

## Classics Newsletter – St. Olaf College July, 2015

Warm greetings from Northfield! It was another fine year for Classics at St. Olaf. Here are the highlights.



On November 5 we hosted an on-campus Classics Festival. It was attended by 588 Latin students in grades 7 to 12, along with 46 teachers and chaperones; they came from 10 public/private schools in Minnesota.

57 of our own students were involved; 8 professors (4 from St. Olaf, 4 from Carleton) gave talks. President Anderson welcomed the entire group in the Chapel, and awards for Best Classics Promotional Poster were announced in the fieldhouse after lunch. It had been 20 years since we last organized a Classics Festival; we should probably do it more often.

In the fall we collaborated with Rob Hardy, Classics professor at Carleton, on an after-school Latin Club for 3<sup>rd</sup>-, 4<sup>th</sup>-, and 5<sup>th</sup>-graders at Greenvale School. Student volunteers from both colleges interacted with the 35-40 children who showed up for each session. We now have a “Broadening the Bridge” grant to expand the Latin Club to a year-long activity.

Our ten graduates in the Class of 2015 had a penchant for double—and even triple!—majors.



Grace Koch (Ancient Studies, Classics, Phi Beta Kappa) will attend the University of Colorado in Boulder to pursue a Master of Arts in the Teaching of Latin. During her years at St. Olaf she won six prizes (including one this year) in the national Maurine Dallas Watkins Translation Contests, played a crafty slave in Plautus' *Miles Gloriosus*, served as departmental Latin tutor and as an Eta Sigma Phi officer, and earned distinction in Classics with a thesis entitled “Cato the Younger Ages.”

Chance Bonar (Ancient Studies, Classics, Religion) will begin studies at Yale Divinity School. He presented a paper at a history conference in Athens, served as departmental Greek tutor and as an Eta Sigma Phi officer, and graduated with distinction in Religion.



Morgan Wychor (Ancient Studies, Classics, History) will enter the Master's program in Classical Archaeology at the University of Vienna after helping to excavate an imperial Roman site in Transylvania.

She has done field work in Turkey and studied the Roman amphora collection in the Anamur Museum.

Liz Archerd (Latin, Political Science, Psychology) will be heading to Emory University School of Law. Brad Smith (Ancient Studies and History) will be starting the M.S. program in Library and Information Science at Syracuse University. Bobby Nevins (Ancient Studies, Math, Physics) will be a graduate student in Civil Engineering at Ohio State University.

Rachel Brooks (Ancient Studies), Nick Gant (Ancient Studies and Math), Katya Martinovich (Ancient and Medieval Studies), and Amanda Tveite (Classics and Math) plan to take some time off from school and find out what the real world is like.



Profs. Whitlatch, May, Brunelle, and Groton make merry with Amanda Tveite on Commencement Day.

Joseph Burkhardt '17 won a \$2000 Excavation and Field School Award from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, enabling him to take the archaeological methods course taught by Prof. Tim Howe (History) in Turkey this summer. He also received one of three \$500 Groomis Awards (funds from the Groton and Loomis Endowments to support summer projects). The other winners were Morgan Wychor '15 and Leif McLellan '16. Leif will participate in a Viking Age excavation in Gotland, Sweden. Ken and Kathy Loomis generously increased the amount of their Classics interim abroad scholarship so that it covers the full cost for a deserving student who could not otherwise afford to take the course.



With the aid of annual-giving funds designated for Classics (thank you!), we were able to sponsor a great performance of *The Odyssey: A Folk Opera* by Joe Goodkin and an equally great guest lecture by



Andrea Gatzke '05 (see photo), Assistant Professor of History at SUNY-New Paltz. Her topic was "A Tale of Two Tongues: Bilingualism and Social Mobility in Roman Anatolia." Three other Oles (Deborah Haas '91,

Collin Moat '13, and Chloe Hennes Brezzinski '14) spoke at our weekly Classics Conversation Table.

Along with our usual assortment of events (softball, Latin/Greek Christmas caroling, Eta Sigma Phi initiation, lamb roast, Bacchanalia, etc.), in May we added our first-ever Ancient & Medieval Studies Symposium. After pizza and ice cream, six students summarized their Independent Research projects and fielded questions from classmates and professors.



Congratulations to Steve Reece, who will return from sabbatical this fall with a new title: Boldt Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities (2015-2018). Since Jim May remains the Bjork Distinguished

Professor (2014-2017), our department is now doubly distinguished! In the photos Steve and wife Rhonda go hiking among the petroglyphs in Colorado while Jim punishes the Hellespont with chains (à la Xerxes) during our fall Olympics.



Still more congratulations to Chris Brunelle, whose Commentary on Ovid, *Ars Amatoria* Book 3 was published by Oxford University Press in 2014. To celebrate, he went to a Stevie Wonder concert with



his brother (see photo). Chris also gets the prize for traveling farthest—to Poland—to attend a conference, though Jim is a close second with a conference coming up in

Germany later this month. Next January Chris will inaugurate "Classical Studies in Italy," an interim abroad course focusing on ancient Roman history and art; we plan to alternate it with the always popular "Classical Studies in Greece." This past January Chris gave the second-ever public performance of his *Love Is a Rhythrical Art*, all three books of Ovid's *Ars Amatoria* translated into English limericks.

Anne Groton and Jim May were pleased to see their reader, *Forty-Six Stories in Classical Greek* (Focus Publishing, 2014), in print. In June Anne teamed up with Karen Cherewatuk (English) to lead a two-week tour of Greece and Italy in honor of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Conversation. The photo shows Karen and Anne braving the wind at Cape

Sounion. Next year Chris Brunelle will teach in the second year of Great Con, Anne in the first year. To keep her out of trouble (or, more likely, get her into it), Anne will continue to chair the department and direct Ancient Studies and Medieval Studies.

Lisa Whitlatch, to the delight of everyone, has agreed to stay on another year, even though she has been relegated to an office among the barbarians (= between the Spanish and the German Departments). The photo shows her in Stillwater after returning from a conference in London on the underrated (in her opinion) Roman poet Grattius. Not only her interim course on "The Roman Animal" but also Jim May's spring course on "The Golden Age of Rome" were packed, with 40 or more students in each. Four "psyched" students in Jim's course even wore togas to the final exam.



Big news: Jim has decided that he will retire in the summer of 2017. Over the next two years we will search for his successor and ponder how best to honor him for four decades of stellar service. If you have any suggestions, please send us a note or drop by the office. Our next Latin play, Plautus' *Curculio*, is scheduled for March 9-12. Put it on your calendar!