Hi Alumnae and Alumni!

In May we had the pleasure of celebrating the graduation of another stellar class of Classical Studies majors. The group was, as usual, marked by the many graduates from our department who had compiled an outstanding record at BU, and we already miss them. The Class of 2015 has much to live up to! You may read in the pages that follow about the interesting paths these new alumni have chosen. We have also received intriguing reports from older alumni whom we had not heard from in the past. If you have not yet let us know about your life after BU, please do so!

The coming academic year promises to be an especially busy one, as the department is scheduled to undergo a review of its academic program. I realize that the verb “undergo” sounds a bit ominous, but we actually look forward to the chance to sum up our strengths and weaknesses as we plan for the next decade. Helping us in this process will be a small panel of eminent classics faculty from other institutions, who will read our self-study, look at statistics, and speak with faculty and students. We are especially grateful to those alumni who have helped in this process by filling out a questionnaire about their experiences in the program.

This moment of assessment helps to underscore the twin themes that mark our history as a department: continuity and change. We always have been and continue to be deeply committed to the close study of ancient texts, and we remember with pride that the first female PhD in the country, Helen Magill (White), graduated from BU with a degree in Ancient Greek (in 1877!). The humanistic project of uncovering the past and contemplating its connections to and discontinuities from the present remains central to our mission. We look to a future, however, that will include ever-closer collaboration with other academic areas, such as Archaeology, History of Art and Architecture, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics, as we respond to the new academic opportunities that characterize our deeply cross-disciplinary field. In order to understand this broad integration of classics with a variety of intellectual pursuits, one has only to look at our current self-study, in which we have compiled a list of the extraordinary range of activities pursued by our students over the last ten years: from graduate programs in classics, law, medicine, business, art history, and history, to jobs in teaching, business, government, publishing, media, and the arts. I close this message with the hope that all of our alumni will continue to be part of our future, as they have been a part of our past.

Ann Vasaly
Chair, Department of Classical Studies
Professor Golder: Still working (now in the thick of a third, much expanded draft) on my memoir and study of the films I worked on with Werner Herzog over the years and the experiences I had making them, entitled Shooting on the Lam. A first installment, in the form of a brief excerpt, will appear this August as a chapter in the second edition of Herzog on Herzog, to be published by Faber and Faber in the UK. I will also be working this summer on producing an edition of the late William Arrowsmith’s collected essays, tentatively titled A Poetry of Criticism, which will comprise not only Arrowsmith’s essays on classics, but also Renaissance literature, modern Italian literature, T.S.Eliot, John Ruskin, and filmmakers such as Antonioni and Kurosawa, et. al. In my spare time, I will be finishing post-production on a small feature-length documentary film I made entitled Ballad of a Righteous Merchant.

I am delighted to report that BU students, past and present, have worked with and continue to work with me on all these projects. A current student in CAS/COM, Tyler Lay, has been working with me on the Herzog book and will continue to assist me throughout the summer; another student, Katie Rice, just won a summer UROP fellowship to help me with the Arrowsmith project; and a former classics student, now a graduate student in Theology, our own Dan Carman, will avail me of his invaluable talents as a film editor in producing my final cut of the movie.

Hard to think past the summer, with so much on my plate, but I am already starting to think and getting nervous about a lecture I will deliver at the MFA in December 2014 to inaugurate the opening of three new galleries dedicated to the arts of ancient Greece.
From Your Professors...Continued

Professor Sasha Nikolaev: Professor Nikolaev thoroughly enjoyed his first year at BU and is looking forward to the second one. One of the highlights this year for Hellenists was the discovery of new poems by Sappho, and Nikolaev remembers fondly reading these texts with his students in "Greek Lyric Poetry", just a couple days after they hit the Internet, and then discussing them in a special workshop with all colleagues at the department in February. In the Fall he will be teaching "The World of Greece" (CL 101) along with a new course "Origins of Writing" (CL 205): the plan is that Classics and Linguistics majors enrolled in this course will join their efforts and decipher Linear A (or something else). At the moment he is indulging in the guilty pleasure of Greek etymology, using the summer to put together a rather massive database and write up some ideas that have emerged from this project (the perk of doing etymology is that there is no need to spend time thinking of clever titles for papers: currently Nikolaev is working on "Etyma Graeca IV").

