



ISSUE 2
SUMMER 2014

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Ursus

Greetings from the Chair

The Classics Department at Washington University has had a great year. Undergraduate enrollments continue to rise, and the number of Classics and Ancient Studies majors and minors topped 50 this spring. Our MA students are thriving, as are our outreach programs. The biggest news, though, is that our colleagues on the Graduate Council and university administrators have approved our proposal to offer a PhD in Classics. Building on strengths in our own department and elsewhere in the university, we will begin recruitment this fall for a Classics PhD program with specialized tracks in ancient history, music, performance, and philosophy. Our renowned MA program will remain in place.

You will read in the next pages about the lively life of the department and the honors won by our faculty, students, and alumni, including the teaching award and upcoming retirement of George Pepe. I thought I would spend some time here on some items on the horizon, each involving the material resources that help make Washington University such a special place to do Classics.

First: books. The last two academic years have brought remarkable generosity from our administration for library purchases in Classics. It has been exciting to watch more and more materials, including both print books and state-of-the-art electronic resources, arriving. More extra funds are promised for next year, and we will be working on an endowment for library purchases in Classics to ensure that the essential flow of new materials continues. Meanwhile, the Classics Department has begun building its own library with donations of books. These include some rare books, for which we have just acquired a special case (feel free to stop by Umrath Hall and check it out at any time).

Second: coins. Associate Professor William Bube-
lis has taken over the curatorship of the university's John Max Wulfing coin collection, one of the largest university collections of ancient coins in the country. He succeeds a distinguished line of curators that includes Classics Professor Emeritus Kevin Herbert and Sarantis Symeonoglou, Professor

Emeritus of Art History and Archaeology. Will has great plans for the collection. Expect to read soon in *Ursus* and elsewhere about conferences, outreach, digitization, and other projects.

Third: papyri. Washington University's Classics Department owns a small but significant collection of Greek papyri. Some of these have been published, both in print and on line (<http://omeka.wustl.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/papyri-collection/papyri-collection>), and others await publication. Along with Todd Hickey of Berkeley, we will be working in the next years on conserving, publishing, and publicizing this important collection.

Finally: art. We have been working with our colleagues in the Kemper Art Museum and the Department of Art History and Archaeology to call more attention to the fine collection of ancient art, especially Greek vases, owned by the university. Spearheading that effort will be a Teaching Exhibition in the Kemper Art Museum this fall entitled, "Picturing Narrative: Greek Mythology in the Visual Arts" (<http://www.samfox.wustl.edu/exhibitions/9952>). The exhibition will include both ancient vases and modern works with mythological themes. Stop by and see it if you are in St. Louis.

If any of these ongoing projects have a special interest for you, please let me know.

Washington University is on solid financial footing, and the administration has been generous to us. For any department to thrive in these competitive days, however, support from alumni and friends is essential. I thank you for all that you continue to do for our department.

All the best,

Tim Moore

John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor of
Classics and Chair

Classics Department to Begin PhD Program

This fall the Washington University Classics Department will begin recruiting students for a PhD Program in Classics. At the core of the program are four specialized tracks, which take advantage of the special strengths offered by both faculty in the Classics Department and affiliated faculty from Art History and Archaeology, Comparative Literature, English, History, The Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, Music, Performing Arts, and Philosophy. These tracks, described below, will allow us to offer not just another generic Classics PhD, but a degree with unique opportunities that will draw students from around North America and beyond.

Ancient History: Students in this track will study especially with our department's two ancient historians (Karen Acton and William Bubelis) and with colleagues in history such as Mark Pegg

and Daniel Bornstein. They will be able to take advantage of unique resources such as the John Max Wulffing coin collection and our department's collection of squeezes of ancient inscriptions. Requirements will include a course in historiographical theory and extensive research projects in ancient history.

Ancient Music: Students in this track will study ancient music with one of North America's few specialists in that topic (Tim Moore) and will also take courses in musicology and ethnomusicology, developing skills in comparative musicology essential for the study of ancient music.

