

CNES

Fall 2007
Volume 7

cnes@umn.edu

George Sheets
on
Law and Games

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CNES

Classical and Near Eastern Studies

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ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

CNES is an interdisciplinary department that brings together faculty and students who might in other settings be dispersed among programs in Classics, Art History, Archaeology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Biblical Studies, Jewish Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, and Linguistics.

The mission of the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies is to produce and disseminate knowledge about the civilizations of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East from the neolithic period through late antiquity. Department faculty conduct research and teach courses in the languages and literatures of Greece, Rome, and the Near East (including Modern Hebrew); and the archaeology, art, history, and religious traditions of these civilizations, including the development of early Judaism and Christianity.

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The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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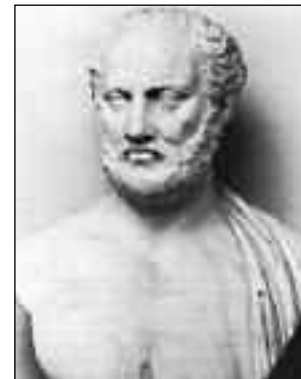
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by George Sheets

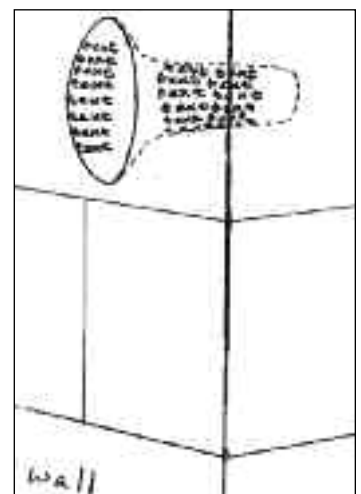


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Chair's Report

by George Sheets, Chair, CNES

Welcome to the 2007 edition of the CNES Newsletter! We have much news to report from our first full year in Nicholson Hall: new faculty, recent honors, and new CLA initiatives.

Last fall and winter we conducted national searches for three assistant professors and were delighted to secure our first choices for all three positions. Spencer Cole (PhD Columbia University) comes to us from Princeton, where he was a lecturer in the Classics Department last year. Spencer is doing exciting work with Cicero's vast corpus, especially the philosophical writings and their crucial role in helping to shape the ideological framework of Roman Emperor cult. Alex Jassen (PhD New York University) was with us as a Visiting Assistant Professor this past year and will now assume a tenure track position. Alex specializes in Second Temple literature, particularly the Qumran Scrolls, and the highly contested issues of legal and prophetic authority in pre-normative Judaism. Jeffery Stackert, a specialist in Pentateuchal Theory, was also with us last year and will remain for one more year, after which he will join the faculty of the University of Chicago Divinity School.

I am delighted to report that Eva von Dassow sailed through the ever more daunting tenure process and has been promoted to Associate Professor. Eva won both a CLA sabbatical supplement and a Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship from the ACLS. The combination of the two will enable her to work full-time on her next book project for two years out of the next three. Oliver Nicholson received a Loeb Foundation research fellowship, supplemented by a CLA fellowship and University semester leave, which will afford him a total of three uninterrupted semesters to work on the *Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*, of which he is the General Editor. Bernie Levinson has been awarded a highly prestigious residency fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, where he will spend next year completing a book on the codification of scriptural expressions of revelation. Doug Olson's phenomenal productivity continues with the appearance of two volumes of the Loeb Athenaeus and an Oxford edition with commentary of comic fragments. Additional faculty news is collected elsewhere in this newsletter.

Last year the College and University developed a large-scale "strategic plan" that is likely to have a profound effect on what we do in CNES. Among the strategic priorities adopted by the College was an area of knowledge denominated "Language, Culture, and Texts." CNES is posed to play a major role in two of the initiatives embraced by this priority, Religious Studies and Mediterranean Studies. Another development that increasingly affects our work in CNES is a trend of ever greater reliance upon tuition dollars as the principal source of funding operating budgets. At the department level this has necessitated more sensitivity to issues of curricular "efficiency." Like all departments, CNES is being held to rigid enrollment thresholds in order to carry a course, with the consequence that we offer fewer courses than we once did. This change has not necessarily been bad, however, since it has made us think more systematically and purposefully about the structure of our curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It has also caused us to think more carefully about our various audiences and how best to serve each of them. Most of the credit for the numerous improvements we have made



—photo by Kelly Macwilliams

and are making in our curriculum is owed to our Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Philip Sellew, and our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Chris Nappa. Sundet Professor Calvin Roetzel also deserves great credit for having shepherded and helped to shape planning among the numerous stake-holders in the College's Religious Studies initiative.

In calling attention to the conspicuous achievements of CNES members, I should not omit to mention the extraordinary dedication and hard work of our fine office staff: Barbara Lehnhoff, Victoria Keller, Adam Mielke, and our student worker, Kate Gallagher. In recognition of the excellence of this team and of the complexity of the many tasks that they handle so deftly, I am pleased to report that Barb has been promoted by the University to the position of Associate Administrator. I also want to thank the three Editors of this newsletter, our most ambitious to date. They are Betty Belfiore, Jim Hamm, and Barb Lehnhoff. Thanks for a superb job!

This Fall marks the beginning of my thirtieth year of employment at the University. It is also, over the course of two stints, my twelfth year as Chair of Classical and Near Eastern Studies. How strange the feeling to realize that one has been here longer than any other non-retired member of the department! To me it doesn't seem so long ago that I gave my "job talk" to the then Department of Classics. The title and topic were rather arcane: "The First Compensatory Lengthening in Greek." I had thought that a technical talk was appropriate because I was being considered to fill the line formerly held by Professor Donald Swanson, a specialist in historical linguistics. I soon realized, however, that the talk was not quite right for the audience. When it was over I vividly recall the first question. It came from Cindy Jorgenson in the front row: "Can you explain the relevance of ... um ... everything you just said?" Remarkably I was not thrown by the question, not least because of Cindy's obviously amicable and genuinely interested tone. But I do remember looks of embarrassed and awkwardly suppressed mirth rippling across the faces of Professors MacDonald, Sonkowsky, and Hershbell (among others). I immediately suspected that the success of my candidacy for the position would turn entirely on how I answered that one question, which I must have done alright. Many other fond memories have come to me as I read through this edition of our annual Newsletter, especially the section of news from a number of our distinguished PhD alumni. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I have.

Faculty and Adjunct News

Betty Belfiore

This past year, phased retirement has given me time to complete work on a book manuscript on Socrates in Plato's dialogues on love and friendship. I expect to submit it to a press by the end of the summer. Three chapters, on Plato and Aristotle, are in press in collections. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to travel, spending time in California and visiting my granddaughter. This coming fall I am looking forward to starting new research projects, teaching a seminar on Aeschylus's *Oresteia* and helping Barb with the newsletter.

Andrea Berlin

I had an eventful year. In May 2006, after a five-year hiatus, we returned to our excavations at Tel Kedesh in northern Israel. We uncovered nine more rooms of the large administrative building found in 1999, recovered hundreds of ceramic vessels and metal, bone, and clay artifacts, and identified levels dating to the Persian, Ptolemaic, and Seleucid imperial regimes. The short war between the Israelis and Hezbollah broke out in our last week of excavation, but we managed to complete all of our cleaning, photography, and final inventorying before departing for Jerusalem. While on excavation I received and corrected final proofs for *The Excavations at Gamla. Vol. I. The Pottery of the Second Temple Period*, which the Israel Antiquities Authority published in December. I also have an article in the May/June 2007 *Biblical Archaeology Review*, co-authored with Geoffrey Waywell: "Monumental Tombs: From Maussolos to the Maccabees."

Tom Clayton

I have an essay on "Meter and Meaning" in Shakespeare heading for a *Festschrift* for scholar and distinguished professor of English Stanley Stewart of UCA Riverside and I have just finished a long essay for a collection of essays on *King Lear* to be published by Routledge. It's called "The Injuries that They Themselves Procure: Justice Poetic and Pragmatic, and Aspects of the Endplay, in *King Lear*." This fall, I am teaching *Classics of Literary Criticism* and *Introduction to Shakespeare*. I am resting on my laurels (such as they are) as Immediate Past President of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics after a year's Herculean Labors as President. One of the topics of the essay on "Poetic Justice" in *Lear* is the 'Western' dimension involving the showdown between Edgar and Edmund, and I invoke the *Iliad* as the first Western, giving a skeletal outline of the major events and some attention to the profoundly moving scene between Achilles and Priam, who has come to Achilles to ask for Hector's body. Also, I continue chairing the University of Minnesota Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

Spencer Cole

I finished my PhD last spring at Columbia and spent this past year teaching in the Classics department at Princeton. My dissertation "Immortal Designs: Cicero and the Rise of Deification at Rome" explores how Cicero's experiments with the divinization of humans helped set the stage for ruler-worship at Rome. In addition to studying Cicero's cultural projects, I've worked on Seneca, Horace, and Euripides. I'm delighted to be joining a department so strong in religious studies with its interdisciplinary ambitions built right into its infrastructure. I've spent the summer severing all emotional ties with the New York Yankees and look forward to rooting for the Twins in any Twins/Yankees postseason series.

Alexander Jassen

This has been a very busy year for me both professionally and personally. In the spring I became a permanent member of CNES and my wife and I became proud new parents of a baby girl (Lila

Sophia Jassen). Over the summer, my book *Mediating the Divine: Prophecy and Revelation in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Second Temple Judaism* (E.J. Brill) was released. In addition, I had articles published in *Revue de Qumran* and the inaugural issue of *Religion Compass*. During the summer, I served as visiting professor in the Comparative Religion program at the University of Washington, where I taught a course on Jewish mysticism.

Nita Krevans

I have been focusing on Hellenistic poetry this past year, led part of a workshop on Hellenistic Poetry and Philosophy at the University of Michigan in September, and published two essays (one on pastoral, one on epigram) with Brill. In 07-08, I hope to do more work on Latin poetry, inspired in part by a very rewarding class on Propertius I taught last fall.

Bernard M. Levinson

This past year was a very intense year for the entire department. I was proud to chair two searches that resulted in two excellent appointments: Alex Jassen in Early Judaism and Jeff Stackert in Hebrew Bible. I have also been very busy with research, preparing a volume of extensively revised and updated essays to appear this fall: "*The Right Chorale: Studies in Biblical Law and Interpretation*" (Tübingen: Mohr-Siebeck). In addition, I have worked hard on a co-edited volume that will also appear this fall: "*The Pentateuch as Torah: New Models for Understanding Its Promulgation and Acceptance*" (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns Academic Publishing). Three of my articles appeared in print over the past year: "The 'Effected Object' in Contractual Legal Language: The Semantics of 'If You Purchase a Hebrew Slave'" (Exod. xxi 2), *Vetus Testamentum* 56:4 (2006) 485-504; and, in a volume that I co-edited, "Deuteronomy's Conception of Law as an 'Ideal Type': A Missing Chapter in the History of Constitutional Law, in Judge and Society in Antiquity" (ed. Bernard M. Levinson and Aaron Skaist; special double issue of *Maarav*), 83-119; and "The Manumission of Hermeneutics: The Slave Laws of the Pentateuch as a Challenge to Contemporary Pentateuchal Theory", in *Congress Volume Leiden 2004* (ed. André Lemaire; Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2006), 281-324.

