



Classical Studies Newsletter

From the Chair

July 2015

Hi Alumnae and Alumni,

The Department owes a great debt of gratitude to Ann Vasaly. In her two-year Chairmanship, she - with tremendous care, dedication, and thoughtfulness - led the Department through our strenuous Academic Program Review. I am lucky to begin my term as Chair after Ann's work. We are a stronger and more focused Department because of it.

The stars seem to have been particularly well aligned recently. In my limited space here, allow me to concentrate on our faculty and to toot the horn for their creativity and productivity. Two have just published books (Uden, Vasaly); two more are about to publish (Samons, Scully); still more have books under contract (Esposito, Nelson, Nikolaev, Scully), and others are laboring in the fields with books in the works (Golder, Henderson, Johnson, Klein, Ruck, Uden, Varhelyi). (See under individual faculty for particulars.) The excellences of the presses publishing these works and the range of the topics covered speak to the quality, range, and vitality of our faculty and program.

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I'm also personally excited that *Arion: the Journal of the Humanities and the Classics*, edited by Herb Golder, will be moving to new quarters in our building. Also, I need to embarrass James Uden and praise him for the TWO conferences he hosted at BU this year. Both were on Late Antique topics, attracting scholars from around the globe. Even I, immersed in the world of Archaic Greece, could sense the excitement of these scholars as they explore uncharted terrain and seek to discover new paradigms of interaction between Greeks and Romans, "pagans" and Christians.

As a Department, we have also been reaching out across the College, our faculty becoming affiliated with the Linguistic Program (Nikolaev) and the fledgling Medieval Studies Program (Samons), or seeking to create a new program in Myth Studies (Golder). Under the passionate Directorship of our Stephanie Nelson, the Core Curriculum has been revitalized and with excellent leadership of our Kelly Polychroniou the Modern Greek Program and the energetic Philhellenes have become a rich part of Classics.

In addition to running our old faithfuls, the faculty are creating new undergraduate courses, including Modern Greek Culture and Film (Polychroniou), Intensive Latin (Ruck), Origins of Writing (Nikolaev), Origin Stories of the Universe and Humankind in the Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Humanities (Scully), the Ancient Novel (Henderson), and the History of Medicine (Uden). In 2016-17, look for the Greeks against the Romans (the CL faculty, corralled by Samons) and Cavafy and History (Polychroniou and Samons).

This Fall, Herb Golder will take over the Myth and Religion lecture series and the Department will host an exhibition and lecture on Black Classicists, 1880s to 1920s, some born slaves to become presidents of universities. This is a story rarely told, let alone imagined. Look for specifics on our webpage or our facebook page, or sign up for our mailing list by emailing classics@bu.edu.

And, of course, there's always our boisterous Spring-time "Aristophanes" romp.

These are fun times for Classical Studies at BU.

Sincerely,

Steve Scully

Faculty News



Associate Professor Stephen Esposito- After a delightful but busy summer teaching at Deree College in Athens last summer, Steve is looking forward to staying home this summer and is working to complete the penultimate draft of his philological commentary on selections from the first three books of Thucydides for the Oxford Greek and Latin College Commentaries, of which he is the founding editor.



Professor Herb Golder has been blathering up a storm as usual. Last week some scenes from the film he co-wrote with Werner Herzog and which premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2009, *My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done*, were featured at an event at the New York Public Library, co-sponsored by the Onassis Foundation, at which Herzog was speaking about how the Greeks are still very much with us today. (Golder was astonished to be told that evening by a filmmaker friend in attendance that some critic had actually named his *My Son, My Son...* the #2 Non-Hollywood Hollywood Film of all time! Just goes to prove you can't trust critics). (Read more [here](#))



Associate Professor Pat Johnson- Following my four-year stint as the Associate Dean for the Humanities, I enjoyed a long-overdue year of research leave, working on a book on Ovid's Arachne episode in 16th C. Italian painting. Lots of wonderful travel in the fall: Bordeaux for a conference, Paris, London to look at Ovidian prints in the British Museum, Oxford for an Ovid conference. Then five blessed weeks this spring around Italy and at the American Academy in Rome, looking at a lot of sexy 16th C. ceiling paintings. I look forward to returning to full time participation in Classical Studies in the fall!



Professor Jeffrey Henderson- I was on sabbatical in spring 2015 and it was very productive for writing (a few dozen entries for the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Greek Comedy and a chapter for the Oxford Handbook of Thucydides) and for research travel

(Italy, UK, and Germany). For the coming academic year I look forward to the next stage of development of the digital Loeb Classical Library (check it out!), and to teaching a Latin literature course for a change (Roman Novel).



Lecturer Sophie Klein: I taught four courses this year: Beginning Latin I and II, Roman Civilization, and a seminar on “Horace’s Poetry and His World.” I was especially excited to revisit Horace, the subject of my dissertation, with a group of talented students who expanded and enriched my view of his work. I also had the privilege of organizing the department’s annual “Aristophanes” production for the second year in a row. Other projects include: papers delivered at Randolph College and Classics Day, an article on mute characters in Roman comedy, and a book chapter on Outside the Wire’s inspiring “Theater of War” program.



Assistant Professor Sasha Nikolaev- In the Fall I am looking forward to repeating two courses that I taught last year: CL 101 (The World of Greece) and CL/LX 205 (The Origins of Writing). For the former I still need to find a hip hop composition appropriate for playing in class during my lecture on Homeric poems (yes, I believe that it is possible to compare certain features of Ancient Greek orally composed epic songs to hip hop music and “rapping off the top of the dome”). For CL/LX 205 I am currently preparing Phoenician, Runic and Mayan inscriptions to assign for students to figure out on their own, and preparing for the “Cuneiform Day” when students write in impeccable Babylonian on their own tablets.



