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# CLASSICS AT GUSTAVUS

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## Dugdale Receives Faculty Scholarly Achievement Award

Our own Eric Dugdale received the 2011 Faculty Scholarly Achievement Award on May 7 at the College's Honors Day Convocation. Faculty members are nominated for the award by fellow faculty members based on professional accomplishments regarding research activities in private, public, or corporate settings; publication; presentations at scholarly meetings or conferences; and exhibits or performances.

Since he arrived at Gustavus in the fall of 2001, Eric has presented 18 conference papers in 14 different cities and 3 different countries and continents. This included five times at the regional conference (CAMWS) and twice at the national classics convention (APA). Nor does Eric limit himself to one narrow stream of research: the topics he has explored include his specialty, Greek tragedy, but also classical mythology, social justice, Latin teaching, and the Roman emperor Nero.

Eric has edited 11 books, published 2 articles, 2 book reviews, a translation and commentary on Sophocles' *Electra*, and a monograph, *Greek Theatre in Context*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2008. This was the initial book in the series "Greece and Rome: Texts and Contexts" that Eric proposed and edited together with James Morwood. The reviewer in *Bryn Mawr Classical Reviews* (the leading online journal for reviews of books in classics) described his monograph as "a valuable text for an introductory course in Greek drama. It is clearly and engagingly written and fulfills its aims, to provide the rich contextual framework within which

Greek theatre is situated. Students will find it informative and stimulating and instructors will recognize it as a useful companion in their teaching" (BMCR 2009.05.29 <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-05-29.html>). The amount of work that the editing of a series requires—from finding suitable authors, providing regular and extensive feedback, encouraging them to complete the work—is immense, and most of it has been done during a period when Eric has been carrying a full load of teaching at Gustavus in addition to his duties as department chair and one year filling in as Curriculum II director.

He also serves on the Education Committee of the American Philological Association and is participating in Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives, a nationwide initiative spearheaded by Peter Meineck of the New York-based Aquila Theatre Company. The initiative places live theatrical events, reading groups, and lectures in community libraries and cultural centers to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life.

Eric is the third person from classics, after Stewart and Marleen Flory in 1988 and 1989, to win the award. This gives the department the most Faculty Scholarly Achievement award winners (tied with history) at the College.

## Roman Food

by Dimitri Diamanti '11 (philosophy major but also a friend of the classics department who took a number of courses including Latin and the 2011 J-Term course on Roman Food)

Food is one of the central issues of my general contentment, physical wellbeing, and philosophical inclination. Much of the introspective thought done by humanity has probably been done while quietly reclining after a truly satisfying meal. So it would be ludicrous not to pounce on any opportunity to improve our appreciation and quality of eating experience.

I have long thought it tragic that Gustavus did not offer a more robust culinary program. In this case things that would qualify for a “more robust” program would be the existence of any whatsoever. But lo, last J-Term the clouds parted and one was presented before me. Serendipitously, it was in an area of culinary endeavor I have long wondered at but never explored: ancient Roman cooking.

Long have I been smug with egotistical reflection at the sophistication of my cooking knowledge, especially Italian, but ancient cuisine seemed to offer a window into a

world that was wholly unfamiliar to me. In many ways the class followed the same pattern that characterizes any academic class at Gustavus. But beyond that was a learning environment very different from others I have experienced at Gustavus; a trait that often seems to color J-Term classes.

For starters an active kitchen is flat out a different environment than an academic classroom; you can try to bring some level of external academia to it but the urgency of cooking is always searingly in contrast to the slow considered thinking of academia. While in a kitchen, assuming you possess a minimum amount of skill and awareness of the actions of those around you, you can act as a semi-independent agent. Naturally, any cooking experience that starts out in an academic setting is initially steeped in the physical awkwardness that seems to be endemic to the undergraduate academic environment. But eventually people get comfortable and competent with the medium and start loosening up and letting their natural interest and curiosity take over.

Once this starts happening, things become exponentially more interesting because people start surprising you. You can



learn a lot about people from what they eat and how they cook. There are surprisingly large numbers of closeted foodies and skilled cooks as well as a plethora of outwardly confident and seemingly sophisticated people who are clearly at a loss with food.

At the culmination of the class we put together a large and delicious banquet of dishes, many of which had been favorites during earlier sessions, and had a large collective meal with a few others from the classics department and some other welcome stragglers. Despite my own anti-social and socially indifferent tendencies, and possibly assisted by a few fortifying glasses of wine beforehand, I found myself having a very enjoyable evening sampling dishes that had been rightfully resurrected from their resting place a couple of thousand years ago.

## News of Old Main

As always the classics department did its share this year to elevate the intellectual atmosphere on campus. It began in September with **Mary**, who gave a well-attended shop talk titled “*Constantia memoriae* – the Reputation of Agrippina the Younger,” which examined the smear campaign against her in antiquity and its lingering success in modern culture. We were also very lucky early on in the semester to spend a thoroughly enjoyable evening with **Derek Walcott** (it’s not every day that you get to hang out with a Nobel Prize winner in literature!) reading from his epic poem *Omeros* and talking along the way about the magical pull of the sea (both Mediterranean and Caribbean), the power of words, and learning Latin (see Eric’s article in this issue of the newsletter). In October, as part of her visit to Minnesota to deliver the keynote address at the CAM meeting, Professor **Kathy Gaca** of Vanderbilt University visited Gustavus. She gave a lecture titled “Warfare beyond the Battle in Classical Antiquity,” in which she challenged the dominant notion of warfare as armed man-to-man violence, looking instead at practices that

affected women and girls, in particular the phenomenon of andrapodizing that often occurred after a city’s male defenders were killed or routed. In April **Eric** organized a wonderful symposium in honor of **Chaplain Brian Johnson**, who left Gustavus to take a position at Valparaiso University. It was titled “*Coincidentia Oppositorum*: the union of opposites” and featured some heavy hitters on the faculty: **Doug Huff** on Iris Murdoch’s proof for the existence of God, **Will Freiert** on Shinto as centering ritual, and **Joyce Sutphen** on Keats and negative capability. And finally in May, **Anne Groton** and her



Dan Rohlf presents Vergil at the CCI.



talented following of students from St. Olaf treated us to their own wonderful recreation of Plautus’ *Pseudolus*.

We had a record number of students who made classically related poster presentations at the Celebration of Creative Inquiry (CCI) this year. Much credit must be given to **Seán**, who has worked hard to generate student interest in presenting their research to the wider community. Students participating included **Krystal Bundy**, “The Underworld in Epic Poetry”; **Nathan Ebel**, “The Use of Anachronisms in Greek and Roman Epic”; **Alicia Edstrom**, “Weapons in Classical Poetry as Gendered Symbols of Power”; **Rose Follis**, “Not Your Average Mother”; **Sarah Graver**, “Catullus and Manuscript Tradition”; **Yulia Ludwig**, “The Power of Myth: Remus and Romulus in Roman





Kenwon, Nathan, Krystal and Yulia at the CCI.

Politics and Poetry”; **Jacob Lundborg**, “Roman Religion in Virgil and the Augustan Age”; **Christopher Masad**, “Insights into the Importance of Carthage to Rome’s History”; **Robert Miner**, “Roman Insult Poetry”; **Lindsay Nilson**, “The Origins of Rome”; **Patricia O’Connor**, “I’m a Slave for You: Slave Imagery in the Roman Elegists and Male Gender Roles”; **Patrick Perish**, “Boys Don’t Cry: An Examination of Heroic Weeping in Epic”; **Nicholas Prince**, “Political Poetry of the Augustan Era”; **Daniel Rohlf**, “The Challenges of Rendering a Metrical English Translation of Vergil’s *Aeneid*”; **Sylvie Skoog** “Roman Poets: Love within Horace and Catullus”; **Alexandra Stocco**, “Dido, a Reflection of an Egyptian Queen”; **Kenwon Tran**, “The World of the Dead”; **David Walden**, “The Nature of Virgil’s Epic”; and **Jericho Westendorf**, “Unraveling Bliss: Gender and Happiness in Roman Poetry.”



The student becomes the teacher and the teachers become the students.

It was an exciting teaching year for the department. **Seán** and **Eric** revamped Historical Perspective I in Curriculum II so that it would hit some additional topics and themes (especially ancient China); **Matt** continued to experiment with pedagogy (presentations on Pompeian graffiti, a Latin haiku composition assignment, and invigorating renditions of “Caput, Umeri, Genua, Digni” to begin class) in Introductory Latin; **Mary** taught a successful Roman Food course during J-Term, highlighted by a banquet at the end of January; she also taught the senior seminar on the topic of memory; **Yurie** tackled the myth class; **Will**, though retired, taught the CII senior seminar; and **Seán** had his contract expanded so that he also will be able to teach regularly in Peace Studies.

The classics faculty continued to collect awards and be recognized: **Eric** won the Faculty Scholarly Achievement Award at this year’s Honors Day (see the article in this issue of the newsletter). **Yurie’s** exemplary work on our website was acknowledged when the Gustavus classics blog was included among the 40 best blogs for Classics Geeks compiled by onlinecollege.org. Finally, **Will** earned a much deserved honorary initiation into Phi Beta Kappa. Good things do come to those who wait.

Last, but not least, four students graduated with their degree in classics this past spring: **Karl Boettcher** (double major in classics and mathematics), **Patty O’Connor** (double major in classics and mathematics), **Katie Webster** (double major in classics



The Greek tragedy class enjoys a warm day.

and biology), and **Jericho Westendorf**. They were outstanding students who contributed much to the department and we will miss them very much. They all had interesting plans already in place at the time of graduation. Karl was making a move to Minneapolis where he will be employed by Guy Carpenter calculating the potential financial losses of various weather-related disasters. Patty was admitted to the University of Notre Dame’s graduate program in architecture, where her work in Latin (translating Vituvius), ancient art, and mathematics will come in handy. Katie was planning to take a year off before doing graduate work in biology or neuro-biology. And finally, Jericho was heading to the state of Washington where she will be working for a year for the Lutheran Volunteer Corps at Holden village. Our best wishes to them all!



## The Class of 2011

From left to right: Katie Webster, Karl Boettcher, Patty O’Connor, and Jericho Westendorf.

