

Yale Department of Classics

Summer 2023

Greetings from the Chair

The Phelps Hall Construction Zone, Summer 2023

I write to you on the cusp of a new semester, having just returned to Phelps Hall from a summer spent in exile on the third floor of 53 Wall Street (which many of you will know as the old “Whitney Humanities Building”). Once again, Dear Old Phelps was shut down for renovations, along with much of Old Campus, so all departmental operations had to be moved off site. Scrambling to meet the needs of the moment, we all found other places to inhabit this summer: some doing whatever research and writing we could muster minus our office libraries, and others working from home or traveling to far off places to conduct research or to enjoy some much-needed (non-Classics) time at a safe distance from Yale’s annual summer construction zone.

But I am happy to report that the scaffolding has now come down and that, as I pen these words, the happy routines of a new semester have already begun.



Inside this newsletter you will see that we have kept ourselves very busy this year, and that our various vacations, research leaves and graduations have all been well earned. Certainly the most exciting news concerns the hiring not just of one or two, but of four new faculty members. All are supremely talented scholars doing exciting and innovative work in their respective areas of expertise: **Malina Buturovic** will be well known to some of you, having earned her B.A. in Classics here at Yale in 2016. She returns this fall with a Ph.D. from Princeton, where she wrote a thesis on *A Common Nature and a Community of Souls: Family, Heredity, and Reproduction in Galen and Plutarch*. Also coming in on the Greek side of the ledger will be **Benedek Kruchió**, who will take up his position at Yale in the fall of 2024 after spending one last year as a Junior Research Fellow at Cambridge University. Benedek (who goes by Ben) divided his doctoral training between Humboldt University of Berlin and St. John’s College, Cambridge. His dissertation on Heliodorus (*Heliodorus’s Aethiopica: Multidimensional Narration and Ancient Reading Communities*) is now entering the publication process with Cambridge University Press.

Still More! Adding needed strength to the Roman Material Culture side of our program in Art History, **Alexander Ekserdjian** comes to us from Columbia University where just this spring he defended his dissertation on *Immortal Bodies: The Sculptural Representation of Mortals and Gods in the Sanctuaries of Central Italy*. Alexander will hold a joint appointment (50/50) with Art History, and both he and Malina will be with us initially as postdocs pursuing their research next year before joining the ranks of tenure-track assistant professors in the fall of 2024. Finally, joining the department as a Senior Lector (in a joint appointment with the Yale Divinity School) is **John Dillon**, ’08 Ph.D. John, besides being a wizard at teaching Greek and Latin, is a Roman Historian with special interests in late antique Roman government and law. His book *The Justice of Constantine* is a must read for anyone interested in the legal structures of late antiquity. Among his many current projects, he is nearing completion of a new translation of the *Theodosian Code* for Cambridge University Press.

Many long hours were put into these searches, but everyone in the department shared the load to help bring them to their successful conclusions. I am extremely grateful for the colleagues I already have, and I cannot tell you how excited we all are to have four such talented

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new scholars heading our way to make Yale Classics their new home. I have given you just a few basics about them in the paragraphs above, but look for fuller bios, along with a few personal details, inside. In addition, as a heads-up about what comes next, I am glad to report that we will be conducting a senior faculty search this fall. By this time next year I hope to have more good news to report about the new look of Classics at Yale.

In addition to hiring “four in” this year we successfully managed to hire “three out.” I am delighted to report that all three of our new Ph.D.s (**Chris Londa**, **Joe Morgan**, **C. J. Rice**) received multi-year teaching positions and postdocs in the field. Given just how tight the job market is right now, this is a rare achievement indeed! We are very proud of them. Their outstanding news is covered inside, accompanied by an equally encouraging report on what lies ahead next year for those who received their B.A.s and B.A./M.A.s in Classics in May. For as hard as it is for me to see them all go, I take lots of encouragement from the fact that these young scholars are now entering the world out there “such as it is.” Heaven knows that our world needs them and, though they would never say so themselves, they have an abundance of exactly what it needs.

Keep your good news coming our way. It is much appreciated, and we always love hearing what you’re now up to. If you happen to be passing through New Haven, you know where to find us.

Kirk Freudenburg

The Gray Lectures

Professor **Verity Harte** delivered the 2023 J. H. Gray Lectures at the University of Cambridge on the theme of “Changing our Tune about Plato’s *Philebus*.” The series included two lectures (May 23 and 25) and a seminar (May 24), all of which took place at Cambridge’s Faculty of Classics.

JH GRAY LECTURES 2023 **Professor Verity Harte, Yale**

Changing our tune about Plato's *Philebus*



"On the 'transitions' (*metabaseis*) in the *Philebus*":
the curious history of a
Galenic title

Lecture: 5pm 23 May, G.19

The "real" enemies of
Philebus: not *who*, but *why*?
Seminar: 2pm 24 May, 1.11

Ring the changes
(*metabola*): New Music in
Plato's *Philebus*
Lecture: 5pm 25 May, G.19

**The JH Gray Lectures will take place at the Faculty of
Classics**

All welcome. Talks to be livestreamed.

Verity Harte is a Professor of Philosophy and Classics at Yale University. She specialises in ancient Philosophy, with particular interests in ancient metaphysics, epistemology and psychology, especially Plato and Aristotle.

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Keep the news coming!
Anyone with news is invited to write
to linda.dickey-saucier@yale.edu

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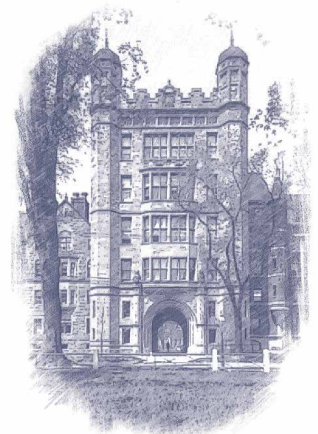
Yale Department of Classics

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Thank you!



Faculty News

After a productive leave in Winter 2021, **Egbert Bakker** returned to teaching and commuting. He participated in the search for a new departmental Hellenist, which resulted in no fewer than two exciting hires! He hopes that in the next Newsletter he can report that his Commentary on *Odyssey IX* will have been published, or at least will be in the final stages of production.

Kirk Freudenburg had an extra busy year as department chair. In addition to his usual tasks, he helped construct and co-ordinate two faculty searches that yielded four new faculty members – for the details, see “New and Forthcoming Faculty” on page six. He is especially grateful to his colleagues who pitched in and did most of the work that needed to be done. He taught Virgil’s *Aeneid* to a large class of talented Latinists in the fall, and he had nearly 40 students in his ‘Ecocultures of Antiquity’ course in the spring. His book on *Virgil’s Cinematic Art* was published by Oxford University Press in January, and he is now working on a commentary on book 12 of the *Aeneid*. He has articles on Quintilian and Juvenal forthcoming, and one just out on the water imagery of Horace’s first *Satire*. He reports that last year’s tomato crop was a disaster, consumed by the safari park that invades his backyard on a nightly basis. So this year he has taken the drastic step of planting a vegetable garden on the flat roof that hangs out over his back porch. No deer or groundhogs have yet flown up to it, but he is sure that once the popcorn stalks grow tall (yes, he is attempting to grow heirloom popcorn on a roof) they will grow wings.

