

WINTER 2021
NEWSLETTER NO.VII

UCLA

The Department of Classics

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*Teaching via Zoom
Classics Olympiad
SCS Conference*

**CLASSICS DURING
COVID-19**

*What is it like in the virtual
classroom?*

UCLA Department of Classics

Greetings from the Chair



Let me start with a collective acknowledgment of how much we cannot wait to be back together again – in our classrooms, at events around campus, and at our colloquia and talks.

What I would give now to bump into a student in the corridors of Dodd Hall, to stay on after class for a few minutes chatting, or to share lunch with a colleague. Yet despite our isolation, my first nine months as chair have been far from lonely. Graduate, postbacc, and undergraduate students kept me smiling on Zoom as we learned how to teach and learn online, but also how to be kind, forgiving, and generous to one another. Faculty and staff have been

selfless in offering up their time and creating new initiatives. Faced with the difficulty of accessing materials and the cancelation of research trips, colleagues have found ways to share their work remotely with spirit and imagination.

We have started several initiatives to increase community. Over the summer faculty and TAs shared ideas about online teaching in a series of monthly workshops. We've experimented with games, happy hours, and reading groups. We have all come to know each other's pets and kids on Zoom. The graduate students have formed a strong support group through the sharing of research at the Graduate Workshops and the Classical Society has held a variety of successful events. In place of our usual department lectures we have developed informal lunchtime sessions with an emphasis on discussion from scholars both within the department (recent PhD Andre Matlock on Cicero and old age; Amy Richlin on slave cooks in Plautus; David Blank on poverty in Philodemus; Ella Haselswerdt with recent PhD Irene Han on Lesbian Sappho) and outside it (Jennifer Weintritt on the Epic Cycle in Latin; Mathura Umachandran on Kara Walker; Seth Schein on *Iliad* 1; Joe Howley on despotics among the agronomists). These workshops allowed us to gather and discuss ideas, as well as hear from scholars at different stages in their careers.

Since becoming Chair I've been struck by how lucky I am to be surrounded by such a congenial and unusual group of thinkers. What other department of our size can boast of being so evenly distributed between junior and senior faculty as well as across disciplinary interests (from cutting edge work on charred papyrus rolls from Herculaneum to the reception of Vergil in Brazil's neoclassical poets)? We have been working to expand our curriculum to ensure that our students experience the full range of what antiquity and its reception has to offer, not only through our cross-listed classes, but also through the energy our colleagues have invested in creating courses in medical humanities, ecocriticism, architecture, and critical race studies.

I hope you enjoy reading about our department's news in this letter. Thank you to every member of our Classics supporters and family. Stay safe and well, and we look forward to seeing you in person on the other side.

ALEX PURVES



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DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Ancient Methone Archaeological Project



On November 19, 2020, the Director of the American School of Classical Studies, Professor Jenifer Neils, invited John Papadopoulos to present the movie made about the Ancient Methone Archaeological Project (AMAP). The Webinar, attended by over 390 on ZOOM from around the world, featured the one-hour film of the AMAP project, co-presented by John with Jeff Vanderpool, project photographer and videographer, who made the film. This event coincided with the publication of an article summarizing the results of the 2014-2017 excavations at Methone, co-sponsored by the Greek Ministry of Culture and UCLA, the latter represented by Professors Sarah Morris and John

Papadopoulos, under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies in Hesperia (the Journal of the American School of Classical Studies). The film and the article can be accessed at: <https://www.ascsa.edu.gr/news/newsDetails/webinar-the-ancient-methone-archaeological-project-the-movie> (where the published report can be found under "Read more"). Meanwhile, the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, has accepted for publication a volume summarizing the results of 2003-2013 excavations at Methone in its Monumenta Archaeologica series, a suitable venue for 30 chapters by a range of specialists.

Spring 88GE!

Classics 88GE - Reimagining the Homeric Hymns

Centering the discussion around the Homeric Hymns, Mat Sweeney and Sebastian Peters-Lazaro of *Four Larks* will work through their process of adapting texts for cross-disciplinary performance and new media with students in Classics 88GE - *Reimagining the Homeric Hymns: The transmediation of ancient poetry into contemporary forms*. Mat and Sebastian will share their dramaturgical and pre-production process for their upcoming collaboration with the Getty Villa, and work with undergraduate students towards their own adaptations of the Homeric Hymns. This class offers a unique opportunity to explore and discuss digital engagement strategies that have replaced live performance during the Covid-19 pandemic Spring Quarter.



STAY CONNECTED

Want to stay updated with department news? Stay connected by following our social media pages on Facebook and Twitter!

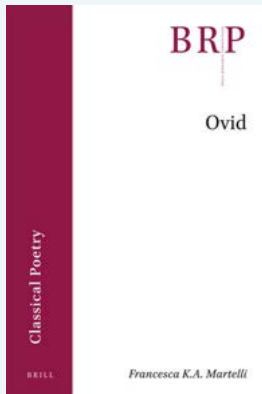
FACEBOOK: UCLA CLASSICS
TWITTER: @CLASSICSATUCLA

DEPARTMENT NEWS

*Department Bookshelf**Recent publications by UCLA Classics Faculty & Graduate Students*

Francesca Martelli, *Ovid: Research Perspectives in Classical Poetry*, Brill 2020.

