

UCLA Department of Classics

Greetings from the Chair



Dear Friends of Classics

It scarcely seems possible that the year has flown by and that the summer has arrived. Recently at graduation I had the privilege of serving as Faculty Marshal for the splendid graduation ceremony in Royce Hall with which so many of you will be familiar. I was very proud to see the jubilant faces of our majors as they crossed the stage. I was equally proud earlier, when we honored graduating majors and minors and acknowledged the support of their friends and family at the departmental reception in the Shapiro Courtyard. At this reception we also made presentations of the Caldwell Awards and, unusually a Palevsky award (more about these award winners in our Fall/Winter newsletter). It has been a happy time in the graduate program as well, with five students receiving their MA degrees and two their PhDs. I'm pleased to report that both PhDs have academic positions for next year:

Kristie Mann at Washington University in St Louis, and Alex Lessie here at UCLA. Craig Russell, who taught the last two years at Amherst College has now won a tenure-track appointment at the University of Oklahoma. Congratulations to all! As I wrote last time, we want to find out about all your news and accomplishments, so do remember to send either me [kmorgan@humnet.ucla.edu] or Tanya Kim [tkim@humnet.ucla.edu] updates about what's been going on in your life.

I want to spend the rest of my allotted space in this issue telling you more about one of the major challenges facing the department and for which I want to ask for your help. I've written previously about our two important fundraising goals for the current Centennial Campaign: first to create a new seminar room that will accommodate graduate seminars, undergraduate classes, and events with visiting speakers, and second to create an endowment for a Graduate Student Fellowship. Today I want to focus on the seminar room. I've spent a lot of time over the past months reviewing architectural drawings and plans, and visiting various seminar spaces on campus. We have decided to take the plunge and have scheduled construction to start in August once the plans are approved. This has been something of a leap of faith; the costs will probably top \$90,000 once we include IT cabling, audio-visual equipment, and furniture.

To cover these costs without reducing student support we will need your help. Conversations I have had with various alumni convince me that the support is there. Now is the time to act. I have included on the next page an architect's impression of what this new space would look like. I hope you find it as inspiring as I do: Note the windows that will shed the light of day on our seminars for the first time in many years. Note the up-to-date screen that will improve the environment for all sorts of presentations, as well as enabling tele-conferencing for graduate exams and interviews. This will be both a flexible and a warm and welcoming space. I really mean it when I say that no gift is too small—we will remember you every time we start a new quarter or hold a public lecture. If you are interested in helping us with this "great leap forward," please contact Jillian Fontaine at (310) 206-4383 or jfontaine@support.ucla.edu.

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Department News

Greetings from the Chair (continued)

I will end this letter by wishing you a productive and a happy summer. For those of us on the faculty it is a time for catching up on research and redoubling our efforts to shepherd long-term student projects to completion; for those of you outside academia there will probably be less of a change of pace. But for all of us I wish peace and prosperity. As Callimachus says at the end of his *Hymn to Zeus*: “Give us excellence and plenty. Without excellence, prosperity does not know how to strengthen mankind—nor does excellence without plenty. Give us excellence and prosperity.”

Kathryn Morgan



Architect's impression of the new Classics Department seminar room



From Epicurus to XPCT

Professor David Blank

This year the Herculaneum Papyri, hard to read rolls carbonized by Vesuvius in 79 CE, containing texts of Epicurean philosophy and often neglected since their discovery in 1752-54, made the news worldwide. A carbonized papyrus roll from Herculaneum given to Napoleon in 1807 was taken to the powerful synchrotron in Grenoble, where a team based in Naples and Paris was able to read two words, ΠΙΠΤΟΙΕ ('would fall') and ΕΙΠΟΙ ('would say'), inside the roll without opening—and inevitably damaging—it. They used a technique called 'X-Ray Phase Contrast Tomography' which took advantage of the fact that ink floats on the surface of the papyrus fibers. This creates a change of phase between the two that allows the ink to be visualized against the background, once an algorithm is applied to produce a virtually flat image of an individual surface within the tightly-wound roll. Given the characteristics of the handwriting the researchers found in this roll, it is clear that the text is by the first-century Epicurean Philodemus.

