

Yale Department of Classics

Summer 2026

Greetings from the Chair

Last year's newsletter made it clear that Yale Classics and the university more broadly were resolute about continuing our tradition of independence from political pressures. Over the 2025-26 academic year, we have maintained this same spirit.

Yale and other universities, especially elite institutions, have been penalized by the current administration. This has had a systemic impact, operationally by foreclosing efforts to open our doors more widely to the full range of outstanding students, and financially through the imposition of an eight-percent tax on revenues from our endowment. These constraints certainly affect our operation, although Yale University in general and Yale Classics in particular have succeeded in softening the blow by using the necessity of cuts as an opportunity to rethink some aspects of our operation.

Most obviously, the Graduate School has begun reducing its total number of admissions slots, a measure that is at least in part based on shifts in the market for new PhDs. But these cuts come at a cost to the demographic and curricular robustness of graduate programs. And this occurs at a time when the total undergraduate population at Yale is slated to increase by 100 additional students per year between the fall of 2025 and 2029. We welcome the new undergraduates and hope the administration will monitor closely the impact of graduate reductions on the availability of teaching personnel.

Overall, the spirit of Yale and Classics remains firm, with an ongoing vitality characteristic of the department in past decades and centuries. You will see that Classics graduated seven majors and six PhDs and that it continues to boast a strong pipeline of majors and graduate students who will keep the program solid for the foreseeable future. These come from a range of backgrounds, regions, and nations, keeping Yale Classics the kind of diverse and pluralistic place we aspire to be. Our involvement in interdisciplinary and open-ended pathways to knowledge includes the study of Greece and Rome but also the Semitic, Germanic, Celtic, and African cultures in and around the ancient Mediterranean as well as the connections and parallels to Central and East Asia and the Americas, ancient and modern.

The faculty is thriving, having reached a recent high of sixteen tenure-stream faculty members and three instructors. These include four faculty members who have joined the department within the last four years and who bring to Phelps Hall the energy and new ideas of a powerful and innovative generation. We are especially proud of **Jessica Lamont**, who recently achieved tenure, having risen up the ranks on the strength of

her talent and accomplishments. Faculty continue to garner major national and international fellowships and awards. Classicists have published four new books and a large number of articles on topics ranging from Plato, to sculptural relief, to medicine, to late-antique literature.

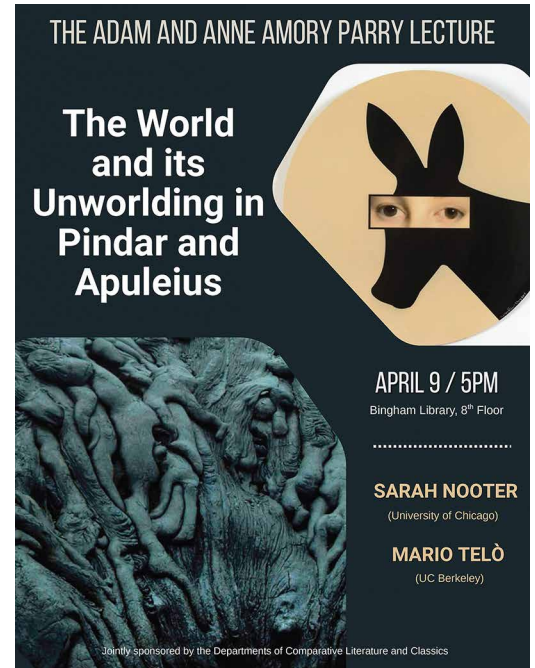
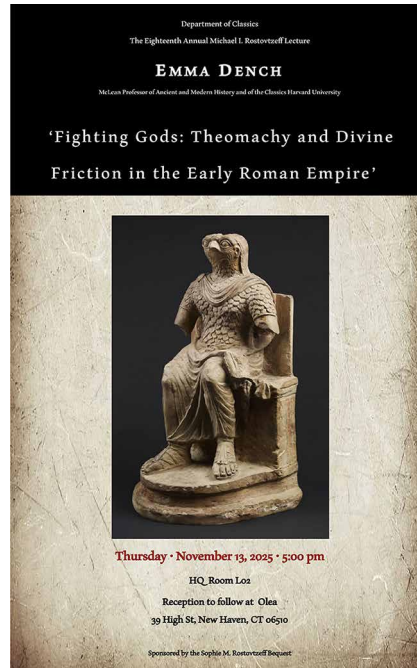
The careful husbanding of in-house resources will allow Classics not only to weather the financial storms stirred up at the federal level but also to continue expanding and improving our operation. This fall we will initiate a Classics department post-doctoral fellowship which will allow young scholars to join us regularly for two-year research appointments, adding further vibrancy to our operation even while helping the next generation launch careers in the field. And the Yale library system has slated our Classics Library for renovations, planning for which has begun this summer.

Excellence does not bend to the bluster of bogeymen. Yale Classics moves forward with genuine strength and commitment to teaching and researching the ancient world with the honesty and energy of twenty-first century thinkers. – **Noel Lenski**



Rostovtzeff and Parry Lectures

On November 13, 2025, the Department of Classics hosted the eighteenth **Michael I. Rostovtzeff Lecture**, delivered by Professor Emma Dench, on “Fighting Gods: Theomachy and Divine Friction in the Early Roman Empire.” Dench, who is the McLean Professor of Ancient and Modern History and Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard, discussed a series of case studies in which divine entities played a role not just in the celestial worship but also the terrestrial politics of ancient communities under the control of the Roman Empire. Reprising a theme dear to Rostovtzeff, Dench showed how these communities operationalized the language and symbols of militarism to sublimate their battles with Roman power to the sphere of the divine.



The departments of Comparative Literature and Classics cohosted the annual **Adam and Anne Amory Parry Lecture** on April 9, 2026 under the title, “The World and its Unworlding in Pindar and Apuleius.” The event was shared between two speakers, Sarah Nooter (University of Chicago) and Mario Telò (UC Berkeley). In her lecture, Nooter examined poetry as a tool of worldbuilding that simultaneously constructs its own unworlding by exposing the queer waste, erotic effluence, and minatory remainders of these constructions.

Focusing on Pindar and his shunned and disruptive figures Typhoeus and the Gorgons, it explored monstrous forces that deal in affective breaks within larger timelines and structures. Reconsidering Edward Said’s reflections on late style, Telò explored the homology between the stylistic surface of Apuleius’s exorbitant novelistic prose and the back of the donkey. What calls itself the world cruelly gathers itself around the beast of burden, which it always bears insofar as it can be endlessly beaten.

Newsletter published annually by the Department of Classics

Website: www.yale.edu/classics

Facebook: Yaleclassics

*Please send comments and news via email to:
linda.dickey-saucier@yale.edu*

CREDITS

Editing and general text:

Noel Lenski and members of the Classics Department

Design and editorial assistance:

Elaine Piraino-Holevoet/PIROET

Photography:

Contributed by members of the Classics Department

Support: Linda Dickey-Saucier

With thanks to the Yale Alumni Association

We are grateful to those of you who have supported our activities and renew our call for donations.

You can send a tax-deductible check to:

Yale Department of Classics

PO Box 208266

New Haven, CT

06520-8266

Please make your check out to Yale University with “The Department of Classics” written on the memo line. Be sure to indicate if you would like to support a particular activity.

You may also donate by going to classics.yale.edu/donate.



Thank you!

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

Chris Kraus Fest

On Sept. 12-14, 2025, Yale Classics hosted a three-day series of lectures, communal readings and roundtable discussions in honor of **Prof. Christina Kraus**. Under the theme “New Directions in the Poetry of Prose,” the event brought to the Yale campus roughly twenty stars in the field of Latin prose and ancient historiography who are long-time scholar friends of CSK (several of whom are former students).

Organized by **Kirk Freudenburg** in collaboration with Irene Peirano of Harvard and Jane Chaplin of Middlebury, this was not a typical conference, with sonorous speakers schooling pensive audiences. Instead, the main event was a workshop focused on close reading of passages from Caesar, Livy, Cicero, and Tacitus. After two theme-setting lectures and a champagne reception on Friday, Saturday was devoted to poring over passages of Latin prose in small groups, mixing distinguished visitors with four Yale grad student respondents. Together with other participants, we worked collectively to see what new ideas could be coaxed into the light in shared discussion. The day closed with a celebratory feast in the HQ courtyard and was followed by a Sunday morning breakfast and further discussions with CSK at center stage – where best she belongs, despite it making her wince.

Highlights included a side-splitting reading by **Rachel Love** of Chris Kraus’ email zingers, which made Sallust seem verbose and (at times) Juvenal charitable. A public announcement by CSK herself expressed genuine surprise, heartfelt thanks, and a decisive announcement that this did



Rachel Love (PhD '19) recites Chris Krausisms, with approval from Irene Peirano Garrison and Jane Chaplin

not signal retirement – for which we in Yale Classics are grateful. But, the pièce de résistance was the presentation of a Festschrift, organized sneakily behind Chris’s back: *Commenting on the Past: Essays in Honor of Christina Shuttleworth Kraus*, edited by Jane Chaplin, Irene Peirano Garrison, and Christopher Stray (DeGruyter 2025).

