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EX CATHEDRA



As another academic year draws to a close it is a pleasure to review the Department's achievements over the past year. The revision of the graduate programs

on which we worked long and hard in 2008-2009 has successfully passed the various levels of university governance and will be implemented in the fall. We are very excited to be able to mount for incoming and continuing graduate students a broad slate of reading and research seminars, which showcase the strengths of the Department's research faculty in ancient ecology and philosophy, economic and political history, material culture, Greek and Roman epic and drama, and Roman republican literature and culture. I am also pleased to report the Department's participation in two more Collaborative Programs, with the result that we now participate in five altogether: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Book History, Jewish Studies, Sexual Diversity Studies, and Women and Gender Studies. The Department is also collaborating closely with Jewish Studies, Religion, and Near and Middle Eastern Studies in the new Semi-

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nar for Culture and Religion in Antiquity (SCRA). Devoted to exploring the context and interplay of religious traditions in the ancient world, both through formal paper presentations and lively dialogue, SCRA builds on strengths in the religions of the ancient Mediterranean across our units.

The main focus of the Department's attention this year has been on strengthening our undergraduate programs. Having conducted a thorough review of both the language and classical civilization programs the undergraduate review committee recommended that the Department's highest priority be to design (in 2010-11) and implement (in 2011-12) a new second-year research methods course in Classical Studies that could be required for all majors and specialists (i.e., not only in Classical Civilization, but also in the language programs—Classics, Greek, and Latin), as a means of both enhancing instructional support for research engagement in our programs and integrating courses and students across the civilization/language program divide. In conjunction with this review, the Department also initiated discussion with St. Michael's College to ensure tight coordination of our undergraduate classical Latin program with the undergraduate mediaeval Latin program housed there. With the largest undergraduate Latin program in the country (and one of the largest on the continent), it is a departmental priority to make available to our students the fullest possible array of Latin language course offerings on campus and to take advantage of the research strengths in medieval studies

at the University of Toronto. I am especially grateful to Professor Hugh Mason for his coordination of the Undergraduate Program Committee, and to the members who served under his benign leadership: Professors Ben Akrigg, Jonathan Burgess, and Dimitri Nakassis; graduate student Eric Tindale; and undergraduates Samuel Allemang and Nigel Morton.

Our superb undergraduate Classics, Greek, and Latin programs have been nationally recognized again this year, with awards of three First Prizes to our students in the Classical Association of Canada National Sight Translation Competitions (in Junior Greek, and Junior and Senior Latin); two Second Prizes (in Junior Greek and Senior Latin); and an Honorable Mention (in Senior Latin). Congratulations to Maayan Adar (First Prize, Junior Latin; Second Prize, Junior Greek), Aron Bojti (First Prize, Senior Greek), Jacob Currie (Second Prize, Senior Latin), David Finer (Honorable Mention, Senior Latin), and Alessandro Sisti (First Prize, Senior Latin).

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Left to right: undergraduates Jacob Currie, David Finer and Maayan Adar with CAC President Jonathan Edmondson and President-Elect Alison Keith. Photo credit: Dimitri Nakassis.

NEW FACULTY



Photo credit: C. L. Jones

The Department is fortunate to be joined this year by Jarrett Welsh, who comes to us from Harvard University (PhD 2009). Jarrett works on republican Latin literature and drama, and confesses that he most enjoys the *frisson* of fragmentary texts. His dissertation examined the remains of second-century BCE comedies that were later classified as *fabulae togatae* (comedies ‘in Roman dress’), and sought to sketch an understanding of the genre in its literary and cultural contexts. He is currently revising the dissertation for publication, and is also working on an edition and full-scale commentary on the fragments; the latter project continues to spin off articles and send him down philological rabbit-holes. Jarrett’s other interests include ancient scholarship, satire, grammar, and antiquarianism. You can find his work in recent issues of, among other journals, *Classical Quarterly*, *Hermes*, *Mnemosyne* and *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*.

NEW PHDs

In a banner year, the department graduated four new PhDs. In September, Kathryn Mattison defended her dissertation on “Recasting Troy in Fifth-Century Attic Tragedy.” And in January George Kovacs defended his dissertation on Euripides, “*Iphigenia at Aulis*: Myth, Performance, and Reception.” Both dissertations were supervised by Martin Revermann. George and Kathryn share more than just their supervisor and a passion for Greek Tragedy: both continue to pursue teaching and research interests at universities in southern Ontario, Kathryn as an Assistant Professor in the Classics Department at McMaster and George in the Department of Ancient History and Classics at Trent.

Kathryn and George were joined by a third graduating hellenist this year, with Tim Perry defending in April his dissertation on “Exile in Homeric Epic.” Tim was supervised by Jonathan Burgess and has no need to worry about any post-graduation exile of his own: in the fall he takes up a position in the Department of Classics at Dartmouth College.

