

CNES

Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, University of Minnesota

Spring 2009

A Message from the Chair

Christopher Nappa

This year has been and promises to continue to be an eventful one for CNES. As I write we are in the middle of a job search, a major overhaul of our website, and a self-study in preparation for an external review to take place in spring 2009. We're also gearing up to host the annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS) April 1-4. The meeting will mostly take place in downtown Minneapolis at the Marriott City Center, but Friday afternoon, following CAMWS tradition, will take place on campus at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center, where there will be paper sessions and we will host a reception. In addition to other colleagues and friends from around the country, we hope to welcome back a number of alumni for this event.

There have also been a few changes in personnel. Jeff Stackert, an assistant professor of Hebrew Bible, has moved on after two years in Minneapolis to take a position in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. Two classicists have joined us for the year. Alumnus Mark Gustafson (PhD 1981), who has been teaching at St. Olaf, joins us as a lecturer, teaching courses in Greek, Latin, the Age of Nero, and Roman Religion and Early Christianity. Sarah Bolmarcich (PhD Virginia, 2003) has come to us from the University of Texas at Austin. Sarah is teaching our large World of Greece class as well as classes in intermediate Latin and Periclean Athens. She'll also offer a graduate seminar in Greek historiography, something we haven't been able to do for a long time. George Sheets is taking a much deserved break from administrative duties after serving heroically as Chair for six years. Eva von Dassow has replaced me after five years as DUS, and Nita Krevans has replaced Phil Sellew as DGS.

Our office staff has seen changes as well. Kate Gallagher has joined us full-time and has been keeping busy working with our undergraduate majors and



Our award winning teachers: George Sheets (CAMWS 2001), Andrea Berlin (AIA 2009), Nita Krevans (CAMWS 2009), and Oliver Nicholson ("Red" Motley 2008).

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minors, on top of her other duties. Barb Lehnhoff has become associate administrator for Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature as well as for CNES. The College has compensated us for the loss of some of Barb's time by allowing us to hire, again jointly with CSCL, Derk Renwick (BA 2004, MA 2007), an alumnus of our Religious Studies program and the MA program in Religions in Antiquity. Thanks to her tireless efforts in running the offices of both CNES and CSCL, Barb Lehnhoff has received her second CLA Outstanding Service Award in 5 years. Congratulations, Barb!

Another development has been the start up of a new multi-disciplinary program in Religious Studies. This program will bring together faculty from across the College of Liberal Arts to offer a new two-track major in Religious Studies allowing students to focus not only on antiquity, as in the old version of the major, but also on religious traditions from around the world and at any time in history. CNES professors Cal Roetzel, Phil Sellev, and Bernie Levinson all played a key role in planning the program, and Bernie and Cal sit on the steering committee. Jeanne Kilde, a specialist in religion in the United States, has been lured away from the Institute for Advanced Study to become the Director of the program. While the program is autonomous in most things, it is housed in CNES and several CNES faculty will continue to play a role in it.

The Department continues to build its reputation for good teaching. Oliver Nicholson has received the

Arthur "Red" Motley undergraduate teaching award from the College of Liberal Arts. This is one of the few teaching awards on campus, and it is especially significant because one has to be nominated by students rather than colleagues. Andrea Berlin will receive the Archaeological Institute of America's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for 2009, and Nita Krevans will be awarded the 2009 CAMWS Award for Excellence in College Teaching at the meeting in Minneapolis. Congratulations to all three of them!

Also on the awards front, Alex Jassen has been awarded the John Templeton Award for Theological Promise (administered by the University of Heidelberg) for his first book, *Mediating the Divine: Prophecy and Revelation in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Second Temple Judaism*. Congratulations, Alex!

Faculty and students alike have had a busy and productive year. Eva von Dassow is back from a year learning Hurrian in Wurzburg and Bernie Levinson has returned from his year at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. Oliver Nicholson has come back to us from his third semester of leave in England. We're happy to have all three back. Our students spent their summers all over the place—Rome and the Bay of Naples, Bulgaria, Egypt, Israel, and Germany. Last year saw the publication of five new books by CNES faculty, as well as a host of articles and other publications.

Despite hard economic times, CNES is looking forward to even better times to come.

Faculty Spotlight: Alex Jassen



teach an introduction to Jewish mysticism that attracts a lot of interested and engaged students. I am currently

What types of courses do you teach here? I offer courses on a ranges of topics related to the study of Judaism and biblical Hebrew. Every fall I teach "Introduction to Jewish History and Civilization." In this course, we cover three thousand years of Jewish history, culture, thought, and practice—all in one semester! I also

developing several new courses that will be taught in the coming years: Dead Sea Scrolls, Midrash and Jewish Biblical Interpretation, and a graduate course on Judaism in the classical world. I also teach all levels of biblical Hebrew. In spring 2009, I will be offering an advanced Hebrew course in which we will tackle very difficult biblical texts like Job and Psalms, in addition to introducing students to the study of post-biblical Hebrew.

What research projects are you currently working on? Right now, I am engaged in two major projects. The first is the preparation of critical editions of three Hebrew manuscripts from among the Dead Sea Scrolls. These three very fragmentary texts include an apoc-

raphal retelling of various events in the life of the prophet Samuel and two texts containing eschatological interpretations of passages from the book of Isaiah. The critical editions will consist of a new transcription of the manuscripts, English translation, and commentary. They will be published in a volume in the series devoted to the Dead Sea Scrolls—*Discoveries in the Judaean Desert* (Clarendon Press at Oxford University Press). I will be traveling to the Jerusalem over winter break to have the opportunity to view the original manuscripts at the Israel Museum.

