



OBERLIN CLASSICS

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Editor's Note
- 2 Faculty Notes
- 3 Martin Lectures
- 4 Congrats New Grads
- 4 Nate Greenberg
- 5 Lord Award
- 6 TVN Scholarship Fund
- 8 Alumni News

Editor: Kirk Ormand

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 ZIP-PHONE

By Kirk Ormand

Hello, and welcome to another edition of the classics department newsletter. You'll notice that this publication has a new editor; with Drew Wilburn now chair of the department, I have wrested the coveted position of editor from his busy hands. I'm trying hard not to let all this power go to my head.

As always, this has been a busy year for our department. The major event of the spring of 2015, as most of you must know, was the celebration we held in honor of Tom Van Nortwick as he ambles into retirement. The day was marked by a mini-symposium, in which eight of Tom's former students gave talks about their work, the study of classics, and the ways in which both of those things have had an impact on their lives. You'll find an article and lots of pictures from the celebratory dinner in the pages of this newsletter.

Since then, we've had a typically busy fall and spring. (I meant to get the newsletter out in March, but as I wrap it up we're closing in on graduation). We're joined this year by Naomi Campa, a recent PhD from the U-Washington, as a Mellon post-doc. Naomi works in ancient political theory, with a particular focus on the idea of personal freedom in the Athenian democracy. This spring Naomi is teaching a new course on Athenian ideas of citizenship.

Our Martin Lecturer this fall was Ruby Blondell of the U.-Washington (who, coincidentally, was Naomi's dissertation advisor). Ruby gave a scintillating set of lectures on the topic of Helen (of Troy) on the small and large screen. We also hosted the annual Winkler Lecture, this year delivered by John Wein of the U.-California Berkeley, who spoke on Ovid's story of Philomela and the rape-revenge film.

It has been a strongly multimedia year for us; this spring the classics department cosponsored (with Africana studies and comparative American studies) a showing of Spike Lee's *Chiraq*—a modern reimagining of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*. Over 200 students, faculty, and community members came to the screening and brief pre-film discussion. We also cosponsored (with archaeological studies) a talk from Katherine Hanson speaking about the destruction of cultural property (especially archaeological sites) in modern-day war zones. And as I write this, we are anticipating the arrival next week of Denise McCoskey, who spoke about the construction of race in antiquity with a talk titled "Race Before Whiteness." Finally, in April, Chris Trinacty put together the first instantiation of the Midwest Classics Literary Conference, which took place at Oberlin. We hope this will be an annual event that will cycle around to a different college each year.

continued on page 2

EDITOR'S NOTE, CONT.

This spring's Bardic Reading saw a first: in a surprise move, the students chose to read Lucan's *De Bello Civili* (aka the *Pharsalia*). The poem proved to be gory, dramatic, rhetorically bombastic, and at times inscrutable. Our sincere hope is that, having now heard the *DBC* read aloud, Kirk will stop nattering on about it being "our finest Latin Epic".

In between these stellar events, we continue to teach our full slate of classes. We graduated 12 majors and minors this year, and

we have strong groups coming up in the sophomore and junior classes. As always, our courses in the Civilization sequence draw strong numbers, and we're pleased to see the study of the ancient Mediterranean continuing to thrive here.

By the time you get this newsletter, commencement for 2016 will have passed (note the use of the future perfect.) We hope you came by to visit us in the department; we're always happy to see you!

FACULTY NOTES

DREW WILBURN: "I have been busy at work and with the mischievous scamps at home. In July, I took over as chair of the classics department from Ben and began my service on a major college committee, all testament to the fun new adventures that tenure can hold. Over the summer and past year, I continued working on a digital reconstruction of the ancient site of Karanis with Olivia Fountain '17, Aaron Henry '19, and Susanna Faas Bush '19. We launched the project website (karanishousingproject.org) and are adding data. When complete, the project will allow access to digital maps and plans of the site as well as records of the more than 30,000 artifacts and papyri excavated by the University of Michigan between 1924 and 1935. I also began a new collaboration with Ben Kuperman in computer science that will create a toolkit to quickly digitize old archaeological data.

Over the past year, I gave a talk on magic and ritual personnel at the Early Christian Cyprus conference at Harvard and reported on his work on the Karanis Housing Project at the Archaeological Institute of America annual meeting in San Francisco, coauthoring the paper with Ryan Reynolds '14, Miranda Rutherford '15, Sam Mater '15 (in computer science), and Olivia Fountain '17. My book, *Materia Magica*, came out in paperback and is sure to be a favorite gift for Dads and Grads this June. On the home front, the excitement continues. Patrick is in the same first-grade class as Ada Trinacty, and Claire (now 4!) spends her days palling around with Ada's brother Mick at the Early Childhood Center in town. Patrick and Claire are both very excited to spend spring 2017 in London, where Maureen Peters (my spouse and a professor in biology) and I will be leading a Medical Mystery Tour (also known as the OC London Program). We'll be sure to post lots of pictures of the family at Stonehenge and Hogwarts!"

