Greetings from the Chair

I hope our third issue of Ursus finds you all thriving.

I thought I would supplement the usual picture in our heading with this photo of Janus; for it has been a very Janus-like year at Washington University Classics, as numerous changes have inspired us to mix excitement for the future with some nostalgia.

Our saddest news was the passing in February of Kevin Herbert, one of the department’s “giants of the past.” We will be saluting Professor Herbert on October 23rd with a memorial lecture and remembrance.

More mixed is the news that four of our faculty left us this summer: George Pepe, Robert Lamberton, and Susan Rotroff have retired after a combined 91 years of exceptional scholarship, teaching, and service in our department. Our reception to celebrate George in April was a smashing success, and we will follow it up with a symposium honoring Bob and Susan on November 21st. Meanwhile, we wish the very best to Ryan Platte as he heads on to Northwestern to lead their Greek language program.

The rest of the news is all good. You will read inside about four new faculty, two of them tenure-track, who will join us this fall. Together they bring us a remarkable range of new expertise. That expertise will serve us well as our new PhD program begins this fall with students pursuing tracks in both philosophy and performance. The new Classics PhD was featured in the Chancellor’s annual letter to friends of the University, the Washington University Record, and the national online journal Inside Higher Ed. Enrollments and number of majors remain high, and our undergraduates are thriving at WashU and beyond. A record seven MA students graduated this year and headed on to PhD programs, secondary teaching, and other careers.

Some of you will recall that I wrote in this column last year about the department’s material resources. Will Bubelis and I write in this issue about developments in the University’s art and coin collections. I am also happy to report that additional library funds this year allowed us to fill a number of important gaps in our collection, including the purchase of extensive works to supplement the research needs of our new faculty, and that plans are afoot for further work on the papyrus collection. Our departmental library continues to grow, thanks in large part to generous donations by our retiring faculty.

Response to our creation of the George Pepe Undergraduate Scholarship Fund has been very generous. Thank you! Funds will also be established to honor Kevin Herbert, Robert Lamberton, and Susan Rotroff. If you have questions about those funds, please contact me directly (tmoore26@wustl.edu, 314-935-6618). Your support of the Classics Department remains invaluable.

All the best,

Tim Moore
John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor of Classics and Chair
Remembering Kevin Herbert

The Department of Classics remembers warmly Professor Emeritus Kevin Herbert, who passed away on February 10th, 2015 at the age of 93. A dedicated teacher and scholar, Professor Herbert taught at Washington University from 1962 until 2008 and chaired the Department of Classics from 1982-1992. His important role in the growth of our department is still felt today. Colleagues and former students remember in particular his long stewardship of the Wulfing Coin Collection, his many publications, including Maximum Effort: the B-29’s against Japan, which drew on his own experience in World War II, and his outstanding mentorship of both graduate and undergraduate students.

On Friday, October 23, 2015, at 5PM, in the Ballroom Theatre of Washington University’s 560 Music Building, the Department of Classics will host a remembrance for Professor Herbert and the Kevin Herbert Memorial Lecture, in which Thomas Palaima of the University of Texas will speak on “War Stories Told, Untold and Retold from Troy to Tinian to Fort Campbell.” For information about this event and to rsvp, please contact Cathy Marler at classics@wustl.edu (314-935-5123).

Reception honoring George Pepe on his retirement

One of the highlights of the last year in Classics was a reception to honor George Pepe on his retirement. Over 100 of George’s students, former students, friends, and colleagues joined to honor his 50 years of exceptional mentorship, service, and collegiality. Classics alumni Cat Karayan Wilbur, Sarah Brophy Marks, and Danny Bravman donated books to the Classics library in honor of George, and Joe Loewenstein, current head of the Text and Tradition program founded by George, gave a moving speech.

In honor of his career, the George Pepe Undergraduate Scholarship fund has been established. At George’s request, the scholarship will be for students of Classics or Text and Tradition with financial need. If you are interested in supporting this scholarship, see the final page of this newsletter.

Photos of George’s party are available on the department website: https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/news/articles/262
Robert Lamberton and Susan Rotroff retire

Bob Lamberton and Susan Rotroff have retired after extraordinary careers in our department.