Invited external speakers included Jane Chaplin, Cynthia Damon, Denis Feeney, Andrew Feldherr, Irene Peirano Garrison, Roy Gibson, Stephen Harrison, Robert Kaster, David Levene, Rachel Love, Roland Mayer, Stephen Oakley, John Oksanish, and Chris van den Berg. Graduate student respondents included **Talia Boylan**, **Eleanor Martin**, **Thomas Munro**, and **Kirsten Traudt**.

Since we can’t just scream collectively “We love Chris Kraus!” (too emotional), we did this instead.



Pure and delicious Latin philology

Yale Classics Award Winners

Once again in 2025-26, Yale Classics' cup overfloweth with the mead of awards and honors.

Verity Harte was named George Eastman Professor at Oxford for the 2025-2026 academic year. The Eastman Professorship was established in 1929 by George Eastman, founder of the Eastman Kodak Company. Eastman created a chair at Oxford University to be filled on a visiting basis by senior American Scholars of the highest distinction, who remain on the faculty at Oxford for one year. The fund that supports the Eastman Professorship is administered by the Board of Directors of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars through the American Trust for Oxford University. Past occupants of the Eastman Professorship in Classics were Tenney Frank, John H. Finley, and Josiah Ober. Occupants from other fields have included the legal scholar and Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, the anthropologist Clifford Geertz, and actress and scholar Anna Deavere Smith

Other faculty members who received high-prestige awards include **Malina Buturović**, who won a fellowship from the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC, where she plans to spend the fall semester working on her book on notions of inheritance – ethical and physiological – in Greek writers of the Second Sophistic, especially Plutarch and Galen; **Erika Valdivieso** won an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship for work on her book on “Atlantic Georgic,” which explores the poets of colonial Mexico, Brazil and Barbados who echoed Vergil in their own descriptions of the use, enjoyment, and exploitation of the lands and peoples of the New World; **Jessica Lamont** won a fellowship



Verity Harte delivers the Eastman Lecture in Oxford.

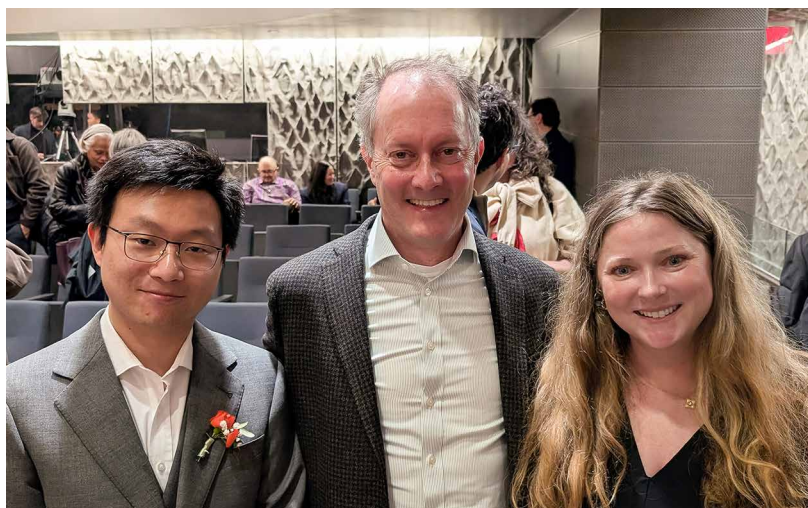
from the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, where she will work on a co-authored book that catalogs the many archaeologically recovered curse tablets from Corinth and then contextualizes these into an eight-centuries-long social history.

Graduate students also won major awards and fellowships. **Danny Graves's** dissertation, “Thomas Jefferson: Ancient and Modern”, won the John Addison Porter Prize, Yale's highest award across fields for student scholarship that is able to “gather and relate facts, principles, or both, and to make the product of general human interest.” **Alejandro Quintana** won the Hans Gatzke Prize for his dissertation, “Mobility Makes History: Human Migration in Greco Roman Egypt.” Quintana also won a Junior Research Fellowship from Trinity College, Cambridge, a highly prestigious four-year fellowship. **Amia Davis** was awarded a fellowship from the Michigan Society of Fellows, an equally prestigious three-year research grant. **Tom Wang** won an American Academy in Rome Fellowship (“Rome Prize”) for his work on civic finance in the Roman Empire. He will be joined at the AAR by **Rachel Love** (PhD '19), also a Rome Prize winner. In addition, Classics undergraduate **Ryo Nagao** won the Classical Association of New England's Katz Student Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Research for his paper, “Oral Tradition and Literary Innovation in an Epigraphic Oracle: Claros and Caesarea Trocetta during the Antonine Plague.” This study, which began as a research paper in **Jessica Lamont's** Greek Social History course in fall 2025, was recently published in the *New England Classical Journal* 53 (2026).

At right: Ryo Nagao

Below left: Tom Wang and Rachel Love with Noel Lenski at the AAR Rome Prize ceremony

Below right: Alejandro Quintana receives the Hans Gatzke Prize from Graduate Dean Lynn Cooley.



Faculty News

Egbert Bakker returned from a productive sabbatical to his teaching commute: the bi-annual Iliad course (Fall 2025) had an unusually large enrollment this year, which, added to the students' dedication, made it easier to get the "immersive" experience of the fighting for the Achaean ships that must have been more natural for ancient audiences. Immersive reading also loomed large in the graduate seminar on "narratology" (also Fall 2025), in which we studied ancient scholia and modern theory alongside each other. Many of the Homer students of Fall were willing to make the jump to Herodotus in the Spring, when we read a selection of ethnographic and historiographical passages, trying to find ways in which these seemingly disparate materials are interrelated. An undergraduate seminar on "Food and Wine in the Greek World" was able to draw on the Herodotus readings and may serve as basis for a lecture course on this topic in the (near) future. Travel included participation in the Penn-Leiden conference (in Leiden) on the "Value of Language" in the Ancient World, with a contribution on "Homer the Language," a paper arguing that Homer(ic Greek) is more than the language of the two epics, but served as a valued medium of communication for various purposes throughout Greek antiquity; the presentation of a keynote address at a graduate student conference on "Consumption" in Bryn Mawr College; and a trip to Williams College to participate in the review of a book manuscript on the subject of the role of meat in archaic Greek poetics.



Egbert Bakker and son Tim in Rome



Malina Buturović had another busy year in Phelps. This one included a new Greek language course ("Poetry of Illness"), an Archaia core seminar on environmental and climatic determinism, an undergraduate lecture on ancient medicine, and more Directed Studies teaching. Outside the classroom, she co-

organized the Ancient Societies Workshop, with a focus on premodern theories of climate and environment, as well as a conference on teleology with colleagues in the Department of Philosophy. There were also many diversions farther from home. Highlights included history of science conferences in New Orleans and Edinburgh, a meeting of the American Philosophical Association in Baltimore, and invited visits to Harvard, Colby, Bard, and Vassar. These focused mostly on the usual suspects, Galen and

Plutarch, with one surprise star turn for Critias. As she wraps up several smaller writing projects this summer (watch this space!), she is preparing to dedicate next year's sabbatical to completing her book, with help from a fellowship at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC.

Alexander Ekserdjian taught two new seminars this year: "Ancient Art at the Edge of Empire," for a mixed group of seventeen graduate and undergraduate students, making the most of the YUAG collections from Dura Europos; and the graduate-level "Roman Dress," which proved as much of a learning experience for the instructor as the students. His proposal to modify the reconstruction of a Roman terracotta temple pediment was published in the proceedings of *Deliciae Fictiles VI* and January saw the release of *Crafting Encounters in the Art of Early Italy* (Archaeological Institute of America, 2026) for which he served as the editor, contributing a chapter on "Encounters in the Sanctuary." He also wrote up a chapter on the sculptural finds for the preliminary publication of the APAHA excavations at Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli. He presented on the display of Roman art at AIA-SCS and on a non-normative Etruscan portrait statue at the College Art Association Annual Conference. With the arrival of summer, he is now enjoying the chance to be immersed in ancient art in Rome as an Affiliated Fellow at the American Academy. He has been pleased to overlap with Rome Prize winner Darcy Tuttle (B.A. Classical Civilization, 2016) and can assure our own 2026–27 Rome Prize winner, Tom Wang, that life at the Academy is very comfortable.

