



## DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

Oberlin College  
10 North Professor Street  
Oberlin, OH 44074  
P: 440-775-8390  
E: classics@oberlin.edu  
W: oberlin.edu/classics

Drew Wilburn (Chair)  
Rebecca Frank  
Ben Lee  
Kirk Ormand  
Jane Sancinito  
Chris Trinacty  
Joan Kaatz, Administrative  
Assistant

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Editor: Emily Hudson '22

Masthead image: *Kylix with Palmette-Eye Motif*, 520-510 BC, earthenware, 4 15/16 x 12 5/16 in., Allen Memorial Art Museum, General Acquisitions Fund, 1967

## FROM THE EDITOR'S QUARANTINE BUNKER

By Emily Hudson '22

**H**ello all you brave classicists and welcome to another stunning edition of the annual Oberlin Classics Department Newsletter, which is not at all annual. You may have noticed that I am not Kirk Ormand, nor am I any other member of the department faculty whom you know and love. I am, rather, Emily Hudson, a rising third-year student at Oberlin majoring in (obviously) classics and (less obviously) comparative literature. In an altogether strange and unexpected turn of events, I am now the editor of this newsletter. Don't ask me to explain, for I cannot.

I can, however, give you an overview of the busy and exciting year that our department has undergone. Despite our spring semester being cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, we packed as much into the 2019-20 school year as we could. Professor Daniel Selden of the literature department at University of California Santa Cruz gave the coveted Martin Lectures last fall, titled "Holy Wandering: The Worlding of the Alexander Romance." Also in the fall, we held our annual Winkler Lecture, this year awarded to Joseph Gerbasi from the University of Toronto, who lectured on Platonic principles in the psychoanalytic theories of Jacques Lacan.

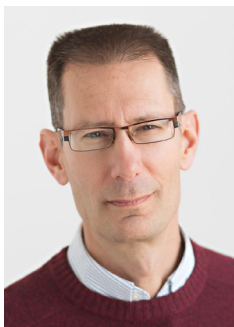
Since our last newsletter, we have had the pleasure of having Jane Sancinito as the second Thomas F. Cooper postdoc, after Elizabeth Wueste accepted a tenure-track job at the American University in Rome. After two years at Kenyon College, Naomi Campa accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Texas, Austin, beginning this fall. As a result of our (endearing) struggles to get this newsletter out annually, you will be both introduced and bidding adieu to Professor Sancinito.

We hope that all of you Oberlin classicists out there are staying safe during this crazy, mixed-up time. We may not be holed up in the King Building, but we're only a Zoom link away, should you need us.



Elliot Diaz '23 and Emily Hudson '22, acting out *Sophocles' Trachiniae* at the annual bardic reading.

# FACULTY NOTES



**KIRK ORMAND:** I've had a terrific couple of years since the last newsletter. I've enjoyed teaching some of my favorite classes, including the ancient epics course, my FYSP on the *Odyssey* and its afterlife, an upper-level Latin course on Catullus, ancient sexuality, and this semester, via Zoom, my team-taught course with Jen Bryan (English) on Ovid and his reception in the medieval period. As always, my

students have kept me on my toes with their challenging questions and fresh perspectives. In research, I finally published my article on the "New Sappho" in a volume titled *Narratives of Gender and Time in Antiquity*, and I have a piece titled "Sex and the City" coming out in the *Cambridge Companion to Ancient Athens*. I haven't done as much travel in the past two years as I sometimes manage, but I've recently been awarded a grant to work at the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Strasbourg (USIAS), so I'm looking forward to spending several months in Europe this fall. I'll be spending that time starting a new book project, on invective poetry from archaic Greece (especially Archilochus and Hipponax)



**CHRIS TRINACTY:** In the last couple years, I've been busy working on Seneca's *Naturales Quaestiones*, a fantastic Stoic account of the natural world and its sublime phenomena (earthquakes, lightning, floods). This has resulted in a couple articles ["*Non est facile inter mala magna consipere*: Trauma, Earthquakes, and Bibliotherapy in Seneca's *Naturales Quaestiones*," In *Emotional Trauma in*