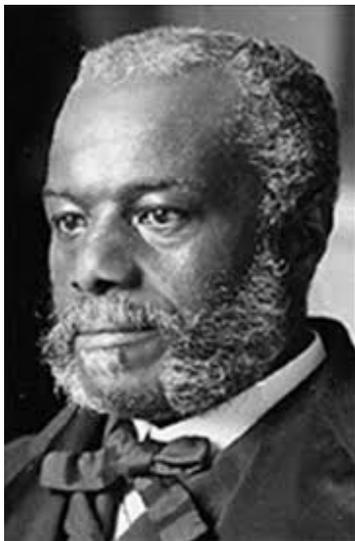
Ancient Performance: Joining the Classics Department's specialists in ancient theater (Cathy Keane and Tim Moore) in this track will be Rob Henke and Henry Schvey, colleagues in the Performing Arts Department with interests in pre-modern Western theatre. Students will

combine course work in Classics with courses in theatre and performance history and work in one or more theatrical productions.

Ancient Philosophy: Students in this track will work closely with faculty in Classics and with our colleagues in the Philosophy Department who specialize in ancient philosophy, Eric Brown and Fay Edwards. They will supplement their work in Classics with courses in other areas of philosophy.

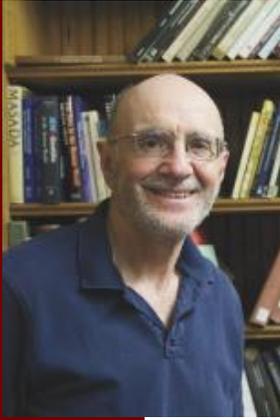
If you know of any potential students who might be interested in our new degree, please send them to our web site: <http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/graduate>.

Reading group on Classics and American Identities



William Sanders Scarborough, Professor of Classics and President of Wilberforce University (b.1852—d.1926)

One of the highlights of our department's intellectual life this year was a reading group on Classics and American Identities, organized by Cathy Keane and sponsored by Washington University's Center for the Humanities. Colleagues from the library and the administration joined Classics faculty, alumni and graduate students in discussing various aspects of the Classical Tradition in America, including traditions and changes in Classical education from the Colonial period to the present; the professionalization of the field in the 19th century; American identifications with the Classical world in politics, education, and mass culture; the reception of Classics in American literature; and American women and racial minorities and Classical education. In a session called "Where do we go from here?" we considered our own concerns and responsibilities as educators and the current debates about Classics and Humanities education. Along the way we read from some important works in the field such as Meyer Reinhold's *Classica Americana*, the Yale Report of 1828, the autobiography of African American Classicist William Sanders Scarborough, and some wonderful primary texts including old grammar school curricula and letters of Thomas Jefferson. We also had a thrilling session in Olin Library's Special Collections examining some of Thomas Jefferson's editions of ancient authors, which include his own marginalia in Greek.



Faculty feature: George Pepe

Last September George Pepe received Washington University's most prestigious teaching award: the David Hadas Teaching Award in Arts and Sciences. The award is presented annually to "one outstanding tenured faculty member in Arts and Sciences who demonstrates commitment and excellence in teaching first-year undergraduates." The award culminates an exceptional career of mentorship and service. After a childhood in the Bronx and education at Holy Cross, George Pepe joined the faculty at Washington University in 1965. Since then he has played a remarkable number of roles at the university, including advisor to minority students, chair of the Classics Department, co-founder and director of the Text and Tradition program, liaison with the Department of Education for Latin M.A.T. students, and mainstay of University College's Masters in Liberal Arts Program. For generations of students George's mentorship has been a formative influence. He has taught an amazingly wide range of

courses, including, nearly every semester, an overload and/or independent studies. From first-year Latin and freshman Text and Tradition courses through thesis defenses and graduate seminars, George's wit, broad humanism, and rigorous standards have been an essential foundation of the teaching mission of the Classics Department. With this joyful news comes sad news as well, at least for those of us who have come to depend upon Professor Pepe's service and companionship: George has announced that this fall will be his last semester of teaching. He will be on leave in spring 2015, after which he will retire. Keep your calendars open for Saturday, April 18, 2015, when we will be celebrating George's career with a big fest on campus (more details will be forthcoming later this year). The celebration will also be the kick-off for a campaign to start an Undergraduate Scholarship Fund in George's name.