When he wasn't rallying against kings in places near and far, **Kirk Freudenburg** found solace from the unthinkable by teaching courses that had more to do with gardens, rivers and bees than with our current Nero's fiddling. In Eco-Latin when the topic was wheat, grains were ground and bread baked. His freshman seminar on "Environmental Thought in Ancient Greece and Rome" featured a hike to the top of East Rock (see photo), visits to the Peabody Museum and

continued on page 6



Kirk Freudenburg with four intrepid students from his freshman seminar on "East Rock Hike" day

Grove Street Cemetery, and a garden tour of the flower beds of the Yale campus. He gave papers on Vergil at the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma in June and at the SCS Vergil Panel in San Francisco in January. In April he led a seminar on Lucilius Satires 1 at NYU. All of these performances will be converted to published papers in the coming year. Looking ahead, he is slated to deliver talks on Tacitus in Sao Paulo in September and on Juvenal's "Re-Infuriation of Turnus" in Satires book 1—he will deliver this as the annual Don Fowler Memorial Lecture in Oxford next May.

Since becoming 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 the latest addition to *Yale Classical Studies*, *Relief in Greek, Roman, and Late Antique Art*, *Yale Classical Studies* 40, (Cambridge University Press, 2025), which she co-edited with Nathaniel B. Jones and Jas' Elsner, with whom she also co-authored the introduction to the volume. Additionally, her article "Pheidias" appeared in *Personal Religion* edited Julia Kindt (Cambridge University Press, 2026). In spring of 2026, she delivered a public lecture at Princeton University and participated in conferences at the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies in Nafplio Greece, and the Paul Mellon Center in London. She looks forward to welcoming more than 200 students who enrolled in her lecture course, Art and Myth in Greek Antiquity, which she will be teaching in fall of 2026.

Verity Harte sends: "I have spent the past academic year in Oxford as the George Eastman Visiting Professor, attached to Philosophy and as Professorial Fellow at Balliol College. The year has been a splendid opportunity to reset and a boost to my research writing. I will end the year with a complete, if unruly draft of my monograph on Plato's Philebus, ready to be wrangled into more readable shape. The year has also provided welcome opportunities to build upon existing connections with Oxford's philosophy and classics communities; to establish new connections across the university, especially within Balliol, whose faculty, staff, and students have been warm and generous hosts. The main formal duty of the Eastman Professor for the University is to give the Eastman Lecture. Mine was entitled "Outside In: Theorizing Pleasure" and argued that some of the puzzling aspects of discussions of pleasure in Greek

of pleasure; and, further, that the ancient view of the character of hedonic experience is worth taking seriously on this point. Outside academic ventures, Balliol students have enjoyed getting to know Cooper, the family dog, who traveled with us (of course) and who has become quite the experienced traveler, including crossing the Atlantic with us supported by the splendid canine facilities aboard the Queen Mary 2."

In the fall semester **Brad Inwood** once again taught the undergraduate survey of ancient philosophy and for the first time joined colleague Tim Clarke of Philosophy in teaching an intensive graduate seminar on book 2 of Aristotle's *Physics*. He took a small group of graduate students to a weekend workshop on Alexander of Aphrodisias at Cornell University and participated in regular reading groups on Plato, Epictetus and Spinoza. As a member of the Writing Centre Advisory Committee he contributed to discussions about the implications of generative artificial intelligence for Yale College's writing requirement – a major challenge for pedagogy and very much a work in progress. Undoubtedly, the highlight of Brad's year was the appearance, at last, of his book *Plato's Crito* with Cambridge University Press, but he also welcomed the German translation of his *Stoicism: A Very Short Introduction* (under the apt title *Stoizismus für Eilige*) and the publication of several articles that have been hanging around for too long. A small handful of draft articles were polished up and he participated in workshops at the Universities of Pittsburgh (on ancient theories of happiness) and Cambridge (ancient emotions and modern psychotherapy). He also made conference presentations at both the Eastern and Pacific divisions of the American Philosophical Association and gave papers at the University of Toronto and New York University. The spring semester was spent on regular research leave as a visiting researcher at the University of Toronto, where he began serious work on his next major project, a general history of Stoicism for Oxford University Press.

Andrew Johnston sends his greetings from Italy, where he is, as usual, spending the summer excavating at the ancient Latin city of Gabii. The 2025 season was a great success, thanks in large part to an excellent team of Yale undergraduate students and ancient history PhD student **Maddie Hoaglund**. The extraordinary results of that campaign were presented at the annual AIA conference in San Francisco in January. The Yale team on his other archaeological project – the City of the Baboon Project at Hermopolis Magna in Egypt, generously supported by the William K. and Marilyn M. Simpson Fund for Egyptology – has now grown to include four Yale PhD students: **Mary Curwen**, **Samantha Doleno**, **Jake Horton**, and **Alejandro Quintana** (now Dr. Quintana!). On campus, he had a most enjoyable year teaching both semesters of the Roman history sequence; a real highlight was team-teaching a new graduate seminar with **Benedek Kruchió** on "Being Greek in the Roman Empire." He continues to devote much of his energy to service as Chair of the Yale College Executive Committee.



Cooper on the sun deck

continued on page 7

The departmental highlight of **Chris Kraus's** year was a surprise gathering in October, complete with *Festschrift*, masterminded locally by sneaky **Kirk Freudenburg** and from afar by Jane Chaplin, Irene Peirano Garrison, and Chris Stray and generously funded by sneaky Classics Chair **Noel Lenski**. Other ultra-sneaks involved included **Rachel Love** '19, **Ayelet Haimson Lushkov** '09, **John Oksanish** '11, **David Quint** '71,'76, **Chris van den Berg** '06, and a host of visiting conspirators. But CSK can be sneaky right back: she has no plans to retire! At least, not yet. In the spring, with **Erika Valdivieso** she co-taught a seminar on literary Continuation from antiquity through to the early modern period. We concentrated on the ways in which texts, especially those of Caesar and Vergil, were supplemented, reconfigured, reanimated, and inflated over the centuries. It was terrific fun (and we hope for the students as well). In between October and May came a lot of things both rewarding and challenging: aside from being DGS for a bunch of feisty students, she chaired a University committee reviewing the FAS tenure system (now in its 10th year), served on the Steering Committee for the new Macmillan initiative, COSMOS (Collaborations to Study Materiality and Objects), and was an Elector for the Kennedy Chair of Latin at Cambridge. The year concluded with a fantastic crop of PhD students graduating or taking their degrees formally, among whom were CSK's advisees **Talia Boylan** (PhD December '25), now a Loeb postdoctoral fellow at NYU, and **Thomas Munro**, who is heading to a VAP at Dartmouth.

Ben Kruchió spent an eventful second year at Yale. He had his monograph on the Greek novelist Heliodorus accepted for publication by CUP, *Greek Culture in the Roman World*, and the final manuscript is now finally with its copyeditor. For Ben, 2025/26 was all about exploring Yale's flexible teaching system. A seminar on Odyssean receptions in film and literature, which attracted many enthusiastic undergraduates and featured four movie screenings in the University's largest theater, has been the very first course cross-listed between Classics and Film and Media Studies at Yale College. Together with **Andrew Johnston**, Ben taught a seminar on *Being Greek in the Roman Empire*, which proved popular with students from Classics, English, Divinity Studies, Comparative

Literature, and History of Art. Ben is delighted to see that his *Yalebridge* initiative is evolving into an established exchange program (see p. 10); moreover, he enjoyed co-organizing with James Uden this year's Classics Colloquium on *Literary Innovations: New Forms of Reading and Writing in the Imperial Period and Late Antiquity*, which featured **Candida Moss** '08 PhD, RLST and **Bryant Kirkland** '16 PhD. Preparing a new book project on the poetics of allegory in late antiquity, Ben gave papers at Bard College, the University of Copenhagen, and LMU Munich. Yale's open academic culture encouraged Ben to venture beyond the field of Classics and present in a Comparative Literature workshop on the French narratologist Claude Bremond and at a Film and Media Studies event on Stanley Kubrick. This year's favorite free-time spots included the Wilbur Cross running track and New York's esoteric vintage stores.

Jessica Lamont is writing this update as the Department of Classics' newest Associate Professor, with tenure promotion happily voted in December 2025! The past 10 years at Yale have been a lot of hard work and heaps of fun: publishing research in the interstices of teaching and service, mentoring (and learning from) dozens of undergraduate and graduate advisees, frequent travel and long stays abroad in Greece, learning the deep and tiring joys of motherhood. Jessica is grateful to friends and colleagues in the department for their support. Apart from the novel excitement of job security, the past year

saw the continuation of the roles of Director of Undergraduate Studies and co-Chair and Program Coordinator for Archaia: Yale's Program for the Study of Global Antiquity. These, in addition to service on the Departmental External Review Committee; the Departmental Website Redesign Committee; CAMWS's Anthony Fauci Fellowship in STEM & Classics selection committee; the New Haven Chapter of the *Archaeological Institute of America*, which hosted two wonderful in-person talks by Prof. Sarah Morris (UCLA, F25) and Prof. Andrew Ward (Fairfield, Sp26), and more. A teaching highlight was the design of a new F25 advanced seminar, Greek Social History, with 10 superb students and units on Greek oracles, Greek magic, and a regional case study—the north Aegean island of Thasos—which explored the verse of Archilochus together with the Glaukos inscription and early Thracian material culture, the great list of Theoroi, and, of course, the Hippocratic *Epidemics*. The 2025-26 academic year also saw the publication of two new chapters in edited volumes (one on blood in ritual, the other on weaving and domestic economies), in addition to a 30+ page article in *Classical Antiquity*, "Time, Festivals, and the Ἐννεατηρίς in Archaic and Classical Greece."