*Greece and Rome: Representations and Reactions* (Routledge, 2019) 125-42; and "Fear and Healing: Seneca, Caecilius Iucundus and the Campanian Earthquake of 62/63 CE," *Greece and Rome* 66.1 (2019) 93-112.]. I've also put together a website about one book of this work ([www.oberlinclassics.com](http://www.oberlinclassics.com)). I'm excited to be teaching new courses on ancient science and a first-year seminar on heroes and villains. This past summer, I gave a paper in Greece and was able to bring my family to see the Acropolis and hike around the Agora. Next summer my son and I may try to climb Mt. Olympus—stay tuned!



**DREW WILBURN:** Like the other faculty in the department, I'm writing this note from Oberlin Lockdown, as we all enjoy the pleasures of teaching and learning remotely. Before the college moved to online-only, I distributed amulets to my Magic and Mystery students, which helped everyone think about how amulets provide comfort and reassurance during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Over the past two years, I've continued to chair the Department of Classics, but I'm getting ready to pass that position to Chris Trinacty. I was promoted to professor last year, in 2019. During my sabbatical, I was awarded a Franklin Research Fellowship from the American Philosophical Society. I conducted research in London on early modern magic for my next research project, which investigates how the Greeks and Romans used magic for home security. I also had the chance to visit the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in Boscastle, Cornwall! The Thomas F. Cooper Fund for Faculty Research allowed me to travel to Greece and Italy to conduct additional on-site work. I've given talks in Chicago, Lecce, Italy, and, most recently, at the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, where I presented my work on the Karanis Housing Project, research I am continuing with the assistance of Emily Hudson '22. In other news, Patrick (now 10) and Claire (now 8) were very pleased to welcome home Winnie, our new chocolate lab, who is both cute and naughty.



**BEN LEE:** Ben is happy teaching Greek and Roman Epic, Homer, Martial, Ovid, and Latin 102 this year. He is researching 11th-century Latin translations of Arabic medical texts that were made by Constantine the African in the Abbey at Monte Cassino. He is working on this project with Francis Newton, Professor Emeritus at Duke University, and Professor Eliza Glaze of Carolina Coastal College.

He also has two research assistants helping him with these manuscripts, Emma Glen '22 and Han Yang '23. Online versions of these manuscripts will be hosted by Oberlin and will tentatively be called the Oberlin Articeella Project.



**JANE SANCINITO:** My two years at Oberlin have been hugely productive and exciting. I arrived here straight out of my graduate program at the University of Pennsylvania and was immediately welcomed into this exciting and inspiring community of students and scholars. I began by teaching Greek and Roman Mythology, introductory Greek, and History of Rome in my first year. At the same time I was working on a pair of articles about

innkeepers in the Roman world, which were published during this 2019-20 school year. During my time at Oberlin, I have also presented papers at four conferences on four different topics: Egyptian produce transporters, Greek and Roman curse tablets, Roman funerary inscriptions, and Visigothic coins. In my second year, I taught two new courses, *Pirates of the Mediterranean* and *Advanced Latin: Roman Biography*, and returned again to *History of Rome*. During the spring semester of 2019, I drafted



## FACULTY NOTES, CONT.

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and submitted my book manuscript, *The Reputation of the Roman Merchant*, which is now under contract with the University of Michigan Press. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone at Oberlin for their warm welcome and generous support. Next year, I will be taking up a tenure-track position as assistant professor of history at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

**REBECCA FRANK:** I will be joining the Department of Classics this fall for a two-year appointment as the Thomas F. Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow. My research specialties include Imperial Greek literature, Greek religion, and Roman archaeology, with a focus on digital humanities. This spring I completed my PhD at the University of Virginia with a thesis entitled "Plutarch and the Delphic Oracle." In my dissertation I investigated how the Greek philosopher and biographer Plutarch of Chaeronea presents the



Delphic oracle and oracular divination in his writings. While at Oberlin, I will continue exploring the role played by Delphi in Greek philosophical discourse, as well as understandings of oracular divination in the Greco-Roman world. I will also be continuing my archaeological work at the Roman colony of Cosa, located on the southern Tuscan coast. We are hoping to be able to return to the site next

summer when we will conclude our excavation of the colony's bath complex. Finally, over the next year at Oberlin I will be teaching Greek and Roman Mythology, Greek History, and Latin language. I am looking forward to moving to Ohio and getting to know the Oberlin community!

