



DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS NEWSLETTER

2019-2020

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR



Dear colleagues, students, and alumni,

The Department of Classics had a productive year in 2019-2020. Courses were taught, research was conducted, articles and books were published, and PhD degrees were justly earned by several graduate students. Not that everything was perfect. There was the pandemic, unfortunately still ongoing, while much else in recent news has been disheartening. Nonetheless, the department has managed to keep its focus on its pedagogical mission. We bravely and resourcefully finished the spring term with online instruction. A crack team of graduate instructors and TAs are currently teaching online

summer courses, and now we are all all puzzling over how to implement dual delivery—online, and to some degree, in-person—in the coming academic year.

This electronic newsletter surveys the breadth and depth of our achievements. It opens with two historical essays. Ben Akrigg provides a discussion of the Athenian plague as described by Thucydides, with commentary on the relevance of this ancient event to current circumstances. And on the basis of archival material that fell into my hands this year, I contribute a piece on the origins of Lillian Massey Building and the Household Science Department that first occupied it.

Next in the newsletter is a sample of all the great things accomplished by our graduate and undergraduate students this year. We are fortunate that three of our recent doctoral graduates, John Fabiano, Brad Hald, and Chiara Graf, will be teaching some of our courses this coming year. Along with Alex Cushing, they provide brief reports of their recent and ongoing experiences. As for undergraduates, CLASSU displayed enormous leadership by initiating a high school outreach event last November. In late February, the department began a monthly coffee hour for undergraduates. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic the first occurrence of this event was also the last of the year, but the Undergraduate Coffee Hour will arise again sometime in the future! Both graduate and undergraduate students also industriously re-organized student space in the building, something that will be of great value as we learn how to safely use our building again.

Stuck at home as we are, unable to travel, we all appreciate reports of department faculty working hard on archaeological digs abroad. Though Sarah Murray will be able to do some work on site this summer, other international archaeological plans have necessarily been cancelled. It's very nice, then, that we have reports and pictures of last summer's season from Sarah, Seth Bernard, and Carrie Atkins.

Assistant Editor Emelen Leonard conducted fascinating interviews with current post-doc Flavia Amaral and the Athenians Project team of John Traill and Philippa Matheson. Flavia describes her interesting research and provides colorful comparisons of study and life in Brazil and North America. John and Philippa describe the long and complex history of the very important Athenians Project, with some instructive commentary on the beneficial role of computers in Classics research. The upcoming retirement of Ernest Weinrib of the university's Faculty of Law provides an opportunity to share his memories of his experiences in our department as both student and instructor—more welcome historical material for the newsletter. Finally, I ask readers to note the final item in the newsletter, the opportunity to donate to many fine scholarships and fellowships belonging to the department. Last year's newsletter heralded our most recent initiative, a diversity bursary for introductory study of Latin and Greek in our summer program. I'm pleased to report that, with generous contributions by Arts & Science, and donations by Christer Bruun, John Traill, and myself, the department was able to triple the bursary funds for this summer. Please consider making a contribution to this noteworthy fund, or one of our many other funds.

Jonathan Burgess, Professor & Interim Chair, July 2020

ANCIENT AND RECENT HISTORY



THE ATHENIAN PLAGUE AND COVID-19

BEN AKRIGG on [media comparison of Thucydides' account of the plague in Athens with the Coronavirus](#)



HISTORY OF LILLIAN MASSEY BUILDING

JONATHAN BURGESS discusses archival evidence about our [department building and its original purpose](#)

STUDENT NEWS



GRADUATE STUDENT [achievements in 2019-2020](#)



CLASSU has lots to report about [its activities in the past year](#)