# Derek Walcott's Visit and an Odyssey around the *Odyssey*

by Eric Dugdale

In September, Gustavus welcomed to campus Derek Walcott, winner of the 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature. Poet, playwright, and scholar, Walcott is also an accomplished artist whose watercolors grace several of his books. His best-known work is *Omeros*, an epic poem that transforms the Trojan War into a Caribbean fishermen's fight. He has also written a stage version of the *Odyssey* in which he re-imagined the poem through the pairing of characters who actually never met in Homer's original. The Classics Department got to enjoy Walcott's company in an intimate teatime event at International House. Dan Rohlf, president of Eta Sigma Phi, kicked off the event with an evocative reading of some lines from *Omeros*, an homage Walcott seemed to appreciate. This was followed by an unscripted exchange of questions and answers. Walcott appeared reluctant to comment directly on his works—like many artists, he may have wanted his works to speak for themselves rather than decode their meaning. But he became more expansive as he described his upbringing on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia and the special affinity that he felt for the *Odyssey* and its tale of island life and nautical adventure. Evocative descriptions of the allure of the ocean, the mesmeric effect of the crashing of the surf and its echoes in the cadences of poetry, captivated his audience. For Walcott, Odysseus was the quintessential seafarer, his tales the stuff of folktale, at once familiar and fantastical. Lines of Horace and Virgil learned as a schoolboy in St. Lucia peppered his conversation, and it was clear that a love of classical literature had entered his marrow at an early age and would remain with him for life. Straddling his parents' laps, Seán and Yurie's son Emmet seemed to be taking everything in.

Walcott is just the latest in a chain of artists who found inspiration in the *Odyssey*. Homer invoked the Muse's aid in his opening line, and it seems the Muse looked on his request with favor. In Greco-Roman culture, Homer's poems occupied a place apart, the nearest thing to sacred scriptures; they were memorized by schoolboys, commented on by Alexandrian scholars.

Odysseus may have rejected Calypso's offer of blissful immortality on Ogygia, but his fame lives on in the works of artists from Dante to Cavafy, from Tennyson to Joyce. They pay Homer the ultimate artistic compliment, that of emulation. In their hands, his hero Odysseus, "the man of many turns," reappears in countless guises. In his *Epistulae ex Ponto* and *Tristia*, for example,



Derek Walcott and the Gustavus Classics Department.

Ovid presents himself as an Odysseus figure, living in isolation on a distant shore (he was exiled to the Black Sea). In his *Inferno*, Dante presents Odysseus as driven by a burning desire to "to understand how this world works, and know of human vices, worth and valour." In a rallying cry to his men he urges: "Do not deny your will to win experience, behind the sun, of worlds where no man dwells. Hold clear in thought your seed and origin. You were not made to live as mindless brutes, but go in search of virtue and true knowledge," (Canto 26.98-99, 119-20, tr. Kirkpatrick 2006). In Plutarch's *Gryllus*, the eponymous Gryllus ("Porker" or "Grunter" in Greek), one of Odysseus' men who has been turned into a pig by Circe's sorcery, tries to convince Odysseus *not* to turn him back into human shape, since humans are "the most unfortunate of all creatures!" And in this snippet from his poem "The Lotos-Eaters," Tennyson captures the perspective of Odysseus' men in the incident with the Lotus-eaters as the lotus fruit starts to take effect and dull their yearning for home:

Dear is the memory of our wedded lives,  
And dear the last embraces of our wives  
And their warm tears: but all hath suffer'd  
change:

For surely now our household hearths are cold:  
Our sons inherit us: our looks are strange:  
And we should come like ghosts to trouble joy.

Like the sea that looms large for much of the poem, the *Odyssey* continues to exercise its irresistible pull on the imaginations of readers around the world. In the following two snippets from the *Odyssey* (in a new translation by Charles Weiss forthcoming in our series), we see two distinct faces of the sea. In the first (5.50-61), we experience its allure as we follow the messenger god Hermes to Calypso's island: note how he caresses Pieria, the mountain home of the Muses, as he flies by!

As he descended from sky to sea he touched  
on the mountains of Pieria.

He skirted over the waves like a seagull  
hunting for fish among the treacherous folds  
of the barren sea  
and dipping his flapping wings in the sea-  
water—

that's how Hermes made his way over the  
many waves.

When he reached the distant island he came  
out of the purple-dark sea and made for  
the shore. He reached a large cave, the home  
of

the fair-tressed Lady, and found her within.

There was a huge fire on the open hearth  
and the scent of burning  
cedar (perfect for firewood), and citron  
wood perfumed  
the entire island.

A few lines later, we witness the dark face  
of the sea after an angry Poseidon has stirred  
up its waters (5.327-32):

Another vast wave then surged and carried  
the boat this way and that—

it was just as when in late summer Boreas  
comes and carries the thistle-down across a  
field and the down bundles together, thick  
and fast.

That's how the winds carried the boat across  
the sea, this way and that. Sometimes Notus  
would let Boreas do the carrying  
and sometimes Eurus would allow Zephyr to  
chase it down.

The final extract is from Derek Walcott's  
*Omeros*, in commemoration of his visit to  
Gustavus:

"..you get my drift, a drifter is the hero of  
my book."

"I never read it,"

I said. "Not all the way through."

The lift of the  
arching eyebrows paralysed me like Medusa's  
shield, and I turned cold the moment I had  
said it.

"Those gods with hyphens, like Hollywood  
producers,"

I heard my mouth babbling as ice glazed  
over my chest.

"The gods and demigods aren't much use to  
us."

"Forget the gods," *Omeros* growled, "and  
read the rest."



## Eta Sigma Phi

Eta Sigma Phi is the national honor society of students of Latin and Greek in colleges and universities. It hosts a national conference, publishes a quarterly magazine, and sponsors a number of student scholarships. Its chapters on campuses across the country sponsor classically related events. We are the Epsilon Chi chapter and have maintained an active profile over the years. The officers this year were **Dan Rohlf** (president), **Jericho Westendorf** (vice president), **Patty O'Connor** (secretary), **Jacob Lundborg** (treasurer), and **Karl Boettcher** and **Brian Westerbur** (sergeants at arms). **Matt Panciera** was the faculty adviser. New members inducted in 2011 were **Krystal Bundy**, **Nathan Ebel**, **Yulia Ludwig**, **Jacob Niewinski**, **David Nissen**, **Patrick Perish**, **Kenwon Tran**, **David Walden**, **Julie Hayes**, **Sarah Lucht**, **Kelley Myers**, **Joshua Peterson**, and **Nicole Wamma**.



The officers of Eta Sigma Phi: (back) Patrick, Jacob; (middle) Jericho, Dan, Krystal, Patty, (front) Sylvie

## Eta Sigma Phi Report (by Dan Rohlf):

Another year of working and playing to promote the study of classical culture and language came and went. Here is what we were up to:

The 1992 Nobel laureate in literature Derek Walcott visited the College as an artist-in-residence for two weeks in September. To familiarize people with some of his work before his arrival, several of our members performed a public reading of selections from Walcott's epic poem *Omeros*. A loose retelling of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the poem is set on the island of St. Lucia, and deals with issues of colonialism and nostalgia for the past in the wake of British rule.

In October, members gathered for our annual showing of the greatest of classically-themed films, the 1981 *Clash of the Titans*. November found us making the 15 minute trek to Minnesota State University in Mankato to view their production of Mary

Zimmerman's dramatic adaptation of the *Odyssey*. The production left all of us very impressed. It went on to win several awards at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Ames, Iowa, and was chosen to be performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., this April. Many members earned *kleos* and *fama* in our annual December game of broomball, though the match ultimately ended in a tie between the Greeks and Romans.

At the end of January Term, we used our budget to fund a banquet prepared by the members of the Ancient Roman Foods and Cooking course taught by Professor Mary McHugh.

Icy Boreas is especially brutal to Gustavus in February. His chilling gusts clouded our judgment, and before we knew it, we were meeting to watch the 2010 remake of *Clash of the Titans*. Though we all agreed that Sam Worthington's hair was decidedly less silly than Harry Hamlin's, we lamented the absence of Bubo the owl.

In March, we met for pizza and inducted 13 new members into the chapter!

For April, we made a visit to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and viewed the museum's collection of classical Greek and Roman art. Afterwards, we went out for Greek food. Finally, tradition dictated that we round out the academic year with an Eta Sigma Phi-organized kickball match between the Classics and Philosophy departments on the last day of classes in May. It has been many years since the classicists were last victorious...and after an excruciating 15-14 loss the cry goes up, "Wait until next year!"



The Classics kickball team looks sharp in their Will Freiert t-shirts.

## President's Honor List

The President's Honor List comprises those students who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 or better through January. Classics majors on this list in 2011 were: **Zachary Blinkinsop**, **Karl Boettcher**, **Laurel Boman**, **Susan Crane**, **Karl Grant**, **Janella Reiswig**, and **Sylvie Skoog**. Also making the list were Eta Sigma Phi members

**Elise Fitzgerald**, **Andrew Griesman**, **Nara Higano**, **Sarah Lucht**, **Jacob Lundborg**, **Dan Mellema**, **Kelly Myers**, **Dan Rohlf**, **Lance Switzer**, **David Walden**, and **Nicole Wamma**.

## Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society. Students are elected by a faculty committee of local chapter members based on their academic performance in fields of liberal learning (foreign language and math are basic prerequisites).

This year one graduating senior with ties to classics, **Dan Rohlf**, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Dan minored in classics and also served as president of Eta Sigma Phi this year. And in what turned out to be an unexpected but most deserving honor, Will was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa. As Yurie reminds us in her blog post, Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest honor society in the U.S., and its letters stand for *philosophia bion kubernetes*, Greek for "love of wisdom is the guide of life." Few professors in the history of Gustavus have introduced more students to the love of wisdom than Will Freiert.

## Guild of St. Ansgar

This year **Katie Webster** was elected to the Guild of St. Ansgar, an honorary society for scholarship, leadership, and participation in extra-curricular activities.

## J.A. Youngquist Award in Classics

This award, established in honor of Professor J.A. Youngquist, a member of Gustavus's first graduating class and a longtime classics professor here, was won in 2011 by **Melody Monyok** and **Sylvie Skoog**, *hominibus summe omnium doctrinarum studiosis*, in the words of the award itself. It is awarded at the end of the junior year to the classics major with the highest grades in classics.

## Youngquist Scholarship

The J.A. and Hilda Youngquist, Adeline Andreen, and Ruth Youngquist Memorial Scholarship in Classics is awarded to the major(s) with the highest grade point average after the second year. This year's winners were **Krystal Bundy** and **Janella Reiswig**.