## MARTIN LECTURES 2019

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By Emma Glen '22, Latin Language and Literature

**D**escension into the depths of the sea in a glass bubble and ascension into the stars in the sky might sound like premises of an early science fiction novel. In fact, both are features of the *Alexander Romance*, a fictionalized biography of Alexander the Great first compiled in the 3rd century BCE. This work has produced countless recensions not only in Greek and Latin but in multiple other European languages including Syriac, Arabic, Persian, and Armenian, to name a few. Each of these versions is unique to the culture that receives and recreates it, and the complexities of this work—or, perhaps, collection of works—and the historical and cultural implications of its extant forms were the topic of this year's Martin Lectures, given by Daniel L Selden.

Professor Selden works in the literature department at the University of California Santa Cruz and is also affiliated with the departments of Jewish, Classical, and Italian Studies. He is an expert in not only classical studies and literary theory but also Egyptology, Mediterranean studies, poetics, reception studies, and much more. He earned a PhD in comparative literature at Yale University. He has published numerous articles on writings about and receptions of Alexander the Great and is the author of multiple books, including *Holy Wandering: The Worlding of the Alexander Romance*, and is an editor of the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Literatures of the Roman Empire*. His lectures on the *Alexander Romance* provided the Oberlin community with an in-depth examination of the work's construction and dissemination, and this examination in turn allowed students to challenge the very framework of what we consider the "Classical world."

The first lecture, "Mapping the *Alexander Romance*," provided context on the epic and its spread. This included defining the ancient literary category of "romance," explaining the historical significance of Aristotelian metaphysics, and describing tributary economics in

the Persian Empire. The relationship between these three principles helped establish a framework that would be used to examine the *Alexander Romance* in the lectures that followed.

Tuesday night's lecture, "The Quest for the Waters of Life," took a comparative approach to examining a particular episode within the *Romance* in which Alexander's cook finds water that provides immortality by accidentally resurrecting a fish. Selden used the significance of this episode in the differing religious contexts of the various cultures that produced their own versions of it to ask, on a broader level, what changes the *Romance* undergoes as it moves between different cultures and within the heteroglossia of individual languages. He showed how, ultimately, this anecdote and its variations challenged the central ideas of the Second Sophistic.

The third lecture was entitled "Guardians of Chaos" and examined Coptic versions of the *Romance* and how Alexander was incorporated into the religious tradition of Egypt at the time. Selden also drew parallels between Alexander's descent into "chaos" within these versions of the text and the Ancient Greek ideas of chaos and order.

The final lecture, "Iskandar and the Idea of Iran," delved into Iranian receptions of Alexander the Great and the *Alexander Romance*. In addition to the *Romance* itself, Selden analyzed fragments of the Avesta and showed how Alexander was historically and symbolically incorporated into the cosmic battle between "good" and "evil." This provided an important example of a negative reception of Alexander rather than a glorifying one by employing a text giving voice to victims of Alexander's colonialism.

Students had the chance to personally speak with Selden at a department dinner following the second lecture. This allowed both classics majors and other interested Oberlin students to have in-depth conversations with Selden. The group discussed topics such

# FAREWELL (AND HELLO) TO JANE SANCINITO

By Emily Hudson '22

Throughout her two years at Oberlin, Professor Sancinito made herself an invaluable member of the Oberlin Classics Department. In addition to teaching several staple courses of the department, such as Roman History and Elementary Greek, Professor Sancinito also taught *Pirates of the Mediterranean*, a 200 level Classical Civilizations course, the syllabus for which she had been working on since graduate school. I had the personal privilege of assisting Professor Sancinito on a paper about Visigothic coins, as well as her forthcoming book on Roman merchants.

