

Yale Department of Classics

Summer 2024

Greetings from the Chair

Succession can be rocky or smooth – it doesn't take a Roman historian to tell you. As I initiate my three-year term as Classics Chair in succession to **Kirk Freudenburg**, who carried on from **Chris Kraus**, and in turn **Emily Greenwood**, I can say with total candor that my path was made easy. Smoothed by many years of strong and committed leadership that have left Yale Classics on solid ground. Paved also by the success of our students and alumni, who have made this a department renowned for what it has accomplished in the past and continues to accomplish in the present.



In last year's issue you read about our hiring of no less than four new faculty members in 2023 – Assistant Professors **Malina Buturović**, **Alexander Ekserdjian**, **Benedek Kruchió**, and Senior Lecturer **John Noël Dillon**. Two of our new Assistant Professors, Buturović and Ekserdjian, spent their first year in and around Yale, mixing research time with teaching, and Kruchió, who was completing a post-doc in Cambridge, has recently moved to New Haven to begin teaching this fall. John Dillon, with many years of experience at Yale, first as a Ph.D. student and then as YDS faculty, has already taken over important roles in advanced language instruction over the past year. Remember too that only three years ago **Erika Valdivieso** joined us and, as you'll see in "Faculty News," has already made herself integral to departmental and university activities. And a senior Latinist search is now well advanced, although we're holding off before making the big reveal sometime this fall, we hope. Yale Classics is thus a growing place with much new talent to add to our well-established team.

In the pages that follow, you'll see that our faculty have been characteristically active and productive all year: organizing five conferences or colloquia; producing scores of articles and new books, published or in press; faculty in demand across the nation and the globe for their lectures and other contributions to the intellectual and cultural world of Classics. These are all active scholars, but also people with interesting lives beyond

the academy whose well-roundedness plays a role in their success as scholars and teachers.

The department graduated nine seniors: **Philip Balkan**, **Madeleine Cepeda-Hanley**, **Lindsay Chen**, **Lauren Chong**, **Andrew DeWeese**, **Dionysus Gao**, **Charnice Hoegenifioh**, **Sasha Nelson**, and **Jackie Testamark**. Five Ph.D. students also finished, about whose dissertations and future plans you can read in "Graduate Student News:" **Francesca Beretta**, **Anna Grant**, **Erynn Kim**, **Ben Koons**, and **Ray Lahiri**.

We continue to be well served by our outstanding staff: **Linda Dickey-Saucier**, **Matthew Stokdyk**, and **Jasmine Williams**. Our long-serving team of departmental officers, **Andrew Johnston** as Director of Undergraduate Studies and **Egbert Bakker** as Director of Graduate Studies, will at last get a break as they pass the baton to **Jessica Lamont**, our new DUS, and **Chris Kraus**, our new DGS, although we are fortunate that **Brad Inwood** has agreed to serve as acting DGS for the fall while **Chris Kraus** is on leave. Above all, **Kirk Freudenburg** will get a break from chairing after three years, having already served for four in the 2010s. Collectively we all owe him our sincerest thanks for a job well done, and individually I owe him a huge debt of gratitude for handing over a department which is not just problem-free but also sparkling with energy.

One rocky part of my transition has been facing the closure of Phelps (again) this summer – the second in a row – leaving students and faculty *in exilio* until the fall. We have managed workarounds in temporary "swing space" but will be relieved when Yale Facilities moves to a different part of the campus to implement its rolling summer renovation program. We have been promised, at least, that the administration will apply a bit of honey to the rim of this cup by providing a thoroughgoing spruce-up of our Classics spaces in Phelps.

Most arduous, however, has been the loss of three beloved colleagues, Professors Emeriti **Diana Kleiner** and **Jerry Pollitt**, and beloved Lecturer **Joe Solodow**. You can read their stories in the *In Memoriam* section and will see that they remain with us in the memories they have left through their brilliant teaching, dazzling scholarship, and enduring friendship.

A smooth transition has thus left me with largely good things to report and with great hope for continued successes into the future. I very much hope you will report back your own achievements so we can share your news with the Yale Classics community. *Si valetis bene et nos valemus*.

Noel Lenski

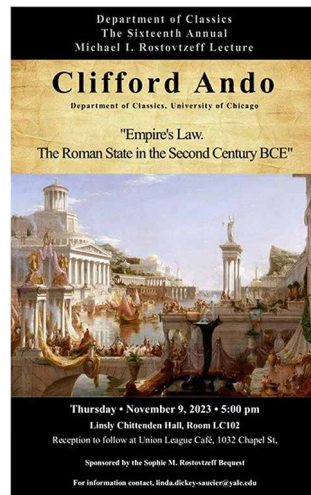
Rostovtzeff and Parry Lectures

On November 9, 2023, Yale Classics hosted the 16th **Michael I. Rostovtzeff Lecture**, delivered by Clifford Ando, the David B. and Clara E. Stern Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago.

Ando spoke on the subject of "Empire's Law: The Roman State in the Second Century BCE." Taking his cue from Arnold Toynbee's epochal *Hannibal's Legacy*, Ando explored the impact of monumental changes in Roman society that occurred in the second century BCE and what these might have meant for the rise of Roman jurisprudence. Through a critical examination of the meager evidence for early Roman statutes, Ando presented the case that there were in fact no written statutes before the mid-second century and that our attestations to them in later sources represent historiographic retrojections answering primarily to concerns salient in the first century BCE.

A symposium followed on Friday, November 10, in which the discussion over this revolutionary thesis was positively electric. Seth Bernard, of the University of Toronto, presented archaeological arguments, **Emily Hurt**, of John Cabot University in Rome (Yale History Ph.D. 2023) presented historiographic, and **Rafail Zoulis**, a fourth-year graduate in Yale Combined Program in Classics and History, presented legal arguments that helped frame this important new theory.

The lecture was held in the warm glow of Linsly Chittendon 102 and the symposium in the Classics Seminar Room (Phelps 401), both to packed audiences from across the university – and the world, via zoom. The lecture can be viewed online at

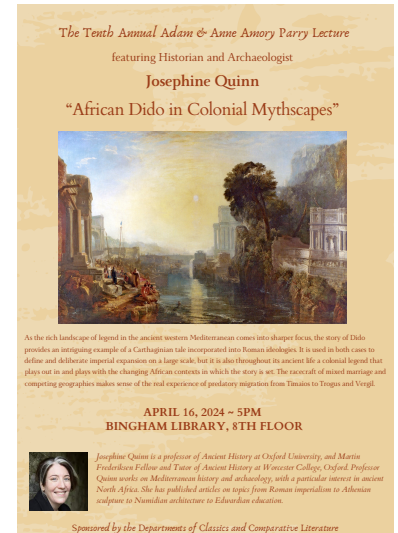


this link: <https://classics.yale.edu/lectures-workshops-etc/rostovtzeff-lecture/rostovtzeff-lecture>

On April 16, 2024, the Classics and Comparative Literature Departments had the honor of hosting the 10th **Adam & Anne Amory Parry Lecture**, delivered by Prof. Josephine Quinn (professor of Ancient History at Oxford University, and Martin Frederiksen Fellow and Tutor of Ancient History at Worcester College, Oxford).

The lecture, entitled "African Dido in Colonial Mythscapes" examined how the story of Dido provides an intriguing example of a Carthaginian tale incorporated into Roman ideologies. Prof. Quinn argued that, as the rich landscape of legend in the ancient western Mediterranean comes into sharper focus, Dido's story was used to define and deliberate imperial expansion on a large scale, but it was also throughout its ancient life a colonial legend that played out in, and played with, the changing African contexts in which the story is set. For Quinn, the racecraft of mixed marriage and competing geographies makes sense of the real experience of predatory migration from Timaios to Trogus and Vergil.

The lecture, held in the beautiful Bingham Library, was a high-energy event that gathered an appropriately mixed crowd of textualists, comparatists, and historians, and a joyous conclusion to a particularly busy semester.



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Thank you!