Faculty News



Roshan Abraham

I spent the spring of 2013 taking care of my beautiful daughter Aiya, who is a joy and has many wonderful talents, though sleeping is not one of them. This was followed by my sabbatical, during which I continued working on my monograph on cultural memory in *The Life of Apollonius of Tyana*. I also wrote several articles for *The Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religion*, and had an article ("The Geography of Culture in *The Life of Apollonius of Tyana*") come out in *Classical Journal*. After three semesters away from the classroom, I can't wait to return to "active duty" this fall!



Karen Acton

My first year at Wash U has gone by so quickly! I've been teaching courses in Roman History and Latin, and I started a weekly Latin sight-reading group for students in the Classics graduate program. I've also been working on my own research, including a project about Ovid's representations of the imperial family, an article about Tacitus' treatment of kinship in the *Annals* and my book about the Year of Four Emperors.



William Bubelis

Most of the year was spent preparing a book manuscript for publication along with many documents for my tenure case; happily, in March we received the news that I was awarded tenure. Otherwise, I have been busy teaching some new as well as old courses, advising students, and preparing for new duties with respect to the John Max Wulfinf collection of ancient Greek and Roman coins.

Professor Bubelis was awarded a 2014 Outstanding Faculty award by the freshman class (2017) for the work he did in his freshman seminar, Power and Persuasion: The Courts and Laws of Ancient Athens.



Cathy Keane

Since returning from sabbatical in summer '13, I've had plenty on my plate, including: teaching lots of Latin and a freshman seminar on Nero, directing the MA program again, helping to design the new PhD, organizing our monthly Reading Group, and serving on a variety of committees. As the school year ends I am finally putting what I hope are the finishing touches on my book on Juvenal's Satires, and beginning a new little project on Lucilius.



Robert Lamberton

Bob Lamberton has been on leave of absence for the year with a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

After the appearance, before his departure, of his *Proclus the Successor on Poetics and the Homeric Poems: Essays 5 and 6 of his Commentary on the Republic of Plato* (a new text, translation, and commentary on a major work of late-antique poetics), he delivered several papers in Israel, including "Proclus and the Origins of Plato's Poetics" (Tel Aviv University), "The Invisible Adversary: Anti-Christian Polemic in Proclus' Commentary on the Republic of Plato" at a conference on ancient philosophy at The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and (in the conference offered by his study group at the Hebrew University) "The Beginnings of Philosophy of Religion and the Fate of Polytheism in the Late-antique Levant."

Since June, he has been in Athens, where he finished "Numenius, Cronius, and Porphyry on Homer" for the new *Blackwell's Companion to the Reception of Homer* and is working on several editing projects (including the section on reception, "Homer in the World" for the new *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Homer*).



Tim Moore

I've been singing for my supper, with musical lectures on Roman comedy at Toronto, Columbia, Wake Forest, Truman State, and the Illinois Classical Conference, and on Roman tragedy in Thessaloniki, Greece. Several of my publications appeared this year, including *Form und Bedeutung im lateinischen Drama / Form and Meaning in Latin Drama* (co-edited with Wolfgang Polleichtner), "Song in the Greek Classroom" (<http://tcl.camws.org/spring2013/moore.php>, complete with audio files), and my first official foray into American Musical Comedy, "Rodgers and Hart's 'The Boys from Syracuse': Shakespeare Made Plautine."



Ryan Platte

I am very pleased to have finished a book manuscript this year on horses in Greek oral poetry, as well as an article on an interesting Homeric epithet for Hades. I was also delighted to serve a second year as faculty adviser to our local chapter of Eta Sigma Phi. I taught courses on the *Iliad*, Greek Mythology, and Latin and Greek in Current English, and I took special pleasure in teaching Greek and Latin linguistics and prose composition to our graduate students in the fall.



Susan Rotroff

I was on leave for the academic year, dividing my time between Jerusalem and Athens, an exciting pair of cities! I took advantage of residence in Jerusalem to study a very unusual Greek rhyton in the collection of the Israel Museum. In Greece, aside from research visits to Arcadia and Euboea (and a side trip to Sardis in Turkey), I began a new project on the early history of red-figure vase painting. My book on the ritual pyres of the Athenian Agora appeared at the end of 2013 (*Industrial Religion*, *Hesperia* Supplement 47), completing a project begun in the 1990s!