I've been in Naples this year reading Philodemus' books on 'Flattery' and 'Rhetoric'. During the excitement of the official announcement of the experiment's success, I was able to explain to various interviewers the history of work on the papyri and the prospects for the future. When first discovered, the rolls were cut open and largely destroyed. Later, many were unrolled and read by scholars, first, sitting by a sunlit window hoping that no wind would blow the text away, then from 1971, with binocular microscopes, and from 2000 with multispectral digital images. Soon these ancient atomist texts will be read with the help of the latest atomic physics.

For more, see: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/ancient-scrolls-blackened-vesuvius-are-readable-last-herculaneum-papyri-180953950/?no-ist>

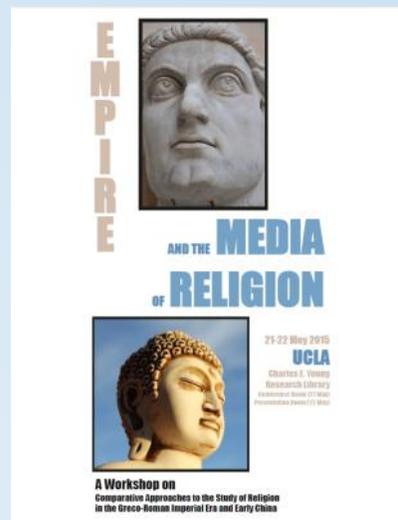
Department News

Exchanges with China

Professor Robert Gurval

All roads lead to Rome. But more recently since my year as a Fulbright Scholar at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2010-11, I have been a frequent visitor to mainland China on the lecture circuit and in the classroom. Last year as Department Chair, I inaugurated a faculty exchange in the Humanities between UCLA and Fudan University in Shanghai. I taught a four-week intensive seminar on Ancient Biography to an enthusiastic group of students in World History. One undergraduate auditor has already declared an interest in graduate school in Classics! I have also received a three-year grant from the UCLA Asia Institute and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to facilitate comparative approaches to the study of religion in the Greco-Roman Imperial Era and Early China.

On May 21 and 22 of this year, my UCLA collaborator, Professor Carol Bakhos, Director of the Center for the Study of Religion, and I organized a workshop for graduate students and junior scholars on the theme of Empire and the Media of Religion. Held at the Charles E. Young Research Library, the two-day event hosted fifteen papers organized in five panels with three speakers and UCLA faculty respondents. Topics included the Augustan Secular Games and the Fengshan sacrifices; the ascendance of ritual over law and imperial cults; and ghostly spies, surveillance and religious movements in Late Antique Rome and China. The keynote speaker was James Rives, Kenan Eminent Professor of Classics, UNC Chapel Hill. I am already making plans for a final conference in Hong Kong in May 2016, followed by teaching the UCLA Travel Study Program in Rome during the month of July. Maybe a stop at Dubai will be a good place to take a rest between my travels in the Far East and Europe.



Visiting Palevsky Professor Tim Rood of St Hugh's College, Oxford

As expected, winter term at UCLA belied its name. And it also lived up to expectations in every other way. I enjoyed reading one of my favourite Greek authors, Thucydides, with a Greek class consisting of an undergraduate, a graduate in Archaeology, a retired teacher of Arabic, and a healthy number of post-bacs – and it was good to see that by the end of the course Thucydides did not seem to be quite as daunting as at the start. I also had great fun discussing the subtleties of the *Anabasis* with a class of eight graduates, all of whom showed a lively understanding of Xenophon's narrative artistry.