Since taking on the position of Chair of History of Art at Yale on July 1, 2021, **Milette Gaifman** continues to dedicate much of her time to the stewardship of her other department, while pursuing her activities as teacher, mentor, and scholar. In Fall 2022, she was particularly thrilled to teach her lecture course *Art and Myth in Greek Antiquity* in the auditorium of the Yale University Art Gallery rather than via Zoom. More than 200 students enrolled in the class, and the six Teaching Fellows from the Classics Department made significant contributions to everyone’s learning experiences. In March 2023, Professor Gaifman held the 2023 Geddes-Harrower Chair of Greek Art and Archaeology, a visiting professorship at the University of Aberdeen. Additionally, she delivered lectures in Columbia and Stanford in Spring 2023. Professor Gaifman is excited to welcome **Alexander Ekserdjian** as her new colleague in Classics and Art History (see page 6).

Alongside chairing Yale’s Department of Philosophy and teaching, much of **Verity Harte**’s year was spent in preparation for her J.H. Gray Lectures, given to the Faculty of Classics at her alma mater, the University of Cambridge, in late May, with series title “Changing our Tune about Plato’s *Philebus*”, and using a dialogue of Plato mostly left solely to specialists to argue for the importance of conversations across the various sub-disciplines within Classics and of a “wide-angle” reading of Plato. She returned to the US to join her colleagues, David Charles, Brad Inwood, and the

graduate students of the combined Classics-Philosophy Ph.D. program, and with various visiting faculty and graduate students, for the fifth and final leg of Yale’s *Parva Naturalia* seminar series (initiated in 2017, but suspended for two years when Covid19 was at its peak), to read Aristotle’s *De Motu Animalium*. It was great to be together in person again. After a short break, she heads off to DC for an “Open Plato Project” workshop on Plato’s *Alcibiades*. On June 30, she hands off the position of Chair of Yale Philosophy to a colleague after six years in the role. In July, she plans a proper vacation...

Brad Inwood was excited to teach a new version of his graduate seminar on Stoicism, working with the most diverse bunch of students ever: philosophers and Divinity School students as well as Classicists – and even a Chinese philosophy specialist; those who read Greek and the Greekless; graduate students and some exceptionally talented undergraduates; and even an enthusiast from the School of Management: “Marcus Aurelius appeals to an enormous range of intellects and interests; the discussions were wide-ranging and the papers even more so. It was one of the most rewarding semesters of my career – Yale’s interdisciplinary culture never ceases to amaze me.” The spring semester saw Brad on research leave, which was devoted to work on new projects: a study of Plato’s *Crito*, a revisionist take on Chrysippus’ moral psychology, and an exploration of Kant’s reception of Cicero and Seneca. All of which led to a renewal of conference travel, which took Brad to London, Stanford and Toronto in person and to Sydney, Australia in virtual mode. “It’s great to be able to travel again, and to get reminded of how unpleasant airports can be!”

Chris Kraus had a blast this spring teaching Greek for the first time in too long, reading Euripides’ *Ion* with a bunch of highly motivated, intelligent, and challenging students. We did everything from meter to modern production and back again. Slightly closer to home was a graduate seminar in Roman Narratives, looking closely at Livy, Silius, and other light classics. In the fall, she went to Pisa for the first time ever to give a couple of papers at the Scuola Normale, then on to Geneva for the annual meeting of the Commission Scientifique at the Fondation Hardt, and to Exeter (UK) for the celebration of Peter Wiseman’s 80th birthday. In Italy she ran into **Ornella Rossi** (’10 Ph.D.), and in London into **Treasa Bell** (’22 Ph.D.), both of whom are thriving.

This year found **Jessica Lamont** teaching “DS Literature” and “Medicine and Disease in Antiquity” in Fall 2022, and grateful for a semester of research leave in Spring 2023, spent on fellowship at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington DC. A highlight was visiting **Jake Watson**’s (’22 B.A.) Latin students at the Sidwell Friends School, and hosting **Christina Pao** (’20 B.A.) on a quick DC visit. Now pivoting to her second book project, Jessica has enjoyed reading and writing about health, healing, and the “medical marketplace” in the ancient Greek world. Her first book, on Greek magic and

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social history, is now out with Oxford University Press: *In Blood and Ashes: Curse Tablets and Binding Spells in Ancient Greece*. This year also saw the publication of several articles and chapters, including projects on Greek trade and literacy in the northern Black Sea (in *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* 143), and some two dozen new curse inscriptions from the Athenian Agora (co-authored with J. Curbera, in *Hesperia* 92.2). She also had fun writing about connections between the ancient Aksumite Kingdom of East Africa and the Byzantium Empire for an exciting exhibition at NY's Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Cleveland Museum of Art (2023/24), called *Africa and Byzantium*. Between four(!) household moves in 2023, she enjoyed a happy return to running, and crossed some fun half-marathons off her list.

Noel Lenski enjoyed a semester of sabbatical in fall 2022 after a couple of very busy years as DGS in History. He did not quite complete work on his commentary on the Visigothic Law Code, but the project did carry him to Spain, where he spent three weeks exploring Visigothic ruins and leading a Yale Alumni Academy trip along the Camino de Santiago. He published three articles, including a lengthy study of "Law and Language in the Roman and Germanic Traditions" in the *Atti dell'Accademia Romanistica Costantiniana*. Lectures were given at Bonn, Cambridge (virtually), Naples, Spello and Rome – where he caught up with Yale alumni Roger Bagnall, François Gerardin, and Emily Hurt and post-doc Alexander Free, who worked at Yale this past year on Egyptian cities.

Together with Free, he hosted a colloquium on "Civic Identities in the Eastern Mediterranean: The Hellenistic Age to Late Antiquity" in February. The highlight of the year was watching students Emily Hurt (HIST) and CJ Rice (HIST/CLAS) complete their outstanding dissertations. Having taught an undergraduate course on Latin Epistolography and a graduate seminar with Yale's Archaia Program in the spring, he looks forward to teaching Roman Law and his lecture course on "Global Leadership, 700 BCE – 700 CE" next year.

2022-2023 was a year of much learning for **Pauline LeVen**: along with a seminar on Sappho that she had the privilege of teaching to fellow lyric enthusiasts (some of whom gave memorable performances on the lyre), she taught a year-long revamped version of the Greek survey (with unexpectedly fabulous sessions on Lysias and ChatGPT and Menander's bucolic imagination). In the spring, she was interim Chair of the Humanities program and organized a series of lectures on "Voices in the Humanities," focused on questions of music, voice, narrative and the archive. The two highlights of her semester were welcoming the poet and translator A.E. Stallings (the next Oxford Professor of Poetry) as Parry lecturer, and co-hosting, with Ayesha Ramachandran, a workshop on "Lyric Across the Disciplines" with colleagues from seven Yale departments. Her article "The Matter of Tragedy: Reading with Water" was published in *Arethusa* and she is continuing to work on her monograph, *Elemental Lyric: Reading Greek Poetry in the Anthropocene*.

