



# KU CLASSICS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLASSICS DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

www2.ku.edu/~classics • Issue 5 • Fall 2011

## FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Friends,  
Colleagues, Students,  
and Former Students,

Let me begin by thanking so many of you for your generous contributions to the Oliver C. Phillips Fund, which will support the teaching of Latin in high schools across the country. I am pleased to report that we now have 25 donors and over \$45,000. For those of you who have not yet given, we have included instructions on page 4. Gifts of all sizes are welcome.

This year the Classics Department is honored to host—for the third year in a row—a Keeler Family Intra-University Professor. The Keeler is a faculty development program that relieves KU faculty members of teaching obligations in their home departments, allowing them to study elsewhere at KU for a semester. This year our visitor is Chuck Marsh from Journalism, who is studying Greek with Stan Lombardo. Chuck's current research specialty is the application of Greek rhetoric to modern public relations and advertising. Last year's recipient was Bruce Hayes (French and Italian) who studied Latin in support of his research on satire of the French Renaissance. The year before, we hosted Christopher Forth (Humanities & Western Civilization and History), who wrote chapters for his book on the cultural history of body fat in the West, in particular in Greece and Rome.

Please send us your news, particularly if we have not yet heard from you. Please write to any faculty you ordinarily stay in touch with, or to Stan Lombardo (lombardo@ku.edu).

With best wishes,  
Pamela Gordon



**Matt Steinle**

## Gournia Project

Over the summer, 2011, John Younger was invited to participate in the new excavations of Gournia, the Late Minoan village site in east Crete; the excavations are directed by L. Vance Watrous of the University of Buffalo. Watrous also invited John to bring four KU

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# Gournia Project

(continued from page one)



**John Younger**

students and alums; those chosen were undergraduate Matthew Steinle, graduate student Chris King, and two recent graduates, Tamara Browning and Wendy Huggins.

Gournia was originally dug by Harriet Boyd in 1901-1903, using her graduate fellowship money at the University of Pennsylvania. True to her pioneering spirit, she excavated what turned out to be the only Late Minoan village site on Crete, the only one to be “fully” excavated, and the only one to be fully published. We found evidence of her work everywhere: dumps of excavated material here and there that we had to excavate through, a glass bottle at the bottom of a trench we thought she hadn’t gotten to, and ideas of hers that turned out to be totally correct though at the time she didn’t have the evidence for them yet. She was so pervasive, we just talked about “Harriet” as if she were standing right there.

The digging season was long, June 20 to August 1. We all stayed in the nearby village of Pacheia Ammos, housed in various hotels and the “villas” of private citizens. The village itself was small with a “select” assortment of “tavernas” (= 6) and internet cafes all looking on a broad beach (good swimming at the western end). Here we spent our evenings, socializing, staring out to sea, taking long hours deciding which taverna we were going to eat at, and walking up and down the beach.

High on the hill above us is the modern East Cretan Study Center, an archaeological institute for the many American excavations in east Crete. It houses a library, a conservation laboratory, and various processing areas — here we washed and sorted pottery in the afternoons, went to a couple of lectures by distinguished visitors, and had good access to the internet, a kitchen, and (!) laundry machines.

Our days were long. Monday through Friday, we were out at the site of Gournia by 7 am, had a late breakfast at 11 (with a short rest at 9), packed up our tools at 1:30, and left at 2. There was then pottery washing and other chores in the late afternoon (preceded by lunch and a nap). Saturdays we got off work at noon.

We could then spend the rest of Saturday and all Sunday exploring the eastern half of Crete in a car we were able to rent, thanks to the generosity of a KU donor. So, we visited other major Minoan palace sites like Knossos one weekend, Phaistos and Ayia Triada another, and Zakros and Palaikastro a third, and explored other interesting areas like various monasteries in the hills, the Lasithi plateau, and the nearby towns of Hierapetra and Ayios Nikolaos.

At the site, the KU students were dispersed to various areas under the supervision of other trench masters. Chris worked in many areas, exploring old tombs and places in the palace atop the hill that had been only partially excavated; Wendy worked in a highly interesting area the produced lots of pottery and dumps from various industries; Matt excavated in the Mycenaean megaron at the south edge of the settlement and found some painted wall plaster and a fired,



Left to right: **Wendy Huggins, Chris King, Tami Browning**

bureaucratic document impressed by a fine sealstone; Tami labored intensely in an area we nicknamed “Thunderdome” because of the multiplicity of its walls, pavements, floors, and finds (including the only piece of gold EVER found at the site!).