I am also working on a monograph on the subject of violence in the Dead Sea Scrolls. This study is the first sustained scholarly attempt to examine the role of violence in the origins and daily life of the community. It integrates close analysis of the textual data with important theoretical models drawn from sociology, anthropology, social psychology, and related fields. My

interest in this topic was spurred on by a conference on the topic of Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions that I co-organized in fall 2007 with U of M colleagues Calvin Roetzel and Andy Gallia and former U of M faculty member Ra'anana Boustan (now at UCLA). Several of the papers from the conference (including my own) will appear in a special issue of the journal *Biblical Interpretation* (Brill, January 2009) that we are editing.

What do you do when you are not at the University?

When I'm not working, you can usually find me and my wife Leslie spending time with our 18-month-old daughter Lila. We spend a lot of time at the park—luckily we have two nice parks near our home. When the cold weather hits, we search for fun things to do indoors. After two winters here, we're starting to learn all the best places to go to stay warm and have fun.

Faculty News (2007-08)

Betty Belfiore: “This past year I have continued to revise my book on Socrates and have written a new article on the Apology and Homer, which I presented at a conference in Rio de Janeiro. I am also working on a paper on Alcibiades and Socrates, to be presented at a conference in London next spring. I'm enjoying my classes this fall, and also looking forward to my semester off, during which I will welcome a new granddaughter. Phased retirement is great, except, of course for the stock market.”

Andrea Berlin reports on the 2008 season at Tel Kedesh on page 6.

Tom Clayton: “A noteworthy item is the ‘Tom Clayton Undergraduate Classical Civilization and Classics Scholarship’ which was generously and graciously established in my name and beyond my desert.”

Spencer Cole: “The start of my second year at the U came after a seismic shift: marriage! It all went down on a lovely summer afternoon in my wife Daisy's hometown of Los Angeles. On the scholarly front, I'm writing a book that aims to tell a crucial part of the back-story to the most significant religious development in ancient Roman society before the emergence of Christianity: the deification of human beings. I'm examining how Cicero, the leading theorist and theologian

of his generation, helped usher in this momentous religious change in late-Republican Rome. The graduate students in the Cicero seminar that I'm teaching this fall have really refined my thinking on this topic. Another project I'm working on, ‘The Parallel World of Cicero's Dialogues,’ will be the subject of a paper at this year's APA meeting in Philadelphia.”

Mark Gustafson: “Because I intentionally became something like an itinerant ‘pinch-hitter’ four years ago, I now concentrate on teaching. And I've been changing teams fairly regularly. Last year I completed a two-year stint at St. Olaf College with Groton & Co. (Before that was a year and a half at Macalester.) Meanwhile my various scholarly projects—on tattoos, bishops, even some tattooed bishops—have been left in my locker, neither gone nor completely forgotten.”

Alex Jassen: “This past year, I published several articles: ‘The Presentation of the Ancient Prophets as Lawgivers at Qumran’ (*Journal of Biblical Literature*); ‘Literary and Historical Studies in the Samuel Apocryphon’ (*Journal of Jewish Studies*); ‘Reading Midrash with Maimonides: An Inquiry into the Sources of Maimonides' Account of the Origins of Idolatry’ (*Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*); ‘Teaching and Learning Guide for Religion in the Dead Sea Scrolls’ (*Religion Compass*). I presented papers at academic

conferences in San Diego, Toronto, New York, and Vienna. I continue to give lectures at numerous local institutions across the Twin Cities.

In fall 2007, together with CNES colleagues Cal Roetzel and Andrew Gallia and former CNES colleague Ra'anana Boustan (now at UCLA) I organized a conference on 'Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions.' Several of the conference papers are being published in a special issue of the journal *Biblical Interpretation* that I am co-editing entitled 'Violence, Scripture, and Textual Practices in Early Judaism and Christianity.' My own paper, 'Violence and the Dead Sea Scrolls: Sectarian Formation and Eschatological Imagination,' will appear in the volume. This article is part of my current work in progress on violence in the Dead Sea Scrolls. This past year, I was also invited to join the international editorial team working on the publication of the Dead Sea Scrolls. I am preparing critical editions for three texts that stem from the biblical interpretation of the community of the Dead Sea Scrolls. In January 2009, I will travel to Jerusalem to view the original manuscripts of these three texts."

Nita Krevans had a Hellenistic year: a chapter on epigram in a Brill volume, a review in *Phoenix* of a book on Virgil and Philodemus (she counts the latter and possibly even the former as Hellenistic) and a talk at Princeton on the figure of Orpheus in Apollonius.

Bernard Levinson: "I spent the last academic year in Germany at the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*/Berlin Institute for Advanced Study. This institution is an academic utopia, one that invites roughly 40 scholars internationally from all fields of the humanities, fine arts, natural and social sciences, and attempts to form an interdisciplinary community. It actively fosters conversations among the various Fellows, and many of these conversations stimulated my research and writing. I was able to complete two books by the time I returned from Berlin: *Legal Revision and Religious Renewal in Ancient Israel* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) and *The Right Chorale: Studies in Biblical Law and Interpretation* (Mohr Siebeck, 2008), as well as a more popular presentation of work on German biblical scholarship during the Nazi period: 'Reading the Bible in Nazi Germany: Gerhard von Rad's Attempt to Reclaim the Old Testament for the Church,' *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 62 (2008): 238–54. A volume that I co-edited with Gary Knoppers also came out during the year: *The Pentateuch as Torah: New Models for Understanding Its Promulgation and Acceptance* (Eisenbrauns, 2007)."

Christopher Nappa: "Over the last year, I gave a paper on Tacitus and Juvenal (at a conference in Virginia), one on Juvenal's sixth satire (at CAMWS in Tucson), and one on Petronius and (again) Juvenal at the fourth International Conference on the Ancient Novel in Lisbon. Both Arizona and Lisbon were new places for me. I also continued to work on my book on Juvenal; the manuscript looks (finally) like it may be completed in the foreseeable future. I also had articles come out on Catullus, Vergil, and Propertius. This summer, I stepped down from a term as book review editor for CJ and became chair of CNES."