Faculty News

Egbert Bakker finally finished his Green and Yellow commentary on *Odyssey IX* (publication announced for February 2025 by CUP) and decided to pile on another one (*Iliad XI*). His real new big project, however, is the replacement of Chantraine's *Grammaire homérique* (to be published by OUP). Working on the commentary he came to realize that a new Homeric reference grammar is needed: the old standard work is not only difficult to use, but also badly outdated in all kinds of ways. Most of the lectures this year were remote, such as the contribution to a colloquium series at Bristol University on new approaches to Homeric poetics; most memorable was the appearance at Hogwarts (aka Eaton), where Muggle technology had to be (exceptionally) used to make his face, talking about the *Odyssey*, appear on a big screen.

Malina Buturović had a wonderful first year at Yale. Its many highlights included talks at Yale, Columbia, and the Society for Classical Studies in Chicago; two lectures and two colloquia for Directed Studies; a lunchtime discussion with members of the program in Environmental Humanities; several unseasonably cold swims in the Long Island Sound, and many excellent pizzas. She writes from the Fondation Hardt outside Geneva, where she is spending a blissful month working on her book and a few other (less daunting) projects. Next year promises more adventures, including a return to Directed Studies, as well as a co-taught graduate seminar on ancient Graeco-Roman medicine with **Jessica Lamont**, in tandem with a year-long colloquium on ancient medicine. She is very grateful to her faculty and graduate student colleagues for their warm welcome of her to the department, and to her Directed Studies students for a memorably joyful and enriching first semester teaching at Yale.



Malina Buturović and Sherry Lee '17 enjoy an outstanding library and excellent company at the Fondation Hardt.

"The 2023–24 academic year," writes **John Dillon**, "was rewarding and productive, and my first as a full-time member of the Classics Department. I taught a wide variety of classes in Latin and Greek, from beginner to advanced, and met many outstanding students along the way. I also helped mentor our graduate students and worked one on one with some of them as they prepared for their language exams."



John Dillon begrüßt uns aus München Outside the department, I – mit Bierchen.

participated in the M.A. and Ph.D. admissions process as a member of the Medieval Studies faculty. With respect to my own research, I submitted the final draft of the last major translation project I had undertaken before my change in position. *The Episteme of the Gallic Past: French Historical Research in the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century* by Lisa Regazzoni (Bielefeld) should appear later in 2024. I moreover spent three extremely productive and delightful weeks in June as a guest scholar of the Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik in Munich, Germany. There, I worked on my translation of the *Theodosian Code*; most notably, I largely completed the difficult task of adding and checking both connections between the imperial legal texts contained in the *Theodosian Code* and scholars' numerous attempts to correct their transmitted dates. While in Germany, I renewed old and made new friendships. I enjoyed the opportunity to participate in life at the Historisches Seminar of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, and I gave a talk about the *Theodosian Code* and the difficult task of translating it at the Seminar für Alte Geschichte of Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen. It didn't hurt that I also could enjoy Fußballfieber first-hand as Germany hosted the 2024 European Championship."

Alexander Ekserdjian has had a wonderful first year at Yale. Relieved of teaching responsibilities for the Fall semester he spent time in Italy doing research for his book, based mostly at the British School in Rome. He was also able to get down to the Bay of Naples to present a paper on Pliny, trees, and wooden sacred sculpture at the Virgilian Society's Symposium Vesuvianum. He returned from Italy much the wiser, and with hundreds and hundreds of photos of ancient sculpture. Once back in New Haven he shared some of his new ideas (and a few of the photos) with the Department at the Colloquium ("Crafting the Other: Gauls and Italians in Republican Italy"). At the SCS/AIA annual meeting in Chicago in January he presented some of his work on the materiality of Late Republican divine images ("The Theology of Marble") and co-chaired (with Allia Benner from Oxford) a surprisingly well attended colloquium on Etruscan temple terracottas. This Spring he had the pleasure of teaching a First-Year Seminar on Roman Gods ("Imagining the Invisible") to a remarkable

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group of students and getting involved across the university in a variety of activities, from dissertation defenses through to pedagogy workshops.

After a busy last year as department Chair, **Kirk Freudenburg** looks forward to getting back to his research, teaching and writing. His version of riding off into the sunset involves directing multiple senior theses and independent research projects in the fall, as well as teaching two “first time ever” courses: one an advanced Latin class on “The City of Rome,” the other a graduate seminar on “Roman Nobility.” He has some travel scheduled for his spring sabbatical, including a trip to Cyprus, but mostly the plan is to continue work on his commentary on *Aeneid* 12. He has a piece in progress on Horace’s Epistle to Augustus and another forthcoming on Quintilian. When not busy teaching and researching he can usually be found hanging from a rope at the rock-climbing gym or hiding among the vegetables in his garden – the crowning architectural jewel of which is his new compost system (please don’t call it a “pile”) made largely from repurposed materials, including a discarded futon.

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. This academic year, she was happy to see the publication of three articles: “The Flattened Greek Vase” in: *Drawing the Greek Vase*, eds. Caspar Mayer and Alexia Petsalis-Diomidis (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023), 112-139, “The Incense Burner in Greek Art of the Fifth Century BCE” in: *Holy Smoke: Censers Across Cultures*, Beate Fricke ed., (Munich: Hirmer, 2023), 109-127; and “What Do attributes Say About

Apollo?” in: *What’s in a Divine Name? Religious Systems and Human Agency in the ancient Mediterranean*, Alaya Palamidis and Corinne Bonnet eds. (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024), 249-269. In summer 2024, she will be joining Yale alumni, in a travel program from Athens to Istanbul that will explore the long legacy of Greek antiquity across the Aegean. And she looks forward to teaching her course *Art and Myth in Greek Antiquity* in Fall 2024.

Verity Harte enjoyed her first year free from chairing the Philosophy department and teaching a full complement of courses. In March, she gave the S.V. Keeling Memorial Lecture at University College London on the topic of “Philebus’ enemies: hedonism and anti-hedonism in Plato’s *Philebus*” and in May she gave a talk entitled “Fighting Words: *Philebus* and *Gorgias*” to a workshop in honor of Mary Margaret McCabe at King’s College London on the topic of Virtue, Conversation and Knowledge in Plato and Beyond. The Yale ancient philosophy group of faculty and graduates hosted another successful week-long workshop in June, gathering an international group of faculty and graduate students for intensive reading and study, this year of Plato’s *Charmides*. Her paper “Plato’s Butcher: Questions about the Metaphysics of Classification” is available online and soon to appear in print version in *Aristotelian Metaphysics: Essays in Honour of David Charles*, edd. David Bronstein, Thomas Kjeller Johansen, and Michail Peramatzis (Oxford 2024), and she is presently putting finishing touches to a paper entitled “Breaking the Frame: Justice and Politics inside and outside the *Republic*’s city” for a volume of essays on Plato’s *Republic* arising from the Leventis Conference *Re-Reading Plato’s Republic* that took place

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Alexander Ekserdjian performs the role of a gnomon atop a sunny ancient stone.



Kirk Freudenburg’s new architectural compost-ition.

way back in pre-pandemic 2019. Hopefully, this will be done before a restorative break in North Yorkshire, with the promise of good hiking, after which she will – she hopes – return to her book-manuscript-in-slow-progress on Plato's *Philebus*.

When **Brad Inwood** arrived at Yale in 2015, one of his aims was to encourage the study of Presocratic philosophy, for which the university had once been renowned. In AY 2024-25 this crucial period in the history of philosophy was offered up to both graduate students, in a course co-taught with Verity Harte, and to undergraduates who signed up for the seminar 'Before Socrates'. Along with Directed Studies and a senior Latin course on the Epicurean philosopher-poet Lucretius, this made for an exciting year in the classroom. The highlight on the research front was hosting, in collaboration with postdoctoral fellow Isabelle Chouinard, a major international conference on later Stoicism. Leading scholars from France,

Italy and Germany came together with the top US specialists to discuss new developments in the field, spurred on by sharply focussed commentaries, mostly by Yale graduate students. Thanks to generous support from the department, the group made significant progress in understanding Stoic philosophers from Panaetius in the second century BCE all the way to the emperor Marcus Aurelius. We were particularly pleased that the conference attracted a wider audience, including a small group from the Veteran Resource & Outreach Center at Hudson Valley Community College, in Troy New York. Stoicism may be *ancient* philosophy, but it still has real impact in the modern world!