John supervised a trench at the north edge of the site that produced an impressive rectangular building dating 3700 years ago (Middle Minoan II, Protopalatial), with a cobbled court and a “yard” to the west with a vat and several basins as installations for an industry, perhaps pottery making. The buildings were not used for long: two floors each with cups and various vessels strewn across them testified to two earthquake destructions, after which the area was abandoned, never to be built on again.

Since finding a building of this date was precisely the goal of Watrous’s excavation permit, the excavation will continue for at least one further season, possibly more—and Younger has already been invited back, along with more KU students. Stay tuned! ●

—John Younger:

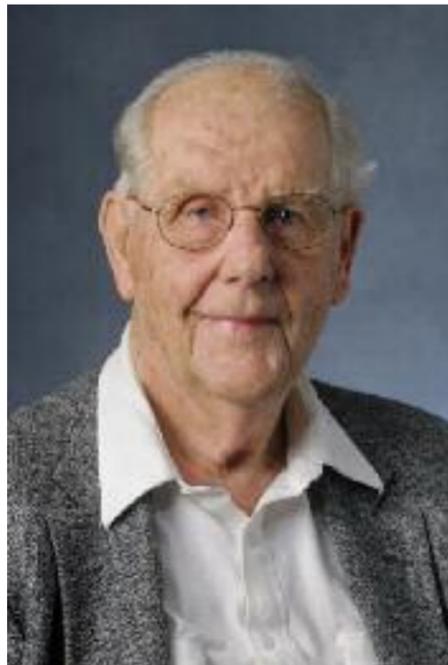


## Kansas Junior Classical League

On April 30, 2011, fifteen Jayhawk classicists dressed in ancient style (as Roman senators, centurions, Bacchantes, or korai) attended the annual convention of the Kansas Junior Classical League at Blue Valley High School in Olathe. What a treat! After the opening ceremonies featuring spirit skits performed by each school's Latin club, we visited various competitions and helped judge budding Classicists in Latin oratory, Latin sight reading, Certamen (a quiz bowl for Latin grammar and ancient culture), Costume, Artwork, and Club of the Year. We finished the evening with a buffet dinner. In addition to the delights on the program, we saw many friends at the festivities, including alumni Brett Martin and Jason Lichte. Some of our current students were also able to reconnect with their high school teachers. The KJCL has invited us back for next year, and we couldn't be more grateful. If any alumni would like to join us, we'll provide the togas. ●

## Phil Stinson's Afghanistan Project

In September Phil spoke about his new research on the traditional, and endangered, water systems of Afghanistan at the Combatant Command Historical/Cultural Advisory Group (CCHCAG) Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. Phil represented findings produced by a new KU research group designated as WALC (Water, Archaeology, Landscapes, and Culture), which is externally funded by grants awarded to KU by the U.S. Army Research Office, and is composed of faculty in Classics, Anthropology, Geography and Geology. Classics graduate students Anne Leon, Holly Murphy, Kirk Bray and Matt Naglak are also participating in the project. WALC integrates research in water-related science, landscape interpretation and archaeology to understand traditional water-supply systems. Phil's presentation introduced WALC research activities to a rapidly growing audience—academics, representatives from the State Department and other governmental branches, the military, as well as potential future funding agencies—interested in the subject of water, cultural heritage and environmental security. Phil considers this work “a good cause” and a professional duty to the archaeological community. ●



## In Memoriam: James Seaver

A long-time friend of the Classics Department. James Seaver died last spring. Professor Emeritus of History, Jim was a Roman historian with a deep knowledge of ancient numismatics. He always had an interesting coin in his pocket to show you, and a story to go with it. He provided classics majors with courses on Greek history, and in this aspect has never been replaced. He was closely associated with the Western Civilization program, in which a number of us taught either Western Civilization or Masterpieces of World Literature. His long association with opera made humanities visible to the general public, through his long-running and popular radio program. This was an outreach activity that greatly benefitted all the humanities. ●



## Latin Advance Placement Exam Dinner

On a beautiful evening in early June the Classics faculty hosted forty Latinists from around the country to a dinner in the Vinland countryside. These Latinists were finishing up a difficult week's work grading all the Latin AP exams. Prof. Scioli coordinated the event, arranging for a chartered bus to bring them out to Vinland. The evening was otherworldly, from the sight of the bus cresting the hill of the gravel driveway, to the humble charm of grilled burgers/veggie burgers.