Professor Nelson: Not surprising my new position as Director of Core is proving pretty all-consuming, but I am trying to hold my own in Classics as much as possible -- not least by getting as many Classics professors as I can into Core! Steve Esposito is now leading the first semester of Core Humanities and Jay Samons is coordinating the second semester -- but still giving his famous Trireme Lecture in the fall. We have way too many things going on, including a plan for third year Core classes (I'd want to cross list my Classical Reception class on Joyce's Ulysses of course) and maybe even a Core Minor -- and all alumni should take note that next year is Core's 25th Anniversary, so we'll be having a blow-out celebration, complete with banquet, May 1-2, 2015. Save the Date! But even before that Core and Classics are joining in on a reception for Alumni Weekend, Saturday Sept. 20, from 4:00-6:00 in the Core Office, CAS 119 -- and I hope to see everyone there.

Professor Ruck- On December 9th of the previous year in the village of Elefsina, Greece, we launched the Gaia Project, proposed as the world international center for the study of environmental renewal, as a renegotiation of our contract with the planet that is the home of humankind. There is additional information available on my faculty page.

With a former student of our Department (Moira Luthin), we are preparing a study of the employment of psychoactive sacraments by the elite of Victorian England for spiritual quests. Our contributions will present similar evidence of such employment in America, focusing on Mabel Dodge Luhan of Taos, New Mexico, who married a Huichol shaman and introduced many artists and writers to the peyote sacrament, and on similar groups of the elite who vacationed on the North Shore of the Boston area, including the son of one of the founders of Boston University. Up-coming projects will investigate the rituals of Freemasonry, in collaboration with several Grand Masters willing to divulge the secrets known only to the most elite members of the lodges. These rituals are a perpetuation of traditions dating back to antiquity and prevalent in alchemy of the European medieval period and Renaissance.
Professor Samons is putting the final touches on his biography, *Pericles of Athens and the Conquest of History*, to be published by Cambridge University Press. He reports that he has never been so happy to be finished with a project. He continues to work on several smaller projects involving the composition of Thucydides’ and Herodotus’ histories as well as his biography of Kimon. Samons will be teaching Greek history and beginning Latin again this fall and Warfare in Antiquity (along with the Core Humanities in the spring). He will spend a good portion of the summer trying to determine how many trout live in the upper Delaware River, carrying out a pool-by-pool and fish-by-fish survey.

Professor Scully Summer is starting with fireworks: a week at Grambling State University, teaching Aeschylus at an NEH Summer Institute for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. A remarkable cadre of faculty with such wide-ranging passions and skills midst such ordeals, impressive people. Off to Villa Virgiliana for a conference on translating Virgil. I’ll be talking about Homer, of course. Then my youngest daughter is getting married. All this by July 5. Then summer...

Professor Várhelyi writes: “I’m going to spend two weeks in Turkey this summer, visiting sites of important Greek and Roman cities brimming with activity, places of religious worship, and ongoing archaeological excavations. I hope to face up to the diversity of ancient religious life, where pagans, Jews and Christians were trying to live and die with the help of rituals. I will be traveling with a group of scholars and I expect lots of exciting debates at dinner!

Professor Vasaly - Summer brings a return to research and writing after a long and busy school year. I am making final revisions to my Livy book, after which it will go off to Cambridge University Press, which promises a publication date of May 2015. Directed study projects with several graduate students this year have gotten me interested in Cicero again, but this time I’m looking at the philosophical works rather than the speeches. Cicero’s end-of-life meditations on the ills of the Roman republic seem to me to be of real value to those interested in politics, both in the past and the present. Hope to see many of our recent graduates and alumni at the Alumni Reception (held in collaboration with Core) from 4-6 pm in the Core Office on September 20!