CHRIS TRINACTY: "I have been busy working on my next book, a commentary on Seneca's *Naturales Quaestiones*, and putting the finishing touches on a couple articles. The articles will appear in edited volumes on the Reception of Seneca Tragedy as well as a collection on Roman Drama in Context. They will be hot off the presses this spring! I've been enjoying teaching Latin at all levels at Oberlin, and I'm excited to teach a new class on Greek and Roman theater. Outside of the classroom, I've been busy teaching my daughter all



Drew Wilburn's Ancient Egypt class at the Kelsey Museum at the University of Michigan

about the Star Wars universe and instructing my son on the beauty of watching Tottenham Hotspur soccer."

KIRK ORMAND: "I enjoyed a sabbatical in 2014-15, during which I traveled to Greece, Berlin, and Paris to a) lead an alumni tour; b) work with David Halperin '73 on a joint project, and c) give a paper on Foucault, in that order. My volume, *Ancient Sex: New Essays*, co-edited with Ruby Blondell, came out over the summer, and I'm now working on the revised edition of *Controlling Desires*. (With two new chapters!) It's good to be back in the classroom—I enjoyed teaching Age of Nero in the fall and was excited to get back to Homer this spring. I've heard rumors that this book of his—*The Iliad*—is even better than the movie, and I'm keen to find out for myself."

BEN LEE: "The spring semester is off to a great start. I am really enjoying teaching the introductory Latin course, as well as a 300-level course on Rome's premier epigrammatist, Martial. We will dedicate a week to studying Oberlin's most recently acquired classical manuscript, known as the Oberlin Martial—a 15th-century humanist manuscript executed in Venice. My students are fantastic, and teaching at Oberlin continues to be a genuine pleasure. As for scholarship, I am working on a text and translation of nine Latin essays written in the year 1741 for a prize competition at the University of Bordeaux on "the causes of Blackness among the Ethiopians." This will be published by the W.E.B. Du Bois

FACULTY NOTES, CONT.

Research Institute institute at Harvard. I am also working on a paper and lecture concerning Lucian and Apuleius to be delivered at an international conference on Apuleius in Lyons, France, in the October of 2016. I would love to hear from any and all of you, at blee@oberlin.edu. Valete!”

NAOMI CAMPA: “I joined the Department of Classics last fall for a two-year appointment as a Mellon postdoctoral fellow, and I’m very excited to be here. My specialties include ancient political theory, oratory, and philosophy. I completed my graduate work at the University of Washington, where my dissertation, “I Do What I Want: Freedom and Power in Classical Athens,” investigated the ideologies of freedom and power underlying democratic citizenship. During spring break, I’ll be giving a talk on female citizenship in classical Athens at an international conference on women and democracy. While at Oberlin, I look forward to teaching courses on Plato, Greek history, and ancient democracy. I’m also planning various student-centered events outside of class to promote classics; this semester I helped bring Spike Lee’s adaptation of the *Lysistrata* to the Apollo Theatre. I also hope to see a famed albino squirrel and maybe learn how to make a proper snowball.

On a final note, the official initiation into the department via participation in the Bardic Reading has been successfully completed.”

KAREN BARNES: “I am keeping busy in my 34th year at Oberlin. My first three years were with the economics and government departments (yes, it was called the government department in 1982), and since 1985 I have been with classics, philosophy, and the London Program. The London Program was added in 1992. Last summer my husband, Nelson, and I took a Caravan Tour out west starting in Phoenix. We traveled to Sedona, the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Lake Powell, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, and ended up in Las Vegas, where we stayed a few days. This was a wonderful trip and very beautiful country to see. Over fall break we traveled to Victoria, Texas, to visit our daughter, Brooke, and did a lot of sightseeing, including a visit to San Antonio. We take at least a trip once a month to Sylvania, Ohio, to visit our son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Holly, and the grandchildren, Ava who is now 7, and Hudson, 2. This past April Nelson retired from Bendix and is now the house husband taking good care of me. Also this past spring we purchased an RV and have started camping on weekends and hope to take several trips over the summer.

“THE FACE THAT LAUNCHED A THOUSAND SHIPS”: CHRONICLES FROM THIS YEAR’S MARTIN LECTURES

By Justin Biggi '19

What do Greta Garbo, Ingrid Bergman, and Helen of Troy have in common? Quite a great deal, if you were to ask professor Ruby Blondell, this year’s Martin Lectures speaker.

After earning her BA at the University of Oxford and her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, Blondell now teaches classics at the University of Washington, where she is also an adjunct professor of gender, woman and sexualities studies and the Byron W. and Alice L. Lockwood Professor in the Humanities. Her teaching and research focuses on the intersection of Greek intellectual history, gender studies, and the reception of myth in contemporary mass culture, specifically film and television. In this vein, she has published a number of research papers and books. Her most recent volume, *Helen of Troy: Beauty, Myth, Devastation* (Oxford University Press 2013) focuses on the threat of female beauty

and Helen as a representation of constrained female agency throughout Greek myth and literature. Other publications include “Bitch that I Am’: Self-Blame and Self-Assertion in the *Iliad*” in *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 140 (2010) and a co-edition with Kirk Ormand of *Ancient Sex: New Essays* (Ohio University Press 2015).

This year’s Martin Lectures, while still focusing on the figure of Helen, approached the subject matter of the most beautiful woman in all of Western literature from a different point of view, that of cinema and television. “*Olympus goes to Hollywood*” indeed. But *why* Helen of Troy? Why has Hollywood, from *Xena the Warrior Princess* to *Star Trek* to the countless B-movies, up to 2004’s *Troy* with its blond and dreamy Brad Pitt-Achilles, always been so obsessed with the elusive figure of Helen of Troy? Such is the question Blondell set out to answer at the beginning of the Martin Lectures.