Christopher Nappa

Last year I continued to work on my book on Juvenal, and this summer I've been lucky to have Heather Woods work with me on the project thanks to the graduate school's GRPP program. I'm finally starting to see light at the end of the tunnel on this project. In March I gave a lecture on Catullus at the University of Utah—I also got to teach a course on Catullus for the first time in eight years.

Oliver Nicholson

I am editing the *Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*. Thanks to the generosity of the Loeb Library Foundation and the College of Liberal Arts, I will be on leave all through 2008, working on the headword list for O.D.L.A., the first comprehensive single volume reference book on the half-millennium between the Romans and the Middle Ages. And, I have not forgotten Lactantius or the persecution of Christians. I spent Spring Break lecturing on Persecution at the Pontifical University at Maynooth in Ireland and in August spoke on "What makes a voluntary martyr?" at the Oxford Patristics Conference. Latin College in the Schools remains in the capable hands of Steve Smith.

Sandra Peterson

I have an essay, Plato's "Parmenides", in press. It is to appear in the *Oxford Handbook on Plato* (Oxford University Press 2008) edited by Gail Fine. I presented a lecture, "Socrates in the Digression of Plato's 'Theaetetus'", at the John M. Dolan Memorial Conference held at the University of Minnesota in October 2006. (The essay is now on my website, and will eventually appear in a memorial volume for John Dolan.) I continue to work on a book on Socrates in the dialogues of Plato.

Calvin Roetzel

In the past year a long overdue 2 *Corinthians, A Commentary*

appeared (Abingdon), and I was honored to co-edit a *Festschrift* for an esteemed colleague - *Paul and Divine Impartiality, In Honor of Jouette Bassler* (Sheffield Academic Press). My "A Rhetoric of Violence: Mere Metaphor of Virtual Reality? 2 Cor. 10:1-6 and 11:1-15" appeared in the volume. I was especially pleased to be an invited lecturer on Paul and religious violence at the "International Conference on Religion and Culture" at Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, and finally the upcoming Conference, "Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions", Oct. 6-8, UM St. Paul has been all consuming.

Philip Sellew

This year I devoted considerable time to the revisions to our graduate programs outlined in my DGS report in the last Newsletter. These reforms seem to be having the desired effect of propelling students through their degree programs more rapidly while also focusing their training more usefully and efficiently. In May I attended a fascinating conference at Harvard on late-antique Thessaloniki and especially its emergent Christian identity. It was good to see old friends and colleagues as well as make new contacts with historians and archaeologists working in Greece. Current writing projects still involve the *Gospel of Thomas*, as well as some intriguing linguistic and rhetorical puzzles in the newly published Coptic *Gospel of Judas*.

Ed Schiappa

Edward Schiappa is Professor & Chair of the Communication Studies Department and holds the Frenzel Chair of Liberal Arts. His work in classical Greek rhetorical theory has been published in various journals in English, Classics, Philosophy, and Communication. His books include *Protagoras & Logos: A Study in Greek Philosophy & Rhetoric*, *Landmark Essays in Greek Rhetoric*, and *The Beginnings of Rhetorical Theory in Classical Greece*. He has recently completed a co-authored book titled *The Disciplining of Discourse: The Emergence of Terms of Art in Rhetorical Theory in Classical Greece*. His most recent classical publication, co-authored with Jim Hamm, is the introduction to the *Blackwell Companion to Greek Rhetoric*.

George Sheets

Two pieces were published this past year: a study of Roman statutory language and a fairly wide-ranging essay on elements of style in Catullus. After years of teaching comparative grammar without an adequate and up-to-date textbook, I have commenced writing a book that I hope will fill that need. It is tentatively called *Historical-Comparative Grammar of Greek and Latin*.

Jeffrey Stackert

This past year was a very exciting and productive one for me. In addition to teaching two new courses, I completed my book, *Rewriting the Torah: Literary Revision in Deuteronomy and the Holiness Legislation* (Mohr Siebeck), and am pleased to announce its appearance (August 2007). I also completed two short articles on adoption and asylum in the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (deGruyter). I presented papers at conferences in Washington, DC, St. Paul, MN, and Vienna, Austria, and gave invited lectures at Yale University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Chicago. Best of all, in February, my wife, Richelle, and I became the proud parents of a baby boy, George Jeffrey, who has become a constant source of joy.

Eva von Dassow

This past year, while shepherding my book, *State and Society in the Late Bronze Age*, through the editing and proofreading process, I've been occupied with a variety of smaller tasks, from a teacher's workshop in Orlando, Florida to the publication of the cuneiform cone found in a shoebox (together with its newfound mate in Berlin; see feature on pg. 13). During the coming year I'm on leave, for the first time ever, thus free to do research – about freedom in the ancient Near East. I'm beginning a new research project with the goal of ascertaining what concepts of personal, social, and political rights and freedom were operative in ancient Near Eastern societies, based on their articulation in legal, epistolary, and literary texts. For this purpose I have to learn a couple more dead languages, so I'm off to Germany to study.

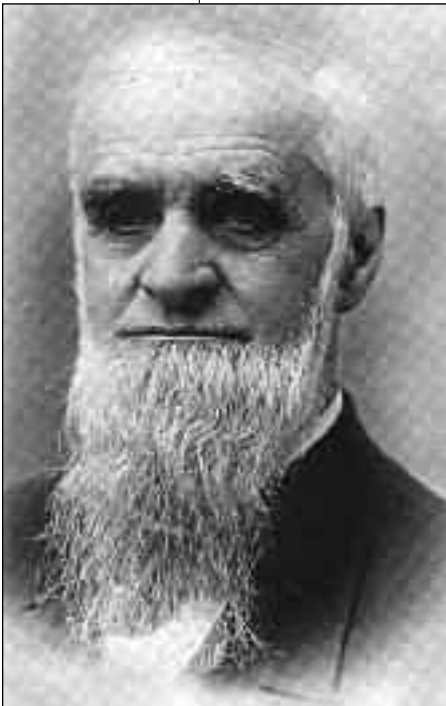


—photo by Patrick O'Leary

East view between Murphy Hall (left) and Ford Hall (right).

CNES ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We have come a long way since the days of Jabez Brooks, but CNES still trains fine Greek scholars, as well as students in many other fields. This year's Newsletter features many of the department's PhDs who, in addition to their impressive academic achievements, have climbed to new heights in other areas (Dan Hooley) and continue to enjoy the good life (Tom Kohn).



Jabez Brooks (left), pictured about 1888, was a member of the University's first faculty and taught Greek from 1869 to 1909.

1901 Honors scholars in Greek (right), were taught by Jabez Brooks.





**Jon Bruss, Assistant Professor
University of the South**

2001 Ph.D., Classics

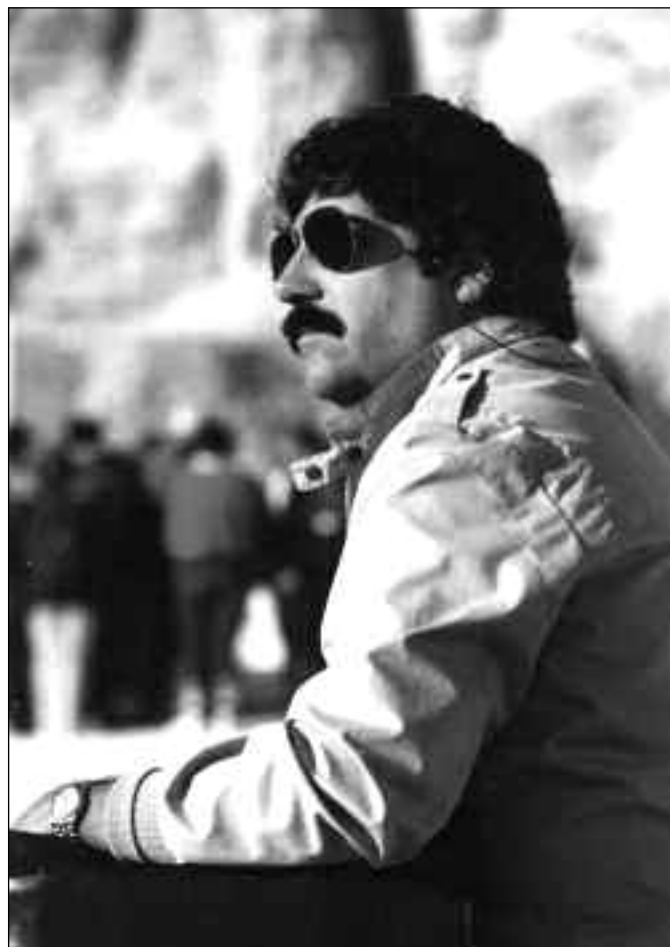
Jon Steffen Bruss (Ph.D., Classics, 2001) has held a 2-year position at his alma mater, St. Olaf College (2002-04), and a tenure-line position at The University of the South (2004-). Since 2001, he has published several articles on Hellenistic and Roman poetry (Callimachus, Vergil, Horace, epigram) in *CJ*, *Mnemosyne*, *Latomus*, *CQ*, *CPh*, and *HellGr*, along with invited pieces for *Archaic and Classical Greek Epigram* (Cambridge, forthcoming) and *The Blackwell Companion to Hellenistic Literature* (Oxford, forthcoming). A monograph, *Hidden Presences*, appeared under his name in 2005 (Peeters, Leuven), followed by *Brill's Companion to Hellenistic Epigram: Down to Philip*, co-edited with Peter Bing (Brill, Leiden, 2007). Having resigned his position at The University of the South in 2007 to move with his family to his wife Kristine's recently-awarded position at the University of Kansas, he now works on the editorial team of both the print and online versions of Brill's *New Pauly* (vv. 10-15 +) and teaches as a "ringer" in the KU Honors Program.

WHERE ARE THEY
NOW?