For **Oliver Nicholson**, the year 2007-08 can be summed up in a single acronym, videlicet ODLA. Thanks to the generosity of the University Single Semester Leave scheme, the CLA Fellowship Supplement scheme and the Loeb Library Foundation he has been able to devote an entire 18 months to the headword list for the *Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*—a work of one million words which will be a sort of Son-of-OCD. This is the largest jigsaw puzzle he has ever attempted. He hopes to be commissioning articles by the late autumn. He has also submitted an article defining (to his satisfaction) who the Early Church was thinking of when it disapproved of "voluntary martyrs" and in his (mythical) spare time has done yet more work on the publication of an immense collection of papers on the Forty Martyrs of Sebasteia, who were martyred by exposure on a frozen lake and so, he feels, should be the patron saints of Minnesota.

Calvin Roetzel: (2008-09) "The roll-out of the expanded Religious Studies program started in the fall on which I had worked as the co-chair of the working group to design the plan. Also, it might be worth noting that along with Alex Jassen and Ra'anana Boustan I have shared in the editing of a series of papers on 'Violence, Scripture, and Textual Practices in Early Judaism and Christianity' which was published in January 2009 by the *Journal of Biblical Interpretation* and now will be issued as a stand alone book by E. J. Brill in Leiden. Also, the 5th edition of my *Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context* is now in press and will be out in the fall. That's about it for a busy year."

Renana Schneller: "This year I attended the NAPH conference in Montreal, Canada. The paper I presented in this conference was a result of my exposure to new research in the field of Second Languages and Cultures (SLC). I presented new research in the area of vocabulary acquisition and showed how this was connected to my curriculum in third year Hebrew. The paper was

very well received and was discussed afterwards among the participants. Outside of my duties at the University, I served as an external evaluator for the Defense Language Institute's Hebrew testing program."

George Sheets: "At the beginning of July I turned over the duties of department Chair to my able successor in that role, Chris Nappa. This semester I am on leave and working on two projects. The first (now nearly complete) is a translation of the 10th edition of H. Hausmaninger and R. Gamauf's *Casebook zum römischen Sachenrecht*, for use in my Introduction to Roman Law course that I shall teach in the spring semester, crosslisted with the Law School. I have taught this course with great enjoyment once before to a mix of law students and classics graduate students. I am hoping to receive permission to publish the translation, so that it might be of use to other law students and classicists. My other project is an introductory textbook on the historical-comparative grammar of the Greek and Latin languages."

Stephen Smith: "In addition to teaching my usual complement of beginning and intermediate language classes, I attended the annual meetings of the APA and CAMWS, as well as the *Proxima Poetis* conference at Virginia and the International Conference on the Ancient Novel in Lisbon. My article on Livy's introduction of Brutus appeared in *Mnemosyne* in summer 2007. In 2008-09 I take over both the chairmanship of CLA's Committee on Second Language Education and the CAMWS vice presidency for Minnesota."

Eva von Dassow: "During my sabbatical last year, I went back to school to learn some more ancient Near Eastern languages. Specifically, I spent winter and summer semester in Germany studying Hittite and Hurrian at the University of Würzburg, one of the only places in the world where Hurrian, a poorly-known but important language of the ancient Near East, is taught. Of course, I could hardly have obtained funding to take time off and go overseas just to learn a couple of dead languages; such a patently useless activity has to be justified in terms of a larger worthy goal. My study of Hittite and Hurrian was essential for my current research

project on freedom and rights in the ancient Near East, because these are the languages in which the Hurrian composition bearing the ancient title 'Song of Liberation' was recorded. This composition, known from a partly-preserved Hurro-Hittite bilingual edition produced circa 1400 BCE and discovered in the late 20th century CE, opens up a new path for inquiring how ancient Near Eastern societies conceptualized political and social freedom. In the first phase of my project, therefore, I am focusing on reconstructing and interpreting the 'Song of Liberation' and situating it in its historical, cultural context. Between Hurrian and Hittite classes, I completed several publications on other subjects. First, my book *State and Society in the Late Bronze Age: Alalah under the Mittani Empire* appeared in February. Three articles are now in press or getting there: one treats a group of tablets recording the enlistment of troops toward the end of the Mittani Empire; another considers how to determine whether Akkadian was the language of writing or a means to write local languages in cuneiform; and a third is the scholarly edition of the inscribed clay cone of Naram-Sin, king of Uruk, which was found in a shoebox in CNES (and featured in the 2006 and 2007 newsletters)."

Emeriti

Bob Sonkowsky: "I started a project to prepare audio and MP3 CD's of readings from the *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL), English Version, and from other sources for the liturgical year C (beginning with Advent in secular 2009). In 2007-08 I prepared a demo, consisting of readings from not merely the RCL, but also from the New International Version, the *Cotton Patch Bible*, the Douay version, and also (in Middle to Early Modern, restored pronunciation) the *Wycliffe Bible*, the King James Version (KJV), Douay-Rheims, the *Coverdale Psalter*, and Tyndale's Bible, which seems the most influential on today's KJV. This demo will be used in 2009 with a focus group of clergy and church education leaders meeting at my church, St. Mark's Cathedral, Mpls. For further info contact John Rettger <jrettger@comcast.net>."