Senior Lecturer Kelly Polychroniou continued to lead the department's program in Modern Greek, teaching courses at the introductory, intermediate, and advanced level. This year, she developed two new courses (which will be offered over the next two academic years): Modern Greek Culture and Film (to be offered in fall 2015), and Cavafy and History (with Professor Samons, to be offered in 2016-17). This summer she will lead the Boston University Philhellenes Summer Study in Athens for the third

consecutive year. In May, the department's recommendation to promote Polychroniou to Senior Lecturer in Modern Greek was approved by the College of Arts and Sciences.



Professor Samons taught Greek history, introductory Latin, Warfare in Antiquity, and Core Humanities this year. His biography of Pericles (*Pericles and the Conquest of History*) will be published by Cambridge University Press this fall, and he predicts that the book is sure to make him even less popular with other Greek historians. This summer, when he is not teaching Greek history in the Boston University Philhellenes Summer Study in Athens, he will continue to harass the trout population of North America.



Carl Ruck: In July I am making a presentation for the Gaia Project new museum complex for the site of ancient Eleusis at [the Breaking Convention Conference](#) in London. In October I have organized a group (including Professor Holmberg) to present a session at the [ISARS](#) conference in Delphi, Greece, on Topography and Shamanism. Topic: Apollo, from wolf (lykos) to light (lux/leukos).



Assistant Professor James Uden: I have an exciting summer ahead! On June 18-19, I hosted a major international conference at Boston University. The theme is 'Literary Interactions across Linguistic, Cultural, and Religious Boundaries' in the age of Nerva, Trajan and Hadrian, and speakers will be coming from the UK, Canada, Poland, Sweden, and throughout the US to present their work. I'll also be making a number of short trips to give papers at Stockholm, Oxford, and Vancouver, and will be preparing to teach my History of Medicine in Ancient Greece and Rome course next year. In my spare time, I'll be training for a marathon in August! I wish everyone a happy, productive, and – after our awful winter – a wonderfully warm summer.



Associate Professor Varhelyi- First of all: two thumbs up to Prof. Uden's conference on Literary Interactions under Nerva, Trajan and Hadrian which brought world-renowned scholars to BU this June! I was honored to present a paper myself on translation in this period. This paper is in fact going to be part of a chapter of my book I am working on, tentatively titled, "The Others of the Self." In this particular section I am looking at how being bilingual, ancient Greek and Latin, featured in the self-understanding of members of the Roman elite (notice my interest in being bilingual... what a strange subject for me! :) In addition, in August I will spend a short time in Spain, where I hope to see a few Roman sites and artifacts I have not seen before...



Associate Professor Ann Vasaly- Our departmental graduation ceremony this year brought to mind the wonderful achievements of past graduates and our hopes for the talented majors who graduated this year. Among the former is one who will begin a tenure track position this fall in the Classics Department of Boston College and several others who are now Latin teachers in the Boston area, making us all feel that the department is doing its part to foster the study of ancient language and culture for future generations. My own contribution to that undertaking is now winding down as I end my chairmanship (passing it on to the energetic Steve Scully!), begin a semester on sabbatical, and look towards retirement in 2016. I will be devoting my sabbatical to a scholarly project that is both exciting and a little daunting, since it concerns a period new to me. I have just published a book on Livy, in which I argued that this Roman historian—who has often been accused of political naivete—actually had complex political lessons to convey to his listeners. I now hope to write about a very different kind of political theorist, Niccolò Machiavelli, whose *Discourses on Livy* is a puzzling, fascinating, and important reading of the ancient historian.



Class of 2015

This year the Department graduated fifteen students with BA degrees with concentrations in classical studies (four in Ancient Greek and Latin, two in Classics and Religion, one in Classics and Philosophy and nine in Classical Civilization). Of these, seven graduated with Latin Honors (two Cum Laude, two Magna Cum Laude, three Summa Cum Laude). One graduating student was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Two students completed Honors in a Major, one in Ancient Greek and Latin and the second in Classical Civilization.

Congratulations to all of our 2015 graduates! We wish you all the best as you enter the next phase of your lives.

Brian Boman (Classical Civilization)- I will be working for Boston University this summer, and likely longer before applying to law school.

Griffin Budde (Ancient Greek and Latin; Summa Cum Laude)- I had my first day of work at DCR in June. I will be working a project to reorganize and structure its fleet 1,600 carrae, trucks, and naves (cars, trucks, and ships) so that their maintenance data is search- and track-able. Go figure.

Jeremy Fischer (Ancient Greek and Latin with Honors, Classics and Religion; Summa Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa)- I will be applying to graduate school in classics in the fall.

Aditi Joshi (Classical Civilization)- I will return to San Diego to both work and begin

the application process for graduate studies in Historical Literature the following year.

Meghan Kelly (Classical Civilization with Honors; Cum Laude)- I will work as Assistant Preschool Teacher at United South End Settlements and later I will apply to graduate school in education.

Anastasia Kourtis (Classical Civilization, Anthropology; Magna Cum Laude)- After graduation, I plan to stay local for the summer, and then apply to law school in the fall.

Mac Loftin (Classics and Religion, Philosophy; Magna Cum Laude)- I'll be working on my masters of theological studies at Harvard divinity school.

Nathalie Nader (Classical Civilization, Biology; Summa Cum Laude)- I am going on a 35 day tour of Europe (including Greece and Italy!) and then starting medical school at UMASS medical in August!!!!