Most daunting in prospect, most fun in retrospect, was my Joan Palevsky lecture, *'I come like Themistocles': Napoleon and Classical Antiquity*. Much of my research in recent years has focused on the reception of classics in modern culture. This year, the bicentenary of the battle of Waterloo, seemed a good time to present some research on Napoleon's letter of surrender after the battle, in which he compares



himself with the Athenian statesman Themistocles who sought asylum first with the Molossian king Admetus, and then with the Persians, after being exiled from Athens. I wanted to suggest that different responses to Napoleon's allusion at the time shed light both on British national identity and on conflicting views about the continuing relevance of antiquity: some contemporaries, for instance, thought that Napoleon was appealing to outmoded ideas of hospitality and chivalry. But while 200 years ago Napoleon was sent to languish on St Helena, I was delighted to find that hospitality was still alive in Los Angeles – and that prospects for the study of classical antiquity seem as sunny as the weather.

Department News

Ancient Methone Archaeological Project: New UCLA Fieldwork in Greece

Since 2012, UCLA faculty and students have been investigating the ancient city of Methone in Pieria (Macedonia), northern Greece, under the direction of Sarah Morris and John Papadopoulos. Founded as a colony of the Euboean city of Eretria in 788 BC, in Greek history it was an ally of Classical Athens and favored member of the Delian League, until Macedon's expansion under Philip II (who destroyed Methone in 354 BC). Greek archaeologists who identified the site uncovered older remains of the Neolithic period (ca. 4000-3000 BC), Bronze Age burials, and structures of the Early Iron Age (1000-700 BC). They invited UCLA collaboration to publish finds and continue exploring the site, in a multi-pronged project of excavation, geophysics and geomorphology, aerial photogrammetry and terrestrial LIDAR modeling, with material analysis of artifacts and ecofacts.

In the Archaic and Classical periods, Methone was an important harbor linking the mountains of northern Greece with Aegean sea-routes, principally as a port for shipping timber to naval powers like Athens but also as the destination for commercial and artistic cargo (oil and wine, raw materials, and manufactured objects) from around the Aegean. It was also home to craftsmen working in clay, metal, glass and bone whose industries survive in molds, kilns and workshops, monumental buildings framing public spaces, and attracted international traffic from Phoenicia and Anatolia. This convergence helped make Methone a possible home for the origins of the Greek alphabet, according to a large corpus of inscribed sherds, now Greece's largest collection of early alphabetic inscriptions.

Following two seasons of study and analysis of finds, new fieldwork in 2014, linked to a field school for undergraduates, included surface survey, the excavation of four trenches, preliminary exploration of the ancient shoreline and possible harbor location through geomorphological coring and geophysical reconnaissance. Future seasons in 2015 and 2016 will continue this fieldwork and aim at comprehensive publication of the results.

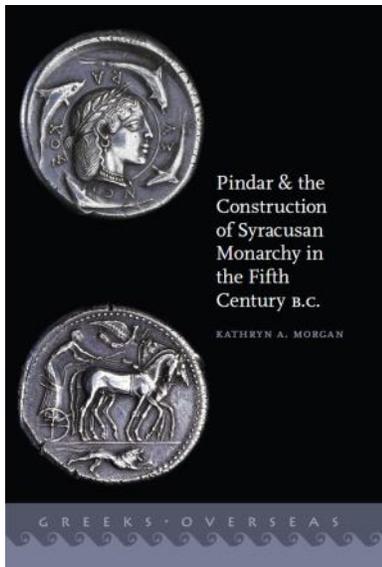


Cast of Late Archaic-Early Classical figurine mold, from Methone survey (2014)



Graffito on Late Archaic cup from Methone excavations (2014)

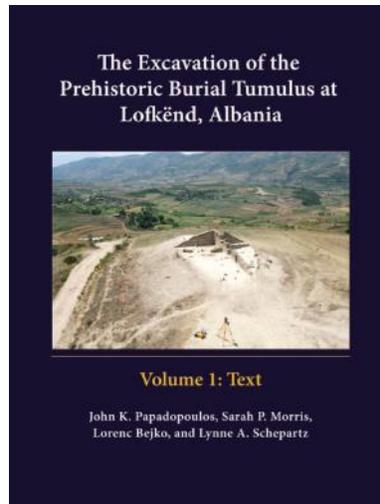
Faculty Bookshelf



Pindar and the Construction of Syracusan Monarchy in the Fifth Century B.C.