Hollywood has always been in love with its “femme fatales”: from Garbo to Dietrich, the allure of a dangerous, sexy woman has always been enough to draw in droves of spectators, from the early beginnings of cinema up to this day. The trope of the femme fatale is in line with that of the “vamp” or the “siren”: a sexually aggressive woman whose disarming beauty carries heavy emasculating undertones for any poor man who gets involved with her. In the early 20th century, a figure such as this was undoubtedly seen as problematic: “destructive femininity,” as Professor Blondell puts it, was a constant risk for a censorship obsessed with so-called “modesty.” Female sexual freedom? The gateway to inevitable moral demise, especially given the fact that young women have always been the primary consumers of pop culture.

Classical-based films, however, with the excuse of being “educative” (by offer-

MARTIN LECTURES, CONT.

ing historical and not-so historical reconstructions of a time gone by) were allowed some leniency. Not only this, but classical themes ran rampant throughout the narratives applied to the shining stars and starlets of early cinema: modern-day actors were frequently likened to heroes and gods of old, often through the comparison of their “statuesque” perfect bodies to “canonically perfect” ancient statuary. A running theme, most obviously, was the comparison between actresses and Venus, ancient Goddess of beauty, especially as represented by the Venus de Milo. Helen of Troy, the “face that launched a thousand ships” similarly became the epitome of female beauty, the mortal woman chosen by Aphrodite herself, an ideal to reach where the divine was unattainable. Perhaps not entirely coincidentally, as Professor Blondell pointed out, Helen could also fall into the previously described category of a *femme fatale*, in this case more socially acceptable as a representative of the Classical past.

But the underlying reason, perhaps, ties more into the *actual* Helen than might appear. Certainly, Helen’s transgressive tale of romantic escapades and war is obvious celluloid fodder, but Blondell argues that the reason Helen has become such a prominent pop culture figure lies, first and foremost, in her ability to transcend proper characterization. She is known, historically, as the most beautiful woman in the world, and Hollywood often made that correspond to its own canons of beauty: the actresses picked to portray Helen in her many cinematic and televised endeavors are almost always blonde, with fair skin and long hair, and usually considered the “bombshells” of their day and age. But within the actual canon of the *Iliad*, as was pointed out during the lectures, Helen is never described: her beauty is left entirely to the reader to discern. In the infamous scene atop the ramparts in book 3, where she is witnessed by the Trojan elders, we do not know what Helen actually looks like: she is a creature of beauty beyond compare or comprehension, yet this beauty is never seen. Thus her beauty, per Blondell’s words, is “constructed through the audience’s reaction”: we know Helen is beautiful *because* we know her as Helen of Troy, and thus we know she must be beautiful.

And as such, to the world of Hollywood, the allure of a woman so beautiful that not only she defies description but also managed to be striking enough to *spark a war* was and is thrilling in ways few other tropes can be.

NATE GREENBERG, IN MEMORIAM

Submitted by James (Jim) Helm, emeritus professor of classics

Nathan (Nate) Greenberg, a professor of classics for more than 40 years, died November 15, 2015, at the age of 87. Consistently a first-rate teacher—whether as lecturer, discussion leader, or counselor—his classes were ever-popular. A representative student evaluation asserted, “This is definitely one of the best classes I have had while at Oberlin. Mr. Greenberg’s excitement for the classics definitely rubbed off on me; he made me

GRADUATING SENIORS

Congratulations to two years of graduating seniors! Class of 2016, images from your graduation will be in the next newsletter...there’s a slight time lag on this newsletter thing.



Hugh Milner, Ryan Walton, Tim Chung, Catie Rodgers, Brandon McKenna, Emma Sterling, Spencer Wojtyna, Nicole Meyer, Kate Stevens

2015	2016
CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION	CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION
Olumayowa Afolayan	Brandon McKenna
Sarah Johnson	Caitlin Rodgers
Nicholas Olson	Spencer Wojtyna
Katie Pieplow	
Jack Redell	GREEK
Miranda Rutherford	Nicholas Devlin
Rachel Webberman	Hugh Milner
GREEK	LATIN
Cara Welch-Rubin	Tim Chung
	Nicole Meyer
LATIN	GREEK AND LATIN
Dylan Apple	Emma Sterling
Will Austin	Kate Stevens
Aran Schultz	Ryan Walton
William burke	
Jacob Caha	
Hannah Montgomery	

get excited for the classics as well.” Students and colleagues alike recognized the winning mixture of intelligence and humor that made him so interesting. His departmental colleagues benefited in significant ways from his paradigm.

Never dogmatic, Nate maintained a bemused distance from his subject matter and preferred giving alternative interpretations

continued on page 5

NATE GREENBERG, CONT.

of material to providing “answers.” One student wrote: “I came to Oberlin looking for answers. You taught me to ask questions and be more patient about growing into the answers.” Yet he took his discipline seriously and teased out deeper meaning from even the most unpromising material. His knack of turning any discussion to a significant topic had a major impact on generations of students as well as his colleagues. The right question, the critical comment, the wrinkled nose, all nudged those about him to think more deeply about important matters. And he thought everybody should know a little Latin, a little Greek, and a little computer.

