



CLASSICS

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
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Graduate Program Report

Christer Bruun, Graduate Director.

Classics at the U of T has the second largest faculty in North America, and the expectation that we should have a large and flourishing graduate program is understandable. All indications suggest graduate expansion is going well. In September 2007, the 36 Classics PhD and MA students in the Funded Cohort held a remarkable 20 external grants. Of the PhD students, eight held SSHRC doctoral grants (Jody Cundy, Marie-Pierre Krück, Laura Mawhinney, Melanie Racette-Campbell, Lee Sawchuk, Eric Tindale, Chris Wallace, and Tyler Young), we had four CGS-Masters grants (Ed Butcher, Jessica Higgins, Kevin Lawson, and Rob McCutcheon), and six students were winners of an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Cara Jordan, Zoë Misiewicz, Tim Perry, Miranda Robinson, Andrew Snelgrove, Ariel Vernon). We also had two holders of the Connaught award for outstanding international students (Jackie Neel and Beth Nettels). And there is more success to report in this year's competitions.

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EX CATHEDRA

The most significant event of the 2007-08 academic year was the move to the Lillian Massey Building at 125 Queen's Park. The event was announced by Brad Inwood last year, at the end of his last *Ex Cathedra* report, and many of you will remember having seen the photo of the frontal elevation included in the 2007 *Newsletter*. We are adding one this year of the seminar room on the second floor (see page 4). Although we had all grown very fond of 97 St. George, it would soon have become too small for the department; and as the southern stretch of St. George was rapidly becoming too small for the Rotman School, a move was inevitable in any case. Many departments in the University have recently moved, but few can be as content with their new quarters as we are with ours. Since December 11th, moving day, we have worked to make it a home, and the spring semester gave us the opportunity to settle in fully. With a large classroom and seminar room actually in the building, the teaching of our seminars and smaller undergraduate lecture courses has gained in a feeling of cohesion: much more teaching now takes place *within* the department than has ever been the case before. This has numerous benefits, including fewer hurried treks across campus, more frequent chance meetings with students, and so on. There are still a few jobs to be taken care of, but most of the work on the building is now complete. I would like to thank all of the members of the department for their patience and cooperation during the fall semester, and (above all) Victoria Wohl, Alex

Jones, Brad Inwood, and Ann-Marie Matti, who handled the fundamental tasks of planning and designing the new space. Visitors were most impressed with the building this winter and spring, and I invite all friends of the department to drop by when it is convenient.

The other big news has to do with administrative change. I have had the privilege of serving as Acting Chair twice, under Brad Inwood and (now) Alison Keith. The department flourished under Brad's innovative leadership and now has a new profile: a young and vibrant faculty, and a different sense of the balance and interaction between what may broadly be described as the literary and historical areas of Classics. Growth and change will continue under Alison Keith, but among the most important changes of the next five years will certainly be a process of maturing. With the two Collaborative Programs (Ancient History, Ancient and Medieval Philosophy) now fully operational, and with the department's commitment to new fields of scholarship and teaching, the coming years are bound to bring many exciting developments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brad for his years as Chair, and to wish Alison the very best in guiding the department through the next phases of change.

Brief profiles of our two newest faculty members, Regina Höschele and Erik Gunderson, are printed below, to round out the introductions included in last year's

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The department welcomed two new professors this year, **Regina Höschle** and **Erik Gunderson**.

Erik received his Ph.D. in Classics from The University of California, Berkeley in 1996 and taught at The Ohio State University for the next ten years. His research generally involves readings of Latin prose authors from a literary-critical perspective. His work frequently arises from a gambit whereby he posits that novel interpretive opportunities can emerge if one reads “nonliterary” texts for their metaphors, themes, and characters. Much of his research also explores questions of gender and identity. He is the author of *Staging Masculinity: The Rhetoric of Performance in the Roman World* which examines theories of rhetorical performance in antiquity. His *Declamation, Paternity and Roman Identity: Authority and the Rhetorical Self* revisits a maligned genre in order to find favored issues, themes, and approaches amidst those rhetorical fictions. His forthcoming *Nox Philologiae: Aulus Gellius and the Fantasy of the Roman Library* offers a reading of the ancient readers and the bookish life. He is also the editor of the forthcoming Cambridge Companion to Ancient Rhetoric. His articles include explorations of rhetorical topics, the arena, epistles, and satire. He has taught seminars on genres, authors, and themes: declamation, exemplification, antiquarianism, Sallust, Cicero, Seneca, Gender, and Ethnography.



