



Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Greek and Roman Studies annual Newsletter! Here we share some of our activities and achievements (our *res gestae*) in 2008-9. This issue profiles Brendan Burke's excavation in Boeotia (Greece) and student involvement in his research (p. 4) and an interdisciplinary conference staged by the undergraduates of both Greek and Roman and Medieval Studies (p. 5). Professors Andrew Stewart and Patrick Baker visited us in October to give lectures on Greek sculpture and on inscriptions discovered on the site of Xanthos in southern Turkey (p. 3). To support some of the many activities not covered by existing endowments we have created a new Strategic Fund for the department (p. 6). Better than my bare summary, please read the Newsletter itself. But first, let me wish you a happy Saturnalia. The Saturnalia was a week-long festival celebrated in mid-December. A pagan predecessor of the mediaeval "Feast of Fools" it was a ritual of disorder. In a comic sketch by Lucian, Saturn gives his priest the laws of the festival as follows: "No one is to do any business, public or private, during the festival, except what pertains to games, luxurious living and entertainment: cooks and confectioners alone shall work. Let every man be treated equal, slave and freeman, poor and rich. No one may be ill-tempered or cross or threaten anybody. No one may audit accounts. No one may inspect or list his money or clothing during the festival, nor take part in athletics, nor practise public-speaking, nor deliver lectures, except wits and jolly fellows purveying jokes and entertainment." (tr. K. Kilburn). It was also an occasion for the exchange of presents. Catullus complains that on this "best of days" a friend sent him a book of poems terrible enough to finish him off. Martial's *Apophoreta* ("Take-aways") comprises 223 epigrams on Saturnalia gifts: books, pets, games, a new toga, biscuits – even an edible Priapus. His holiday gift suggestion number 140? Socks.



You can find out about forthcoming events on our homepage (<http://web.uvic.ca/grs>) or visit in person on the fourth floor of the Building (B wing). I look forward to meeting you.

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RES GESTAE: What have we been up to?



Laurel Bowman has been working on a new project entitled "Mapping Apollodoros," in which she will associate Greek myth and the topography of ancient Greece in a GIS (Geographical Information System) program. In October she will be giving a continuing studies lecture on "Herakles and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder." Her paper on "Prophecy in Tragedy and in (the Buffy Spin-off) Angel" was accepted for a volume on *Angel and Literature*.

Brendan Burke delivered the Open Meeting Address at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Institute in Greece, reporting on all Canadian research conducted there. The talk, entitled, "In the Realm of Kadmos," included discussion of the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project, which he co-directs. At the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam he presented an invited paper about his research in Turkey: "The Rebuilt Citadel of Midas at Gordion". Dr. Burke gave shorter papers in Volos (Greece) and Philadelphia. In 2009 he was appointed Chair of the Committee on Committees for the American School of Classical Studies, and he rejoined the Excavation and Survey Committee of the Canadian Institute in Greece. In addition he was appointed Associate Editor for Archaeology for *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*. Dr. Burke is now listed in the *Lexicon of Greek Intellectuals*. During May 2009 he once again led a study-tour of UVic students around the ancient sites of Greece (see p. 7).

Although now retired from teaching, **Patricia Clark** has continued her research on ancient and traditional herbal medicine. Her book *A Cretan Healer's Handbook in the Byzantine Tradition* will appear in 2010 in a series edited by Alain Touwaide called *Medicine in the Medieval Mediterranean*. It consists of introductory chapters on history and culture, the text and translation of the handbook she discovered on Crete, and extensive appendices on the *materia medica* used in the Cretan medical traditions.

This summer, **Josiah Davis** was awarded an Internal Research Grant in preparation for a SSHRC grant application. He spent two fruitful weeks at the British School in Rome researching and writing on the Nile mosaic of Palestrina and the calendar that was once located in that city. This research will also serve as the basis for a series of talks he will be giving at the University of Calgary at the end of November. "Domesticating the Nile" will trace the influence of the elite Roman villa on the design of Palestrina's mosaic. The second talk, entitled "The Advents of Dionysus," features new research on the relationship between Dionysian and Apollonian aesthetics in Augustan literature, specifically Roman elegy.

John Fitch's latest book, *Oxford Readings in Seneca*, appeared in 2008. In addition to a chapter by John himself, it contains contributions by Cedric Littlewood, by Keith Bradley, who taught in the Department for many years, and by Siobhan McElduff, now on the faculty at UBC, who completed an M.A. in the Department. John's paper entitled "Horace, *Odes* 1.3: Nature's Boundaries" was published recently in *Eranos*, and "Nature in Horace," a revised version of a seminar paper given in the Department, will appear shortly in *Green Letters*.