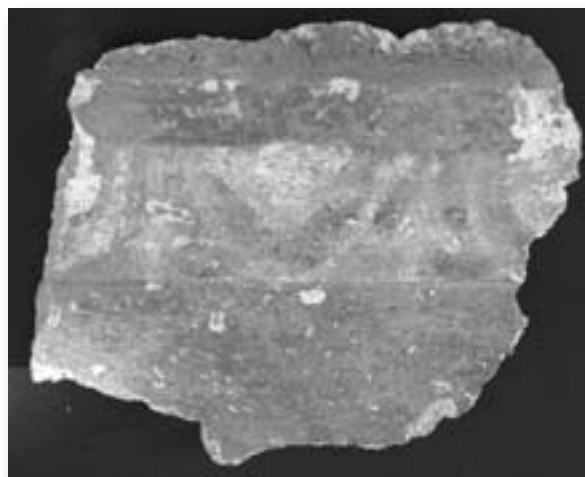


Tel Kedesh 2008

Andrea Berlin

From May through July 2008, we were back at Tel Kedesh, continuing to excavate the enormous administrative building that we discovered in 1999. We made significant progress in uncovering more of the structure as well as in untangling its various alterations under Achaemenid, Ptolemaic, and Seleucid officials. One of the big discoveries in 2008 was an elaborately decorated three-room reception area to one side of the courtyard. The lower walls were covered in elegant smooth white stucco, and the upper portions carried beautifully painted designs (see photo). The floors were a kind of *opus signinum*—small, tessellated stone fragments embedded in a plaster matrix. On the basis of the wall decoration and the type of pottery found beneath the floors, we can date this set of rooms to the first half of the second century BCE, when the region was part of the Seleucid empire. Of course this is very interesting, since such flooring is generally thought to have been invented by the Romans. Elsewhere in the building we have found a few dishes that we know to have been made in Italy; we think these were small gifts brought by visiting officials. It is possible that Kedesh was a venue where envoys from Rome picked up some new decorating tricks.

Towards the end of the season we also finally managed to measure the volume of one of the 14 enormous grain storage jars that we had found in our first excavation season arranged against the walls of the storeroom in the building's northwest corner. The problem with measuring volume, of course, is finding some commodity that will not damage the vessel when poured in but is still measurable and also light enough to be able to extract later. The owner of the B&B that we stay in, Yitzhak Avitan, came up with the perfect solution: bean bag pellets from an old chair destined for the trash. Using a 1.5 liter pitcher, Peter Stone (a Minnesota alum now working on his Ph.D. at the University of Cincinnati) and I carefully poured and counted until we had filled the jar (see photo). The grand total? 135 liters, which translates into 164 pounds of flour. Figuring about three cups per loaf (of course that's a modern 9"x5" loaf pan), and knowing that three cups of flour weigh about .86 pounds, we figured that a single jar held enough flour to make 191 loaves of bread! Our current hypothesis is that the Ptolemaic and Seleucid administrators here collected "taxes in kind," meaning agricultural products instead of money. We now have four similar rooms with these same jars, suggesting that the old adage about "death and taxes" held just as true in antiquity as it does today.



Alumni News

No matter when you graduated, what your degree was, or what you're doing now, we'd love to hear from you! Please send any news you'd like to share with CNES and your fellow alumni to cnesnews@umn.edu.

Ed Glenny (PhD 2007): "I am finishing my tenth year of teaching at Northwestern College in Roseville, MN where I am Professor of New Testament and Greek. This May I am leading a study trip to Turkey. I have just finished submitting my dissertation for publication, and I am working on a commentary on the Septuagint text of the Minor Prophets for Brill in Leiden, The Netherlands."

Tom Hendrickson (BA 2005): "After graduating I spent a year teaching high school with Admission Possible, an Americorps program that helps low-income high school students get to college. Then I started grad school in classics at Berkeley, where I got my MA in 2008 and where I currently am still. Last summer I had the opportunity to teach a Roman history class in San Quentin (inmates can get an associate's degree through the Prison University Project), and I'll be spending this summer in Rome at the American Academy."

Nick Hudson (PhD 2006): "Life after graduation has found me in some unlikely places. After the academic year of 2007 I moved to southern France to be with my fiancée, where we spent the year together, culminating in our marriage in the town of Montpellier. While in France I did some work at the archaeological sites of Latte and Aspiran, which helped improve my French more than my field skills. In May 2008 I accepted an offer for a tenure track job from the Department of Art and Art History at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and I moved to Wilmington shortly after my wedding. I am happy to report that my first academic year at Wilmington has come to an end and it has been a delightful experience, aided greatly by my wonderful new colleagues. While I admit I miss the Twin Cities, everyone at CNES and even the winter cold, this California boy, turned Minnesotan, turned French, is happy to discover a new life in the South, where I can count alligators and ibises as my neighbors."

Emily (Ladick) Dahdah (BA 2008): "Since graduating last May, I got married to Peter Dahdah and we just found out that we are expecting our first baby. That is

probably the most exciting news. The Master of Theological Studies Program at Notre Dame is great. I like it here a lot and would highly recommend the program, especially the History of Christianity concentration. I will graduate in May 2010, and it looks like we'll be moving back to the Twin Cities area where I would like to teach a little Latin in the high schools. I found out recently that I have been awarded the Turner Award at the U of M for best senior thesis submitted in 2008 in CLA. That was exciting news to hear."

Joe McDonald (BA 2008): "After graduating in May I spent the summer preparing to move to Providence RI, where I started the PhD program in Classics at Brown University, which started in September. While right now I am mostly taking classes to fulfill various degree requirements, I am excited at all the avenues in the Classics that I can explore while here. I have had a great time getting to know the graduate students and faculty here at Brown and it has been a very productive and busy year, and I'm looking forward to coming back to visit MN once this semester is over!"

Madeleine Monson-Rosen (BA 2003): "After graduation I moved to New York, where I completed an MA in English at Fordham University. I'm now living in Chicago, where I am a PhD candidate in English at the University of Illinois at Chicago."