Professor Uden: “I had a busy but exciting semester in the Spring, teaching World of Rome again to a packed house of 80 students, and teaching in the Core Curriculum for the first time. Aristotle, Lao-Tsu, Confucius, Bhagavad-Gita, Vergil, the Gospels, Dante - the Core was a thrilling tour at breakneck speed through East and West, and I had some wonderful students taking the trip with me. This summer I’ll be presenting a paper at a conference in Germany, the second in a series of annual events in the research group ‘Literary Interactions under Nerva, Trajan and Hadrian’. Then I’ll be joining the BU Philhellenes in Athens, which should be a wonderful adventure. I wish everyone a happy and productive summer!”

Profs Vasaly and Nelson appear in the Plautus play as ghosts of Aristophanes past and present.
From current Graduate Students...

Emily Austin, a Ph.D. Candidate, is working on her dissertation, “Grief as Pothos: Understanding the Anger of Achilles.” In this dissertation, she explores the language of longing in the *Iliad*, which the poet uniquely applies to the grief of Achilles, and argues that this linguistic link between grief and longing helps us understand the insatiate quality of Achilles’ anger and the narrative arc of the poem.

Laurie Hutcheson defended her dissertation prospectus on quoted speech in the *Iliad* this May. This summer, she's heading to Rome to explore texts and ruins with a group of high school Latin students through the Paideia Institute.

Bethie Baxter writes, “This summer I am finishing my special topic on Ovid’s letters from exile. I also look forward to teaching intermediate Latin poetry in summer II.”

Dustin Dixon says, “I have two main projects for the summer. I will be working on my dissertation, *Myth-making in Greek Comedy*, and preparing to teach a freshman writing seminar on Greek tragedy and horror films.”

James Ferguson says “I just recently completed my special topic on rhetorical theory and so this summer I plan on getting started on my prospectus. The topic is Tertullian’s *De Spectaculis* and the problem of how the Christian community should and should not participate in popular (pagan) culture in the city of Carthage.”

Julie Levy says, “Following my first year at Boston University, I will be spending the summer working on academic papers. My primary goals for now are to hone my existing articles and to explore my interest in the new Sappho poems published this year. I will also be teaching for the Princeton Review.”

Colin Pang is celebrating the completion of his qualifying exams (...less French) and coursework. After a year of Roman-centric seminars and teaching fellowships, as well as a special topic on Cicero's political treatises, he is pleased to be teaching a Latin course on Cicero’s *Catilinarians* and Sallust’s *Bellum Catilinae* (CAS CL 211) for the BU Summer School, while researching for his dissertation prospectus. This year he published translations of Greek and Latin poetry (Stesichorus, Catullus, Vergil) and won the Humanities Award at Scholars Day, a colloquium of Graduate research at Boston University, for his paper, *Notions of Masculinity in Catullus and Eminem*.

Amanda Jarvis is spending the summer in Italy, where she will be studying for her History of Latin Literature examination, and editing papers on Euripides’ *Helen* and Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. Amanda will also be working on her Italian, though she makes no promises about the result.

Daniel Libatique dances, as other members of the chorus look on at Aristophanes 2014.
Event Recap

Graduate Student Conference

The 2014 Graduate Conference, entitled “Death and Mortality in the Ancient World”, raised many interesting questions about Greek and Roman attitudes towards death, which in turn generated some insightful conclusions regarding cultural values, beliefs, fears and aspirations. Our graduate panelists drew on literary evidence, ranging from Greek historiography to Latin poetry and oratory. Each contributor added a unique and important voice to the discussion, while two panelists gave stand-out papers. Richard Hutchins of Princeton University explored the description of violent death in two passages of Lucretius, and his sensitivity to language and poetics unearthed heretofore unrecognized theological implications of the verses. Reina Callier of the University of Colorado at Boulder discussed Ovid’s subversive treatment of the Romulus and Remus myth in the Fasti, which, as Callier argued, veils a critique of the arbitrary nature of power under the Augustan principate. Our guest speaker, Dr. Maria Liston, untraditionally offered what she aptly described as a “counterpoint” rather than keynote address. A skeletal anthropologist with a background in classics, Liston analyzed the remains of over 500 infant deaths excavated from a single well in the Athenian Agora. Her close analysis of the remains recreated with incredible precision and chilling vividness the larger contexts of these deaths, thus illuminating the social, medical and religious realities behind them. Her presentation showed how antiquity’s most engaging stories derive not from literature alone, but from physical remains as well. The conference’s organizers, Colin Pang, David West and Peter Blandino, extend our most sincere thanks to the panelists and Dr. Liston for their contributions; further thanks go out to Melissa Joseph, Peter Michelli, Jesse Lopes, Daniel Libatique and Amanda Jarvis for their much needed assistance.