Best of all was the feeling of camaraderie among people who love teaching about the ancient world. Among the friends old and new in attendance were Jane Crawford (University of Virginia), who had been a teacher and friend of Profs. Scioli and Welch; Chris Francese (Dickinson College), former professor of our current graduate student Kristin Fanciullacci; Madeleine Henry (Iowa State), wearing a KU Classics T-shirt she got when she came to give a talk here on Aspasia; Patrick Gomez (The Buckley School), grad school friend of Profs. Scioli and Welch; Bob Cape, a Ciceronian and friend of Prof. Corbeil; Doug Domingo-Foraste (Cal State Long Beach), a colleague of Prof. Scioli at the Centro in Rome; and Eric Casey (Sweetbriar College), whom Prof. Scioli had met at a CAMWS conference years ago. ●



## Oliver Phillips Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund has been developed in remembrance of Professor Phillips, with awards going to prospective Latin teachers.

For more information, please view:

<http://www.kuendowment.org/depts/classics/phillips>

# Faculty News



**PAM GORDON:** I had a great time with the Honors version of Greek and Roman Mythology that enrolled one dozen students last spring, and now I am again teaching the 500-student class. The Honors students were intrigued by my clips of Jules Dassin's *Pbaedra* (1962, with Melina Mercouri), in which Hippolytus has a passion not for horses, but for race cars. I am not sure how it will go over in the large class, but I think that all undergraduates should be introduced to international film. As for research: This fall I am giving a paper in San Francisco on the *Sentences of Sextus*, a collection of early Christian maxims that draw on Pythagorean sayings. The collection survives in Greek, Latin, Coptic, and several other ancient languages. My interest is in the female readers of this text, and in the tensions between Christianity and the "pagan" classical tradition during the Roman empire. While working on this project I learned that Jerome (5th century CE) once had a waking nightmare in which he tried to get into heaven but the gatekeeper said "You are not a Christian but a Ciceronian." My article on Epicurus and Epicureanism is soon to appear in the *Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (Wiley-Blackwell), and my book *The Invention and Gendering of Epicurus* is in production at University of Michigan Press.

**STAN LOMBARDO:** After many years of not doing it I returned last fall to teaching elementary Greek and was rewarded with a wonderful group of students. Memorable also was a graduate seminar on Penelope in the spring. I continue working to complete a translation of Dante's *Commedia*, struggling to the top of Mount Purgatory at the end of the summer and launching myself up into Paradiso, these efforts considerably enhanced by Thursday morning "Dante Club" sessions with Dee Johnson and Anne Shaw.

**TONY CORBEILL:** A particular highlight of the past year was being invited to participate in the Cambridge University Triennial ("Festival of Classics"), where I gave a presentation with the foreboding title "Grammatical gender and Roman conceptions of poets, gods, and

the more-than-human." That talk should be a book some time in the coming decade. Among forthcoming publications are the introductory essay to the *Cambridge Companion to Cicero* (in which I hope that KU makes a surprise cameo appearance) and one on Julius Caesar's sense of humor for the *Cambridge Companion to Caesar* (which I hope to be more than one paragraph. Ideas welcome). Physical exercise was obtained by walking 130 miles along Offa's Dyke, an eighth-century earthwork fortification that constitutes (more or less) the modern border between England and Wales.

**MICHAEL SHAW:** A high point of my teaching year was reading the entire *Agamemnon of Aeschylus* with the graduate students. Another highpoint was the completion in May of 2010 of Katrina Bondari's PhD dissertation, *The Power of Space: the Acropolis, the Theatre of Dionysos, and Tragedy in the 5th Century BCE*. I was joint chair of the dissertation committee with Dennis Christilles of the drama department.

In April of 2011 I presented a paper at a classics convention titled "Psyche in Sophocles" which is part of a larger project about Sophocles' characters and contemporary work in Greek ethics. I also keep up my interest in contemporary versions of Greek drama: I am

working on an endlessly expanding essay about the contemporary playwright Mac Wellman, who once called himself "a demonic Heraclitan," and in January I provided notes to Big Dance Theater in New York at a rehearsal of their production of Anne Carson's translation of *Alcestris*, which opens in November at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

In late October, Anne and I are looking forward to hearing a paper on music in contemporary productions of Greek tragedy delivered by our daughter Jane, a sound designer, at a conference at the University of Iowa titled "Recreation: Musical Reception of Classical Antiquity."

**EMMA SCIOLI:** After a fruitful semester spent contemplating and writing at the Hall Center for the Humanities in Fall 2010, I returned to teaching in Spring 2011 with two new courses. I enjoyed reading Vergil's *Aeneid* with a group of fourth-semester Latin students meeting Vergil for the first time, and wandering through the world of Greek mythology with a group of Honors students, like a crew of Argonauts discovering new wonders at each turn. A high point of the myth course was our focused study of the character of

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**Phil** shown here on a very hot day in July talking about his ongoing research on the Civil Basilica at Aphrodisias—on site—to a group of attentive visitors from the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin.