Dave Oosterhuis (PhD 2007): "I've spent my first academic year since finishing up very enjoyably as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics at Macalester College in Saint Paul. It's a great place; the students are bright and enthusiastic, and the department is friendly and supportive. I also get to work with an old friend from CNES, Nanette Goldman. I had the opportunity to develop a couple of new courses here at Mac, one of which, Ancient Rome in Popular Culture, was a real success. In April we're also staging an all-day marathon reading of the *Aeneid* (you're invited). I've also managed to get some work done. At CAMWS this year I presented a paper on the *Catalepton*, the current focus of my research. I also really enjoyed reconnecting with folks from the U as well as visiting with other Minnesota alums. Since manuscripts play a role in my research as well, this summer I'll be taking part in the U's Manuscript Workshop at St. John's University. Next year will find me, in all likelihood, back at the University of Saint Thomas, where I did adjunct work as I finished my doctorate. In case that's all too dry I'll add that my somewhat infamous softball team still has

not won a game, as we wrapped up our eighth winless season last summer.”

James Pfundstein (PhD 2000) was recently promoted to Lecturer in the Department of Romance and Classical Studies at Bowling Green State University. He translated the libretti of two Cavalli operas (*Gli Amori d'Apollon e di Dafne* and *La Virtù de' Strali d'Amore*) for their North American premieres (in 2005 and 2007, respectively). He writes fiction under the pen-name “James Enge” (most recently a fantasy novel *Blood of Ambrose*, out from Pyr Books in April 2009).



It's under that opaque moniker that interested people can find him on Facebook and LiveJournal.

Tina Sherman (BA 2007): “After graduating, I moved to the Boston area to start a Master's degree program in Bible and the Ancient Near East at Brandeis University. I will be finishing that degree in the next two weeks. I have decided to stay at Brandeis to complete my PhD, as well. My primary interest areas are biblical historiography and comparative semitics. In addition, while at Brandeis, I have continued to work remotely as a Research Assistant for Prof. Bernard Levinson.”

Peter Stone (BA 2004): “After graduating from CNES in 2004 with a double major in CNEA and Latin, I began graduate school in the department of Classics at the University of Cincinnati with a focus on Classical archaeology. I earned my MA there in 2007 and am now ABD. During my graduate career I have worked on archaeological projects at Gordion in Turkey, Mytilene, Stymphalos and Sikyon in Greece, and Tel Kedesh in Israel. Currently I am working on material from CNES' own excavations at Tel Kedesh for my dissertation, a case study in which I explore how changes in political climate affected the economic orientation and cultural leanings of people in the Upper Galilee in the Persian and Hellenistic periods. I will spend much of next year at the Albright Institute in Jerusalem conducting library and museum research.”

Michael Tiffany serves as Academic Dean at a private college-preparatory K-12 school (Providence Academy), where he also teaches Latin, debate, and photography; travels bi-annually to Italy with students; and oversees the school's accreditation activities. In his spare time he translates Greek weekly with several friends. The group is now working on Plato's *Gorgias*, having just finished the *Republic*—which took thirteen years. Each summer Michael also escapes on long motorcycle camping trips (sometimes with his wife, Maureen), now having toured six Canadian provinces, circled the Great Lakes, traced the entirety of all three US coasts, and explored every state in between.

Galya (Toteva) Bacheva (PhD 2007): “After graduation I traveled a bit and devoted myself to my family—something I could not really do while in Grad School. Now I have a wonderful 7-month old son and truly enjoy spending my time with him. Sleepless nights are no worse than during dissertation writing. I am now getting ready to go back to Turkey and start preparing a publication for the Achaemenid period ceramics from Gordion. This is going to keep me busy in the near future.”

Emily West (PhD 2004) is enjoying her fourth year at the College of St. Catherine. She may be contacted at ebwest@stkate.edu.

Molly Zahn (BA 2001): “After spending my last semester ‘at’ Minnesota actually studying abroad in Germany, I continued my ‘European tour,’ spending two years at Oxford, from which I received my M.Phil. in Old Testament Theology in 2003, and a year studying Aramaic at Uppsala University in Sweden. In 2004 I began my doctoral work at the University of Notre Dame, where I focused on the Hebrew Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls. My dissertation, which I defended at the beginning of March, deals with exegetical revisions of the Pentateuch in the Dead Sea Scrolls. I am currently living in Lawrence, Kansas, where I'm a lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas.”

Recent Dissertations

W. Edward Glenny, *Translation Technique and Theology in the Septuagint of Amos* (Greek 2008)

“This dissertation offers a thorough analysis of the translation technique and theology of LXX-Amos, which is valuable for those studying LXX-Amos and for those doing textual criticism in the Hebrew text of Amos. It analyzes the literalness of the translation, the rendering of difficult and unknown words, and the rendering of visually ambiguous phenomena, like homonyms, homographs, and word divisions. The evidence suggests the translator worked from a text very similar to the Hebrew Masoretic Text. He reveals his biases as he struggles with the difficult and obscure sections of his source text. He exhibits an anti-Syrian and anti-Samaritan bias as well as interest in Gentiles, eschatology, and messianism.

The dissertation has been accepted for publication by Brill (Leiden, The Netherlands) in the *Supplements to Vetus Testamentum* series. The book is entitled *Finding Meaning in the Text: Translation Technique and Theology in the Septuagint of Amos*. It is due out in June, 2009.”