Congratulations to Francesca Martelli on the recent publication of a second book on Ovid! In this volume, Francesca outlines some of the main contours of recent, current and future research on Ovid. Her study looks back to the rehabilitation of Ovid's oeuvre in the 1980s, and considers the post-modern aesthetic prerogatives and post-structuralist



theoretical concerns that drove the critical recuperation of his poetry throughout that decade and in the decades that followed. But it also looks forward, by considering how the themes of this poet's oeuvre answer to a variety of new materialist concerns that are now gaining currency in the humanities and social sciences. It highlights the ecopoetic sensibility of the *Metamorphoses* for example, and unpacks the environmental narratives that this poem yields when read in dialogue with the discourses of critical posthumanism. And it closes by considering the hauntological aesthetics of Ovid's exile poetry as a comment on the effects of the principate on time, space, media, and art.

Sarah Beckmann, "The Idiom of Urban Display: Architectural Relief Sculpture in the Late Roman Villa of Chiragan (Haute-Garonne)," *AJA* 124.1 (2020): 133-60.

Richard Ellis, "Beyond the Human Condition: Duration and Virtuality in Heraclitus," *Ramus* 49:1-2 (2020), 1-29.

— "Ludic Philosophy and Heraclitus' Playing Children," in D. Bouvier & V. Dasen, eds., *Héraclite: le temps est un enfant qui joue*, Liège 2020: 125-45.

Sander Goldberg, "Donatus on Terence and the Greeks," *AJP* 141 (2020): 81-100.

— "Ennius and the *fata librorum*," in C. Damon & J. Farrell, eds., *Ennius' Annals. Poetry and History*, Cambridge 2020: 169-87.

N. Bryant Kirkland, "'One Harmonious Body': Dionysius, Herodotus, and the Rhetoric of Empire," *Mnemosyne* 74 (2021): 1-29.

Andres Matlock (PhD 2020), "Rationality, Fidelity, and the Event in Sappho," *CA* 39.1 (2020): 29-56.

Kathryn Morgan, "Eros in the Platonic Frame," in E. Kaklamanou, M. Pavlou & A. Tsakmakis, eds., *Framing the Dialogues. How to Read Openings and Closings in Plato*. Leiden 2020: 154-75.

— "Simonides and the Diplomacy of Victory," in P. Agócs & L. Prauscello, eds., *Simonides Lyricus. Essays on the 'Other' Classical Choral Lyric Poet*. Cambridge 2020: 151-75.

Sarah Morris, John Papadopoulos, et al., "The Ancient Methone Archaeological Project: A Preliminary Report on Fieldwork, 2014-2017," *Hesperia* 89.4 (2020): 659-723.

John Papadopoulos, "Mnesikles and the Orientation of the Propylaea on the Athenian Acropolis" in *Χρηστά Έργα (Studies in Honour of Professor Clairry Palyvou)*, Athens 2020: 317-34.

Dale Parker (PhD 2018), "Plato's Protagoras as an ἀγὼν λόγων," *Hermes* 149.1 (2021): 19-30.

Alex Purves, "Rough Reading: Tangible Language in Dionysius' Criticism of Homer," in J. Grethlein, L. Huitink, & A. Tagliabue, eds., *Experience, Narrative and Criticism in Ancient Greece*, Oxford 2020: 172-87.

Ben Radcliffe (PhD 2019), "Becoming Domestic in Hesiod's Works and Days," *Ramus* 49.1-2 (2020): 89-110.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Department Bookshelf Continued...

Amy Richlin, "Owners and Slaves in and around Plautus," in *A Companion to Plautus*, D. Dutsch & G. F. Franko, eds., *A Companion to Plautus*, Abingdon: 2020: 347–59.

— "The Woman in the Street: Gendering Political Culture in the Mid-Republic," in R. Ancona & G. Tsouvala, eds., *New Directions in the Study of Women in Antiquity*, Oxford, 2021: 213–32.

Lydia Spielberg, "Ennius' *Annals* as Source and Model for Historical Speech," in C. Damon & J. Farrell, eds., *Ennius' Annals. Poetry and History*, Cambridge 2020: 147–66.

Adriana Vazquez, "The Cruellest Harvest: Virgilian Agricultural Pessimism in the Poetry of the Brazilian Colonial Period," *CRJ* 12.4 (2020): 445–69.

Brent Vine (ed., with David Goldstein & Stephanie W. Jamison) *Proceedings of the Thirty-First Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*. Bremen: Hempen Verlag, 2020.

Celsiana Warwick (PhD 2018), "Nossis' Dildo: A Metapoetic Attack on Female Poetry in Herodas' Sixth Mime," *TAPA* 150.2 (2020): 333–356.

Forthcoming First Books....

Congratulations to Irene Han and Bryant Kirkland for the recent acceptances of their book manuscripts!

Irene Han (PhD 2017), *One Hundred and One Nights: Plato and the Metaphysical Feminine*, Classics in Theory Series, Oxford University Press.