Bob joined the faculty of Washington University in 1994. His publications include books on Homer, Hesiod, Proclus, Porphyry, and Plutarch. His many academic honors include fellowships and honorary appointments from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, The Mellon Foundation, The Center for Hellenic Studies, and The American School of Classical Studies at Athens. As chair of Classics from 2000-2006, Bob was the driving force behind the rise of the department’s MA to one of the premier Classics MA programs in the country. His excellence in the classroom and his superb mentorship have helped lead numerous students to successful careers in classics and beyond.

Susan joined Washington University in 1995 and was appointed Jarvis Thurston and Mona Van Duyn Professor in the Humanities in 1999. She served as chair of Classics from 2006-2009. She is widely recognized as one of the nation’s leading Greek archaeologists, with awards including a MacArthur Prize and a Gold Medal from the Archaeological Institute of America. Besides excellent teaching and life-changing mentorship of students in both Classics and Art History and Archaeology, Susan has served both departments and the University tirelessly.

To commemorate Bob and Susan’s careers, the Departments of Classics and Art History and Archaeology and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences will host a symposium on Saturday, November 21, 2015 featuring four leading scholars who are also dear friends of Bob and Susan: Kathleen Coleman of Harvard, Joseph Day of Wabash College (emeritus), Noel Lenski of Yale, and Alan Shapiro of Johns Hopkins (emeritus). For information about this event and to RSVP, please contact Cathy Marler at classics@wustl.edu (314-935-5123).

In addition, Bob and Susan have asked that a fund be set up in their names to support summer study by both undergraduate and graduate students in Classics. If you are interested in supporting this fund, please contact Tim Moore (tmoore26@wustl.edu, 314-935-6618).

Ryan Platte Moves to Northwestern

We wish Ryan Platte the very best as he heads on to lead the Greek language program at Northwestern. Ryan joined the Classics Department in 2008. His expertise in Homer, archaic Greek poetics, and Indo-European linguistics, including Sanskrit, have proved invaluable to his students and colleagues. Ryan also produced our first issue of this newsletter and did much to improve the department’s presence on the web and in social media. His book, *Equine Poetics*, is forthcoming from The Center for Hellenic Studies, as is a textbook on Indo-European from Wiley-Blackwell.
New Faculty

The Department of Classics is pleased to announce the hire of two new assistant professors and two 1-year lecturers.

Tom Keeline (Assistant Professor, PhD Harvard, 2014)

I couldn’t be happier to be returning to my hometown and to the university where I spent two wonderful and formative years as an MA student. After getting my Ph.D. from Harvard, I spent the past year in the Pacific Northwest as assistant professor of Classics at Western Washington University. While there I taught courses on topics ranging from Greek Mythology to the influence of classical rhetoric on speeches in the modern world, and also became accustomed to finding 19 different varieties of granola for sale at the local grocery store and to thinking judgmental thoughts about those who employ umbrellas in light rain. In other activities, I was a regular at the Circulus Latinus Seattleensis, I co-organized a panel at the SCS, and I gave a paper at a conference in Oklahoma under the auspices of the new Digital Latin Library. More personally, my son Tommy continues to grow up before my eyes, which sometimes occasions mixed emotions—but being allowed to sleep through the night again has brought only unalloyed joy. I’m looking forward to the year ahead!

Luis Salas (Assistant Professor, PhD University of Texas at Austin, 2014)

I'm delighted to be joining Classics at Wash U this fall! I arrived in St. Louis mid-July, followed shortly by Rosalyn and Isabel, our four-year-old daughter. Rosalyn is a realtor with Keller-Williams and will be leading an expansion of her Austin real estate team to St. Louis. Isabel will be going to school on campus and is excited that we'll be "working together". I come to Washington University in St. Louis from the University of Texas at Austin, where I received my Ph.D. and began a serial relationship with demonymic institutions. At UT, I was a member of the Joint Program in Ancient Philosophy, splitting time between the Classics and Philosophy departments. It has been a great comfort to see that this close inter-departmental relationship exists here also. Indeed, I couldn't have asked for a better fit for my intellectual interests than Wash U Classics. This fall I will be teaching first-year Greek and a course on biomedicine in the Greco-Roman world. In addition, I'll be working on a book project about philosophical polemics in Galen's technical prose. If Galen, ancient medicine, or ancient philosophy interest you, you can read more about my work on the Classics faculty and research pages. I'm also happy to talk about my work (and other things) with folks. Feel free to pay me a visit in Umrath Hall; if I can, I'd be delighted to chat over lunch or (inclusive) coffee!