Michael Nickerson (Ancient Greek and Latin)- I plan to pass my MTEL's over the summer so I can continue teaching on a preliminary certification, then get my authentic certification so my temporary fill-in position can become my full-time career. I plan on completing my Master's program when I am an older, wiser, and more patient man.

Natalie Russo (Classical Civilization; Cum Laude; Bachelors of Science in Communication; Cum Laude; Scarlet Key Society)- In the future, I plan on pursuing a career in higher education administration with the goal of becoming an academic advisor.

Kimberly Whipple (Classical Civilization, Psychology)- I will start at Assumption College in the fall, for a Master's degree in Counseling. I want to be a private practice therapist.

Blaise Young (Classics and Philosophy)- I will be moving back to Oklahoma City (a far more interesting place than you would think!). I plan on helping run the Tae Kwon Do studio that I have been studying and working for a number of years. I will begin my search for other career opportunities and possibly further education.

In addition, congratulations to:

Jacqueline Depew (Classical Civilization, Biology with Specialization in Behavioral Biology)

Natallya Pereira (Classical Civilization, Economics)

Paul Slater (Ancient Greek and Latin, Philosophy)

Graduate Student Updates

Our department currently has twenty-one graduate students. In 2015, two received their PhD. We look forward to welcoming three new graduate students in the Fall 2015

semester.

Emily Austin plans to defend her dissertation on Achilles and lament in the *Iliad* in September.

Elizabeth Baxter- This summer Bethie is writing her dissertation prospectus on Pindar's theory of poetry. She is also looking forward to teaching a course on Greek lyric in the CAS Writing Program in the fall.

Peter Blandino is preparing his prospectus on music as a trope in a variety of Euripidean dramas.

Daniel Driskill is preparing for his Greek qualifying exams this summer and in his second year he will continue with courses and begin teaching.

Dustin Dixon has successfully defended his dissertation on "Myth-Making in Greek and Roman Comedy" in April of this year. He has accepted a position at Loyola University in Maryland.

James Ferguson- This summer I'm hoping to wrap up my prospectus on Tertullian's *De Spectaculis* and then defend it some time this fall.

Rachel Fisher has successfully defended her prospectus on mortal women in the *Iliad*.

Laurie Hutcheson will return to Rome this summer to teach Latin with the Paideia Institute, this year with her 8-month-old son in tow! With the rest of her time, she continues to work on her dissertation on reported speech in the *Iliad*.

Amanda Jarvis- This summer, Amanda is taking spoken German during Summer Session I (kaffee, bitte!), working on her Special Topic (Ovid's *Metamorphoses*) with Professor Johnson, serving as research assistant for Professor Henderson, and editing papers to submit for publication. She also plans to recover from this year's Snowmageddon by spending as much time outside as her sun-averse complexion can tolerate.

I-Kai Jeng has completed all degree requirements for his MA in Classical Studies and he is working on his prospectus in Philosophy.

Julie Levy is preparing for her Greek qualifying exams this summer and she is looking forward to continuing her coursework in the fall.

Daniel Libatique- He completed his coursework and qualifying exams. He is spending the summer working on his dissertation topic which will concern Philomela's myth. In addition he is creating digital tools to aid Latin instruction in the department, especially for the intensive Latin course being offered next Spring.

Jesse Lopes is happily working on his dual-degree MA in Classical Studies and PhD in Philosophy and in the fall he will serve as a TF in the Core Curriculum.

Karen Mower is preparing her prospectus on natural love in Greek, Roman, Christian, and Jewish thought in the first and second century B.C.E.

Colin Pang- This year Colin enjoyed TF-ing for Professor Nikolaev's World of Greece course, as well as teaching a Greek language course on Homer's *Iliad*. He also gave papers at two conferences and wrote his prospectus on Quintus Smyrnaeus's

Posthomerica.

Liu Tong- In the past year I have read Tacitus, Livy and Hesiod with a comparative perspective with China. I am reading the Aeneid and various Greek authors to strengthen my languages next year. For Greek composition, hopefully I can translate some Chinese poems into Greek verses!

Carson Shaw- This past year my research interests have focused on Heidegger and his interpretation of Plato and Aristotle. In June I will deliver a paper on Apuleius in Argentina, and in July and August I will be in Freiburg, Germany looking to improve my German.

David West- This past year, it was a privilege to become part of the public face of the department by teaching a section of Beginning Latin in the spring. Most recently I have been preparing a dissertation prospectus on Cicero with Professors Vasaly and Haase. The thesis will investigate Cicero's frequent attempts to motivate others to be courageous and join him in the project of preserving the moribund Roman Republic despite all the personal risks. "But Cicero failed!" *Ita vero*—and yet Cicero's generation wasn't the last to read his immortal words.

Michael Wheeler has successfully defended his dissertation, *Meter in Catullan Invective: Expectations and Innovation*. Next year, he will begin his search for a tenure-track position.

Deana Zeigler is working on her dissertation on the Homeric Hymn to Demeter.



Update your Alumni Profile!

Alumni

Emily Anstey (BA, 2013)- I just wanted to share that I have recently been accepted into a brand new Ph.D. program in Education with a focus in Research and Evaluation at University of Massachusetts Lowell. My research will be primarily in museum education and learning as well as program evaluation specifically in history museums.

Derek Haddad (PhD, 2006)- I am finishing my second year of the PhD program in Classics, with a Focus in Ancient History, at UC Santa Barbara. Our Classics and History Departments recently hosted the annual meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians. On a personal note, I have just been informed that I will be receiving a pre-doctoral UC Research Fellowship for 2015-2016. Under the direction of Professors MacLean and Morstein-Marx at UCSB, I plan to examine the personal letters of Cicero, so as to survey the figures of Atticus and Tiro, an equestrian businessman and a freed slave, respectively.