**Steven L. Derfler, Professor of Classics
University of Wisconsin**

1984 Ph.D., Classics

An international educational consultant, public speaker, archaeologist, historian, researcher, teacher and writer, Dr. Derfler has been uncovering the histories of ancient civilizations for over 30 years. He served as director of Jewish Studies at Hamline University, St. Paul. International institutions include Tel Aviv University's Institute of Archaeology, the Israeli Antiquities Authority, and the Negev Museum of Beersheva. Archaeological work in Israel has included serving as staff of Tel Sheva, Arad, Tel Michal and Tel Gerishe Expeditions, and as American director of the Nahal Yattir and Tel Keriot excavations. In addition, he has served as a scholar-in-residence at Oxford University, England. In an interim period, he served as regional director of the American Jewish Committee, the oldest human rights advocacy agency in the United States. Today he teaches as a professor at the University of Wisconsin River Falls and serves as Executive Director of Educational Resources, Inc. His commentaries can be found in such publications as the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and *The American Jewish World*. His research has been published by the *Israel Exploration Journal*, *Tel Aviv Journal of Archaeology*, *Hadashot Archaologiot*, *Atiqot*, *Middle East Review*, *The ARAM Journal* of Oxford University, *The University of Minnesota Press* and the *Edwin Mellen Press*. Dr. Derfler will be directing study tours to Egypt and Israel/Jordan in 2008.



**Madeleine Henry, Professor
Iowa State University**
1983 Ph.D., Classics

When I finished my degree in 1983 after several years hiatus, I worked for three years as a temporary assistant professor at Concordia College, Moorhead. Then I became a temporary at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. It was wonderfully good fortune to get a tenure track position here, where I've reached the status of full professor. I have chaired both the Classical Studies Program and the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department (now World Languages and Cultures). My interests are in the history of literary theory, in women's history, and in Greek comedy. As a member of a solely undergraduate program, it has been necessary to remain a generalist in the classroom. I treasure my education at "the U" and am happy to have kept old friends and made new ones at my alma mater.

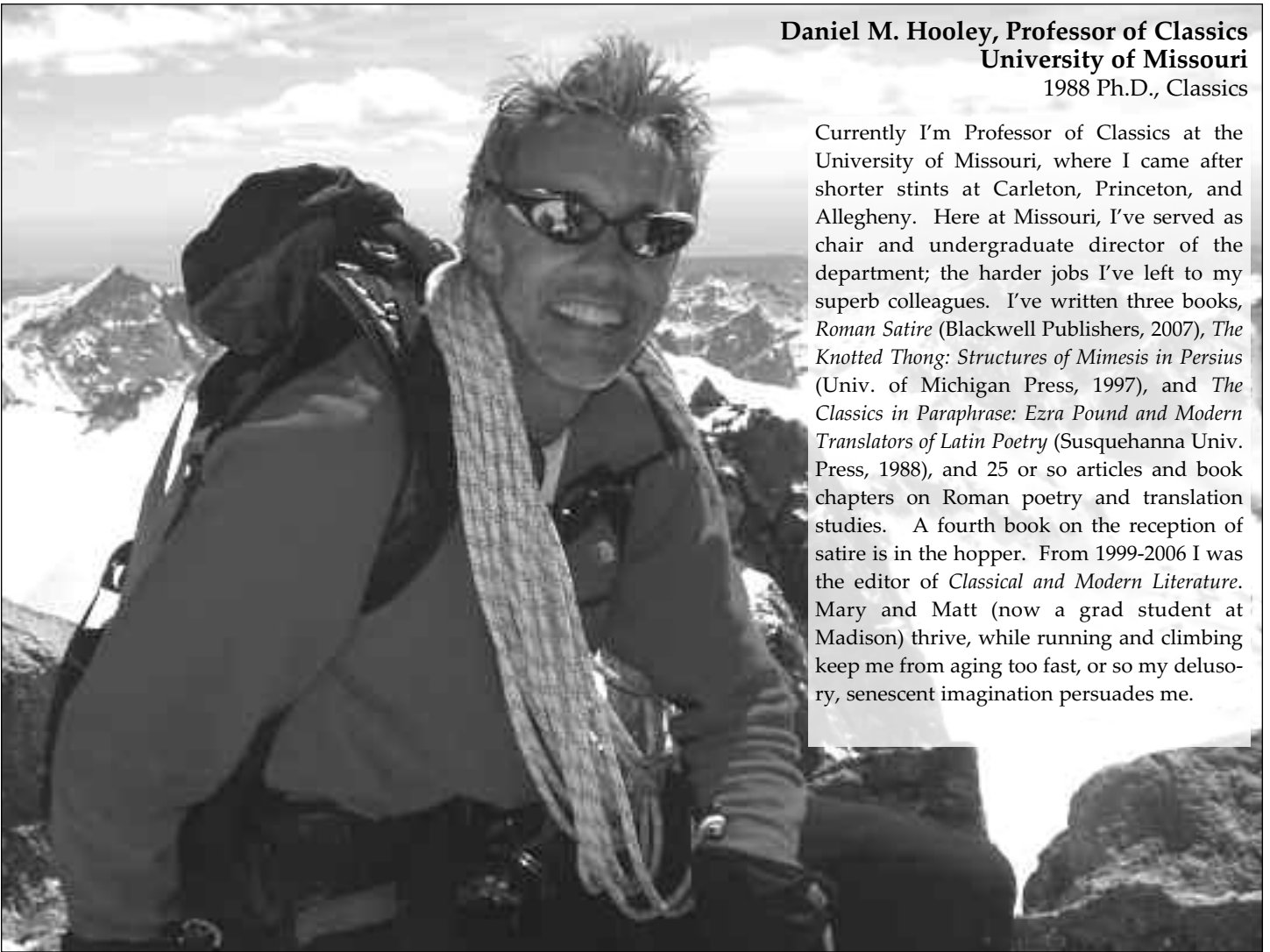


WHERE ARE THEY
NOW?



Claudia Honeywell
St. John's College
Santa Fe, New Mexico
1993 Ph.D., Classics

Hello to everyone at U of M. I have been teaching for the last 13 years in the Great Books Program at St. John's College in Santa Fe, NM. I still teach some Greek but many other things as well. I have a husband and 3 year-old son. We love to take our little camper and explore the wide-open spaces of the desert around us. Please look us up if you are in the area!



Daniel M. Hooley, Professor of Classics
University of Missouri
1988 Ph.D., Classics

Currently I'm Professor of Classics at the University of Missouri, where I came after shorter stints at Carleton, Princeton, and Allegheny. Here at Missouri, I've served as chair and undergraduate director of the department; the harder jobs I've left to my superb colleagues. I've written three books, *Roman Satire* (Blackwell Publishers, 2007), *The Knotted Thong: Structures of Mimesis in Persius* (Univ. of Michigan Press, 1997), and *The Classics in Paraphrase: Ezra Pound and Modern Translators of Latin Poetry* (Susquehanna Univ. Press, 1988), and 25 or so articles and book chapters on Roman poetry and translation studies. A fourth book on the reception of satire is in the hopper. From 1999-2006 I was the editor of *Classical and Modern Literature*. Mary and Matt (now a grad student at Madison) thrive, while running and climbing keep me from aging too fast, or so my delusory, senescent imagination persuades me.

WHERE ARE THEY
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Tom Kohn, Assistant Professor
Wayne State University
2001 Ph.D., Classics

Since leaving the friendly confines of Folwell Hall, I have held a number of 1- and 2-year positions. I've been at: the University of California, Santa Barbara; Millsaps College (Jackson, Mississippi), where I finished writing the dissertation; the University of Mississippi; the University of Richmond; and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, where I got to work with CNES alumnus Hugh Parker. Last year I began a tenure-track position at Wayne State University in Detroit. One of my colleagues is Jennifer Sheridan Moss, who some of you may remember taught a course in papyrology at CNES some years ago. Things are going well, and I hope to be here for many years to come. I've published about half a dozen articles, mainly on Seneca and/or ancient theatre in general, and delivered a number of APA and CAMWS papers. Currently, I'm working on a book about stagecraft in Senecan drama; I'm hoping to get Kevin Kline for the movie.





**Margaret S. Mook, Associate Professor
Iowa State University**

1993 Ph.D., Classics

I received my Ph.D. in Classics in 1993, and am now an Associate Professor of Classical Studies at Iowa State University, where I teach a broad range of Classical language and culture courses. The focus of my research for the past six years has been the excavation and study of an early Greek city at the site of Azoria in eastern Crete, for which I am the Field Director and Pottery Specialist. The Azoria Project is directed by Donald Haggis (1992 Ph.D. in Classical Studies from CNES) and we are exploring the archaeological evidence for the process of urbanization and emergence of new social and political organizations associated with Greek city-state formation.

During the current academic year I am preparing for publication the results from the excavation of the Late Bronze Age- Early Archaic settlement on the Kastro at Kavousi, also in

eastern Crete. Among other inquiries, my research is investigating the social and political organization and transformation at a single settlement with well-preserved and complex stratigraphy that covers the entirety of the Early Iron Age. I have a leave from Iowa State to complete this work and will be spending the fall term as a Tytus Fellow at the University of Cincinnati and the spring semester in Athens at the American School of Classical Studies with an NEH Fellowship.

**Steven M. Oberhelman, Professor of Classics
Texas A&M University**

1981 Ph.D., Classics

Steven M. Oberhelman is Professor of Classics at Texas A&M University, where he has served as department head, director of religious studies, and president of the Faculty Senate. Each summer he teaches the archaeology of Italy to 40-50 students at the A&M study center in the Tuscan town of Castiglion Fiorentino. He recently was awarded the Texas A&M University Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching. Steve has edited the journal *Helios*, a journal devoted to new literary critical and methodological studies of classical culture and literature, since 1984. He has published six books and 43 articles, the latest being *The Soul of Tragedy: Essays on the Context of Athenian Drama*, co-edited with Victoria Pedrick (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), and *The Folk Dreambooks of the Byzantine Empire, Variorum Series in History* (London: Ashgate Publishing, 2007).



WHERE ARE THEY
NOW?



**Jayni Philips Reinhard, Visiting Assistant Professor
Arizona State University**

2005 Ph.D., Ancient and Medieval Art and Archaeology

While ABD, I was hired full-time as a Visiting Asst. Prof. of Classics at Carthage College in southeast Wisconsin (Kenosha) where I worked for five years. During that time I completed my degree, in 2005. Last year I worked part-time as an Associate Lecturer at UW-Parkside in the departments of Art and Humanities. In the coming academic year, 2007-2008, I will be a Visiting Asst. Prof. at Arizona State University where I will teach full-time in Classics along with fellow alumna, Almira Poudrier. I will be working on two publications due for completion in the fall – a contribution to a large collaborative volume reporting the finds of a Roman bath at Isthmia, Greece, and a paper given this summer in Athens at a conference celebrating 50 years of excavations at the Isthmus this summer (published as part of the conference proceedings).