Although Bavarian by birth, Regina waited until she came to Canada to have her very first beer after one of our Literary/Philological Seminars. While still in Munich, she wrote a dissertation on the poetics and textuality of ancient epigram collections (yes, it is possible even without beer!), which she is currently revising for publication—whenever she is not busy chasing down Torontonians bike thieves. Regina’s interests include Hellenistic and Latin poetry, in particular erotic texts (for who would dispute Tom Lehrer’s dictum “dirty books are fun”?). She is the author of a monograph on the early imperial epigrammatist Rufinus and has, *inter alia*, written articles on the ps.-Vergilian *Moretum*, the *Carmina Priapea* and Meleager. In the near future she hopes to undertake a book-length study of Catullus and Hellenistic poetry.



The department’s other faculty have had another banner year. These are just a few of the highlights: **Ben Akrigg** launched an exciting conference project, co-organized with Rob Tordoff of York University. Scheduled to take place on Dec. 5th-6th, the conference will deal with slaves in Aristophanes and Attic Comedy. In the meantime he is at work on his study of *Economy and Population in Classical Athens*. 🏠 Look for **Ryan Balot**’s recent piece in *Ancient Philosophy*, titled “Socratic Courage and Athenian Democracy.” Ryan is also both editing and contributing to the *Companion to Greek and Roman Political Thought*, which he has just sent off to Blackwell for publication in the Spring. 🏠 Along with numerous articles and book chapters, **Roger Beck** has recently published two important books, *A Brief History of Ancient Astrology* and *The Religion of the Mithras Cult in the Roman Empire: Mysteries of the Unconquered Sun*. Roger has also been very active in the past year with conferences and as a visiting lecturer. 🏠 **Rachel Barney** has several book projects underway, one entitled *Plato at Work*, a translation of Simplicius’ commentary on Aristotle, *Physics I*, and a co-edited volume entitled *Plato and the Divided Self*. She also maintained a busy schedule of conference papers and invited lectures and has completed a number of significant articles. 🏠 **Andreas Bendlin**’s study of the religious complexity of Rome in the second and first centuries BCE is nearing completion, and his co-edited volume (with J. Rüpke), *Form und Funktion religiöser Diskurse in der lateinischen Literatur des 1. Jahrhunderts v. Chr.*, appeared in print. Andreas was a Visiting Professor last summer at Konstanz, where he will be again this July, and was active as a lecturer in both North America and Europe. 🏠 In May **Christer Bruun** broke new ground for the department when he took a group of undergraduates to Rome for an on-site course entitled “Ancient Rome: Monuments and History.” Christer nevertheless found time to complete articles on various aspects of Roman civilization and carry on with work on his edition of the Roman lead pipes held at the Vatican. Next year he continues on as the departmental Graduate Coordinator. 🏠 **Jonathan Burgess** had three pieces of especially good news to report this year: he was promoted to the rank of (full) Professor; he is among the first generation of distinguished Jackman Humanities Institute Fellows (2008-09)—he will be pursuing a project involving the *Odyssey*; and his *The Death and Afterlife of Achilles* was accepted by Johns Hopkins and should be out by the end of the year. He has also recently had the pleasure of visiting various European museums while researching iconography as part of an ongoing project on the death of Astyanax. 🏠 After spending a month at the Maison de l’Archéologie, Université Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux, **Michel Cottier** presented a paper at the 25th International Congress of Papyrology, and served as a panel member for the review of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Lausanne. Michel and his wife Frédérique Landuyt recently became the proud parents of their first son, Félix. 🏠 **Michael Dewar** has several articles that have just appeared, or will very soon, and he is at work on two major book projects, one entitled *Leisured Resistance: Villas, Literature and Politics in the Roman World*, the other *Lucan’s Civil War*. Michael has been seeing a number of doctoral students through the final stages of thesis writing and he continues to serve as External Examiner for the undergraduate programs in Classics and Classical Civilization at

