

# St. Olaf College Department of Classics

# NEWSLETTER

July, 2012

Steamy summer greetings from Northfield! Although our Classics students lost the ritual tug-of-war with the ancient history students and had to surrender the bust of Vergil, Jim May kindly lent us a bust of Cicero for display in the department office. We intend to win Vergil back in the fall.

## Majors in the Class of 2012

**Classics:** *Andrew M. Kenfield*, Edina, Minnesota  
(+ Religion)

**Latin:** *Hannah G. Johnson*, Streamwood, Illinois  
(with concentration in Biomedical Studies)

### Ancient Studies:

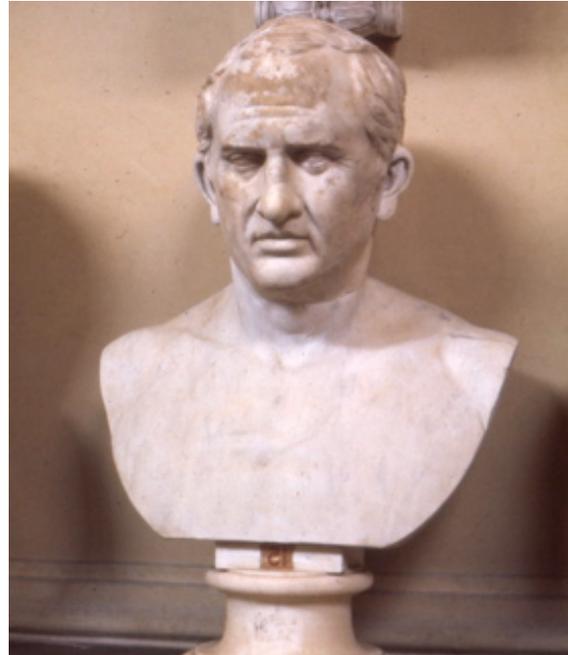
*Eric J. Erfanian*, Coon Rapids, Minnesota  
(+ Philosophy)

*Daniel E. Friedrichsen*, Overland Park, Kansas (+  
Chemistry)

*Catherine R. Monson*, Austin, Minnesota  
(+ Religion, with concentrations in Media Studies  
and Linguistic Studies)

*Rebecca H. Sawyer-Smith*, Maple Plain, Minnesota  
(+ Psychology)

*Margaret L. von Bibra*, South Pasadena, California  
(+ History)



**Medieval Studies:** *Madeleine V. Grace*, East Greenwich, Rhode Island (+ History)



**Student accomplishments:** *Madeleine Grace* is headed to the University of Glasgow for a Master's degree in Medieval & Renaissance Studies. Two seniors, *Catherine Monson* and *Rebecca Sawyer-Smith*, who did independent research with Steve Reece (on interpretations of Paul's letters and on the evolution of the myth of the Sirens), presented their projects to the public in a poster session on Honors Day. St. Olaf's 32-year winning streak in the national Maureen Dallas Watkins translation contests continued, thanks to *Emily Marie Sandquist '13* (left in the photo), who took first prize in Advanced Latin, and *Grace Koch '15*, who took third prize in Intermediate Latin. To read the online news article about them, go to

this URL: <http://www.stolaf.edu/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=NewsDetails&id=5323>.

The inaugural issue of *Res Antiqua* (<http://resantiqua.org/>), a yearly electronic undergraduate journal co-sponsored by the St. Olaf Departments of History, Classics, and Religion, appeared this spring under the aegis of *Tim Howe* (History Department). Tim will take four students with him to Greece in August to give research papers at the 10th International Conference on History, held in Athens: <http://www.stolaf.edu/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=NewsDetails&id=5316>.



**Finances:** The most exciting financial news this year was the decision by our long-time donors, *Kenneth and Kathleen Loomis*, to offer a competitive \$5000 Loomis Scholarship in Classics



annually for the next five years; the money is intended to make Classical Studies in Greece affordable for a student who could not otherwise enroll. (Despite the turmoil in Greece, the course was a success again in 2012; see photo for proof.) The first recipient of the scholarship was *Brian Thoes '14*, a double major in Classics and Social Work. Extra earnings in the Loomis

and Groton endowment funds also allowed us to give modest tuition discounts to five other students who are majoring in Classics, to lessen the cost of their studies in Greece.

**Honors:** The Grimsrud Scholarship for 2011-12 went to our departmental Latin tutor *Emily Marie Sandquist '13*, the Scarseth Scholarship to our departmental Greek tutor *Collin Moat '13*. Seven students won monetary prizes in the annual Groton Greek and Loomis Latin Translation Contests, the first a passage from Plato's *Gorgias*, the second a passage from Ovid's *Ibis*. Three students won Groomis (= Groton/Loomis) Awards for their Classics-related summer projects:

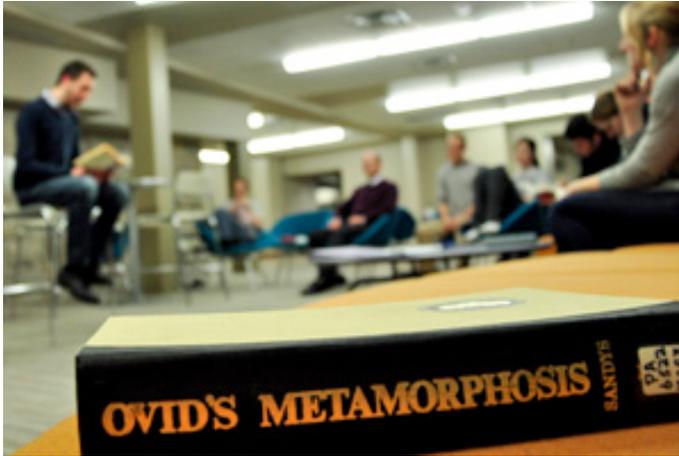
1. Classics major *Emily Marie Sandquist '13* received \$500 to purchase two volumes of the newest critical edition of *Tractatus Super Psalmos*, a 4th-century Latin commentary by Hilary of Poitiers. Emily Marie is preparing the first-ever translation of the work into English.