## Fresco Fragments in the Wilcox Museum

For **JOHN YOUNGER'S** Material Culture class this Spring, Wendy Huggins (CLSX BA 08?) made a new study of most of the fresco fragments in the Wilcox.

<http://www2.ku.edu/~wilcox/exhibits/frescoes/>

For this study she "painted" the fragments with acetone which allowed for a clearer appreciation of their motifs for a few seconds during which they could be photographed. Then the acetone evaporated and the fragments became dull again.

For most of the fragments, this procedure allowed us to see (though briefly) their recognizable patterns more vividly. But the large fragment on display, bearing Cupid, came out stunningly. This is N.257 – which appears in a small photo at the top of the website with a link to a larger photo farther down the page, s.n. N.257.

A real kicker was revealed by previously ignored and uncatalogued fragments N.608, N.610, and N.611, which caught my attention when I was making a complete inventory of the Wilcox collection during the summers of 2009 and 2010. I could see then that there were dragonfly-like wings and thought they might belong to Psyche (Nancy de Grummond identified the winged child in the penultimate panel of the Villa of the Mysteries as a Psyche because of those elongated wings). I was then imagining a procession or larger composition with Cupids and Psyche.

Imagine our complete surprise, though, when the wings turned out to belong to some child-like horned beast! We think the non-joining fragment N.610 may contain the wing of another beast.



Painting the fragments with acetone revealed that N.608 joins N.611 to depict a winged, horned beast (child?) hovering to left, en face. N.610 has part of the wing of another creature.

(more photos on page 6)

# Alumni/Alumnae News



## PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS

Whether your name appears in this issue or not, please send us your greetings, your comments, and your news for next year's issue. We will be happy to hear from you. E-mail your news to [classics-news@ku.edu](mailto:classics-news@ku.edu). Or write to: Newsletter Editor, Classics Department, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7590. Or use the link on the web version of this newsletter: <http://www2.ku.edu/~classics/newsletter.html>. Please also let us know if you would like us to list an address or URL along with your entry.

**Vanessa Cople**, BA 2010, is starting her third and final semester of graduate school at Indiana University in Bloomington this fall. She is a candidate for the M.A. program in Arts Administration from the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. This program includes a summer internship, so Vanessa spent the season in Atlanta, GA and traveled from there with the company Shimon Presents. Through their organization called the Work Exchange Team, she and a group of 15 interns coordinated approximately 3500 volunteers over the course of six outdoor music festivals across the country. It was a very good experience, and she is job hunting for more work with volunteer and/or festival coordination. As fun as Administration is, Vanessa dearly misses the faculty and courses at the KU Classics department.

**Susan Curry** (MA, 200x) is teaching in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of New Hampshire. In spring 2011 she gave two talks: "Tiberius the Goat: The Beastliness of Power in Suetonius' *De Vita Caesarum*" at CAMWS; and "Suetonius' *Menagerie: Animals and Emperors in the De Vita Caesarum*," at CANE. Sarah is working as a librarian at Daniel Webster College, and they are both enjoying the White Mountains, the ocean, and their vegetable plots in a community garden in Durham.

**Maybe we should have a note somewhere that decodes CANE and CAMWS, etc.**

**Tiffany Huggard-Lee**, MA 2011, Since graduation, I have spent much of my time in Joplin working with the ASPCA at the emergency animal shelter established after the devastating tornado. I spent 18 days working as the safety officer, supervising the health and welfare of 150 responders, and living out of the back of my truck. At the end of my time there I helped oversee the ASPCA's adoption event at the end of June where we found new homes for 739 displaced animals. In August I will be starting law school at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. I will miss KU Classics but I'm looking forward to starting a new educational endeavor.

**Brian Krob**, BA 1994, is an attorney in Chicago. In May he wrote: "I am finishing my second year in the Basic Program of Liberal Arts for Adults (a version of the Great Books program) at the University of Chicago. It has been wonderful to re-introduce myself to so many of the



**Tiffany Huggard-Lee** and Kain

things I read in the department at KU (although thankfully, none have been in Greek). My wife and I are off to Rome and Florence next week for a history tour (or more than history). We are very excited to do so, and I look forward to sitting on the Capitoline Hill, wondering how it all happened."