N. Bryant Kirkland, *Herodotus and Imperial Greek Literature: Criticism, Imitation, Reception*. Oxford University Press.

**ALUMNI*: If we missed you, please send us publication updates for next time!*

Zoom Imitating Art Imitating Life

Readers of the ancient Greek novel *Daphnis and Chloe* know that its seemingly simple tale of bucolic love plays out across a dizzyingly sophisticated text, notable for its many levels of imitation. The novel claims to be a narrative offered in response to a painting -- a visual display turned into words -- and that's only the start of its sustained mimetic dazzle. Along the way, the title characters mimic animals, gathering flowers like bees and nuzzling together like goats. Nature in turn imitates back, as rivers sing and wind plays the pipes. And though the novel claims to be an ecphrasis of a painting, Longus turns even this on its head, likening fawnskins and gardens to -- of all things -- painting! Livening up the Zoom world that imitates the in-person classroom, students in Professor Bryant Kirkland's winter quarter course on *Daphnis & Chloe* have found ways to add other layers of imitation to the translation experience. Post-baccalaureate student Heather Richard translates in front of the horns of a steer, a fine visual supplement for Longus's attention to bovines, including the scene in which *Daphnis* grabs onto cattle horns to save himself from drowning. Dido Wang (3rd year, Greek & Latin major) recently appeared for class crowned in flowers in imitation of *Chloe*, whose head is often wreathed in pine. And, beyond their control, but delightfully, birdsong was overheard through various Zoom microphones recently, accompanying students' translation of the wood pigeon's song. If Longus's novel turned visual depiction into written narrative, UCLA classics students are translating his words back into images and sounds -- adding much-needed jollity to teaching and learning at a distance.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Department Life



DEPARTMENT NEWS

A Celebration of International Greek Language Day

Sunday February 7th saw a virtual celebration of International Greek Language Day, presided over by the [UCLA Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture](#) and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and the Consulate General of Greece in Los Angeles. After festive greetings from Greek government officials, the lecture part of the event got underway, featuring Professor of Classics Kathryn Morgan speaking on “Know Thyself: Ancient Proverbs and the Road to Wisdom.”

Proverbs are of course a feature of popular wisdom traditions in many cultures, but this lecture focused on maxims connected with the famous Seven Sages of Greece.

The most famous example is “Know Thyself” (γνῶθι σεαυτόν), inscribed at the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, but there were other proverbs associated with the Sages as well. “Nothing too much” was one of them, as well as a host of more straightforward sayings: “People are bad” (cheery!), “Govern your wife” (obnoxious!), “Pursue glory/reputation” (hmm!), “Master pleasure” (worthy, but dull!).

“Know Thyself,” in particular, became invested with many layers of philosophical speculation over the centuries (and the lively question period after the talk spent some time pondering on how we might interpret it in the contemporary world). In the late fifth century BCE Socrates took it as a kind of divine imperative, and seems to have used it as part of his mission to make his fellow-Athenians realize they were not as knowledgeable as they thought. Xenophon portrays Socrates asking his friend Euthydemus whether he had paid attention to the Delphic maxim, and the hapless youth replies “I felt sure that I knew that already; for I could hardly know anything else if I did not even know myself” (*Memorabilia* 4.2.24-29). But of course, conversation with Socrates will show that he does not really understand the force of the command.

Quite apart from their function as a spur to Socratic and other philosophizing, proverbs associated with the Sages spread through Greek cities in the Aegean and further afield. We find them in gymnasia on the island of Thera and in the city of Cyzicus on the Sea of Marmara. We even find them in Afghanistan at Ai Khanoum, which may be the ancient city of Alexandria on the Oxus, founded by Alexander the Great or one of his successors in Bactria. There they adorn the hero shrine of the founder of the city, brought there by a travelling philosopher who had carefully transcribed a list of maxims he saw at Delphi. The road to excellence may be steep, as Hesiod says, but many in the ancient world thought that we should navigate it via the proverbs of the Seven Sages.

DEPARTMENT NEWS



Two UCLA Alumni Win Prestigious Teaching Awards

Congratulations to Marisa Alimento (BA Classics 1990, Latin Coordinator at Crossroads School) for receiving the SCS Award for Excellence in Teaching at the PreCollegiate Level and to Robert Groves (PhD Classics 2012, Associate Professor of Classics, University of Arizona) for receiving the SCS Award for Excellence in Teaching at the College Level. We are immensely proud!

[View full citations and announcements for 2020 SCS Award winners here.](#)