Nate was a friend and mentor to countless younger scholars who traveled through the department in visiting positions. He was always willing to sit and talk about literature, scholarship, or teaching. He kept a separate file in his cabinet of his most negative student evaluations—rare though they were—so that when distraught colleagues came to him, upset about a recent evaluation or two, he could pull out his file with a reassuring wink and say, “Eh, that’s nothing. Have a look at this.” Always gentle and understated, he expressed disagreement with an idea by saying that he “wasn’t so sure about that.” If he approved of a book, article, or lecture, he would declare that it was “pretty good stuff.” Colleagues and students alike knew they had achieved something of real value if it was, in Nate’s view, pretty good stuff.

Nate published 27 articles during his career. A pioneer in the use of the computer in the field of classics, he demonstrated how to do quantitative analysis of literature and opened up countless possibilities for future generations of scholars. His article *Aspects of Alliteration: A Statistical Study* was indicative of his keen analysis (and cleverness in devising titles). Despite the dif-

ficulty of the material, Nate’s style of presentation did much to make quantitative methods accessible to ordinary mortals. He also published important articles on Greek philosophy, Greek Tragedy, Roman Comedy, the History of Scholarship, and other fields. His book on Philodemus was well-received and demonstrated Nate’s prescience in identifying a hot topic. Thus, he became a “guru” in two quite different fields: Philodemus and quantitative literary study.

Though the consummate professional, Nate was also a devoted family man. He loved his wife and children and they loved him. They remember that he always made himself available to talk, play a game, or watch TV with the family, and he especially loved to share stories and ideas. As an inspiring teacher, perceptive scholar, and generous friend, he was a model for us all.

Nate is survived by his children, David Kaftan, Judith Kaftan, and Lisa Greenberg; his daughter-in-law, Kristin Marra; his exchange-student son, Henk van’t Hull; his grandchildren, Natalie, Molly, Rachel, Brendan, and Emma; and his large and loving extended family. Preceding him in death were his beloved wife of 60 years, Eva; his siblings, Si, Nocky, and Bushy; and their spouses. He was the last of a great generation.

A graveside service at Westwood Cemetery in Oberlin was held in June, as was a memorial celebration of his life at Kendal at Oberlin. For online condolences, visit www.dickenfuneralhome.com. Donations can be made to the charitable organization of your choice.

For more on the life of Nathan Greenberg, visit the Dicken Funeral Home and Cremation Service website.

THE PROFESSOR LOUIS E. LORD CLASSICS CREATIVITY AWARD

The Department of Classics is pleased to announce the inauguration of the Professor Louis E. Lord Classics Creativity Award. Professor Louis Eleazer Lord (1875-1957) taught at Oberlin in the Department of Classics from 1908 to 1945, when he moved to Scripps College (1945-1949). He served as president of the Bureau of University Travel in Boston, retiring in 1956. Greece awarded him numerous honors: Chevalier of the Order of the Redeemer, an Officer of the Order of George I, and a member of the Royal Order of the Phoenix. Italy named him a Knight Commander of the Crown.

Lord, a native of Ravenna, Ohio,

received his BA and MA from Oberlin in 1897, an MA from Harvard in 1900, and a PhD in classics from Yale in 1908. He was the author of numerous books, including *Aristophanes: His Plays and His Influence* (1925); *The Odes of Anacreon* (1928); *Thucydides and the World War* (1945, Martin Classical Lectures vol. 12); and *A History of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens* (1947). Lord was instrumental in establishing the Martin Classical Lectures, which honor Charles Bebe Martin; Lord solicited many small gifts to fund the endowment of the lectureship and oversaw the lectureship’s administration in its formative years. His

interests also included pedagogy, and he led an important study of college courses that included classical subjects, but which weren’t meant for classics majors. Lord served as the annual professor of Latin at the American Academy in Rome in 1923-24 and annual professor of Greek at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens from 1928-29. He was president of the Archaeological Institute of America from 1932 to 1937 and chairman of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens from 1939 to 1950.

Lord’s expertise extended beyond

continued on page 6

LOUIS E. LORD AWARD, CONT.

collegiate teaching. He was director of the People's Banking Company, headquartered in Oberlin, from 1927 to 1950. He served as the associate director of personnel for the American Red Cross during World War I (1918-19), and, in 1942, as a special consultant to the U.S. Office of Price Administration during World War II. From 1920 to 1930, Lord served as director of the Bureau of University Travel, a company that oversaw educational tours for universities. He was president of the Bureau of University Travel from 1949 to 1956, a period that witnessed a tenfold increase in the number of subscribers and which returned the bureau to its earlier position of prominence.

The Professor Louis E. Lord Classics Creativity Award, in the amount of \$3,300, will be given to one senior classics major most likely to use their classical education at Oberlin in a highly creative and innovative way at the outset of their career. Classical skill sets could include historical world perspective, linguistic novelty, critical analysis of texts or objects, and close reading with attention to detail, which together tend to nurture a realistic entrepreneurial spirit.

Following acceptance of the award, the recipient will provide the department with a brief report on the way the award was spent and the activities that the recipient undertook. The recipient will be expected to provide a report two years after the award and a further report five years after the date of the award.