**Ivancica Schrunk, Adjunct Faculty, Lecturer
St. Thomas University and University of MN**
1984 Ph.D., Classics

Vanca Schrunk has been an adjunct faculty in the Dept. of History, University of St. Thomas, since 1990, teaching courses in ancient history and archaeology. During the past four summers, she has done field survey and geophysical survey of Roman villas in Istria and Dalmatia, Croatia, supported by the Archaeocommunity Foundation (formerly the Tyche Foundation for Archaeology and Community). Her latest publications, printed this June in Croatia, are two books (in Croatian and English), co-authored with her sister, Vlasta Begovic (Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia), on architecture and cultural heritage of the Brioni Islands from prehistory to modern times.

WHERE ARE THEY
NOW?

**David Sick, Director
Department of Greek and Roman Studies
Rhodes College, Memphis Tennessee**
1996 Ph.D., Classics

I finished my dissertation in 1996 while I was teaching at Macalester College. I took a temporary position at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN, starting in the fall of 1997. After another search at Rhodes, my position was converted to tenure-track. I was eventually awarded tenure in 2004. Rhodes is a small liberal arts school in the middle of the city. We have a four member department. I also serve as the Director of the Search for Values in the Light of Western History and Religion, Rhodes core program in the humanities. (P.S. If you'd like to be the Director of the Search for Values in the Light of Western History and Religion, please contact me.) I still have a chance to do a little research, and I'm happy to say my next piece is coming out in the next issue of the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*. I've kept up my interest in comparing things Indo-Iranian and Greco-Roman. This summer, as I write this, I'm teaching a short course on classical epic at The University of the South in Sewanee, TN. This course prepares students for a semester abroad at Oxford and travelling to Greece, Italy, and Turkey. It's jointly sponsored by Rhodes and Sewanee.





**Duane Smith, Coordinator
CLA Society and Culture Student Community**

1988 Ph.D., Classics

Duane Smith completed his Ph.D. in Classics in 1988 and taught at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY, and the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, before returning to the University of Minnesota in 1998 as an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts. In 2002 he became the coordinator of the CLA Society and Culture Student Community, an academic advising office that serves approximately 2,400 active undergraduates.

WHERE ARE THEY
NOW?

**Rabun M. Taylor
University of Texas-Austin**

1997 Ph.D., Classics

After receiving his Ph.D. from CNES in 1997, Rabun Taylor spent nine years in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University, where he taught a wide variety of courses on Roman topics. During those years he published two books: *Public Needs and Private Pleasures: Water Distribution, the Tiber River, and the Urban Development of Ancient Rome* (2000) and *Roman Builders: A Study in Architectural Process* (2003). A third book, *The Moral Mirror of Roman Art*, is forthcoming. This summer he joined the faculty of Classics at the University of Texas-Austin. He looks forward to participating in UT's growing classical archaeology program and collaborating with colleagues in art history, history of architecture, and the various archaeological institutes on campus. At present he is working on a book-length history of ancient Naples in collaboration with former CNES professor Joseph Alchermes, now at Connecticut College.



Law and Games: Another look at Thucydides

by George Sheets

Over the past several years the CNES faculty has come to include a number of scholars with interests in ancient law and its expression in various textual traditions. Bernie Levinson studies the evolution of Biblical legal codes and their connections to ancient Near Eastern legal collections and treaties. Jeff Stackert uses the evidence of Biblical law to study the compositional history of the Pentateuch. Alex Jassen studies intertestamental traditions of Jewish law in the Dead Sea scrolls and later rabbinic compilations. Eva von Dassow is presently studying various corpora of cuneiform tablets to explore the emergence of a notional concept of "liberty" in the ancient Near East. My own interests in Greek and Roman legal discourse have been reinforced by these different approaches to the study of legal history. In that connection and in the hope that others might find it of interest, the following essay sets forth some ideas on the relationship between law and games.

First some background. Some years ago I wrote an article regarding the authority of customary law in the international relations of ancient Greek states. The evidence was drawn from analysis of the diplomatic and policy arguments of speeches that Thucydides includes in his narrative. I argued that the conduct of the state parties leading up to the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War was motivated and constrained by the normative effect of this customary law. The system of Hellenic international law was structurally similar to the regime of international law in the modern world in that both should be understood as primarily "horizontal" legal systems. That term is used to refer to legal systems in which the adjudicatory mechanisms are decentralized and not hierarchically arranged. In a horizontal legal system the interpretation, administration, and execution of "the law" is vested in multiple authorities of competing and overlapping jurisdictions. Examples of such jurisdictions in the period described by Thucydides are the Athenian Assembly, the Peloponnesian League, and the government of Corinth. All of these venues were equally competent to declare what the law was and what it required of disputant state parties. Each was competent to overrule, in effect, whatever might be the judgment of a different jurisdiction.

Many modern readers of Thucydides are inclined to discount the practical existence and actual observance of customary international law among the Greek states of antiquity. To be fair, Thucydides himself provides a warrant for such skepticism, since he makes a point of distinguishing between the "truest reason" for the war and "the publicly alleged causes" that were offered by the parties to the conflict (I.22). Yet in my opinion both Thucydides and modern skeptics fail to give due weight to claims of right in motivating human behavior. Such claims, regardless of their substantive merit and the relative objectivity of those who embrace them, are particularly influential in the case of widely held beliefs and ideologies, such as those required to sustain collective national action, like the waging of war. To understand how claims of right are publicly shaped and authoritatively expressed, we must look to the discourse of law.

Skeptics also question whether a regime of law can even exist in the absence of a final authority charged with its adminis-



—photo by Kelly Macwilliams

tration. This position, in my opinion, is to confuse law with the effectiveness of law enforcement. The absence of final authority in a horizontal legal system does not preclude the existence of legal rules that are recognized as valid and binding. So, for example, policy makers of both the Athenian and Peloponnesian Leagues each blamed the other for violating the terms of the Thirty Year Truce, but they had no disagreement on the legal principle that a violation by one side effectively released the other from its treaty obligations. To take a modern example, Article 17 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, (Aug. 12, 1949, art. 17, 6 U.S.T. 3316, 3332) contains the following absolute prohibition: "No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever." Although the governments of all signatories of the Geneva Conventions have agreed to be bound by this prohibition, each government may reach different judgments as to what constitutes a violation of it. It is important to recognize, however, that both in the ancient and the modern regimes of international law, such differences of judgment are themselves expressed through the discourse of law. Thus the government of the United States officially justifies its current use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" by arguing that the individuals subjected to such techniques are not "prisoners of war" within the

meaning of Article IV of the same Geneva Convention.

That the existence of a final authority is not the *sine qua non* of a legal system can be demonstrated by recognizing all legal systems for what they are: games. Like other games, a legal system is a form of cooperative behavior. Players of games, would-be law-abiders, and litigants at law accept that their conduct is regulated by rules regarding game-play and another set of rules that constitute the game itself. In his classic study of human culture entitled *Homo Ludens*, Johan Huizinga suggested that ultimately all forms of culture and dynamic social organization appear to be games. All are ultimately voluntary: one can opt-out by defecting or by cheating, but one cannot continue to play a game without knowingly or unknowingly cooperating in the social relationship that is the game. To participate in a horizontal legal system is to accept that one has to play by its rules.

A paradox that has attracted considerable attention in the literature of game theory is that no game's rules can be exhaustively defined. There are at least two reasons for this impossibility. First, when actually played, every game presents an infinity of contingencies that can never be fully anticipated. A persuasive exposition of this principle, with examples from baseball, is given by J. S. Russell in the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* 26 (1999) 27-49. In law this impossibility means that no statute or constitution, however general or specific its terms, can anticipate every contingency that may legitimately bear on the law's application. Second, even if it were possible to anticipate all contingencies, every rule must itself be interpreted by a decision maker, and that process of interpretation will itself be governed by meta-rules, which themselves require interpretation, and so forth in an infinite regression. As Stephen Sniderman has observed in a nascent web-journal (*The Life of Games* 1 [1999] 2-7), all games are played *as if* the rules were fully known and determinate. This tacit conspiracy of false belief is what makes game-playing possible. It is also what makes it possible to legislate, administer, and obey the law. In American legal literature much the same insight underlies the concept of "legal realism" and the scholarly field known as "critical legal studies." In judicial decision-making it is what justifies the use of "prudential" reasoning.

Among the most inscrutable of the meta-rules that govern game-play are those that regulate the notion of "fair play." These rules are usually taken for granted, since to argue over them is to threaten the continuation of the game itself. In the Common Law tradition, a number of such meta-rules have been formalized as "maxims of equity," which are invoked and applied when "the law" is deemed to be inadequate or unfair in its outcomes. Much the same recognition of law's imperfection is expressed by the Roman maxim *summum ius, summa iniuria* ("all law [means] no justice"), and it has long been recognized that Roman praetorian law is a form of equity jurisprudence. Papinian famously described praetorian law as: "that which in the public interest the praetors have introduced in aid or supplementation or correction of [Roman law]." Dig. 1.1.7.1 (Papinian): trans. Watson. As a quasi-legal concept, however, the notion of "equity" owes its origin to Greek ideas. For example, a doctrine of equity is formalized by Aristotle under the name of *epieikeia*, which he defines (*EN* 1137b) as a "correction of the law" (*epanorthōma nomou*). As compared with law itself, *epieikeia* is justice in the abstract, a justice that is ethically superior to any specific instance of justice as determined by the operation of pure law. The equitable man, according to Aristotle, is someone who forbears to exercise a merely technical legal right (*ho mē akribodikaios*, 1138a), someone who willingly accepts less than what may be technically his due under the law; in other words, someone who knows how to play the game.

Equitable arguments are a way of challenging the law without destroying it. They keep the game alive when an impasse has been reached, which brings me back to Thucydidean diplomatic rhetoric.

Perhaps the clearest and most fully articulated example of equitable argument in Thucydides is to be found in the speech attributed to the Corinthian ambassadors in their appearance before the Athenian Assembly in 434/3 BCE (I.37-43). The legal issue before the Assembly is whether Athens, despite Corinth's objections, can permissibly admit a powerful Corinthian colony (Corcyra) to the Athenian military alliance. This issue turns on the contested interpretation of a treaty term in the Thirty Year Truce of 445 BCE. Corinth's position is that granting Corcyra's request to accede to the Athenian alliance would violate the treaty. The Corinthian ambassadors present cogent legal arguments (the skepticism of certain modern scholars notwithstanding) in support of their interpretation of the treaty term. These arguments are collectively summarized by the Corinthians as "legal claims (*dikaiōmata*) that conform to the laws of the Hellenes and are dispositive [of the dispute]" (I.40). Having concluded their legal case, the Corinthians now adduce an equitable argument. Invoking a principle of reciprocity, they ask the Athenians to give due return for two favors that Corinth formerly rendered to Athens. One of the favors is particularly emphasized because it too involved a disputed interpretation of what was permissible under the Thirty Year Truce. The favor was Corinth's refusal, in a meeting of the Peloponnesian League seven years before, to vote to sanction Athens for its military suppression of a defecting member of the Athenian alliance. Corinth suggests that the defecting state (Samos) had possessed a colorable right to quit the alliance. Corinth's vote to support Athens's suppression of Samos effectively resolved the disputed legal question in a manner that was favorable to Athens. A principle of reciprocity required Athens to return the favor in the present dispute regarding Corcyra.