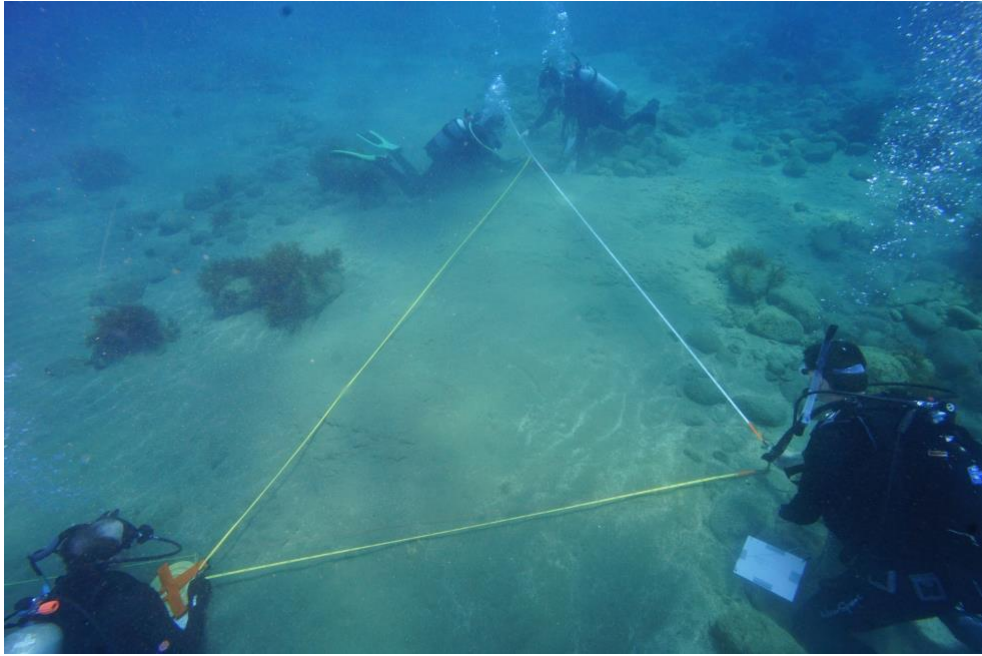
IN THE FIELD AND WATER



SETH BERNARD on [excavations at Populonia, Italy](#)



SARAH MURRAY on the pilot season of
[The Bays of East Attica Regional Survey \(BEARS\)](#)



CARRIE ATKINS on [underwater exploration off Cyprus](#)

INTERVIEWS

By Emelen Leonard

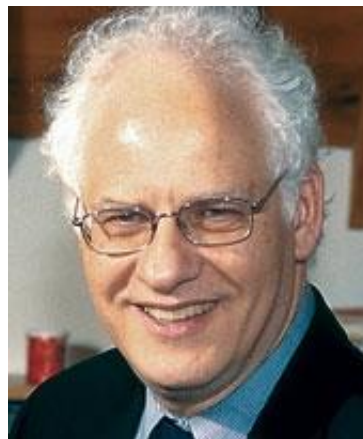


FLAVIA AMARAL on her [studies in North America](#)



JOHN TRAILL and PHILIPPA MATHESON on
The Athenians Project

RETIREMENTS



ERNEST WEINRIB regards Classics with 'affection and awe'

DONATIONS

Please consider contributing. As reported in last year's newsletter, the Department of Classics has initiated a diversity bursary for study of introductory Latin and Greek in our summer program. And this is just one of many funds that belong to the department. Your gift will support future generations of scholars of ancient Greece and Rome.

You can support the Classics Department through U of T's [online donation portal](#).

Designation options include:

- Departmental Trust (for the diversity bursary, etc.)
- R. M. Smith Memorial Fellowship in Classics
- M. B. Wallace Memorial Graduate Award in Classics
- Emmet Robbins Memorial Graduate Award in Classics
- Kathryn Boshier Memorial Graduate Fund in Classics
- John Landon Memorial Fellowship in Classics

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Classics Department Alumni & Friends, need to update your contact information? Please [click here](#)

If you would not like to receive newsletters, please email address.update@utoronto.ca

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[Past issues](#) are available on our website.

The Department of Classics is housed in the Lillian Massey Building, a one-minute walk from Museum subway station and a five-minute walk from either St. George or Bay subway stations. Directly in front of the building is a [Bike Share Toronto](#) terminal and bike lane.

[Lillian Massey Building](#)

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