## American Philological Award

The American Philological Association invites member colleges and universities to designate an outstanding student in classics annually. This year **Karl Boettcher** was presented with the APA Award.

## News of Current Classics Majors

**Zachary Blinkinsop** is a sophomore classics and Scandinavian studies major who has lived in Germany and in Hokkaido. Just to challenge his third-year Swedish and second-year Latin work, he is also studying first-year French this year.

**Laurel Boman** writes: "I had a wonderful summer teaching English to adult English language learners and helping with a citizenship class here in the Twin Cities. I'll look forward to being a student again myself this fall."

**Krystal Bundy** writes: "The summer looked bleak at the beginning. There were no jobs to be had, and it began without much activity. But prospects started looking up when I found an internship at a small publishing house via a tip from the Writing Center. I spent two months poring over manuscripts and submissions before leaving to give my fuel budget a break, as it was something of a commute. Since the cessation of my internship, I have been reading Harry Potter in German and have nearly finished the third book. I look forward to my fall semester abroad in England where I'll be studying classics and philosophy. I also will be serving on the executive committee of Eta Sigma Phi this coming academic year."

**Susan Crane** writes: "During the summer I attended an Interfaith Youth Institute in Chicago, where I met with students and faculty from the Midwest and learned how to run an interfaith movement on campus. I also met Eboo Patel, the founder and president of the Interfaith Youth Core and a member of President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships."

**Karl Grant** writes: "This summer I was an intern at a pharmaceutical company. When I was not compiling data for spreadsheets and databases or doing other tasks reserved only for the highest ability (that of an intern), I was discovering the Greek roots for many medical terms. The people in the office thought it was pretty neat that I had a knowledge of Ancient Greek and were interested in the root meanings of words like 'pharmacokinetics' and '\_\_\_\_-tomy.' However, I was unable to convince them to translate the patient information brochure into Greek. I suppose I can always try next summer. I'm very glad to be back at Gustavus, where my interest in Greek (and now Latin!) is so much more than just a source for fun tidbits every now and then."

**Sarah Graver** enjoyed her summer. The high point was working for several weeks on a dig at the Roman fort of Vindolanda.

**Julie Hayes** writes: "I spent the summer preparing for a semester in India, where I will be for the next three months (along with my esteemed adviser, Professor Dugdale)! Although I am partaking in a very different curriculum than the usual classics courses, I brought a copy of *Harrius Potter et Philosophi Lapis* along—for whenever I get to missing Latin."

**Kelsi Heuer** writes: "Over this past summer I spent a lot of my time lounging by my pool, hanging out with friends, and working. I worked at American Eagle and Victoria's Secret this past summer. I went to Country Fest in June with two good friends and had a blast. I spent quite a few days with my fellow classics major Laurel Boman as well. I watched several good movies and got to go to the midnight showing of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2*, which was a very exciting experience! Seeing everyone dressed up is always fun! Toward the end of the summer I mostly just worked every day. I unfortunately worked myself sick and spent the last two weeks of summer in my bed reading and watching Disney movies. I'm very glad to be back at Gustavus and very glad to be healthy yet again! I can't wait to see everyone!"

**Kyle Kinnear** writes: "My summer was fairly uneventful. I read a lot of books and generally relaxed. My last week of summer was one of no electricity due to Hurricane Irene. Now I'm looking forward to both starting and finishing my senior year at Gustavus."

**Yulia Ludwig** writes: "I went to Seattle to visit my sister and I volunteered at a Youth Tutoring program for their Catholic Community Services network. I also went to the Vancouver Aquarium one weekend and saw beluga whales."

**Chris Masad** writes: "This summer, I worked at Fillenwarth Beach Resort in Okoboji, Iowa, as a dock attendant, bartender, and room cleaner. It's on West Okoboji Lake, which is one of the three blue-water lakes of the world. Yes, my IOWAN town has 8 lakes surrounding it. In my spare time, I played tennis, ultimate frisbee, went boating, or went to the drive-in theater. I took a fishing trip up in Hackensack, Minn., and went to a bunch of Twins games. I also started the application process for a field school in Italy through the Archaeological Institute of America. And I went to a jazz dinner on Monday nights!"

**Melody Monyok** writes: "My summer wasn't too exciting. I was the maid-of-honor in my best friend's wedding early on this June. Nothing else really happened

because the majority of my summer was spent working as a rides operator at Valleyfair Amusement Park. I got to drive a train—it was pretty legit."

**Robert Miner** enjoyed extensive travels this summer including a trip to the British Museum to examine the antiquities. He followed that up with a visit to Vindolanda—he was the third classics Gustie (after Sarah Graver and Professor McHugh) to be there this summer!

**Patrick Perish** writes: "I spent the summer in Wellington, New Zealand, interning at a small publishing company and volunteering at a zoo. It was a good trip but I'm itchin' to get back to Latin and to finally give Greek a go."

**Reanna Phillips** writes: "I have been busy this summer working at the movie theater in my hometown for a second summer, preparing to study abroad in Rome this spring, and relishing a much appreciated break from homework. I'm looking forward to a few challenging courses this fall and despite all of the best intentions, I did not keep up on my Latin studying as much as I had planned...It's the thought that counts?"

**Nick Prince** writes: "I attended multiple leadership conferences around the country (and the Caribbean!) in preparation for a year as the co-president of Student Senate, and am looking forward to accomplishing a lot for the student body in that role."

**Janella Reiswig** writes: "No one can plan to have a summer like the way mine unfolded. With readapting to my life back in Bismarck after studying abroad spring semester in Sweden, moving my house from the basement to the upper floors because of potential flooding from the river, and managing the ever-approaching "real world" nervousness, I spent my summer, well...*busy*. Thankfully, I also had fun this summer. Although I couldn't do much in my house since walking space had become limited, I spent time working at my summer job, playing Frolf (Frisbee golf) with my friends, studying Portuguese with my boyfriend, and taking the Greek course I missed while in Sweden. The highlight of my summer, though, came right at the end, when I went on a hiking trip through Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks with my boyfriend. Don't worry, everyone, we were *not* eaten by bears. And now, as my summer draws to a close, I'm ready to move into my new room and reacquaint myself with a campus I've been away from for far too many months."



**Sylvie Skoog** writes: “This summer I worked at two internships. I was the Events Sponsorship intern at the Minnesota Historical Society in Saint Paul. In addition, I was the Early Childhood Science intern at the Science Museum, where I coordinated and developed a program geared toward toddlers and directed the floor staff and volunteers. I also was a nanny for four children and on my time off I got to go on road trips to many places, including the Black Hills/Badlands, Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Duluth, and Canada!”

**Allie Stocco** writes: “I lived in West Virginia and went whitewater rafting for the first time!”

**Kenwon Tran** writes: “The most exciting thing I did over the summer was going to the State Fair with my friends. My friend went back to make sure everything was in the car, but then proceeded to lock his keys inside the

car. Some other friends decided to test their strength on the hammer game; after doing that we decided to make fun of each other based on how we did. It ended up being a blast and we were able to all get home.”

**Brian Westerbur** writes: “This summer I worked as a parks worker at Split Rock Creek State Park. I loved interacting with the campers, and got to wear green pants. My family and I traveled to Colorado for a week in a school bus which had been converted into an RV. We stayed at Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as spending some time on the way in the Black Hills. My girlfriend also came along for this trip, which was really fun; we managed to whitewater raft down a flooded Colorado river. It was a new experience, bunking right across from my 4- and 2-year-old nieces.”

**Amanda Wood** writes: “I did not have a very exciting summer. I worked six days

a week and only went on one vacation to Lanesboro, Minn. Though on my days off, I did attempt to read the first Harry Potter book translated entirely into Latin. It was a gift for me from the Roman baths in England.



End of the year BBQ at Sean and Yurie's house.

## News of Our Alums

**Jay Sieling '86** writes: “I am teaching in the Liberal Arts department at Alexandria Technical and Community College. I've put in five years of service here now. My primary courses have been Interpersonal Communication, Ethics, Technology Ethics, Public Speaking, and Intro to Philosophy. I am completing a masters in humanities degree this fall through California State University at Dominguez Hills. I'll be back to GAC this fall for our 25<sup>th</sup>-reunion celebration.

“My wife, Debbie, and I have three kids: Emma will be a sophomore at UMD. William is a high school senior. Julia is a high school sophomore. We are in the midst of college visits for Will. When we visited Berkeley I posed by a photo of the Free Speech Movement protests from 1964. I use that event to discuss rhetoric in my Public Speaking course, and have that same picture on my favorite t-shirt.



“I have found my classics major to be a great influence in my teaching and thinking. I teach Intro to Philosophy as an online course, and begin with Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. I am also developing an online section for Public Speaking. As a classicist, I had a hard time coming to grips with creating this course for online delivery. I created the course based on Aristotelian principles of *logos*, *pathos*, and *ethos*. Social technology has changed so much in the last decade that I am beginning to embrace the possibility of more communication courses offered through distance learning. Some principal ideas, structure, argument, credibility, remain equally important in face-to-face or distance applications. The sophists of the fifth century BCE would have put their instructional efforts to these skills, of course; but more emphasis would have been placed on elocution, vocal projection, stage presence. In our world of connected social media, we have the use of microphones and p.a. systems, video conferences, etc. Technology has taken up some of what the sophist would have developed as skill. In response, my goal is to make students proficient in organizing thoughts and presentations, instilling confidence in their abilities to express ideas in public. Whether that ‘public’ is the physical *agora* of a committee meeting, city hall, or coffee shop; or perhaps the crowded marketplace of ideas that exists in cyberspace,

on YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook. It's an interesting thought process! But again, I think by being rooted in the classics, I'm able to keep focused on the important connections between theory and practice. The logo on our department offices says, ‘Everything connects to everything.’ I have found this to be true in most of my pursuits, reinforcing the role classics has played for me in my career.

“The other bit of news: I started playing in a band! Five good buddies and I are in a group called ‘Third Shift’ (it's the third thing we do after family and work!). Our set list is made up of playable, rockable, relatively obscure songs. We've gotten serious enough to get paid for a few gigs a year. We do a fundraising gig for the food shelf in the spring, and then another local charity fundraiser around Halloween—full-on costume party! How does this news relate to classics? Just following our muse!!”