The Corinthians refer to this principle of reciprocity with the word *charis*, a term that certainly means both the rendering and the return of favors but also contains a hint of the equity idea. Favorinus, a philosopher and rhetorician of the early Antonine period, would later define *charis* to mean something similar to Aristotle's definition of *epieikeia*: "*charis* is forbearing to be strict in time of need" (Gellius *NA* I.3.27). Coming, as it does, in an argument that supplements what the Corinthians have called their "legal claims," the claim of a favor owed is an appeal to fair play. As such it approximates the equitable doctrine of "comity" in modern international law. Ian Brownlie defines the latter as the practice of "neighborliness, mutual respect, and the friendly waiver of technicalities" (*Principles of International Law*, 6th ed., Oxford 2003, 28). For Corinth to argue that Athens owes the Corinthians a reciprocal favor is not to call into question the reality of customary law in the governance of Greek international relations. On the contrary, it is further evidence of the mature legal character of the international order (and disorder) that Thucydides depicts. It is the expression of an implicit belief that such law did exist and was supposed to be fair. Ultimately the Athenians decided not to return the favor, a decision which Corinth considered a breach of the Thirty Year Truce—not, I suggest, because the treaty was clear on the point at issue, but instead because the Athenians had effectively decided to quit the game.

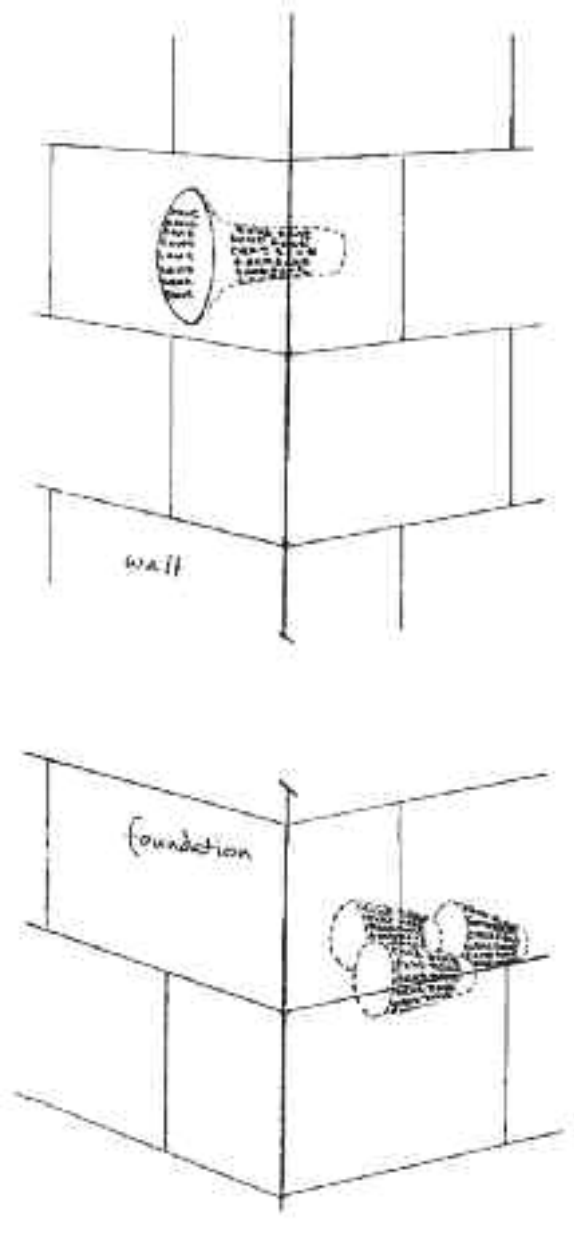
George Sheets holds both a Ph.D. in Classical Studies and a J.D., and is a member of the Minnesota Bar Association. His interests include historical linguistics, Greek and Latin literature, and legal history. For more information about his views on international law see his "Conceptualizing International Law in Thucydides," AJP 115 (1994): 51-73.

Mystery Cone's Mate Found at Uruk!

by Eva von Dassow

Readers of last year's newsletter will remember the story of how we discovered an inscribed clay cone in a shoebox, during our move to Nicholson Hall, and how the cuneiform text of the cone proved to commemorate a previously unknown Mesopotamian king: Naram-Sin of Uruk, who probably reigned sometime in the 19th century BCE. So unexpected was it to find a new Naram-Sin in an old shoebox that I doubted the historical validity (though not the authenticity) of our cone's inscription. But now the story of the cone has a sequel. It turns out that a fragment of an artifact bearing the very same text as our cone was excavated at Uruk almost a century ago. This fragment, which was found during the German archaeological expedition to Uruk in 1912-1913, had been photographed in the field and taken to the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Berlin, but it had never been published because it preserves too little of the text to be understood in the absence of a duplicate or any other inscription mentioning the same king. The discovery that the text of the Uruk fragment matches that of the CNES cone was made possible by Jack Sasson of Vanderbilt University, who circulated my newsletter article about the CNES cone on his e-mail list, where it was seen by Eckart Frahm of Yale University, who remembered having been shown a photo of the unpublished fragment by Margarete van Ess, who leads the Uruk excavation project of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (Orient-Abteilung) in Berlin.

The artifact that was found at Uruk is a fragment of the round head of a clay "nail." Ours is an intact, though battered, headless clay cone. Whereas the inscription on the CNES cone is written carelessly, in a very irregular hand, the inscription on the Uruk fragment is written in a neat, calligraphic hand. (If I had had the clay nail from Uruk to read, and if it had been whole, I'd have had a much easier time with it than I did with our cone!) In ancient Mesopotamia, when kings sponsored new buildings or renovations of old ones, they normally had their construction work recorded in inscriptions, which could take various forms, including clay tablets, nails, and cones (as well as stone plaques, stelae, statues, and so forth). Clay nails (often also called "cones") were inscribed on both the head and the shaft, while headless cones were inscribed only on the shaft. Typically, headless cones were inscribed only on the shaft. Usually, headless cones as well as clay tablets were made by the dozen, each inscribed with the same text, and buried in the foundations of the building they commemorated – rather like a time capsule, so that when new construction took place on the same site, the old inscriptions would be found and the ruler whose work they recorded would be remembered. Clay nails appear instead to have been placed in the building's walls, with their heads sticking out where they would be visible and their inscriptions could be read – rather like cornerstones on modern buildings. This is probably the reason why the Uruk fragment, from the clay nail's head, is inscribed in a fine and legible hand, while the handwriting on the CNES cone is so poor. (Just as my mother spontaneously suggested when I described these two artifacts to her!) The drawing to the right illustrates, in a schematic way, how these two different types of



—illustration by Eva von Dassow

inscriptions might have been placed in the structure of a building.

So ... what does our cone, and its fragmentary duplicate, say? There remain some gaps where the text is missing or illegible in both exemplars – the Uruk fragment preserves only the beginnings of the first eight lines – but here is how the 20-line inscription goes:

*"Naram-Sin, shepherd who makes abundance for Uruk, king ... good ... for his land: When (the gods) An and Inanna granted me the kingship of Uruk, at that time, by my mighty weapon, ... (thus-and-such a place) I captured ... (and) I built my royal palace. During my reign, 3 kor of barley, 12 minas of wool, 10 minas of copper, (or) 3 seah of sesame oil cost 1 shekel of silver, at the going rate in my land. The sons and daughters of Uruk returned home(?) and the "word" (= case?) of the orphan and the widow was glad." **

The content of this short text is fairly standard and it adds little to our knowledge of Mesopotamian history. It doesn't even tell us very much about this Naram-Sin who became king of Uruk by the grace of the gods, though it is interesting that he touts the low prices for staple commodities (i.e., the good economy) that supposedly prevailed under his rule. And too little of the Uruk fragment is preserved to restore more than a few signs in the damaged text of the CNES cone. Nevertheless it is significant that a duplicate of the CNES cone inscription is extant, that it was found at Uruk, and that it was inscribed in a different hand. The existence of two exemplars, in different forms and written in different handwriting, and the fact that one of the two was actually excavated at the site of Uruk, confirm that there really was a king named Naram-Sin who ruled Uruk, if ever so briefly, and that he really did start construction of his palace there. In fact, the text of the Uruk fragment may not be entirely identical to the text of the CNES cone – the wording seems to differ in a couple of (broken) lines – in which case they are not exact duplicates, but two slightly different inscriptions commemorating the same ruler and his evanescent works. The clay nail was meant to label his palace on the outside while the clay cone labelled it from within, so that when he and his palace vanished, the inscriptions would remain.

How did Naram-Sin acquire the throne of Uruk, how did he lose it, and how, having attained kingship, did he disappear almost completely from history? None of his contemporaries or

successors mentions him in any text thus far known. But he shared an illustrious name (that of the renowned grandson of Sargon of Akkad, who ruled four centuries earlier) with two near-contemporary kings, the long-ruling Naram-Sin of Ashur and the ambitious Naram-Sin of Eshnunna. And his statement about low prices reappears in the inscriptions of the king who may have bumped him from the throne, Sin-kashid. The latter identified himself not only as king of Uruk but as king of the Amnanum, a prominent Amorite lineage group, and he affiliated himself through marriage with the royal house of Babylon. If we are right to place our Naram-Sin on the throne of Uruk immediately before the better-known *novus homo* Sin-kashid, perhaps we hereby obtain a glimpse into the equivalent of “party politics” in southern Mesopotamia during the century preceding Hammurabi.

* The translation offered here results from the combined efforts of myself and Douglas Frayne, of the University of Toronto, supplemented by the invaluable contributions of Piotr Michalowski, of the University of Michigan, and Eckart Frahm of Yale. That's right – it has taken four cuneiformists, so far, to decipher and interpret this damaged inscription of an otherwise unknown king! It isn't usually this hard.

I am grateful to the three colleagues just named for their assistance in reading the text, to Margarete van Ess for providing the photograph of the Uruk fragment as well as information about its findspot, and to Jack Sasson for serving as transatlantic matchmaker by enabling the Uruk fragment to be (virtually) united with its University of Minnesota mate.