Philip Purchase

Philip Purchase, lecturer in the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, has also been teaching courses regularly in Classics.

Highlights of my academic year included teaching the Women and Slaves course and Intensive Greek for Classics, and taking part in a conference on the poetry of Cavafy at UMSL. After a few weeks under the volcano in Mexico, I am now in England, working on an ongoing project on the presence of ancient landscape features in twentieth-century fiction, and preparing my upcoming course on madness in the ancient world.

Student News

Washington University Classics Club Celebrates its Inaugural Year

(by Kate Needham and Ethan Farber, co-leaders)

This year saw the formation of the Washington University Classics Club. The club is open to all Washington University students with an enthusiasm for Classics, regardless of their major. The group's stated purpose is to expand awareness of and enthusiasm for the Classics both on our campus and among local high school students by supporting the activities of local Junior Classical League chapters.

The year began with a short trip to Collinsville, IL for the Illinois Junior Classical League South convention, where club members judged the art competition and welcome skits, proctored academic exams, and ran Olympika events such as pool noodle javelin toss and the pita bread discus throw. Our major event was an overnight venture to Columbia, MO in February for the annual convention of the Missouri Junior Classical League. Our members ran the impromptu art contest and judged other creative events such as dramatic interpretation and modern myth composition. We also wrote and distributed the first ever MOJCL Convention Ear, a humorous newspaper based on the one produced by the National Senior Classical League at its annual convention. On the second day of the convention, we read questions and kept score during Certamen (Latin quiz bowl) matches, judged visual art and costume contest entries, and ran volleyball games.

Finally, in April we hosted a Latin and Classical history trivia contest in the last week of classes to celebrate Rome's birthday. Our plans for next year include expanding membership (especially outside of Classics majors), increasing on-campus programming, writing a constitution and registering as a chapter of the National Senior Classical League, and gaining full recognition as a Wash U student group through Student Union.



Eta Sigma Phi Reaches New Heights

(by Gracie Kroner, outgoing president)

Eta Sigma Phi had a very exciting year! We began the year with a Classics social to help introduce all our students and professors. Later in the year, we hosted a panel discussion on Roman art history with Professors Acton and Jones. In the spring, we again had a large number of new initiates- congratulations to our fourteen new members this year! Professor Pepe graciously spoke about the history of Classics at Wash U following the ceremony.

We finished the year with some collaboration with local schools. A few members presented stories from mythology at Forsyth School, while others did excerpts from Roman history at Brittany Woods Middle School. One of the most enjoyable activities was reading and judging the creation myth stories written by the students at Forsyth School- creativity was not lacking! We enjoyed expanding our role in the department and the community and look forward to more fun next year.

Undergraduate News

Visiting Assistant Professor **Caroline Bishop** organized another great year of Classics film and TV screenings in our conference room. Students and faculty watched the whole *I, Claudius* series, *Ben Hur*, *The Life of Brian*, and a few more comic and/or campy diversions.

2014 Ancient Studies graduate **Douglas Benowitz** has joined Black Rock in San Francisco to work in trading and liquidity strategies.

Junior Classics major **Warren Chan** studied this summer at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Jacob Emmett, who completed a Classics major this spring, has taken a position at Washington University's Kemper Art Museum.

Haley Flagg, who completed a Classics major this spring, has been chosen to deliver a paper entitled "Foreign Voices: Caesar's Use of 'Enemy' Speech in the 'Helvetii Campaign'" at next year's meeting of the Society for Classical Studies. This fall she will begin graduate study in archaeology at the University of Leicester in England.

Classics seniors **Jacob Emmett** and **Haley Flagg** shared their experiences at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome at a departmental lecture in September.

Washington University students again performed impressively in the national translation contests sponsored by Eta Sigma Phi. **Daniel Washelesky** placed first in this year's Intermediate Latin Translation Contest, and **Ethan Farber** earned an honorable mention in the same contest.

Davida Herschkopf (B.A., minor in Ancient Studies, 2014) received this year's *Edward Weltin Award for Excellence in the Study of Ancient History* from the Classics Department.