From left: Naomi, Ben, prize donor Joel Dean, first-prize recipient Brandon McKenna, and Drew

The Professor Louis E. Lord Classics Creativity Award has been funded generously by the Joel Dean Foundation and Joel Dean '64 and his family in honor of his great uncle, to whom Dean is related by marriage.

Finally, since it took us so long to get the newsletter out, we can now announce the first winner of the Louis E. Lord Classics Creativity Award. This year the prize went to Brandon McKenna, who hopes to use the award (plus some funds from Oberlin's Launch U program) to launch a new social media platform.

THOMAS VAN NORTWICK RETIREMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Thomas Van Nortwick, known as Tom to his colleagues and affectionately called "TVN" by generations of his students, began teaching at Oberlin in 1974. After an all-too short 41 years in the classroom, Tom closed the book on his last Oberlin course in the spring of 2015. Tom is, to be sure, still working in the library every day and is still a frequent presence in the department. But we are slowly coming to grips with the fact that with his official retirement at the end of this year, we are saying farewell to the three great and good teachers who defined this department for their 25-plus years together: our dear friend, the recently departed Nate Greenberg; Jim Helm, who is still with us at Kendal and still as active as ever with good works and bad puns; and Tom.

It is impossible to summarize Tom's career. Most of our readers know that he has published six books, on Homer, Virgil, and Sophocles. He also published more than 50 articles over the course of his career: many of them traditional scholarly analyses of ancient epic and tragedy, but especially in recent years, personal reflections on the interactions between literature, thought, and a life well lived. Profound those latter publications are, however, it seems likely that

their importance is eclipsed by Tom's 41 years of teaching, during which time he taught, mentored, and befriended thousands of students. Tom's friends, fans, and admirers are everywhere: an astonishing number have gone on to teach classics at the secondary or post-secondary level; still more have found meaningful lives and careers of every imaginable type. All of them, it seems, are friends with Tom on something called "Facebook."

In April of 2015, we honored Tom with a brief celebration of his career at Oberlin. Eight of his former students (Sean Easton, Herica Valladares, Bronwen Wickkiser, Rob Hardy, Christopher Francese, Molly Pasco-Pranger, Lisl Walsh, and Max Teitel-Paule) gave talks in a mini-symposium on the study of classics and the many ways that it has informed their lives. After that splendid event, we all retired to a small, intimate dinner in the Root Room, where we were joined by only the most select 200 or so of Tom's close friends, former students, and colleagues. There Tom was toasted by Bill Hood, Jim Helm, Grover Zinn (in absentia), and Ploy Keener. After we dried our eyes, we stayed up chatting, eating, and drinking until the small hours. It was, in fact, a great party—and in a small way, a fitting tribute to the inspiration and leadership that Tom has provided for the past four decades.

continued on page 7

NORTWICK FUND, CONT.

In honor of Tom on his retirement, the classics department has established with the college the Thomas Van Nortwick Scholarship fund, an endowed fund that will provide partial support for students with financial need who are studying the humanities. The fund drive was started by a generous gift from Tom Cooper, who set up a fund to match donations from other donors; and after that, alumni began making donations of all sizes. We are happy to report that by June we had raised enough money to endow the fund, and the TVN Scholarship is now a reality.

Those who have contributed to the fund, and in so doing earned eternal kleos, are listed below (alphabetically by first name, because that was easiest).

Allison O. Choat	Mary K. Kirtz
Amy L. Morneweck	Matching gift from Cisco for
Andrew Wilburn	Clohossey
Anna E. Leinberger	Michael R. Lynn
Arthur A. Jones	Michal H. Sagal
Austin C. Hill	Mikka R. Tokuda-Hall
Bronwen L. Wickkiser	Miranda J. Rutherford
Carly D. Machado	Molly C. Pasco-Pranger
Charles F. Lind	Molly I. Samuel
Christiane Baker	Nancy A. Weissman-Galler
Daniel E. Clohossey	Nathan A. Daniels
Daniel H. Rodriguez	Noah J. Mlotek
Daniel K. Walden	Owen C. Cramer
Daniel P. Kane	Patrick R. Schwemmer
David J. Romani	Phoebe Anderson-Kline
Elana A. Bailes	Rachel F. Seidman
Elin C. Rummel	Rebecca S. Thompson Sahlin
Elizabeth A. Miller	Robert B. Hardy
Elizabeth M. Aldrich	Ronald E. Nelson
Elizabeth Stoddard	Rosalie J. Teverow
Ellen M. Craig	Ryan Magiera
Erika M. Nelson	Sean L. Harrigan
Ethan H. Witkovsky	Séan M. Easton
Eushabel T. Tayco	Shira H. Gluck
Fabian Guevara	Steven S. Volk
Hays Stone	Susan A. Gelman
Hugh R. Milner	Susan E. Bedell
Karen V. Frenchu	Susan Frenchu
Katherine B. Linchan	Susanna E. Faas-Bush
Kathleen P. Keener	Tessa M. Shanks
Keith Herndon	Theodore A. Tarkow
Kendra Eshleman	Thomas F. Cooper
Kerry M. Langan	Thomas H. Buck
Kirk Ormand	Thomas Van Nortwick
Larry F. Ball	William C. Masson
Leo S. Fisher	and several donors wishing to
Ma'ayan N. Plaut	remain anonymous
Margaret I. Marshall	

Our sincere thanks to all who made the Thomas Van Nortwick Scholarship a reality!