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The Yale Group in Rome: François Gerardin, Alexander Free, Noel Lenski, Roger Bagnall



Erika Validivieso (third from left) at the RSA Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico

The bulk of **Joe Manning**'s work outside the classroom continued to be the management of his US National Science Foundation sponsored project on volcanic impacts on the Nile watershed and historical implications, and the writing of a monograph on climate and history for Liveright (Norton) to appear next year. A side project is a short book for Cambridge Elements on the Ptolemaic economy.

James Patterson wrote: I don't have much to report of significance except that I passed my reappointment review as Senior Lector. As I conclude my second year at Yale, I remain twitterpated—ensorcelled even—by the friendly community I find in and beyond Phelps Hall. I spend most of my time working with the graduate students, supervising language teaching and helping with Ph.D. exam prep. Every exam passed and teaching award won makes me proud. It is a real pleasure to work with so many good-natured and talented people.

Joe Solodow, after a busy fall semester, in which he taught Early Rome and the Greek Historians—the latter a course he'd waited three decades to do—in the spring was sidelined by illness. He is planning to return next spring.

Highlights of **Rosalie Stoner**'s 2022-2023 lectureship included watching her students deliver memorized speeches in "Power of Persuasion, Art of Speaking Well: An Introduction to Ancient Rhetoric" and lecturing for Directed Studies on layers of reading in Augustine's *Confessions*. She is looking forward to a summer of writing (mostly about Quintilian, for now) and to teaching Boethius' *De Consolatione Philosophiae* in Fall 2023.

Erika Valdivieso was happy to jump into the swing of things this year, presenting papers and writing up projects while teaching a full slate of courses. It was a special joy to oversee the inaugural panels of Hesperides—an international organization for Classics in the Luso-Hispanic world (<https://www.hesperideslusohispano.org/>)—at the SCS and the RSA this year (members of Hesperides are shown in picture of San Juan, Puerto Rico, location of RSA '23). She enjoyed taking part in the Advanced Seminar in the Humanities in Venice and is looking forward to her sabbatical!

Faculty Bookshelf

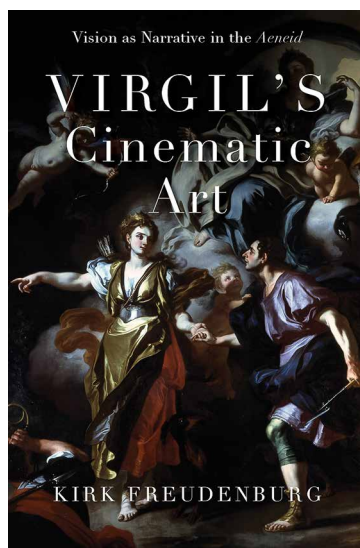
Kirk Freudenburg

Virgil's Cinematic Art:

Vision as Narrative in the Aeneid

Oxford University Press, 2023

This study concerns the rhetoric of visual manipulation that provokes readers to envision what is written on the page, treating visual details in ancient epic not as mere scene-setting information or enhancements to any given story, but as cues for performing specific imaginative processes. Through a series of close readings centered primarily on Virgil's *Aeneid*, Freudenburg locates new narrative content lurking in old places, brought to life within the imaginations of readers. This book considers the cinematics of ancient narrative: how words provoke an active, forward-moving process of experiential participation; poets not as verbal painters, but as projectors, purveyors of imagined happenings. The end result is a new approach to the question of how ancient epic tales convey narrative content through visual means.



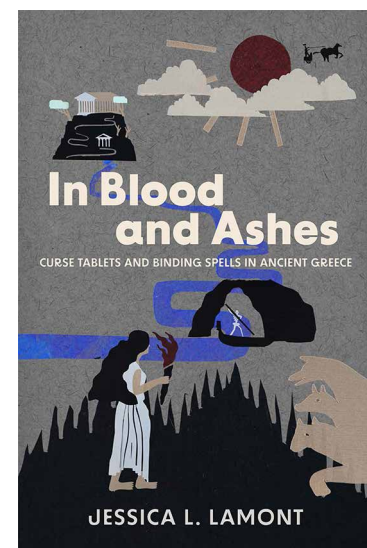
Jessica Lamont

In Blood and Ashes:

Curse Tablets and Binding Spells in Ancient Greece

Oxford University Press 2023

This volume is the first historical study of the development and dissemination of ritualized curse practice, documenting the cultural pressures that drove the use of curse tablets, spells, incantations, and other "magic" rites. The project expands our understanding of daily life in ancient communities, showing how individuals were making sense of the world and coping with conflict, vulnerability, competition, anxiety,



desire, and loss—all while conjuring the gods and powers of the Underworld. In reading between traditional histories of Archaic, Classical, and early Hellenistic Greece, the project draws out new voices and new narratives to consider: here are the cooks, tavern keepers, garland weavers, helmsmen, barbers, and other persons who often slip through the cracks of ancient history.

Classics Faculty, New and Forthcoming (Times Four!)

The Department of Classics went on a hiring spree last spring. As of July 1, 2023, four new members were added to the Department's faculty, adding strength and vitality to an already stellar program. Here they are, fresh from the box, and in their own words.



Malina Buturovic received her Ph.D. in Classics and the Interdisciplinary Humanities from Princeton in spring 2023. Her dissertation "The Transmission of Fault: Heredity Between Medicine and Theology," which will provide the basis for her first book, examines the convergence between theological and medical theories

of heredity, reading across Galen's embryological treatises and Plutarch's *Moralia*. Her work in general is on "histories of the body." Looking especially to overlaps between medicine and philosophy, it explores how ancient Graeco-Roman texts have shaped modern and contemporary understandings of body and embodiment, with particular attention to the mediating interventions of Imperial Greek readers like Plutarch and Galen.

She looks forward to moving to New Haven and teaching Directed Studies in the fall, punctuated by a trip to England this summer to present a paper on non-human animals and ancient theories of heredity ("Sea Holly and Dappled Horses") and to visit the river Dart. Outside of Phelps Hall, New Haven promises many exciting opportunities to enjoy two long-standing interests: contemporary theatre and the Atlantic Ocean.

John Dillon wrote: "By a circuitous route that I never dreamed of, I am delighted to find myself back at the department where I got my Ph.D. at the end of 2008. I have always been drawn to Classics by my love of Latin and Greek, so that old-school philological approach has always defined my work, which is dedicated primarily to Roman history. I like to explore how institutions worked in detail, from Roman public religion to the late antique Roman government and law. My monograph *The Justice of Constantine* is a study of the many administrative laws issued by Constantine and his populist, often terrifying conception of justice.