Jessica Lamont and son Jaime hiking in Colorado



Ben Kruchió doing his Demosthenes demonstration at Yalebridge

continued on page 8

Noel Lenski: “It has gotten worse. Despite past protests that academic travel should be constrained, I managed to ramp it up to unrestrained levels this year with 19 lectures and seminars. I started in October, leading a Yale Alumni Academy tour of “Timeless Islands of the Mediterranean”, including 2 lectures. Before the end of the academic year I had visited Baltimore (JHU), Tulsa (UT), Bonn, Alcalá de Henares, and Frascati, and after its close I traveled to China as host to the Guangqi International Center for Scholars for 10 lectures (see “Classics in Asia – Yale Leans into Global Antiquity”), followed by 2 more in Canberra (ANU). Writing was hampered by my frenetic schedule and administrative tasks, but I did manage to complete two articles and publish three others, including “Rights in Late Ancient Law?” in C. Ando, M. Canevaro, B. Straumman, eds. *The Cambridge History of Rights, vol. I, The Ancient World*. Teaching included a fall lecture class on “Global Leadership: 600 BCE – 600 CE” in the fall, and a spring graduate seminar on “Human Migration in Antiquity,” particularly apt in the present moment. Most importantly, I was proud to witness the completion of PhD advisees **Amia Davis**, writing a cultural history of the Balkans under Roman rule, **Danny Graves**, writing on Thomas Jefferson and the Classics, **Kevin Hoffman** (HIST), writing on the North Sea Economy in the early Middle Ages, and **Alejandro Quintana**, writing on migration and mobility in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt. Despite going too far out on a limb with travel mania, I remain confident in a solid future for Yale Classics and ancient studies knowing that it grows from these strong new branches.”

Pauline LeVen spent the Fall of 2025 on leave in glorious Paris, working on her new book, *Beyond Representation: Elements of Poetry*. The highlight of the term was a trip to Nantong (China) to christen the Greek ship Gallia Graeca II at the kind invitation of Mr. Evangelos Angelakos. In preparing for her role as godmother, she discovered a passion for the maritime history of Southern Gaul. Back in New Haven in



Pauline LeVen at the christening of the Gallia Graeca II

the Spring, she taught undergraduate classes, including a new seminar on the topic of a book she’s co-writing with Sean Gurd (*Music and Myths*). She also gave invited lectures, workshops, and seminars at Yale, Leiden, Brown, Groningen, and Chicago. In May, she had the honor of being Professeure Invitée at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, where she delivered a cycle of four lectures on the topic of “Par delà la représentation: penser la poésie grecque avec les éléments naturels.”

Joe Manning dixit: “This year was dominated by two books. I submitted *The Hidden Hand: Climate and the Fate of Civilization*, a 100,000-word trade book for W.W. Norton drawing on my work linking volcanic climate forcing to Nile flood failure and political crisis across the ancient world; it’s scheduled for publication in late 2026/early 2027. I also completed *The Ptolemaic Economy*, a Cambridge Elements volume now in press. On the research side, I published “The Nile and Climate History, 3000–30 BCE” in *Heritage*, and a preprint with James Stagge and colleagues, “Nile Floods Reveal Ancient Egypt’s Pattern of Revolts.” I was honored to deliver the Sigmund H. Danziger, Jr. Distinguished Lecture at the University of Chicago in May, speaking on “The Nile, Global Climate, and the Hidden Hand of History.”



James Patterson continues his work as Language Program Director helping grad students prepare for qualification exams and teach. This year he and Dina Roginsky (NELC) created the Innovating Premodern Language Pedagogy group for teachers to troubleshoot and collaborate with the wider premodern language community at Yale. So far we have had presentations on Ancient Greek, Ottoman Turkish, Sumerian, and Ge’ez. We look forward to more this coming year.

In his research into archaic Greek and Indic literature, language lector **Tim Robinson** has contemplated the influence that writing had upon the composition and preservation of texts. He has appreciated an analogous intellectual shift with the advent of the internet, as well as from the necessity during the pandemic to make language instruction remote and digital. He has collaborated with Yale ITS to make his current intensive Greek and Latin classes paperless and always accessible to students who may be unable to attend in person, through the use of digital imaging of texts in the classroom and the possibility of remote links when necessary—aids (reinforcing printed texts) that have won over some nostalgic young classicists from *technophobia* to *technophilia*!

James Uden has had a very enjoyable first year at Yale. He is now a fellow of Jonathan Edwards College, and one highlight has been getting to know the students, fellows, and alumni in that community. Highlights of his year have included co-teaching an Ancient Medicine course with his colleagues Professors

continued on page 9

Buturović and **Lamont**; a dazzlingly good undergraduate class on Martial; and a host of exciting departmental events. (Yale has a lot of events!). Another highlight was the delivery of a keynote lecture on Catullus at a conference organized by graduate students **Jacob Horton** and **Kirsten Traudt**; the paper will be published in *Journal of Roman Studies* later this year. He looks forward to finishing his book on Latin epic in the sabbatical year ahead.

Last June **Erika Valdivieso** celebrated the end of the school year by submitting the final manuscript of her book and getting married. There was much rejoicing! The merriment continued at “Kraus Fest,” a three-day series of lectures and communal readings in honor of **Chris Kraus**. Later in September, at the Jackson Colloquium, Erika and Chris reunited with many friends of the program, including Tom Biggs, Rachel Love, Irene Peirano Garrison, and Chris van den Berg. The normal schedule of teaching and presenting was enriched by a delightful collaboration with **Ben Kruchió** on the second iteration of the Yale Cambridge Graduate Workshop.



Erika Valdivieso runs into an old friend in São Paulo

This spring Katie Dennis and Erika put the last touches on their forthcoming special issue of *Classical Antiquity*, “Vergil’s *Georgics* and the poetics of slavery.” Thinking about slavery and poetry will be something Erika will carry on doing during her upcoming leave, supported by an ACLS fellowship. But before she turns her attention to the Atlantic georgics, she first needs to head to Brazil for an interdisciplinary conference on manifold musical encounters in a seventeenth-century Latin play about Portuguese India.

Faculty in Memoriam: William E. Metcalf (1947–2025)

William “Bill” E. Metcalf passed away on August 2, 2025. Born in East Grand Rapids, Michigan, on December 16, 1947, Metcalf studied at the University of Michigan, where he received his A.B. in Latin in 1969 and his A.M. and Ph.D. in Classical Studies in 1970 and 1973. He was introduced to the study of numismatics by Theodore “Ted” V. Buttrey (1929–2018), and through his work for him publishing the coin finds from the university’s excavations at Carthage, gained a lifelong interest in Roman provincial coinage.

Metcalf began his career at the American Numismatic Society, where he worked for 27 years, promoting to Curator of Roman and Byzantine Coins in 1978 and succeeding his friend and mentor, Margaret Thompson, as Chief Curator the following year. He continued to serve the ANS down to 2000, publishing many important articles, monographs, and edited volumes. In addition to helping secure a number of major donations for the society, he also played a key role in overseeing the digitization of the Society’s collection at a time when few institutions were doing so. After the first of the financial crises of the Bush administration, the ANS was forced into restructuring, and Metcalf moved to Yale. There he became Curator of Coins and Medals at the Yale University Art Gallery and Professor of Classics in 2002.

In the course of his time at Yale, Metcalf worked closely with collector and philanthropist Ben Lee Damsky, and in 2007 Damsky endowed Metcalf’s position as Curator of Coins and Medals at the Yale University Art Gallery. Working with Metcalf, Damsky also donated his uniquely robust collection of Roman provincial coinage to YUAG and continues to be an active supporter of numismatics at Yale. Metcalf also oversaw the transfer of the numismatic collection from the Sterling Memorial Library to the Yale University Art Gallery and the creation of the current suite hosting numismatics staff and library. Metcalf also effectuated the rapid

cataloguing and digitization of Yale’s numismatic collection and facilitated many significant acquisitions and donations to build the collection. In addition to his seminar on numismatics, Metcalf taught courses in Latin and was a regular attendee of Classics events, where his incisive comments, bracingly forthright, added the frisson of the unexpected.