Nicholas Hudson, *Dining in the Late Roman East* (AMAA 2006)

“My dissertation investigated the social role of dining in the Roman world from an archaeological perspective. Using the silver and ceramic table settings from archaeological contexts I identified the development of a new standard of dining during the Late Roman period among the poorer populations of the Roman Empire. During the Early Roman period everyone, elite and sub-elite alike, appears to have dined in similar fashion, where each guest received and ate his/her own portion of food, thus emphasizing individual service and personal identity. After the third century the elite silver-using population continued this practice among themselves, but a new tradition developed among the ceramic-using sub-elite. Unlike the status-conscious elite, the poor segments of the Late Roman population emphasized community and anony-

mous unity by sharing portions of food served in large bowls and dishes. The results of my dissertation provide an archaeological identifiable measure of the transition from Classical to Late Antique life.”

David Oosterhuis, *The Catalepton: Myths of Vergil* (Latin 2007)

“My dissertation is an analysis of the most meta-poetical poems of the *Catalepton*, the poems that engage with the literary questions and issues that surrounded Virgil in the centuries after his death. It demonstrates how, when approached properly, apocryphal and pseud-epigraphical material can shed light on Virgilian reception and the various 'myths' about the poet that were widely accepted in antiquity and indeed often still are today.”

Galya (Toteva) Bacheva, *Local Cultures of Late Achaemenid Anatolia* (AMAA 2007)

“My dissertation is devoted to the local Anatolian cultures in the 4th century B.C.E. This had been a largely neglected area of study over the years, but quite important and interesting. Anatolia housed a number of smaller sub-areas inhabited by people of distinct cultures, such as the Phrygians, Lydians, Lycians and Carians. I focused on the ceramics from Greater Phrygia (the capital Gordion) and Lycia (Hacimusalar in northern Lycia), and discussed it within the context of all other material finds. I compared that material to that of Troy and Daskyleion (Hellespontine Phrygia), Sardis (Lydia) and Halikarnassos (Caria). I found that each site displayed a variety of cultural traditions, including Greek, Eastern and Anatolian. This mixture suggests that no single pattern of ‘influence’ prevailed over local cultures in Anatolia, either from the Greek or Achaemenid world. Peoples living in this region welcomed foreign ideas and customs according to their tastes. Fourth century Anatolia thus appears as a place of vibrant cultural exchange in the ethnically diverse Achaemenid Persian Empire.”

Graduate Student News (2007-08)

Joining the graduate program in fall 2008 are:

- **Aaron Beek** (British Columbia) – Classics PhD;
- **Anna Beek** (British Columbia) – Classics PhD;
- **Courtney Friesen** (Gordon-Conwell Seminary) – Greek PhD;
- **Mattias Gassman** (Iowa State) – Classics MA;
- **Cynthia Hornbeck** (Utah) – Classics PhD;
- **Shannon Patrick** (Iowa State) – Latin MA;
- **Cody Schmitz** (North Central Univ.) – ReIA MA.

Kathleen Ess (MA, ReIA) worked on the excavation of an early Christian basilica at Sandanski, Bulgaria in June 2008.

Jim Hamm (PhD, Classics) presented a paper on Plato at the CAMWS meeting in Tucson. He recently passed his PhD exams and is starting work on the ethical status of war in Plato's *Republic*.

Kate Larson (MA, AMAA) served as a square supervisor at Tel Kedesh with the University of Michigan/University of Minnesota team. Thanks to a Graduate Research Partnership grant from the Graduate School to research the glass beads and pendants from Tel Anafa in northern Israel, she spent a week in Jerusalem in summer 2008 examining beads in the Israeli Antiquities Authority warehouses, touring museums to study jewelry collections, and utilizing the library resources at the Albright Institute.

Christine Lechelt (PhD, Classics) had a Graduate Research Partnership grant to work with Nita Krevans on "Apollonius and His Epic Predecessors" in summer 2008.

Paul Lesperance (PhD, AMAA) is working on his dissertation on symbols on the Tel Kedesh sealings.

Christy Marquis (PhD, Classics) gave her first conference paper, entitled "The Scepter of Latinus: Intertext and Interpretation at *Aen.* 12.206-11," at the 2008 Chicago APA. She spent the summer of 2008 working as a research assistant for her advisor, Christopher Nappa, and preparing for her PhD prelims, which she was delighted to pass in September. After the thoroughly exhausting experience of exams she and her husband Bryce traveled for two weeks in Albania, Montenegro and Croatia and saw some great ancient sites, including Buthrotum and Dyrrachium. She received the Hutchinson Fellowship from CNES for 2008-09.

Marty Wells (PhD, AMAA) spent 2007-08 in Athens, Greece as a Regular Member of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and was excavating in Corinth during the spring. He was also awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for the 2008-2009 academic year, for his dissertation entitled "A Cosmopolitan Village: the Hellenistic Settlement at Gordion."

Heather Woods (PhD, Latin) spoke on "Sermo and Techne: Septimius and Acme in Catullus c. 45" at the CAMWS meeting in Tucson and, thanks in part to an Eta Sigma Phi scholarship, attended the Classical Summer School of the American Academy in Rome in summer 2008. In 2008-09 she is serving on the Local Committee for the CAMWS meeting in Minneapolis.



Kate Larson (and wheelbarrow) at Tel Kedesh.

An Eventful Summer at the American Academy's Classical Summer School

Heather Woods

Thanks to financial assistance from the Eta Sigma Phi scholarship to the American Academy in Rome, I was able to attend the Academy's Classical Summer School this year. The CSS is a six-week intensive introduction to the topography of Rome, under the direction of Gregory Bucher of Creighton University and his assistant, John Hopkins of the University of Texas. The course was organized diachronically, beginning with prehistoric evidence in the Forum area and ritual spaces in the Etruscan sites of Tarquinia, Caere, and Veii, and ending with the building program of Constantine. The pace of the program was rigorous, with densely packed days of visiting monuments and museums within the city and frequent extra-urban excursions (to Nemi, Tusculum, Cosa, Alba Fucens, Praeneste, Terracina, Sperlonga, Ostia, Portus and Isola Sacra).

