

# St. Olaf College Department of Classics NEWSLETTER

July, 2010

As this newsletter was in the making, we received word that **Lloyd Laverne Gunderson**, Professor Emeritus of Classics, had died suddenly on the 4th of July while fighting a return of esophageal cancer. It was heart-warming to see such a range of people, including many former students, at his memorial service on July 9. As a Packers fan, a car-dealer, an ancient historian specializing in Alexander the Great, a Lutheran pastor, a New Testament scholar, and a gardening enthusiast, Lloyd wore many different hats. He not only kept Greek and Latin alive in the late 1960's, when they were seemingly on their last legs, but also introduced the still-thriving Classics interim in Greece and proposed the first interdisciplinary programs at St. Olaf (Ancient Studies and Medieval Studies). The Department of Classics would not be what it is today without his hard work, his foresightedness, and his conviction that, yes, it could be done! None of us will ever forget Lloyd or our debt to him. If you are interested in donating to St. Olaf in his memory, we suggest earmarking your gift for the Groton or Loomis Endowment so that the money will directly benefit Classics students.



The **Class of 2010** included four Classics majors (Jennifer Easler [+ Medieval Studies and English], David Estle, Thomas Halvorsen [+ Linguistic Studies], Stuart Nelson [+ Chemistry]) and two Ancient Studies majors (John Manke [+ History], Ben Meyer [+ Chemistry]).

**Jennifer Easler** was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received the Tosdal Award for top-ranking senior. She earned distinction in Medieval Studies with a thesis on the portrayal of Gawain in Malory's *Le Morte Darthur*. Actress in two St. Olaf Latin plays, chapter secretary of Eta Sigma Phi, and the departmental Latin tutor, she won an Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies from the Classical Association of the Middle West & South (CAMWS).



**David Estle** (left), who was an actor in three St. Olaf Latin plays, chapter president of Eta Sigma Phi, and the departmental Greek tutor, has been hired to teach Latin at South View Middle School in Edina, MN. **Stuart Nelson** (right), who was the office clerk for CAMWS, will pursue a Ph.D. in Material Sciences at Michigan State University.





**Thomas Halvorsen** (left), who served as national vice-president of Eta Sigma Phi this year, is at the University of Oslo Summer School, pursuing Nordic Studies. **Ben Meyer** (right), a Phi Beta Kappa graduate, is starting medical school at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. **John Manke** plans on graduate school in ancient history.



19 St. Olaf students were initiated into the Classics honor society this year. **Emily Marie Sandquist '13** (left) took first prize in the national Intermediate Latin Contest sponsored by Eta Sigma Phi. Jen Stanull '11 received honorable mention in the same contest, Jennifer Easler '10 honorable mention in Latin Prose Composition. (St. Olaf's winning streak remains unbroken since 1980!) Thomas Halvorsen '10 attended the Eta Sigma Phi Convention at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, where St. Olaf alumnus **Prof. Terry Papillon '80** advises the chapter and directs the Honors Program.

We added 4th-place prizes this year in the Loomis Latin and Groton Greek **Translation Contests** because there were so many excellent exams to choose from. Every student who took an exam received a free Classics t-shirt (drawing of Homer and Vergil by Kristin Easler), courtesy of the Loomis family. With accumulated earnings in the Groton and Loomis Endowments we were able to give a \$500 **financial aid discount** to each of six Ancient Studies majors who took **Classical Studies in Greece**. Even with cost-cutting measures, the price tag for the Greece interim is now over \$5000; we hope to be able to subsidize more of the cost in the future so that the opportunity will be available to every deserving student.



In 2009-10 the **Grimsrud Scholarship** was held by Martin Shedd '11, the **Scarseth Scholarship** by Thomas Halvorsen '10. **Groomis Prizes** (funded by the Groton and Loomis Endowments) for projects this summer went to rising seniors Katherine Crawford and Justin Luthey. Katherine, a triple major in Latin, Medieval Studies, and English, is participating in the six-week Villa delle Vignacce Archaeology Field School in Rome. Justin, a double major in Ancient Studies and Economics, is taking a course at the J. Paul Getty Villa in Malibu and visiting the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at Azusa Pacific University.



In the spring we co-sponsored with Carleton College a lecture by **Prof. Ben Acosta-Hughes** (Ohio State University) on "In Helen's Image: Visualizing a Queen" and with the Society of Ancient History a lecture by **Prof. Jennifer Tolbert Roberts** (City College of New York; pictured with Steve Reece) on "Memorializing the Dead: From the Periclean Funeral Oration to 9/11." Carleton Classics professor **Akira Yatsuhashi** spoke at the Monday-evening Classics Conversation Table, as did four inspiring St. Olaf alumni: Ann (née Sturtz '84) and Ansis ('85) Viksnins, Joe Fricke ('06), and Majda Haznadar ('05). Many thanks to our speakers!

**Latin Play #17:** Our experiment with producing the play in the fall (October 1-3) rather than the spring was successful, but doing it in three weeks instead of three months nearly did in the director! The tour for Plautus' *Aulularia* included six venues (John Marshall H.S. in Rochester, St. Catherine U., the U. of St. Thomas, Gustavus Adolphus College, Edina H.S., and Benilde-St. Margaret's School in St. Louis Park) and concluded with two performances at St. Olaf. DVD's of the *Aulularia* and previous Latin plays are available from Anne Groton for \$10 each (includes shipping).