**Pedar Foss '88** writes: “I am doing another two years as dean of academic life at DePauw, and then we are on sabbatical (yay). Currently in Dublin, Ireland, looking at material for my Archaeology of Ancient Britain course next year, and the National Museum is fantastic (as is the Guinness). In the treasury there are examples of inscribed late Roman silver ingots and some silver plate cut up to use as bullion, clearly brought over from Roman Britain as the result of trade (or piracy,

remembering the story of St. Patrick). Really interesting, as are the displays on the Hill of Tara and recently discovered bog bodies.

"The family is doing well: Rebecca is finishing an article on Hermes and Aphrodite, the boys are all playing soccer, and Simon earned his black belt this past year (I've fallen behind him and am stuck on a brown belt—alas, time and age...). Busy year ahead: Gustavus will be 150, and DePauw 175 years old, so a time to celebrate. We may even try to do an archaeological dig on campus to try to get down to early college levels, if anything is left!"

**Kate Bentz '92** writes: "I had yet another busy year of teaching and research at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. But the highlight was this summer's National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Seminar at the American Academy in Rome, titled 'Art, History and Culture in Rome, 1527–1798.' It was a fantastic five weeks of readings and discussion with colleagues from around the country, and I managed to get some research and writing done as well. Who wouldn't be inspired to work while living and learning in one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in Rome?! In October I submit my dossier for my tenure application—so keep your fingers crossed."

**Lars Hammar '95** writes: "I've had a few good changes over the last year. In January of 2010 I left my call as associate pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Tucson, Arizona, to take the interim position at Lord of Grace Lutheran Church in Marana, Arizona (a Tucson suburb). The church had lost over half its membership in the last three years, going from the fastest growing Lutheran church in Tucson to being on the edge of closing, due to both the return to Tucson of the founding pastor, who was actively recruiting Lord of Grace members to his new LCMC church, and anger over the ELCA 2009 vote on sexuality. After a year of interim work, I was called in January 2011 to stay on as the permanently called pastor, and the church is growing again and doing well. But I can only claim part of the credit. The people who remained through the chaos are faithful and wonderful people who have been a great witness to the Gospel.

"In October 27, 2010, our fourth child, Johan Gustav Hammar, was born. Now the house is plenty full. Our oldest son, Leif, will be entering sixth grade, our daughter, Abigail, just turned 9, and our third child, Karl, finished kindergarten. This keeps us busy on Saturdays with the obligatory combination of soccer games and birthday parties. Summers here are brutally hot and we try to spend as

much vacation time in Minnesota at the family cabin in Hibbing as we can. Kristie is enjoying selling her Premier Designs Jewelry and being a stay-at-home mom.

"On the side I have been teaching a class on Religion and Popular Culture at Pima Community College here in Tucson. I happen to teach at the campus attended by Jared Lee Loughner, the shooter of U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords and several others. I did not have him in my class, but I know people who did. Now that the media is gone we can get back to teaching. I am looking forward to switching this fall to teaching New Testament, which should be fun in a non-church-setting. One more chance to use those years of Greek."

**Jenn Hess '95** writes: "This year I launched a new website—[orientalartists.org](http://orientalartists.org). This is a place that I hope will grow with more artists as time goes by. It is dedicated to people who are Oriental brush painters—whether that be Sumi-E or Chinese brush painting. I blog almost every day of the week, sharing paintings that I create. I also share reviews of books, materials, and techniques on the site.

"This year also marked the first year where I began teaching students Chinese brush painting. I enjoyed working with my students and they enjoyed working with me. I am looking to expand to have a few more classes a week. I really enjoy teaching and also enjoy seeing my art improve. I love learning about Chinese culture—reading history, learning Chinese, and studying their arts. I study the Chinese language one day a week and am slowly making progress. I can hold a small conversation with Chinese speakers, something I am proud of.

"My two sons are growing fast. They are both doing well at their school. They are approaching their third year at Bowman International School—a Montessori school. We all love the school and greatly appreciate the fact that it is year-round. Gregory, my oldest, has decided to join the Lego robotics club this year. Kevin is still learning guitar and is making progress toward playing some songs. They are having a few weeks of summer camp this summer. This week, July 19, Gregory is building a go kart. I am looking forward to seeing it in action on Friday, when it is finished. It has steering and braking! Amazing what a ten-year-old can do.

"My husband, Scott, still works for Google. He is currently working on Chrome for Mac. Google treats our family well and he enjoys the challenges the job brings. He also completed the Merkleville Death Ride this year. The Death Ride is a bike ride up in the Tahoe area and involves a lot of climbing—it

is definitely an endurance event. He also has completed two centuries this year on his bike.

"We get the chance to travel to visit family each year. Next year we are looking forward to a trip to New Zealand or Australia."

**Elizabeth Johnson '95** writes: "We deem ourselves the Northern Lakes...or Seas, rather than Plains. I resonate with my confirmands as they question the necessity for mosquitoes. Anyone? Anyone?

"Rain, shine, and more rain, I continue to feel called to serve with the folks here. I do feel a nudge at times to be closer to family. My brothers are thankful I am not living next door, meaning less opportunity for me to mess with the minds of their children.

"At present, my heart mourns recent events within Ellada, its government and the spirit of the people. I also watch with prayer-filled anticipation of what the Mediterranean rim's landscape will be."

**Betsy Bevis '00** writes: "It has been a few years since I sent in an update, but it is time, as I have lots of news. Back in 2006 I started an M.A. in classical art and archaeology at the University of Missouri. In 2008, due to some family and financial issues, I dropped to a very part-time status and found full-time work at a law office while I wrote my thesis. I am very happy let you all know that in August of 2010, I finally graduated! My M.A. thesis was titled 'From Loom to Laundry: The Cloth Finishing Trades in the Roman City.' It focused on cloth dyeing and fulling workshops from Pompeii and Ostia, and how the architecture of those workshops could influence communication among people who worked in those spaces.

"I've spent the months since finishing my thesis continuing to work as the legal secretary for a small law office here in Columbia (where I make surprisingly regular use of my classics education!) and I applied to Ph.D. programs. Which leads me to my even bigger news! I have been accepted to the interdepartmental Ph.D. in classical art and archaeology at Johns Hopkins University, and begin classes in August! I will be working with faculty from both the classics and art history departments, and intend to focus on Late Roman art and archaeology.

"In personal news, my boyfriend, Bill, and I spent Memorial Day weekend on our first long-distance bicycle camping trip on the MKT trail (one of the best things about Missouri) and are looking forward to similar excursions out east. I also continue to dabble in a variety of fiber arts (knitting, sewing, embroidery, etc.). I'm sure Pat will be tickled





to hear that I am getting back into dyeing and recently bought a truly gigantic stockpot to be my new dye vat.”

**Bryan Rolfes '02** writes: “I graduated from medical school a little over a year ago and have just started my second year of residency in Head and Neck surgery at The Cleveland Clinic.”

**Susan Steinke '02** writes: “I had the chance to be back in the classroom starting in January earlier this year. Unfortunately, I wasn’t teaching my old favorites of Latin or ancient history. This time it was middle school math and algebra for the Academy of Sts. Peter and Paul, a little Catholic school in Loretto, Minn. I did strive to use the Socratic method in my teaching, though, so a classics degree benefitted me yet again in life. With the end of the school year, I am happy to turn my attention back to our dairy farm and being a stay-at-home mom. Lily is excited to become a big sister in January of 2012, so the stay-at-home mom role will be my chosen career for at least the next few years.”

**Bill Kunze '03** writes: “Not much has really changed in the past year. We have spent our time watching Harold learn and grow into an active toddler. We attempted to sell our house but the markets have betrayed us and we’ll be staying at our Saint Paul location for a while longer.”

**Maggie Chambers '03** writes: My most exciting news is that, this August, I accepted a new job! I continue to work at BI in Edina, Minn., but I left the accounting department and accepted a new position as an analyst. I am now doing data analysis and modeling for one of our bigger clients.”

**Matt Haugen '04** writes: “I just recently started a new job as a rare book cataloger at Columbia University. My responsibilities will be split between the Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the Burke Library of Union Theological Seminary. I expect my Greek and Latin training from Gustavus will be put to good use here.”

**Tasha Genck '04** reports that she continues to work as a pastor at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, Minn., where she does a little bit of everything. She especially enjoys the teaching aspect, which is where her classics major comes in the most handy. She wishes she had something more exciting to add but life is good and pretty steady. Pax!”

**Michelle McLean '04** writes: “I have been working as a public defender in Crow Wing County for nearly four years. The work continues to challenge me both intellectually and emotionally. This summer, I managed to take a few days off from work to travel to Chicago for a fellow Gustie’s bachelorette party and appeared on the JumboTron during the New Kids on the Block/Backstreet Boys concert.”

**Josh Dwyer '05** notes that he is living happily in St. Louis Park, Minn., with his two cats, Beaker and Frizzle, and his pug, Gus Gus. He is entering his fifth year working at Holy Family Catholic High School in Victoria, Minn., where he teaches Advanced Placement biology and environmental science and coaches the boys and girls varsity tennis teams. One highlight of his year came in a Snowmass, Colo., bathroom where he approached a urinal only to find Vice President Joe Biden standing next to him. “A proper handshake and autograph followed.”

**Jean Pearce '05** writes: “I am currently in my last year of pediatric residency at University of California, Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. After graduation next July I will be staying on another year to be chief resident. Then I plan to do fellowship training to specialize in pediatric emergency medicine, hopefully back in the Midwest. I’m enjoying everything there is to do in California and try to spend free time outdoors hiking with my boyfriend, Blaise. I’m also finding time to travel. I recently went to Costa Rica in April and am planning a trip to China next year.”

**Emily Kehm '06** writes: “I am still living in Manhattan with my husband and cat. In addition to starting my third year of teaching here (and sixth year of teaching since college—wow!) I am starting a master’s program in classics at CUNY’s Graduate Center. I am very excited to get back into classics, although I definitely need to brush up on my Greek! Over the summer I am participating in the Apollonia Pontica excavation in Bulgaria, as well as traveling to Seattle, France, and of course, back home to Des Moines.”

**Andrew Howard '07** writes: “I’ve been quite busy this last year down at Texas. During this last summer, I was part of the Ostia project, which is currently excavating the synagogue in the ancient port city. Currently I’m working on the preliminary stages of getting a dissertation prospectus ready focusing on the Greek novel and

gender studies (side note: I’ve definitely read so much Foucault and he’s become easier than he was during the Love Sex & Marriage capstone course!) as well as preparing to teach Vergil for the first time in the Fall.”