After stays in Heidelberg, Exeter, and Beijing, I have taught medieval Latin part-time at YDS since 2016 and worked as a translator specialized in Classics and Medieval and Early Modern History in German, French, and Italian. My most recent publication is a translation of Hans-Ulrich Wiemer's *Theoderic the Great* for YUP (German-to-English with a ton of Cassiodorus and Procopius). I am currently about two-thirds of the way through a new translation of the *Theodosian Code* for CUP. I'm very grateful and excited to be back at Phelps!"

Alexander Ekserdjian is delighted to join the Department of Classics and the Department of the History of Art this year. He is moving up to New Haven from Columbia University, where he recently defended a dissertation focused on the sculptural representation of divinity in Hellenistic Central Italy. Broadly speaking, his interests lie at the intersections of art, religion, and the body in the ancient Mediterranean and the wider pre-modern world.



As a Postdoctoral Associate for 2023-24, Alexander looks forward to finishing an article about art objects listed as votive dedications in the inscribed inventories of Greek sanctuaries and to carrying out further research towards his book project on sacred sculpture during the period of Roman overseas expansion.

He is excited to get to know his colleagues and the students of both departments, as well as the Dura-Europos material and the rest of the Roman collection at the Art Gallery. When away from his desk, Alexander plans to explore New Haven and its environs by bike. He will begin teaching in earnest in Fall 2024, as an Assistant Professor in Classics and History of Art.

After a childhood in Hungary and Austria and brief forays into classical music and chemical engineering, **Benedek Kruchió** studied classics in Vienna, Berlin, and Cambridge. Following positions in Regensburg and at King's College London. Ben currently teaches at Heidelberg and holds a Junior Research Fellowship at St. John's College, Cambridge. He is thrilled to be moving to New Haven and joining the Department in the summer of 2024.

Ben is specializing in imperial and late antique Greek literature as well as the cultural history of these periods, focusing on the dynamic relationship between their literary production and interpretative trends. He is finishing a monograph that develops dialogues between Heliodorus's *Aethiopica*, a virtuosic novel from the fourth century C.E., and contemporary reading communities such as "sophists," early Christians, and late Platonists. Ben is also co-directing a project on the forgotten Christian sequel to Achilles Tatius's erotic fiction and co-editing a volume on imperial allegory, its cultural contexts and intermedial entanglements. Before taking the transcontinental leap, he will be contributing to the Craven Seminar 2024 on "Exegesis as encounter in Greco-Roman literature."

When out of office, Ben can be found at the movies, in shady free jazz clubs, on one of his road bikes, or creating training plans that tend to be thwarted by his Austro-Hungarian cooking.



Ben "smiling" in Rhodes, March 2023

Faculty in Memoriam: Thomas Cole and Ramsay MacMullen

A. Thomas Cole, Professor Emeritus of Classics, died in his home in New York City on December 30, 2021. David Ratzan '97 reported the news to the department: "Thomas Cole was born on his grandfather's farm in Chilhowie, VA, and educated at Andover before attending Harvard University. After military service in Hawaii, he returned to Harvard for graduate school, studying with Eric Havelock. He spent some time at Yale before going to Stanford for a year, returning to Yale in 1965, where he taught until his retirement in 2002. He is survived by his wife Katherine, his two daughters, and several grandchildren.

Professor Cole was equally at home in Greek and Latin literature, and his published work spanned the entire classical period, from explicating the early Greek victory odes of Pindar and to unravelling the labyrinthine narrative structure of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Prof. Cole was not one of those rousing orators who liked to command a podium before large numbers of students; he was more at home in the seminar room, where he wore his extensive learning lightly. For those who were lucky enough to have him as a teacher and a colleague, he was known to be, above all, a gentle soul, deeply committed to social justice, and working regularly on behalf of community and international projects in New Haven. *Ave atque vale.*"

Among the better known of Professor Cole's many published works are *Democritus and the Sources of Greek Anthropology* (APA Monographs, 1967), *Epiplike: Rhythmical Continuity and Poetic Structure in Greek Lyric* (Loeb Classical Monographs, 1988), *The Origins of Rhetoric in Ancient Greece* (Johns Hopkins, 1995), and *Ovidius Mythistoricus: Legendary time in the Metamorphoses* (Peter Lang, 2008).

It seems fitting to close with an excerpt from the 2002 retirement tribute written by Penelope Laurans: "Prized in Phelps Hall for your prodigious learning, your irony, your powerful logic, and your profound knowledge of ancient and modern cultures, you have also been valued for the modesty and courtesy of your manner, and for the indefatigable attention you have devoted to your students' research and to your department's business. Generations of bemused New Haven residents have known you as the alarmingly abstracted bicyclist of Whitney Ave., or as the all-weather jogger with the beatific smile and the plastic bag that serves as your briefcase. True learning, originality of thought, and high intellectual integrity are rare. You have all three."

Ramsay MacMullen, Dunham Professor Emeritus of History and Classics, died on November 27, 2022 at his home in New Haven. He was 94. Born in Manhattan, he was educated at Phillips Exeter and Harvard, from which he held all three of his degrees. He taught at the University of Oregon and Brandeis before coming to Yale in 1967. He retired in 1993.

MacMullen is best known for his writings on the ancient Roman world from Romulus to the late empire, and on religion, including early Christianity. He was extremely pro-

lific, the author of more than a dozen and a half books on Roman history alone, and upwards of 80 articles.

In monographs such as *Christianizing the Roman Empire*, in which he addressed how the early Church found dominance in ancient Rome, and in *Roman Social Relations*, where he focused in particular on neglected aspects of Roman social relations among the poorer classes, he won universal accolades. His books, and the attention and acclaim they received, were influential in opening the now established field of social history.

Wherever he went in the scholarly world, MacMullen was regarded with awe. Encyclopedic in his learning, and extremely rigorous and exacting in his scholarship, his rising at a conference to ask a question or make a point about a paper could silence the room, and cause apprehension in the presenter. At the same time, he was a warm, generous, and socially outgoing colleague and a respected teacher. He taught large lecture courses on Roman history, filling lecture halls with students on subject matters not guaranteed to draw crowds.

He was also the master of Yale's Calhoun College (now Hopper) for six years in the late 1980s and, along with his first wife, Edith MacMullen, dealt with all the complicated social and administrative issues of running a college full of young people. He turned out to be a loyal, committed, and wide-ranging Yale citizen, and very good at the job.

Among his many honors were the American Historical Association's Lifetime Award for Scholarly Distinction, which he received in 2001. The citation for that honor began, "Ramsay MacMullen is the greatest historian of the Roman Empire alive today." In 2013 he received the Arthur Kingsley Porter Prize from the College Art Association for a 1964 essay judged by an editorial committee to be one of the 33 "greatest hits" in the first century of the association's journal's publication. And in 2014 he was awarded the prized Yale DeVane Medal for teaching and scholarship.