Andrew Johnston has just returned from the latest campaign at Gabii, Italy – marking sixteen years since the excavations of the Gabii Project began in 2009. Seven excellent Yale

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Above: The Yale Gabii contingent, in front of the cella of the Temple of Juno at Gabii: Charlotte Turner '27, Anna Feldman '27, Isaidy Medina '25, Isabelle Verdery '27, Adele Auchincloss '27, Rhea McTiernan Hugu '27, ACJ, and Jonas Loesel '27. Top right: Students enact "The Stratigraphic Unit" while examining a 3rd-century Roman water pipe. Bottom right: Yale students Adele Auchincloss '27 and Isaidy Medina '25 with a freshly unearthed Latin inscription.

undergraduates joined him in the field this season, which saw several very important discoveries at the ancient city center and the beginning of an exciting era of collaboration within the newly created framework of the “Musei e Parchi archeologici di Praeneste e Gabii.” He has also begun a new excavation project — “The City of the Baboon Project” — at Hermopolis Magna in Egypt, in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Colorado, Boulder (Yvona Trnka-Amrhein), Bard College (Robert Cioffi), and the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism (Basem Gehad); two Yale graduate students in the Combined Program in Ancient History (**Alejandro Quintana** and **Jacob Horton**) have been invaluable members of the team in the first three campaigns (Jan. 2023, May 2023, and Jan. 2024). This past academic year brought a bittersweet end to his happy term as DUS, a role which he passes to the very capable hands of Professor **Lamont**. A couple of articles appeared in print: a study of relationship between fiction and cultural politics in the earliest tradition of the *Alexander Romance* (HSCP 112) and an analysis of the urban development of Gabii in the Republican period in *The Routledge Handbook of the Archaeology of Urbanism in Italy in the Age of Roman Expansion*. He looks forward to teaching Latin epigraphy and returning to his first-year seminar on Edward Gibbon this coming year.

Chris Kraus has spent a quiet year, dividing her attention among the university Tenure and Appointments Committee, a search for a new senior Latinist colleague and for new Beinecke curators, and continuing on the executive committee of the new Program in Early Modern Studies. In the fall she caught up with **Jessica McCutcheon** in Copenhagen, and **Caroline Stark** at the Center for Hellenic Studies. This summer (July-August 2024) she will teach in the Yale in London program,



At the West Brookfield asparagus festival in May 2024: CSK on the left, Teresa Morgan (YDS) on the right; unknown asparagus below,

a long-time ambition: “The view from the Island: Greece and Rome in Britain” will offer a case-study based overview of the reception of Greco-Roman literature and culture in the British Isles, concentrating on material from the 18th-21st centuries (see “Featured Course”). After that she looks forward to a term as a visiting fellow at Merton College Oxford. The real highlight of this year, apart from a challenging couple of courses this term, was seeing **Ray Lahiri** and **Anna Grant** (whose committees she was on) finish their Ph.D.s with flying colors and head off to exciting new jobs.

Benedek Kruchió returned from Heidelberg to Cambridge to spend a year at St John’s College before taking up his position at Yale. Having submitted his book manuscript on Heliodorus’s *Aethiopica* and late antique reading communities, he is now starting to grapple with CUP’s reports. This year’s other major project has been, together with Jonas Grethlein, an editorial one: a volume on Imperial allegory, its cultural contexts and intermedial entanglements, will be submitted this summer. Having reconnected with many future colleagues at the SCS, Ben, by fortuitous coincidence, visited the Department during the busiest week of spring term and, with Malina’s generous help, found a lovely apartment in East Rock. He is currently recovering from the cardiovascular side effects of eating too many pizze fritte and spleen-and-lung-sandwiches in Naples

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Ben Kruchió must add a few more inches before he reaches the height of the Doric columns in Segesta.

and Palermo, as well as from co-organising a seminar, with Lea Niccolai, on ‘interface interpretation’ while packing up his household in the UK.

The 2023/24 academic year held many highlights for **Jessica Lamont**: it was bookended by summer research in Greece, from western Crete in the south to Komotini in the north. Jessica is typing this paragraph from Corinth, where she is starting a new project with J. Curbera (*Inscriptiones Graecae*) on magical inscriptions from the Corinthia, the majority of which date from the Roman period; **Chris Atkins** joined for a wonderful week of on-site research as well. Later this summer Jessica will travel to Oxford to begin another new research project, “Ancient Greek Women in the Epigraphic Record,” together with a small group of Greek historians from Europe and the USA (organized by K. Backler). A real high point in teaching came in the form of a new graduate seminar co-designed with **Egbert Bakker**, “Worlds of Homer,” which drew together literary and documentary texts, historical evidence, archaeology, and visual culture to study the rich and varied worlds of Homer, epic poetry, and Greek history over some 800 years (not your grandfather’s Yale Homer seminar!) Jessica delivered presentations this year in Munich, San Diego, Phoenix, and, together with **Meghan Poplacean**, Mannheim; a highlight was an author-meets-readers “Classical Dialogues” seminar and book talk at Columbia on *In Blood and Ashes*:



Jessica Lamont and son Jaime (4 yrs) pointing out Classical architecture at the Parthenon.

Curse Tablets and Binding Spells in Ancient Greece (OUP 2023). Jessica had two chapters published in edited volumes, including one in honor of Yale’s own Ramsay MacMullen in *Inscriptions and the Epigraphic Habit: The Epigraphic Cultures of Greece, Rome, and Beyond* (Brill). She is writing as the department’s newest Director of Undergraduate Studies and looks forward to working with our biggest cohort of undergraduate majors yet – a reflection of Prof **Andrew Johnston**’s great efforts over many years.

Noel Lenski did a lot of scholarly mopping up as he reduced a backlog of commitments before switching gears to become Chair. This included writing six new articles on subjects as broad ranging as the history of human rights, the history of post-Roman law, and the persecution of Jewish slavetraders by the Spanish Inquisition. He published three new articles, including a lengthy study co-written with Michael Koortbojian: “The Constantinian Frieze on the Arch of Constantine – the Weight of the Evidence” in *Römische Mitteilungen* (2023), available open access at <https://doi.org/10.34780/0f5m-Oze5>. Together with friends Roger Rees and Onno Van Nijf, he co-hosted a conference in honor of Dutch historian Jan Willem Drijvers (in Groningen), the results of which were then published in a new Festschrift they coedited: *From East to West in Late Antiquity: Studies in honor of Jan Willem Drijvers* (Edipugila 2024). Still unable to shake the travel bug, he gave lectures at Canberra (Australian National University), Santa Barbara (Shifting Frontiers), Chicago (the SCS), Salerno, and Hamburg (remote). Best of all, however, was an opportunity to speak here at Yale alongside colleagues from NELC on the question, “Is the Idea of Human Rights Ancient or Modern?,” delivered at a symposium in celebration of a loan of the Cyrus Cylinder from the British Museum to honor the reopening of Yale’s Peabody Museum this spring. Together with graduate student **Jasmine Sahu-Hough**, he made the Cyrus Cylinder an important focal point in his new course on “Global Leadership in Antiquity, 800 BCE – 800 CE.”

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Noel Lenski learns from the great Andrea Giardina in Salerno.

In 2023-2024, **Pauline LeVen** finally saw the publication of her volume *A Cultural History of Western Music: vol. 1 - Antiquity*, co-edited with Sean Gurd: six years in the making, in collaboration with 14 other co-editors! In the Spring, LeVen officially took the helm of the Humanities Program as Chair; she also gave invited talks at Columbia, Cornell, several Yale venues, and at the Summer School in Greek Music in Brixen. To close the academic year, she had the honor of being invited to lecture at the Collège de France in Paris. It was also a year full of joyful celebration of colleagues' work: in the Fall, she organized a study day in honor of the publication of Kirk Freudenburg's latest monograph, *Virgil's Cinematic Art: Vision as Narrative in the Aeneid*, and in the Spring, a workshop on Protective Media (in honor of Sterling Professor Francesco Casetti's book, *Screening Fears: On Protective Media*) and one on Reparative Sappho (in honor of Melissa Mueller's *Sappho and Homer: A Reparative Reading*).



Pauline LeVen playing Aphaia (the invisible goddess) at her temple on Aegina.