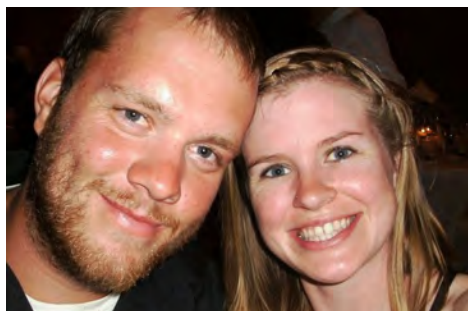
**Finn Kuusisto '07** reports that he recently passed his qualifying exam in artificial intelligence at UW-Madison and is now officially pursuing a Ph.D. doing research in machine learning. After teaching the introductory course in computer science at Madison for five semesters he is now working on a project in semantic parsing. The intent of the project is to use machine learning methods to translate natural language into formal, logical language so that non-experts may one day communicate with artificially intelligent agents in their own natural language.

**Laura Mardian '07** writes: “I am still living in Sioux Falls, S.D., and have been here for the last three and a half years. In September of last year, I accepted a position at the Good Samaritan Society as a home health/hospice billing specialist and I love (almost) every minute of it. I bought a house in November of 2009. I have a cat named Zeppelin who rules the house. This summer has been crazy busy with weddings in California and Columbus and I’ve also been playing lots of tennis and spending lots of time with friends and family.”

**Jonathan Peasley '08** reports that he is beginning his second year at Trinity School in Eagan, Minn., teaching Latin, Koine Greek, and American Literature among other things, and living in South Minneapolis. His most exciting event this summer was becoming engaged to his girlfriend, Mary Nelson, with wedding plans under way for June 2012. Otherwise, the summer was spent reading, heading a week-long outdoors camp for fourth–sixth graders, and cycling as much as possible.

**Dan Barthell '09** says that he is in his sophomore year at the University of Minnesota’s graduate program in classics. While remaining a full-time student, the next big step is leading a discussion class for Greek and Roman myth. He looks forward to continuing the morphing process from learner to teacher with many fine classics enthusiasts!

**Ahna Gilbertson '09** writes: "I got engaged on December 12, 2010! I couldn't ask for a better partner in crime than my fiancé, Scott! Our wedding is planned for August 2012 at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. We reside in Excelsior, Minn. Also, I have just accepted a position as preschool teacher at All Saints Child Care Center in Minnetonka, Minn. Life is very busy but I'd rather have that than be bored with nothing to do! I miss Gustavus but am happy for the opportunity to be a stone's throw away from my GAC friends who are still in the Metro."



**Ahna Gilbertson and her fiancé Scott Lloyd.**

**Sarah Hulke '09** reports that she is finishing her master's degree in Medieval and Renaissance studies at Durham University this September, and is currently writing her dissertation on the guest-host relationships and hospitality type scenes in Middle English Gawain romances. After submitting her work, she will be moving to the beautiful city of York (just a bit to the south of Durham) to take up Ph.D. placement in the English department at the University of York. She will be working on material elements of identity in English literature from c.1300 to c.1650. She has really enjoyed her work in England and has found wonderful communities of scholars who appreciate the importance of the classical past. She has done essays for her modules on Ovid as interpreted by Chaucer and Shakespeare and has done quite a bit of translation work while looking at Dante as a composite Aeneas/Virgil figure in his *Divine Comedy*. The year has been so incredibly busy, and she is hoping York will be as wonderful a fit as Gustavus and Durham have been. Her parents are still based in the sweltering state of Oklahoma, though there's been some talk of possible retirement in Montana! Not much else has been happening, but all that is probably enough. She corresponds with Sybylla, Ahna, and Emma as frequently as the time difference and schedules allow.

**Laura Luce '09** writes: "I am currently living near Minneapolis with my husband,

Elliot, about to begin student-teaching in the fall at an elementary school in Wayzata. After that I will be a licensed K-6 teacher, looking for a job with everyone else and continuing to work on my master of arts degree in teaching through Hamline University. This summer I have undertaken a project to read as many young adult dystopian novels as possible, a project I highly recommend to anyone with a few spare afternoons. It has been a wonderful summer filled with many, many classical references and visions of the future."

**Emma Ellingson '10** writes: "I'm writing to you from the top floor of the Margaret Mitchell House in midtown Atlanta. (*Gone With the Wind* is the only epic I've read this past year.) I'm volunteering here at a children's writing camp this week. The theme is science fiction and fantasy and we just finished watching a documentary about *Star Wars* detailing the hero's journey and the various sources of inspiration George Lucas found in the ancient world."

**Abbey Feenstra '10** writes: "I am back in my hometown of Sioux City, Iowa, attending Morningside College where I am earning a degree in elementary education. I am also working as an assistant preschool teacher at Apple Tree Preschool and Learning Center. My favorite part of the day is reading to my class of three-year-olds, and I'm delighted to say that I have already introduced them to the world of classics when we read Rosemary Wells's *Max and Ruby's First Greek Myth: Pandora's Box*."

**Lauren Guzniczak '10** writes: "After graduating in 2010, I moved to London, England, to study art business at Sotheby's Institute for Art. Over the past year, I have had many wonderful opportunities to travel throughout Europe to Paris, Maastricht, and Turin for various art festivals and fairs. I now am an intern at Valuemystuff.com, an art appraisal website that values anything from ancient Egyptian figures to contemporary Damien Hirst paintings. It has been really fun to value a few pieces of ancient Greek pottery that I was allowed to sell on behalf of the client to Christie's auction house in their upcoming antiquities sale. My master's will be finished in October and after that, all focus is turned to finding a job either here in Europe or back in the States!"

**Emily Kuenker '10** reports that she has spent the last year living in downtown Denver completing a year of service with the Urban Servant Corps. She was placed at the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and

worked as a case manager for families and children. During this time she was also living in an intentional community in the Uptown neighborhood of Denver and served as cantor at a local church. This fall, she will be moving to Hillside, Colo., to begin a job at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp.

**Bryan Pelach '10** reports that after attending Officer Candidate School he was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy and is now stationed aboard *USS Rodney M. Davis*, a frigate homeported near Seattle, as the laser systems and electrical officer. In his free time Bryan is a proud member of the Seattle Quake Rugby Football Club, a rugby club for communities traditionally underrepresented in the sport, including gay men and men of color.

**Karl Boettcher '11** writes: "I have been working on the following riddle this summer: 'What has four walls, no ceiling, a small entrance, and lacks the variety and vivaciousness of college life?' Here's my answer: 'A 9-5 job in a cubicle.' Eat your heart out, Oedipus...or put out your eyes; that works too."

**Patty O'Connor '11** writes: "Greetings from South Bend, Indiana! I think that this year I had my shortest summer ever because after graduating this past spring I only had a few weeks to pack up my life, move to South Bend, and (if you can believe it) start classes. It's August and I am already in my third week of classes here at the Notre Dame School of Architecture, and it has been amazing! The other day I was working on a watercolor wash rendering of the gate of the Orti Farnesiani in Rome based on Paul Letarouilly's drawings in his 'Edifices de Rome Moderne.' Since the program here teaches architecture based on the classical tradition, I feel incredibly well prepared (especially from taking the Art & Archaeology of Greece/Rome courses at Gustavus) and very much in my element. Oh, and did I mention the library (because we are classicists after all...)? The architecture school here has its own dedicated architecture library with an amazing collection of rare books (first edition Vitruvius from the 16th century? Yes please.). But the best part is that the books are made available for students to actually use; thankfully some pretty great people taught me this one language...Latin! I think is what they called it. Things are going great down here, but I can't wait to visit everyone back at Gustavus!"



## News of the Faculty

**Eric Dugdale:** “What was it like to live in a city like Rome, Alexandria, or Jerusalem in the first century AD? I mulled over this question in the fall when I was asked to give a talk on religion and culture in the Greek-speaking world at Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church. They were about to start a series on the book of Acts and wanted some context for understanding the life and times of Paul. The audience for Peter’s famous Pentecost sermon hailed from far and wide: the corresponding modern countries include Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Libya, Italy, Greece, and Saudi Arabia. They all spoke their own languages, but many would also have been able to communicate in Greek, known as *koiné*—the universal language of the time. What it is easy to overlook is the key detail (v. 5) that these all were Jews! Their ancestors had been scattered in the Diaspora or had migrated to trade; now these “foreign” Jews all found themselves in Jerusalem and listening to Peter preach. Here in Minnesota the scene is equally complex. We live in a multi-cultural society in which virtually everyone is an immigrant or descended from immigrants. For most, English serves as a *lingua franca*; for many, the cultural ties to other countries have become attenuated; but for some, our immigrant heritage still adds texture to the tapestry of our lived experience. I may now have a “green card,” but I still listen to cathedral choirs and am partial to a good cup of tea. Similarly, religious affiliation cannot be predicted based on country of origin. Christianity is not a Western religion any more than Islam is Middle-Eastern. The Christian communities in Iraq and in southern India are among the oldest in existence; countries with the largest Muslim populations are as far-flung as Indonesia and Nigeria.

“Classics as a discipline provides similar variety. In the fall, I taught the Historical Perspective course. This year we moved away from a survey to a topics course and expanded the geographic range: more Mesopotamian archaeology, a new unit comparing the historiography of Herodotus with that of the Chinese historian Su-ma Ch’ien, Confucian philosophy read alongside Plato, a comparative study of Roman and Chinese imperialism, expanded coverage of Persia, Byzantium, trade relations between Christians and Muslims, and the Mongol empire as seen through the eyes of missionary monks. What a thrill to gaze on new horizons and see points of intersection with more familiar landscapes. I took my hat off repeatedly to Seán for a masterful series of lectures on Chinese history. In the fall, I also taught Plato as a course by arrangement; the student taking the course, Justin Vermeer, enjoyed reading the proofs of

the *Socrates and Athens* volume that I was editing and provided written feedback that impressed the author with its insight. Teaching tragedy to an incredibly engaged and cohesive Greek class in the spring was another highlight: we enjoyed a class trip to the Lab Theater in Minneapolis to watch Luis Alfaro’s new *Oedipus El Rey*, a new adaptation of Sophocles’ play set in a Californian prison. Alfaro’s play asks tough questions about the degree to which people are victims of fate through the circumstances (family, environment) in which they are raised.