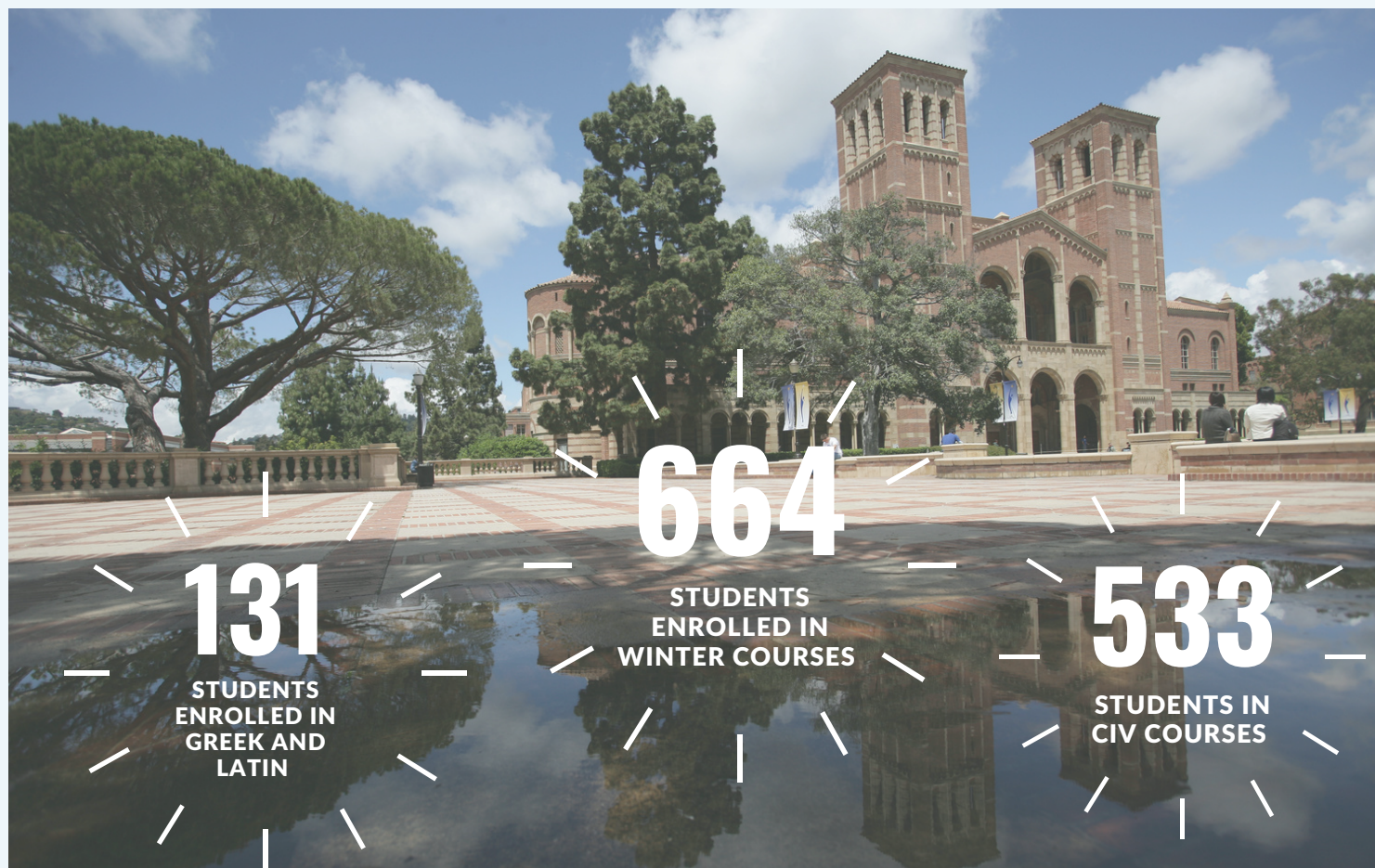
Professor Ella Haselswerdt Awarded AJP Prize

We are delighted to announce that Professor Ella Haselswerdt has been awarded the AJP Best Article Prize for 2019, for her article “Sound and the Sublime in Sophocles’ Oedipus at Colonus: The Limits of Representation.” This article undertakes an analysis of the deployment of sound in Sophocles’ Oedipus at Colonus that is grounded in a material aesthetics. To read further, [visit this link here](#). Congratulations, Ella!



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Winter Facts & Figures



*Join us for our
upcoming events!*

Visit our alumni on our
department website at
<https://classics.ucla.edu/events/>

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UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Helen Caldwell Awards and Prizes

Each year the Department is pleased to bestow the annual Helen Caldwell Awards and Prizes, named in honor of a dedicated teacher of Greek and Latin in our department for over thirty years (1939-70). Helen F. Caldwell graduated in the first class at UCLA to award the Bachelor of Arts in 1925 and earned her M.A. in Latin fourteen years later. She later was employed by the Classics Department for 30 years until her retirement in 1970. A dedicated teacher of Latin and Greek, Helen Caldwell was also a respected scholar of Brazilian literature, one of the first to translate into English some of the most important works of the 19th century novelist Machado de Assis. The Caldwell Prizes in Elementary Greek and Latin are given each year to the top students in our elementary language classes and are awarded at our annual fall welcome reception. Although our annual fall reception looked different this time around, the department happily came together over Zoom to honor the award recipients. The recipients for 2019-20 were **Nicholas Guymon (Romance Linguistics & Latin)** in Greek, **Dido Wang (Greek & Latin)** in Latin, and **Helen Ng (Psychobiology)** in Latin. This year, the department also had the honor to present the Gus and Judie Christopoulos Award for Modern Greek to **Alina Giapis (Human Biology and Society)** and **Eleni Sklavenitis Medina (Ecology, Behavior, and Evolutionary Biology)**.