White Temple and ziggurat, Uruk (modern Warka), Iraq, ca 3200-3000 B.C.E.
Kleiner and Mamiya, *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*, 12th Edition

FEATURED INTERVIEW:

Christopher Nappa

Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)

Professor Nappa has been teaching in the department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies since the autumn of 1999. After completing his B.A. at the University of Texas at Austin in 1990, he went on to complete an M.A. and a Ph.D. at the University of Virginia. His dissertation, on persona and character in Catullus, was supervised by Jenny Strauss Clay and successfully defended in 1996. Prior to coming to the Twin Cities, Professor Nappa taught at the University of Tennessee and Smith College. He has published books on Catullus and Vergil, as well as numerous articles on a variety of classical authors. In addition to his scholarly work, he has been serving as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the department for the past 4 years, and is currently a member of the editorial board of the Classical Journal. A very popular instructor with both undergraduate and graduate students, he is known both for his dry and mordant sense of humor, as well as his keen willingness to discuss all matters academic with his students. Professor Nappa is currently at work on a book on Juvenal.



—photo by Kelly MacWilliams

What was your first exposure to classical literature and the ancient world?

I'm not sure really, but I remember reading books on mythology very early. I was also given copies of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* in English as a fairly young child. I've always read a lot, so I remember things like a biography of Julius Caesar for younger readers. When I was in fifth grade, I transferred to a Catholic school with a small library. There would be contests for reading a certain number of books, and I would plow through a lot of these short books about lives of the saints, and gradually it became clear that I liked the ones from the Roman Empire best. Ironically, I ended up more interested in Rome than sanctity. In ninth grade, I started Latin and that more or less solidified things.

You wrote your MA thesis on a Greek author, but your dissertation and subsequent scholarly work has been on Roman literature. How common a career trajectory for Latinists is this?

I don't know how common it is, but I don't think it's all that rare for people to change course over time. Latinists do generally have to deal with a lot of Greek material, so it hasn't been a bad background. Also, I think research trajectories often grow organically. One project leads to another, so if you write a dissertation on a Latin author, you end up working more on Rome than on Greece. There are plenty of Greek topics I would happily work on, but there's only so much time, and it would mean putting other projects aside.

What is the focus of your current research?

My big project right now is a book on Juvenal. What I'm trying to

do is provide a counterbalance to a lot of work on his *Satires* that focus on rhetoric. People have always looked at his poems from the point of view of social criticism and social commentary, but both of those things, criticism and commentary, imply a kind of rational argument. I think there's a lot less of that in Juvenal than some do. Instead, I'm looking at the kind of underlying anxieties and associations that prompt the speakers to say the things they do. I'm especially interested in the powerful images that Juvenal creates. In some ways they're overdetailed, but those extra details are important. They point to associations, sometimes unexpected ones, between different kinds of social problems. For example, everyone has always known that Juvenal doesn't like it when people behave in ways that seem inappropriate to their stations—like when Nero raced in a chariot or performed on stage—but if you start to look at the particular images that show up when he talks about this kind of thing, seemingly unrelated problems get brought in as well. When aristocrats behave badly, religion ends up being involved, and so does the strength of Rome's armies. What I'm trying to do is map out some of this larger network of associations.

Are there issues today that knowledge of the classics would help us solve?

In general I think the world could use more historical awareness of any kind—particularly in this country. I do think Horace's *Satires* make a pretty good guide to behavior. People should have to read them before they can finish high school—just like they should have to read *Madame Bovary* before they can get credit cards. On the other hand, I do get a little tired of comparisons between the United States and the Roman Empire.

What is your advice to people who decide to pursue a career in Classics?

I think Classics is a great subject to study, but a career in it takes commitment. Preparation for a career is hard and takes a long time. If you aren't fully committed to it, it probably won't work out. If you are committed, I think it's a wonderful thing to do, but you have to be willing to spend a lot of time, more than most people expect, reading and writing, both of which are essentially solitary activities. The best advice is probably just to read as much as possible, all the time.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of teaching Classics at Minnesota?

That's hard to say. I've enjoyed a lot of the courses I've taught here. I've had a chance to work with some very good students both one-on-one and in classes. There's also a fair amount of variety in my teaching, so I get the chance to go back to authors and topics I like but also to move on to newer areas. The U is the kind of school I went to—a large public school with a lot of different kinds of students; I think that makes it a fairly comfortable fit for me.

What are some of your greatest achievements, and what has been most satisfying to you as DUS?

I think the new version of the Hebrew major seems to be working out well. I also think I've made some good curricular changes. The best thing, though, is probably just watching things work out for students. I often get to hear the reports from students who've just come back from abroad for the first time, or who've just gotten in to grad school or law school. It's nice to hear good news—for example, two of our students won Birkelo scholarships this year—and know you had a part in it.

What are some of the things you would like to accomplish in the future? (Or, if you were no longer DUS, what are some of the things that you would advise your successor to think about?)

My big goal this year is to make some big changes to the curricula in Latin and Greek. For the future, I think further streamlining needs to be done. A lot of our major requirements, for example, were formulated at a time when there were relatively few students. Our majors depend heavily on getting approval for specific courses, but that can make long-term planning hard. It's easier for the faculty to know that there are plenty of options for courses to take than it is for students to. That means I answer a lot of emailed queries about specific classes. It also means students have to rely on the DUS being available at odd times—like the middle of summer—since they may need to be cleared for graduation. Because we have so many variables, it's hard for anyone but the DUS to do this.

What classical work/epic would you read for pure enjoyment?

Almost anything—but usually something I haven't read before or haven't read for a long time. Lately I've been dipping into

Lucian's *Dialogues of the Gods* and Statius' *Thebaid*. Since I mostly teach Latin, I try to make sure I read something Greek fairly often.

What are some of the biggest challenges you have had to meet as DUS?

Our department is one of the most complicated, maybe the most complicated, in CLA. We have six separate majors and five minors, some of which are more closely related than others. There are different requirements and different policies for each one. Also, I'm more at home with some of these subjects than others—I don't know Hebrew at all, but I still advise the Hebrew majors and minors, usually in consultation with others. It's relatively easy for me to think about the curriculum in Latin or Greek, but I also oversaw revisions to the Hebrew curriculum. People would explain things to me, and I would try to suggest ways of working things out within CLA policy, etc. It was a little like working through an interpreter.

Undergraduate News

by Christopher Nappa

2006-07 was a good year for CNES undergraduates. Two of our students won Birkelo scholarships—CLA's most prestigious undergraduate award. These were Emily Ladick and Joe McDonald. Joe also won a Manson-Stewart Scholarship from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS). The Cram scholarship in Classics went to Billy Blessing. The CAMWS Student of the Year Award went to Stacie Thyron, and two of the department's American Philological Association Outstanding Student Awards also went to undergraduates Billy Blessing and Joe McDonald. In Religious Studies, we awarded Anderson scholarships to Don Giacomini and Andrew Kuzma.

We also had a number of students finish their degrees, and a healthy crop of these, and other recent alumni, are going off to graduate school in various fields. The following students are beginning graduate study in fall 2007:

Hector Amaya, Harvard Divinity School
Alex Kocar, University of Washington (Religious Studies)
Kevin Mattison, Brandeis (Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)
Tina Sherman, Brandeis (Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)
Stacie Thyron, University of Virginia (Classics)
Miriam Tworek-Hofstetter, Univ. of Texas (Archaeology)
Betsy Warner, Univ. of Minnesota (Religions in Antiquity)
(Apologies to anyone I've left off—please let the department know your future plans.)

Congratulations on your achievements! We wish you every success in the future.



Latin and Greek Undergraduate News

by Stephen Smith

The undergraduate Latin and Greek programs at the beginning and intermediate levels continue to prosper. Although Latin enrollments have dropped somewhat from their peak of a few years ago, this year we have over 120 students starting Latin and over 40 starting Greek, with nearly 70 in intermediate Latin and 12 in intermediate Greek.

Our off-campus sections, taught through the College in the Schools program in five local high schools and the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option at UM-Rochester, also continue to grow—we estimate that there will be nearly 100 high school students taking intermediate Latin in 2007-08. Students last year came to campus for field days in October and February; highlights included visits to Greek, Hebrew, and Coptic classes, as well as an undergraduate major forum (October) and a cuneiform “show and tell” by Eva von Dassow (February). The *cohors Latina* of College in the Schools is made up of Johanna Beck (Minnehaha), Judith Kavanaugh (Cretin-Derham Hall), Emese Pilgram (Edina), Mitch Taraschi (St. Thomas), and Mike Tiffany (Providence); Ellen Sassenberg, who teaches the PSEO students in Rochester, will officially be joining the CIS program in 2008-09.

Students who perform at a high level through the first two years of either Greek or Latin are invited to join the Zeta Sigma chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national Greek and Latin honorary society. Over the past two years we have inducted 23 new members into our chapter, including Mark Hvizdak, Alexander Kocar, Sara Marsh, Joseph McDonald,

Alicia Pease, Deborah Sugarbaker, Stacie Thyrion, Jessica Waldron, and Elizabeth Warner (2006), and Hector Amaya, Jessica Donaldson, Josh Freyholtz, Mitchell Hanley, Kailin Hatlestad, Patrick Jewison, Alyssa Johnson-Wells, Emily Ladick, Kevin Malmquist, Nathan Marks, Abigail Massey, Katie Mead, Erica Niemiec, Daniel Schindler, and Andrew Seeley (2007). Pictured below are members, old and new, at the initiation on April 20, 2007 (appropriately, the eve of Rome’s birthday).

Each year, beginning Greek and Latin students are nominated by their instructors as students of the year. The 2005-06 recipients were Katherine Mead (Latin), Andrew Seeley (Latin), and Emily Ladick (Greek); all three received copies of the first Harry Potter book—in the appropriate language, of course. The 2006-07 recipients were Anil Chandiramani, Diana Schempp, and Jennifer Smith in Latin (who all received *A Natural History of Latin*) and Andrew Gerstenberger in Greek (who received *The Archaeology of Athens*).

And finally, a word of thanks to our 2007-08 tutors, Billy Blessing, Alex Kocar, Mike Lund, Stacie Thyrion, and Betsy Warner, who contributed their time and energy to help students succeed in the beginning and intermediate classes.



Left to Right: Elizabeth (Betsy) Warner, Stacy Thyrion, Hector Amaya, Alex Kocar, Mike Lund, Dan Schindler, Kailin Hatlestad, Katie Mead, Alyssa Johnson-Wells, Kevin Malmquist, Mitch Hanley, Billy Blessing.