“At the APA conference in San Antonio, I co-organized with John Given a round-table on ancient drama in performance. The topic was how to gain recognition for dramatic performance as scholarship in an academic environment in which publication is seen as the primary measure of scholarly involvement. At the CAMWS conference in Grand Rapids, I gave a paper on two recent adaptations of Greek tragedy, Yael Farber’s *Molara* and Julian Armitstead’s *The Angry Wounds*. The former offers a powerful reworking of Aeschylus’ *Oresteia* and its exploration of justice and revenge, set in the context of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. The latter is an adaptation of Sophocles’ *Philoctetes* recently premiered at Oxford that explores problems surrounding the reintegration of war veterans into society. The ACL conference took place this year in Minneapolis; thus allowed two of our majors, Kenwon Tran and Melody Monyok, to attend the conference and to meet alumna **Amy Sommer ’02** and alumnus **Jonathan Peasley ’06** over lunch at Punch Pizza. Matt and I gave a joint paper showcasing activities we use in beginning language teaching, and Seán also presented. Two articles on drama in performance that I had written a while ago were finally published. I also wrote entries for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Greek Tragedy*. Writing the article on *Features of Greek Tragedy* was especially daunting, since it is supposed to be the article encapsulating tragedy’s main elements, hard to pull off in 3,500 words! Students in my Greek tragedy class gave helpful feedback that resulted in my radically rewriting the piece. And Chris Burnand’s *Tacitus and the Principate*, the eighth book in our series, just came out, sporting a sensational front cover of Nero’s Rome engulfed in flames.



“June was a special month for me, as I got to see my parents, and my sister and brother with their respective families—all in the space of three weeks! In closing, I would like to thank my Gustavus family—my colleagues and students—for making my stint as department chair such an enjoyable experience, and for making it possible for Brooke and me to spend the fall in India accompanying students on Gustavus’s Social Justice, Peace, and Development program. *Maximas gratias* to Will Friert for teaching a full course load in the fall to cover my classes. His retirement in May was just a test run!”

**Seán Easton:** “Looking back on it, I have to say that 2010–11 was not the typical year. My mother invited us to visit her while she was on her second stint as a teaching consultant in Long Xuyen, a city in Vietnam about four hours south of Saigon. So we spent a few days in Saigon and then three weeks with her in Long Xuyen. The trip with its small layover in Hong Kong afforded our son, Emmet, who was just turning a year old last January, his first sample of international travel. Needless to say, visiting Vietnam proved a fascinating experience for all of us. We didn’t do as much sightseeing as we might have done if we were traveling without an infant, but the experience of living in the community with our hosts was wonderful all on its own. As it turned out, Emmet took fairly well to 20-hour plane trips. We also took him to Toronto this summer, but I think everything after Vietnam is just going to leave him unimpressed for a while. In what was a nice plus, I also got to go to Hawaii and Winnipeg for literature and peace studies conferences respectively.

“Last year also offered an opportunity to pursue my interest in Greco-Roman reception studies, which is simply to say what later cultures make of the classical legacy. Reception can include a lot of things, but for me the big interests at the moment are modern literature and cinema. So, in Honolulu I gave a paper on Joseph Conrad’s allusions to Rome in his novel *Nostromo*. Alternately, the peace studies conference

in Winnipeg gave me a chance to explore Greek literature in a slightly different aspect. Apollonius' poem, the *Argonautica*, gives an account of Greek heroes unlike anything else in the surviving epic tradition. While it certainly has conflict and violence, no other hero strives to such a degree as Apollonius' Jason to avoid these things. This conference gave me a venue in which to explore this striking characteristic of the poem. Most recently, I had the opportunity to attend the American Classical League conference in the Twin Cities with Eric Dugdale and Matt Panciera, who gave a joint presentation on Latin pedagogy from which I learned quite a bit. For my part, I delivered a paper on what I learned from teaching Maxine Hong Kingston's novel *Woman Warrior* in Classics 101: Myth and Meaning.

"Last, though certainly not least, our daughter was born! Eleanor Kilsoon Easton-Hong (we call her Nora) is almost six weeks old at the time of this writing. Needless to say, it's been hectic, but Emmet seems to actually enjoy having her around and, so far, she hasn't objected to the rest of us. A promising start."

**Stewart Flory:** "Ellie, Alexandra and I have moved up to Minneapolis. We were spending so much time driving back and forth that we figured we might as well move, while keeping up with our St. Peter friends.

"I still have my study in the GAC library but will probably eventually move out. Of course I am continuing my various researches, book reviews, etc., though Alexandra and unpacking are just now dominant.

"We were sorry to leave our wonderful house in St. Peter, but we found a great place near Lake Nokomis. It is close to Turtle Bread. We now inhabit a traditional stone and stucco structure, built in 1936 but seriously expanded and upgraded in recent years. There are five bedrooms so Ellie and I can each have a study and Alexandra both a bedroom and a playroom downstairs. Make your overnight reservations soon! We are also only a few minutes from the airport, so people have been known to park their cars on our quiet street while jetting off on business or pleasure.

"It turns out that a few of our Gustavus friends live quite close by, which is pleasant. Alexandra receives a constant stream of visitors, some of whom turn out to be volunteer babysitters.

"Best wishes to all. Come and check us out."

**Patricia Freiert:** "I continued my long-standing practice of teaching a First Term Seminar on bi-cultural identity last year, but the largest part of my time has been devoted

to my work as a *shibori* artist. (Shibori is the traditional Japanese shape-resist dyeing technique that I have been practicing for about 15 years now.) My scarves are available in shops in Duluth, Grand Marais, Lutsen, St. Paul, and St. Peter. Across the country my work is carried by galleries in Wellfleet and Orleans, Mass.; Lansing, Mich.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dallas, Texas; Alexandria, Va.; Lewisburg and Greenville, WV.; Sheboygan, Wis.; Sarasota, Fla.; and Martha's Vineyard, Mass. The place that really keeps me hopping with demand, though, is *JV and Company* in Gaviidae Common on Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis. You can view my work at [patriciafreiert.com](http://patriciafreiert.com).

"My shibori was also featured at a show called 'The Goldsmith's Reunion' in Mankato in December and in two national shows of the American Crafts Council, one in Baltimore in February (the largest show in the country) and one at the Convention Center in St. Paul in April. I also attended the bi-annual meeting of the Surface Design Association, which met for the first time in Minneapolis in June. In July, I taught a workshop at the Pacific Northwest Art School on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound, then participated in a second workshop at the school. Will and I were so rushed in this year's trip to Washington that we never got to spend time in Seattle and thus missed the chance to connect with **Colleen Mulvihill** '98, and her husband Jesse Pacem, and to see their adorable baby, Wyatt (see last year's newsletter). We did get to connect with alums **Mark** '99 and **Josie** '00 **Brinda** last December, though, when they came to St. Peter for a wonderful afternoon with their beautiful son, Shamore. And we were thrilled when **Mike Adkins** '02, jumped from his car to hug us in St. Paul when we were leaving the ACC show.

"I am still responsible for the installation of the Pentecost banners that I was commissioned to create a few years ago for First Lutheran Church in St. Peter. The banners have to be re-hung, a pair about every five weeks, from Trinity Sunday until Advent each year. I am also co-chairing the Altar Guild at First Lutheran and have co-founded a discussion group which meets monthly (weekly during Lent) to discuss books on meditation, chant, and other spiritual practices.

"In September I attended the 50th reunion of my high-school graduation class in Caldwell, N.J., and reconnected with some long-lost friends. You can read about our Greece trip in Will's report. For me, too, what was special about the trip was Ithaka, an unspoiled (at least in June) island with beautiful scenery, scary roads, rocky beaches,

and memorable food. We were fortunate to stay in a 200-year-old building that has recently been remodeled as a boutique art hotel overlooking the harbor of Vathi.

"For now, I am serving as fabric consultant for next year's Christmas in Christ Chapel, thinking about teaching a January Term course, and racing to keep up with the demand for shibori scarves."

**Will Freiert:** "Having retired with shameful fanfare at the end of the 2010 academic year, I have pretty much disappeared from campus and am spending my time doing crossword puzzles and lazing about on the Minnesota beaches—except for the following few things:

"Because of my concern about the inability of students to focus, I offered to continue teaching my First Term Seminar on mindfulness and, because the college needed more FTS sections, I agreed to teach two sections last fall, picking up about 30 advisees in the process. I am grateful for the fact that Chaplain Brian Johnson offered to teach with me and he brought immense richness to the classes. Then in the spring, Brian and I taught the Curriculum II Senior Seminar. In all of these classes, we incorporated a significant component of meditation, following on the work Pat and I had been doing in the CII Seminar the previous year and working to foster awareness on campus of the national movement for contemplation in higher education. A unique feature of these classes was a six-hour silent retreat at the Interpretive Center. So, actually, I guess I taught half-time last year for 10 percent of my previous salary, but it was worth it because I did not have to go to meetings.

"I am a notoriously slow learner and now I can say that I have officially failed at retirement. It might be a mark of how poor I am at getting off the stage that I was thrilled and honored to have been voted honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa in May. I didn't deserve this honor, but there I was again slyly hogging the limelight on Honors Day. Where is the hook when we need it?

In September I spoke in chapel on silence, oxymoronically. The first weekend in October was one of the busier ones I can remember. On Friday, I gave a two-hour class on mythology to an extension group at Rochester Community College, then raced up to St. Paul for an event at the Minnesota Humanities Center. Saturday I chaperoned the CII first-year trip to Minneapolis, stopping as usual at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Walker Sculpture Garden and seeing a performance of a play about Gilgamesh. I managed to get the bus lost on the way home as we tooled



around Nicollet County trying to avoid the washout of Highway 169 north of St. Peter. And on Sunday, Pat and I were back in St. Paul enjoying the Minnesota Opera's production of Gluck's *Orfeo*, one of the best performances of any opera we've seen. (Whew!)