Ingrid Holmberg spent the summer working on the manuscript of her book about cunning intelligence, narrative, and Homeric epic. In addition, she submitted reviews on books about the *Iliad* and sexuality in the ancient world. She has been invited to contribute a chapter to the *Blackwell Companion to Ancient Sexuality*. Dr. Holmberg has also taken on the responsibility of Treasurer of the Classical Association of Canada.

Events of 2009

There have been some significant upgrades to the main office. The bright orange, steel shutter that could be pulled down to secure the office windows—so ugly and dangerous that we referred to it as “The Dragon Gate”—was finally removed and the opening closed off. New storage cabinets have been installed in its place, and the Department mailboxes have been moved to the corridor. The office, under the enlightened and efficient administration of Sonja Bermingham, now looks very bright and open. Some older and unused texts were removed from the Department Reading Room, freeing up shelf space. Our original set of Loeb Classical Texts, which was badly worn from constant use over many years, has been replaced by a gleaming new set. Many of the editions and translations in this useful reference work have been completely revised, rendering the older volumes obsolete. Josiah Davis now manages the Reading Room.

Last winter **Professor Mark Golden** from the University of Winnipeg presented a lecture on Greek games and gladiators. **Professor Alain Touwaide** from the Smithsonian Institution spoke to us about plants for health in the ancient Mediterranean. Recently, as Lansdowne Visiting Scholar, **Professor Andrew Stewart** of the University of California, Berkeley, gave a series of lectures on Greek sculpture. **Professor Patrick Baker** of Laval University presented his research with the Canadian Epigraphic Mission to Xanthos-Letoon, collecting and interpreting ancient inscriptions.

Please check the Department website for information about our slate of speakers in the Spring Term.

Geof Kron has been continuing his research into ancient agricultural productivity, nutrition, demography and the impact of democracy upon living standards, social inequality and economic development in Greco-Roman antiquity and 18th and 19th century Europe. He was awarded a SSHRC general research grant in 2009, allowing him to do library and archival research in Europe. Geof contributed a substantial chapter on Animal Husbandry to John Oleson's award-winning *Oxford Handbook of Technology in the Classical World*. He has been an invited speaker at international conferences in Québec, Leiden, Rome, Capri, and Brussels and is publishing the resulting articles. Geof is currently working on book projects for Oxford University Press and Duckworth, and has been invited to contribute a chapter on food production to Walter Scheidel's *Cambridge Companion to the Greco-Roman Economy* as well as chapters on economic growth and demography to the new *Oxford Handbook to Economies in the Classical World*, edited by Elio Lo Cascio and Alain Bresson.

Cedric Littlewood had an article on ‘Gender and Power in Seneca's Thyestes’ published in John Fitch's latest book on Seneca (above). At the annual meeting of the Classical Association of Canada he gave a paper on ‘Caesar and Pompey in Lucan, *Civil War 5*’; a book on which he is hoping to publish a commentary.

Mark Nugent, who completed his B.A. in the Department, and who taught here to enthusiastic student acclaim in 2006-7 while working on his doctorate at the University of Washington, has returned to teach during the 2009-10 academic year. Mark's paper on representations of the emperor Elagabalus in 1960-70s popular fiction, entitled “From ‘Filthy Catamite’ to ‘Queer Icon’: Elagabalus and the Politics of Sexuality (1960-1975),” appeared last year in *Helios*. He will be giving a talk on masculinity and sexuality in Petronius' *Satyrica* at the 2010 meeting of the American Philological Association.

John Peter Oleson spent the early part of the summer in Amman working on the second volume of the final report on his Humayma Excavation Project. The first volume was recently accepted for publication by the American Schools of Oriental Research. He also spent part of August in southeastern Turkey taking samples of hydraulic concrete from the Roman harbour at Pompeiopolis. In October the Society for the History of Technology awarded his recent book *The Oxford Handbook of Engineering and Technology in the Classical World* (New York 2008) the Eugene S. Ferguson Prize for the best book on the history of technology published in the last two years. The government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia recently purchased the translation rights into Macedonian! Professor Oleson has been selected as one of the two Norton Lecturers for 2010/11 by the Archaeological Institute of America.