Seth Holm (PhD, 2013)- Next year, I will be continuing on my position as Visiting Assistant Professor of The Classics at Colgate University. That's the only news of note from me for this year.

Sarah Hoskins (BA, 2011)- Since graduating, I have worked in an array of libraries and archives, both academic and public. I earned my Master of Library and Information Science from University of Pittsburgh in 2013 and currently run the Digital Learning Center in the Rowan University Library. Unfortunately Rowan does not have a Classics department, but I am working hard on an MA in History (and trying to persuade them to let me spend my summer doing an independent study on Alcibiades). I live in Philadelphia and will be getting married next August.

Dr. Sean Lake (BA, 1996)-Tenure track position in Humanities Department at Valencia College, teaching Classics courses (Latin, Mythology, Greek and Roman history courses, Introduction to Humanities)

Maritere Rivera (1999)- I'm a BLA colleague and fellow BU alumnus. I recently led an international field trip to Paris and Rome with almost 80 students and 11 chaperones, including **Michael Maguire (BA, 1993)**! It was a wonderful experience. (See photo above at start of Alumni section).

Ann Mahoney (PhD, 2000)- I have been elected President-Elect of the Classical Association of New England for 2015-2016, and President for the following year. I am Lecturer in Classics at Tufts University, where I teach Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, and linguistics.

John Pappas (BA, 1999)- I ran the BU Philhellenes dance group this year. Professor Samons and Kelly Polychroniou were pretty instrumental in getting it started. The dance group performed at various events, including after the Greek Independence Day Parade.

Arcie Petty (BA, 2008)- I am still teaching Latin at Glen Urquhart School. But the big news is that I have finished my Master's program at Boston College. I will be graduating May 18 with a Masters in Classical Languages. I'll use the degree to enhance my teaching.

Michele Valerie Ronnick (PhD, 1990)- Greetings from Detroit. I thought the newsletter readers would be interested in knowing that my exhibit on early black philologists whose specialty was Greek/Latin is on exhibit at the U. of Oklahoma and will come to BU on November 11-12th.

Annie Ropeik (BA, 2012)- Classics & Philosophy; CAS Journalism minor- My classics major helped me land a dream internship at NPR -- they're interested in employing people with more diverse liberal arts foundations -- before I'd even graduated, and I've been working in public media ever since. In the past few years, I've taken amazing journeys as a reporter and host everywhere from Boston and Cape Cod, to Alaska's Aleutian Islands at NPR's westernmost member station, KUCB. I'm now closer to my mid-Atlantic home at Delaware's brand-new NPR station, WDDE.

Tyler Travillian (PhD, 2011)- I have won a tenure-track position in Classics at Pacific Lutheran University in the Department of Languages and Literatures.

Alumni Weekend

The department will be co-hosting an event with the Core Curriculum this September. It will take place Saturday September 26th from 4-6pm. Please visit the [BU event webpage](#) to sign up!

Interview with Prof. Scully

Our Department Secretary, Peter, sat down with Professor Scully to discuss how he entered Classics and how the department has changed in the last thirty years.

When did you become interested in the Classics?

“When I was ten, I lived in Athens for a year in 1957. It was a time of great anti-American feeling. I was able to roam the city and I was fascinated by this totally new world and city life, new to me. I also did a lot of traveling in the Greek mountains with my parents. But this isn’t what got me interested in classics, but in some way it must have planted a seed for my interest in the ancient Greek world.”

How did you get your start in Classics?

“What got me into classics was, more than anything else, my fascination with cities. I went to college at NYU. Again I roamed the city, thinking in my vague way that I

wanted to be a city planner. But I kept on finding in my classes that Greek literature spoke more interestingly about cities than anything I was reading about city-planning. It was really my interest in what cities are, how we might imagine them that Greek literature inspired my thinking. My interest in Greek literature drove me to want to learn Greek, so I went up to Cornell one summer, worked on a farm, and paid my way to study Greek. It was a wonderful, wonderful summer. I bought large swaths of paper and pasted Greek paradigms on the walls; it was like living in a giant Greek cube.

"When a Senior, I didn't want to stop Greek, so I decided to apply to graduate school at UNC. They were so shocked by someone who was so ill prepared that they let me in! It was a difficult experience: I had studied Latin in junior high school but restarted it at UNC. After one semester, I was taking graduate courses in Latin. Needless to say, there was a lot of catch-up to do. I hardly noticed that I wasn't in NY, even though I missed it. I'm eternally grateful to UNC for giving me a chance, but I left to get my PhD at Brown to study with Charlie Segal. In those days you had to write a Master's Thesis and I wrote one against Bruno Snell on Decision-making Formulae in the *Iliad*. Then I went to Brown. There, it was a whole new level of experience. The instruction meant more for me now that I had built the groundwork [at Chapel Hill]. I wrote my dissertation on Cities in the *Iliad*, which after many changes I turned into a book."

Where did your academic career take you after Brown?

"My first post was a part-time, one semester job at Connecticut College, which I took over a few tenure-track offers. Was I ever lucky to survive that decision! After Connecticut, I took a one-year position at Dartmouth College. Then I got a Mellon at Johns Hopkins University, which is where I met William Arrowsmith (NYTimes obituary [here](#)). After two years at JHU, I came to BU."

Can you talk a little about Professor Arrowsmith (after whom our department library is named)?