In November, I spoke to the Historical Perspective classes on mindfulness during one of their Tuesday morning breakfast lectures. In January I participated in a faculty discussion series on Arthur Zajonc's new book, led by Chris Johnson, director of the Center for Servant Leadership's Office of Vocation and Integrative Learning, and Carolyn O'Grady, director of the Center for International and Cultural Education. Zajonc, you might remember, is the Amherst physicist and leader in the Contemplative Mind movement, whom I brought to campus two years ago. His latest book, co-authored with Parker Palmer, is *The Heart of Higher Education: A Call to Renewal*. I also gave a talk on mindfulness to Professor Mary Gaebler's January class. In February, I taught a seminar on oral theory for Mary McHugh's classics capstone, and in March I was back in Rochester, leading an all-day class on the *Odyssey*. I lectured to Yuri's myth class on Paul Granlund in May and was one of the speakers at a special faculty symposium that Eric organized in honor of Brian Johnson, who has left Gustavus to become executive director of campus ministries at Valparaiso University. The symposium was titled 'Coincidentia Oppositorum' and my contribution was on Shinto ritual.

The highlight of our year was a return to Greece after a long, long hiatus. Pat and I left the day after classes ended and flew to Thessaloniki, a city with a fascinating history, so unlike the archaeologists' Greece to which we had led so many student trips years ago. We drove across northern Greece, stopping at Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, and Vergina, now famous for the complex of royal tombs discovered there. We also saw the sacred site of Dion in the shadow of Mt. Olympus, the monasteries atop the rock outcroppings of Meteora, and Zeus' shrine at Dodoni. But our goal

was the fascinating island of Corfu, where, among other things, I gave a paper at the annual meeting of the Mediterranean Studies Association. From Corfu we drove (and rode ferries, of course) to Ithaka, an especial thrill for me since I wrote my dissertation on the *Odyssey* and have loved teaching it ever since. From Ithaka we made one more pilgrimage to Delphi, then wound up in Athens, in time for the demonstrations in Syntagma Square. Pat and I had been thinking that this might be our last trip to Greece (we still need to return to Japan and a couple of other places), but our wonderful few days in Ithaka made us begin to rethink that notion.

"This fall I'll be teaching full time while Eric leads the Gustavus student program in India, but I'm never too busy to enjoy the company of old friends, so stop by whenever you are within striking distance."

**Yurie Hong:** "This year I taught Plato's *Apology* and Greek Orators in the fall and Myth and Meaning in the spring. One of the things I love about teaching is that it provides numerous opportunities to revisit texts I haven't read in a while—an experience not unlike revisiting old friends after space, time, and experience have made their mark on your attitudes and perspectives. It had been a number of years since I read the *Apology* in Greek, and it was great fun to recall my encounters with it in translation my freshman year in college and, a couple of years later, in an adapted Greek version in JACT's *Introduction to Greek Grammar* back when I was still struggling to figure out what this whole "declension" thing was all about. The fact that I was teaching Greek Orators at the same time was all the more interesting. Juxtaposing Plato's speech with those of Lysias, Antiphon, and Demosthenes really brought out just how exceptional a work the *Apology* really is.

"The Greek Orators class was also a lot of fun, but for different reasons. Taking a page from the 'Theatre of Ancient Greece and Rome' course, I decided to experiment with having the students put on their own version of a Greek trial. The class as a whole came up with suggestions for a court case and voted to put Medea on trial for the murder of her children (justifiable homicide or no?). Students split up into the prosecution and the defense, wrote speeches in English, and then used Greek resources on the Web (Perseus, the online LSJ, and Woodhouse's Greek-English lexicon) to translate them into Greek. Everyone edited and re-edited their speeches on Google docs over the course of the semester, memorized them, and, on the big day, invited friends to act as jurors and listen to their case. The students did

an incredible job, complete with 'subtitle' posters and costumes, and performed with great dramatic and oratorical flair. Both sides made a good case, with Medea just barely eking out an acquittal.

"In the spring I taught the Myth and Meaning course for the first time and had an absolute blast. Greek myth is what got me interested in classics way back in grade school, so it'll always have special place in my heart. I have tons to say, but I think I'll save it for next year's newsletter, since I'm scheduled to teach the course again this coming spring.

"January and the holidays, as ever, were all about family. Emmet turned one (already!) and we had a big, chaotic family gathering in L.A. to celebrate. According to Korean custom, we laid out an array of items that are supposed to predict the baby's possible future: money (baby will never be poor), rice (baby will never be hungry), a paintbrush (baby will be some kind of artist), a pencil (baby will be a scholar), and something else I can't remember. Emmet chose the pencil twice. Guess the little kid was doomed from the get-go. Then we spent three weeks in Vietnam visiting Sean's mother, who is teaching English and acting as a consultant for a Montessori school there. People in Vietnam love, love, love kids, so Emmet got mobbed pretty frequently and came back with a bit of crowd-phobia, from which he's only recently recovered. We didn't get to see quite as much of the country as we'd hoped—traveling with a one-year-old is . . . challenging—but we ate great food, took a few amazing day trips (including an impromptu boat ride down the Mekong River), and communed with some really wonderful, friendly people.

"In the research arena, this year was spent putting the finishing touches on an article about representations of pregnancy and motherhood in ancient Greek medicine, which will be published in a volume on motherhood in ancient Greece and Rome. I'm also knee-deep in an article on the way that Herodotus deploys birth images in his narrative of Cyrus the Great. And a book review I wrote last year will finally be seeing the light of day.

"All this talk of birth leads me to my last (but definitely not least!) announcement:

Eleanor Kilsoon Easton-Hong was born at 2:40 a.m. on August 1. At the time of writing, she is a week-and-a-half old and snoozing away as I type. Emmet has taken to running into the room, yelling "Baby!" and patting her head, and then sprinting off to rearrange the furniture or something. So far, she's a real sweetheart and likes to chuckle in her sleep. I think we'll keep her."



Will and Pat return to Greece.



**Emmet and his new little sister, Eleanor Kilsoon Easton-Hong.**

**Mary McHugh:** “It’s been another busy year. Last time I wrote, in October of 2010, I had given a paper at Bristol, England, on the reputation of Agrippina the Younger, and I had just returned from Chicago after attending the wedding of my youngest brother, Jim.

“This year has had a few similar highlights. At a conference at the University of Liverpool in July, I delivered a paper titled “Pre-Cinema in Antiquity: Forgetting and Remembering a Hero(ine) of Alexandria.” My talk was based on the 2009 film *Agora* by the Spanish filmmaker Alejandro Amenábar. I discussed both this film and an early prototype of cinematic production in antiquity. If you haven’t yet seen Amenábar’s *Agora*, it is available on DVD and I highly recommend it! So long as I am making recommendations, a must-read is the late Susan Sontag’s slim volume, *Regarding the Pain of Others*.

“I will be giving a paper at another international conference at the end of September, this time at a conference at the Sorbonne in Paris on the topic of cultural memory and identity. I have never been to Paris before, so I am thrilled to be able to take part in this conference, to meet colleagues who work in this area of research, and to visit sites like the Louvre and the Cluny museums. I especially want to thank my generous and gracious Gustavus colleagues, who have volunteered to cover my classes in my absence.

“I have just returned from Chicago and yet another sibling’s wedding—this time, my youngest sister, Colette, celebrated her wedding vows with her groom in the presence of family and friends at St. Edward’s Church on Sunnyside Ave. in Chicago. She was absolutely radiant and gorgeous in an off-white, beautifully embroidered confection of a dress. Most of the enormous (and rapidly expanding) McHugh clan was in attendance, although one of my brothers was unable to make it due to an international travel snafu. As you may recall, there are

two parents and ten siblings in the McHugh clan, three spouses, four nephews, and two nieces. Three of my brothers are expecting children within the next four months, and two more of us have gotten engaged since I last wrote. And, yes, I am one of them. My fiancé and I haven’t set a date or made any other plans yet, but do stay tuned for further developments.



**Professor Mary McHugh at her sister’s wedding.**

“You have probably heard by now that I am up for tenure review this fall. Many thanks to those of you who wrote in to the Provost’s office in support of my tenure case. If all goes well, I hope to spend a post-tenure sabbatical year traveling to Sicily and southern Italy and writing a book on fast food in ancient Rome and Pompeii, together with speculative recipes of the types of food that would have been served up at ancient *thermopolia* and *cauponae*.

“Please keep in touch, via whatever form works best for you—e-mail, Facebook, or even an old-fashioned card or letter by snail mail. At this time of year, as the semester begins, I always have a twinge of nostalgia, remembering with fondness students who have since graduated and moved on to adventures beyond their college years. Best of wishes to everyone!”

**Matt Panciera:** “The past year was busy but enjoyable. I was director of Curriculum II for the second year and enjoyed it, though it does make life more hectic—trips to Blue Cloud Abbey, and Koinonia retreat center near St. Cloud, helping with various CII parties, recruitment of a new class, a waterfall of e-mail from CII students and faculty alike with a myriad of requests, needs, etc. Apparently I like being in charge of things so much that they made me chair of the Department of Classics starting in 2011 and lasting for three years! I can’t begin to measure up to the dynamo of organization and creative leadership that is Professor Dugdale, but I will try my best. In small departments we all must take our turn.

“Two publications of mine finally came to fruition (though given the 4.3 readers

per journal publication in classics perhaps that’s not the right metaphor): ‘Hamillus/Sullimah: Sex, Fiction, and the Significance of Anonyms in Pompeii,’ in *Classical Philology* (2011), 106.1: 53-59. I expect all you Greeklings out there could figure this out, but anonyms are names written backwards. I investigate whether the backwards presentation of Hamillus’ name in Pompeii might link him to the sexually deviant character Hamillus in Juvenal and Martial. It turns out not to be the case—a backwards spelling of a name in Pompeii instead seems to be a virtuoso display of literacy. I also just sent in the final proofs on ‘Tacenda,’ which is forthcoming in *Mnemosyne*. It is the shortest thing I have ever published—maybe 500 words, but all of them are Latin! I decided that it would be fun to try to write a scholarly article in Latin (very few journals still publish Latin) and I modeled it after a similar article by A.E. Housman 75 years ago titled ‘Praefanda,’ which like my own article was on the interpretation of certain misunderstood sexual topics (and thus too impolite to discuss openly in English). I would be happy to send you a copy if you want to read it. Otherwise I might not make the 4.3 readers average on this one.

“Finally, my little girls, Isabel and Penelope, are growing up so fast that I sometimes worry I am missing it. They are 10 and 8 respectively (entering fifth and third grade), enjoy school, their cats (which we agreed to get after we returned from Sicily), playing Wii with their friends (and humiliating their parents in MarioKart), and this summer they finally learned to swim. They would come up to meet me on campus after I had finished work and my exercise routine and we would all cool off with an hour-long dip in the Gustavus pool. It was paradise.”



