

**Classics Newsletter – St. Olaf College
June, 2017**

It has been such a memorable year for Classics that we decided to send out our newsletter a wee bit early.

Thanks to the kindness of a number of donors, the James M. May Lecture in Classics became fully funded four years ahead of schedule. The inaugural lecture, “Isocrates and Cicero: Ancient Orators in the Modern Classroom,” was delivered by Terry Papillon ’80, Professor of Classics and Dean of the College at the University of the South (Sewanee), on March 27.



The event was streamed live and preceded by a gala dinner that included 40 alumni! Jim was presented with a Festschrift, *Ab omni parte beatus: Classical Essays in Honor of James M. May* (Bolchazy-Carducci), edited by Anne Groton, with chapters by Steve Reece and Chris Brunelle. The photo shows Lisa Whitlatch and Jim admiring the book at a conference in Canada.



In recognition of Jim’s 40 years at St. Olaf, his Classics colleagues had an oak tree planted on the hillside near Rølvaag Library. The Latin quotation on the plaque comes from St. Augustine’s *De doctrina Christiana* 4.29: “his own way of life serves as his eloquence.”



We had a large, lively group of seniors (6 majoring in Classics, 3 in Latin, 1 in Greek, 3 in Ancient Studies, 3 in Medieval Studies). Six of them were elected to Phi Beta Kappa; Ben Cooper was the student speaker at Commencement. Joseph Burkhart (“Metatheatrical Plautus”) and Kirby Schoephoerster (“Fly Fishing in Antiquity”) earned distinction in Classics. Kate Bello won this year’s Alec Award; Jeremiah Harrelson ’97 and his family came to campus to present it. At our annual pizza symposium, seven seniors summarized their independent research projects. In the photo below, from the picnic held at the Mays’ house, Chris Brunelle flings an Eta Sigma Phi honor cord around Kari Myers-Busch while Steve Reece tests the strength of a post.



Greg Randall ’96 and his spouse Toni Wilkes surprised us with an extraordinary donation, enabling six Oles to

attend the Eta Sigma Phi convention in Ann Arbor, March 24-26. Joseph Spellman was elected national treasurer, and St. Olaf's bid to host the convention in 2019 was accepted. Pictured in their Roman banquet attire are (left to right) Kirby Schoephoerster, Herman Hannan, Dylan Walker, Joseph Spellman, Mary Landis Gaston, and Joseph Burkhart. *Gaudeamus igitur!*



Other gifts to the Annual Fund, all much appreciated, helped us sponsor two lectures, one on "Fulvia and Roman Women in the *castra*: Who's in Charge Here?" by Prof. Rosemary Moore from the U. of Iowa, the other by quilter Cathy Grafton on "Threads of History: The Story of the Bayeux Tapestry" Three alumnae (Elizabeth Winter '02, Hannah Johnson '12, Elizabeth Beerman '07) were among the guest speakers at our Monday-evening Classics Conversation Table.

In September St. Olaf and Carleton collaborated on a "Classics Night" at Greenvale Park Elementary School in Northfield. The open house featured a variety of activities for the children and their parents, supervised by eight professors and ten college students. Reviews were positive, so we will repeat it this fall.

FILL IN THE LATIN WORD FOR THE COLOR OF EACH ANIMAL
(capra, canis, rana, porcus)



LATIN WORDS FOR COLORS: CANUS (gray), PRASINA (green), ROSACEUS (pink), PURPUREA (purple)

Chris Brunelle's third Metamorphomathon, a public reading of Ovid's entire *Metamorphoses*, was again a success. Steve Reece, as Boldt Chair, organized two excellent series of lunch-time talks on "material culture in the Humanities" and "history of the book as a material object." Besides the Festschrift, three other books were published by our Classics faculty this year: *How to Win an Argument* (Princeton) by Jim, *Paul's Large Letters* (Bloomsbury T&T Clark) by Steve, and *The Church Year in Limericks* (MorningStar) by Chris.



Lest you think we are all brain and no brawn, here is a photo, taken by Lisa Whitlatch, from our annual Greek



vs. Latin softball game. Lisa has been a great team-player for the past three years; we wish her all the best with her new job at the Church of St. Dominic in Northfield. To

fill in for her next year, we have hired a familiar face, Hilary Boussein '09. She completed her Ph.D. in Classics at the U. of Virginia a year ago and has been teaching at Texas A&M.



Anne Groton enjoyed her 13th January in Greece; Steve Reece will be teaching the Classics interim in Italy next January. Our thanks, as always, to Ken and Kathy Loomis, for their study abroad scholarship.



Anne is now finished with her fourth stint in Great Con;

Steve Reece is midway through his second. In the fall Chris Brunelle will pilot a new course, "Gender



and Sexuality in the Ancient World." The year will be busy with several guest lectures, the search to find Jim May's tenure-track successor, and our first-ever student production of an ancient Greek comedy by Menander!



Some final words of celebration: this summer the Reeces' son Taylor and his wife Kayli are expecting their first child. Congratulations, too, to Donna May and Rhonda Reece, who have both just retired after long careers at St. Agnes School and Bethel Lutheran Church, respectively. And yes, we will miss you, Jim!