Professor Kathryn Morgan

This book is the result of long thought on what it meant to be an autocrat in the years following the Persian invasion of Greece (480-479 B.C.). This was a time when the Greeks were busy defining to themselves what it meant to be free from despotic rule. How, then, could a tyrant like Hieron of Syracuse project a positive image? He created a rich cultural program that included architecture, coinage, sanctuary dedication, city foundation, poetry, and participation in athletic festivals. Victory in such festivals was a powerful propaganda tool, and Hieron was fortunate enough to win multiple victories in horse and chariot-racing events. To celebrate them he hired the great poet Pindar to compose songs of triumph. My goal was to achieve a fully contextualized reading of this poetry against the background of Hieron's program. I argue that the odes present Hieron's rule as an example of golden-age kingship consonant with the best Greek tradition. The poet subtly presents the ruler's athletic victories as the result of exceptional divine favor and as reflections of more general preeminence.



The Excavation of the Prehistoric Burial Tumulus at Lofkënd, Albania

Professors John Papadopoulos and Sarah Morris

This past year brought to light the fruits of a five-year UCLA research project at the Bronze-Iron Age burial mound near Lofkënd, Albania, a collaboration between the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA and the Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Sciences, Albania. Co-directed between 2004 and 2008 by UCLA Classics faculty Sarah Morris and John Papadopoulos, the excavation of an intact pre-to protohistoric Illyrian burial tumulus, with 100 graves of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Ages (ca. 1400 to 800 BC), the project included a regional survey, soil study project, and material analysis of ancient metal and glass artifacts. Results offer the first radiocarbon dates for these periods in Albania, as well as Albania's first comprehensive bioarchaeological study of an entire cemetery population. Training graduate students from UCLA and Albania was an important component of the project, and a field school introduced undergraduates to archaeological research. A book launch hosted by the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology in March inspired donations of this publication to libraries and universities in the Balkans, as well as to the research academies of Albania. This was followed by a formal presentation of the volume to the local communities that participated in fieldwork and at the National Academy of Sciences in Tirana, Albania.