"Arrowsmith was at Johns Hopkins at the time. He had a circuitous path after Texas, beginning and ending with BU. Many Texas faculty came to BU with [President] John Silber. In Classics, William Arrowsmith, Donald Carne-Ross, and Jim Wiseman were in that group. They also brought the journal *Arion* ([website](#)) from Texas. What a fantastic journal, at that time heralding in brilliant new voice in classics and a new era in classical studies. It was a novel opportunity for people to talk about Greek, Latin, classics, and the humanities.

"Arrowsmith was a warrior, leading a broadside assault against the professionalization of disciplines, which he felt led to less humanistic and more narrowly philological research. He tried to encourage these disciplines to explore the literary energy and dynamic force of texts that conventional philology didn't address. His passions took him to many different peoples and times, ranging from Euripides to Petronius to translation to Renaissance studies, including figures like George Chapman to modern literary figures like T.S Eliot and to film (Antonioni). He also had a great interest in the American Indians of the southwest.

"At JHU we were good friends. I wouldn't say that his work influenced me directly, but what an inspiration he was for somebody just out of graduate school! He stimulated me to find my way outside the conventional bounds of classical studies."

How did you get started at BU? How has the department changed?

"First, I was offered a Latin position here. I turned it down and came as a visiting Assistant Professor. That was in 1981. The next year I was lucky when they offered me a tenure track post in Greek. Jim Wiseman (now professor emeritus of Classics and Archaeology) was chair at the time. The faculty was a bit smaller then and there were certainly fewer Latinists. Things have improved on that front but we still have a ways to go. We also were just starting Modern Greek! The hire was Stephen Salamone from the University of Buffalo. We started in the same year.

"The graduate program is also bigger now, and there's more money for it. After my first year, Jim Wiseman asked me to teach a course on the classical tradition in the Renaissance. I really didn't know anything about any aspect of it-- the classical tradition in the Renaissance, but I immediately accepted. That's what I loved about being here. Classics, under Arrowsmith's vision, was committed to breaking boundaries of thought and discipline isolationism. The second semester, I taught the classical tradition in the 20th century about which I knew even less! The department just threw me into the deep end. I must say I was happy to be learning to kick and scream my way through these new waters. These were exhilarating times for me."

Where do you see the department heading next?

"This is an interesting time for the department. Ann Vasaly did a superb job of leading us through the APR (Academic Program Review). And we've come out of that at the other end healthier and stronger and also with a challenge to see how we want to present ourselves going forward. Ann has given us a great gift in helping us find where we've been over the last ten years and how we might grow and strengthen our sense of who we are. I look forward to building off things that we've learned from the APR. I'm sorry Ann won't be part of that."

What would you tell a major in the department whose parents are worried about their child's job prospects?

"There are many routes to classics, and the beauty of classics is that it speaks in wonderfully illuminating ways to the present in terms of what our values are and how we understand the human dynamic. And it is, with the language study, a tremendous discipline of the mind. All of these skills are of immense value in a wide array of disciplines whether in the academy or outside. They are wonderful foundations for adult living and adult life. It is a wonderful foundation for going into any walk of life because it gives you a perspective about who we are and where we are going that is hard to come by in many other disciplines. When one combines literary study with language study, it is an extremely attractive major for law school, and increasingly for med schools, who are looking for students with a humanistic as well as scientific background. If you are going into business or journalism, it gives you some of the great paradigmatic stories of life that will help you as you navigate your own way through adulthood. "

-Peter Michelli, dept. secretary

The following is the excerpt from the *Core Journal*

TORI SLATER

“Who needs to sleep?”

A profile of Professor Stephanie Nelson

It's the time of day when most CAS students are in class, and her animated shuffle brightens the quiet hallway. She enters the office, a stuffed backpack in tow over her shoulder, her head of tight ringlets visibly wet despite the chill of the 40 degree morning. She's a few minutes behind schedule and immediately sets out for the coffee station, greeting everyone in her path as she passes student staff in the reception area, administrators and faculty at their desks, students in bunches reading or talking. With a mug of black coffee in hand, she makes her way to the door marked “Stephanie Nelson, Director.”

Nelson, a professor in the Department of Classical Studies, has been working with the Core Curriculum for nearly twenty years. “I guess I would say I've probably been involved in each aspect individually up until now,” she tells me as we sit down and we begin our interview. “But, of course, I've never had to do the whole thing together.”

The Core is a liberal arts program housed in the College of Arts & Sciences which focuses on classic works of the humanities and social sciences, and important concepts and discoveries in the natural sciences. The program offers an integrated set of courses typically taken over a period of two years. Prof. Nelson tells me that a negative aspect of college education in general is the lack of connection between courses. Making these crucial connections across disciplines is a main focus of the Core.

Nelson talks passionately about further promoting these connections during her time as the head of Core. In her first and second year as director, she has been working indefatigably to implement innovative ideas to keep Core relevant for incoming students: integrating the Core's social science and natural science content into courses that blend the two domains of inquiry in each semester; an Honors program for Core students; Divisional Awards to acknowledge student achievement in each division of the Core; and new language to appear on official transcripts, so that students who have committed themselves to the sort of learning undertaken in Core seminars can enjoy recognition for that decision. Each of these changes has come about after long hours and tireless consensus building—the often unacknowledged labor of academic administrators!—but many other ideas are waiting for the attention and effort needed to bring them to fruition.