Perhaps Professor Sancinito's most notable contribution to Oberlin was her establishment of a new annual event: The Women of Color in Classics Wiki Edit-athon. In conjunction with Oberlin College renaming the library after Mary Church Terrell, an Oberlin Classics alumna, Professor Sancinito spent the day with students editing the Wikipedia pages of some of the women of color who graduated from Oberlin with a degree in Classics. Professor Sancinito and students updated these Wikipedia pages to more accurately and completely reflect the lives and achievements of these women. Although Professor Sancinito will be leaving us, she has nominated several students to take up the mantle of this important event and keep it going after she has moved on.

We know Professor Sancinito's contributions to Oberlin are just the tip of the iceberg for all she will achieve and we are greatly looking forward to seeing what she does next as a tenured professor at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.



Students with Professor Jane Sancinito at the department's annual bardic reading. From left: Emma Glen, Jane Sancinito, David Gudjonsson, Chi Shu, and Auggie Fisher.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSICS GRADS!

### CLASS OF 2020:

Jacqueline Brant, Latin (minor)  
Samantha Clanton, Classical Civilizations (major)  
Julia Deen, Greek (major)  
Rayna Forman, Classical Civilizations (major)  
Justin Godfrey, Classical Civilizations (major)  
Maddie Henke, Latin (major)  
Julian Hirsch, Classical Civilizations (major)  
John Kenslea, Latin (major)  
Hannah Long, Latin (major)  
Lucy Parr, Latin (major), Greek (minor)  
Polyxeni Trikoulis, Greek (major)  
Kelley Zhong, Latin (minor)

### CLASS OF 2019:

Justin Biggi, Greek (major)  
Owen Corser, Classical Civilizations (major)  
Riley Davies, Greek (minor)  
Mattie Gittings, Classical Civilizations (major)  
Aidan Kidder-Wolff, Latin (minor)  
Katie Maleckar, Latin (major)  
Charles McCalmont, Latin (major)  
Rachel Vales, Classical Civilizations (major)  
Thomas Valle-Hoag, Latin (major)

## MARTIN LECTURES, CONT.

as translation and learning dead languages other than Latin and Ancient Greek and even shared their ideas on whether a translated collection of various iterations of the *Alexander Romance* would have an audience (answers were positive).

Selden's lecture series informed Oberlin students about a fascinating piece of ancient literature and challenged his listeners to reconsider their conceptions of the ancient "Western" world by showing the intertextuality that Greece and Rome share with the rest of the world in which they existed. The civilizations we consider "classical" are not and never have been isolated from other ancient cultures and, as Selden reminds us, their interactions with other cultures paint a far more complex picture of world history than can be gained from studying Greece and Rome alone.

It was an honor to have Professor Selden visit Oberlin as a lecturer, and we are excitedly anticipating his forthcoming work on both the *Alexander Romance* and his other areas of expertise.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## PHYLLIS SAMSON MCCAULEY 1951 CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

[phyllismccauley@gmail.com](mailto:phyllismccauley@gmail.com)

I'm not up to much due to age and COVID-19. Strictly quarantined, which is good, in a senior independent living community. My biggest news would be the publishing of a book of poetry last year. I sent it to the Oberlin alumni office at their suggestion for a destination. I never heard back about it, but it might be floating around somewhere. Called *MY TWO CENTS WORTH*. It's a kind of memoir, with poems I wrote from 16 years old to 87 years.

## ARLENE SAXONHOUSE 1965 CLASSICS

[awsaxon@umich.edu](mailto:awsaxon@umich.edu)

After almost 50 years of teaching in the Department of Political Science (and over 10 years as an Adjunct Professor of Classics) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, I have retired. A symposium entitled "Political Theory: Past, Present and Future" marked the occasion last December. I plan to continue writing about the many ways that ancient political thought can enlighten contemporary political life and participating in conferences (when they start up again), but teaching—and faculty meetings!—are in the past. I will miss the engagement with students, but look forward to continuing contact with colleagues across the country and abroad.

## TED TARKOW 1966 CLASSICS

[tarkowt@missouri.edu](mailto:tarkowt@missouri.edu)

Retired 8/31/19 after 50 years at U of MO; still teaching a course each term, and working on other classics related projects.

