

## St. Olaf College Department of Classics

# NEWSLETTER

July, 2007

After a year of living in a construction zone, we have become accustomed to the sounds of cement trucks and steam shovels and to the ever-changing silhouette of the new Science Complex, already rising up impressively to its third of four floors. The dust persuaded us to move our Commencement Day reception from Old Main lawn to Rølvaag Library; there we enjoyed meeting the families of our graduating seniors and taking photos with a map of the world as our backdrop. (See below.)

The **Class of 2007** included 6 majors in **Classics** (Jacob Anderson, Elizabeth Beerman, John Deck, Andrea Horbinski, Jennifer Starkey, and Lauren Yost), 2 in **Latin** (Carla Creswell, Joshua Swenson), 2 in **Latin and Medieval Studies** (Sean Cunningham, Emelie Heltsley), 7 in **Ancient Studies** (Leigh Anderson, Holly Browskowski, Damon Doty, John Forsythe, Jeffrey Hyman, Emily Lindo, and Paul Olin), and 1 in **Medieval Studies** (Hannah Woldum). Elizabeth, John Deck, Andrea, Jennifer, and Hannah were elected to Phi Beta Kappa.



Jennifer Starkey



Elizabeth Beerman

For the first time in 30 years, not just one but two of our seniors achieved **distinction** in Classics. **Jennifer Starkey** wrote on “Spondaic Lines in Apollonius Rhodius' *Argonautica* (with Hellenistic Perspective)”; **Elizabeth Beerman** wrote on “Praise of the Country Life: Vergil's *Georgics* 2.458-542. A Translation and Commentary with Supplementary Essays.” Jennifer will begin the Classics Ph.D. program at the U. of Colorado this fall; Elizabeth will attend law school at the U. of Michigan. Both received Awards for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies, as did **Joshua Swenson**, who hopes to teach Latin in a Twin Cities school next year.

**Andrea Horbinski**, whose other major was Asian Studies, won a Fulbright Scholarship to study manga in Japan. **Jacob Anderson** will serve a year in Mexico with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. **Emelie Heltsley**, who graduated with distinction in English and spent last year designing a seminar in medieval warfare in collaboration with Tim Howe (Magnus the Good Award), will be teaching junior-high English in rural Mississippi through Teach for America. **Holly Browskowski** will be working for the Admission Possible program with Americorps in St. Paul. **Emily Lindo** will pursue an M.A. in Mediterranean Archaeology

at the University of Bristol while **Hannah Woldum** pursues an M.A. in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas. Both **John Deck** and **John Forsythe** will be starting law school at the University of Texas. **Damon Doty** already has his real estate agent's license and would be delighted to sell you a house!



2007 was the 25th anniversary of the **St. Olaf Latin Plays**. For ring composition's sake we chose Plautus' *Menaechmi*, the very first play produced here, but added a marsupial theme (inspired by the frequency of the word *marsuppium* "money-pouch"). As usual, the cast of 18 students did a remarkable job, performing eight times in the space of three days for 2000 people. Our tour (March 8-9) took us to John Marshall H.S. in Rochester, Seven Hills Classical Academy in Bloomington (two shows there), the University of Minnesota, the University of St. Thomas, and Benilde-St. Margaret's School in St. Louis Park, ending with two performances at St. Olaf. The audience at each venue was composed of students from several schools, the most intimidating being the 500 elementary- and middle-school children bussed to Seven Hills from five new charter schools in the Twin Cities area! (At left: *Menaechmus II*)



Medicus, Senex, and marsupials



Uxor and *Menaechmus I*

Continuing the tradition begun last year, we awarded two **Groomis Grants** for Classics-related summer projects, one to senior Holly Browskowski, the other to junior Kayla Rasmussen. Holly was accepted for an unpaid summer internship in the education department of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, with the assignment of creating an Art Cart for the MIA's ancient Mediterranean collection; her \$500 grant goes toward the cost of living expenses in Minneapolis. Kayla is spending seven weeks this summer in the Intensive German Language Program at Middlebury College in Vermont, expecting to use her German language skills for research in ancient history. Her \$500 grant goes toward the cost of tuition and board at Middlebury.

First prize (\$300) in our 7th annual **Loomis Latin Contest** went to Jennifer Starkey (for the 4th year in a row!), second prize (\$200) to Elizabeth Beerman (2nd year in a row), and third prize (\$100 each) to Hilary Bouxsein '09 and Thomas Halvorsen '10. First prize (\$300) in our 6th annual **Groton Greek Contest** went to Jennifer Starkey (2nd year in a row), second prize (\$200) to Michael Gulden '08, and third prize (\$100) to Michael Dow '08. Contestants translated a passage from Book 8 of Vergil's *Aeneid* or from Book 7 of Herodotus' *Histories*.