Even while bringing changes on board, Prof. Nelson is committed to maintaining the spirit of the program. Compared to her past duties in the Core—such as being in charge of the undergraduate science mentors, advising the Core House, or serving as a go-between linking the teaching in the Natural Sciences to the Humanities curriculum—trying to do all of it together keeps her *extremely* busy. (She refills her coffee cup; no

time to slow down!) I ask her how she does it, and she informs me that prioritization is key. She's learned the importance of adopting the attitude: "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

Continue reading [here](#)

BIO: Victoria Slater, a junior, comes to Boston from Murrieta, California. She is pursuing a degree in Modern Greek studies.



BUPh Enters Fourth Year

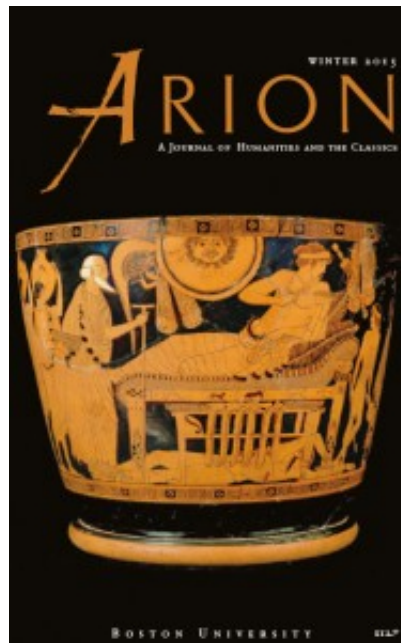
The Boston University Philhellenes (BUPh) completed its third year of existence by signing up 18 students to participate in the 2015 BUPh Summer Study in Athens. This year's group—the largest sent to Athens as part of the program—includes many students from BU's Core Curriculum as well as students from Classics, COM, and Engineering. Also, for the first time in 2015, the BUPh Summer Study includes students from outside BU: one student from the University of Wisconsin and one from the University of Alabama will join faculty sponsors and instructors Kelly Polychroniou (Modern Greek) and Jay Samons (Greek history) for the program, headquartered at the American College of Greece.

As in previous years, the students in this year's Summer Study will visit many sites around Greece during their visit. This year's itinerary includes Corinth, Nemea, Nauplion, Epidauros, Mycenae, Delphi, and Marathon, as well as the island Hydra and several islands in the Saronic Gulf. At Epidauros, the students will see a production of Euripides' *Trojan Woman*, performed in the best preserved classical theater in Greece. At Delphi they will visit the famous ruins of the temple of Apollo and at Marathon they will visit the site of the battle (in 490 B.C.) between the Persians and the Athenians. Follow our trip on our [Facebook](#) page.

This year's Summer Study has been made possible once again by grants from Philhellenes and good friends of the Boston University Classical Studies Department and Core Curriculum. The John and Sonia Lingos Family Foundation, HELPIS (created by BUPh Board Member Joyce Deliyiannis), the Alpha Omega Council, and the VII Capital Group (founded by BU Classics alumnus Peter Kyriakoulis) all provided generous funding for student scholarships. The NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor William Waters has continued the NEH's support for the program and the Boston University Hellenic Studies Fund has also provided very welcome support for the program...

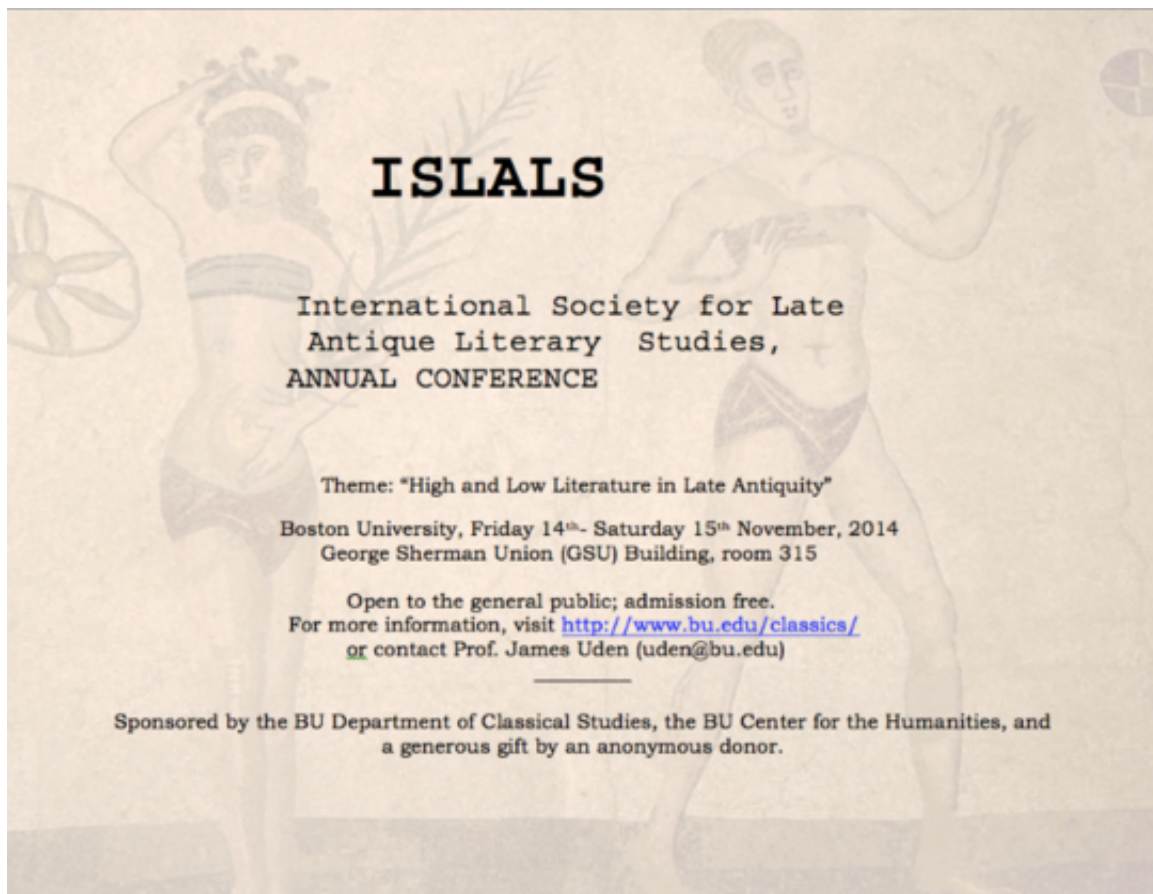
Read More about the BUPh [here](#).