2014 Classics graduate **Gracie Kroner** will begin a PhD program in Biological Chemistry at the University of Michigan this fall. Gracie received this year's *Eugene Tavenner Prize for Excellence in the Study of Classics* from the Classics Department.

Classics major **Kate Needham** was one of only six students from across the United States and Canada to be awarded a prestigious *Manson A. Stewart Scholarship* from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South.

Classics Majors **Katelyn Petrin** and **Sarah Pritchard** were awarded *Merle Kling Fellowships*. Kling Fellows conduct their own research projects.

Classics student **Daniel Washelesky** won this year's First Year Reading Group Essay Contest. All incoming Washington University students read Eula Biss's *Notes from No Man's Land* over the summer and discussed it in groups when they arrived on campus. All interested students were encouraged to write an essay in response to Biss's work. Daniel's essay, a moving and insightful piece entitled "Essence," can be found at (<http://fyrp.wustl.edu/contest/>).

Graduate Student News

MA student **Hannah Decker** has accepted a position teaching Latin at St. Joseph's Academy in St. Louis.

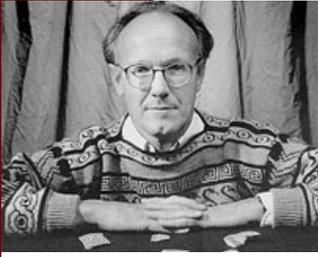
2014 MA graduate **Daphne McWilliams** will begin a PhD in Classics at the University of California at Irvine this fall.

Bryan Y. Norton, S.J., who received his MA in Classics from Washington University this spring, is now a visiting instructor in the Classics Department at Xavier, the Jesuit University in Cincinnati, OH. Bryan was also recently had his article "Shades of Postmortem Personal Identity. ψυχή και εἶδωλον in the Dream Passage" published in the German journal *Frankfurter elektronische Rundschau zur Altertumskunde* 22 (2013).

MA student **Vergil Parson** spoke on "The Erotic Other and its Importance in (Late) Platonic Thought" at the annual graduate symposium sponsored by Washington University's Program in Comparative Literature.

M.A. student **Joshua Zacks** attended the 2014 summer session of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Visitors



John Camp

Many stimulating visitors passed through our campus this year. Lecturers, many co-sponsored with other departments, included Wash. U. Classics alumnus James Rives, now Kenan Eminent Professor of Classics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; John C. Franklin of the University of Vermont; Elizabeth Clark of Duke; Charles Platter of the University of Georgia; Paul Scotton of California State University, Long Beach; Francesco de Angelis of Columbia; John Lombardini of William and Mary; and Margaret Malumud of New Mexico State University. The department also joined the Department of Music in hosting the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus for a concert of Latin poems set to music.

The highlight of the year was the twenty-fifth annual Biggs Residency in Classics sponsored by John and Penelope Biggs. This year's resident was John Camp, Niarchos Professor of Classics at Randolph Macon College and Director of the Agora Excavations of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Though he had suffered a heart attack just over a month before his visit to St. Louis, Professor Camp showed boundless energy and regaled us with lectures on recent excavations in the Agora, Roman Athens, and a fascinating collection of images of Greek ruins made in the early nineteenth century. A number of experienced "Biggs Week" aficionados claimed this year's residency was the "best ever."

We also enjoyed the contributions of three visitors with longer stays...



Caroline Bishop

Caroline Bishop completed this year a three-year term as Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics. We are all sorry to see her go, as she made contributions to our department well beyond those normally expected of visiting faculty. Here are some of her thoughts on her time here:

It has been such a delight to spend the last three years at Wash U for a lot of reasons, but especially because it's meant spending time with a great group of students who truly share my love of the ancient world (and maybe even Cicero, though that is up for debate). In my time here, I have gotten to sample classical food, help out with complicated classical scavenger hunts, and, best of all, spend most Wednesdays watching classical TV shows and films with a great group of students. All of this speaks so well to the passion and energy that Wash U students have for ancient Greece and Rome, and I have been lucky to get to experience it. I will miss you all, but I'll be right down the road in Indiana, so be careful not to say anything nasty about Cicero too loud!