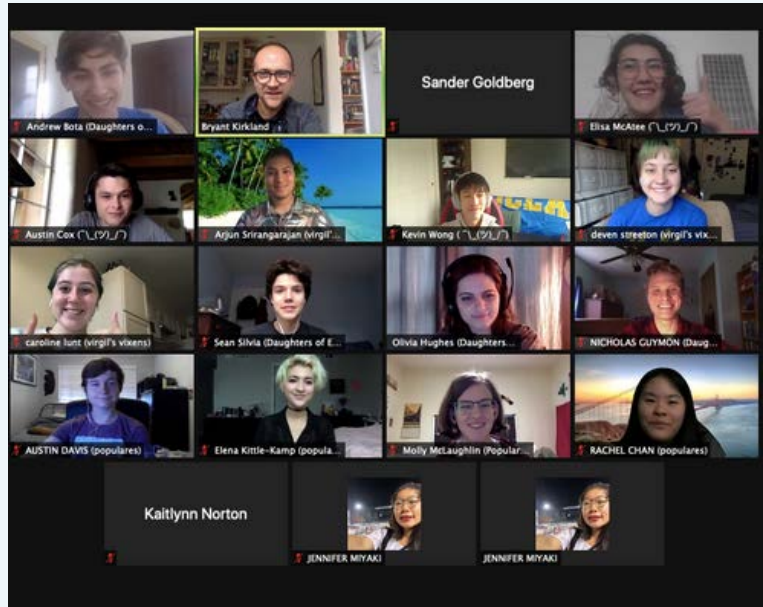
Pictured from left to right (top row): Nicholas Guymon, Helen Ng, and Dido Wang

Pictured from left to right (bottom row): Alina Giapis and Eleni Sklavenitis Medina

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Annual Classics Olympiad Professor Byrant Kirkland

Social distancing did not stop UCLA and USC undergraduates from competing -- over Zoom -- in this year's Classics Olympiad, a fast-paced, Jeopardy!- or Certamen-style trivia and translation event. Rather than the traditional LA school-rivalry competition for kleos and gloria, UCLA and USC combined their powers this year. Fifteen students arrayed their trivia and translation forces across four teams with such memorable names as Virgil's Vixens, The Populares, Team Shrug ("spelled" \('ツ')_/), and the Daughters of Erysichthon.



The breakneck round of trivia covered thirty-five questions submitted by professors and graduate students, including such toughies as "Spell out 88 and 98 in Roman numerals," "Name the ancient poem on which Ralph Ellison's novel *Invisible Man* is loosely modeled," and "Name the author of six short elegiac poems that were at one time attributed to Tibullus." Group translations (over Google Docs) followed, as teams swiftly converted passages from Cicero, Diogenes Laertius, Virgil, and Euripides into English. Moderator Bryant Kirkland, Assistant Professor of Classics at UCLA, read out the questions in his best game-show voice and adjudicated a few tense challenges (with a crucial assist on a question about Agrippina the Younger from Distinguished Professor emeritus Sander Goldberg, also in virtual attendance). Who won? Who cares? Teams won invisible Zoom prizes of immortal fame for Trivia, Translation, Combined Trivia and Translation, and Spirit -- a category in which all teams excelled.

"PIZZA"
TALKS

Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming Classical Society pizza talks! To receive information about these talks, email sshapiro@humnet.ucla.edu to join our undergraduate listserv.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Classics 51B Undergraduate Material Culture Club

Do you ever feel like you need more material culture in your life? Students in Classics 51b do! Beginning in spring 2020 Prof. Sarah Beckmann organized an optional weekly club to host informal discussions about the art and archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean. The club began as a way to foster community and student-to-student conversation in the first full term of remote instruction. Prof. Beckmann is happy to report that the 51b club is back again this winter with a brand new name – “Objectively Awesome”! And surprisingly (given our growing fatigue with Zoom and online meetings), the club has grown in popularity! Average attendance this term is about 60 students!

Professor Beckmann chalks this up to students’ enthusiasm for opportunities to speak with academic experts on subjects that don’t always make it into textbooks or lectures. According to Prof. Beckmann, students are especially excited to talk to people who are passionate about their work, and hear how experts go about research. In a way, she says, the club helps to demystify the process of research – we all begin with a question, and “Objectively Awesome” lets students weigh in and contribute to that question. Plus, she says, it’s just a blast – students feel relaxed and say intelligent and hilarious things, especially on the Zoom chat.

Future speakers include Carly Pope on ceramics (Archaeology IDP / 51b TA), Judy Barr and Nicole Budrovich (Getty Villa) on Greek vases and Etruscan tombs, and Thomas Roby and Leslie Rainer (Getty Conservation Institute) on the preservation of Roman mosaics and paintings. Email sshapiro@humnet.ucla.edu or sbeckmann@humnet.ucla.edu if you’re interested in joining us!

*"Rave reviews" from students attending the winter club:*

"Objectively Awesome" facilitates group conversation between experts and students in a friendly, fun, yet enriching learning environment. The discussions are extremely insightful.

ALEC (PSYCHOBIOLOGY)

This was honestly one of the most interesting things I've done as a student. The different topics and specificity by folks who've been studying these things for years is great. And getting their input on topics you might encounter in an upper div class early on helps students in a GE know what classes might interest them in the future.

MEGHNA (MIMG)

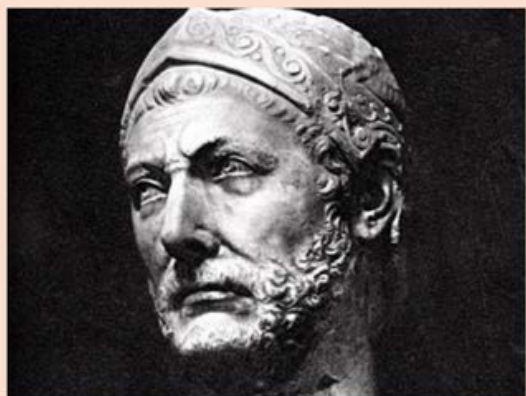
I really enjoy learning about these topics...plus the club meetings give me an excuse to explore academic interests that may not be covered in other classes.