2. *Natasha Hellen '13* (Ancient Studies and Biology) received \$350 to purchase six textbooks on forensic anthropology, criminalistics, and field methods in archaeology; she will be investigating the similarity between an archaeological site and a crime scene.

3. *Kristofer Coffman '13* (Religion major with concentration in Nordic Studies) is at the University of Oslo this summer. As St. Olaf's 2012-13 Rand Scholar, he will compare the liturgies used by Norwegians with those used by Norwegian-American immigrants, focusing on Martin Luther's Latin mass of 1522. Kris received \$150 to purchase a hard-to-find Norwegian-Latin dictionary. He will be our departmental Greek tutor next year.





**Special Events:** In connection with his interim course *The Neverending Myth: Ovid's Metamorphoses*, Chris Brunelle organized a "Metamorphomathon": a non-stop oral reading of all 15 books of Ovid's poem, using a different English translation for each book. He received a \$50 grant from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South to help pay for light-blue t-shirts (with a design inspired by the M. C. Escher woodcut "Sky and Water I") and pizza for the many volunteer readers. Even St. Olaf

President David Anderson participated. The event was one of several that took place on campus during the academic year to celebrate the theme of "Transformations." To hear Ovid read in rap, visit this site: <http://www.stolaf.edu/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=NewsDetails&id=5253>.



Together with the Society for Ancient History, the department sponsored two public lectures, one on October 27, 2011, by *Ellen Millender* (Reed College) on "Spartan Gynecocracy? The Myths and Reality Behind Spartan Female Political Power," the other on April 17, 2012, by *Caroline Sauvage* (Université Lumière Lyon, Visiting Scholar at Macalester College) on "Bronze Age Underwater Archaeology." On each occasion the room was packed. St. Olaf's chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics honor society, flourished under prytanis *Eric Erfanian*

'12, who organized our 2nd Annual Lamb Roast. The Monday-evening Classics Conversation Table featured lively talks by professors, students, and alums: Lousene Hoppe '94, Curt Frank '06, and Alexandra Carrier '09.



**Department Milestones:** On June 1, 2012, *Steve Reece* became Department Chair, much to the joy of *Anne Groton*, who has held the job for 15 years, and *Jim May*, who held it for 15 years before her. Anne's eight years of running the Classical Association of the Middle West and South ended on July 1, so she is feeling doubly liberated. She will be on sabbatical from February, 2013 through January, 2014, with *Chris Brunelle* filling in for her. Chris will be taking off this coming fall and January to work on a commentary (for Oxford University Press)



on Book 3 of Ovid's *Ars amatoria*. Meanwhile Jim May, having loved every minute of his sabbatical and having finished (among other things) his *Cicero Reader* for Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, will be returning to full-time teaching in September. We have just hired alumna *Jennifer Starkey* '07, who is finishing her doctorate at the University of Colorado-Boulder, to teach Greek and Roman Myth here in the fall. *Valerio Caldesi-Valeri*, whose melodious Italian accent we have enjoyed for the past two years, has been hired to teach at Gustavus Adolphus College. *Felicitazioni!* In the photo Valerio and Teresa treat one-year-old Lisabetta to one of her first dips in a Minnesota lake.

**Faculty News:** *Hannah Reece* graduated from Pacific Lutheran University at the end of May. The photo shows her with her proud parents and brother Taylor.



Steve had a victory of his own to crow about: he won his age division in the St. Olaf Triathlon this spring, on his very first try! He is determined to have the whole



department compete in 2013. Steve's most recent article imagines how a folklorist, magically transported to the 8th century BCE, would transcribe Homer's oral performance of the *Odyssey*. From start to finish, the article was completely digital; like the original Homeric poems, it had no printed text!



*Jim and Donna May* spent the month of June leading their 13th St. Olaf Study Travel Tour in Greece. Before meeting the 32 participants, they spent a few days with their son Michael and his wife Sheila on the romantic island of Santorini. Their son Joe and his wife Bethany are both now Army



officers, stationed at Fort Drum. Jim continues to serve as Vice President for Professional Matters for the American Philological Association and to restore antique motor vehicles.



*Chris Brunelle* (shown officiating at the St. Olaf Olympics last fall) and his family are spending the summer in Boston, where Chris is doing research at Harvard's Houghton Library. *Anne Groton* has just returned from Chapel Hill, where she spoke at the NEH Institute on Roman Comedy in Performance. Now she is gearing up for Latin Play #19, Plautus' *Rudens*, October 3-6. (The photo is from *Pseudolus* a year ago.) During Week One, Chris and Anne will be involved again in "Academic Expectations: The Musical," a spoof on *The Sound of Music* for first-year students. To watch the 2011 première, click on [www.stolaf.edu/multimedia/play/?e=604](http://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia/play/?e=604).



**Alumni News:** Recent Ole grads are busy pursuing M.A./Ph.D. degrees in Classics in British Columbia, California, Colorado, Indiana, Georgia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. No matter what you are up to these days, please stay in touch. Hearing from you--or better yet, seeing you in person in Tomson Hall--always makes our day. Until next summer, *Valē! Χαῖρε!*