-Professor L.J. Samons



Arion

Under Professor Golder's editorship the journal *Arion* continues to flourish—this year marking a quarter of a century—with the upcoming spring/summer issue promising to be rich and diverse in offerings, including an essay on the role of Roman slavery in the American imagination (which includes a discussion of *Django Unchained*): a meditation on Aeschylus and the paradigms he provides for contemporary politics: a piece on the Abolitionists' use of the classics, and another on the Nazi's misuse of them; even a stunning essay by the classic rocker Iggy Pop on Gibbons' *Decline and Fall*—and much else besides. Golder exhorts classics alums to subscribe (www.bu.edu/arion) and to consider contributing to help support the journal financially, if they are able (he has to make up a part of the budget each year through gifts and donations), and will throw in a poster of any cover they like (if they let him know, redlog@bu.edu). *Arion* is, as you already know, a journal that explores the links between classics and living culture, so it's a great way to keep classics in your life and to stay connected to BU.



ISLALS Conference

On November 14-15, 2014, the International Society for Late Antique Literary Studies (ISLALS) held its third annual conference at Boston University. The study of Latin and Greek literature from 'late antiquity', the period that stretches from the conversion of Constantine to the sixth century A.D., is an area of growth and excitement in Classics. This year's conference was notable for its many early-career scholars and energetic graduate student presenters, who invested the event with a real sense of innovation and intellectual energy. This conference brought together fourteen speakers from throughout the United States, Europe, and the UK, to share new research on the theme of 'High and Low in Late Antiquity'. The talks spanned a wide and varied range of subject areas, from biblical poetry, to magical curse tablets, to elaborate puzzle poetry. BU faculty and graduate students chaired sessions and participated enthusiastically in discussions, and it was a wonderful opportunity for all to be exposed to new work on a still understudied period of ancient literature and culture.



Graduate Conference

σώφρονος δ' ἀπιστίας / οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν χρησιμώτερον βροτοῖς

A sound sense of credulity— than this, there is nothing more beneficial for mankind.

Euripides' *Helen* 1617-1618

What are the essential components of love? How can one properly define friendship? When are love and friendship two names for the same thing? Millennia of human inquiry into such questions as those posed above have produced innumerable responses, some quite convincing, but few, if any, definitive. Therefore, in the spirit of Euripides' messenger (though his immediate concerns were somewhat different), participants of the seventh annual Boston University Classics Graduate Student Conference undertook a fresh examination of the concepts of Love and Friendship in Greek and Roman antiquity.

Eight graduate student panelists delivered brief papers on a variety of topics related to our conference themes. First, two of our panelists examined friendship and desire in a social and material context—Noreen Sit (Yale) considered the link between “Friendship and the *sportula*,” while Katie Deutsch (Harvard) analyzed “The Workings of Desire: Eros and Ancient Sculpture.” Turning to a more focused investigation of erotics and elegy in Roman epic, Yujhán Claros (Columbia) provided attendees with a close “Reading Familial Erotics in the *Aeneid*,” and Patrick J. Burns (Fordham) defended an intriguing analysis in his “From *Amicitia* to *Amor*: Lucan's Elegiac Turn.” Leah Berryhill (Brandeis) and Danilo Piana (Johns Hopkins) investigated the topic of normative gender roles and terminology, in “Vestal Virgins as Symbols of Rome through Their Gender Performance and Virginity” and “Homoerotic Elements in Chariton,” respectively. Our final panelists considered the topic of friendship and desire in Greek tragedy and lyric, with Abigail Akavia's (U. Chicago) analysis of metrical responsiveness in ““Speak, if you have come as friends’: Listening in the *Philoctetes*,” and Kathryn

Caliva's (Ohio State) close reading of select lyric fragments in "Letting Πόθος Go: Presence, Absence, and Desire in Sappho."

Read more about the conference [here](#).

-Amanda Jarvis, graduate student



Plautus' *Menaechmi*

For the second year in a row, the Department of Classical Studies and the Core Curriculum's annual "Aristophanes" production was actually... a Roman comedy! We performed Plautus' *Menaechmi*, a tale of twin brothers separated as children, who reconnect after a comically complicated series of misadventures due to mistaken identity. The play served as the model for Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*. In our version, the identical twins were played by UCA president Meghan Kelly and Professor Jeff Henderson, respectively. They wore matching bright blue wigs, togas, and labels