Jessica Paga

Jessica Paga of the College of William and Mary completed her first of two years as a fellow in Washington University's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Program in the Humanities & Social Sciences. Though she is officially associated with the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, Jess has been teaching classes for us, and we have claimed her as our own. Here she reports on her experiences:

I'm a Classical archaeologist, focusing primarily on Archaic and Classical Greek architecture. In particular, I'm interested in the relationship between architecture and politics. Right now, my research is centered on the origins of Athenian democracy and the concurrent changes in the built environment – what had to change for the polis to become a democracy, what new buildings and spaces are required in a democracy, how can certain types of structures facilitate the democratic process? I'm also a senior archaeologist at the Sanctuary of the Great Gods on the island of Samothrace, where I'm working on recalibrating the building chronology of the central sanctuary.

St. Louis is a great city for architecture! Since moving here last summer, I've been delighted by the brick architecture, curious city layout, art deco façades, and unique neighborhoods. Being in the city has even helped my research by forcing me to think about more contemporary problems of democracy and urban space. I'm excited to explore the city even more in my second year.



Ferdinand Stürner

Ferdinand Stürner found our department and St. Louis so much to his liking that he asked for and received a 6-month extension of his Fyodor Lynen Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to continue his work here on Silius Italicus. He returned to his home in Würzburg, Germany in March. Here he shares some of his experiences:

Sometimes, in the midst of a project, we realize that we need more time and a new, inspiring environment to accomplish what we have set our minds on. When this happened to me in late 2011, I was very lucky to be invited by Timothy Moore to work with him as a guest scholar, supported by the German Humboldt Foundation. Thus, I arrived at WashU in the fall of 2012 – accompanied by my wife Stefanie and Silius Italicus, the author I am currently working on. By carefully examining epic elements in Silius' *Punica*, I hope to clarify the poem's complex interdependence of form and meaning. My project benefited greatly from the highly inspiring working atmosphere at the Classics Department. I am most grateful to my colleagues not only for their helpful suggestions on my work, but also for their tireless support with the usual everyday troubles faced by a scholar in a foreign country. Thanks are also due for the unique occasion to discuss central ideas of my work with WashU students in a course on "Flavian Epic" and with colleagues during a congress on Silius Italicus organized by the Classics Department. Last but not least: the city of St. Louis provided to me an attractive working environment with just enough and not too much distraction.

When I left WashU in the spring of this year, I did so with an aching heart. But fortunately, a farewell is rarely definite in our cosmopolitan times. There will be many occasions for future exchange and future encounters – be it in St. Louis or in Germany.

Alumni News



Annie Treutzell (M.A., 2012)

I just finished my third year as a PhD student at Princeton University. This year I successfully completed my general exams and defended my dissertation proposal. Now, it's full steam ahead on my project on Roman women during the Second Punic War; I aim both to reconstruct Roman women's experiences of the war and to consider the ways that their wartime roles affected Roman views of the position of women in society. This summer will also be my second season working at the American Excavations at Morgantina in Sicily, where I assist in processing finds and managing the project database.

My time at WashU has been invaluable to my professional development to this point. It not only allowed me to brush up on my language skills after time away from the field, but also provided opportunities to teach, prepare for comprehensive exams, and complete a large-scale thesis project. All of these experiences, together with the support of the faculty and my fellow classmates, prepared me extremely well for the challenges of a PhD program. I now look back on my two years at WashU as an eminently rewarding experience, from both a personal and a professional perspective.

Katherine Langdon (B.A., 2010)

Katherine will earn her MA in art conservation this September from SUNY Buffalo State. After graduation she will move to Urbana, IL, with her fiancé, James Stevens (WashU BS '10, MS '11); they will be married in Graham Chapel in May 2015.

Although I initially pursued a career in classical archaeology, I entered the field of conservation because it offered the opportunity for close interaction with artifacts and a platform from which to advocate for cultural heritage. In order to be qualified for the masters program at Buffalo State, I interned at the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and I took the equivalent of a triple minor of courses in chemistry, studio art, and art history.

For the first two years of school we are trained in everything from microscopy to multispectral imaging and learn the

history, technology, working properties, and degradation of all the major art media, all to prepare us for materials analysis and informed decision-making during treatment. We learn preventive conservation and choose our major, which becomes our professional specialization. I opted for art and objects with a focus on archaeological material. Our program also requires us to spend up to 18 months of our time as interns.