Finally, David Cuff also successfully defended in April his dissertation on “The Auxilia in Roman Britain and the Two Germanies from Augustus to Cara-

calla: Family, Religion and ‘Romanization’.” David was supervised by Christer Bruun and has the proud distinction of being the department’s first graduate of the University of Toronto and York University Joint Collaborative Program in Ancient History (COLPAH). We hope many department graduates will be following in David’s footsteps in the future.

Congratulations to David, Tim, George and Kathryn!



Left to right: David Cuff, Tim Perry and George Kovacs at June convocation. Photo credit: Linda Cuff.

MARTIN OSTWALD

The name Martin Ostwald will be familiar to many of you. Over a career as a classicist spanning more than half a century he published countless important articles, some of which are collected recently as *Language and Culture in Ancient Greek Society* (University of Pennsylvania 2009), and numerous monographs, including the enduring classic *From Popular Sovereignty to the Sovereignty of Law* (1986), winner in 1991 of the APA’s Goodwin Award of Merit. Perhaps more importantly, as a professor to undergraduates at Swarthmore College for more than thirty years and in the graduate program at the University of Pennsylvania for two decades, his teaching and mentoring profoundly influenced countless students, many of whom went on to become influential teachers themselves.

Perhaps less well known about Professor Ostwald is that he received his B.A. in Classics from the University of Toronto in 1946 and remained throughout his life a stalwart supporter of the Department. While his undergraduate training will have been useful for his later career, his attachment to the Department is likely a function of the University of Toronto’s important role in a remarkable life story. Born in Dortmund in 1922 to Jewish and German parents, Ostwald’s life changed abruptly on November 10, 1938—*Kristallnacht*. His family was arrested and taken to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. His mother would later die at Auschwitz, his father at Terezin. Martin Ostwald managed to escape with his younger brother, first to Holland, then to England, where, after Dunkirk, he was again interned and then finally sent on to internment camps in Canada where with his fellow “enemy aliens” he would spend more than two years.

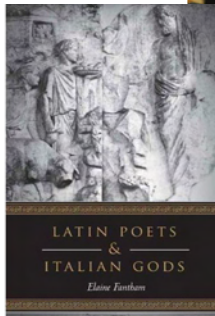
It is remarkable enough that Professor Ostwald survived, but through all of this he continued to study Greek and Latin. This love of ancient languages was partly an inheritance from his father, a classically trained lawyer, whose parting words to his son at Sachsenhausen were in Ancient Greek, from *Iliad* 6.448-49: “There will
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DEPARTMENT EVENTS

In addition to hosting dozens of speakers in three different seminar series, the Department took advantage of its fantastic new space in the Lillian Massey Building to host a number of other special events this year.

In November, the world's leading Statius scholars convened for a symposium organized by Professor Michael Dewar on the subject of "Statius and Hellenistic Poetry." This gathering was inspired in part by the recent monograph of Department alumnus Charles McNelis (M.A. 1993), *Statius' Thebaid and the Poetics of Civil War* (Cambridge 2007). In addition to Professor McNelis' keynote address, and the strikingly original papers presented at the symposium, one of the real highlights was the substantive contribution of the graduate student respondents, Donald Sells, Sarah McCallum and Miranda Robinson.

In January, the department hosted a book launch for Elaine Fantham's *Latin Poets and Italian Gods* (Toronto 2009), a study based on her 2004 Robson Lectures examining the relationships between Late Republican and Augustan poets and the rural cults of central Italy. Professor



Elaine Fantham shares her wisdom with graduate student Mariapia Pietropaolo. Photo credit: Jenn Fantham.

Fantham entertained a large audience with recollections from an illustrious career. That career accrued yet another mark of distinction this year when Elaine's service to the field was recognized at the annual meeting of the Classical Association of Canada in Québec, where the President's Panel on Roman Literature and Life was delivered in her honour.

In April, the department was the site of a conference organized by the Classics Graduate Student Association, on the topic "Endgendering Reception." Coordinated by graduate students Cillian O'Hogan

and Melanie Racette-Campbell, and keynoted by Professor Susanna Braund of UBC, this stimulating conference included papers from graduate students at universities throughout North America and even from across the Atlantic.

Finally, an international workshop took place in the department in early May on the subject of "Eikos: Probabilities, Hypotheticals, and Counterfactuals in Ancient Greek Thought."

Organized by Professor Victoria Wohl, this workshop brought together scholars representing a notably wide range of sub-disciplines within Classics, including law, religion, philosophy and political science. This diversity gave rise to stimulating discussion at the well-attended opening reception as well as during and after each

of the workshop's sessions. The workshop benefited especially from the engaged participation of its graduate student moderators, Marie-Pierre Krück, Adrianna Brook, Lee Sawchuck and Miranda Robinson.