He never stopped publishing, and not on Roman history and religion alone. His many books included such titles as *Why We Do What We Do?: Motivation in History and the Social Sciences*; a collection of letters, *Sisters of the Brush: Their Family, Art, Life & Letters*, about a family of miniaturists in New London, Connecticut, and *Sarah's Choice*, a 19th century love story told in letters of a young woman's fight for a life of her own.

Kirk Freudenburg said on hearing of MacMullen's death, "Most of the world knew Ramsay as a scholar of unparalleled stature, but in the Department of Classics we had the pleasure of knowing him as a friend as well... his presence in the department as a scholar, mentor, and conversation partner allowed us to experience the ongoing curiosity and drive of a truly exceptional scholar who was also an exceptionally generous man."

MacMullen and his second wife Peggy were avid hikers for decades. He is survived by her, three children from his first marriage, and six grandchildren.

(Excerpts taken from an obituary by Penelope Laurans)

Graduate Student News

Chris Atkins defended his prospectus in April. With the support of a MacMillan Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, he also participated in the Practical Epigraphy Workshop organized by the Oxford Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents in Northumberland, England in March.



Chris Atkins at Corbridge

On a Fulbright Austria award at the University of Graz, **Chris Londa** spent the 2022-23 academic year exploring local *lapidaria*, sampling Styrian cuisine, and otherwise “living his best life.” While putting the finishing touches on his dissertation, “Paraliterary Labor and the Social Conditions of Roman Authorship from Cicero to Pliny the Younger,” he contributed a chapter to the edited volume *Writing, Enslavement, and Power in the Roman Mediterranean*



Chris Londa and Ben Kruchió on the alte Brücke in Heidelberg

(OUP), co-taught a course on “Authorship and Ownership in Greco-Roman Literature,” gave papers in Graz, New Orleans, Salzburg, Portland (OR), and Heidelberg, and participated in the VIU Advanced Humanities Seminar. Highlights of the year include sweating through the month of August in Rome, running the Amsterdam marathon with **Danny Graves** and **Teddy Delwiche**, and twice touring Arnold Schwarzenegger’s childhood home. Though away from campus, trans-Atlantic reunions with **Alexander Free**, **Arnaud Besson**, **Erika Valdivieso**, **Connor Wood**, **Benedek Kruchió**, and **Irene Peirano Garrison** ensured that the Phelps community (past, present, and future) never felt too distant. For seven enriching years in the department, Chris owes his teachers, colleagues, and friends eternal thanks. He invites everyone to visit him next year in Baltimore, the Charm City, where he will be a Loeb Classical Library Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at Johns Hopkins University—just an Amtrak ride away!

Joe Morgan submitted his dissertation on Ptolemaic social history in March and is looking forward to a brief rest in June. He has two articles due out in the next year and several in process. As the last year of the Yale Nile Initiative comes to a close, he is excited to publish the results of his investigation into papyrological and literary evidence for societal responses to abrupt climatic shocks, which will also feature in an exhibit at the Peabody Museum in 2024/2025. Joe is looking forward to developing the content of his dissertation into a book. In August, Joe will regretfully exchange New Haven’s cycle of seasons for the constant heat of the Florida panhandle: he accepted an offer for a postdoctoral position in Classics at FSU.

Thomas Munro ran AMPRAW 2022 with **Francesca Beretta** in November, bringing together around 30 speakers from around the world (both online and in-person) to discuss classical reception, and the Departmental Colloquium (“Negotiating Empire: Resistance and Reception in Ancient and Modern Society”) with **Eleanor Martin** throughout the year. **Cat Saterson** and I organised the American Classicisms working group’s first field trip in 3 years, to the Olana State Historic Site (as featured in Yale Today!). The summer will see me presenting at two conferences, spending June at the Fondation Hardt to research modern receptions of Homer, and going to the University of Tübingen in August to improve my German, before disappearing for two weeks in September to hike the length of Corsica. I’m looking forward to being on UDF for the next academic year, basing myself at UCL and travelling to various archives in the UK

CJ Rice has had quite the year. In the fall, CJ taught an undergraduate seminar of his own design, called “Religions in the Roman Empire,” and gave two papers at the annual meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature in Denver. In May 2023, CJ also accompanied Laura Nasrallah and her archaeology class to Turkey and Greece for two antiquities-filled weeks of site and museum visits. Most of all, however,

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CJ is pleased to have completed, defended, and submitted his dissertation “*Religio Licita: Empire, Religion, and Civic Subjects, 250-450 CE*” in Spring 2023, with loads of help and support from his committee members **Noel Lenski**, **Maria Doerfler** (from Religious Studies), and **Joe Manning**. He will be starting this fall as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Vassar College’s Department of Greek and Roman Studies, where he’ll teach a combination of Latin and ancient history courses.

Jasmine Sahu-Hough reported: “I taught in the Summer Scholars, Pathways to Humanities programme at the moment (it began June 26th and ended July 7th), delivering a course I designed myself entitled ‘Introduction to Ancient Languages’. Over 5 sessions, I am introducing the students (drawn from the public high schools around New Haven) to Middle Egyptian, Classical Latin and Classical Greek. The last session of the course was



Jasmine Sahu-Hough, smashing pots under Athena’s watchful eye

devoted to ancient writing technologies and I gave them the chance to write their own texts on papyri, pot shards, wax tablets and clay tablets. I had great fun creating the pot shards by smashing up some Home Depot garden pots (as shown in the photo)!”

This past year, **Catherine Saterson**, a doctoral student in Classics and Comparative Literature, began the department’s ancient Greek and Latin sight translation group. She and **Kirsten Traudt** have assumed leadership of the American Classicisms Whitney Humanities Center working group. In November at the Annual Meeting for Postgraduates in the Reception of the Ancient World, Catherine presented a paper entitled “The Island as Siren Song in Rilke’s ‘Die Insel der Sirenen’.” This coming fall, she will be a teaching fellow for the course “Dangerous Women: Sirens, Singers, Poets and Singers from Sappho to Elena Ferrante.”

Tom Wang has an article forthcoming in *Melita Classica* analyzing the economic impact of internal conflict between tax-collectors and governors of Asia during the Late Roman republic. The article began as a paper delivered at a conference of the Malta Classics Association.



Chris Londa, C.J. Rice, and Joe Morgan, the Department’s newest Ph.D.s



Jasmine Sahu-Hough with Ziming Liu, dancing with dinosaurs in DC



Here are some highlights of the year in photos.

Above: Yale grad students in the YUAG coin room.

Right: The Yale Rep's "Mojada" drew a contingent of masked classicists in March.



Joe Morgan (left photo) and Chris Londa (center) raise a glass with their families on graduation day. Latin students study Virgilian materials up close in the YUAG.