I have worked with Central American archaeological ceramics at the National Museum of the American Indian, treated finds at the NYU excavation at Selinunte, Sicily, and volunteered at the Cahokia Mounds excavations under WUSTL's own Dr. John Kelly (Anthropology). Since last September I have worked in the Objects Conservation lab at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, assessing and treating art for exhibition

Sarah Brophy (B.A., 2008), was married on July 19th in Bloomington, Indiana to David Marks (WashU B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 2008). The two honeymooned for two weeks in Rome.

Carol Epstein, who received a B.S. from University College in 2008 with a minor in Classics, has received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Washington University's College of Arts & Sciences

Nick May (B.A. in Classics, 2011) has accepted a full-time position with Six Row Brewing Company.

Zellie McClelland, PhD in Art History and Archaeology and Classics, 2013, has been appointed an assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at Washington University.

Pete Tontillo (B.A., 2012)

I liked studying Classics because I liked studying words. Not only was getting to read some of the best poetry, prose, and rhetoric of the ancient world a great pleasure but, in guiding me to new interests in linguistics and African Studies, it helped me see how perspicacious writing and argumentation never loses its relevance or power.

Since graduation I've gone on to work as a teacher in China and as a Fulbright scholar in Kenya. Transcribing speeches for my research on Kenyan political communication, I found myself calling

on the analytical and exegetical skills I honed poring through fragmentary poetry for my honors thesis.

In the fall I'm beginning a master's program in Linguistics at Georgetown University and will be building on the ideas of meaning, intertextuality, and identity construction I explored with Professor Keane during my senior year. My time spent in the Classics Department helped me develop these interests and explore the full range of their possibilities and applications, and the skills I learned there have stood me in good stead.

Catherine ("Cat") Karayan Wilbur (B.A., 2008)

Cat has just started practicing complex trusts & estates at Ambrecht & Associates, a boutique law firm in Santa Barbara, California. Prior to joining the firm, she clerked for Judge Kathleen Kerrigan at the United States Tax Court. Cat and her husband, Gregory Wilbur, just celebrated their one-year anniversary. Cat first knew Greg was the one when she saw his tattoos in ancient Greek and Latin. They were married in Cat's hometown, Pasadena, California, in May 2013. Naturally, Sarah Brophy ('08) was the maid of honor, and one of the readings at the wedding was Pompeian graffiti (albeit, read in English).

When I started at Wash U in 2004, I knew two things: (1) I wanted to major in Classics, and (2) I wanted to be a lawyer. It was hardly a surprise, then, that I found myself applying to law schools during my Senior year. I wrote my personal statement about the archaeological dig I went on the summer before my Junior year (during which I experienced first-hand Greece's attempts to protect its cultural property), and I discussed the close analytical skills and writing skills that were fostered by my Classical studies.

Law schools loved that I majored in Classics. I was even recruited by a top 10 law school explicitly because of my Classics major (the head of admissions wrote: "We *love* classics majors" on the letter). And all for good reason. I like to say that all roads lead to law school -- but some roads are better than others. Classics is one of those roads. As a lawyer, I need to be able to sift through complex language and translate it into plain English for my clients. I need to be able to express myself coherently while I argue why one line of reasoning is correct and another is incorrect. I need to be able to research effectively, using modern and sometimes somewhat archaic cases, regulations, and statutes. I also need to write well. Without a doubt, I learned all of these skills while majoring in Classics at Wash U.

The benefits of majoring in Classics are multifold when you're a tax lawyer. The Tax Code is basically written in a foreign language: Congress often packs a lot of meaning into one sentence that looks simple enough. I translate every day!

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 (see contact information on last page).

2014 Graduates



Top Row:

Hannah Decker (M.A.), Bryan Norton (M.A.), Daphne McWilliams (M.A.), Abby Dommer (B.A.), Grace Kroner (B.A.), Jacob Emmet (B.A.), Haley Flagg (B.A.)

Second Row:

Spencer Hobson (B.A) and Family, Davida Herschkopf (B.A) and Family, Doug Benowitz (B.A.) and Family

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>

Our Mailing Address Is:

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“Like” us on Facebook:



Giving to Classics

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