-Peter Blandino and Colin Pang
Event Recap, cont...

Plautus’s *Mostellaria*  
(*The Haunted House*)

For the first time in the hallowed history of the event, the Department of Classical Studies and the Core Curriculum’s annual “Aristophanes” play was a Roman comedy: Plautus’ *Mostellaria (The Haunted House).* It featured clever slaves, foolish young men, and prostitutes with complicated back-stories, getting mixed up in hair-brained schemes involving love, lust, living large and, yes, ghosts!

Particularly exciting was the fact that this year’s play was produced in conjunction with the Roman Comedy course (CL 229). The talented students in this class were each assigned a section of the script and asked to transpose the original plot and characters, update arcane jokes and idioms, and recreate some of the “verbal fireworks” of Plautus’ Latin for a modern, English-speaking audience, taking into account the cultural, practical, and theoretical concepts and contexts they had been studying all semester. By workshopping the individual scenes in class and seeing them performed at the event itself, the students were able to explore and experiment with the material in a dynamic, hands-on, and collaborative way.

There were two opening acts this year: graduating senior Peter Kotiuga performed an Archilochus Ode on the guitar and the blues band Fish Worship, featuring the department’s own Professor Jay Samons and Professor James Uden, performed a set which included an original song written for the occasion by Professor Brian Jorgensen of Core. As always, the play itself was performed by undergraduates, graduate students, and members of our distinguished faculty, clad in togas, tutus, beanies, bowties, and a variety of other colorful costumes. 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, pizza, and comedy.

-Sophie Klein
The department held our annual Boston Area Roman Studies Conference on April 25, 2014, in the School of Law’s Barristers Hall. Three excellent talks were delivered by Keith Bradley of the University of Notre Dame (“Learning Virtue: Aeneas, Ascanius, and Augustus”), James Uden of Boston University (“Childhood Education in Imperial Rome: Plutarch, Quintilian, Juvenal”), and Lauren Caldwell of Wesleyan University (“Becoming Cloelia: The Education of Roman Girls”) each dealing with some aspect of the conference theme, childhood and education in ancient Rome. Approximately 50 scholars, students, alumni, and friends attended the conference. The talks and the dinner that followed provided a great opportunity for those interested in Roman studies to meet and exchange ideas on current work, to hear illuminating papers on literary and historical topics, and to learn more about the activities and faculty of our department. Over the years, this event has become a premier occasion for Latinists and Romanists from the Boston and New England area to meet and socialize, and we hope that our alumni will take this opportunity in the future to return and renew their connections to the department!
From Your NEW Alumni...

Kaitlyn Barnett (B.A. in Classical Civilization; minor in Sociology, 2013): Since graduating early in December, I have been working full time at the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office in downtown Boston, as a legal mediator in the Public Inquiry and Assistance Center. I also took the LSAT in October and applied to law school, and I will be attending William and Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, VA this coming fall.

Alan Blanco (B.A. in Classical Civilization and English; minor in Philosophy, 2014): I will be attending Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. My life goal is to work for the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office upon passing the California Bar. I will also visit El Salvador with my father this summer for the World Cup.

Alice Crowe (B.A. in Classical Civilization and Archaeology, 2014): In the summer, I will be working on the Gygaia Archaeological Project in western Turkey. In the fall, I will be attending the University of Cincinnati Classics PhD program where I will be concentrating in Bronze Age archaeology.

Jacqueline Depew (B.A. Classical Civilization, Biology with specialization in Behavioral Biology): Since I graduate in January 2015, I am taking classes in the summer and the fall. After, I still have more pre-veterinary classes to take. Also, I am going to continue working at UCA Brookline until I apply to veterinary school.

Dylan Drolette (B.A. in Classical Civilization; minor in History, 2014): Dylan will be applying to a graduate program for next year. He intends to work towards a dual Masters degree in Library Science and History.