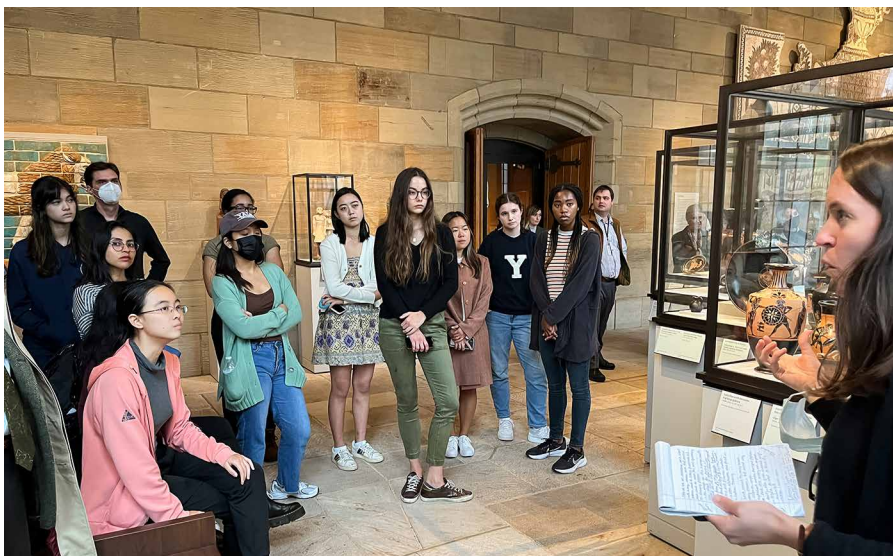
Nebo Todorović with daughter Ingrid (born Feb. 9). Londa, Graves and Delwiche ran the Amsterdam marathon. Maria Ma does serious damage to the pizza supply.



KF's "Eco" students made flatbread cakes from ancient grains.



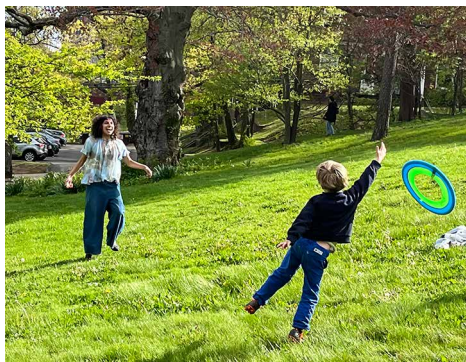
The "Bar" gang was all smiles at the "Mojada" after-party.



Jessica Lamont captures the audience at last Fall's "Classics at the Gallery" tour. Finn Goss received this year's Hurlbut Prize for best Latin Translation by a Freshman.



The East Rock Brewery was awash in Classicists in December (photos left and right).



Scenes from the End of Year party at the Yale Farm: David Quint and Federico Maviglia; Esther and Hudson toss the frisbee; Erika, Mau and Cat.



Joe, Lizzie, Anna



Maria and Kirsten summon heat.



Alison, Rafail, Noel

News from Our 2023 Graduates

The Department celebrated the graduation of 9 B.A.s and B.A./M.A.s and 3 Ph.D.s on May 22, 2023, with cakes and champagne in Phelps Hall. The new graduates reflected on their time at Yale and shared what they would be doing next.

Rachel Blatt majored in History and Classical Civilization, primarily studying Roman history. She wrote, “The support and mentorship of the faculty within Classics has been a highlight of Yale.” After spending the summer on an archaeological dig in the ancient city of Gabii with Professor Johnston, she will start law school at Stanford University. Rachel adds that she “will miss studying antiquity dearly, but looks forward to using her Latin knowledge in law school.”

Arthur Cao plans to spend the next two years working as a software engineer at Amazon in Seattle. Arthur wrote: “I hope to continue my engagement with Classics on my own, perhaps with the community at UW as well. A long term project I’m looking forward to is to make the same journey as Aeneas by sailing in the Mediterranean – I know how to sail already, just need to do some research on reconstructing the route. I loved my past four years with the department, it really was a home for me. I’m really grateful for everyone in the department, and I will fondly remember the daily walk towards Phelps Hall in the years to come.”

Antonio Cilibrizzi will be moving to New York City to earn a Ph.D. in Classical Philology from NYU. He plans to focus primarily on Graeco-Roman rhetoric and, as a secondary interest, on classical reception in German theory. Antonio wrote: “Highlights from my time in Yale Classics include two Beinecke trips for CSK’s Lucan class and Prof Lamont’s Oratory course, Bacchic revelry during the many Undergraduate Symposia I had the pleasure of hosting, Prof Robinson’s humorous commentary in Greek 125, and many sleepless, yet fulfilling nights spent translating Greek and Latin or writing about ancient texts for a close-reading paper. I am deeply grateful for the generosity, availability, and wisdom I found in Yale Classics peers and faculty whom I will most likely never forget.”

Katie Painter will be pursuing an M.Phil. in Religion and Theology at Oxford next year on a Rotary Global Grant scholarship. Her research will focus on early Christian Latin poetry as a mode of catechesis/theological argument and a window into early Christians’ complex engagement with the varied intellectual landscape of the Late Antique Mediterranean world. After the M.Phil., Katie hopes to return to the United States for a Ph.D. in Ancient Christianity. She wrote: “I am very grateful to the Yale Classics department

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Graduates raise a glass with Egbert Bakker and Pauline LeVen. Left to right: Alisia Pan, Matthew Thomas, Egbert Bakker, Katie Painter, Pauline LeVen, Antonio Cilibrizzi, Grace Blaxill, Esther Reicheck, Elizabeth Rabb.

News from Our 2023 Graduates *continued from page 12*

for all of the wisdom and guidance I have received over these past four years about studying language, literature, Classical history and beyond. Please keep in touch!”

Elizabeth Raab will be spending the summer teaching Basic Latin at CUNY’s Latin/Greek Institute, where she learned Latin after her first year at Yale. At the end of the summer she will move to Germany to begin a two-year MA in Ancient Greek at the University of Heidelberg, funded by a DAAD scholarship. Elizabeth wrote: “The Yale Classics department has been an incredible place to learn and grow over the past few years, and I’ll be sure to report back on my adventures in Germany!”

After “aestivating at home” in Seattle, **Esther Reichek** will start a Ph.D. in Classical Philology at Harvard, generously supported by a Presidential Scholarship. She hopes to continue and further her explorations of discontinuities and ruptures

in Greek, Latin and Arabic literature. Esther wrote that she “will miss the cozy cocoon of Phelps that nurtured her love of Greek and the laughing camaraderie with her fellows, faintly tinged with a ‘forsan et haec’ vibe.”

Matthew Thomas will be moving to Somerset, NJ, to teach Latin at Franklin High School. He hopes to return “with a cohort of students” for the Yale Certamen this fall, now the charge of **Joseph Laufer** and **Anya AitSahlia**. Matthew wrote that he “will greatly miss the community of the department that was fostered by fellow graduating seniors, from group bonding at ‘symposia’ (often including presentations) organized by **Antonio Cilibrizzi**, to the camaraderie of **Esther Reichek** and **Liz Raab** in working through copious amounts of Greek on sunny afternoons.”