In the **4th Annual St. Olaf Olympics**, co-sponsored by Eta Sigma Phi and



the Society of Ancient History, the Classics students beat the history students in tug-of-war for the first time ever and claimed the bust of Vergil for the rest of the year. Jen Stanull (right) won the costume contest as Wingless Hermes. It was a scorching day for the 4th Annual Softball Game (left), but no one minded. Other traditions like Latin/Greek Christmas caroling and the Bacchanalia kept the year lively.



**Faculty News:** After teaching at St. Olaf in 2008-09, **Mary McMenemy** stayed on for an extra semester before leaving us to seek her fortune in Seattle. She attended a digital literature conference in Brazil last fall and spoke in front of 5000 people! The office has had a distinctly Canadian flavor with **Mike Sampson** in residence. He has inspired our students not just to love cats and ice hockey, but also to become Classics majors and papyrologists. He had expected to teach here for two years, but Rutgers stole him away from us with the lure of an ACLS New Faculty Fellowship. We will miss him and his fiancée Dina Guth (see photo with Chris Brunelle). Conveniently, Mike and Dina will rent their townhouse in Northfield to Mike's replacement, **Valerio Caldesi-Valeri** (Ph.D. from U. of Texas, 2009). A native of Padua, Italy, who spent 2009-10 teaching at Lawrence University, Valerio and his bride Terri will be moving here in late August. We have also hired **Larry Myer** (Ph.D. expected from Harvard this summer) to teach one course each semester. Our ancient historian **Tim Howe** will be bounding back from his year-long sabbatical and leading the 2011 Classics interim in Greece.



**Jim May** has begun his ninth year as Provost and Dean of the College, still teaching one course for the department each fall. He is working on a textbook, *A Cicero Reader: Selections from 5 Essays and 4 Speeches, with 5 Letters*, which will be published by Bolchazy-Carducci in 2011. He and Donna led a study/travel tour of Greece, Macedonia, and Bulgaria in June. Their son Mike will be getting married (to Sheila Early) in August, their son Joe (to Bethany Kullmann) in October, just after Joe graduates from Army Officer Training at Fort Benning in Georgia.



After finishing his term as Faculty Observer to the Board of Regents, **Steve Reece** realized a lifelong dream by spending the month of June on an archaeological dig at Tel Megiddo in northern Israel. (He won a Professional Development Grant to help pay for it.) Oblivious to scorpion stings and spider bites, he had the good luck to find, among other precious items, two 3500-year-old scarabs. Steve and Rhonda's son Taylor, a high-school math teacher, will marry Kayli Henry in August. Daughter Hannah will be a junior at PLU this fall.

**Anne Groton** and **Chris Brunelle** both taught in the Great Conversation this past year. Chris was kind enough to jump into the role of Acting Director of the program when a colleague fell ill. Treasurer still of the Classical Association of Minnesota and now Faculty Parliamentarian, he continues to sing, play, and direct music, translate Ovid, and do research on gender-specification in Latin literature. Unlike the Mays and the Reeces, he and Serena are not involved in wedding preparations for any of their children, Julian (7), Leo (4), or Sebastian (4). Nor has Anne succumbed to the pressure to find a spouse, though she remains wedded to running CAMWS and the department. Among other projects she is revising her Greek textbook.



Brunelle, Groton, May, McMenemy, and Sampson all attended the Annual Meeting of the **American Philological Association** in Anaheim, January 6-9. Chris (shown arm-wrestling with Tim Howe) met with the Development Committee, Mary gave a paper entitled "From Athens to Taenarus on Foot: The Function of Xanthias in *Frogs*," and Anne and Jim interviewed job candidates in the rare moments when Jim did not have a competing obligation as the APA's Vice President for Professional Matters.

At the Annual Meeting of **CAMWS** in Oklahoma City, March 24-27, Mike Sampson gave a paper on "Social Memory and Aeschylus' *Persae*," **Jennifer Starkey '07** (Ph.D. candidate, U. of Colorado) on "The Power of a Persona: Stifling Speech in Archaic Epic," **Marquis Berrey '03** (Ph.D. candidate, U. of Texas) on "Galen on Nature and the Possible," and **Paul Moran '00** (Ph.D. candidate, U. of Virginia) on "Polybius on Weather and the Good General."



There were Oles everywhere! Anne Groton ran the meeting with the aid of her administrative sidekick Sue Newland and presided over a session of undergraduate papers. Jim May awed attendees at the banquet with his spirited rendition of "OKLAHOMA!" in Latin.

Midway through the year we will be making our epic move from the top floor of Old Main to the top floor of **Tomson Hall** (aka the renovated former Science Center). If you have a yearning to visit the old haunts before we vacate them, better come soon! Meanwhile please keep sending us your news and photos so that we can post them on our website: [www.stolaf.edu/depts/classics](http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/classics).

*Caelum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt.* (Horace, *Epistles* 1.11.27)