When not busy with teaching, **Nick Reymond** has been working to finish his PhD thesis, “The Figure of the Poor Poet,” which he hopes to defend at the University of Otago (New Zealand) early in 2010. He introduced the topic to the Department at a vibrant seminar in November 2008. He has also lectured to Gordon Shrimpton's Humanities 120 course (see below).

Greg Rowe spent his summer in Victoria and in Oxford, England, working on a research project concerning the jurisdictional powers and methods of Roman provincial governors. This fall he is excited to be teaching a new course entitled Jews and Christians in the Roman World. He has also started a very successful Latin Club to provide Victoria area high school students the opportunity to begin the study of Latin. He, too, has lectured to Gordon Shrimpton's Humanities 120 course (see below), as well as the community outreach Humanities 100 course.

Gordon Shrimpton started the summer with an intensive research project entitled “Admiring the Mediterranean from the Deck of a Cruise Ship.” He has finished a book chapter: *Vis Consili Experts* (“Force without Reason”) for a collection of essays on university life and values. The chapter deals with the restraint policies of the Socrads in the early 80s. He teaches Humanities 120 with Dr. Cazes of the French department. This course traces the history of the university, and related subjects, from Plato's Academy to today. Gordon talks about Greek democracy and Socrates once a year in University 101, a non-credit course, free to applicants. He is currently writing a chapter on memory in the ancient world for a collection of essays.



Josiah Davis

Jonathan Prior

In the Greek seaside village of Dilesi, I joined the multi-national team of the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project. We spent the hot, sunny days walking a lovely Mediterranean landscape containing sites famously from Homer's catalogue of ships in the *Iliad*. One discovery of particular interest was a city wall that appears to mark an Archaic Period settlement mentioned by the Roman traveller Strabo.

Profile | Dr. Brendan Burke

Brendan Burke, who has taught Greek art and archaeology in the Department since 2003, co-directs the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP) in Greece. The other co-directors of this collaborative project (*synergasia*) are Vasilis Aravantinos, Director of the Thebes Museum and the Ephor of Thebes, Bryan Burns of Wellesley College and Susan Lupack of University College London. EBAP, a systematic collection survey examining the history and prehistory of an important corridor between the city of Thebes and the Euboian Gulf, has already completed three successful seasons, the last in 2009. Burke and his colleagues have obtained funding from the Institute of Aegean Prehistory, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, and their home institutions. This archaeological project is one of the few authorized by the Canadian Institute in Greece and the Greek Ministry of Culture, and Dr. Burke notes his good fortune in having the administrative assistance of both institutions. The corps of volunteers is truly multinational, with students coming from the US, the UK, Australia, France, Austria, Italy, Greece, and Canada, including several from the University of Victoria: Kicker Conlin, Jessica Hallas-Kilcoyne, Genevieve Hill, Steve Kennedy, Jonathan Prior (see the sidebar), and Trevor Van Damme.

The survey zone straddles the borders between Attica, Euboea, and Boeotia, and focuses on three villages: Tanagra, Arma, and Eleon. The toponymy is confusing, since these modern place names also occur in ancient sources, but the Classical sites are not necessarily associated with the modern villages of the same name. The research method involves both the systematic collection of surface ceramics and the detailed recording of features in the landscape. Teams of five to six volunteers spaced 10 meters apart walk in parallel transects, recording the density of artefacts within a two-meter wide path through vineyards, olive groves, and other agricultural landscapes.

According to Dr. Burke, one of the project goals is to assess the relationship of smaller centres in this area to Thebes, the leading city of Boeotia. Recent finds at Thebes of clay tablets inscribed with the Linear B script, the earliest form of ancient Greek, improve our understanding of the territory controlled by this centre at the end of the Bronze Age (ca. 1200 B.C.). One of these texts makes reference to *e-re-o-ne*, Eleon, paying taxes in the form of grain and olives. The site of ancient Eleon has been identified with a fortified acropolis in the modern village of Arma.

The intensive field collection by Burke and his team has documented significant occupation history at the site, and they have mapped a very impressive polygonal wall of Lesbian-style masonry, dating probably to the fourth century B.C. Plans are underway for a geophysical subsurface survey at Eleon in the late fall that Dr. Burke hopes will allow his team to begin excavations in the very near future.