1. Sean Easton, Bronwen Wickkiser, Herica Valladares, Chris Francese.
 2. Chris Motz, Ploy Keener, Tom Buck, Eush Tayco. 3. Drew, Eush Tayco, Kirk. 4. Rob Hardy, Tom, Clara (Shaw) Hardy. 5. Ray English and Harlan Wilson. 6. Shannon Andrews and Lindsay Baruffa (Lindsay #3 for those of you on Kirk's 2006 Greece WT trip). 7. Sara Myers and Ellen Baurele. 8. Anna Leinberger, Lisl Walsh, Max Teitel-Paule, Michael Berkewitz. 9. Matty Riles and Lisa Greenberg. 10. Talia Chicero and Erica Reyes. 11. Lisa Whitfield, Tom Cooper, Thomas Cooper, and John Congdon. 12. Rebecca Fulop and Kelsey Sagstetter.

ALUMNI NEWS

KAY DAVIS TALWAR, 1968: “My son and I attended the 50th anniversary of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (ICCS) in Rome, where I studied with Bill Bradshear in 1967. Bill and I were the only two Latin majors of 1968. Sadly, Bill is gone, as is Paul Harvey (Classics 1967), who also attended ICCS. The reunion included special trips to Ostia, a cruise down the Tiber, and a private tour of the Isola Sacra outside Ostia. My son, who is even more of an archaeology hound than I am, led us on an exhaustive week-long walking tour of ancient and medieval Rome. It was exhilarating.”
Contact: kdtalwar@sbcglobal.net

ROBERT CRAWFORD, CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION, 1978: “We are still in Talloires, France, just below Geneva. This is the year of our silver anniversary; we are almost empty nesters as my son is applying to college this year. My daughter will graduate this June from Cambridge in medieval archaeology. I continue to make a living as a freelance writer.”
Contact: robcrawford@hotmail.com

WELLING HALL, GREEK, 1979: “Spending sabbatical from Earlham in a Fellowship at the U.S. Department of State. Most relevant for classicists: last fall I worked on a UN General Assembly resolution on the return of cultural property to their countries of origin: <http://wpfdc.org/blog/society/19589-un-resolution-calls-for-return-of-parthenon-sculptures-to-greece>. My particular portfolio was beating back efforts to try to limit the resolution to Iraq and Syria. This semester I am at the U.S. Diplomacy Center, helping to stand up the first museum (that we know of) that is devoted to diplomatic, rather than military, history. The museum will open in 2018 (attached to the historic Harry S Truman building at Foggy Bottom). Plan a visit! In June I will return to Earlham as director of our new Center for Social Justice and Action.”

ELLEN BAUERLE, GREEK AND ENGLISH, 1980: “At the University of Michigan Press I have enjoyed publishing recent books or book chapters by Obies John Dillery (*Clio’s Other Sons*), Jim Morrison (in *Kinesis*), Kirk Ormand (in *Ancient Obscenities*), and, of course, Tom Van Nortwick and his *Late Sophocles*. Evenings and weekends I’m involved with my small startup publishing house, Michigan Classical Press, which is about to publish its 10th book.”
Contact: bauerle@umich.edu; on Facebook as Ellen Bauerle and via Michigan Classical Press.

KATE ROUSMANIERE, 1980: “I am an education professor at Miami University in Ohio and the elected mayor (consul civitatis) of Oxford, Ohio.”

AMY KALKBRENNER (HAYES), LATIN (& CREATIVE WRITING), 1981: “Hi, all. I’m Still in Iowa, and although Grinnell isn’t exactly on the beaten path, I did enjoy getting a chance to host Elizabeth Wyllie Stoddard (also ’81) last year when she was out this way. The next generation—son Leo Kalkbrenner—is finishing up his second year at Oberlin, so I’ve been getting the parents’-eye view of my alma mater.”

ROB HARDY, LATIN, 1986: “In 2015, Clara ’83 and I traveled to England (to walk the first 100 miles of the Pennine Way and see the *Oresteia* in London), Greece (to lead a Carleton College alumni tour), and Oberlin (to participate in TVN’s retirement symposium). I taught both Greek 101 and Latin 101 at Carleton and started work on a commentary on Bede’s *Historia Ecclesiastica* for the Dickinson College Commentaries series.”

PATIENCE BLOOM (NÉE SMITH), 1990: “After teaching French in New Mexico, I work in publishing in Manhattan. When I least expected it, I married someone I knew in high school. Our story is told in my memoir, *Romance Is My Day Job*.”

Contact: Patiencebloom@hotmail.com, author page (Patience Bloom), and on Facebook at Patience Hartwell Bloom; Twitter is @patiencebloom.

SUSAN BEDELL, LATIN, 1991: “After graduation, I attended grad school in classics at SUNY Buffalo then fled grad school for Ames, Iowa, where I managed an independent bookstore for many years. I owned my own bookstore for six years after that, and I am thrilled that my kids both spent their formative years in a bookstore. Now, I work full time from home as a math editor and curriculum developer (honestly, when I left Oberlin, I thought I’d put my Latin degree to use long before I ever used my math degree). My summer office is my front porch, and my winter office is often in front of a warm fire. When I’m not writing and editing, I’m teaching my son the finer points of Greek and Roman mythology, using Latin roots to help my daughter learn English and French vocabulary, gardening, and trying to determine which repair project on my 120-year-old house comes next.”