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Faculty-Led Conferences

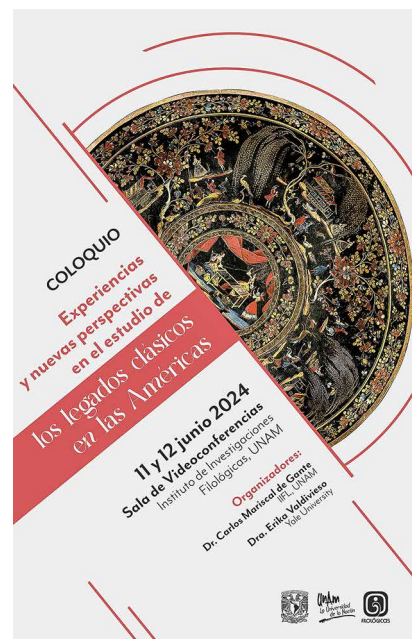
On April 5-7 postdoctoral fellow **Isabelle Chouinard** and faculty member **Brad Inwood** co-hosted an international conference at Yale on later Stoicism, which brought together a team of international scholars to explore the work of some of the best-known philosophers of antiquity, such as Marcus Aurelius, Seneca and Epictetus, alongside less familiar Stoics, such as Hierocles and Musonius Rufus. Participants from France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and the United States collaborated with Yale graduate students to develop a fresh understanding of Stoicism from the second century BCE to the end of the school's active period in the second century CE.

Noel Lenski co-hosted "From East to West in Late Antiquity" (Groningen, 15 September 2023), which brought together 26 scholars to honor the scholarly legacy of Jan Willem Drijvers. Together with Onno van Nijf (Groningen) and Roger Rees (St. Andrews), they assembled a group of papers focused on late antique literature and history, with particular emphasis on Ammianus Marcellinus, Constantine, Syriac literature, panegyrics, and Rome's relations with its eastern territories. The results have now been published as a festschrift with Edipuglia.

Benedek Kruchió, together with Lea Niccolai, organized a conference on "Interface Interpretation: Exegesis as Encounter in Greco-Roman Literature" (Cambridge, 22-24 May 2024). Playing with the notion of 'interface' as the space where two independent other systems meet, 'Interface Interpretation' discusses ancient texts in which different if not incompatible topics are brought together by their examination via the same interpretive lens. The focus is on how ancient hermeneutical practices shaped cultural interactions, fostered theories of value, and organised literary, spiritual, and socio-political priorities accordingly. Papers explore forms of cross-interpretation of topics ranging from nature and physiology to poetry, law, and history. Speakers included Ineke Sluiter, Simon Goldhill, Maren Niehoff, and Peter Struck.

Erika Valdivieso hosted two events: "What is a Colonial Archive" (Yale, 9-10 November 2023) was a two-day participatory symposium centered on the challenges of collecting, stewarding, displaying, researching in, and teaching with materials entangled with colonialism's myriad histories. In collaboration with colleagues at the Beinecke and in the FAS, the colloquium brought together collections experts and scholars from around the world as participants discussed the challenges and opportunities of new frameworks that might transcend institutional, disciplinary and national boundaries. "Los legados clásicos en las Américas" (Mexico City, 11-12 June 2024) was a two-day colloquium which invited members of the Institute of Philological Research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)

to reflect on their own perspectives and experiences working on classical reception in Spanish America. Participants offered a retrospective on nearly fifty years of classical studies in Mexico, but also reflected on future directions for the burgeoning field of Luso-Hispanic classicisms.



From **Joe Manning**: “This past year has been the final year of funding of our National Science Foundation funding for the Nile project. As we write our final report, we begin to draft out some major papers, including an overall synthesis paper about our work over the last six years. Very exciting results, and now it is on to more funding! Lots more to do. I co-organized what turned out to be an extremely successful conference in Bern on climate change and human responses during the Holocene. Scholars came from 26 countries to the June event, and the papers were of very high quality. We hope to write up a summary. I am also working on several articles, mainly climate related work, and a Cambridge Elements book on the Ptolemaic Economy.”

James Patterson reports: “My third year as Language Program Director was a productive one. Although some health issues slowed me down, I continued to develop materials for intro Greek and Latin that may lay the foundation for new textbooks one day. I hosted the annual meeting of the Classical Association of Connecticut in October and new Classics Teacher Workshop in May. And I have just returned from a short trip to scenic Albania, where I was contemplating a project on receptions of antiquity in the Balkans.”

Language lector **Tim Robinson** has been enjoying teaching introductory intensive Greek and Latin courses in the department throughout the year. He is also consulted regularly by institutions such as the New York Times and the U.S. Army about everything from naming dermatological conditions to Latin slogans for military pennants. He can also be found hiking the blue trails of Connecticut, when he needs a recharge of his internal batteries.

This year **Rosalie Stoner** has been happily revising her book manuscript, *Making the Moral Orator*, which examines the concept of “good will” (*bona voluntas*) in Quintilian’s pedagogical and rhetorical ethics in the *Institutio Oratoria*. She is grateful to the Classics Department for sponsoring a manuscript colloquium for her this spring. Other highlights of the past year have included the publication of her article “Status Theory and Cicero’s Defence of Teaching in *Orator* 140-8” in CQ in January and a presentation on “Teaching Rhetorical Invention in the Age of ChatGPT” at a workshop on Cicero’s *De Inventione* sponsored by the Colloquium for Ancient Rhetoric at the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies. Following another invigorating round of teaching ancient rhetoric, Roman consolation literature, and Directed Studies Literature, she is looking forward to accompanying new groups of students through language and literature courses (intermediate Greek and “interior journeys”) in the Humanities Program and the Classics Department this fall.

A year of sabbatical took **Erika Valdivieso** off to the Great Lakes to spend quality time with her chihuahua and her manuscript. She headed to Northwestern last spring as a visiting scholar in residence, which afforded an opportunity to catch up with **Jennifer Weintritt** (’19 Ph.D.). Yale reunions continued in the fall with a lecture at Harvard’s Mahindra Seminar, hosted by **Rachel Love** (’19 Ph.D.) and **Irene Peirano Garrison**. This trip down memory lane culminated with an invitation to Erika’s alma mater, the University of Michigan (go blue!), to give the inaugural Else Diversity Lecture. This summer she’ll recharge her batteries in Mexico City, consulting archives and presenting research to colleagues at UNAM, before returning to New Haven for another year in the saddle.



Members of CLCV 110 “Power of Persuasion, Art of Speaking Well” (taught spring 24) with their instructor, Rosalie Stoner (center with fuchsia stripe) and graduate assistants Amia Davis (far left) and Alejandro Quintana (far right).



Erika Valdivieso with her research assistant.

Faculty *In Memoriam*: Diana Kleiner, Jerome Pollitt, and Joseph Solodow

Diana Kleiner, Dunham Professor of the History of Art and Classics, Emerita, an acclaimed art historian known for her expertise on Roman art and architecture, and a primary contributor to Yale distance learning and media initiatives for a decade and a half, died on Nov. 12 after a long illness. She was 76.

Kleiner was the author of numerous books on Roman art in its political and social context. Her most well-known work, *Roman Sculpture* (1992), became “the fundamental reference on the subject,” according to **Milette Gaifman**, the Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Classics and History of Art and Chair of Art History at Yale, and the book any student in the field had to know.

Her early career saw the publication of technical studies that are still important today. These included her dissertation book, *Roman Group Portraiture: The Funerary Reliefs of the Late Republic and Early Empire* (1977), as well as *Roman Imperial Funerary Altars with Portraits* (1987).

Kleiner also did seminal work on Roman women, returning their images to center stage in an era when women’s studies was only beginning to permeate ancient studies. Her research culminated in the ground-breaking exhibition “I Claudia: Women in Ancient Rome,” published as a book under the same title with Yale University Press in 1996. This was followed by her book *Cleopatra and Rome* (2005), a work which opened a new perspective on one of the most intriguing women who ever lived. Her scholarly contributions included her visual guide to Roman architecture and her interactive e-book *Roman Architecture: A Visual Guide* (2014), which includes maps, geolocation links and more than 250 photographs. She was also widely praised for her dozens of essays, exhibition catalogues, chapters, articles, and reviews.

An exceptional teacher, Kleiner’s popular lecture courses galvanized students. Her guidance, as Gaifman noted, “attracted undergraduates and graduate students from the four corners of the campus” and “led to a host of Ph.D.s who went on to become leading scholars in their own right.”