## ROBERT CRAWFORD 1974 CLASSICS

I just moved back to the U.S. after 13 years in France. Semi-retired, but still freelance writing.

## NELL WRIGHT 1979 GREEK

I spent five weeks working with Palestinian refugees in Greece in the fall. Home



*Tim Platt, Emelio DiSabato, Karen Frenchu, Ploy Keener, Tom Buck, Tom Van Nortwick, and Eush Tayco during Oberlin's 2019 commencement weekend.*

to retirement and long hours walking wondering and writing. Have joined the board of the Classics Association of New England and am active in the local contra dance and fiddling communities here.

## MARGARET SPENCER 1981 LATIN, CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY [spencerem@yahoo.com](mailto:spencerem@yahoo.com)

I was unexpectedly let go from my job at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in November 2018, so much of 2019 was taken up with looking for a job. It took a while, but in September I started working as a legal assistant at Young Ricchiuti Caldwell & Heller in Center City Philadelphia. I'm learning a great deal about personal injury law, including how much the legal world has changed since I was a paralegal back in Boston in the early 1980s—the technology is amazing! My boss also works with both the city of Philadelphia and the state on lawsuits relating to the opioid epidemic, which is a difficult and complicated area, so I always have something new to fill my time. Other than that, life goes on in its usual way—or at least I expect it to, once we get the coronavirus kinks worked out. I look forward to singing in my church choir again, doing volunteer work, hanging out with friends, and having theaters operating again so I can get back to the business of seeing as many plays as possible!

## JOHN CONGDON 1990 GREEK

[jcongdon@oberlin.edu](mailto:jcongdon@oberlin.edu)

I'm pleased to announce that my daughter Imani is finishing up her senior year at Denison University with degrees in classics and creative writing and has been accepted into a summer program with the American School for Classical Studies in Athens. I attribute this success entirely to the fact that I recited the opening of the *Iliad* over and over as a lullaby for her when she was a colicky baby. Don't let anyone tell you that Classics isn't a practical discipline.

## TOM FISHER 1992 ENGLISH, GREEK LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

[tfisher@pdx.edu](mailto:tfisher@pdx.edu)

The best classes Tom Fisher ever took at Oberlin were with Nathan Greenberg and Thomas Van Nortwick. To this day, these two remain for him vivid examples of how to read and teach. Tom is presently a professor in the English department at Portland State University and, somewhat recently, the author of two books, *Writing Not Writing* and *Sorsere*.

## JOHN COTTS 1994 LATIN, HISTORY [cottsjd@whitman.edu](mailto:cottsjd@whitman.edu)

I am a professor of history (medieval Europe) at Whitman College, having been



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promoted to “full” in 2016. My work is still steeped in Latinity, and my current book project is a translation of a 12th-century critique of the crusading movement: Ralph Niger’s (c. 1140-1200) *De re militari et triplici via Ierosolimitane (On Warfare and the Threefold Path of the Pilgrimage to Jerusalem)* for Routledge’s Crusades Texts in Translation series. Whitman is in lovely Walla Walla, Wash., where I live with my wife, Afton Truscott, RN, and my 5-year old daughter, Mary Caroline.

## EMILY HARVILLE

### 1998 BIOLOGY

[agnesflack@hotmail.com](mailto:agnesflack@hotmail.com)

As an epidemiologist, this year has been particularly interesting. I am experiencing the pandemic in Tampere, Finland, where I am on sabbatical from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, studying multigenerational effects on birth outcomes. Before we ceased to be allowed to venture more than walking distance from our apartment, my husband, Chris, and three children (Charles, 12; James, 10; and Marjorie, 7) were exploring Finland and experiencing school and daily life in a new place. We plan to return to New Orleans this summer.

## ELANA BAILES AND JACOB FEELEY

### 2000 (ELANA: GREEK, JAKE: LATIN)

[elanabailes@gmail.com](mailto:elanabailes@gmail.com)

Jake and I have two boys and live just outside Philadelphia. Jake received his PhD in ancient history from Penn, and is teaching Latin at a magnet high school. I teach third grade and am the writing coordinator at my school. My students love Greek mythology and once a week get to stay in for lunch while I tell them the next installment of the Perseus story, the *Iliad*, or the *Odyssey*.