Contact: email at sbedell753@gmail.com or find me at facebook.com/sbedell753.

MOLLY PASCO-PRANGER, LATIN, 1992: “I’m now finishing my 10th year teaching classics at the University of Mississippi and my third year as department chair. I finished a couple of articles in the last year or so, one on Cato the Elder and the exemplum of Curius Dentatus (out now in *Classical Antiquity*) and one on speaking statues in Catullus 55 (coming soon in *Classical Philology*). I was very proud to take part in the wonderful symposium for TVN in April 2015 (where I was wildly impressed by the brilliance and heart of the students Tom has nurtured over the years) and then to host him and Mary in Oxford, Miss., the following fall as he gave us an excellent talk on tragic “Bodies of Evidence.” My husband, Chris ’93, (an Oberlin religion grad) is working at the

continued on page 9

ALUMNI NEWS, CONT.

local public library and our kids, Sadie and Asa, are in 10th and fifth grade; Sadie is thinking hard about heading to Oberlin in a couple of years!”

DAVID COREY, CLASSICS, 1992: “My book, *The Sophists in Plato’s Dialogues*, is out in paperback (SUNY, 2016) and is dedicated to my Oberlin classics professors: Matthew Christ, Jim Helm, Tom Van Nortwick, and Nate Greenberg (who got to see the book before he passed away).”

ELANA BAILES (GREEK), JACOB FEELEY (LATIN), 2000: “Jake is hoping to complete his PhD in ancient history at Penn this summer. Elana is a teacher and the writing coordinator at a school outside Philadelphia (currently finishing the annual months-long retelling of the *Illiad* and the *Odyssey* to her third-graders). We have a 2-year-old son and another boy on the way.”

Contact: elanabailes@gmail.com

STEFAN KAMOLA, 2001: “This year I am completing a three-year post-doctoral position with the Princeton Society of Fellows. In the fall I begin an appointment as assistant professor of history at Eastern Connecticut State University, the state’s public liberal arts college, with a wonderfully broad teaching mandate covering “the Islamic world before the 20th century.” For the first semester, this means classes on world history to 1500, Abrahamic monotheism, and the Turks and Mongols from 500 to 1500.”

Contact: stefankamola@gmail.com

AMBER SCHULZ-OLIVER, CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION, 2001: “Things are going well. I got my MBA in 2013; got married and bought a house in 2014; and changed career paths in 2015. We’ll see what 2016 holds. In the meantime, I’m the special projects manager and liaison to Native communities at the nonprofit organization Ecotrust. As such, I identify opportunities that align with Ecotrust’s mission

and achieve the needs and goals of tribes that are in alignment with Ecotrust’s core areas of expertise. Big plans for me and my husband this year include scaling up to five peaks: Mount Whitney (Calif.), Mount Rainier (Wash.), Granite Peak area (Mont.), Mount Hood (Ore.), and Mount Shasta (Calif.). Not sure we’re actually going to get to them all, but we’ll make a yeoman’s effort.”

Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/aphroditeschulz>

MIKKA TOKUDA-HALL, GREEK, 2003: “After Oberlin, I got my MA in English literature and then taught ESL in Vietnam and Japan for a few years. Now I edit reality TV! (I once snuck some ancient Greek etymology into a trivia question I wrote for an Animal Planet show called *My Cat From Hell*.)”

Contact: Mikka.Tokuda.Hall@gmail.com

SARAH KESSLER, GREEK AND CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION, 2005: “My husband and I welcomed our son, Forrest Kessler Wolven, on February 23 this year.”

ALICE SHARPLESS, LATIN, 2005: “I am currently finishing my second year as a PhD student in classical studies at Columbia University, studying Roman art and archaeology of the imperial period. This summer I will serve as an archaeological supervisor at the excavations at Hadrian’s Villa, sponsored by Columbia’s Italian Academy. I am also helping to organize a graduate student conference in fall 2016 on Refuge and Refugees in the Ancient World.”

OONA O’LEARY, 2005: “I’ve been living in Chicago for the past five years, performing and reviewing sketch shows. I got married in August and a month later started the MFA program in writing for screen and stage at Northwestern.”

Contact: I’m around on Facebook as Oona O’Leary and Instagram as @snackspace



Drew and Rachel Webberman



Tom and Aran Schulz



Jim Helm and Stephan Kamola



Kirk and Will Austin

continued on page 10

ALUMNI NEWS, CONT.

CARLY MACHADO, CLASSICAL

CIVILIZATION, 2006: “I celebrated two years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, working in investments. I live in Brooklyn with my sweet cat and a great community of fellow Obies.”

SARAH DUNN, LATIN, 2006: “I’m working as the chief talent officer for an urban development consulting firm and living on the Upper East Side of Manhattan with my partner. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Oberlin at this year’s reunion!”