**Caitlin Rose**, BA Classical Languages 2009, I graduated in May from UMass-Amherst with an MAT in Latin and Classical Humanities. Then came the panic of trying to put that degree to use. Lucky for me there was a full time Latin position open in the Blue Valley School District, so I got to come back home! This semester I will be travelling between BVW and BVNW teaching Latin 1 and 2. I'm excited for my first semester and hopefully will be sending lots of bright Latin enthusiasts to the KU Classics department. Latin teaching has pretty much occupied my life for the past couple years and I have a feeling that will only intensify!

**Joe Schott**, BA Classics 1985, writes "After leaving KU and its cadre of motivational teachers—Stanley Lombardo, Mike Shaw, Betty Banks, and the esteemed Oliver Phillips—a trail of schools and degrees followed: First there was an MA in Classics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, followed by a PhD in Classics at the Ohio State University (it turns out that labor in Vergil's *Georgics* isn't all that "good" after all—pace readers of old—but

more the cycle of life, death, birth, and decay). In the midst of that a summer at the American School in Athens was a thing to remember, as well as an opportunity to see Betty outside of Lawrence. A couple years teaching at Ohio University in Athens preceded an MEd in Foreign Language Instruction, also at OSU. It was then that at last I fled the lands east of the Mississippi and returned west with my wife, Lisa, and son, Brian. For three years I taught Latin and Mythology in North Platte, Nebraska, (don't knock it until you've tried it). We added a daughter to the mix, Abigail Kalliope, and soon moved to Colorado, where we've been for 10 years. Lisa is a teacher-librarian, and I teach Latin and sometimes Mythology to high schoolers. It's here that some of the gems from my time at KU come into play: Throwing things at distracted students (Stanley), chanting seemingly meaningless syllables ("o s t mus tis nt") that turn out to be meaningful after all (Betty), daring to toss students into things way over their heads to make them swim (Mike), and starting classes with snippets of real Latin, which brings in valid materials, gets the brain working, and puts language to real use (Oliver). A few years back the district approved my ancient Greek class, which allows me to stay up-to-date on passive aorist optatives on work time. Duties as chairman of the Foreign Language Department keep me busy, as has service to the Teachers' Association, whose contract I helped negotiate this spring (a minor investment of 180+ hours!). Vintage-auto restoration, cycling, cyclo-touring, and now building bicycles provide plenty of distraction (sometimes a guy needs that), and this summer as celebrant I performed my first wedding; it was for my brother. You'll have to check the internet for reviews. The near future threatens to look a lot like the recent past, but with cycling in the Netherlands this time, rather than from Colorado to, then across, Iowa, which I did last year. Beyond that? Perhaps another return to Hawaii, maybe Australia, or some place not yet on the radar, but we'll be traveling somewhere."

**Brian Walters**, M.A. in 2003, writes "Since receiving my M.A. in 2003, I've lived in Kansas, England and Kansas again, worked in Sicily, taught in Southern Italy, lost myself and found myself in Rome on multiple occasions, and studied Classics for years at UCLA. At the end of the spring I finished my Ph.D. and at the end of June left LA with my cat, trained goldfish, and wife-to-be in tow. In July, Julie mar-

ried me and, thus, my wife-to-be became my wife. My goldfish is no longer trained and is the size of a whale. My cat never was trained and is approaching whale-like proportions. Together we lived an idyllic life among the redwoods this summer, picking berries, avoiding bears, and making jars and jars of jam. In September we moved to Eugene, Oregon, where I currently have a job as Visiting Assistant Professor. We live in a wonderful little pink house. Julie quilts. Our cat sleeps. Our fish swims. I translate Lucan when I have the chance. I work on articles and poems and a book when not translating Lucan. I'm teaching. I'm reading. I'm in love. I'm having the time of my life."

**WE ARE ALSO PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:**

**Stuart Roberts**, Classics major and Latin student, was named the first Sanders Library Scholar at KU, a scholarship established by long-time friend of the department Bill Crowe and his late wife Nancy Sanders. He now works with a mentor at the libraries to explore the facets of librarianship.

**Loren Cressler**, BA 2011, won a prestigious Fulbright Award to study literature in Germany.

**Holly Murphy**, MA candidate, Spring 2012, was selected to present a paper at the Midwest Classics Graduate Colloquium in Columbia, MO. Her paper on friendship in Horace and Juvenal was well received.

**Rachel Cunning**, candidate for the BEd and BA in Latin, Spring 2012, gave a presentation on Valerius Maximus in the Spencer Research Library that explored early texts, spurious biographies of the Roman author, and early ideas about intellectual property. ●





Page 1 nameplate:  
The mysterious armed pig  
from the Wilcox Collection  
KU University Relations