In the course of the six weeks we learned about the history and significance of changes in the layout of Rome's monumental center and gained tools to visually identify and chronologically situate various Roman building techniques and materials. On several occasions, we tested these skills in autoptic exercises, in which we studied uncontextualized material remains of Roman structures to extract information. This hands-on experience was invaluable, as it both helped to reinforce what we had learned and encouraged us to continue to develop our critical skills in assessing physical remains. The program's student body, composed basically of a 50/50 mix of graduate students in Classics (plus one advanced undergraduate) and high school Latin teachers, were trained primarily in literature and history as opposed to archaeology or topography, so we all benefited enormously from this sort of "material culture bootcamp."

Another, more mundane, but certainly significant benefit of our intensive engagement with Rome this summer is the large library of digital photographs of sites, monuments, and works of art that I and my fellow students took, that will become a permanent source of enrichment for my future Latin and civilization classes. Our association with the American Academy (and the diligence of our Director in obtaining special permis-

sions in advance) allowed us access to many exciting sites that are otherwise off-limits to visitors, including the temple of Romulus in the Forum, the imperial fora, and even the interiors of the pyramid of Cestius and the columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius! In addition to the instruction provided by Professor Bucher and John Hopkins, we were treated to frequent lectures by scholars associated with the Academy or otherwise in residence in Rome. These included lectures at the Academy by Larissa Bonfante on reading Etruscan, Penelope Davies on the individual and public architecture, and John Clarke on the ancient "viewer"; as well as on-site guidance from Eric Varner on portraiture in the ACEA museum, Russell Scott on the Regia and the house of the Vestals, and Joanne Spurza at Ostia.

The CSS program also encourages a close scholarly community through housing at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (the "Centro") and provides unlimited access to classics libraries at the Centro and the Academy during our stay in Rome. Since nearly all of the participants are teachers (either at the secondary school level or as TAs or instructors at the college level), one of the most exciting rewards of the program was the cross-pollination of pedagogical ideas—I certainly came home with many engaging new ideas for teaching Latin and Roman civilization at the college level, thanks to the open atmosphere of sharing among my fellow students. The fellowship of such a community during the intensive program was a great benefit, and the delicious food at the Centro (by means of which many of us compensated calorically for our grueling daily hikes in broiling heat) must not be left unpraised.

Having returned from the American Academy's Classical Summer School with a wide base of new knowledge of the city of Rome, a growing comfort with teaching with material culture, renewed enthusiasm for my own studies and teaching, and many wonderful new friends, I cannot praise the CSS (and especially our 2008 Director and Assistant) enough. I highly recommend the program to teachers and students of Rome, and am deeply grateful to Eta Sigma Phi for their generous assistance, which made my participation possible.

Undergraduate News

Erica Niemiec (CICv / Lat) had an abstract accepted for the 8th annual Miami University Undergraduate Classics Conference in February 2009, and with transportation provided by the Classical Civilization Program she duly presented the paper, entitled “*Saeva modesta: The Tacitean Female in Shakespeare’s Titus Andronicus.*” She reports that the two-day conference included presenters from various institutions in the United States and Canada. Panels ranged across classical disciplines, incorporating discussions of Greek literature, post-classical perspectives on ancient topics, archaeology, and linguistics.

Nicole Niesen (CNEA) and **Dan Schindler (CNEA / Lat)** participated in the Tel Kedesh dig in summer 2008.

College in the Schools

College in the Schools (CIS) is the University’s concurrent enrollment program, in which advanced high school students take official U of M courses for college credit. These courses are taught in the high schools by the students’ own teachers, who receive special training from faculty here. CNES has had great success with its programs in Latin and modern Hebrew.

Hebrew: We have had yet another successful year. Around 100 students from two schools in the area participated in this rigorous program and improved their Hebrew skills. Their eight teachers came to the University for workshops that were mostly geared towards improving their pedagogical skills and exposing them to new research in the field of pedagogy. The summer workshop included non-CIS as well as CIS Hebrew teachers and gave the teachers an opportunity to meet with the world renowned scholar, Prof. David Johnson, who was conducting a workshop about “Cooperative Learning.”

Latin: *Cohors Latina* had a fairly uneventful year in 2007-08, and Oliver Nicholson’s presence was sorely missed at our workshops and field days. Ellen Sassenberg of Rochester Mayo Sr. High, who has been teaching a PSEO section in her spare time, joins the CIS program officially in 2008-09.



Nicole Niesen, working *very* carefully at Tel Kedesh.

2007-08 graduates

Bill Blessing (Grk / Lat) *magna cum laude*
Gretchen Borkowski-Chupp (CNEA)
Daryn Christenson (Hebr / RelS)
Medea Dippel (AMS)
Kristi Anne Fritsch (CICv) *cum laude*
Alvaro Garcia (AMS)
Donald Giacomini (RelS)
Ikram Hassan (Lat)
Christopher Holmes (CICv / RelS) *summa cum laude*
Mark Hvizdak (CNEA / Lat) *distinction*
Cody Killion (RelS)
Alex Kocar (Grk / Lat / RelS) *summa cum laude*,
high distinction
Andrew Kuzma (RelS) *summa cum laude*,
high distinction
Emily Ladick (Grk / Lat) *summa cum laude*,
high distinction
Nathan Marks (Lat)
Jay Mastrud (CICv)
Joe McDonald (Grk / Lat) *magna cum laude*,
high distinction
Timothy Petrov (Hebr)
Noel Phillips (CICv)
Ryan Puncochar (AMS)
Greta Rudolph (CICv / Grk) *high distinction*
Eric Shin (AMS)
Rebecca Smith (CNEA / Grk) *magna cum laude*,
distinction
Deborah Sugarbaker (CICv / Lat) *distinction*
Brett Welch (CICv)