## STEFAN KAMOLA

### 2001 GREEK AND LATIN

[stefankamola@gmail.com](mailto:stefankamola@gmail.com)

In August, my first book, *Making Mongol History: Rashid al-Din and the Jami` al-Tawarikh*, was published by Edinburgh University Press. It reconstructs dynamics

in the evolution of historiography as a genre during the period of Mongol rule in Iran through a comparison of manuscripts of the most famous history written during the period. Articles supplemental to the book were also published in issues of the journal *Iran and the Central Asiatic Journal*. This spring I received tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor at Eastern Connecticut State University. In quarantine, I have figured out a way to repair the failing binding of an Oxford Classical Text, using as my test subject the volume of Hirtzel’s edition of *Virgil* that got me through my senior thesis almost 20 years ago.

## LIZZIE EHRENHALT

### 2005 LATIN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

[lizzie.ehrenhalt@mnhs.org](mailto:lizzie.ehrenhalt@mnhs.org)

Learning Hebrew to keep myself busy in quarantine. (Knowing Greek is helping a lot. Thank you, Oberlin Greek teachers.)

## MAXWELL PAULE

### 2006 LATIN & GREEK

[paulema@earlham.edu](mailto:paulema@earlham.edu)

In May 2019 I took 12 intrepid Earlham College students on a hike across the full length of Hadrian’s Wall! Sheep and Roman forts were abundant and I only stepped in one (albeit hot off the press) cow pie. I also earned tenure this year and spent much of my sabbatical working on a socially conscious Latin reader for intermediate students, focused on stories of awesome women from Greek and Roman myth. Somewhere in there I also published a fun (?) article in *Eidolon* about the latent white supremacy of the first Percy Jackson novel. In the midst of COVID-19, I’ve been baking absurd amounts to distract myself from existential ennui and a growing sense of dread about the precarious state of our colleges and universities. Who wants a cookie?

## JULIA PELTA FELDMAN

### 2008 ART HISTORY AND LATIN

[peltafeldman@gmail.com](mailto:peltafeldman@gmail.com)

Just yesterday I successfully defended my dissertation, “Charles Simonds and the 1970s,” at the Institute of Fine Arts, New

York University (over Zoom!). Still, despite pursuing a doctorate in modern art history, I’ve never lost my love for old stuff—the subject of my dissertation, contemporary sculptor Charles Simonds, built tiny, delicate ruins on the streets of New York City all throughout the 1970s. Though they were usually destroyed within days, his fragile and intricate “Dwellings” seemed to have endured for thousands of years. The Allen has a wonderful work by Simonds, “People Who Live in a Spiral” (1974). Perhaps of interest to classicists!

## EUSH TAYCO

### 2009 GREEK

[eush.tayco@gmail.com](mailto:eush.tayco@gmail.com)

Things are weird! I was lucky enough to attend my 10th reunion last year, where I was able to catch up with TVN and spend time with other classics alumni. Here in the Bay Area we’ve been sheltering in place and I’ve been working from home. It’s been over a month of quarantine and not venturing out outside a two-mile radius. Isolation is slowly driving me nuts. I had planned to spend my suddenly copious free time re-learning Greek, but instead I’ve been playing a lot of Animal Crossing. I hope everyone reading this is safe! If anybody needs help with anything that I can possibly help with, or you just need to reach out to someone outside of your quarantine circles to shake things up, please do shoot me an email.

## GABE BAKER

### 2010 CLASSICAL STUDIES (GREEK & LATIN)

[gabe@framevr.io](mailto:gabe@framevr.io)

I work on an online meeting tool that helps people come together in an immersive space online and interact via avatars. You can explore 360 photos, 3D models (ancient statuary, anyone?), and more. Check it out if you’d like: [framevr.io](https://framevr.io)

## EMMA CHAPPLE

### 2012 CLASSICS CIVILIZATION

[emchapple3@gmail.com](mailto:emchapple3@gmail.com)

I got married to a fellow Obie alum last summer! Working at nonprofit training people who work in supportive housing—

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housing for people who have been homeless. It's interesting, meaningful work, although it doesn't have much to do with my major.

