MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear colleagues, students and alumni,

Well, this has been quite a year. This time last year we were hoping against hope that the pandemic would be contained by the end of the summer and we would be in normal operation in the fall. But, alas, we were wrong. We are now happy to say that the Department of Classics has come through the storm — which has largely served to highlight — our instructors, both faculty and graduate students, experienced the difficulties of online teaching with varying energy and creativity, getting quickly up to speed on synchronous and asynchronous meetings, breakout rooms, whiteboarding, student and group assessment, and more. Our undergraduate and graduate students rose magnificently to the challenge of online learning, maintaining their focus and good spirits despite the exhaustion and isolation that the pandemic brought. Although most of the year we were unable to meet in person, we still managed to sustain a lively slate of lectures and a busy schedule of department and faculty meetings, at which we introduced, among other things, initiatives to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the field. We even held three virtual department parties and chatted with each other's avatars. In short, in this most unusual year we managed to sustain business virtually as usual.

Victoria Wohl,
Professor & Chair

NEWS AND EVENTS

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

A report from Classics Graduate Students' Union President Taylor Stark.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Undergraduate students have been admirably busy and engaged during COVID-19.

FACULTY NEWS

The faculty of the Department of Classics continue to achieve excellence.

ALUMNI NEWS

Our alumni are highly successful in many different ways.

IN THE FIELD AND WATER

THE BAYS OF EAST ATTICA REGIONAL SURVEY

Sarah Murray reports on work in Attica, Greece during summer 2020.

OFF CYPRUS

Carrie Atkins on underwater finds from summer 2020.

INTERVIEW

'SΠΟΝΔΑΙ' by Dylan Norton

INTERVIEW WITH KATHERINE BLOUIN

Katherine Blouin discusses her fall 2020 graduate seminar, Sprung from the Earth: Indigeneity and the Classics.

SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

At the Department of Classics' online donation portal, you can choose to support a specific fund or contribute to the department's most pressing priorities, including initiatives to promote greater diversity, equity and inclusivity in the field of classics. Donations help fund the diversity fellowship for master's and doctoral students and a bursary for the study of introductory Latin and Greek in our summer language program, among other initiatives. Please consider contributing. Your gift will support future generations of scholars of ancient Greece and Rome.

If you have any feedback regarding the Department of Classics newsletter, please contact Victoria Wohl at chair.classics@utoronto.ca

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