Kristin Mann (Lecturer, PhD University of California, Los Angeles, 2015)

I am very excited to join the Wash U faculty as a lecturer this fall. I just completed my PhD at UCLA, with a dissertation entitled The Fabulist in the Fable Book, which concentrated on the Greek and Latin fable collections. I work more broadly on literature and culture of the Roman Empire, as well as the Greek novel. This fall, I will be teaching “Women and Slaves” and two sections of Latin 3171. I am moving to St. Louis with my partner, Mandy, and we are both looking forward to seeing what St. Louis has to offer!

Kathryn Wilson (Lecturer, PhD University of Pennsylvania, 2015)

This year I experienced two major life events: graduating from the PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania and moving to St. Louis! Although I am sad to leave Philadelphia, I am very excited about joining the Classics Department at Washington University and am looking forward to teaching this fall. While completing my dissertation this year, I also traveled to the University of Miami to participate in the ‘Medicine and Poetry’ conference, and this summer I was able to take part in Hellenistica Groningana, a bi-annual workshop on Hellenistic poetry at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, focusing this time on ‘Drama and Performance.’
Visitors and Other Lectures

This year’s lectures and other events highlighted the department’s important connections within and beyond the University. Our John and Penelope Biggs Resident (pictured), was David Sedley, the Lawrence Professor of Ancient Philosophy Emeritus and Fellow of Christ’s College at the University of Cambridge. Sedley, one of the world’s leading experts on Greek and Roman philosophy, spoke to record-sized audiences on Plato’s theory of the forms, the paradoxes of Zeno, and “the shape of God in Greek philosophy” (spherical, in case you are wondering). Sedley is one of a long line of leading ancient philosophers who have visited as Biggs Residents, complementing the excellent cooperation between the Classics Department and Eric Brown and Fay Edwards, our colleagues in Philosophy who work on Greece and Rome. On the Classics side, Robert Lambertson has long been the major player in our philosophical endeavors. He will be succeeded now by Luis Alejandro Salas, who comes to us with a joint degree in Classics and Philosophy. In addition to beginning its PhD track in Ancient Philosophy this fall, the department will host *Apeiron*, an international journal dedicated to ancient philosophy and science.

Other lecturers included WashU Classics alumna Kirk Freudenburg (MA, 1985), now chair of Classics at Yale; poet and translator David Slavitt, who spoke in connection with Upstream Theater’s production of his translation of *Antigone* and was co-sponsored by English, Comparative Literature, and Performing Arts; Alexander Herda of the Humboldt University, Berlin, brought to St. Louis by Robert Hahn of Southern Illinois University; Matthew Farmer, one of our colleagues at the University of Missouri; Jess Paga, our Mellon Fellow sponsored through the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities (lecture cosponsored by Art History and Archaeology); and WashU MA students Juan Dopico, Tori Lee, and Vergil Parson. Meanwhile, Classics joined with the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities to sponsor a session entitled “Classic Texts in Troubled Times,” in which faculty noted the relevance of Aeschylus and Dostoyevsky to events in St. Louis following the death of Michael Brown; and Roshan Abraham joined with colleagues at WashU, Saint Louis University and elsewhere to begin a highly successful Christianity in Antiquity Workshop.

Picturing Narrative: Greek Mythology in the Visual Arts

Washington University’s collection of ancient art was in the spotlight last fall, as the University’s Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum hosted an exhibition entitled, “Picturing Narrative: Greek Mythology in the Visual Arts,” curated by Tim Moore. The exhibition, designed to support Moore’s class in Greek Mythology, featured a range of works including early modern and twentieth-century prints, a plate by Picasso, and a collage by African-American artist Romare Bearden. The stars of the exhibition, however, were several of the University’s Greek vases, including the one pictured here. Also featured were three coins from the University’s John Max Wulfing Collection. Greek Mythology students wrote papers comparing literary versions of myths with those shown in the visual works. Among the groups Moore led through the exhibition were the Washington University and the St. Louis Classical Clubs, Kemper Museum docents, classes in IPH and Performing Arts, the Life-Long Learning Institute, and fourth graders from the New City School.