Michael Howard (B.A. Ancient Greek and Latin, 2014): I will be attending a Master’s in Teaching program for Latin and Classical Humanities at Tufts University.

Peter Kotiuga (B.A in Classical Civilization and History, 2014): For the summer, I’ll return to Minute Man National Historical Park to work as an Interpretation Ranger and otherwise play music and read books. Come fall I will attend University of Pennsylvania’s Post-Baccalaureate program in classics and then apply to/attend graduate school to work towards a PhD in Ancient Greek History (and culture).

Ariana Pappas (B.A in Classical Civilization; minor in Advertising): I’m not 100% sue yet, though I am planning on working in Advertising, hopefully in a position that will indulge my love for the Ancients as I strive to think up the new and exciting!

Sarah Weiskittel (B.A in Ancient Greek and Latin; minor in Economics; Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa): Starting in July, I will be working as a consultant at the Strategic Offsites Group firm in Boston.

Congratulations to the rest of the 2014 graduating class:

Chelsea Miller (B.A. in Classical Civilization, 2014)

Kelsey Phillips (B.A. in Classics and Religion, Anthropology; Magne Cum Laude).

Sydney Shea (B.A. in Ancient Greek and Latin with Honors).

George Silvis, III (B.A. in Ancient Greek, B.A. M.A. Mathematics; Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa).


Andrew Vannostrand (B.A. in Classics and Religion).

William Zahara (B.A in Latin, Political Science; Magne Cum Laude).
Dora Avellino-Chan (BA, 1989)
Basically, I have been a working Latin teacher for the past 23 years. After graduating from BU I went directly across the Charles to HGSE to attend their MAT program (which did not exist at BU then). After graduating from there, I started teaching a pilot Latin program in a Boston public middle school. Marriage and the start of a family had me moving to the suburbs, so I left Boston and worked in Franklin, MA, again teaching middle school Latin for 2 years. I then moved on to my current position teaching Latin in Medway high school (which is in the town I currently live in, about 40 min. outside of Boston). It is just a 2 year program and I am the only Latin teacher (part-time), but the students are very motivated, I can take them pretty far and deep, and Medway is a great school system. Teaching in the town I live has been a joy. I have taught my daughter her 2 years of Latin, and my son cannot wait to take Latin with his mom! I just have to say, that I have never been in need of a job. Over the years it seems as if I have been offered many positions but had to refuse because I already had one! I do thank BU for so much of my success!

Tom Bruno (B.A., Ancient Greek and Latin 1998) is the Associate Director for Resource Sharing and Reserves at the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University. He is married to fellow BU Classics student Maria Zervos, who is a reference librarian at the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library in Monroe, CT. Together Tom and Maria have two children—Andriana, who turns 11 this April, and Mario, who was born in September of 2013. Andriana is already enrolled in Greek school, but her father can’t wait to start teaching her Latin as well! I was associate editor of the Journal of the American Oriental Society (1984-88) and founding editor of two major series, Studies on the Civilization and Culture of Nuzi and the Hurrians (SCCNH. 1981-2012) and Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology (CUSAS, 2007-current). Upon retirement my wife and I moved back to Boston where we live within walking distance of BU.

Arcangelo Cella (BA/MA 2011): I have finished my time at BU by wrapping up my three years at BU School of Law. I’m truly sad to be leaving my home of seven years, but I’ll always look back on my time with the Classics Department as one of the best experiences here!

Gabrielle Corrado graduated in 2012 with a BA in Classical Civilizations. Her love of language didn’t end when she left BU, however—she currently works as an editor on the Culinary & Hospitality team at Wiley Publishing. She returns to Boston two or three times a year and fondly remembers her time in her Classics courses.