## ELI GOLDBERG

### 2012 GREEK

[eli.aaron@gmail.com](mailto:eli.aaron@gmail.com)

After some delightful career meandering, I am about to graduate from medical school at the University of Vermont! I will be staying in Burlington for the next three years for a residency in Family Medicine. These days my use of classical languages is sadly limited to phrases like "nil per os" and "stat"... however, a couple years ago I deployed some nerdy Greek humor as a first-date icebreaker with a cute guy who minored in classics. He's now my husband: yet another unexpected benefit of a classical education :)

## MAGGIE KILLMAN

### 2012 LATIN

I have taken the position of lifelong learning manager at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Regardless of widespread closures thanks to COVID-19, the library is assembling an array of virtual programming to keep community members connected to learning opportunities and to each other. Find us on Facebook and YouTube!

## SARAH JOHNSON

### 2015 CLASSIC CIVILIZATION

[sarah.eb.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.eb.johnson@gmail.com)

I am living in Oberlin and managing a sustainable vegetable farm in Wellington, Ohio, called Lettuce Heads Aquaponics and Farm and loving every minute of it. Cicero thought that "of all the occupations by which gain is secured, none is better than agriculture, none more profitable, none more delightful, none more becoming to a free man," and personally, I agree! Who says you have to work in academia or law to use your classics degree?

## EMMA STERLING

### 2016 LATIN, ANCIENT GREEK, ENGLISH

[esterlingmka@gmail.com](mailto:esterlingmka@gmail.com)

Emma worked with Teach For America for

two years, teaching Middle School English as part of the inaugural Little Rock, Arkansas corps. She realized she missed the classics and wanted to become a Latin teacher as well. She began graduate school at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2018, working on her masters with a concentration in Latin pedagogy. She recently passed her comprehensive exam, which covered about 25,000 lines of Latin poetry and 500 pages of Latin prose. She also successfully defended her teaching project, a continuation of her work at Oberlin concerning the Orpheus and Eurydice myth in Augustan poets. She has accepted a position at the Bentley School in San Francisco, teaching Latin (and hopefully some English electives!).

## SANDRA KIBBLE

### 2018 CLASSICS AND NEUROSCIENCE

[sandra.kibble@duke.edu](mailto:sandra.kibble@duke.edu)

Since graduating, I have been working in a neurobiology of addiction lab at Duke University focusing on alcohol consumption during adolescence. It has been a great experience and I even have an undergrad lab member who is majoring in Greek! I will always be amazed by how extensive the love of classics reaches. It is a great conversation starter! This fall, I will start medical school at Pacific Northwest University. Though outside the realm of classics (perhaps though, arguably not), I will always hold this community close to my heart. Kirk Ormand once told me that that is part of its charm. We both knew that I had planned to follow my dreams and pursue a career in medicine, but he ingrained in me that classics is something that can always be studied. It is comforting knowing that you all too must believe this.

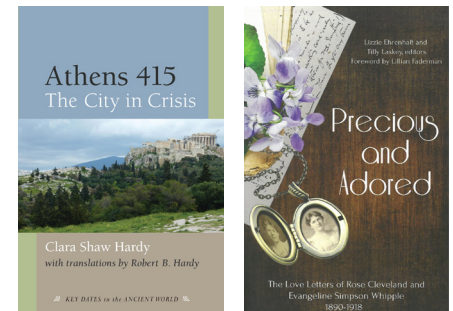
## RACHEL VALES

### 2019 CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION

I've been working as a paraprofessional at the Brooklyn New School in NYC. I work primarily with second graders and have been delighted to contribute to the education of others. That being said, I'm currently exploring what kind of educational environment would be best

for me. I hope to be able to continue some of the work I did at Oberlin, in terms of experimental archaeology and hands on/ media based learning.