Also within the EBAP survey zone are cemeteries excavated a generation ago near the modern village of Tanagra. These burials yielded the well-known painted Tanagra *larnakes*, clay chests, illustrating Bronze Age funerary rites. One important goal of the project at Tanagra is to contextualize the burial monuments within their physical and cultural landscape. This project improves our understanding of the social and economic history of Boeotia, while also giving UVic students a valuable opportunity for participating in archaeological field work in Greece. Dr. Burke also organizes and directs the UVic in Greece study-trip each May (p. 7). Under his direction, approximately 15 students visit dozens of sites and museums all over Greece, from Crete to Thessaloniki, getting UVic course credit and applying knowledge gained in the classroom on-site. For further information on Dr. Burke's research and teaching, including application materials for UVic in Greece 2010, please visit <http://web.uvic.ca/~bburke/>.



Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Conference

Trevor Van Damme reports that in the fall of 2008, the Greek and Roman Studies Course Union (GRSCU) and the Medieval Studies Course Union (MSCU) decided to join forces to host an undergraduate conference in the spring of 2009. The organizing committee, Ryan Hunt and Stephanie Jury (MSCU), along with Rebekah Gubbels and Trevor Van Damme (GRSCU) brought on board an observer from the History department, Bryan Solly, forming the Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Conference Committee.

The two members from Medieval Studies had experience in organizing an undergraduate conference in the previous year limited to papers relating to Medieval Studies. Their goal in approaching us was to expand the conference in order to create a more multi-disciplinary focus encompassing the fields of history, literature, art and architecture, archaeology, and historiography. With this goal in mind the committee sent out an announcement of the conference to the departments of History, History in Art, Anthropology, and Italian and Hispanic Studies. Two nerve-wracking months followed, as the committee waited to find out if any students would respond to our call for papers.

While the organizers endured the long wait for papers, they developed plans for a two-day conference in which sessions for papers would be followed by social events allowing interdepartmental socializing and informal discussion. In the end, 12 papers were selected for inclusion in the conference, which took place on 27-28 February. The presentations were organized thematically into four sessions of three papers each. One session took place on the first evening and three sessions took place on the second day, punctuated by intermissions for coffee and lunch. All the papers were presented well and were applauded by a modest sized but enthusiastic audience of students, faculty, and the general public. All agreed that the conference was a success.

The Organizing Committee would like to thank all the departmental staff and faculty who helped to make the conference a reality. Further thanks are owed to the many volunteers who turned out on both days of the conference to prepare the food and beverages, as well as to clean up afterwards. The conference could not have taken place without the financial support of the Departments of Greek and Roman Studies, History, Art History, the Medieval Studies Program, and the Faculty of Humanities. Another interdisciplinary conference is planned for the upcoming calendar year.



Undergraduate Awards

The Catriona Cameron Bingham Prize was awarded to **Eva Bullard**. The George P. Black Memorial Scholarship to **Ruben M. Post**. The Greek and Roman Studies Scholarship was split between **Trevor Van Damme** and **Carly Malloch**. The Edward B. Paul Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Sanjay Chander**, while The Peter L. Smith Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies was split between **Charlotte Dawe** and **Diotima R. Coad**. **Evelyn A. La Tour** won the The Irene Lee Book Prize in Latin and Catherine M. Hornby The Butterfield Law Book Prize. The Classical Association of Vancouver Island Book Prizes went to **Kelsey Appleby**, **Robin H. Jones**, **Elizabeth M. Fitzmaurice**, **Lauren S. Tee**, **Sierra R. Jasper**, and **Robin A. Malafry**. Congratulations to all these students!



Focus on Funds

The Department has set up a new endowment called the Greek and Roman Studies Strategic Fund. This fund will receive donations to support the activities of the Department of Greek and Roman Studies and its students. Monies received may be used to support conferences, research travel, community outreach, and other initiatives not covered by existing endowment funds. When appropriate, they may be directed into existing endowment accounts in order to top them up to the point where they become vested and produce income.



Graduate Programme News

Jonathan Prior is the first recipient of the Gordon and Hilda Fitch Scholarship, which will assist his study of trademarks on Roman glassware and ceramics. **Becky Littlechilds** has been awarded a John O. Dell Graduate Scholarship, and in a university-wide competition she won a Sheila Hackett Travel award, assisting her study trip to Rome. We admitted four new M.A. students in 2009: **Katie Ongaro**, who will be working on wall painting and poetry, brought with her a SSHRC Canadian Graduate Scholarship. **Lindsey Brill's** studies will focus on Vergil and first-century Italy, while **Jessica Romney** plans to write her thesis concerning war and society in archaic Greek poetry. **Kristen Koester's** interests include the early Christian heritage.