Undergraduate Research

Senior Joshua Trosch (shown) reconstructed an ancient Greek kithara this spring. Relying on his own experience making guitars and extensive research into the visual and literary evidence for this premier Greek stringed instrument, Joshua worked with Tim Moore to determine exactly how the instrument might have been constructed. In the process he challenged some central assumptions many modern scholars have about how kitharas worked. He presented his work at the Washington University undergraduate symposium and at a conference at Webster University. Joshua was very busy this year: he also completed a senior honors thesis under Will Bubelis on Spartan militarism. Senior Lisa Dorn also wrote an honors thesis with Will Bubelis, on cardiovascular disease in Galen and Erasistratus. A number of other students worked with faculty on on-going research projects. Working with Tim Moore on the afterlife of Livy, Daniel Washelesky looked at Livy in Petrarch and Campanella. Daniel Politte on how Livy and Machiavelli present King Nabis of Sparta. Ethan Farber assisted Will Bubelis in a digital project on coins from Thrace and Northwest Anatolia, and Madeleine Fish worked with Cathy Keane on Roman Satire.
Books old and new, and a very special award

The Classics Department is now proud owner of a case housing a number of old and rare books, along with some faculty publications. Most of the old and rare books belonged to Frederic Aldin Hall, Professor of Greek in our department and Chancellor of Washington University from 1913-1923. They were given to the department by Chancellor Hall’s great-grandson, Neil Horner. Another gift from Mr. Horner included in the case is the Royal Order of the Redeemer, presented to Chancellor Hall by the Metropolitan of Athens during his visit to St. Louis in 1919. Alumni and friends are welcome to stop by the department to see the books and award at any time.

Wulfing Collection

Upon being named curator of the John Max Wulfing Collection in Summer 2014, I have been quite busy planning for the next stage in its development. There are many challenges in learning how to manage such a large collection—in terms of size and quality it is the fourth best at a North American college or university—but the immediate priority is to re-format and digitize the collection’s entire catalogue.

Of special note is Prof. Susan Rotroff’s generous donation of a silver drakhma that was struck by the Boiotian confederation c. 304-294, and whose depictions of a Boiotian shield (obverse) and amphora (reverse) are especially charming, as you can see to the right.

If you also have coins, weights, tokens, or banknotes from any period and place that you might wish to donate, I would be delighted to talk further with you, of course!

–William Bubelis
Faculty News

Roshan Abraham

After being away on sabbatical, and paternity leave before that, I was thrilled to be back in the classroom this fall. I continued to keep my feet planted in both the Classics Department and the Religious Studies Program, teaching third semester Greek and Magicians, Healers, and Holy Men for Classics and Thinking About Religion and Introduction to New Testament for Religious Studies. I also delivered a paper at the SCS annual meeting in New Orleans entitled “Philostratus, prognosis, and the alternatives to divination,” which I’ll be working up into an article this summer.

Karen Acton

It’s been another busy year! I was teaching a lot of Latin this year, both at the elementary level and our department’s first ever graduate literature survey course on the Republic. In the meantime, I got plenty of opportunities to share my research: I traveled to conferences in Boulder, Santa Barbara, and Lisbon, and I got to do a podcast on the historical Antony and Cleopatra in the university’s “Hold That Thought” series. I’ve also been running the Latin sight reading group and I’ve organized a writing workshop on the Ancient Mediterranean, which will start up in the Fall. In the meantime, I’m continuing work on my book on the Year of Four Emperors.

William Bubelis

What an extraordinary year it has been, especially being married to my wonderful wife Katy in June 2014! Another boon has been the curatorship of the John Max Wulfing Collection of some 14,000 ancient coins and related objects. As we launch our new PhD program, I am all the more grateful to my retiring colleagues for all of their guidance, hard work, and friendship—thank you, George, Bob, and Susan—and all best wishes and thanks, too, to Ryan Platte! After supervising several delightful theses I am now working up a proposal for a sourcebook on the ancient economy and will soon reconnoiter the Cyclades for another book already underway and several related projects. The islands, too, will be the perfect place to dive into Thucydides, which I am thrilled to teach this Autumn to our first PhD students.