LOUISE
(ANTHROPOLOGY)

GRADUATE NEWS

Graduate Student Workshops

The UCLA Classics Graduate Workshop is a bi-weekly seminar for graduate students in Classics and related fields; the purpose of the workshop is to provide a venue in which graduate scholars can showcase their ongoing research and receive useful commentary from their peers in an informal setting. To see upcoming sessions this quarter, visit [Graduate Workshop](#).



The UCLA Classics Graduate Workshop presents...

“Physical Expressions of Emotion and Questions of Interpretation in Livy’s Third Decade”

James Piper

February 3, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting ID: 932 2511 5855



The UCLA Classics Graduate Workshop presents...

“The Trajectory of Negative Theology in the Platonic Tradition”

Zak Gram

January 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting ID: 910 8198 3791

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Recent Sessions

Zach Borst: “Mimesis and Metamorphosis in Euripides’ *Bacchae*.”

Ben Davis: “The Pastoral Motif and the Transformation of the Italian Landscape in Livy’s Third Decade.”

Rachel C. Morrison: “And who is my *philos*?: Redefining Friendship in Euripides’ *Orestes*.”

Andre Matlock: “Temporal Unevenness in Cicero’s *De finibus bonorum et malorum*.”

Diana Librandi: “Mis(sed)recognitions. Identity and Civil War in Lucan’s *Pharsalia*.”

Zach Borst: “Sappho’s Luminosity.”

John Tennant: “Hitting ‘Wrong’ Notes? Pindar’s Improvisational Abundance & the Convention of Extemporaneous Performance.”

Diana Librandi: “Hesiod and the Poetics of Hunger.”

Zach Borst: “Empathy and Mimesis in Archaic & Classical Greek Literature.”

GRADUATE NEWS



Mariam Usmani Awarded Graduate Council Diversity Fellowship

Festive congratulations to Classics graduate student Mariam Usmani, who has won a Graduate Council Diversity Fellowship for 2020-2021 academic year. The purpose of the Graduate Council Diversity Fellowship (GCDF) is to support graduate students from across the UCLA campus who exemplify values of diversity in their academic, professional, and service activities. The Graduate Council Diversity Fellowship is highly competitive. Only approximately 15 full-year fellowships are awarded for the academic year across all eligible master's and doctoral programs.

Diana Librandi Selected as CUTF Recipient

Warm congratulations to Diana Librandi, who had been selected for the Collegium of University Teaching Fellows for 2020-2021.

CUTF is an innovative program that gives some of UCLA's very best advanced graduate students the opportunity to develop and teach a lower division seminar in their field of specialization as a “capstone” to their teaching apprenticeship. Diana is currently teaching her seminar “Ancient Hunger, Modern World” this Winter Quarter.



GRADUATE NEWS

*Graduate Students at the SCS***Jasmine Akiyama-Kim - "Ring Composition and Narrative Consequence in the Story of Rhampsinitus and the Thief (Hdt. 2.121)"**

At this year's SCS annual meeting, I presented a paper entitled "Ring Composition and Narrative Consequence in the Story of Rhampsinitus and the Thief (Hdt. 2.121)." This story, while a great favorite of many, is often read as extraneous to the larger Herodotean project, namely, to narrate the rise of the Persian Empire. My paper attempts to bring the Rhampsinitus story into conversation with two major Herodotean themes: the changeability of fortune and the unstable boundary between opposites. Rhampsinitus's story hinges on a reversal: while initially King Rhampsinitus and the thief possess disparate means and statuses, they eventually reach a point of equality and then switch positions. The equation between the two figures is made explicit by the story's ring composition, which repeats narratively similar episodes while charting a shift in power. I argue that the fluctuating trajectories of Rhampsinitus and the thief reinforce the Herodotean maxim that fortune can never stay in the same place for very long. Thus, in the course of time, even oppositional pairs will come to recognize a mutual similarity.

Zach Borst - "Mimesis as Metamorphosis in Aristophanes' *Acharnians*"

At the Society for Classical Studies annual meeting I presented a paper entitled "Mimesis as Metamorphosis in Aristophanes' *Acharnians*." Professor Jeffrey Henderson presided over my panel on Greek Comedy. The paper is taken from the first chapter of my dissertation, which I plan to submit in the spring quarter. In my paper I discuss Aristophanes' earliest extant comedy, the *Acharnians* (425 BCE), which famously depicts an Athenian citizen named Dicaeopolis dress up as Telephus, a character from a Euripidean tragedy. I argue that Aristophanes presents mimesis (Greek for "representation" or "imitation") as a transformative process that affects characters' identity and behavior through costumes, gesture, and speech. Dicaeopolis insists "I must be who I am, but not appear so" (*Acharnians* 441), contrasting appearance and identity, but throughout the comedy he behaves more and more like Telephus. I argue that Aristophanes' depiction of mimesis in the *Acharnians* serves as an early instance of literary criticism in ancient Greece, which puts his work in conversation with Plato and Aristotle, and reminds us how transformative poetry can be in our lives.