Hebrew Language Program

by Renana Schneller, Hebrew Language Coordinator

How can an instructor ensure that students are interested in a subject and stay interested all semester long? A student remains interested if the class is focused around students' needs, enabling students to speak the target language throughout the class time. The topics of these conversations should be meaningful to the students. Language is perceived as a means of communication, where the student has something to say or discover. When students have developed communicative skills in a language, they are able to express and acquire information with much success.

How does all this connect to third year Modern Hebrew? In my advanced level Hebrew class I have added current events articles to the traditional Modern literature curriculum. In addition to short stories, my students are now reading articles in Hebrew about various topics, such as Holocaust and Modern Israel, Bedouin female doctors in Israel, and also some controversial topics such as gay rights, and even organ transplant. After reading the articles in class or at home, the students were given ample time to express their opinions using the new vocabulary presented in the articles. Conversations and expressing opinions in Hebrew about different literary characters were always an integral part of all the Hebrew classes at various levels. What makes this past year unique is the fact that I carefully selected articles to make sure that most, if not all of them would have a controversial topic.

I maintained this high level of discussion and engagement in the class by allowing the students to choose topics that were of interest to them and to lead class themselves. Students presented topics of their choice, expressing their opinion, teaching the class new vocabulary and asking for the class' input. I learned that gay rights and the death penalty were important topics to my students. Having a variety of opinions expressed by conservative or liberal students gave room for some intense discussions, all of which took place in Hebrew.

The students had an opportunity to discuss the differences between their culture and the Israeli culture when we discussed the topic of organ donation. They learned about the influence of preconceptions that originated in the Jewish religion that lead to the belief that a body should be buried with all its organs. They learned that it's very difficult to get an organ donation in Israel. The discussion of this topic included a visit by a pediatric



— photo by Kelly MacWilliams

cardiologist from U of M who had practiced medicine in Israel. She explained (in Hebrew) about the difference between organ donation in Israel and in the US.

Additional controversies were raised when we watched a current Israeli film, "Walk on Water". This film about the effect of the Holocaust on second generation Israelis and Germans led to lively discussions about the Israeli macho, the Israeli Mossad, the Holocaust and Modern Israel and the difference between justice and revenge with regards to capturing Nazi criminals. The possible connection between the Holocaust and the formation of the state of Israel involved a heated discussion as well.

From teaching advanced level Hebrew I opened myself and my students to a variety of topics beyond what traditional Israeli literature has to offer. My students and I were deeply engaged in using the language by communicating, disagreeing, criticizing, persuading and explicating efficiently, taking into account the nature of the other students with whom they were conversing.

News of the Graduate Program

by Philip Sellew, Director of Graduate Studies

One of the bittersweet aspects of academic life is watching our students arrive, develop, struggle at times, then ultimately find their success and depart. This past year a good number of good people finished their degrees in our various graduate tracks. We will miss seeing them regularly in Nicholson Hall but are proud of their accomplishments.

Two students finished up their work in the Art and Archaeology program: Nick Hudson successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation on domestic architecture on Delos and spent the spring teaching our course on Archaeology of the Near East. Nick has now moved to France to pursue opportunities in the homeland of his fiancée. Jessie Weaver completed her M.A. and is taking some time off before returning to school for her doctoral studies, possibly in the field of Art History. Marty Wells passed his prelims and is spending the coming year in Athens as a regular member of the American School.

In our Classics program we were pleased to see Sean Larson complete his M.A. and continue with his Ph.D. program in Communication Studies. Happily for us Sean will keep taking courses in the department, even as we miss his contributions teaching Latin. Tim Beck also took his M.A. and is luckily for us continuing to help edit the *Classical Journal* and also teach in various capacities.

Our Religions in Antiquity program can now boast its first three M.A. graduates, all specialists in Hebrew and Biblical Studies. Doug Dance finished in December and moved to Utah to

pursue family business interests. Mike Bartos graduated in the spring and is considering his options for doctoral studies in Religion or another humanities field. Derk Renwick graduated this summer and is seeking employment as an academic adviser. In a related field, Ed Glenny has submitted his Ph.D. dissertation in Greek on the Septuagint translation of the Book of Amos and is planning to defend his thesis early in the fall. Ed is already employed full-time as professor of New Testament and Greek at Northwestern College in Arden Hills.

Recent additions to our graduate community show the range of topics that people typically pursue in our department. In the last two years we have enrolled eleven students with diverse interests in comparative myth, Roman historical and archaeological studies, Greek poetry, and early Jewish and Christian religious traditions. One sign of the strength of these new students is that four of them hold the prestigious Graduate School Fellowship, an unprecedented number for a program of our size.

One delightful aspect of tracing the cycle of academic careers is having students of our former students approach us for their own graduate training. In just the last two years David Sick (Andrew Willey), Nanette Scott Goldman (Johanna Shreve, Kate Larson) and Jon Bruss (Kathleen Ess) have played that key role. In not so many semesters we will no doubt marvel as we watch these new arrivals join our group of accomplished alumni and push the wheel of the academic cycle that much further along the road.



— photo by Kelly Macwilliams

CNES Graduate News

Angela Ancelet

I am starting my second year in the M.A. program in Classics. Having passed my Latin proficiency exam and completed my French reading requirement, this year I intend to pass my Greek proficiency exam, write at least one plan B paper, and learn to read German. Also, I'm hoping to make a large dent in the M.A. reading list and still find time to delve more deeply into Medieval Latin paleography and codicology.

Don Burrows

Fall 2007 starts my third year as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Before arriving in the Twin Cities, I lived in Arkansas for 14 years and worked there as a reporter and later as an editorial page editor for a newspaper. Returning to school, I pursued History and Classics at the University of Arkansas and graduated in spring 2005. Since arriving, I have taught mythology for the most part and have enjoyed it immensely. I look forward to finishing my M.A. in Classics in the spring of 2008. This summer, I enjoyed reading *Daphnis and Chloe* with several of our graduate students. When not teaching and pursuing my degree, I continue to work in journalism at a local Internet company. I look forward to another exciting year!

Kevin Cunningham

I am a student in the Religions in Antiquity M.A. program. I have completed all my requirements, written my plan Bs, and now just need to pass that pesky Greek proficiency exam. Pass it or not, this will be my last semester here as the faculty is eager to fill my slot with "someone possessing actual competence." Next fall, I hope to be starting yet another M.A. program, this time to get my teaching license. Eventually I'd like to be a Social Studies teacher or an astronaut. Maybe both.

Courtney Dunning

I'm a third-year M.A. student in Classics. This year, in addition to completing my course requirements, I'm working on a plan B paper in my Greek Tragedy seminar on the behaviors of Clytemnestra in Aeschylus' *Oresteia*. My current interests in Classics also include social history and ancient medicine. After receiving my degree in 2008, I plan to go to law school. In addition to my scholarly interests, I enjoy ice fishing, quilting and cooking.

Jim Hamm

While entering the fourth year of the Ph.D. program in Classics, I am currently preparing for my preliminary exams to be held in January while working on my dissertation abstract on the subject of war in Plato's *Republic*. I had the pleasure to serve as grad rep for 2006-07, a year in which much was accomplished by the department, including the hiring of three faculty members into tenure track positions, and the completion of the department constitution. I co-authored a chapter with Professor Edward Schiappa in the Department of Communication Studies on recent trends in Greek rhetorical scholarship for the new *Blackwell Companion to Greek Rhetoric*, which came out this past spring. This past July, along with a very able and con-

genial fellow graduate student, Andrew Willey, I attended the University of Kentucky's annual Conventiculum Latinum Lexingtoniense, a workshop devoted to cultivating spoken Latin skills. In between the work, which will also include teaching Latin this next year, I enjoy playing with my delightful son Andrew, who turned one year this past June.

Tim Hart

This fall marks the beginning of my second year as a CNES grad student. If all goes as planned, I shall earn my M.A. in Classical Archaeology in the spring of 2009. My post-secondary career began at Grinnell College, Iowa, where I majored in Classics with an emphasis on Etruscan and Roman Archaeology. At Minnesota I have continued my studies of the Roman past, although last year I also spent time studying Near Eastern history and archaeology with Professor von Dassow. Over the summer I spent five weeks in Italy excavating an industrial/commercial property at Pompeii with the Pompeii Archaeological Research Project: Porta Stabia, a program jointly run by Gary Devore of Stanford University, and Stephen Ellis of the University of Cincinnati. One highlight of the season was the discovery of a leather tannery, one of only five known in the entire Roman world. The 2007/8 academic year promises more study, both archaeology and philology, as well as continued work as a Teacher's Assistant. Next summer will hopefully find me once again wielding my trowel on an excavation.

Peter Haugen

I received my B.A. in 2004 from the University of North Dakota, majoring in History and Classics and minoring in English. I then began pursuing an M.A. in the Department of CNES, following the Religions in Antiquity track. In addition to attending three of the SBL/AAR Upper Midwest conferences, this last spring I was privileged to present a paper entitled "Abraham and the True Israel: Another Look at Paul's Identification of the People of God" at that conference. I am currently assisting in the organization of the October conference on Sanctified Violence. I hope to pursue doctoral studies in the New Testament/Early Church following the completion of the M.A. program here.

Christine Lechelt

I am a second year student in the Classics Ph.D. program. Last year I returned to my native Minnesota after spending six years in California earning an M.A. in Classics at UC Santa Barbara and a B.A. in Classical Studies and Latin and Greek at Santa Clara University. I have held Graduate School and Chancellor's Fellowships at the University of Minnesota and UCSB, respectively. This year I am looking forward to teaching Beginning Latin and further focusing my rather eclectic research interests in Greek poetry, myth, and religion. Outside of Classics, a few of my favorite things are music, dogs, and Twins baseball.

Paul Lesperance

I am about to enter my sixth year in the department, being a Ph.D. candidate in the Ancient and Medieval Art and Archaeology Program. I have been working on my thesis for the past two years, and I am continuing to work onwards. Over this past summer, I have been working both

as a part-time IT fellow, preparing content for the Archaeology Portal Website, and in the Digital Content Library Lab, where I have been digitizing slides from among the CNES collection for availability on the DCL website. In the upcoming year, I will be taking a 50% appointment as the IT fellow for the department.

Christy Marquis

This fall I will begin my third year in the Classics Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota. I am a Minnesota native, and did my B.A. in our CNES department. After doing a year of AmeriCorps service I went to the University of Pittsburgh, where I completed an M.A. in Classics. In 05 I returned to the U of M, where I am currently specializing in Latin poetry. I am spending August of this year in Bremen, Germany, at the Goethe-Institute, which has been wonderful so far (although I miss my husband and dog and cats!). I am excited to be giving a paper this winter at the APA, and am also looking forward to serving as grad rep in the upcoming year!