Cathy Keane

I fulfilled a longtime dream by hiking the length of Hadrian’s Wall, under both rain and sun, last June (see photo). Back for another year at Wash U, I taught two undergraduate Latin courses, a graduate seminar on Roman Satire, and a lecture course on the Roman World. This year also saw the final production work on my new book, Juvenal and the Satiric Emotions, which came out this spring. Over the year I visited Columbia MO, Cincinnati, Boulder, Philadelphia, and Princeton to talk about satire. I continued to serve as Director of Graduate Studies and on several university and professional committees.

Tim Moore

I especially enjoyed this year curating the Kemper Art Museum’s exhibition, “Picturing Narrative: Greek Mythology in the Visual Arts,” on which I gave a number of presentations to groups from Washington University, local schools, and the community (see photo). I also lectured at Berkeley and Saint Louis University on Greek and Roman musical theatre. My edition of three Greek comedies translated by my late colleague at the University of Texas, Douglass Parker, appeared in print this year, as did an article on music and gender in Terence’s Hecyra.
Student News

Undergraduate

Charley Cotton spent the spring semester studying at the University of Edinburgh and the summer at the American School of Classical Studies excavations at the Agora in Athens. The Department granted Charley its annual CAMWS award for excellence in Classics.

Classics majors Shelby Payne and Sarah Pritchard spent the spring semester at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. Other Classics majors and minors studied in Shanghai (Lena Trager), Oxford (Kate Needham) and London (Marina Walters).

Washington University Classics students fared exceptionally well in two different sets of national Greek and Latin translation contests this year. Winners in contests sponsored by Eta Sigma Phi included:
- Daniel Washelesky: 1st place in the Advanced Latin contest AND 2nd place in the Latin Prose Composition contest.
- Daniel Politte: 2nd place in the Intermediate Greek contest
- Alex Mason: 1st place in the Intermediate Latin contest
- Madeleine Fish: 2nd place in the Intermediate Latin contest.

Only one other university matched Washington University in St. Louis in its overall number of winners.

Meanwhile, WashU boasted the following winners in new Latin translation contests sponsored by the Classical Association of the Middle West and South:
- Advanced Latin:
  - Cash prize: Daniel Washelesky
  - Book prize: Megan Kawasaki and Kate Needham
  - Letter of commendation: Michelle Lee, Daniel Politte, and Sarah Pritchard
- Intermediate Latin:
  - Cash prize: Danny Martin
  - Book prize: Madeleine Fish, Max Handler, and Alex Mason
  - Letter of commendation: John Lu

The Washington University Classics Club had a very busy year, including assistance at contests of both the Illinois and the Missouri Junior Classical Leagues, lectures, performances, and other events.

Graduate

Joshua Zacks has received a post teaching Ancient Greek online for the Erasmus Academy.

Vergil Parson spoke on "Poetic Potency and Loss in the Dirae" at the 2015 meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South.

Juan Dopico's paper, "The Image of Imperial Homer," was accepted for presentation at a graduate colloquium at The Ohio State University.

Tori Lee spoke on "The Mystery of Alcibiades and His Involvement with the Hermai" at a graduate student symposium at Johns Hopkins University and on "The Psychological Effects of Restraint and Seclusion in Prometheus Bound" at the Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature in Edinburgh. Her work on Aeschylus was supported by a grant from Washington University’s George Throop Endowment.

Eta Sigma Phi

Washington University’s Alpha Xi Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national honorary society for students of Classics, inducted six new members on April 15, 2015: John Lu, Max Handler, Danny Martin, Charlie Rapp, Josh Stevens, and Max Weisman.

Awards for Graduating Seniors

Warren Chan has been awarded the Eugene Tavenner Prize for Excellence in the Study of Classics.

Joshua Trosch has been awarded the Edward Weltin Award for Excellence in the Study of Ancient History.