During her courses she often urged students to travel to Rome, and then guided them, as her son noted, “not only to the ‘Top 10 Monuments,’ but also to the ‘Top 10 Gelaterias.’” Kleiner’s family noted that learners sometimes logged on to her open online course from remote villages, where they had limited internet connectivity, to speak with her, and that she would stay up late on most nights chatting in online message boards and building personal relationships with devoted students.



Photo by Michael Marsland, Yale University

Kleiner also did abundant service for the university. She served as Chair of both Classics and Art History and eventually became Deputy Provost for the Arts in the Office of the Provost from 1995 to 2003, where she nurtured and cared for all of the arts at Yale.

And perhaps most importantly, she was the founding director of Open Yale Courses, where she pioneered Yale’s digital faculty presence and enabled dozens of Yale’s influential faculty to offer their courses online, and thousands of students and others to appreciate and learn from them. Their presence online serves as a living tribute to her accomplishment.

(Excerpted from an obituary by Penelope Laurans)

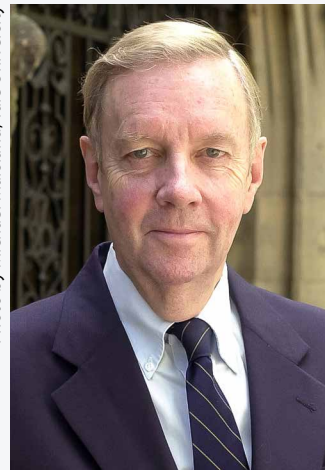


Photo by Michael Marsland, Yale University

Jerome Pollitt ’57, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Classical Archaeology and the History of Art, died on April 24, 2024 after a long illness. He was 89. Pollitt was a distinguished historian of Greek art and archaeology, who made ancient artifacts come alive by weaving them into their historical and literary contexts.

From his earliest days at Yale as an assistant professor in 1962, Pollitt published, in quick succession, *The Art of Greece 1400-31 BC: Sources and Documents* (1965), *The Art of Rome, c. 753 BC - 337 AD: Sources and Documents* (1966), and *The Ancient View of Greek Art: criticism, history, and terminology* (1974). His *Art and Experience in Classical Greece*, known by many students, appeared in 1972 and was called by **J.E. Lendon** ’86, Ph.D. ’91 and **Elizabeth A. Meyer** ’79, Ph.D. ’88 “one of the enduring monuments of that exciting time when the study of Greek art in context was young and unbeneficed, bold and heretical, dangerous and brave.” In all, his six books made significant contributions to his field at an important moment of its development.

Milette Gaifman, who continues his legacy as Professor of Greek Art at Yale, wrote that Pollitt was “one of the true giants of his field, far ahead of his time in showing how ancient Greek works of art and architecture were integral to daily experience by seamlessly analyzing artworks and monuments together with ancient literary texts.” Mark Lawall, chair of the managing committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, where Pollitt began as a research student, wrote that Pollitt “brought ancient

continued on page 11

Faculty In Memoriam continued from page 10

thoughts about ancient art into the modern scholarly debate, and he brought order to the chaos of Hellenistic Art.”

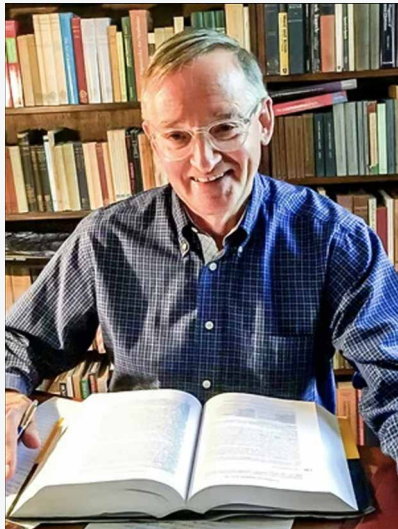
For his combined excellence as a scholar and teacher he was awarded the Wilbur Cross Medal from the Alumni Association of the Yale Graduate School and the cherished William DeVane award for scholarship and teaching by the Yale chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. In 2005, two of his former students, Judith M. Barringer and Jeffrey M. Hurwit, assembled a festschrift in his honor: “Periklean Athens and its Legacy: Problems and Perspectives.”

There are few scholars of Pollitt’s rank who also take on recurring major roles in university administration, but Pollitt’s administrative skills and sense of duty, perhaps combined with his strong educational views, led him to shoulder these responsibilities. He served as chair of the Classics department twice and chaired the History of Art department as well. Between 1986 and 1991 he served a term as dean of the Graduate School.

Pollitt was one of Yale’s own, a graduate of the Hotchkiss School (then a “Yale feeder”), where he said he had such good teachers and classical mentors that his first years at Yale were “restful.” After his undergraduate degree, he spent a year as a Fulbright Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens (ASCSA). He then completed his Ph.D. in the Art History and Archaeology program at Columbia University, where he studied with the great scholar Otto Brendel. In 1962 he returned to Yale as an assistant professor and remained on the faculty until his retirement.

(Excerpted from an obituary by Penelope Laurans)

Joseph B. Solodow, longtime Lector of Latin, died of complications from cancer on October 4, 2023. He was 76. Solodow was born on November 13, 1946, in Brooklyn, New York. He attended Erasmus Hall High School in Flatbush, where he quickly developed a love for Latin from his teachers – a feeling he would later look to recreate in his own students. He was no stranger to foreign languages at home. His father, Philip, was a Russian-American Jew who spoke Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew, Polish, German and English. His mother, Yetta, knew French, German and Latin.



Courtesy of Laura Harris

Solodow spent his undergraduate years at Columbia University and earned a doctorate in Classics from Harvard University. His doctoral dissertation, *The Latin particle quidem* (1978), analyzed this single Latin word in elaborate and precise detail. Emeritus Professor of Classics **Victor Bers** regarded it as a “masterpiece” of classical philology. Solodow went on to publish the widely read *The World of Ovid’s Metamorphoses* (1988) and the popular and lively *Latin Alive: The Survival of Latin in English and Romance Languages* (2009). This book drew connections between the Latin language and modern French, Spanish, Italian and English, showing us the many ways in which Latin still lives. He is too seldom credited with the extremely important translation of Gian Biaggio Conte’s *Latin Literature: A History* (1999), the 800-page encyclopedic history of Latin language that has served as the most complete introduction to the field for many a graduate student. He was awarded for this monumental achievement by the Modern Languages Association of America.

“Joe was universally admired,” said **Kirk Freudenburg**. “He was very interested in the mechanics of language and had this ability to really research the points of nuance and tiny details that are really the last frontier of knowing a language well.”

Among Solodow’s most popular courses were “The Greek Historians,” “Roman Comedy,” “Roman Dining” and “Ovid’s Metamorphosis.” Best of all, however, was his “Latin Syntax and Stylistics,” which drew students with an admixture of fear and admiration. Exacting but compassionate, Solodow would hook his students with his charm and intellect, then reel them into a truly deep understanding of the language with the weight of serious work.

Solodow began his teaching career as a professor of World Languages and Literatures at the Southern Connecticut State University, where he taught Spanish in addition to Latin. He was awarded the Rome Prize Fellowship in 1980 and spent the year abroad at the American Academy in Rome. Shortly after, in 1985, he joined Yale’s department of Classics as an instructor while maintaining his position at SCSU until his retirement, whereupon he worked exclusively at Yale.

Solodow had a passion for classical music and art, particularly Renaissance and Baroque styles. He also had a passion for the outdoors, with a particular liking for birds. He maintained a veritable *paradeisos* at his home in Woodbridge, where home and garden were always kept equally beautiful.

Solodow’s students remember him as particularly “old-fashioned.” He seldom used his iPhone, wore a jacket and tie to class and was known to celebrate the arrival of autumn by, in his words, “bringing out the tweeds!”

(with excerpts from an YDN article of Ben Raab)

Graduate Student News

During the 2023-24 academic year, **Chris Atkins** completed part one of his dissertation, on Plato and Athenian ritual culture, and began work on part two, on Philo and Alexandrian ritual culture. He presented some of this research at the annual meetings of the Society for Classical Studies and the Society of Biblical Literature. In the spring Chris enjoyed participating in Yale's Later Stoicism conference, organized by **Brad Inwood** and **Isabelle Chouinard**, and co-organizing this year's Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar. This summer he taught intensive Greek for the Divinity School and is traveling to sites and museums throughout Greece and visiting museums in Berlin and London for dissertation research. Chris was recently awarded the North American Patristics Society's Dissertation Research Award for 2024-25.