Over the course of his career, Bill wrote well over a hundred articles and reviews on topics ranging from excavation coins, hoards, die studies, iconography, and a range of historical questions. His first monograph, *The Cistophori of Hadrian* (American Numismatic Society, 1980), was his revised doctoral dissertation, and was then followed by *The Later Republican Cistophori* (American Numismatic Society, 2017). He also published *The Silver Coinage of Caesarea in Cappadocia: Vespasian to Commodus* (American Numismatic Society, 1996), another key work on provincial coinages. Among other volumes, Metcalf edited *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Coinage* (Oxford University Press, 2012), a crucial resource for all numismatists. His magnum opus was a work in progress for many years, *Roman Provincial Coinage X*, which covers the joint reign of Valerian and Gallienus through the reign of Diocletian. As with other volumes in the series, the *RPC X* was born digitally but will be published in print posthumously.

Metcalf’s intellectual acumen and the quality of his scholarship attracted many honors, among them the Jeton de Vermeil of the Société française de Numismatique in 2008 and the Archer M. Huntington Award for Excellence in Numismatic Scholarship from the American Numismatic Society in 2024.

In his private life, Bill was a devoted Catholic, a lover of sport (especially Tigers baseball), and a family man. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jane Salinger, and two children, Dan and Lydia.

Departmental Conferences and Colloquia

Yale faculty and students continued to be active in coordinating seminars, colloquia, and conferences.

The Classics Department's annual colloquium examined the theme of **"Literary Innovations: New Forms of Reading and Writing in the Imperial Period and Late Antiquity."** Building on the work of Aaron Pelttari, who was the final speaker in the series, the event attempted to show new ways of reading that involved the reader actively in the production of meaning. The eight speakers, two from Yale (**Ben Kruchió** and **Cat Lambert**) and two with Yale degrees (**Candida Moss** '08 PhD RLST and **Bryant Kirkland** '16 PhD) covered both Greek and Latin texts as well as material objects. The colloquium coincided with a graduate seminar, **CLSS 7485 (Being Greek Under the Roman Empire)**, taught this year by **Andrew Johnston** and **Ben Kruchió**.

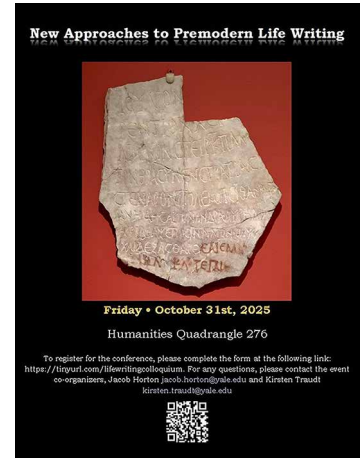
On March 20-22, Yale Classics hosted the second meeting of the **Yale Cambridge Graduate Student Workshop in Classics** (*vulgo* **Yalebridge**) in New Haven. Designed as a forum for exchange between emerging scholars, this iteration of the workshop was organized by **Benedek Kruchió** and **Erika Valdivieso** in collaboration with Cambridge Classicists William Freeman and Daniel Hanigan. The theme, **"Antiquity and the Environment,"** featured sixteen student presentations, as well as a keynote lecture by **Joe Manning**. More information about the event can be found in [this feature](#) written by the MacMillan Center.

Malina Buturović was on the organizing committee of the **Yale Teleology Colloquium** on May 5-6. The event brought together thirteen scholars from across the US and Europe to discuss papers such as "What Is Hypothetical Necessity?" by Jessica Gelber of the University of Toronto and "Galen's 'Unnatural' Teleology" by Prof. Mark Schiefsky of Harvard, who will join Yale Classics as a Visiting Scholar this coming academic year.



Henry Maravilla, Jennifer Moss, and Callia Fried taking a break at the Teleology Colloquium

Graduate students **Jake Horton** and **Kirsten Traudt** organized a one-day colloquium titled **"New Approaches to Premodern Life Writing"** on Friday, October 31, 2025. The event featured eight papers by students and faculty from Yale and elsewhere, including a keynote address by Prof. Eric Rebillard of Cornell University.



Kirsten Traudt as well as **Catherine Saterson** also organized the ongoing, graduate-student-initiated series, **"American Classicisms,"** which included events such as Sarah Gonzalez (PhD candidate at Harvard University) speaking on "An Archive of Their Own: Sor Juana and Rosario Castellanos' Catalogues of Women" and Constanze Güthenke (Oxford) presenting on her ongoing work about the history of Classical scholarship in the US.

The **Classics Anti-Racism reading group** continued to meet regularly this year under the direction of **Zhenghe Ma**, **Ryo Nagao**, **Daniel Zhang**, and **Alex Lee** and covered topics ranging from Haitian creole to the need to free the field from the predominance of whiteness.

Yale undergraduates also did their part by putting together a massive **Certamen event** in September. The event, which attracted more than three hundred students from regional high schools, was organized by **Jonas Howard**, **Louis Dearman**, and **Sophie Heitfield**.



Chris Kraus pede libero tellurem pulsatur apud philologos celeberrimos

Felicitum Temporum Reparatio



Ella Lubbell, Malina Buturović, Leonardo Serafini, and Angela Yeo at the beginning of year party



James Uden, Alexander Ekserdjian, Milette Gaifman



Maria Ma, Tiziano Castrogiovanni, Daniel Zhang



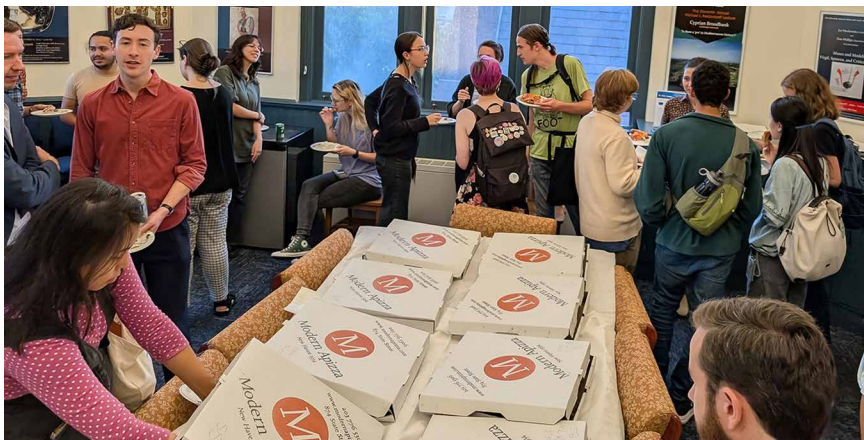
Sam Doleno, Jane Hahn, Alejandro Quintana, Jake Horton, Alex Mayo, Tom Wang, Maria Ma at the spring picnic



Holiday party 2025



Undergrads Alex Geldzahler, Anna Zoltowski, Ryo Nagano, and Sophie Heitfeld at the spring picnic



Undergraduate pizza party (Modern) in Phelps 408



Students enjoy presentations by Brad Inwood and Lizzie Davis at Night at the Gallery in September

Graduate Student News

The department's graduate students were busier than ever this year. They ran workshops, taught courses, mentored undergraduates and each other, and celebrated 6 new PhDs together. Shout out especially to our doctoral finishers **Talia Boylan**, **Amia Davis**, **Danny Graves**, **Thomas Munro**, **Alej Quintana**, and **Nazim Can Serbest**! Some highlights, as the students report them:

Mary Curwen (combined program in History and Classics) had an enjoyable and successful year organising the Archaia Graduate Forum with her Egyptology colleague and co-organiser, Beth Wang. The Archaia Forum organised a mix of events from interdisciplinary professional development workshops to collections-based events. Mary was particularly grateful for the opportunity to connect with peers from across the Archaia community and to build deeper relationships with curators, project managers, and faculty. In December Mary's article discussing a late Roman portrait was published in the Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin. In April she attended the American Research Center in Egypt's Annual Meeting and won third prize for student papers, presenting part of her Masters research on Cleopatra I. Over the summer, she will travel to Leiden to work with the "alchemical" papyrus *PLeid.X* (funded by Archaia). She will also present at the Current Research in Egyptology Conference in Tokyo and conduct a research visit to study Egyptian artefacts at the Miho Museum in Japan.



Mary Curwen receiving her award at ARCE

Amia Davis sends: "In March, I completed my dissertation titled, "Chaos Theory and Identity in the Roman Balkans (2nd - 7th c. CE)." I am very grateful for the guidance and support of my advisor, **Noel Lenski**, as well as my committee members, **Jessica Lamont** and **Andrew Johnston**. I will begin my next academic journey in Fall 2026 among the Society of Fellows at the University of Michigan."