Where are they now?

Professor **Sam Scully**, who taught in the Department and served for many years in senior administrative positions, retired from Dalhousie University as Vice-President Academic and Provost in 2006. He now lives in Toronto and works as an executive search consultant. Professor **Keith Bradley** continues to teach ancient Roman society and culture at Notre Dame. Professor **David Campbell** is enjoying his retirement in Saanichton. Dr. **Leslie Shumka**, who completed her PhD in the Department in 2000, and who has taught for us off and on since then in Winter and Summer Terms, continues to teach in the Classics Department at Mount Allison University. Dr. **Milo Nikolic**, who took his PhD in the Department in 2008, is teaching this year at Memorial University. Dr. **Gillian Ramsey** (M.A. 2005) recently completed her PhD at Exeter and is teaching at the University of Leicester. Dr. **Kelly Wrenhaven** (née Joss) is now an Assistant Professor at Cleveland State University.

You Are Invited!

The Classical Association of Vancouver Island (CAVI) was founded in 1971 as a way of fostering relations between the Department and members of the general public interested in Classical Studies. The main activity has always been the organization of public lectures by local and visiting classical scholars, and we have hosted over 200 well-attended presentations since the association began. The lectures, usually illustrated, run the whole range of Greek and Roman Studies, from Greek literature to Roman archaeology. We also have the tradition of an informal wine and cheese reception in the Spring, at which students, faculty, and the public join in a variety of classically inspired frolics: dramatizations of Greek comedy, amusing short lectures or classical stories, classical pictorial, and costume competitions. Please send in your e-mail (to sberming@uvic.ca) or postal address so that we may put you on the mailing list for our lectures and other activities. You may also check the Department website for information on CAVI-sponsored lectures. Membership is free to students; \$10.00 per annum for others.

Green Space

The cost of printing and mailing paper copy of this newsletter is significant, and of course there is also an environmental impact. As a result, like many institutions, we are planning to switch to electronic format. The newsletter will still be attractively designed and produced in colour, but we will e-mail forthcoming issues as pdf files to individuals on our mailing list who send us their e-mail addresses. We will continue to mail out printed copy to those who request it.

If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter in electronic or printed format, please telephone (250-721-8514) or send an e-mail message (sberming@uvic.ca) to our Department Administrator Sonja Bermingham informing her of your wishes.



UVic in Greece

UVic students can get UVic course credit while studying in Greece with Dr. Brendan Burke. The programme is open to non-UVic students also. Participants will study Athens, Knossos, Mycenae, Olympia, Delphi, and also lesser known sites throughout northern Greece, the Peloponnese, and Crete. Program fees for the 2010 tour are \$3600, including shared hotel room with breakfast, and all ferry and local transportation. Airfare and UVic tuition are not included in this sum.

For further information and application materials, please visit:

<http://web.uvic.ca/~bburke/UVicInGreece2010.htm>.

The issue was compiled by Sonja Bermingham and John Peter Oleson. Comments and contributions are welcome, and can be sent to sberming@uvic.ca

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Donors make a difference!

The Department of Greek and Roman Studies is grateful to donors who have established a number of generous awards over the years. Many of these same donors came forward with top-up funds this year to help make up for diminished returns on endowment investments. We are grateful to you for ensuring that students continued to benefit despite the global economic crisis.

Thank you!

A university education provides lifelong rewards but requires a significant investment of time and money. The majority of UVic students come from outside the region and must cover accommodation and living expenses as well as tuition, books and transportation. For many students, the decision to pursue their education depends on their financial capacity. The University's goal is to recruit outstanding students from diverse regions and backgrounds and to remove all barriers to admission and retention other than academic and creative potential. We'll do this by offering attractive student awards and fulfilling academic experiences.

The new Greek and Roman Studies Strategic Fund described in this newsletter (p. 6) is one example of many ways to invest in the future of Greek and Roman Studies and experience the rewards of philanthropy while receiving tax benefits. As the Development Officer for the Faculty of Humanities, I'm here to assist you in matching your passion to make a difference with your personal financial situation.

I can be reached by phone at 250-853-3893 or by email at kwhyte@uvic.ca.



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!

1) I wish to support the following funds:

GRS Strategic Fund

Gordon and Hilda Fitch Endowment in Greek and Roman Studies for Graduate Students

George Marsden and Gordon Shrimpton Graduate Student Special Needs Fund in GRS

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