Caroline Downing (BA, 1976):
“I received my Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology from Indiana University in 1987, where my research focused on late Roman wall paintings from Stobi (the archaeological project directed by Professor Emeritus James Wiseman). I worked for one year as Associate Editor of the American Journal of Archaeology, housed at Boston University, under the editorship of Fred Kleiner, Professor of Roman Art. Since 1990 I have been teaching Greek and Roman Art History (and ancient Greek) at the State University of New York, Potsdam, where I am currently serving as chair of the Art Department. In 2005 I was named SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Art.”
Jennifer (Roseman) Kelly, (B.A. 2004): “After graduating from Boston University, I went on to study law at St. John's University in Queens, New York. I now work as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office in New York City, prosecuting child abuse cases and sex crimes cases. My Latin major continues to be a topic of interest at dinner parties, and my perfect pronunciation of the Latin phrases that pervade legalese continues to win me favor with judges.”

Kat Monahan (Ancient Greek & Latin, Modern Greek minor 2011) and Glenn Egan (Ancient Greek & Latin, 2009) were married in September of 2013 in Waltham, MA. Also in attendance were fellow Classics House residents Jesse Obert (Classical Civ & Archaeology 2011) & Rebecca Sgouros (Archaeology 2011). Kat is now the Vendor Relations Coordinator for Boston University Accounts Payable and is planning to pursue an MBA at the Graduate School of Management in the Fall of 2014. Glenn is a third year apprentice with the New England Carpenters’ Union.

Scott Monty (B.A. 1992): I remember my time there in the early 90s quite well. But who would have imagined that a Classics degree would have landed me a gig as the global head of social media for a Fortune 10 brand?

In the many keynotes that I’m fortunate enough to give, I try to bring some of the old masters into the conversation to keep people focused on human nature rather than changing technology, and I cite my classical education as one that taught me about human nature through the study of literature, history, drama, architecture, civics and more. Here’s a sample of how I’ve worked Cicero and Cleobulus into some of my writing:

http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/jan/13/when-less-is-more-can-marketers-learn-digital-restraint

David I. Owen (B.A. 1962): “When I graduated BU (1962) I was one of only five graduates in the Classics Department where I majored in Classical Civilization. My teachers were primarily Profs. Malcolm Agnew and Emily Vermeule. I went on to Brandeis University for my MA (1963) and Ph.D. (1969) switching fields into Mediterranean Studies. I spent two years as a Fulbright Scholar at Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey (1966-68), an NEH Fellow at the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem (1988-89), and ca. 25 years excavating in Turkey (Yassi Ada, Gordian), Greece (Porto Cheli), Italy (Porticello), Cyprus (Kyrenia) and Israel (Tel Aphek, Geshur Project, Tel Hadar). In 1969 I became an assistant curator of underwater archaeology and Research Associate in the Babylonian Section, at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. I was appointed assistant professor in Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University (1974) where I taught ancient Near Eastern languages, literature, history and archaeology for forty years, retiring as the Bernard and Jane Schapiro Professor of Ancient Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Emeritus in 2014. I published extensively on the social and economic history of Syro-Mesopotamia and especially on the Third Dynasty of Ur for which I made available many thousands of new cuneiform sources.

Cynthia Swanson (B.A. in Ancient Greek and Latin, Classical Civilization, English, 2006): “After graduation, I earned a MA in Classics from Brown University and have taught high school for the five years. Although my degrees granted me the happy misfortune of being qualified to teach Latin, English and Ancient History (and I have taught all of those!), I have finally settled as a full-time Latin teacher at Frederica Academy in Saint Simons Island, Georgia. I am lucky to share my passion for Classics with students, just as my BU professors did with me. This summer I will present at the ACL Institute about using Google Docs in Latin class, so if you’re attending, stop by!”
Upcoming events and notices...

APA Offers New Membership Option

Want to keep up with classics? The American Philological Association, the principal professional organization for classical studies in North America, has created an inexpensive new membership category for friends of the classics. For annual dues of $35, Friends can share in APA activities and services and enjoy other benefits as well. Classics majors are eligible for one year free within the first two years after graduation. Further information and the membership application is available at http://www.apaclassics.org/sites/default/files/ckfinderfiles/FriendsMembershipApril2014.pdf

Mark your calendar

for Alumni Weekend Reception, held in collaboration with Core, from 4-6pm in the Core Office on September 20th!

Please check our website in September for more information!

STAY IN TOUCH!

Let us know of any interesting updates.

E-mail: Peter Michelli at pmichell@bu.edu