MAXWELL TEITEL PAULE, LATIN, 2006: “I continue “living the dream” as a classics professor at Earlham College, where I have now been for four years. This summer I’m leading an intensive May Term (think Winter Term, but with sun) on Roman warfare! My wife, Sara ’06, is the chief grants officer for the college, and when we’re not teaching, wrangling cash, or locked in meetings, we’re working on our garden or puttering around the house with our two cats.”
Contact: paulema@earlham.edu, earlhamclassics.tumblr.com

REBECCA SCHUGAR, LATIN, 2006: “In 2014 I received my PhD in molecular cell biology at Wash U, where my thesis work focused on cardiac metabolism. After that, I married my husband, Steven, and moved back to Cleveland for postdoctoral research at the Cleveland Clinic. Since I’m around, I’d love to be included on any email lists about lectures or events open to alumni. There is a definite lack of the classics in my life!”
Contact: rschugar@gmail.com

MICHAEL PELCH, LATIN, 2007: “I’m still living in California and am completing my eighth year working with Teach For America. Life is wonderful, and I’m so grateful for the experiences gained delving into the world of education! In the last few years I’ve revisited my old stomping grounds at the Centro in Rome and had a

chance to explore Berlin. My partner and I may soon be moving to Boston, so stay tuned for more news. I’m looking forward to seeing all from the classes of ’05, ’06, and ’07 at the reunion in May!”
Contact: mpelch@gmail.com

ALLISON CHOAT, DOUBLE DEGREE: LATIN AND OPERA DIRECTING, 2007: “Hello from Boston! 2016 has been a wonderful year so far. My theater company, Moonbox Productions, opens its spring show in just a few days. Fellow alumnus Dan Rodriguez and I will share the spotlight as nominees for the IRNEs, one Boston’s major theatrical awards. Since this winter, I’ve also completed a 500-hour yoga teacher training program and have become a volunteer leader for an online calisthenics training community. When I’m not backstage or on the mat, my day job and day-to-day life continue as usual; I’m still working as a travel planner in Harvard Square and enjoying the odd lecture or social outing with well-connected classicists like Karen Frenchu and Michael Berkowitz. I miss you all very much and hope to return to Oberlin for a visit soon.”
Contact: I’m on Facebook, admittedly somewhat irregularly, under my name, Allison Choat.

DANNY KANE, 2007: “I’m still teaching high school Latin in Staten Island and taking students to Europe every year (this year Spain). I also got roped into directing the spring musical, so I may be playing a major role in a butchering of *Grease*. I’m hoping to study spoken Greek (ancient) in Greece this summer, in the hopes of not forgetting all the Greek I knew for a second time.”

SHANNON ANDREWS, GREEK, 2007: “It’s been a fruitful year for me! I completed my residency program at Baystate Medical Center and am now an officially licensed and boarded physician in both internal medicine and pediatrics. I moved across the country to Minneapolis (the

biggest city I’ve ever lived in) last summer with my faithful pet cat, Dragon. University of Minnesota is an academic powerhouse in global health, where I’m pursuing fellowship in infectious diseases. Currently, I’m taking a break from my clinical rotations to set up research related to various infections in babies with collaborators in Kampala, Uganda.”
Contact: annyshay@gmail.com

TOM BUCK, GREEK, 2008: “I’m writing from a very shaky WiFi connection in Lalibela, Ethiopia. I’m enjoying my year as a regular member at ASCSA, and am returning to the University at Buffalo in the fall to work on a dissertation on Dionysius of Halicarnassus.”

NEVILLE MCFERRIN, GREEK AND ARCHAEOLOGY, 2008: “I defended my dissertation in September; my PhD was conferred in December; and I’m now Dr. Neville.”
Contact: nmcferri@umich.edu

EUSH TAYCO, GREEK, 2009: “After spending time with a couple of financial technology startups, I’ve decided to put my Greek degree to good use by becoming a quality analyst for the southeast and north asian region at Uber here in Manila. My job consists partly of telling people what a contrary-to-fact condition is, or that “criteria” is already plural, all while I coach them on the right way to do things around here. The company is establishing a regional center in the city (which, incidentally, has the worst traffic in the world, according to the navigation app Waze) this year, and I’m pretty excited to be one of the original members of that hub. Ethics of the whole “sharing/gig economy” aside.”
Contact: me@eush.name

GABE BAKER, CLASSICAL STUDIES, 2010: “I recently launched an ed-tech startup called Edorable. We make a 3D

continued on page 11

ALUMNI NEWS, CONT.

world for online education. Check out the beta at edorble.com or our blog at edorble.com/blog.”

Contact: Gabe@edorble.com

RYAN MAGEIRA, CLASSICAL

CIVILIZATION, 2012: “I recently performed my spoken word poetry in Germany! (like that of a bard, of course) and coached seventh-grade intramural

girls basketball at the middle school where I work with students who have special needs. Been splitting my time between Boulder and Denver in colorful Colorado. Always being liberal, being arts, and being classic!”

MAGGIE KILLMAN, LATIN, 2012: “In May I am graduating from the University of Tennessee with a Master’s of Science de-

gree in information science, and I began working as a children’s librarian at the Shaker Heights Public Library in Ohio.”
Contact: maggie.killman@gmail.com

NATHANIEL BENNETT, GREEK AND

ARCHAEOLOGY, 2014: “This fall I will start a Master’s in Public Administration program at the University of Washington!”



Kirk, Drew, Tom, Ben, Jim



Ben and Kate Stevens



Kelsi Hurdle and Drew



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