Undergraduate awards

Bill Blessing, *CAMWS Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies*

Cameron Ferguson, *Harold C. Anderson Scholarship* (2008-09)

Lindsey Heesch, *Robert V. Cram Award* (2008-09)

Jennifer Smith, *Award for Outstanding Service to CNES*

Honor society initiates

Eta Beta Rho (Hebrew)

Ian Aizman, Justin Buol, Deborah Carneol, Emily Cavins, Jonathan Chester, Ariella DePrenger-Gottfried, Brian Erlich, Emily Feyma, Adam Galili, Don Giacomini, Joshua Greenberg, Elissa Gutterman, Doneila Jackson, April Krenn, Morgan Macbain, Chance McMahon, Jason Neff, Joshua Nowlan, Miriam Porat, Bradley Serber, Jonah Wagan, Susanna Yusufova

Eta Sigma Phi (Greek and Latin)

Ross Armstrong, Alyssa Boggs, Casi Butts, Cameron Ferguson, Andrew Gerstenberger, Bennett Hartz, Jennifer Jaszewski, Matt Jensen, Andrew Kuzma, Lindsey LaBore, Meredith McCarthy, Christine Overfors, Jennifer Smith, Nathaniel Smith, Rebecca Smith

Language students of the year

Greek: Sam Lindberg

Hebrew: Adam Galili, Don Giacomini, Kathleen Ess, Morgan Macbain, Spencer Fine

Latin: Stephen Erstad, Amy Hosterman, Kyle Menary, Chelsea Nutting

Classics Club: They're Back!

Jennifer A. Smith, Classics Club President (2007-08)

The University of Minnesota Classics Club was very active during the 2007-08 school year. We held ten regular meetings and seven planned events this year and, from our first meeting on September 13 to our last meeting on May 2, there were only six weeks in the 2007-08 school year when the Classics Club did not have some type of Classics-related activity planned for its members. Here are some of the highlights:

- Marched in the University of Minnesota Homecoming Parade as the “Golden Age of Greece and Rome,” featuring the All-Star UM Classics Club Kazoo Band. The kazoos were lost along the way, but we definitely made an impression on the crowd with our capes, flags, standards and six pound steel Roman Centurion helmet.



- Took fifteen Classics Club members and three graduate students to the Pompeii Exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

- Held weekly trivia contests covering history, mechanics, biology, literature, travel, epidemiology, and the Classics.

- Attended CNES-sponsored events like St. Olaf's presentation of the *Mostellaria*, the symposium on “Humans Through Deep Time: Archaeology and the Pace of Change,” and the series on Greek vase readings.

- Held a joint meeting with HP United, the Harry Potter book discussion group, and discussed Classical themes and allusions in the Harry Potter books.

- Created a University of Minnesota Classics Club web page (www.tc.umn.edu/~classics) that has received over 1,131 visits since September 2007.

- Created an official Classics Club t-shirt and set up an online shop for club merchandise on Cafépress (www.cafepress.com/umclassicsclub).

- Hosted a series of guest speakers from a list of CNES faculty and graduate students nominated by the Classics Club members.

As I write this, the new officers of the Classics Club are preparing to take over the club for the 2008-09 school year and I know they will do well. (I hope that they will also be willing to take over the tradition of carrying the forty pound standard in the next Homecoming Parade!)



Giving to CNES

First, *thank you!* to all of our donors over the past year for their generous contributions. Past gifts have provided fellowships and travel money for graduate students and scholarships for our undergrads, enriched the department's library, and endowed two faculty chairs.

Our most significant need right now is for support for our students, both graduate and undergraduate. Contributions allow our graduate students not only to pursue their graduate careers but also to pursue opportunities both here in the United States and abroad—opportunities such as attending one of the Goethe Institutes to study German, participating in the summer programs at the American Academy in Rome or the American School in Athens, or working on excavations at sites throughout the Mediterranean world. Undergraduate scholarships help students with tuition, textbook purchases, and the other costs of going to college in the 21st century.

If you would like to make a gift to support our programs in Classical and Near Eastern Studies, you can contribute online at <http://cnes.cla.umn.edu> (follow the “Giving Opportunities” link). For further information on making a gift, please contact our Development Officer, Betsy Burns, at 612-624-2848 or bburns@umn.edu.

Department Administration

Of course, we couldn't do what we do without the able assistance provided by our office staff:

Drew Matthews has been with the department as our student worker since fall 2008. We're sad to see him go and wish him the best of luck.

Derk Renwick handles many responsibilities for CNES and CSCL, and provides support for searches and tenure and promotion cases in both departments;

Barb Lehnhoff supervises daily administration and participates in staff and budget planning for both CNES and CSCL.

Victoria Keller assists the Director of Graduate Studies, serves as event planner, and works with the University's new Enterprise Financial System;

Kate Gallagher maintains reception, assists the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and works with the University's Electronic Course Scheduling system;



L. to R.: Drew, Derk, Barb, Victoria, Kate.

Contact us!

To find out what's going on, or to be added to our mailing or e-mail list, please get in touch with us!

Classical and Near Eastern Studies

University of Minnesota
245 Nicholson Hall
216 Pillsbury Dr SE
Minneapolis MN 55455

phone (612) 625-5353
fax (612) 624-4894
e-mail cnes@umn.edu
web cnes.cla.umn.edu

If you have news you'd like to share in our next newsletter, please send it to cnesnews@umn.edu or mail it to us at the above address.

Coming soon...

**the NEW Classical and
Near Eastern Studies
website!**

**Watch for it at
cnes.clas.umn.edu**

**University of Minnesota
Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies
216 Pillsbury Drive SE
245 Nicholson Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455**