FACULTY NEWS

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Trinity College, Dublin. 🏠 **Björn Ewald** is busy revising the English translation of *Mit Mythen leben* (with Paul Zanker). Oxford will publish it in 2009 as *Living with Myth*, to be followed by a symposium at Berkeley entitled “Responding to *Living with Myth*”. Björn has also co-edited a volume, *The Emperor and Rome: Space, Representation, Ritual*, and continues work on a book on the Second Sophistic, the funerary art and visual culture of Roman Athens. He was recently elected *korrespondierendes Mitglied* of the German Archaeological Institute. 🏠 **Alison Keith** spent the year on sabbatical leave at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina where she completed a book on *Propertius, Poet of Love and Leisure*. She also had two co-edited volumes appear this year: (with Stephen Rupp) *Metamorphosis: The Changing Face of Ovid in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* and (with Jonathan Edmondson) *Roman Dress and the Fabrics of Roman Culture*. 🏠 On leave after finishing his term as Chair, **Brad Inwood** remained busy, as editor of *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, as Malcolm Bowie Distinguished Visitor at Christ’s College, Cambridge, and as a guest speaker in Budapest, Berlin and Rome. In addition to finishing up a translation (with Miriam Griffin) of Seneca’s *On Benefits*, Brad is working on a range of topics relating to Cicero and the ancient Academy, Stoicism, and Aristotle’s ethics. 🏠 **Ephraim Lytle** continued revising for publication his dissertation on fishing and the ancient economy. He completed a number of articles to the project, one of which appears in the most recent volume of *Phoenix*. 🏠 In addition to serving as Acting Chair, **John Magee** made progress on his critical edition of Boethius’ commentaries on the *Peri Hermeneias* and a translation (w/ Latin) of Calcidius’ *In Timaeus* for the new Harvard Dumbarton Oaks series. This summer John moves into the Directorship of the Centre for Medieval Studies. 🏠 In January **Hugh Mason** took up, for a second time, the post of Undergraduate Coordinator, replacing Alex Jones (who spent the better part of the spring semester at Cal. Tech). Hugh’s interests in the ancient novel and all aspects of the history of Lesbos continue to be at the core of his research activity. 🏠 **Martin Revermann** is editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Greek Comedy* and at work on a number of projects, among them a volume on Sophocles’ *Oedipus Tyrannus* and another on Brecht and Greek Tragedy. This past year he presented papers in Canada and the US, and he will be offering others next year at Oxford and Bryn Mawr. 🏠 **Catherine Rubincam** continues with research on her project concerning the use of numbers in ancient and modern historical narrative, for which she received this year a new three-year research grant, and had two related articles accepted for publication. She has taken on the role of Associate Chair of Historical Studies (Classics, History, Religion) at UTM. 🏠 **Victoria Wohl** completed her first year as Editor of *Phoenix* and has quickly become essential to the life of the department, running the Literary/Philological Seminar, organizing visiting speakers, and managing the departmental reception held at the APA in Chicago. She also completed a draft of a book entitled *Law’s Cosmos*.

Finally, as mentioned in this year’s *Ex Cathedra*, the department celebrated the retirement of **Timothy Barnes**. Two of Tim’s former graduate students, John Vanderspoel and George Bevan, organized in his honour a colloquium, which took place on December 8, 2007 and was well-attended by present and former students and colleagues.

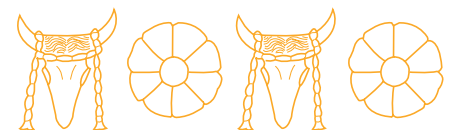
After Acting Chair John Magee opened the proceedings with some poignant reminiscences, ten scholarly papers were presented, first by the Honorand, followed by eight former students (Richard Burgess, Kathy Gaca, Thomas Goud, Edward Champlin, Stephanie Kennell, George Bevan, and John Vanderspoel) and the guest speaker, Professor Alan Cameron.



Pictured (from left): Stephanie Kennell, John Vanderspoel, Ted Champlin and Tim Barnes (Photo credit: Janet Sidaway).