Left: Matthew Thomas with Pauline LeVen (dressed as a bumblebee for commencement).

Center: Rachel Blatt brought every member of the family to commencement.

Above: Celebration cakes and champagne flutes at the ready.



Alisia Pan (left photo) and Arthur Cao (center photo) with their very proud parents; Antonio Cilibrizzi (right photo) with family from Italy.

Staff News

Linda Dickey-Saucier, the Department's long-time senior administrative assistant, continues to keep the Classics trains running on time whether working from home or from her office in Phelps Hall. When not at work she loves spending her time designing and sewing garments for her own clothing brand, DenCha Designs (one can see the names Dennis and Chase, son and daughter, shaping the name). Linda is pictured alongside daughter Chase, wearing one of her mother's signature designs.



Matthew Stokdyk joined us in March as our new registrar. He recently completed a Master of Arts in Religion at Yale Divinity School, where he studied New Testament. Before coming to Yale, he studied Classics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he developed a particular interest in Greek. He is excited to use his subject matter knowledge to assist the department (and is trying his best not to give the Hellenists any preference). Matthew is looking forward to the coming semester so that he can continue to facilitate the department's mission by helping faculty iron out course scheduling and by assisting students as they navigate all stages of their degrees. Outside of work, Matthew enjoys reading eclectically and writing bad poetry.

Jasmine Williams continues to work directly with Classics, African American Studies, Philosophy, and New Haven Teachers Institute. In addition, she has managerial oversight of the Koerner Center, Political Science, Sociology, Institute for Social & Policy Studies (ISPS), and Program on Ethics, Politics, & Economics (EPE).

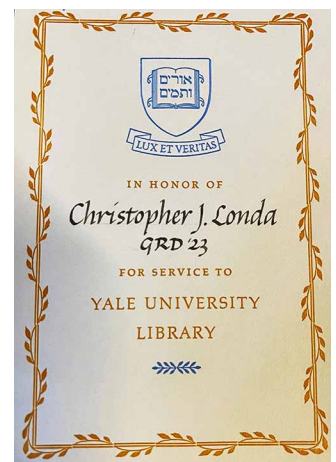


Classics Library Update

Early in 2023, the Classics Library completed the reclassification of its “Yale Class” materials. These older books on Greco-Roman literature, philosophy, religion, law, and related subjects are now integrated with the rest of the collection using Library of Congress call numbers. As a result, the library now uses a single classification system, apart from “the ancillary disciplines” of epigraphy and papyrology. But these disciplines have by no means been neglected; they have been the focus of bibliographic review and purchasing over the past year with the aim of consolidating works in these areas at the Classics Library. The expertise of graduate student assistants has been instrumental to this endeavor, as to other aspects of Classics Library operations. Each assistant who graduated in May has been honored with an inscribed bookplate in a Classics Library book.

The summer closure of Phelps has led to a monumental, if temporary, change in Classics Library policy. For the first time in known history, Classics Library books circulated. Students

and faculty who would be unable to access its collections during this time were able to check books out for use at home, the department's “swing space,” or the beach. They will be due when Phelps and the Library reopens in August. The Classics Librarian continues his work as co-editor of the *Pasts Imperfect* Newsletter <https://pastsimperfect.substack.com> / now on the cusp of its third year of publication. The email newsletter, published biweekly during the academic year, highlights recent scholarly work on global antiquity to a broader audience and now has over three thousand subscribers worldwide.



Recent Prizes in Teaching and Mentoring

Alejandro Quintana, a third-year Ph.D. Student in the combined program in Classics and History, was one of eleven Ph.D. students from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to be named a Prize Teaching Fellow for the academic year 2022-23. The prize has been given annually since 2000. Recipients are nominated by their undergraduate students and by the faculty members they assist while serving as Teaching Fellows. Alejandro was “doubly” nominated by the students in his introductory Latin course in the fall, all of whom contributed to a collective nomination, with some adding extra individual nominations to express their enthusiasm for Alejandro’s outstanding work as a caring and effective teacher.

Amia Davis was awarded the 2023 Deborah Roberts Prize for outstanding teaching by a Teaching Fellow in the Department of Classics. Amia received numerous stellar nominations for her various teaching assignments over the last several years. One of the students in her introductory Latin class in the fall summed it up this way: “She is such an amazing teacher! She makes class so fun and is just one of the best teachers I’ve had at Yale.”



Left: Alejandro Quintana racks up a Rostovtzeff Travel Fellowship (in Classics) to go with his Teaching Prize from GSAS; Right: Amia Davis receives the Deborah Roberts Prize.

Christina Kraus, Thomas A. Thacher Professor of Classics, received the 2023 Graduate Mentor Award from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for her exceptional work in fostering the intellectual, professional, and personal development of her students. The annual award is the

university’s principal prize for superb teaching, advising, and mentoring of graduate students. The Graduate School receives scores of nominations from across campus. Chris was this year’s recipient from the Humanities.



Christina Kraus (far left) pictured with Lynn Cooley (center), Dean of GSAS, and other recipients of the 2023 Graduate Mentor Award.

The Ninth Annual Adam and Anne Amory Parry Lecture

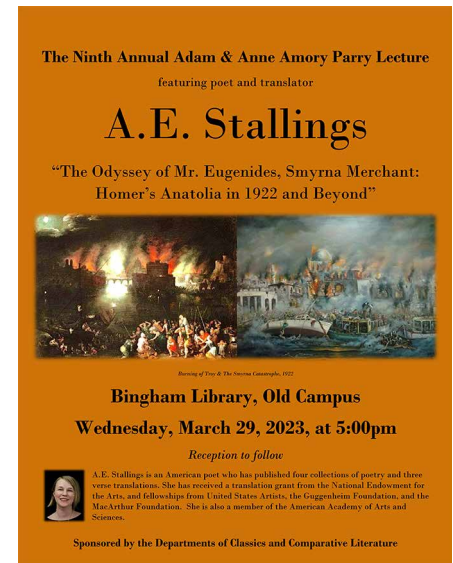
On March 29th, 2023, the Classics and Comparative Literature Departments had the privilege of welcoming the poet and translator A.E. Stallings for the 9th annual Anne Amory and Adam Parry Lecture.

Acclaimed worldwide, Stallings' collections include *Archaic Smile* (1999), *Hapax* (2006), *Olives* (2012), *Like* (2018) and most recently *This Afterlife: Selected Poems* (published in 2022). She has also translated Lucretius's *De Rerum Natura* (2007), and in 2018, Hesiod's *Works and Days*. Stallings has been praised for "her typically innovative verse forms, poised vocabulary, and a playful dexterous teasing-out of simile and metaphor." Many of her poems feature objects (for example a cast iron skillet, a lost piece of Lego, a funeral stele, Easter eggs). These objects carry stories (from Greek myths to modern tragedies of migrant crossings) but these stories themselves work as little objects with their own structure, texture, form, and unexpected turns, taking us from the everyday to the transcendent, or, to follow the rhymes of one of her poems (*Recitative*), from "breath" to "death" or (*The Ghost Ship*), from "eery ping" to "reckoning."