**Isabel and Penelope Panciera**



## Sesquicentennial Projects



As you may know, Gustavus is celebrating a milestone this year: 150 years a.u.c (*ab universitate condita*)! Non-Latinists may be wondering about the sesqui- part. Well, *sesqui* is used in Latin both as a prefix and as a self-standing adverb and means one and a half times. So you can have *sesquilibra* (one and a half pounds), *sesquihora* (an hour and a half), and *sesquipies* (a foot and a half). A really old codger can be referred to as *sesquisenex* (i.e. an old man one and a half times over!); and a *sesquiplacarius* is a soldier drawing one and a half times normal pay for meritorious service. By now you may be muttering that this explanation is *sesquiplus*, one and a half times too long!

Anyway, this major milestone in our shared existence deserves to be celebrated—*nunc est celebrandum*, as Horace might say! We hope that it will provide you with the perfect excuse to return to campus. The College as a whole is organizing a number of festivities, and we hope to host a classical event of our own in the spring.

As part of the occasion, the college invited departments to apply for mini-grants that “celebrate and highlight academic excellence.” Classics submitted two proposals, both of which were funded:

1) Matt will organize and lead an online reading group of Mary Beard’s *The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii Lost and Found*. It is a superbly written book that summarizes what the great variety of evidence from the buried cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum can tell us about ancient Roman life. Chapters focus on topics of broad interest such as “Street Life,” “House and Home,” and “The Pleasures of the Body: Food, Wine, Sex, and Baths.” Beard has an excellent writing style that tells the story in an engaging manner while taking into account the latest scholarly research and raising many of the crucial questions. It is an ideal book both for those who are interested in Pompeii but have no special expertise in Latin or Roman history as well as those who have graduated with a Classics degree.

For nine weeks in June–July of 2012 the online group will read the book, one chapter per week. A schedule and syllabus of questions for each chapter will be distributed at the beginning. Matt will prepare a slide-cast (photos with narration) on the chapter that would summarize its main points, go into greater depth on certain topics, and raise key questions. This would be made available to the group on the week that we read that

particular chapter. At the end of each week Matt will moderate an online discussion forum on that chapter. During the week he would be available to answer questions by e-mail.

**There are a total of 30 spots open, 16 of them reserved for classics alumni. Ten of those spots have already been taken. So if you wish to be part of the online reading group next summer, please contact Matt Panciera (panciera@gustavus.edu) as soon as possible!**

2) We will be filming a series of video profiles of our alumni/ae. They will be posted on the Classics Department website. These YouTube videos will showcase the excellence of our alumni/ae and the range of careers that classics majors go on to pursue. Next time a prospective student or parent wonders, “but what can you do with a classics major?” there will be an online gallery of engaging classics alumni/ae waiting to answer that question from personal experience!

## Update on the Flory-Freiert Fellowship Fund

Since last year’s newsletter, the Flory-Freiert Fellowship Fund has continued to grow, thanks to the generous gifts of alumni/ae, parents, and friends of classics. As you probably know, the fellowship, named in honor of Marleen and Stewart Flory and Patricia and William Freiert, the four founding members of the Gustavus Classics Department, will allow Gustavus students to pursue their classical interests, whether their passion lies in archaeological excavation or in studying ancient manuscripts. Gifts received now (as of June 1, 2011) total over \$28,500, with more than \$12,000 beyond that in pledges! A big thank you to all who have shared in this enterprise—we have received 75 gifts to date, a remarkable level of response. We are cautiously optimistic that we will reach our goal of \$50,000 (which would allow us to award the fellowship on a yearly basis), and look forward to the inauguration of the fellowship as yet another milestone to celebrate alongside the Sesquicentennial! There is a link to the FFFF on our department website ([gustavus.edu/classics](http://gustavus.edu/classics)).

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Also six gifts from anonymous donors

If your gift has been accidentally omitted from the above list or if your name is incorrectly listed, please e-mail [panciera@gustavus.edu](mailto:panciera@gustavus.edu). On behalf of the Department of Classics, many thanks!

## An Ojibwe Daphnis and Chloe

by Will Freiert

When Alexander the Great commissioned Apelles of Cos, the ancient world's premier painter, to portray his favorite mistress, Pankaspe, Apelles was smitten with love. Realizing this, Alexander demonstrated his magnanimity as well as his self-control by giving Apelles the beautiful concubine. In *The Translation of Dr. Apelles*, Ojibwe novelist David Treuer combines ancient Greek history and fiction, weaving together the story of Apelles with the plot of Longus's second-century novel, *Daphnis and Chloe*. Like his namesake, Treuer's Apelles has a unique skill: he is the last person left who can translate an obscure Native American language. But unlike the ancient painter, Dr. Apelles is a solitary and obscure figure, a reclusive Native American scholar and linguist who relegates his translation work to alternate Fridays because he must support himself by working at a surreal repository of unread books.

Treuer begins the novel with a "Translator's Introduction," in which he describes the discovery of a manuscript and his project of retelling its story in English, comparing languages to sets of clothing one changes at will. He goes on, "I have also tried to paint a portrait of the body underneath those clothes that is beautiful even in its smallest part and that will be beautiful no matter what language it wears." Thus Apelles, the scholar, compares himself to Apelles, the painter, and his translation to the beautiful Campaspe whom the ancient artist painted nude.

Finding the manuscript makes Dr. Apelles "realize that he has never been in love" (23). "No one has looked at him for years. ...He has no reader for his heart." Dr.

Apelles begins to wonder if he might come to love his co-worker at the book repository, Campaspe Bello. Dr. Apelles and Campaspe Bello do, in fact, become lovers but his secretiveness about his translation piques her curiosity so much that she pilfers the work, which is then stolen from her by a jealous co-worker. Hidden inside an old volume of Longus's *Daphnis and Chloe*, Dr. Apelles's translation disappears forever into the stacks of the Research Collections and Preservation (Consortium), RECAP, where all three are employed.

The post-modern ambiguity and metafictional sophistication of the frame narrative are in striking contrast to the pastoral romanticism of the plot of the manuscript Dr. Apelles is translating, which turns out to be an Anishinaabe or Ojibwe version of the Daphnis/Chloe story. The novel alternates beautifully between the sweet sentimentality of Longus's story, which deals with love, threats of loss, and ultimate triumph, and a Proustian somberness as Apelles broods over his feelings of disengagement, emotional turmoil, and betrayal.

In the Ojibwe manuscript plot, Treuer adapts his ancient source with careful parallelism. The Ojibwe Daphnis (which means "laurel") and Chloe ("first bloom") are named Bimaadiz ("he lives") and Eta ("only"). Just as the baby Daphnis was found being nursed by a goat, Bimaadiz was saved by the milk of a moose when his village was wiped out in a blizzard. And just as Chloe was nursed as a baby by a ewe in a Nymph's cave, Eta was suckled by a wolf when left as the only survivor of her village. Both sets of infants were raised by the foster parents who found them. Eta's passion for Bimaadiz is awakened when she sees him showering in a waterfall after nearly being buried in a

swamp, just as Chloe was aroused by seeing Daphnis shower.

The parallels continue from one dangerous adventure to another, until, finally, at the joyful wedding celebration, both the bride's and the groom's true parents are discovered among the important guests and Love at last has its day. In a wonderfully witty Barthian conclusion, Apelles's manuscript disappears into the book repository and the story he is writing is his own.

The same year (2006) that saw the publication of *Dr. Apelles* also gave us Treuer's collection of critical essays called *Native American Fiction: A User's Manual*. With this work, Treuer became a kind of *enfant terrible* among critics by arguing that Native American literature "does not exist," in that it is too much viewed as an artifact of Indian culture, both by scholars and by the authors themselves. His thesis, essentially, is that, if Native American literature exists at all, it must exist as *literature*, irrespective of the community that produces it or the culture that serves as its milieu. The two interlocking stories in *Dr. Apelles* serve as Treuer's exemplum of what he sees as the problem of writing Native fiction. The sweet and romantic plot of Bimaadiz and Eta, told in simple, dignified, and polite language (even when describing sex) is Treuer's demonstration of the way in which Native life and culture is envisioned in the Euro-American imagination. Noble savage surmounts impossible odds to win beloved. The Rousseauian pastoral innocence of Bimaadiz and Eta and their Edenic life in the woods does not really correspond to Native American experience or that of any other culture. It is a fantasy.

The post-modern plot of confusion and existentialist angst that is Dr. Apelles's own



life of solitude gives the reader a taste of the confusion of the assimilating Indian scholar. He cannot share himself with anyone, for who could ever understand? Translating the love story of Eta and Biimadiz, however, makes him realize his pathetic situation. Apelles's personal emotional life and his translation begin to merge. And, just as in the Daphnis/Bimaadiz plots love conquers all, so, for Apelles, acceptance of the loss of his manuscript is what enables him and his beloved Campaspe to "read" one another.

The walls of her apartment are lined with books she has pilfered from libraries and book stores and she has long been contemplating the middle-aged scholar who works next to her at RECAP. She "longed to lift his cover and read him, to bring him home and read him immediately and completely, and, ultimately, to shelve him in her most private and intimate stacks" (144).

And the feeling was mutual. "Dr. Apelles, through long habit, has been reading Campaspe whether she wants him to or not." (260). When Apelles and Campaspe make love, "he sees the translation, the meaning available only to him, vulnerable to him, in a language belonging only to him. *I've been waiting to read you*, he whispers....And what a story it is to read. What a pleasure. Page after page after page" (149).

The translation of Dr. Apelles disappears into the stacks of RECAP, hidden within the translation of *Daphnis and Chole*. Treuer writes, "the manuscript is to be wedded to the book in which it is hidden forever: it is a marriage after all—a meeting and pleaching of the loose pages with the bound, the read with the unread, the published with the obscure, the known and the unknown. It is a marriage that will, out of necessity, last forever" (305).

In learning to read Campaspe, Dr. Apelles learns to transcend the Euro-American stereotype of the Native American, to love himself, and to tell his own story, which is to love. And in telling Dr. Apelles's story, Treuer himself achieves his goal of creating Native American literature which is not about history, not a narrow, "authentic" cultural artifact. Apelles's story is the oldest in the world, the story of the speechless male, who no matter how brilliant his mind, is unable to articulate his emotions and who is only freed from his mental prison when his heart is stolen by the one who wants to "read him immediately and completely." Thus, minor fact and fiction from ancient Greece inspire and live on in contemporary Native American literature.