Chris Atkins at the Corycian Cave on Mount Parnassus

Francesca Beretta has submitted her dissertation — “The Motionscape of Greek Tragedy” — and she is looking forward to some rest in August, after traveling to Buenos Aires for the Dance Studies Association Conference at the end of July. After a brief stay in the old country to visit family, she is thrilled to be moving to Oxford in September, when she will take up a position as Plumer Junior Research Fellow in Classics at St. Anne's College. In the upcoming year, she will continue to work on her and Thomas Munro's edited volume, *American Classicisms*, and will take some time to let her ideas about turning her dissertation into a book percolate. She is sad to leave Yale and hopes to reconnect with friends and colleagues at the SCS in January.

Anna Grant writes, “The highlight of my academic year was completing my dissertation, ‘Echoes of Authority: Quotation and the Performance of Wisdom in Cicero, Horace, and Seneca,’ and graduating with my doctorate this May. My dissertation traces the relationship between the verbal act of quoting and the performance of authority in ancient Rome. It aims to elucidate the intersecting aesthetic, moral, and social norms that governed Roman quoting practices. I argue that Romans demonstrated facility with these subtle, mostly unspoken, and at times contradictory codes of quoting in order to perform their wisdom, knowledge, and authority. I am grateful to my dissertation readers, **Chris Kraus** and **Rosalie Stoner**, and my advisor **Kirk Freudenburg**, who helped me reach this finish line. As I reflect on my time in the Yale Department of Classics, I am also grateful to many other faculty who supported me in my graduate education, and to all of my fellow graduate students. This August, I am thrilled to start a new position as Lecturer in the Writing Program at Princeton University. In this role, I will teach multi-disciplinary writing seminars for first-year students. I will also continue my research on Roman quotation culture and begin new projects.”



Ray Lahiri, Erynn Kim, and Anna Grant celebrate graduation.

This spring **Erynn Kim** completed her dissertation, “Epic Liminal Spaces: The Poetics of Vividness and the Narratological Function of Dreams and Similes in *Gilgamesh* and Homer.” After graduating in May, Erynn moved to the Midwest to join the Classics department at the University of Notre Dame as an assistant professor. She is grateful to Yale and especially to her committee, **Egbert Bakker**, **Eckart Frahm**, **Emily Greenwood**, and **Johannes Haubold**, for their tireless support.

Ben Koons defended his dissertation “Aristotle's Privations” in February and graduated in May, attended by his parents, wife, and three children. His dissertation opens up a new topic in Aristotle scholarship (not something that happens very often!), looking at how Aristotle uses a particular kind of non-being — privations — to understand changes, properties, and causation. Before defending, Ben had already begun teaching

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as an assistant professor at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas in Fall 2023. It's been a blessing to be back in his home state and nearer to family, but he misses the friends he made in New Haven and those idyllic New England summers. He is going to teach his first graduate seminar this fall on Aristotle's *De Anima* and has been enjoying teaching ancient philosophy to students from diverse backgrounds. He is working towards publishing the chapters of his dissertation, and he also continues to extend a project he has been working on in contemporary social epistemology. He'd like to thank all of his former professors at Yale, especially **David Charles** and **Verity Harte**.

Ray Lahiri graduated with the Ph.D. from the Joint Program in Classics and Comparative Literature. His dissertation, supervised by **Chris Kraus**, **Maira Fradinger** (Comparative Literature), and **Emily Greenwood**, studied how ancient historians analyzed the relationship between violence and the political body, with case studies on Herodotus, Livy, Josephus, Tacitus, and Procopius. A highlight of the year was teaching "Declines of Rome" with Chris Kraus, on the interconnected rhetorics of empire and decline. While saying goodbye to New Haven and Yale is bittersweet, he is looking forward to starting an assistant professorship in the department of Classics at the University of Washington in September!

From **Maria Ma**: "Last autumn I joined a newly founded traditional Chinese music ensemble: the New Haven Chinese Cultural Cooperative. We've since performed at a number of events around Connecticut, including CT's Lunar New Year Celebration which welcomed thousands of attendees, the Westville ArtWalk, and the New Haven Night Market. I learnt to play the *daruan*, which is a bass instrument. Some folks from the department came out to some events in support which was really sweet!"

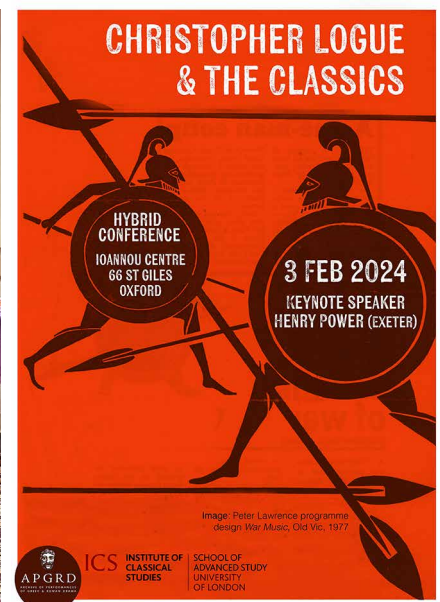
Thomas Munro writes: "I've had a very productive time in London on the Yale-UCL Collaborative Exchange Scheme, writing up a good part of my dissertation and visiting various archives in the UK and Ireland thanks to funding from the MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship. In addition to this, I've had work published in *Latomus* and *Classical Philology* and (with my colleague Claire Barnes) organized a conference at Oxford in February on the poet Christopher Logue and his relationship to classical antiquity. After presenting this summer at the Celtic Conference in Classics, I'm looking forward to being back in New Haven from August."

Cat/Catherine Saterson, a doctoral student who has just completed her third year in the joint Classics and Comparative Literature program and whose research revolves around Sirens, presented a paper entitled "Sirens Bind: Siren-Song as Binding Spell in the *Odyssey*, Plato's *Cratylus*, Xenophon's *Memorabilia*, and a Roman Curse Tablet from the 1st Century C.E." at this year's Society for Classical Studies and Archaeological Institute of America's annual conference.

This year **Kirsten Traudt** enjoyed co-organizing the American Classicisms working group with her department colleague Catherine Saterson. Highlights of the group's busy program of events included an "American Classicisms Tour of Yale and New Haven" featuring contributions by graduate students, faculty, and staff, a trip to the Beinecke Rare Books Library to view materials related to the work and legacy of the poet Phillis Wheatley, and a presentation for middle and high school students at this year's Connecticut State Greek and Latin Day. Kirsten was also grateful for the opportunity to present her research at conferences in Chicago and Princeton.



Maria Ma supports her instrument and her group, the New Haven Chinese Cultural Cooperative.





Philip Balkan with faculty. Anna Grant, Ph.D., with adviser Kirk Freudenburg. Ray Lahiri with spouse Lillian McCabe, a Ph.D. student in Religious Studies.



Joe, Linda, and Jasmine celebrate at the end of year party.

Francesca, Marina, Dan, Meghan, and Federico having fun.



Boy Commodus, young Marcus Aurelius, and Avidia Plautia are not paying attention to lecture during "Night at the Museum."



Sasha Nelson and family.



Madeleine Cepeda-Hanley with Noel Lenski.



Denise Dionysus Gao with parents.



Graduate symposiasts Cat, Kirsten, Angela, Jake, Mary, and Tom.



David, Milette, and Pauline raise a glass.



Jessica Lamont, organizer of the fall 2023 "Night at the Museum." Francesca Beretta with parents. Andrew Johnston and Egbert Bakker prepare to ride off into the sunset after many years of dedicated DUS and DGS service.

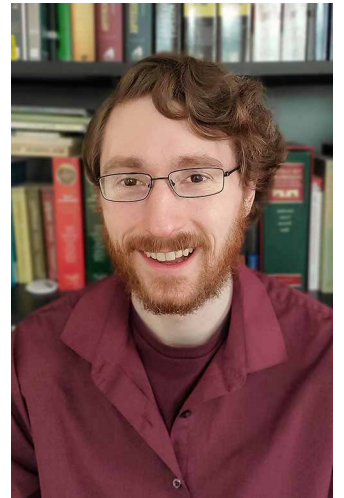


Staff News

“In my spare time,” writes **Linda Dickey-Saucier**, “I still passionately work on fashion for DenCha Designs. Creating unique designs incorporating appliques inspired by African history brings me immense joy. One of my inspirations is Albertina Nyamagoronga, who was born in 1960 and began developing appliques in 1988, thanks to sponsorship from the Zimbabwe Artists Project. I found her story compelling, and I reconstructed and integrated it into the design of a cape (see photo). I plan to continue crafting fashion pieces that beautifully represent my heritage. I am deeply committed to this journey and am excited to see where it leads.”