Lisa Dorn has been awarded the Carl Conrad Prize for Excellence in Classical Studies.
Graduate Feature

Lisa Dorn (2015) is now at The Ohio State University for their Medical Scientist Training Program. She writes: Deciding to pursue a second major in Classics was the best decision I made at WashU. As a pre-med with a primary major in Biology, it was very important to me to broaden my interests beyond just the realm of science and medicine, and Classics was the natural choice. Not only did Classics allow me to balance my schedule between science, language, and ancient history, it also gave me a better appreciation for how modern languages, government, cultures, and even medicine evolved from the ancients. A double major (such as mine, in Biology and Classics) allows students to write interdisciplinary theses if they wish, which is exactly what I did: I wrote on Galen’s conception of the cardiovascular system and was given such excellent support and feedback from my professors that the research and writing process was hardly as daunting as it originally seemed. Whereas other departments at WashU are comprised of 50 or more faculty and hundreds of students, the Classics Department is small (yet caring) enough to allow students to get to know their teachers and their peers very well. I took four different classes with the same professor, and he made such an impression on me that I asked him to be my thesis advisor. WashU’s Classics Department is dedicated to a personal touch, and I am fortunate to have chosen it as my (second) home during my undergraduate years.
Rachel Bier (MA, 2015) has begun a PhD program in Classics at the University of Virginia.

Susan Brashier (maiden name, Taylor, BA, 1967) writes: I taught Latin for 28 years in Houston TX and Irvine CA. Thanks for a great classics education.

Warren Chan (BA, 2015) has begun graduate school in Chemistry at the University of California at San Diego.

Juan Dopico (MA, 2015) has accepted a position to teach Latin and Spanish at Parish Episcopal School in Dallas, TX.

Lisa Dowden (BA, 1983) writes: I am glad to see how big the department is getting. When I graduated, I was one of two classics majors. I am still living in DC and practicing federal energy regulatory law. My husband and I are the parents of a ten-year-old boy.

Haley Flagg (BA, 2014) has been offered a fully funded PhD slot in Classics and Archaeology at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Melissa Freilich (BA, 2013) writes: In the past year I have been fortunate enough to bring classics back into my life while pursuing a career as a theatre director and teacher. After completing the 2013-2014 Artistic Apprenticeship at Cleveland Play House, I began teaching stage combat, stage managing, and choreographing stage fights. In February I had my professional directing debut with the new play *Summer Cannibals* by Susanna Pretzer. In the meantime, I was looking for Latin tutoring work when I discovered Saint Joseph Academy. They had recently lost a teacher, leaving their AP students to teach themselves Caesar. Despite my lack of formal Latin teaching experience, the school hired me on the basis of my studies at Wash U. It was wonderful to return to my Latin work and pass along my enthusiasm to some hard-working seniors before they went off to college, hopefully to continue their classics education!

Andrea Gadberry (BA, 2006) After finishing her PhD at Berkeley in 2014, Andrea has just finished her first year as Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at NYU. She writes, “at the risk of sounding a little maudlin, I really do think often about how Prof. Pepe in particular (not to mention Bob!) led me to my vocation.”

Tristan Jones (MA, 2015) has accepted a position at Central Reform Congregation in St. Louis, MO.

Sydney Kapp (BA, 2015) will attend optometry school at the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

Travis Kilpatrick (BA, 2004) has completed his first year in an MBA Program at Boston University.

Natacha Lam (BA, 2010) has completed the first year of a two-year fellowship at a non-profit organization called Americans United for Separation of Church and State in Washington DC, which focuses on First Amendment litigation. In 2014 she completed her law degree at Harvard, where, she reports, “I… tried to cross-register with the Classics Department in Harvard University, which was quite entertaining. I wasn't allowed to take any of the upper level courses, but strongly considered taking their sophomore-year level Homer course, which seemed to me to be exactly like the Homer course I had taken with Professor Lambert in the spring of my sophomore year. My friends, however, thought it would have been rude of me to enter the course and take it for grade, since I had not only studied the exact same text (and still have my old textbook with vocabulary notes!), but had also gone on to write a thesis about Homeric themes in later literature. As a result, I ended up not taking the class, unfortunately; part of me was tempted to take it anyways, though, since it was their restriction that kept me from taking new courses!”
Jeremy B. Lefkowitz (MA, 2003) has received this year’s Andrew Heiskell Post-Doctoral Rome Prize at the American Academy in Rome. Lefkowitz, who received a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics at Swarthmore College.