Most of the papers reflected Tim’s influence in their choice of subject (“Late Antiquity”), and all showed to good effect training in what several speakers referred to as “the Barnes method” - a determination to interrogate afresh for oneself all relevant ancient evidence, not taking on trust the opinions of other scholars, no matter how eminent their authority. The opening autobiographical remarks and the personal reminiscences sprinkled throughout the presentations found their completion in Professor Cameron’s “Reflections on Timothy Barnes’ scholarship and career”, which drew on a friendship going back to undergraduate days in Oxford.

The day’s proceedings made a most appropriate tribute to one who has been a significant presence in the Department for 36 years. A number of the presenters cited a favourite admonition of Professor Barnes, that a scholar should not become less bold with age. No one who listened to his paper, proposing a bold new date for Ignatius, could doubt that he intends to continue fulfilling that injunction in his own practice, we hope for a long time.



EX CATHEDRA

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Newsletter. Our most recent hire, Dimitri Nakassis, arrives this summer. Dimitri took his degrees from the Universities of Michigan and Texas at Austin; he has previously taught in Texas and Florida, and brings a unique combination of interests to the department: Bronze Age archaeology, Greek literature, early Greek history. Timothy Barnes retired at the end of December and continues with his work now as an Honorary Fellow in both the School of Divinity and the School of History, Classics, and Archaeology at Edinburgh. Friends and colleagues are warmly invited to get in touch if they happen to be traveling to Scotland. Finally, Alex Jones has been hired to help Roger Bagnall build NYU's newly founded Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW). It is an extraordinary honor, and on behalf of the department I wish him the very best and thank him for his exceptional service to the department. Our next search, to be launched this summer, will be in the field of Roman poetry.

Let me end by thanking Coral Gavrilovic, Ann-Marie Matti, Alex Jones, Hugh Mason, and Christer Bruun for their dedication and service this year. It is due in very large part to their efforts that the department continued to run at a level of efficiency and collegiality almost unparalleled within the U of T.

John Magee
July 2008

GRADUATE PROGRAM REPORT

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New winners of doctoral SSHRC grants are Rob McCutcheon, Zoë Misiewicz, and Mariapia Pietropaolo; OGS grants will be held by Cillian O'Hogan, Sarah McCallum, and Ariel Vernon; while CGS-Masters grants were won by Yuriy Lozynsky, Matthew Hoskin, and Peter Sehl. Congratulations to all!

It is now U of T policy to guarantee funding for five years to our Classics PhD students. And thanks to external grants, departmental endowments, Research Assistantships, and teaching at any of the three campuses, the average student funding this year was over \$20,000. Money is not everything, however, and my experiences talking to prospective graduate students suggest that our success in recruiting is as much a product of the wide range of expertise offered by our faculty and the department's continued focus on rigorous academic training. Thus it is no wonder that our Funded Cohort has grown and is expected to grow a bit again in 2008-09. Counting students in the first year of a two-year MA (these are not yet included in the Funded Cohort) and students finishing their theses who are past year 5 of the PhD program, the number of mailboxes in the new graduate room is close to 50!

Our two-year MA program with separate MA courses is a very recent creation. It allows Canadian Classics students the opportunity to acquire the language experience necessary to excel at the PhD level

and by attracting and training talented and qualified students it is becoming a key factor in the success of our PhD program. The one problem here is that the U of T will only fund a single MA year. It is our hope that through endowed fellowships such as the Maynard we will in the future be able to guarantee additional funding to all first year MA students.

In the end the success of a graduate program is measured in how well it prepares the next generation of scholars and teachers. Four of our graduates have recently been hired into tenure track positions: George Bevan, Geoffrey Kron, Craig Maynes, and Sebastiana Nervegna. Since then we have had one PhD defense, Rodney Ast in papyrology in November 2007. The coming academic year is expected to see a record number of defenses, possibly as many as six. And the younger generation in our Funded Cohort is already busy establishing itself in the field, participating in summer programs in Oxford, Athens and Rome, and presenting their own research at conferences. Indeed, when distributing travel support this past spring, I counted 13 papers in all. That number too is going to go up, so do not be surprised if in the near future you see a U of T Classics graduate student presenting a paper at a conference near you.

Contact and Credits

We welcome news of our alumni, by email to:

chair.classics@utoronto.ca

or by traditional mail to:

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The new department Seminar Room on the second floor of the Lillian Massey Building