Dave Oosterhuis

Dave O. is teaching as Adjunct Faculty at the University of Saint Thomas in Saint Paul. This will be his second year and he's had a chance to teach both Greek and Latin at a variety of levels with some great colleagues. Believe it or not (and your skepticism is both understandable and healthy) this is the year he finishes his doctorate. Really.

Johanna Shreve

After leaving early last semester for medical leave, I hope to return to complete my M.A. in Religions in Antiquity. Due to an unforeseen medical emergency, I was unable to accept the department's generous offer of a stipend to work at an archaeological site in northern Israel this summer as well as a great opportunity to work with Professor Roetzel. On the bright side, I am continuing to work toward finishing my degree. My goals include finishing my thesis on the origin and character of prohibitions against homosexual sex in Leviticus 18 and 20 and possibly developing a presentation for the national or regional SBL convention.

Galya Toteva

I spent the first five years of my Ph.D. program taking classes and teaching in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies. During the academic year 2006-2007, I held a Junior Residential Fellowship at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, associated with Koch University in Istanbul. I devoted the 9 months of the Fellowship to dissertation research, and managed to prepare a final draft of my Ph.D. thesis. In addition, I benefited from the wisdom of wonderful scholars of Anatolian Archaeology and History, which was of capital importance for my future work in the field. I was also invited to give a lecture on the art and archaeology of the Achaemenid empire in front of the wonderful audience of visiting students from the University of Leiden. I prepared an article on the same topic, which was published in the 2007 issue of the popular Turkish "*ArkeoAtlas*" magazine. I also took part in the Symposium on Mediterranean Archaeology (SOMA 2007), in Istanbul this past year where I presented my research on the site of Gordion. This research makes up an important part of my Ph.D. thesis. I am now in the final stage of preparing my dissertation, and I hope to defend it by the

end of Fall 2007.

Martin Wells

After four years in Minneapolis, I have just recently returned to California. This past year I finished up my coursework for the Ph.D. in Archaeology and, in June, I passed my preliminary exams, so it looks like it's time for the next stage. That is coming quickly as I'm getting married in September in Los Angeles and then, soon after, flying out to Greece to begin my year as a Regular Member at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Both are things that I've been looking forward to for a long time. I will miss Minneapolis, my colleagues in the department and all the friends I have made very much. I hope it will not be too long before I return. As for this summer, my first in ten years not excavating, I'm keeping busy planning the wedding and continuing to build the CNES Archaeology Portal, a resource website that undergraduates can use in the department's archaeology courses.

Andrew Willey

I grew up in a small farm-town and gas-stop along route 47 in northern Illinois named Elburn. Later, attracted by scholarship dollars and the mild winters, I attended Rhodes College in Memphis, TN where I divided my time between ancient and modern technology, majoring in Greek and Roman Studies with a minor in Physics. This past fall I presented a paper at CAMWS-SS on Roman burial colleges. I continue to pursue various interests, although primarily in Latin epic poetry and Hellenistic material culture. This past summer I took part in two workshops: the Medieval Manuscript lab at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at St. John's University, and the 2007 Conventiculum Latinum (spoken Latin conference) at the University of Kentucky at Lexington.



From L to R, starting first row: Kate Larson, Johanna Shreve, Angela Ancelet, Kevin Cunningham, Christine Lechelt, Betsy Warner, Richard Shea, Tim Hart, Pete Haugen, Andrew Willey, Courtney Dunning, Heather Woods, Kathleen Ess, Christy Marquis, Paul Lesperance, Jeremy Huff, Justin Buol, Matthew Briel, Jim Hamm, Don Burrows.

—photo by Kelly O'Brien

Update on Sanctified Violence Conference

Fall 2007

by Calvin Roetzel

In this past year I have tried to live by the adage of one of my professors: "It is better to wear out than to rust out." At present, I might like a bit more rust, but seriously it has been a great year. The commentary on 2 *Corinthians* will be out within the month (7 years late, my fault), and in November a *Festschrift* that I co-edited will appear to honor Jouette Bassler, an important Pauline scholar, great friend, and a brilliant and funny conversation partner. Most of the year, has been devoted to tasks related to the Conference, "Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions" (Oct 6-8, CECC, St. Paul Campus). There were grants to

write, money to raise (and not raise!), organization to do, a related graduate seminar to teach, "Religious Violence in the Roman World," etc. Because of my part in the this conference I was invited to respond to three papers at the Annual Meeting of the SBL on "Paul and Violence,"

and also due to this connection I was invited to participate in an "International Conference on Religion and Culture" at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand in June. This fall I will teach a one credit course for undergraduates that entitles them to attend the Conference free. In addition to getting some of the goodies usually reserved for graduate students, they will gain a sense of the way scholarly discourse and exchange function as they see scholars discuss papers they will have read. In this short seminar,

we will read papers on the topics and primary materials discussed at the Conference, and after the conference we will meet to hear short individual presentations on selected papers. Thanks to a COPE grant the Conference will also allow persons from selected religious communities and organizations (mosques, synagogues, churches, institutes and centers) to sit in on this academic discussion of one of the most important issues of the day. All of this simply could not have been possible without the assistance of colleagues in CNES who have volunteered to help, without the patient and diligent effort of the office staff (Barbara Lehnhoff,

Victoria Keller, and Adam Mielke) and the organizational skills, soft touch, and positive spirit of Kate Gallagher who is the chief organizer for the conference, and Peter Haugen who has done a fantastic job on publicity and other menial tasks. Please check the website Kate has cre-



Cal Roetzel on a bridge crossing the Kok River located in the Northwest Region of Thailand.

ated: <http://www.sanctifiedviolence.umn.edu>. Finally, not enough good can be said for other members of the planning committee: Ra'anan Boustan (UCLA), Andy Gallia (UMN), and Alex Jassen (UMN). Once the Conference was conceived Alex was the first to volunteer to help. In case you miss the conference the Journal of the American Academy of Religion editor has expressed an interest in publishing a special issue of selected papers from the conference. If you are in town, we would love for you to join us.

We Encourage, and Thank You, for Your Support

A special thank you to all of our generous donors over the past year. Your contributions are valued and help the department continue its tradition of excellence. Gifts received over the years have developed into undergraduate student scholarships, two faculty chairs to secure the brightest and best professors, and fellowships that attract the best graduate students to Minnesota.

Classical and Near Eastern Studies considers support for graduate fellowships as its most significant need. The importance of these fellowships cannot be overstated. Fellowships allow the department to recruit the very best students from across the country and once here, allow those students to take full advantage of field work programs.

If you would like to make a gift to support graduate students in the department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, please go to www.giving.umn.edu. If you would like to double the impact of your gift through the 21st Century Graduate Fellowship match or the Promise of Tomorrow Scholarship match program, please contact me today at 612-625-5031 or hicks002@umn.edu.

Thank you for making an investment that truly makes a difference.

Warm regards,

Mary Hicks



Director, External Relations
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota



—photo by Everett Ayoubzadeh

Mary Hicks, Director, CLA External Relations

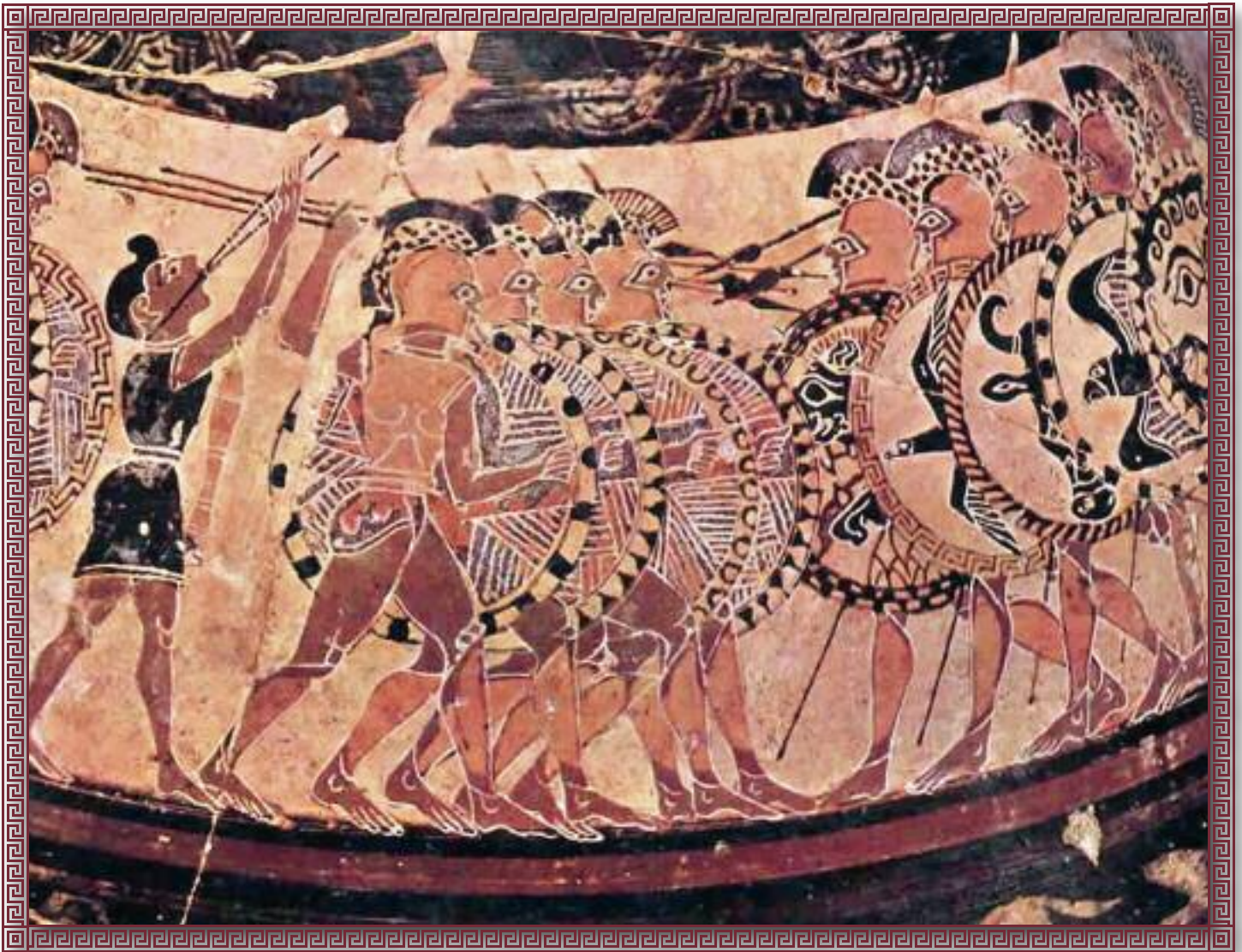
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Opposing ranks of hoplites join battle to the sound of the paean.
Detail from the Chigi Vase, c. 620 BCE

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