Grizelda (Zellie) McClelland (PhD, 2013) writes: I recently rejoined the Washington University community as a dean in the college of Arts & Sciences. I work chiefly as an advisor to undergraduates and I have more recently taken on fellowship advising for students pursuing such scholarships as the Rhodes and Marshall, etc. Needless to say, my current position at WUSTL and my delightfully diverting teaching opportunities with the Classics Department would never have been possible without the endless mentoring, instruction and enthusiastic support of Professor Susan Rotroff. (This was a real feat on Rotroff’s part as the whole MA/PhD process was recurrently punctuated by the various arrivals of my three kinder!) A special nod must likewise be given to emeritus Professor George Pepe, who fired my interest in the Classics from the outset. I feel very lucky to have had my life so meaningfully shaped by such superb individuals.

Daphne McWilliams (MA, 2014) writes: I’m about to begin my first year of teaching Latin, Greek, and Classical literature in translation at the Gilman School in Baltimore, Maryland. I’m extremely excited about the year to come, and feel that the rigorous philological training I received at Wash U has left me more than prepared to teach both languages. Additionally, the classroom teaching experience I gained as a TA has been invaluable. It was a real privilege to work with such bright and capable undergraduate students and to receive guidance from faculty who are gifted educators themselves. I cannot speak highly enough of the program and the people at Wash U. It was a formative experience for me, and I still remember very clearly how I felt at the end of every semester – that I had learned more than I previously thought possible in my coursework, from my talented peers, and from my students. In particular, the level of attention paid by the faculty and staff to the academic and professional development of the students in the program is exceptional. My path has been a little more circuitous than some, and I will always be grateful to my professors for their unwavering support.

Bryan Y. Norton, S.J. (MA, 2014) just finished his first year as a Visiting Instructor in Classics at Xavier University, the Jesuit school in Cincinnati. He taught a 4/4 load, with courses ranging from Introductory Greek to Classical Mythology and Intermediate Latin. At this year’s CAMWS in Boulder, CO, he presented a paper on Charis in the Iliad, developing the research from his master’s thesis. Bryan is very excited to return to Xavier for another year of teaching. In the meantime, he looks forward to a summer of language study in Paris with other Jesuits. À la prochaine fois!

Vergil Parson (MA, 2015) has begun a PhD program in Classics at the University of Virginia.


Aaron Siebrass (BA, 2015) is beginning a career in corporate banking with PNC Financial Services in Detroit, Michigan.

Sarah Spradling (MA, 2015) will begin teaching 6th-8th grade Latin at Old Trail School in Akron, OH.

Sara Tamizuddin (BA, 2015) has begun medical school at Rush University.

Joshua Trosch (BA, 2015) is now a Legal Assistant at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City.
Alumni News Continued...

Kanushri Wadhwa (MA, 2015) has begun a teaching position at Valor Collegiate Academy, in Nashville, TN.

Catherine (“Cat”) Karayan Wilbur (BA, 2008) writes: My husband, Greg Wilbur, and I had a wonderful time at Professor Pepe’s retirement party. Greg had never been to Wash U or St. Louis before (but he had heard so many, many stories). We happily toured Wash U and its near-by surroundings, including beautiful Forest Park and downtown Clayton. We were thrilled to spend time with Sarah Brophy Marks (’08), David Marks (’08), and Danny Bravman (’08). The Triumvirate (pictured) thrived in our natural environment: among our beloved Classics Department. It was a treat to see you all and to introduce you to Greg. Congratulations again, Professor Pepe, and thank you, Classics Department, for a lovely party! You will always be my favorite. Greg and I are still enjoying our work as attorneys (he, an employment litigator; I, a trusts & estates attorney) in Santa Barbara, California.

Joshua Zacks (MA, 2015) has begun a PhD program in Classics at the University of Washington.

We are very interested in keeping up with our alumni, both undergraduate and graduate. If you are a graduate of the department please send us an update.

Contacting the Department

The Classics Department office is located in Umrath Hall, 244.
You can always write to us via our website: https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/contact-us

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The Classics Department welcomes gifts to help support our expanding programs. Such donations are very appreciated and always put to good use. Donations can be made electronically through Washington University’s "Gifts" page (follow the directions on the Classics Department’s web site: https://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/gifts), or financial contributions can be mailed to:

Washington University in St. Louis, Alumni & Development Programs
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Campus Box 1210
St. Louis, MO 63130

When writing, please include a note indicating that the gift is designated for the Classics Department, or, if you wish, for the George Pepe Scholarship Fund.