Diana Librandi - "Repetition blindness: the Cyzicus episode in Valerius Flaccus's *Argonautica*"

"Repetition blindness: the Cyzicus episode in Valerius Flaccus's *Argonautica*" is the title of the paper I presented at the SCS meeting this year. First observed by Nancy Kanwisher in 1987, repetition blindness is a cognitive phenomenon for which observers fail to detect the repetition of the same visual item, such as the image of an object or a word, in a rapid display. I suggest that the Cyzicus episode can be considered a mythological instance of repetition blindness because the Argonauts and the Cyzicans are blind to the repetition of a similar event: after contrary winds push the Argo back to the harbor of Cyzicus, neither the Argonauts nor the Cyzicans realize that their encounter has already taken place and engage in battle. Reading the Cyzicus episode through the theoretical framework of repetition blindness brings to the fore Valerius Flaccus's interest in issues of perception and cognition. Whereas the multiple recognitions of Odysseus stage the difficulty of recognizing someone after a long period of time apart, through the Cyzicus episode the Flavian poet invites the readers to ask themselves how humans can fail to recognize people and places they have just seen.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Spotlight

Ryann Garcia (UCLA Alumna, B.A. Classical Civilizations, Religious Studies; Yale University 2016, M.A.R. Asian Religions; UCLA Law J.D. Candidate, 2021, Critical Race Studies, International & Comparative Law)

My Classics journey started long before I stepped foot on campus. It was fall 2006, and my older sister had decided to take Classics 10 with Professor Sarah Morris. It was her memory of Professor Morris coming to class in Greek robes on Halloween that convinced me "I need to take that class!" when I was enrolling in my own freshman courses in the fall of 2009. I was immediately hooked on being able to discuss the genius of HBO's Rome with Professor Sander Goldberg, while simultaneously learning how to ruin viewings of Classics-based depictions like Gladiator for my friends and family. Thinking that adding a Classics minor would suffice after my first quarter, I was convinced I could not settle for less than a full engagement with the program by spring. I'll never forget my T.A. at the time, Michael Brumbaugh, who asked me after class if I was in the major. He pointed out that my distinguished passion for the subject was apparent from a submitted research paper, and that I should consider joining the major. Coming from a public education background in San Bernardino, CA that was severely underfunded and under-resourced, I was not used to this type of academic support and encouragement. My decision was pretty much made on the spot. While the pursuit of Tibetan Buddhist studies in an academic career had always been my primary goal, my foundational studies in Classics followed me to both graduate and law school. How could they not? Professor David Blank had allowed me to explore a comparative studies project in classical epic poetry of Greece, Rome, India, and Nepal which eventually culminated in a presentation on the Bhagavad Gita in reflection of Homer's poetry as a graduate student at Yale. And I'm sure one could imagine how spending a year learning Latin played out in my familiarity with the exclusive law school lingo. Having a humanities background in Classics and religion allowed for endless opportunities and avenues for how to think about human difference. It was ultimately learning the frameworks of critical race theory that allowed me to take the plunge of applying these studies in the humanities to an application of human rights in the law.



I am now a third-year student at UCLA School of Law, specializing in Critical Race Studies and International and Comparative Law. I have served on the UCLA Law Review, as President of the Native American Law Students Association, Inter-Org Chair for the Latinx Law Students Association, Co-Editor on Race, Indigeneity, & Human Rights for the Promise Human Rights Blog, and as a Law Mentor for UCLA Law Fellows and UCLA Academic Advancement Program. After having the honor to leave UCLA as a double-bruin, I will pursue a career in Indian law advocacy at the federal, state, and tribal levels. I will always have my foundational studies in humanities to thank for informing and contextualizing the importance of a pursuit of justice in cultural rights protections, repatriation, international human rights law, and critical race theory.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni News

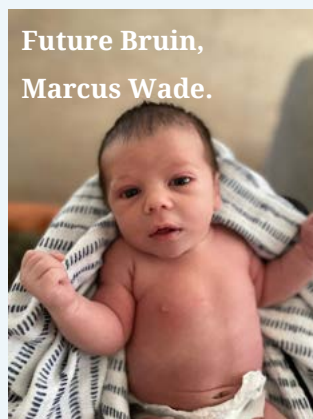
John Mills (Classical Civilization BA, 1996) has been working at the U.S. Embassy in Rome since 2018. As a U.S. Navy Judge Advocate, he is responsible for the office that provides military legal advice to the Ambassador and Country Team. When John received this assignment, it was a dream come true. His fondest memory from UCLA was studying history and classics in Rome during summer 1996 (chaperoned by Professor Bernard Frischer). Since that time, he has tried to find a way to live in the Eternal City again. The three years in Rome have been truly memorable, as he has been able to share his love of classical civilization with his two sons and wife. The dream ends too soon: he and his family will be returning to Washington D.C. in July.

Robert D. Skeels (Classical Civilization, 2014) was made a part-time associate at the Law Offices of Hirji & Chau, LLP. Robert helps with both civil and special education matters as the practice is in educational rights, civil rights, and disability rights. He frequently assists with California Public Records Act requests.