Matthew Stokdyk has begun his second year as the department’s registrar and continues to work to improve the department’s clerical systems; he also hopes, in conjunction with the departmental officers, to bolster course enrollments and major declarations by creating targeted advertisement for and opening new channels of communication with the undergraduate population. Outside of work, Matthew has been thinking much about Euripides of late, continues delving into the historical-critical and text-critical situations of the Book of Revelation, and attends the weekly poetry reading at Never Ending Books.



Classics Library News

Classics Librarian **Colin McCaffery** writes: “In the past year the Classics Library began a process of reassessing its spaces and collections. This conversation is ongoing and has been delayed by the unexpected summer closure of Phelps for renovation work taking place on Old Campus. However, we have already begun transferring older secondary scholarship to the main library to open up space for expanded holdings of textual primary sources, including epigraphy and papyrology. The conversion of two-thirds of the ‘Gabinetto’ to open shelving will facilitate these moves and also provide an opportunity to rethink the overall configuration of the Library’s collections and study spaces. The summer interruption has provided an opportunity for renewed contributions from Classics Library student staff to the [International \(Digital\) Dura Europos Archive](#) (IDEA). The Library also provided editorial support to a [special issue](#) of the *Pasts Imperfect* newsletter on new research on Dura-Europos.”

Colin McCaffery dons PPE to enter the library while Phelps is in renovation



Decorated Classicists

Yale Classicists continue to do outstanding work that wins recognition with prizes, some of them internal to the department, others from the wider world.

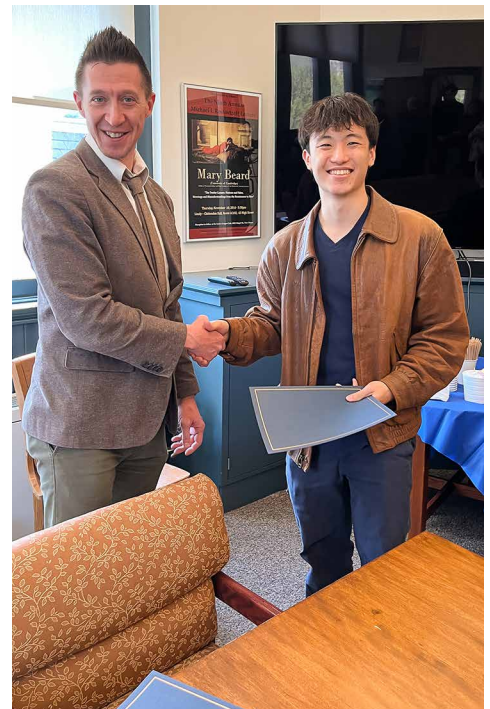


Pride of place this year goes to Classics and History major **Jacqueline N. Testamark**, who was one of just 32 Americans awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 2024. Much of Jackie's academic work has centered on examining minority histories in classical art and literature. Jackie has worked as a field archaeologist at the Gabii excavation in Rome,

contributed to a gallery exhibition, and currently serves as a provenance researcher for the Yale University Art Gallery. She is the co-organizer of Yale's Classics Anti-Racism Reading Group, served as the Head Delegate of the Model United Nations Team, and performs with her *cappella* group, Yale Out of the Blue. At Oxford, Jackie will pursue an M.St. in History of Art and Visual Culture. Specifically, she hopes to examine the advent of museums and the imperial acquisition of artworks and artifacts from across the globe.

Yale Classics's most prestigious graduate teaching prize, the Deborah Roberts Prize, was awarded to ancient philosopher **Lizzie Davis**. Among the many glowing reviews received in her nomination packet, the committee learned, "Lizzie is first and foremost a compassionate, kind and highly intelligent educator. Not only is she highly skilled at helping students to parse out the meaning of complex philosophical points within ancient texts, but she is profoundly gifted at determining where a student is at and finding the best way to instruct them such that they understand the content." Students and professors are equally fortunate to have Davis within our community.

Translation prizes went to: **Ryo Nagao** (the Henry A. Hurlbut Prize in both Latin and Greek, first year); **Daniel Zhang** and **Henry Maravilla** (the Bristed Scholarship in Greek and Latin, respectively, second year); **Andrew DeWeese** and **Oliver Huston** (the Buchanan Winthrop Prize in Greek and Latin respectively, third and fourth year). Essay prizes went to **Oliver Huston** (Alice Derby Lang Undergraduate Essay Prize, for "*The Scythian: Lucian's Headless Tale?*") and **Savannah Marquardt** (Alice Derby Lang Graduate Essay Prize for "*The Satyr, the Krater, and Hegel: Mediated Subjectivity in a Peucetian Tomb*"). And the Jacob Cooper Prize was awarded to **Sadie McCloud** (for "*Vice in Nicomachean Ethics IX.4*").



Left to right: Lizzie Davis receives the Deborah Roberts Prize for graduate teaching from Andrew Johnston; Ryo Nagao receives the Hurlbut Translation Prize in both Latin and Greek; Daniel Zhang receives the Bristed Scholarship in Greek.

Featured Course: “The View from the Island: Greece and Rome in Britain” Professor Chris Kraus, Summer 2024

This course, taught over the summer in the UK through the Yale in London study abroad program, offered a stratigraphic overview of the reception of Greco-Roman literature, art, and culture.

Starting with the ancient stories about the British isles and their inhabitants (the texts that featured large in élite education up through the 20th century), we visited Thornycroft’s “Boadicea and her Daughters” on the Embankment and some classically imagistic portraits at the NPG. Comparison with the introductory scene of Disney’s “Hercules” and the Carters’ “Apeshit” video help understand the focus, which is on cultural mashup rather than appropriation. We then turned to how the British themselves imagine their own past, beginning with Gildas and Geoffrey of Monmouth before turning to the new construction of an archaeological past in the 16th and 17th centuries (especially William Camden and Inigo Jones, who

argued that Stonehenge could only have been built by the Romans). The 18th and early 19th centuries took us to Pope’s Homer, Samuel Lyson’s excavations, and the British Museum, and then to the excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum; after a visiting lecture by Roland Mayer on fragments and ruins we visited the Sir John Soane museum to discuss collecting, imitation, and the usefulness of antiquity for training, self-promotion, and dining (Wedgwood).

In the 4th week, we visited Maiden Castle, the Iron Age hillfort excavated by Mortimer Wheeler; we paired this with a look at the new science of aerial photography and the art of Paul Nash, for whom both native and Roman antiquities offered a new way of understanding the British soil. This took us to a brief look at non-conventional appropriations of the classics, from Greenwood’s *Afro-Greeks* to Hall and Stead’s *People’s History of Classics*. The 5th week stepped back again to

the 19th century while sticking with the question of what value is classical antiquity, and how does it compare with the “native” or the “modern.” Finally, the last week directly considered museums and the presentation of antiquity; we first visited Cambridge for a tour of the cast gallery by Mary Beard, then ended with a trip to the London Mithraeum / Bloomberg SPACE, asking, what have the Romans ever done for us?



Photo by Colleen Rowe Harvey/Art UK



Photo by English Heritage

Left: Boadicea and her daughters
Right: Maiden Castle



Alumni News

Marc Appel '08 writes: “My wife and I welcomed our son, Nathaniel Kaleb, this February (*see photo at left*). His big sister, Reese, had been extremely excited for his arrival and has become a very loving big sister. We’re enjoying our first few months together as a family of four.”

Amy R. Cohen '90 writes: “I have just completed my 25th year of teaching at Randolph College. The bad news, since I last reported in, is that we no longer have a Classics major. The good news is that the Greek Play and the Ancient

Drama in Performance conference survived the reorganization (and COVID-19), and that in the wake of the changes, I have developed a remarkably successful [online program in Greek](#). I have intensive summer courses, but the choose-your-own-pace version that I offer year-round has provided a port in the storm for students from other institutions whose offerings no longer include Greek, if they ever did.”