La Jalousie: Une Passion Inavouable

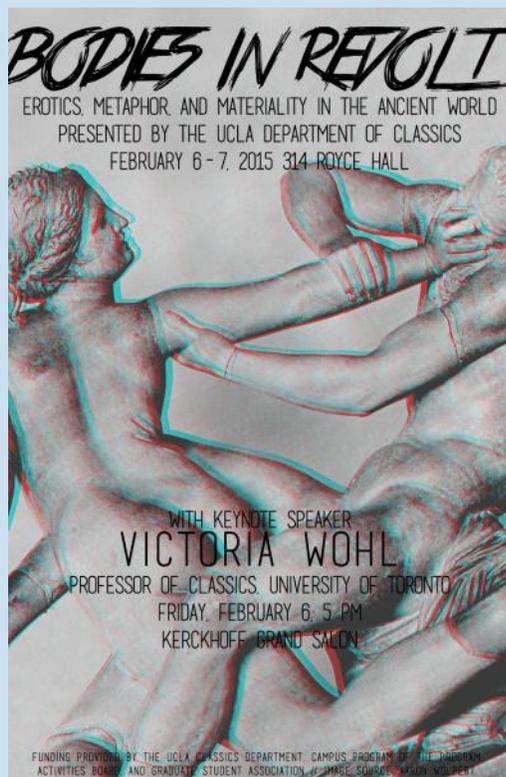
Professor Giulia Sissa

Like all human emotions, jealousy has a philosophical, literary and cultural history. This history starts in ancient Greece. Whereas a comic genealogy would take us from Aristophanes to vaudeville, a tragic approach reveals that, in amorous situations, jealousy was thought of as erotic anger. It was offensive, painful, thoughtful and noble. When the conception of anger changes, then jealousy becomes something different. For the philosophers of the Enlightenment (admirers of Thomas Hobbes), jealousy is agonistic confrontation, which causes a mechanical rage, whose pretensions are abusive and whose effectiveness remains doubtful. In the wake of Immanuel Kant's theory of sexuality, Karl Marx and, later, Simone de Beauvoir add a political twist to the blame of jealousy, as the appropriation and objectification of a human being. This language infuses common-sensical visions of jealousy today. Against this banalization, I contend that erotic desire is desire not for another person (as a reified body, a piece of property), but for that person's desire. Love is a project: that of making ourselves the object of someone else's love. To understand an "object of" as an "object/thing" is merely a category mistake. Hegel, Freud, Lacan, Merleau-Ponty and Sartre help us understand this simple, crucial point.

Graduate News

Graduate Conference: Bodies in Revolt

The organizing committee for Bodies in Revolt: Erotics, Metaphor, and Materiality would like to thank all those who attended and participated in making this year's Classics Graduate student conference, which was held February 6-7, a great success. The conference, sponsored by the Classics Department and Campus Programming Committee, kicked off on Friday, February 6th, with an unforgettable keynote address titled "Aspasia's Athens" delivered by Dr. Victoria Wohl from the University of Toronto. The following day was spent in panels on topics ranging from Elagabalus' public gender expression to similarities between Horace's *paraklausithyron* and Han period palace laments, followed by Dr. Amy Richlin's closing remarks, which urged us to remember and give voice to the true bodies of revolt, bodies of slaves and women, often silenced by their absence in the literary canon.



Year at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens

Hilary Lehmann

Spending the year as an Associate Member at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens meant I was able to conduct my research from one of the best Classics libraries on the planet, that I regularly ate meals or drank ouzo with scholars who I previously knew and admired only from their work. It meant I had a home base in Athens from which I could easily head to Delphi, Rome, or Cyprus for research trips; it meant I had free entrance to every museum and site in Greece. But in addition to these professional opportunities, it meant I had a home and was part of a family that stretched back to the late 19th century and is still embracing new members every day. To work on your dissertation as part of a community of people who perfectly understand your struggles and triumphs, who are there to sympathize and celebrate alongside you, is an absolute gift. These interpersonal connections, this feeling of home, have a special interest for me, since my dissertation centers on ideals of home and family in the Attic Orators. Often my research would line up with a lecture by a visiting professor on friendship, with conversations among fellow members at the dinner table, with the feeling that Loring Hall will always be home. As I return to Los Angeles, I know I will always be part of the American School family, and I take that feeling home with me.



Hilary at the Treasury of the Athenians in Delphi

Undergraduate News

Hoplite Drill

Kalli Sarkin
Chrysanthe Pantages

Through a two-part investigation this year, students in the Classical Society sought to enter the mind of Ancient Greece's hoplite soldier. Winter quarter, the Classics department offered Classics 193: Hoplite Warfare. This seminar, taught by Professor Kathryn Morgan, focused exclusively on these citizen-soldiers. Throughout this course, we studied the technicalities and psychological aspects of hoplite warfare, exploring everything from how the iconic round-shield (or *hoplon*) worked, to the logistics of the hoplite panoply as a whole, to the individual experience of each soldier as he charged into battle.