## ALUMNI BOOKS



**CLARA SHAW HARDY '83** and **ROB HARDY '86** announce the appearance this summer of their volume *Athens 415: The City in Crisis*, with the University of Michigan Press. The first title in the series Key Dates in the Ancient World, the book is a source-based presentation of events in a very difficult year for Athens, intended for classroom use and general reading. Clara wrote the text for the book, and Rob provided original translations of the ancient sources. Their editor at the Press is Ellen Bauerle '80.

Rob also had an article published in 2018, titled "The Long Sunset: R. C. Sherriff and the Excavation of Angmering Roman Villa," which appeared in Volume 26 of *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics*, detailing author and screenwriter Robert Cedric Sherriff's excavation of Angmering in the late 1930s.

In September 2019, **LIZZIE EHRENHALT '05** published a volume, titled *Precious and Adored*, of the complete letters exchanged between two lovers, Rose Cleveland and Evangeline Simpson Whipple. The letters provide insight into the relationship between the two women as they navigate their lives as 19-century women invested in humanitarian work, amongst many other things.

## IN MEMORY OF JIM HELM

**JAMES HELM**, beloved colleague and friend, died unexpectedly on October 29, 2018, at the age of 80. Jim earned a BA in philosophy from Elmhurst College (1959), a master's in divinity from Union Theological Seminary (1963), and a master's (1965) and doctorate (1968) in classical studies from the University of Michigan. Except for one year as visiting associate professor of classics at Scripps College in 1978-79, he spent his entire career, from 1967 to 2003, at Oberlin, reaching the rank of professor in 1982. He quickly earned the respect and trust of his colleagues and served on every elected committee multiple times. His service on the Shansi Committee led to a decades-long association with Lady Doak College in Madurai, India, where he and Anne visited many times, teaching and raising funds for the college and its library.

Jim's service to the classics department was extraordinary. Always looking for ways to reach out to students, Jim was responsible for starting and maintaining many of the classics department's enduring institutions: the annual Bardic Reading, student dinners at the Mandarin Restaurant, and the incomparable Classics Picnic, held for decades at Jim and Anne's lovely home on Lincoln Street. A patient and caring mentor to dozens of young professors who came to teach at Oberlin, including this reporter, Jim was the consummate colleague, tireless in his devotion to the department, his fellow teachers, and his students.

Jim loved teaching and was very good at it. His lectures on classical literature, history, and myth were meticulously researched, carefully structured, and crystal clear. In classroom discussion, he was a patient listener, deftly leading students toward a larger and more informed knowledge of the text. In language courses, his deep knowledge of Greek and Latin, rigorous and thorough preparation, and obvious love of the languages made him an enormously effective teacher. The course he himself loved most was the two-semester elementary Greek sequence, which he taught continuously from the beginning of his career to the end. Never satisfied with the available textbooks for beginning Greek, he amassed over the years reams of supplementary material to guide his charges through the bewildering thickets of the aorist passive and "mi" verbs. He would end the sequence by having the students read Plato's *Apology* in the original language, giving them a chance to encounter one of the masterpieces of western intellectual history in their first year of studying Greek.

Jim's scholarship was characterized by the same intelligence, thorough research, and rigorous standards he brought to bear on all of his professional work. He published articles on Aeschylus, Catullus, on the concept of *Koros*—satisfaction—in Greek literature and philosophy, and several articles on computer applications to classics, a field just emerging during his early years at Oberlin, in which he became a pioneer in



*Tom Van Nortwick, Jim, and Nate Greenberg at Jim's retirement dinner in 2002.*

the profession. Perhaps his most important publication was a commentary on Plato's *Apology* for beginning students, developed over years of teaching the dialogue in the second semester of elementary Greek. This book has remained in print for decades and is considered one of the best works of its kind in the field.

Jim's wonderfully generous nature informed everything he did, as a teacher, a scholar, and a member of the college community. A brief summary cannot do justice to the enormous impact he had on all who were lucky enough to know and work with him. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Jim was a model citizen in every community of which he was a part. His unshakable integrity made him someone you could always depend on. His wry and self-effacing wit made him someone you could love.

—Thomas Van Nortwick