

Classics Newsletter – St. Olaf College July, 2016

This year twelve students graduated from St. Olaf with majors in Classics, Latin, Ancient Studies, and/or Medieval Studies. Here are blurbs about four of them.

Leif McLellan, Greek Lab tutor and prytanis of Delta Chi chapter, earned distinction in Ancient Studies; he will begin the M. Div. program at Drew Theological School this fall. He was the first-ever recipient of The Alec Award, given by Jeremiah Harrelson '99 in memory of his brother-in-law, Evan Alexander Johnson '97, to honor a senior member of Eta Sigma Phi "who has a gentle and humble heart and is dedicated to serving others in a kind, compassionate, and Christ-like way." Jeremiah, together with his family, presented the award to Leif in April.



Vera Lochtefeld, Latin Lab tutor, earned distinction in Philosophy and was selected for a summer internship with Mark Dimunation '74, Chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the Library of Congress.

Emily Een (pictured below with the Classics faculty on Commencement Day) not only completed her Latin Education major but immediately landed a job at Eagle Ridge Academy (Eden Prairie, MN). She joins two other alums, Jessica Overbeck Bergeron '05 and Julia Demakis-Haustein '09, who already teach Latin there.

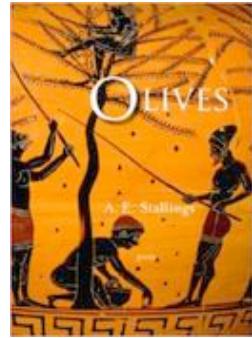


Ryan Mathison photographed and began cataloguing the 127 ancient and medieval coins donated years ago by the late Prof. Bert Narveson. The collection may now be studied on the Classics website. Lending us his

expertise is coin collector Ralph Hammett Allen '78, who presented a talk on "Tetradrachms, Triremes, and Themistokles" at St. Olaf in November.

In May, at our 2nd annual Ancient & Medieval Studies Symposium, eight students described their independent research projects while eating pizza from the Pause.

It was the Year of Co-Sponsorships. Together with Philosophy and Religion, we co-sponsored a lecture on Plotinus by a Danish philosopher from Moscow State University, Prof. Maria Pontoppidan. With English, we co-sponsored a poetry reading by Alicia (A.E.) Stallings. With the Society for Ancient History, we co-sponsored a talk on Cleopatra by Prof. Sheila Ager from the University of Waterloo. With Great Conversation, we co-sponsored an excursion to Northrop Auditorium to see Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* performed by the Mark Morris Dance Group. As Boldt Chair, Steve Reece organized a fascinating series on the History of the Book and field trips to classical archaeology lectures.



Anne Groton directed St. Olaf's 21st Latin play, Plautus' *Curculio*, March 9-12. The troupe traveled 300 miles in two days to perform at seven schools, plus twice on campus. Dogs and cats were the motif, as this photo of Ryan Mathison proves. We had our usual softball game, Olympics, Latin, Greek, and German Christmas caroling, Eta Sigma Phi initiation, Latin and Greek translation contests, lamb roast, and Bacchanalia. In addition, Kristofer Coffman '13, Jennifer Easler '10, and Stephanie Anderson Hess '06 kindly agreed to speak about their lives and careers at our weekly Classics Conversation Table.



Our Latin Club at Greenvale Park Elementary School, supported by a "Broadening the Bridge" grant, met on ten Wednesday afternoons between October and May. The children had fun doing Latin crossword puzzles, constructing paper chariots, etc. We had expected that students from the two colleges would take the lead in this project, but they turned out to be too busy, leaving the professors to do most of the work! Next year we will try, instead, a "Classics Night" held at Greenvale, with activities for both the children and their parents.

After a reconnaissance mission to Rome in the fall, Chris Brunelle taught our new off-campus interim course, Classical Studies in Italy. He and the 30 students, accompanied by excellent local guides, spent the month of January eating gelato and exploring ancient history and art in Etruria, Rome, and the Bay of Naples. That course will now alternate with Classical Studies in Greece. The Loomises are still generously offering a scholarship for a student who could not otherwise afford the interim abroad. Chris just finished his fourth stint in Great Con and enjoyed his son Julian's bar mitzvah. Mazel tov!



 It was exciting to have a St. Olaf "sweep" of the 2016 Bolchazy Pedagogy Book Award, which was shared by Chris Brunelle (Commentary on Ovid's *Ars Amatoria*, Book 3) and Anne Groton and Jim May (*46 Stories in Classical Greek*). In the photo, Anne is celebrating by riding with Hannah Reece on Steve and Rhonda's recumbent bike, temporarily avoiding the paperwork that comes with chairing the department and serving on too many committees.

Steve Reece designed a new Classics interim course, "The Many Faces of Homer," which included four films. Next year both he and Anne Groton will be teaching in Great Con. His latest book, *Paul's Large Letters: Paul's Autographic Subscriptions in the Light of Ancient Epistolary Conventions* (Bloomsbury T&T Clark), will come out in December. The photo shows him exercising with two fish that he caught in Ontario.



We are glad that Lisa Whitlatch will be with us for a third year. Besides teaching up a storm, publishing articles, attending conferences, even giving a Chapel Talk, she joined the handbell choir at Northfield's St. Dominic Church. In the background of the photo is Gooseberry Falls, which she and her parents visited this summer on a trip to Lake Superior.



Since no department newsletter would be complete without a baby picture, here it is: Donna May with her grandson Augustus James May, born on September 20. In June Donna and Jim led their 15th summer study tour to Greece. Jim's book, *How to Win an Argument: An Ancient Guide to the Art of Persuasion* (Princeton), is due out in September; he has already been invited to give a talk on it at the Smithsonian! Perhaps he

 will don a tricorn hat, as he did when he orated at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South Annual Meeting in Williamsburg last March.

To honor Jim as he retires, Anne Groton is editing a Festchrift with 20 essays by colleagues and former students. It should appear in print just in time for the inaugural James M. May Lecture in Classics. We are pleased to announce that the first lecturer will be Terry L. Papillon '80, Dean of the College and Professor of Classical Languages at the University of the South (Sewanee). Put the date, Monday, March 27, 2017, on your calendar and plan to attend. Jim would love to see you before he officially retires next August.



If you would like to help us finish endowing the lecture (the fund already has \$20K, but until it reaches \$50K, we cannot use the income), please send Anne Groton a check payable to St. Olaf College; she will make sure it gets credited to the right account. With all this exciting news, we have no room left—except to say goodbye!