

Classical Studies Fall newsletter and holiday greetings

classical-studies-alumni@wm.edu

Dear friends,

It has been another busy semester on the third floor of Morton Hall. We welcomed **four new faculty members** (Mitchell Brown, Kathleen Kidder, Zachary Wainer, and Andrew Ward) each of whom has brought their own sparkle and energy to the department. We have added new courses to the schedule, including a **Capstone Colloquium** for which five of our senior stars presented the results of their research (December 6). Becca Gaborek and Robert Yancey both participated in the Virginia Classics Undergraduate Conference this Fall, and Becca will also present a paper at the meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America this January. Our **Joint Degree Program with St. Andrews** got off to a roaring start last year with a full cohort of five students, and this year we also welcomed three new joint-degree students. At our **Homecoming Reception** (October 20) it was lovely to see old friends with whom we reminisced fondly while missing those of you who could not make it. Sadly, in June, we lost a dear friend, **Joe Brinkley**, who for many years has sponsored a lecture series for the department on Greek and Egyptian archaeology in honor of his beloved wife Ginny.

Ms. Joyce wishes everyone happy holidays!

Professor Donahue continues to serve as Dean for Educational Policy. And he sends greetings from Ewell Hall.

Professor Brown offered a course on Greek and Roman comedy that encouraged students to examine ancient drama as part of a broader global phenomenon. He also had the opportunity to get to know many of the department's fabulous majors and minors as the faculty liaison to the Classics Club and he looks forward to inducting a new class of students into the Classics honorary society, Eta Sigma Phi, next semester.

Professor Hutton finished his term as chair (the entire department is grateful beyond description for his exemplary service). He delivered a paper on "Real and Imagined Geographies of Cyprus in Imperial Greek Literature" at a conference hosted by the embassy of Cyprus in Athens; and he is

hoping to complete a new translation of Pausanias's *Description of Greece* by the time you read this!

Professor Irby has already been at the departmental helm as κωβερνήτης for one semester (full and by!) The students in her COLL 100 course (*Why Water Matters*) have been reading her new book manuscript on water in the ancient Mediterranean world, providing thoughtful feedback and catching pesky typos.

Professor Kidder has just finished teaching Greek Civilization. She is also working on her book manuscript on truth and falsehood in Hellenistic poetry, while finishing two articles on myths in Nicander and Lycophron.

Professor Nichols has enjoyed teaching both Greek and Latin language courses this term with a terrific group of dedicated students. He is happy to see his essay on Corruption in Athenian Politics finally published in *The Oxford Handbook of Demosthenes* this Fall.

Last Spring was **Professor Oakley's** final semester of teaching, and he was able to pass on a very healthy number of fourth semester Greek students to upper level Greek. This past semester he has been on research leave working on his latest book, *Scenes of Daily Life on Athenian Vases*.

Professor Paga has been on sabbatical this year, spending the Fall at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. Her book on Athenian architecture and the early democracy is under contract with Oxford University Press.

Professor Panoussi is excited to announce that her book *Brides, Mourners, Bacchae: Women's Rituals in Roman Literature* will be published in early 2019 by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Professor Spaeth is spending the year as Andrew W. Mellon Professor-in-Charge of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. And she sends greetings from the eternal city.

Professor Stephens and her fascinating new course on comparative slavery is featured on the William and Mary website: <https://www.wm.edu/news/stories/2018/new-course-looks-at-long-history-of-slavery.php>

This year saw the publication of an edited volume that **Professor Swetnam-Burland** has been working on for several years, titled *Reuse and Renovation in Roman Material Culture*, from Cambridge University Press. She presented some new work on the palace of Nero at Antium at a conference in Naples this Fall.

Professor Ward will offer new courses on looting and ancient colonization in the spring, and he is looking forward to bringing William and Mary students on excavation in the Mediterranean this summer.

The students in **Professor Wainer's** Classical Mythology class and **Professor Ward's** Greek Art and Archaeology course were treated to a guided tour of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on October 27. The students were able to contextualize their studies of Classical art and literature by viewing and interacting with the VMFA's outstanding representative collection of ancient art ranging from Old Kingdom Egypt through the Roman Imperial period (including a rare portrait statue of the infamous Roman Emperor Caligula).

Ante-penultimately, mark your calendars for the Ides of April a.u.c. 2772 (April 13, 2019) when we shall fete **Professor Oakley** on the occasion of his retirement from teaching. *Coming of Age with John Oakley: A Celebration* will feature talks from Alan Shapiro, Mark Lawall, Hallie Franks, Maura Brennan, and Seth Pevnick, with an introduction from Williamsburg Mayor the honorable Paul Freiling.

To this end, we are compiling a *Tabula Congratulatoria* in honor of Professor Oakley's many accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, and service

1. Please send us your own "best memory" of John. Photos are welcome!
2. Please share this call with anyone you think might be interested in contributing (we cannot know whom we may have missed)
3. Mum's the word! This is a surprise!

Please send your reminiscences to Georgia, departmental *καβερνήτης* (glirby@wm.edu) asap but no later than January 31, 2019. We'll need time for graphic design and printing. And we want the collection ready by the Ides of April so we can present at the retirement fete.

Penultimately, we are grateful for the continued financial support of our alumni:
<https://www.wm.edu/as/classicalstudies/support/index.php>

And **ultimately**, we wish you and yours all the joys of the season and best wishes for health, happiness, and prosperity in the New Year.

~From all of us in the Department of Classical Studies at the College of William and Mary

Professor G. L. Irby
κυβερνήτης
Department of Classical Studies
The College of William and Mary
P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

<http://glirby.people.wm.edu/>
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