To a Bingham Library packed to the gills, Stallings delivered a lecture entitled "The Odyssey of Mr. Eugenides, Smyrna Merchant: Homer's Anatolia in 1922 and Beyond." Like her poems, her lecture too featured an important object

— a pocketful of dried currants, carried by Mr. Eugenides, a merchant from Smyrna (one of the supposed birthplaces of Homer), as he fled the devastating fire of his city in 1922; and it told a story, that of this Odyssean figure who washed up in T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* (published in October of that year) and was translated—metaphorically and literally—"back" into Greece and Greek by George Seferis, himself from Smyrna.

A few weeks after her Yale visit, Stallings (who was a McArthur Fellow in 2011 and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences) was elected as the next Professor of Poetry at Oxford, to follow Alice Oswald.



<https://classics.yale.edu/lectures-workshops-etc/parry-lecture/past-parry-lectures>

Alumni News

Thomas (Tommy) Benfey '12 B.A. is currently finishing up a three-year postdoc at Oxford in a research project focused on documents from medieval Iran and Central Asia, and about to start a new job as a research fellow in the Institute for Ancient History at the University of Tübingen.

Owen Ewald '92 B.A. published *Elementary New Testament Greek* in the University of Minnesota's Open Textbook Library. The book has been downloaded over 400 times.

Kathryn Hill '91 B.A. wrote: "I am still teaching both math (one major at Yale) and Latin (other major at Yale) at The Williston Northampton School. It's actually fantastic for me to have that dual appointment (3 math sections, 1 language section), as I get to walk between buildings and change my mindset as I do!"

Mara (Katsos) Karamitopoulos '01 (Civ) B.A. is an associate professor of orthopedic surgery at NYU and the Associate Director for the NYU residency

program. She completed a MPH at NYU this spring. Mara lives in Brooklyn with her husband and 2 children (Melina, age 12, and Constantine, age 9).

Gurcharan Khanna '80 B.A. wrote: "As a former student, I usually keep in touch with Professor Bers in person but recently we had to zoom in order to meet (photo below). We had a great exchange and Professor Bers was as erudite and insightful as always covering topics from when I was a student to current events."



Lorrie Kiger '08 was asked to take on a leadership role in her pediatric practice in Pittsburgh, PA, and is now the co-lead physician for her group of 8 physicians and 8 advanced practice providers.

Cat Kim '07 B.A. is living in San Francisco and working as product counsel for Meta's virtual reality headset.

Noreen Kupernik (née Sit) '19 Ph.D. has "completed another terrific year" teaching Latin at Thaden School in Bentonville, Arkansas where she has assumed a new role as the chair of the World Languages department. At the SCS annual meeting in New Orleans, Noreen presented "A Classical Precedent for Ambulatory Pedagogy," which explored ways to incorporate movement into teaching. A highlight of the year was bringing five students to New York City to attend the Paideia Institute's Living Latin conference, a trip supported by a generous CAMWS travel grant. Noreen wrote: "This enriching experience inspired hope for the next generation

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of classicists.” One of Noreen’s students shared that the trip “increased my love for the Latin language because it gave me a goal: become as good of a Latinist as some of the people that I got to meet.” Another budding scholar noted: “The conference highlighted the wealth of knowledge that becomes accessible when you are able to read and interact with sources from thousands of years ago. As someone who loves to learn, Latin gives me that access.” Spurred by such enthusiastic student testimonials, Noreen headed into the summer brimming with ideas for a new course of her own design, *Myth in Music*, which she will teach for the first time this fall.

Jenn Lawrence ’14 B.A. recently qualified as a barrister in England and Wales, where she practices competition law and human rights law. She remains grateful for her Classics degree because her passion for law begun as a paper on Roman Law!



New barrister Jenn Lawrence

Michele Lowrie ’81 B.A. is co-author with Barbara Vinken of *Civil War and the Collapse of the Social Bond*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2022.

Daphne Martin ’19 B.A. wrote that she is “currently finishing (in theory, and sort of in practice) her Ph.D. at Clare College, Cambridge, tentatively titled ‘The Making of Sparta: 750-480 BCE.’” When not writing, Daphne keeps herself occupied

with rowing. This year, she was President of the Cambridge University Lightweight Women’s Squad and was proud to be part of a historic clean sweep over Oxford!



Daphne Martin savoring her squad’s victory

Charles G. Mills ’62 B.A. practiced law for 50 years and is now retired. He wrote: “The School Board elections in Warren County, Virginia have turned nasty. I published a newspaper article in the local daily newspaper in which I praised the American public schools of 1900 for producing high school graduates who could read Latin and Greek (and to some extent those of 1950, many of whose high school graduates could read Latin). That part of my article touched off a battle in print between me and some probable teachers’ union goons, who seem to hate the classics.”

Tom Nowicki ’79 B.A. shares a memory: “This is something you may have already heard, part of the boundless legend of **Victor Bers**... It was in a third floor classroom, (something Latin. Cicero...?) Anyway, there were workmen repairing the roof of Phelps Tower. Professor Bers was at the chalkboard with his back to the room. Someone on the roof dropped a large piece of cardboard, which fell past the window. A student screamed ‘O my God! Someone jumped!’ Victor spun from the board and without missing a beat asked ‘Was he tenured?’ So cool under fire...”

Arum Park ’99 B.A. was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Arizona in the Department of Religious Studies and Classics.

David Ratzan ’97 B.A. wrote: “We had a wonderful season at Amheida (ancient Trimithis in the Dakhla Oasis of Egypt), excavating a 4th-cent. funerary church and mapping part of the site that had been uncovered by the slow, but steady progress of a barchan dune crawling southward. Next year we are all in on another elite domestic context, which seems to promise more painted rooms and may in fact shed some light on a slightly earlier phase of the site. If you are not yet an Amheida superfan, please visit us at <https://isaw.nyu.edu/research/amheida>.”

Emma Schmidt ’15 B.A. wrote: “I graduated from Wharton with an MBA in May, after spending the last two years nerding out about accounting, finance, policy, and healthcare. I will be returning to BCG in Philadelphia, but first, I will spend the fall working a wine harvest in northern Italy. It was during my summer at the Gabii Project after my freshman year at Yale that I first discovered my love of wine and all things Italy—so, thank you, Yale Classics!”

Anise K. Strong ’99 B.A. wrote: “I’ve become chair of the advisory board of the Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University, which, among many other activities, runs the famous International Congress of Medieval Studies. We are looking to expand and deepen connections with Classics and Ancient History, so please, if you’re interested in proposing a panel about the relationships or reception between the ancient Mediterranean and the medieval world, let me know and I’d love to help you out.”

John Tolan ’81 B.A. recently published *England’s Jews: Finance, Violence, and the Crown in the Thirteenth Century* with the University of Pennsylvania Press.

