to employ UVA's superb facilities in order to finish his Habilitation, the "second dissertation" German scholars must write to receive a professorship. Michael is perhaps the world's leading expert on ancient Greek arms and armor, and his host, Ted Lendon, has been greatly enjoying the intellectual ferment created by having Michael, Lendon's gradu-

ate student Hank Lanphier, and Classics major Margaret Berberian, all of them interested in Greek arms and armor, in the same place at the same time. UVA has become an *ergasterion polemou!*

Michael after giving the first Friday lunch of the year, on "The Cost of Hoplite Equipment and Who Could Afford It" (Prof. Ted Lendon right).



Kaitlyn Martin, Bridge Student. With the generous support of the Lazenby Fund, I was able to attend the Classical Summer School at the American Academy this past summer. Drs. Evan Jewell, Valentina Follo, and Emily Hurt led us on a journey all over Italy, studying the ancient world from the graves of the Etruscans to the Baths of Caracalla. It was an enriching experience, overall: to see a fragment of the world walked by its ancient inhabitants, to participate in pedagogical workshops, and to make lasting connections with friends and colleagues from around the world.



Posing with a second century CE statue of Antoninus Pius, my assigned name in our emperor roll call, at the Palazzo Massimo Alle Terme in Rome.



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Chu, Minguk
Cunningham, James Reese
Callaway, Kate Rebecca*
Knowles, Ryan Terence**
Lebo, Grace Wilson***
Purtill, John Vereen
Wilson, Ryland Lee

* Distinguished Major Program in Classics (Highest Distinction)
** Distinguished Major Program in Classics (High Distinction)
*** Distinguished Major Program in Classics (Distinction)

MASTER OF ARTS

Hamilton III, Carl D. (December 2023)
Young, Mary Clare Therese

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Ovid, Antiquarianism, and Political Revival in Novidio
Fracco's *Sacri Fasti*
Cvjeticanin, Jovan
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