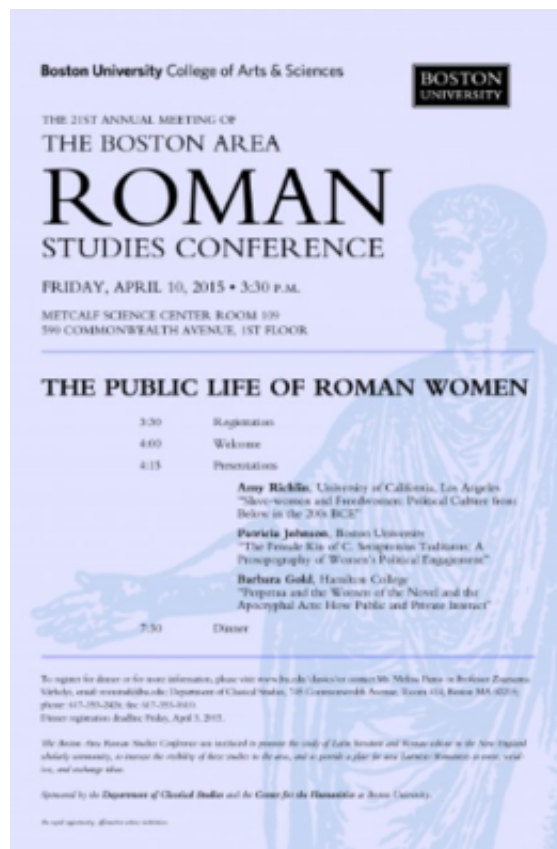
evoking Thing 1 and Thing 2 from Dr. Seuss' *The Cat In The Hat*.

The play was adapted by a terrific group of students from CL 102 (The World of Rome), who studied the conventions of Roman comedy, rewrote individual scenes, and met outside of class to workshop their drafts. They produced a thoughtful and hilarious script that updated archaic jokes, references, and plot points for a modern, BU audience.

Back by popular demand, Fish Worship performed a fantastic opening act. The band, featuring the department's own Professor Jay Samons and Professor James Uden, was joined this year by graduate students Colin Pang and Peter Blandino, who performed an original number, written by Colin, based on the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice.

As always, the cast comprised undergraduates, graduate students, and members of our distinguished faculty, clad in colorful comical costumes (Professor Sasha Nikolaev, who played "The Doctor," wore a fez, bowtie, and Tardis-patterned toga). The performance included a puppet show, Greek dancing, and phallic procession. The event thus carried on the grand tradition of Professor Stephanie Nelson's Aristophanes productions, bringing together members of the larger classics community for a memorable evening of music and merriment.

-Assistant Professor James Uden



Roman Studies Conference

This year's Boston Area Roman Studies Conference was held at BU on 10th April. This was the twentieth iteration of the annual event, and this year our theme, 'The Public Life of Roman Women', drew a large crowd. The three speakers explored various aspects of the position of women between public and private in the Roman world, across a historical time period of some four hundred years.

Amy Richlin (UCLA, 'Slave-Women and Freedwomen: Political Culture from Below in

the 200s BCE') demonstrated the ways in which the contemporary experience of warfare affected both the representation of women in Roman comedy, and the reception of those comedies by audiences. Patricia Johnson (BU, 'The Female Kin of C. Sempronius Tuditanus: A Prosopography of Women's Political Involvement') analyzed the various ways in which women from prominent Roman families in the late Republic exerted influence on the tumultuous political landscape of the Late Republic. Barbara Gold (Hamilton College, 'Perpetua and the Women of the Novel and the Apocryphal Acts: How Public and Private Interact') offered a broad analysis of the intersection between the ancient Greek novel and early Christian martyr texts, drawing parallels between the representation of gender difference in both literary forms. All three talks were exciting and original, and discussion afterwards was lively and far-ranging. We look forward to seeing all of you at our next Roman Studies Conference next year!

-Assistant Professor James Uden

Literary Interactions

The third conference in the international research project 'Literary Interactions under Nerva, Trajan, and Hadrian' was held at Boston University, organized by Assistant Professor James Uden and funded through the generous assistance of the Peter Paul Career Development Professorship. This research project is headed by Dr Alice König (University of St Andrews), in collaboration with Professor Roy Gibson (University of Manchester), Dr Chris Whitton (Cambridge), and our own Professor Uden. The theme this year was 'Interaction across Boundaries', and the goal was to explore new ways of understanding the contact between different cultural, religious, and linguistic groups in the cosmopolitan Roman Empire of the early second century A.D. There were fifteen speakers in all, who came from the UK, Europe, Canada, and throughout the US, and a number of graduate students, who chaired the panels and participated in some lively and exciting discussions.

Read a longer summary [here](#).

-Assistant Professor James Uden

Faculty Books 2015

Nelson, Stephanie. *Aristophanes' Tragic Muse: comedy, tragedy and the polis in classical Athens*.

Ruck, Carl. *Dionysus in Thrace: Ancient Entheogenic Themes in the Mythology and Archaeology of Northern Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey* (with Evie Marie Holmberg, Vasil Markov, Stavros Kiotsekoglou, and Mark Hoffman), (Berkeley, CA: Regent Press, 2015).

Ruck, Carl. *The Son Conceived in Drunkenness: Magical Plants in the World of the Greek Hero* (Boston. MA: Nemi/Pen and Anvil, 2015).

Ruck, Carl. *The Great Gods of Samothrace and the Cult of the Little People* (Berkeley, CA: Regent Press, 2015).

Samons, L.J. *Pericles and the Conquest of History* (Cambridge University Press).

Uden, James. *The Invisible Satirist: Juvenal and Second Century Rome* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Ann Vasaly. *Livy's Political Philosophy: Power and Personality in the First Pentad* (Cambridge 2015).

Keep in Touch!

Professor Scully invites all alumni to update their department profiles on [our webpage](#). The faculty love to hear from old advisees and students, no matter how long it has been!

If you prefer email, please contact the Department Secretary at classics@bu.edu

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