Lizzie Davis (combined program in Classics and Philosophy) writes: "I have taken my university fellowship this year and have been in residence in New Haven writing my dissertation on Stoic practical deliberation. I was honoured to receive the Jacob Cooper Prize in Greco-Roman philosophy for my essay based on this research, titled 'Should I hold the chamber pot? A new reading of Epictetus 1.2.' I was also fortunate enough to use funding from the Classics department to present further work from my dissertation at the American Philosophical Association in Baltimore. As well as lots of writing, I've also enjoyed my second year organising the Working Group in Ancient Philosophy, alongside **Angela Yeo** and **Leonardo Serafini**. This summer, I'm looking forward to participating in the first of four summer workshops at Yale on Plato's *Theaetetus*."

Sam Doleno (combined program in Classics and History) writes: "This past summer I was able to participate in the American Numismatic Society's Summer Seminar, where I researched local and provincial responses through coinage to Roman *imperium* in the Late Republic. In October I presented on how we should rethink Poppaea Sabina's reputation through material evidence at the "New Approaches to Premodern Life Writing Colloquium" hosted at Yale. Over winter break I also had the opportunity to travel to Egypt to take part in the excavations at Hermopolis Magna. Here, in addition to digging at the site, I was able to start cataloguing the coin finds from the ancient city. While this year marks the end of my coursework in the program, I am excited to see where my research will lead next year as I start writing my dissertation prospectus."

Danny Graves writes: "This year, I managed to put the finishing touches on my doctoral dissertation at Yale and my law degree at the University of Chicago. I'm grateful to **Noel Lenski**, **Brad Inwood**, and **Mark Peterson** for seeing my project through to the end. I was honored to receive the John Addison Porter Prize for my dissertation on "Thomas Jefferson and the Quarrel of the Ancients and Moderns." I'm hoping to expand on the project and whip it into book shape over the coming years. But for now, I've accepted a job as an attorney through the U.S. Department of Justice's Honors Program. I'll take up my new role in the Federal Programs Branch at the DOJ in Washington, D.C., in the fall."

Thomas Munro is sad to be leaving Phelps Hall but excited for the next stage of his career: a lectureship at Dartmouth College. His last year at Yale Classics involved: archival research trips to Penn State, UT Austin, and Emory University as part of the *Christopher Logue and the Classics* project; research presentations on Suetonius, Ovid, Michael Longley, and Enoch Powell; the publication of an article on "Fragmented Homers" in *Classical Receptions Journal*; teaching Pliny and Odyssean receptions under the watchful eyes of **Dr. James Patterson** and **Prof. Benedek Kruchió** respectively; and countless conversations in the graduate lounge and beers at Trinity with his friends and colleagues.

Ben Porteous is delighted to join the Department on an *ad hoc* joint degree program with Religious Studies. Highlights of the past year include: luxuriating in the delights of the department library—which, with its superb collections and view, not to mention cool breezes through the windows on spring evenings, has to be the most congenial 2000 square feet dedicated to Classical research on this side of the Atlantic; and working on substantial projects on political thought and literary structure in Herodotus' account of Xerxes, and the cosmological thought of Early Stoicism in light of the Derveni Papyrus. In a different life, he was a scholar of Buddhist manuscripts, and his reconstruction of the manuscript families of a fifth-century commentary on the Lotus Sutra has just been published in a Japanese journal (critical discussion in English, embarrassingly).

continued on page 13

Alej Quintana writes: “This past March, I submitted my dissertation ‘Mobility Makes History: Human Migration in Greco-Roman Egypt,’ where I explored how the movement of people across different spaces and times drove historical change in ancient Egypt. My project was awarded the Hans Gatzke Prize for “an outstanding dissertation in the field of European history” (can’t complain about that generous interpretation of “European”!). I owe countless thanks to my advisors, **Joe Manning**, **Jess Lamont**, and **Noel Lenski**, and to the Combined Program in Ancient History for helping me reach this milestone. All the while, I served as grad-faculty liaison, taught Greek every day in the Spring, presented ongoing research in Cairo, Denver, and Iowa City, and found myself in Florida and Maryland for the job market. This fall, I am thrilled to be moving to the UK to take up a role as a Junior Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. I’ll miss the department, Yale, and New Haven dearly!”

Cat Saterson, a doctoral student in the Departments of Classics and Comparative Literature, spent this past academic year studying Haitian Kreyòl at New York University thanks to a fellowship she received from the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale. This summer, she will present a paper on curse tablets found in fountains at the Celtic Conference in Classics as part of the panel “Magic and Society in Re-Founded Roman Cities: Corinth and Carthage,” organized by Professor Christopher Faraone (University of Chicago), Professor **Jessica Lamont** (Yale University), and Dr. Celia Sánchez Natalias (University of Zaragoza). This coming fall, she plans teach an intermediate course in Ancient Greek and to defend the prospectus for her dissertation on anti-colonial classicism and comparative religion in *La Légende des Loa: Vodou Haïtien* [*The Legend of the Lwa: Haitian Vodou*] by the Haitian artist, intellectual, and Vodou initiate Déita (Deyita).

This year, **Kirsten Traudt** began writing her dissertation in earnest and enjoyed organizing the American Classicisms Working Group with **Catherine Saterson** and the Classics Works-in-Progress Seminar with **Samantha Doleno**. Along with **Jacob Horton**, Kirsten co-organized a conference on “New Approaches to Premodern Life Writing” with the generous support of the Classics Department, Archaia, and the Dean’s Fund for Colloquia and Symposia. She looks forward to spending the first half of her University Fellowship year at the University of Heidelberg, where she will participate in Yale’s Baden-Württemberg Exchange.

In June 2025, **Tom Zhuohun Wang** celebrated his wedding with his wife Janet, joined by many friends and colleagues from Yale Classics in Oceanside California. The occasion was a joyful gathering that brought together members of the department, friends of the program, and loved ones from beyond Yale. Tom is deeply grateful for the presence, kindness, and support of everyone who attended and helped make the day so memorable. Tom was also honored to receive a Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome for the 2026 to 2027 academic year. His project, “Beyond Euergetism and Taxation: Financing Roman Cities in the First to Third Centuries CE,” examines how Roman cities sustained themselves through everyday fiscal mechanisms such as cultivation of public land, leases, rents, credit, and local financial administration. He is very excited for the opportunity to continue this research in Rome and remains deeply thankful for the encouragement and support he has received from the Yale Classics community and his advisors **Noel Lenski**, **Andrew Johnston**, and **Joseph Manning**.

Below: Tom & Janet with Yale friends



Undergraduate Student News

Over the 2025-26 academic year, the undergraduate community has continued to flourish. Indeed, our programs are thriving with a current program size of 42 undergraduate students: 32 declared majors and 10 Greek and Latin Certificate Students. This year, the department celebrated a talented cohort of students whose academic achievements, intellectual curiosity, and creativity have enriched the life of the department, and exemplified the enduring value of a Classics education in and beyond the university.

We begin with a warm CONGRATULATIONS to our seven senior majors: **Daniel Carillo**, **Jonas Howard**, **Kylie Kim**, **Henry Maravilla**, **Patrick Przygoda**, **Shell Ross**, **Daniel Zhang**,

Their shiny new diplomas cap years of rigorous study in Latin and/or Ancient Greek language, literature, history,

philosophy, and material culture. As alumni know well, the skills cultivated through the study of Classics prepare our students for success across a wide range of professions. This year's graduates plan to work in teaching, investment banking and finance, museum education, management consulting, and advanced graduate study in the UK.

This year the department's curricular offerings continued to be rigorous, interdisciplinary, and dynamic. New undergraduate courses designed and taught by Classics faculty this year included "The Poetry of Illness" (**Buturović**), "Greek Social History" (**Lamont**), "Music and Myths" (**LeVen**), "African Martyr Narratives" (**Patterson**), and "Odyssean Receptions: A Journey through the History of Literature and Film" (**Kruchió-Munro**). In terms of undergraduate enrollments, the department's most in-demand class was **Joe Manning's** "The Ancient Economy," which hosted 117 undergraduates in Fall 2025. In the current academic year, Classics faculty have accrued well over 850 undergraduate course enrollments, more than 150 of which were in our Latin courses alone. All these numbers are projected to increase with Yale College's move to expand the undergraduate population over the next several years.

Among the many highlights of the 2025-26 year was an extraordinary undergraduate production of Euripides' *Bacchae* performed entirely in Attic Greek, led by a group of Yale Classics majors (see page 16). Finally, the department highlights the significant scholarly achievement of undergraduate Classics major **Ryo Nagao** (BA/MA, '27), whose story you will find under "Awards and Honors" on page 4.

As always, we invite all undergraduate alumni to keep in touch and to come back and visit us in Phelps!