In spring, we took our investigation outside of the classroom, devising a drill in which we physically tested theories surrounding hoplite warfare. To this end, student volunteers made and used their own model hoplons. While our experiment largely confirmed the research of our predecessors, we made some unexpected discoveries of our own. For example, when marching in formation, a hoplite's visual range is limited to the person immediately adjacent to him on either side. We also found that, although forming a shield wall gives soldiers sufficient room to rotate, turning about-face misaligns the overlapped shields, thus dangerously limiting mobility. After concluding this experiment, we were honored to share our discoveries by presenting as part of Undergraduate Research Week.

This study has provided an invaluable opportunity to collaborate with our professors while conducting independent and guided research. Although we have since hung up our shields in Dodd, we look forward to expanding our scope next year to incorporate more participants and possibly even spears.



Presenting Cleopatra

Claire Plecha

In a documentary on Marilyn Monroe, one of the experts uttered what was to me an unforgivable line: "Marilyn was our Cleopatra." This brief remark could easily go unnoticed, yet it struck me as the epitome of the challenges faced by those who dare to venture into the life of one of history's most infamous rulers. Cleopatra is an iconic figure whose image has been jaded by the likes of Elizabeth Taylor and Theda Bara. Because of her hallowed place in cinematic history, Cleopatra is remembered as an exotic adulteress whose vanity and lust for wealth and power led to her demise. The more I learned about Cleopatra, the more I admired her. Through my research, I vowed to not only advance the search for her eternal resting place, but also to challenge the popular perception of her scandalous life.

Presenting at Undergraduate Research Week allowed me this opportunity, and I will remember it as one of my most rewarding (albeit challenging) experiences at UCLA. I was the only Classics student presenting a poster, and thus found myself in somewhat uncharted territory. Because of this, I attended every workshop and took advantage of all opportunities to receive feedback on my work. Research posters are typically created by science or social science students, relying predominantly on visual data and following the Scientific Method. Consequently, I felt caught between two conflicting interests. On the one hand, I was advised to present my work as if my audience knew absolutely nothing about Cleopatra. On the other hand, I felt confined by a formulaic mold that seemed incompatible with the deeply interpretive and analytical nature of my research. How could the same format applied to science posters convey the relevant factors, including nearly three hundred years of Ptolemaic history, which shaped not only Cleopatra's identity but also the construction and choice of location for her tomb? Through the process, however, I learned to be unafraid of going in a new direction and to trust my own judgment. I found research to be unlike any academic experience in that it is incredibly personal because of the work and passion that goes into it. If I could give any advice to those who are considering presenting at Undergraduate Research Week, it is that, first and foremost, *you* should be proud of the work you put forward. If that means banging down the door of the printer's office to change a comma, so be it.



Photograph © 2003 by Alan Nyiri, courtesy of the Atkinson Photographic Archive

Alumni Spotlight

Seraphina Goldfarb-Tarrant (BA Classical Civilization 2010) reflects on how her Classics degree informs her career

I'm a Product Manager on one of Google's Billion+ enterprise advertising software products. My Google career has been defined by my interest in a challenge and by my adaptability, both qualities strengthened and honed by my Classics degree. When I joined Google, I had very few qualifications for programming, and none whatsoever in advertising. But I've learned that I can learn anything. I think the hardest thing I've learned is still Ancient Greek, and it was a beautiful challenge, made even more so because I only began in Junior year. Throughout my degree my adaptability grew, for my courses were varied and taught me to look at a world, an ecosystem, from all angles. I did 3D reconstructions of Rome to understand what it really would have been like to be there and to make new discoveries about the spectator experience, I drew connections between mythic cycles across disparate cultures, I dove in depth into the lives of the characters of the *Iliad*, of Alexander, Hadrian, Cleopatra; all the great men and women of the past who model themselves after one another. I learned how in our modern world we model ourselves after them. Studying the Greek and Roman worlds and how they evolved is like opening up the clock that is our modern day and looking at its gears. I call this experience up in most of my interactions - in my personal life, and in business. I could not be so capable at understanding human behavior and at adapting to global cultures without this.