In the **Maureen Dallas Watkins Translation Contests** for 2007, St. Olaf was the only school in the country to win four prizes: 1st in Advanced Latin for Elizabeth Beerman, 2nd in Advanced Greek and 3rd in Advanced Latin for Jennifer Starkey, and 2nd prize in Latin Prose Composition for Thomas Halvorsen '10. Four students, Michael Dow, Andrea Horbinski, Kayla Rasmussen, and Daniel White, represented St. Olaf at the **National Convention of Eta Sigma Phi** at Temple University in Philadelphia, March 30-April 1.

**Eta Sigma Phi** and the **Society of Ancient History (SAH)** combined forces to hold Olympic Games in the fall and a Quiz Bowl in the spring. SAH also organized a guest lecture by **Garrett Fagan**, (Penn State) on March 18 (“The Lure of the Roman Arena: Comparative and Psychological Perspectives”). **Sarah Morris** (UCLA), Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, generously consented to give a lecture (“Isaac and Iphigenia: Human Sacrifice in Antiquity”) while she was in town on April 23. (Pictured below: Olympic action, Profs. Fagan and Morris)



**Classics Conversation Tables** continued this year on Monday evenings and attracted good turnouts. A donation from the Loomis family enabled us to offer a \$50 honorarium, mileage reimbursement, and a free dinner in Stav to each guest speaker: Prof. Mark Gustafson '74 (St. Olaf), Prof. Jorge Bravo (Carleton), Evan Meyer '05, Tom Hasert '93, Pam Hansen O'Hara '84, President David Anderson '74 (St. Olaf), Prof. Mary McMenemy (Carleton).

The year featured two **field trips**, one to the U. of Minnesota in October to see Plato's *Apology* dramatized by Yannis Simonides, one to the Mpls. Institute of Arts in April to hear an archaeology lecture by Cyprian Broodbank (University College London). We also caroled in December and picnicked in May. The photo shows our seniors wearing their honor cords at the Bacchanalia (front: Starkey, Anderson, Browkowski, Yost; back: Swenson, Beerman, Horbinski, Heltsley).



At the **American Philological Association** meeting in San Diego, Jan. 4-7, Steve Reece spoke on “Homer's Winged and Wingless Words,” Tim Howe spoke on “Alexander in India: Ptolemy as Near Eastern Historiographer,” and Jim May served as respondent to a panel (“Teaching Ciceronian Scholarship”). At the **Classical Association of the Middle West and South** meeting in Cincinnati, Apr. 11-14, Tim spoke on “The *Hiera Orgas*: Land Use and Environmental Politics in Classical Greece,” Steve on “Epic Knees”; Anne Groton and Steve chaired sessions, and Jim orated and sang in Latin at the banquet. After running three CAMWS meetings, Anne and her trusty assistant Sue Newland are starting to get the hang of it.

**Jim May** is beginning his sixth year as Provost and Dean and has graciously agreed, on top of that, to teach a Latin course for us this fall. Somehow he has also found time to publish a chapter on “Ciceronian Scholarship in the Classroom” and another on “Cicero as Rhetorician.”



Congratulations to **Steve Reece**, who has received a Faculty Career Enhancement (FaCE) grant, funded by the Mellon Foundation, from the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. Steve will be on sabbatical in 2007-08; the grant will help him get started on his new research project, investigating quotations of classical authors in the New Testament. In the photo he sits with Holly Browskowski, Erin Van Burkleo, and Kayla Rasmussen at the Classics Conversation Table.



**Christopher Brunelle** has been thriving in his first year of teaching in the interdisciplinary Great Conversation program. He won a St. Olaf summer grant for curriculum development to compose new practice sentences for our elementary Latin classes. 1-year-old Sebastian and Leo (pictured at right) and 4-year-old Julian keep Chris hopping!



**Anne Groton**, who was honored with the 2007 Gertrude Hilleboe Award for Faculty Involvement in Student Life, spent January leading 30 Oles around Greece. Shown below are the Athenian Agora, our veteran guide Dora Spahi in a characteristic pose, and medieval Mystra.



We are happy that **Mark Gustafson** will be returning for another year. In January he will teach “The Fall of the Roman Empire and the Rise of Christianity” while **Tim Howe** leads the Greece interim. Joining us for 2007-08 will be **Stephanie McCarter**, Steve's sabbatical-leave replacment. Stephanie is a U. of Tennessee graduate who received her Ph.D. just this spring from the University of Virginia with a dissertation on Horace. This fall she will be teaching an advanced Latin course in Augustan Elegy. Welcome to Old Main, Stephanie!

Recent trend: St. Olaf is doing its part to meet the growing **shortage of Latin teachers** in K-12 schools. Current students, alumni, and even graduates of other colleges who need to become licensed to teach in public school are eligible to enroll in our Latin Education program.

Donations to any of our four Classics-related endowment funds (Loomis, Groton, Grimsrud, and Scarseth) are always appreciated; more information about them can be found on our website: [www.stolaf.edu/depts/classics](http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/classics). We are far more interested in you, though, than in your money! Please send us your news and come and visit us the next time you are in town.