MARTIN OSTWALD

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come a day when sacred Troy lies in ruins and Priam and Priam's people..." In Canada, Martin Ostwald formed with his fellow prisoners an informal school within the barbed-wire compound at their remote internment camp at Sherbrooke in southern Quebec. Here, when not knitting socks for the war effort, Ostwald taught courses on Greek, Latin and English Literature.

Although the conditions were less than ideal, there was an abundance of talent in these camps and their impressively rigorous schools achieved remarkable results. So much so that their diplomas were formally recognized and, thanks to the Canadian Committee on Refugees and the Canadian Jewish Congress, private donors were found to provide the costs of sending many of these students to university. The University of Toronto accepted Martin Ostwald and more than a dozen of his fellow internees, perhaps somewhat reluctantly—the group was encouraged to participate in drills with the Canadian Officer Training Corps to assuage the concerns of worried trustees. And so, in 1942 Ostwald entered University College, realizing a dream that had not been possible since the time when he was a young teenager in Germany and a law was passed prohibiting Jews from attending university. After graduating with a degree in Classics he went on to study at the University of Chicago and Columbia University. Martin Ostwald died on 10 April 2010, at the age of 88.

DONATIONS

We have again included a donation request form in this year's newsletter. While the Department is clearly flourishing, both in terms of its graduate and undergraduate enrollments and the research activities of its faculty, this continued success occurs in the context of University budget cuts and gifts to the Department of Classics have never been more meaningful. Any donation however modest is greatly appreciated. One of the projects we hope to fund in the future is an expanded newsletter that includes more of the diverse voices of the Department's many current students and alumni!

EX CATHEDRA

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Public interest in classical antiquity remains high, as recent media interviews with Department members attest (on CBC radio and in print venues such as the Toronto Star and McLean's), and the Greek Consulate has approached Professor Dimitri Nakassis about offering public lectures at cultural events sponsored by the Consulate. In addition the Department plays a vital role as a focus for public interest in the Classics, through the contributions of departmental space and faculty time to the Archaeological Institute of America, Classical Association of Canada, Ontario Classical Association, Royal Ontario Museum, and the Toronto District School Board.

It is with mixed emotions that I report a number of Department milestones in 2009-2010. I am happy to report that Professor Erik Gunderson has been promoted to the rank of full Professor, effective 1 July 2010. Professor Regina Hörschele has been awarded a Fellowship at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington for the fall and another at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton for the winter next year. Professors Burgess and Keith have been awarded Standard Research Grants from SSHRC, and Professor Inwood won the Northrop Frye Award this year for integrating research into undergraduate teaching. Congratulations to all.

Just last month, however, the Department received the sad news of the deaths of an illustrious graduate alumnus, Professor Martin Ostwald (see notice, pp. 2-3) and a retired colleague, Professor Thomas G. Elliott, who died on Saturday, 22 May 2010, after a lengthy illness. Professor Elliott took his B.A. (Honours) in Classics at University College, University of Toronto, 1957-1961, and then pursued graduate work at Harvard University, from which he earned his doctorate in 1971 with a thesis on "Pagan bias in Ammianus Marcellinus XIV-XXIV." Having taught at Trinity College, Hartford, for three years (1964-1967), he returned to Toronto in 1967 to take up a position as Assistant Professor. He was the first classicist to be appointed to Erindale College (now known as the University of Toronto Mississauga), and one of the original cohort of faculty who began teaching in Erindale's first year of operation, 1967-68. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1978, and retired in 2004. He authored two books, *Ammianus Marcellinus and fourth century history* (Toronto 1983) and *The Christianity of Constantine the Great* (Scranton 1996), as well as a number of articles on late antiquity and reviews of

Below: Silver stater from Phaistos, Crete, c. 322-300 BC, obverse (left) showing Herakles fighting the hydra, reverse a bull and the legend ΦΑΙΣΤΙΩΝ; one of the many coins examined by graduate student Megan Campbell as part of a study of the coins minted at Phaistos that she embarked on while a fellow at the summer seminar of the American Numismatic Society.



scholarly works in that area, and taught a wide range of courses in ancient history, classical art and archaeology, and ancient science and technology. A private funeral was held on Thursday, 27 May 2010.

Let me close by thanking the executive, Professors Hugh Mason and Victoria Wohl, and the administrative staff, Mrs. Ann-Marie Matti and Ms. Coral Gavrilovic, for their help and guidance in the Department office. I am grateful to them, and to all the faculty and students of the Department for ensuring that the department remains one of the most collegial units at the University of Toronto.

Alison Keith
June 2010

Contact & Credits

We welcome news of our alumni, by email to:

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or by traditional mail to:

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Mens sana in corpore sano: giving the lie to stereotypes, the Summer Classics, a mixed team of Department undergraduates, graduate students and faculty finished second in the University summer intramural softball league and took the laurel crown in a Toronto city league in the fall.