Departmental Prize Winners

TRANSLATION PRIZES

Henry A. Hurlbut Prize for First-Year Greek Translation
Floris Brocklebank

Henry A. Hurlbut Prize for First-Year Latin Translation
Floris Brocklebank

Charles A. Bristed Scholarship
for Sophomore Greek Translation
Louis Bacon

Charles A. Bristed Scholarship
for Sophomore Latin Translation
Louis Dearman

Buchanan Winthrop Prize
for Junior or Senior Greek Translation
Ryo Nagao

Buchanan Winthrop Prize
for Junior or Senior Latin Translation
Ryo Nagao

ESSAY PRIZES

Alice Derby Lang Prize

Ryo Nagao, undergraduate, for an essay entitled "Oral Tradition and Literary Innovation in an Epigraphic Oracle: Claros and Caesarea Trocetta during the Antonine Plague"

Daniel Zhang, undergraduate, for an essay entitled "The Network Tragedy of Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus*"

Max Norman, graduate, for an essay entitled "The Odyssean Reader: the paradox of reading and the reading of paradox in Plutarch and Lucian"

Jacob Cooper Prize

Lizzie Davis, graduate, for an essay entitled "Should I hold the chamber pot? A new reading of Epictetus 1.2"

TEACHING PRIZE

Deborah Roberts Teaching Prize
Maria Ma



A feast for the eyes, and the palate, at the commencement recognition ceremony

Commencement 2026



Top row, left to right:

Kylie Kim with siblings; Amia Davis with mother; Daniel Carrillo with father and Jessica Lamont

Second row, left to right:

Jonas Howard with parents; Thomas Munro with parents; Patrick Przygoda with family

Third row: *Talia Boylan with family*

Bottom row, left to right:

Henry Meravilla with family; Alejandro Quintana with Mary Curwen and family





A Classic Masterpiece

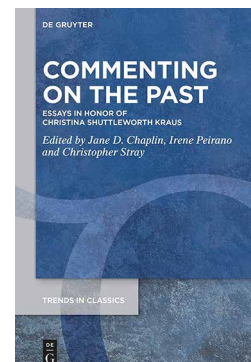
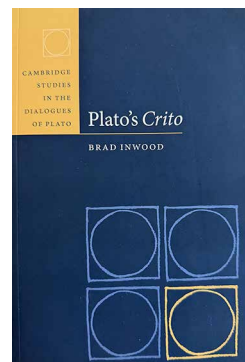
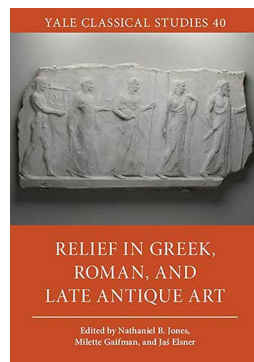
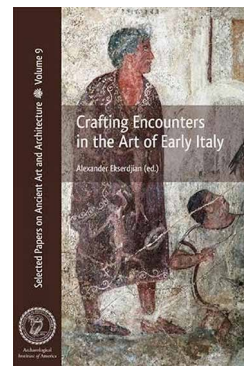
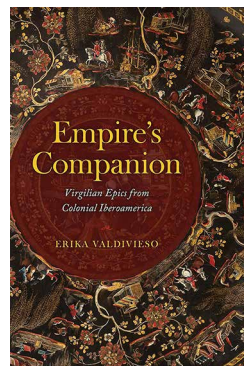
On February 27-28, Yale's undergraduates, led by directors Kelaiah Bigby and **Clara Brodey** and producer Araiya Casriel, performed a stunningly beautiful rendition of Euripides *Bacchae* in the original Attic Greek. An English translation, created by Yale Classicists **Clara Brodey**, **Louis Dearman**, **Maddox McShane**, **Sophie Heitfield**, **Jonas Howard**, **Emma Rogers**, **Shell Ross**, **Max Steinberg**, **Noah Torrance**, and **Claire Zhong**, was run on supertitles throughout the performance to help the audience follow along. The acting as well as the crisp pronunciation of the Greek, however, made it such that the performance was entirely comprehensible at an emotional level, and even lexically for those who know Greek! The cast featured Jonas Howard as Dionysos, Louis

Dearman as Pentheos, Max Steinberg as Kadmos, Lydia Watt as Teiresias, Caroline Talis as Agave, and a chorus including Caroline Constantine, Anjali Dhanekula, Sophie Heitfield, Audrey Manea, Lee Lee Sharp, and Rishi Sultana. An original musical score was composed by Claire Zhong and Zeph Siebler and performed live. Truly a must see, this *Bacchae* gripped you at the core and made you shiver with tragic angst and euphoria.

Above: Agave arrives with her trophy



Featured Publications



Classics in Asia – Yale Leans into Global Antiquity

The study of Greek and Roman antiquity is burgeoning in East Asia, and Yale Classics has been involved in this flourish. Last year's newsletter reported travel by **Yale's Archaia: Program for the Study of Global Antiquity to China** for a ten-day tour that included Classics faculty members **Jessica Lamont** and **Malina Buturović** and graduate student **Maria Jiaqi Ma**, who were able to visit some of the extraordinarily rich archaeological monuments in this vast and beautiful country.

This year **Noel Lenski** was invited to serve as the Guangqi Classics Lecturer of the Shanghai Normal University. This exchange program, organized through the good offices of Prof. Jinyu Liu of Emory University, brings an American Classicist to China to visit a selection of the many institutions of higher education where Classics and Ancient History are thriving. Lenski gave presentations and met colleagues at Shanghai Normal University and Fudan University in Shanghai, Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, and in Beijing at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Capital Normal University, Peking University, Remin University, and Tsinghua University.

What he found was an extraordinary array of talent and commitment among Chinese students and scholars that reflects decades of expansion and augurs well for the continued growth of our field for years to come. Scholars trained at home in China were joined by others trained in the UK, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Greece, and Hungary who engage with western scholarship and scholars and write important and exciting contributions to the field of ancient studies.

The Chinese state has invested heavily in the study of "Western" Classics in recent decades, partly due to a broader effort to build robustness into the Chinese university system, but also with a spotlight on ancient Greece and Rome as

foundational to European and American culture. President Xi Jinping, who lived through the Cultural Revolution, has brought brought back a strong interest in the study of China's own classical civilization. Simultaneously he has invested heavily in the study of the western Classics, even constructing a Chinese School of Classical Studies in Athens (mirroring the American School), which hosted the second **World Congress of Classical Studies** this summer. The meteoric rise of Chinese

Classics has occasioned some **comment** and **concern**, coming as it does at a time when American and UK universities in particular have sometimes **called into question** the nature and foundations of our discipline.

There is no simple way to plot the future of Classics as a global field of studies, nor to anticipate how new modes of engagement between the study of Classical civilizations in east and west might continue to merge. One thing that is clear is that it is important that Yale continue to play its part in helping foster the next generation of Chinese Classicists, as in fact it is doing with outstanding current students **Maria Jiaqi Ma**, **Zhenghe Ma**, and **Tom Zhuohun Wang**, whose journeys to North America began, respectively, in college, graduate school, and middle school. Whether they continue their academic journeys in the eastern or western hemisphere, they enrich us with their presence and add to our community with their biculturalism.



Hermes in Osaka

Classics is also flourishing in Japan. This year **James Uden** traveled to East Asia to attend the 76th annual meeting of the Classical Society of Japan, the country's national organization for the study of Greek and Roman antiquity. An entirely Japanese-language event, the conference brought together approximately a hundred scholars from Japan and other parts of Asia. The papers covered a broad thematic range – from Plato to Aelius Aristides, Greek art history to Roman political history, Latin metrics to the cult of

Mithras – and culminated in a grand banquet, complete with sake from different regions across the country.

The Classical Society of Japan was founded in 1950 in Kyoto in order to advance classical learning and research. The study of Greece and Rome, then, already has quite a long history in Japan, and initiatives such as Nagoya University's Humanitext Antiqua project, an AI-powered platform for asking questions directly of Greek and Latin texts, show Japan at the cutting edge of study of the ancient world. Many of the presenters at this year's conference were PhD students or early career scholars, which bodes well for the strength of the field.

Also attending the conference for the first time was **Ryo Nagao**, a rising senior majoring in Classics and History at Yale, who was born in Japan's Shiga prefecture. Ryo recently won the Phyllis B. Katz Prize (see page 4). Some Japanese professors there were already familiar with his achievements thanks to the Department's Facebook page! It was a sign of the global reach of the study of antiquity at Yale, and we look forward to closer connections with our colleagues in East Asia in the future. The Classical heritage is a world heritage, as fascinating around the globe as it is here in America.



Yunju Temple in Fangshan, site of thousands of preserved inscriptions

Yale Classics and the World



Left to right: James Uden at home in Sydney; Cat Satterson working with ancient lamps in Corinth; Jessica Lamont in the Athenian Agora (Hephaisteion) in March



Left to right: Post-doctoral fellow Jan Nylund joined Yale Classics from Sweden in spring 2026; Joe Manning takes a break from a Yale Alumni Academy tour in Athens; François Girardin (PhD '19) and Pauline LeVen catch up at the JR installation at the Pont Neuf in Paris



Yale participants at the Gabii Excavations in 2025. From left to right: Alex Geldzahler, Alexander Lee, Andrew Johnston, Max Deisboeck, Lillian Kibler, Anna Zoltowski, Maddie Hoagland

Alumni News

Emily Anhalt '89 PhD reports: "I'm still teaching at Sarah Lawrence College. Last October I published *Ancient Wisdom for Polarized Times: Why Humanity Needs Herodotus, the Man Who Invented History* (Yale University Press, 2025). And last summer I had an article in *The American Scholar*, "The Art of Coping," June 20, 2025. <https://theamericanscholar.org/the-art-of-coping/>."