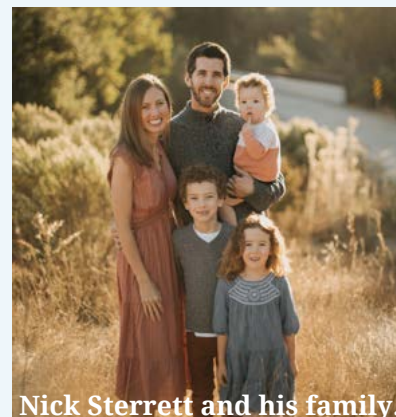
David Lee (Latin BA, 2009) welcomed a second daughter to his family! David is currently working from home in IT at an investment advisory firm.

Nick Sterrett (Latin BA, 2008) is currently teaching English and Film at Palma School in Salinas, CA. He spends most of his time chasing around Archer (7), Hazel (5), and Penelope (1) with his wife from the other side of campus, Chelsea (UCLA Earth and Environmental Science BA, 2008).

Matthew Wade (Classical Civilization BA, 2009) welcomed baby Marcus Ewan Wade on November 17th, 2020! Marcus is already a future Bruin!



Future Bruin,
Marcus Wade.



Nick Sterrett and his family.

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Alumni Network

We want to keep in touch with all our students and friends, so please do send any news of your lives and accomplishments to sshapiro@humnet.ucla.edu!

Visit our alumni on our department website at <https://classics.ucla.edu/alumni/our-alumni/>

Liza Long (Classics MA, 1997) Pressbooks chose the OER writing textbook that Liza co-wrote and curated with two colleagues as one of their "Favorite Books of 2020". The book is titled Write What Matters.

Noah Reid (Classical Civilization BA, 2019) was recently accepted to USC Gould School of Law for the class of 2024. Analyzing ancient Roman laws for different papers during undergrad pushed Noah onto this new path!

IN MEMORIAM

Mortimer Chambers, 1927-2020

On December 14, 2020, the Classics Department lost its long-time friend and dear colleague, Professor Emeritus of History, Mortimer Chambers. Mort (to his friends) taught Greek history in the History Department from 1958 to 2008, introducing thousands of students to the history of ancient Greece. He was a versatile scholar whose work ranged from groundbreaking analysis of the Aristotelian Constitution of the Athenians to a crucial study on the dating significance of the three-barred sigma. This latter research changed the interpretation of the epigraphic evidence for the history of the Athenian empire in the 5th century B.C.E. Until Mort and his collaborators brought modern laser technology to bear on a battered inscription, the scholarly orthodoxy was that all inscriptions with a sigma written with 3 bars (rather than 4) had to be dated before 446 B.C.E.

The full argument is too long to reproduce, but the results of overturning the consensus were crucial. Mort was revealed as a dogged pursuer of the truth in the face of opposition and a flexible scholar unafraid to rethink old paradigms. Towards the end of his career he published an important edition of Lorenzo Valla's Latin translation of Thucydides (composed in 1448-52). As a reviewer noted, this was a labor that placed all serious students of Thucydides in Mort's debt.

His undergraduate lectures were legendary, particularly his presentation of the episode of Hippocleides from the Histories of Herodotus. Here, the young Athenian aristocrat Hippocleides woos the daughter of the tyrant of Sikyon. All goes well until one night he has too much to drink, starts dancing, does a headstand on a table (exposing parts of himself not usually seen in such a context), and waggles his legs in the air. "You have danced away your marriage," says the tyrant. The reply? "Hippocleides doesn't care" (it became proverbial). At the beginning of the lecture Mort would place a cushion on the floor. General puzzlement (except for those in the know—and by the end of his career these were many: admirers would come to campus especially for this). As the story commenced, Mort would walk to the cushion, do a perfect headstand, and finish the story upside down, waving his legs in the air. Wild applause! No one ever forgot this class.



Mort Chambers (right) with fellow historian Sir Ronald Syme in 1989

Ex-student Stanley Burstein, now Professor Emeritus of History at CSULA, writes: "His teaching did not stop at the classroom door. His office was usually open. If for some reason the door was closed, a knock brought a gruff "herein," and a warm welcome. Once inside, the timid freshman asking for help in locating a translation of an obscure text, the senior working on his honor's thesis, and the graduate student struggling with his thesis could all expect generous help and good advice, whether it was about the importance of languages for ancient historians or what books to read or buy."

His hospitality was renowned and his friendship sure. He was adored by students and friends worldwide. He is sorely missed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 Annual Palevsky Lecture

Plagues in Antiquity | Thursday April 22nd, 5:00-6:30pm

The 2021 Annual Joan Palevsky Lecture will be a Departmental Roundtable Panel, featuring a discussion among members of the UCLA Classics Department of plagues in antiquity, including the plagues of 5th century Athens, Antonine Rome and Justinian. In addition to discussing medical, literary, historical, and archaeological sources, we will also consider the nature of the different ancient pathogens, the social disorder and disruptions to authority and truth caused by ancient pandemics, theories of causation, immunity, and treatment, as well as the problem of collecting and burying the dead. We hope that this discussion can shed light on many of the questions we have been wrestling with during the COVID pandemic. The Palevsky Lecture will be streamed as a webinar, followed by a VIP question and answer period. Please stay tuned for more details of this event.



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