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Dr. Emily S. Guimaraes '93 writes: "I was a classical civ undergraduate in 1993. I have worked as a physician anesthesiologist for many years. (One of my cardiac surgery colleagues was a Harvard undergrad Hellenist from around the same time period!). My classics background has never stopped serving me. Most recently during the pandemic, all essential workers spent a great deal of time thinking about 'moral injury' which led me to Jonathan Shay's landmark work *Achilles in Vietnam*, a close reading of the *Iliad* and an exploration of PTSD as an expression of Achilles' rage. I am now returning to the study of both Koine Greek and Hebrew as a seminarian and postulant for ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church."

Kyle Khellaf '18 recently published an article ("Inglorious History and the Tacitean Digression") in a De Gruyter volume titled *Digressions in Classical Historiography* (alongside **Christina Kraus**), as well as several entries in *The Tacitus Encyclopedia* published by Blackwell. He also gave a paper on Livy this May in Kalamata at the first Trends in Classics – Historiography Conference. He is most proud, however, of his recent two years of ultra cycling, which has included quite a few California Triple Crown double centuries (February-April of this year), the epic Climb to Kaiser in the Sierra Nevadas this past June (160 miles with 16,000 ft of elevation gain), and the AIDS/LifeCycle weeklong ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles (also this past June). For photos from a



Kyle Khellaf at the Kaiser Pass (9196 ft), enjoying a reprieve from the 108°F weather in Fresno that day.

number of his favorite big rides to date, visit <https://kylekhellaf.wordpress.com/the-diabonkcyclist/>. He is always eager to follow fellow Yalies on Strava (where he enjoys the legendary running feats of **Daniel Graves** and **Christopher Londa** '23).

Chris Kraus submitted this photo and caption of **Bryant Kirkland** '16 Ph.D.



Bryant Kirkland in full post-tenure glory at this year's UCLA graduation

Noreen Kupernik (née Sit) '19 Ph.D., finished her fifth year teaching Latin and her first year as chair of World Languages at Thaden School in Bentonville, Arkansas. A major highlight this year was sending Thaden students, including seven young Latinists, to the state language competition at the University of Central Arkansas. Many prizes were won, and students came home already asking about next year's contest! In January, Noreen presented her students' lively renditions of Catullus and others at the SCS Translators' Showcase panel. She looks forward to presenting at the next SCS in Philadelphia on the real-life challenges of teaching a spoken Latin curriculum. This year, Noreen won a CAMWS New Teacher Start-Up grant, which she used to expand her school's collection of Latin novellas and purchase classroom supplies, including two fully writeable wax tablets complete with bronze styli. She sends this year's newsletter update from Monmouth College in Illinois, where she recently landed to attend a two-week National Endowment for the



Noreen Kupernik ἐποίησεν

Humanities Summer Institute on the ancient Olympics and ancient Greek life. Though it has only been three days, she has run in a *hoplitodromos*, (poorly) thrown a discus, and befriended a cohort of K-12 teachers who share an interest in making classics and ancient history come alive for students!

Chris Londa '23 Ph.D. writes: "After completing a Fulbright year in Austria and finishing my Ph.D., I moved to Baltimore to start a position as Loeb Classical Library Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University. While learning to pick crabs and watch the local birds (go Orioles!), I have been making progress on my book project, tentatively titled *Working the Margins: Invisible Labor in the Ancient Roman 'Authorshop.'* Highlights of the year include giving papers at the University of Heidelberg and the University of Maryland, convening an SCS panel on 'Re-tracing the Archive' in Chicago with Francesca Beretta, and making my first trip to the Bay of Naples. In the fall I am looking forward to returning there for the Symposium Vesuvianum and to teaching a graduate seminar at Hopkins on 'Slavery and Literature in the Roman World.'"

Michele Lowrie '84 sends: "I am happy to announce the publication of a volume, *Paris, A New Rome* (De Gruyter 2024), co-edited with Barbara Vinken. Like the book she and I co-authored, *Civil War and the Collapse of the Social Bond: The Roman Tradition at the Heart of the Modern* (Cambridge 2022), it also has a Cy Twombly on the cover."

Tom Nowicki '79 reports: "I have a new show debuting on Apple TV on August 14.

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It's called 'Bad Monkey,' based on a novel of the same name by Carl Hiaasen, a very dark comedy about murderous developers up to their usual mischief in the Florida Keys. I play a 4th generation smuggler/charter boat captain, Keith Fitzpatrick, who's a good pal of disgraced detective Andrew Yancy (Vince Vaughn), and who also narrates the story. Clearly I was cast due to my understanding of Sophocles and Tom Gould's theories on tragedy."

Christina Pao '23 reports: "I'm currently a Ph.D. Student in Sociology and Social Policy at Princeton, entering my 3rd year! Since I graduated from Yale Classics in 2020, I have completed my M.Phil. in Sociology and Demography at Oxford on the Rhodes Scholarship and have moved back to the east coast for more graduate school. Though much of the work that I do now is full-time in the social sciences, I do still find time to pick up some Latin text every once in a while to translate!"

Anathea Portier-Young '95 sends: "I am excited to share that I published a book with OUP this month called *The Prophetic Body: Embodiment and Mediation in Biblical Prophetic Literature* and an article (also this month) in *Journal of Ancient Judaism* entitled 'Archive, Architecture, and the Politics of Memory in Josephus's *Jewish Antiquities* 12 and Antiochus III's Edicts for Jerusalem.' I continue in my position as Associate Professor of Old Testament at Duke University Divinity School. On a more personal note I just returned from a mini-reunion with a group of Yale friends from class of 95 – we got together at Red Gate Farm, a non-profit educational farm in Ashfield, MA founded by one of our classmates



Anathea Portier-Young with classmate Aileen Fajardo

(not a classics major, alas), where we enjoyed sitting by the campfire, hiking with goats, and catching up."

Sarah Price (now Holevoet) '07, was honored to give the closing plenary address at the American Classical League's 2024 Institute on June 29. She drew on her experience in management at Google to speak about how the skills learned through an education in Classics – such as pattern recognition, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary focus – can transfer to other fields in unexpected ways.

Elizabeth Raab '23 says: "Since graduating last May, I had a wonderful time teaching introductory Latin and Book 6 of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* at CUNY's Latin/Greek Institute. In October, I began a two-year M.A. in Classical Philology at Heidelberg University, where I have been dabbling in papyrology, back-translating Isocrates from German into Greek, and enjoying Baden-Württemberg's beautiful landscapes and even more beautiful pastries – highlights have included learning to ride a bike and visiting

Claire Saint-Amour (Classics, '23) in Cambridge, where we brainstormed together on our respective Lucian papers, reminisced on our time in Phelps, and visited some alpacas."

Don Squires '79, writes: "Recently I have been volunteering at the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East (formerly the Semitic Museum) working on the identification and cataloging of approximately 300 coins that the Museum obtained along with the papers of the archeologist Theresa Goell, who excavated at Nemrut Dağı in southeastern Turkey, the site of a sanctuary erected by Antiochus I of Comagene in 62 BCE. The coins, which range in age from the second century BCE to the French Mandate of Syria in the 1920s, were apparently found as strays and given to Ms. Goell by the workmen she employed at the dig. With few exceptions they are of bronze or copper and are poorly preserved making their identification an enjoyable challenge."

Matthew Thomas '23 reports: "I had a really wonderful experience as a teacher this year (at Franklin High School, in Somerset, NJ). Just this June, Prof. Daniel Padilla Peralta visited us from Princeton to speak to two packed rooms of students (see picture). We were also able to take students all over, to Harvard, Princeton, Stockton, UPenn, and UT Knoxville for the national Junior Classical League convention. They are very eager to keep practicing *certamen* and organize a trip to the Yale *Certamen* in fall 2024. As for myself, I just found out I will be returning to New Haven this fall as a researcher in the Department of Neuroscience. In my unexpected time off this month, I'm finally reading through the *Metamorphoses*."



Above: Alpacas of Cambridge visited by Elizabeth Raab and fellow Classics major Claire Saint-Amour.

Right: Matthew Thomas '23, center left, with his Latin students at Franklin HS and Prof. Padilla of Princeton.