Marc Appel '08 writes: "My new investment firm, Pacific Bridge NY, specializes in cross-border biotech deals involving drug development in both Asia and the West. Due to the complex geopolitical environment, there is a unique opportunity in both assisting Asian firms in getting their drugs into US clinical trials and in helping US/European firms pursue drug development in Asia. By having teams in both the US and Asia, our firm has been able to play an important role in this growing industry. At the same time, my work travel has also given me a chance to experience local Chinese culture. I was happy to read about the Archaia early China study tour in the last issue of this newsletter as I have come to appreciate the importance of learning more about ancient civilizations beyond Greece and Rome."

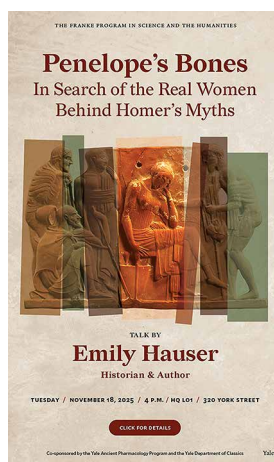
Kathryn Blenkinsop Hill '91 writes: "I continue to teach a combination of my two Yale undergraduate majors – three math classes and one Latin class – at The Williston Northampton School in Massachusetts. In my Latin class this spring term, we've read portions of Cicero's *In Verrem*, Catullus 49 (Catullus' poem to Cicero), completed a project on the *cursus honorum*, and have just finished Horace's "Ship of State" poem. It's been a wide-ranging spring in our Latin 3 course, and I enjoy being able to use my Latin every day."

Ava Dadvand '25 has finished her first year in the PhD program in Greek and Latin Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania. While she misses the Yale Classics Department very much, she is grateful to all of her former professors and peers for preparing her so well for graduate school. Philly isn't too far from New Haven, though, and she happily returned to campus in February

to give a paper she developed in Prof. Kevin van Bladel's 2025 ARCHAIA seminar at the ARCHAIA Grad Forum's "Language Contact & Linguistic History" panel. She was very happy to see her old friends at Yale and looks forward to future visits.

Josh Fincher '15 PhD will begin a lectureship at Case Western Reserve University in fall 2026.

Emily Hauser '17 PhD returned to Yale to deliver a lecture on her new book *Penelope's Bones: In Search of the Real Women Behind Homer's Myths* on November 18. The lecture was organized through Yale's Franke Lecture series in the History of Science and was coordinated through Dr. Andrew Koh of Yale's Peabody Museum, who helped Hauser with her work on the chemical properties of ancient unguents and liquids.



Gwen channels
Sophia Loren

from Italy with her husband Davide Prati and new daughter, Gwendolin Ann (born January 9, 2026).

Noreen Kupernik (née Sit) '19 PhD continues in her role as Latin teacher and World Languages department chair at Thaden School in Bentonville, Arkansas. Noreen received the John Breuker Jr. Award for Exceptional Promise in Latin Teaching from CAMWS, a prize that funded her tuition, airfare, and

housing for Living Latin in Rome in July 2025. This two-week program, offered by the Paideia Institute, featured a rigorous blend of Latin conversation, textual discussion, site visits, and urban exploration centered around the theme of Pliny's *Epistulae*. By fortunate coincidence, one of Noreen's students participated in the high school version of Living Latin in Rome, and *magistra et discipula* were able to meet up during their time in the eternal city. This year, besides teaching Latin to grades 7, 10, and 11, Noreen also had the opportunity to teach two high-school electives, Ancient Rome and Myth in Music. Students in those classes engaged deeply with primary sources and produced creative final projects, including a mixed-media collage showing the many facets of Marcus Aurelius' rule and an original blues song written from Achilles' perspective.

Christina Pao '20 sends: "I am just finishing up my PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from Princeton University in July 2026 and starting an assistant professor position in Sociology at the University of South Carolina. If any other alums are around in Columbia, SC please let me know (christina.pao@sc.edu); I'd love to hear from you!"

Cara Polsley '19 PhD sends warm greetings. She reports her upcoming publication of *Sailing Close to the Clouds: Selected Worlds of Lucian of Samosata* (University of Chicago, 2027), the first volume dedicated to exploring Lucian's many worlds through the lens of multiverse theory. *Apollonius of Rhodes: Argonautica*, her translation collaboration with Stanley Lombardo, came to print with Hackett in 2025. She recently completed her thirteenth science fiction/meta-myth collection as well as her first illustrated book, *A Visit from the Graduphant* (with, of course, a special Yalie nod).

C.J. Rice '22 PhD: "This past year has been a busy and productive one! In November, I travelled to Naples to accept one of six Premi della Ricerca from the Associazione Internazionale di Studi Tardoantichi. The picture

continued on page 20

below shows my mother and me at the awards ceremony! In December, I was re-appointed to another three-year term at Vassar). Last but not least, my article titled “Escaping a Prostituted *Pudor*: A Law of Constantius II on Enslaved Christian Women (CTh 15.8.2)” was accepted by *Studies in Late Antiquity*, and will appear sometime next year!”



C.J. Rice and proud mother

Lea Schroeder '22 PhD (Combined Program in Classics and Philosophy): “I hope you’re doing well! I’ve accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at UC Berkeley starting July 2026, and will be leaving my current position as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Purdue then.”

Will Schwalbe '84 writes: “I entered Yale with four years of Greek and six of Latin – so was able to take extraordinary courses with great professors. I do recall that being a freshman and the only underclassperson in Thomas Cole’s Thucydides course almost did me in. I had to stay in New Haven during Thanksgiving and be tutored by a kind grad student (with the improbable name of Matt Dillon) who helped me get a handle on it. Complicating matters, my Thucydides text in Greek (with my notes) was stolen along with my down coat. I told Professor Cole and he was thrilled; he imagined that there were thieves targeting great Ancient Greek texts. I didn’t have the heart to tell him that I think they were after my down coat – and the text was simply in one of the large pockets. But once I passed that course, I felt invincible. Also had marvelous courses with George Goold and Thomas Gould. But I switched to

A Happy Reunion in California



Jessica Lamont reconnected at UC Berkeley with Sherry Lee '18 BA/MA, now an Assistant Professor of Greek Literature at UC Berkeley, and Sarah Derbew '18 PhD, an Assistant Professor of Classics at Stanford. Lamont was giving the annual graduate-student invited Heller Lecture and grad workshops.

Classical Civ from Classics in senior year because I wasn’t excited about translating into Greek (one of the requirements then) and also wanted to study with Sarah Morris and write about Crete. Sarah remains a dear friend all these years later. I actually included a little bit about this in my last book, *We Should Not Be Friends* (Vintage 2024).”

S. Frederick Starr '62 of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, American Foreign Policy Council writes, “I was introduced to the Classics Department in the autumn of my freshman year, when I took Professor Christof Clairmont’s graduate course on Greek vase painting as a freshman. Professor Clairmont left no pot unturned. My thesis advisor was Professor C. Bradford Welles. Alas, I abandoned the classical world and archaeology and focused instead on the rediscovery of Aristotle, Galen, etc. in Central Asia that occurred a millennium later. Two books on this theme are: *Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia’s Golden Age from the Arab Conquest to Tamerlane* (Princeton University Press, 23 translations) and *The Genius of their Age: Ibn Sina, Biruni, and the Lost Enlightenment* (Oxford University Press, 5 translations). A recent article focusing on major classical works that the early Muslims failed to translate is: “What the Muslims Failed to Translate and What It Means Today,” *Middle East Quarterly*, 2025. The high points of my classics training at Yale were my seasons spent digging at Gordion and the long interlude between my junior and senior years, during which I followed the route of the

Persian Royal Road across Anatolia for the National Geographic Society. Both of these Yale-linked adventures are described in my recent autobiographical work, *Blue Skies: My Life in Many Worlds* (Dorrance 2025). I am deeply grateful for my happy years atop Phelps Gate and envy those students studying with you all today.

Jennifer Weintritt '19 PhD finished revisions to her book, *The Greek Epic Cycle in Roman Poetry: Serial Storytelling and the Poetics of Continuation* (in production with CUP), and welcomed a baby girl, Rosalie. Jennifer is moving to North Carolina this summer to start a new position at UNC-Chapel Hill.



Rosalie and her proud big brother, Davis

Send your news to
linda.dickey-saucier@yale.edu