

Northwestern

Department of
Classics



HARUSPEX VETUIT:
ANTE BRUMAM AUTEM
NOVI NEGOTI INCIPERE!...
QUAE CAUSAST JUSTISSUMA



WE'VE MOVED

*Our finished new
main office waiting for us.
Stop by!*



CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear colleagues, alumni, and friends,
Salvete!

Our newsletter ordinarily appears at the end of the academic year, with the summer solstice, as last year's newsletter noted: *Ab occasu solstitiali corus*. But this has been no ordinary year for the Department of Classics at Northwestern! Last June, after cleaning up from the annual Lamb Roast, the Department welcomed Kathleen Coleman from Harvard and Josiah Ober from Stanford for its first full program review since 2002-03, to help us plan the richest and most useful ways to study the Classics in today's world. At the beginning of fall, we returned to an airy new space on the fourth floor of Kresge Hall, the new home of the Department after our sojourn in neighboring Crowe Hall during Kresge's newly completed renovation. This has

made for a long delay in the newsletter—and a lot of news!

Program review reminded us of the virtues and the challenges of knowing oneself. It was an opportunity for us to take stock of how the department and the discipline has grown and changed since the millennium. Classics at Northwestern now has largely taken shape since then—our successful program in Latin; our rapidly growing program in Greek; our partnerships with Art History, Comparative Literary Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, and other units on campus; our acclaimed digital scholarship, our explorations of the rich and varied modern receptions of the cultures of classical antiquity. What continues, of course, is our devotion to scholarship and teaching at the highest levels, and our belief in the ongoing interest of the

civilizations of Greece and Rome in a changing world. To come back to a renewed

Kresge—a homecoming into a new place—at the end of our reflections about our department, our discipline, and our place in its evolution feels especially apt.

There is much more to share—two of our faculty were recognized in the Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll, two more won prestigious fellowships from the Guggenheim and Loeb Foundations, books and articles were published, an accelerated Greek class was pioneered, festivals and theatricals celebrated... Read on and see all we have been up to!



*My shoes at the Lamb Roast,
June 2016*

Not long ago, the view of Kresge Centennial Hall from our temporary department home in Crowe, looked like this (right). Construction raced along, and last June we learned that the Department of Classics would move late summer of 2016. By the time you read this we will have unpacked our boxes and arranged our belongings. We hope you will visit and spend time in the modern, light-filled common area alongside our offices. We are located on the fourth floor on the west end of the building toward The Rock.

Kresge Centennial Hall, built in 1954, was completely gutted. During demolition, construction workers found a mysterious metal box, a time capsule, in the cornerstone. It contained a roster of donors and a nine-page biographical profile of Sebastian S. Kresge, among other papers.

The project team for the building has sought a LEED Platinum certification, (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), which means it is a cleaner place to inhabit.



CLASSICS YEAR IN REVIEW FALL 2015

Students and faculty savored quiche, coffee, and conversation during the Classics 2015-16 Fall Kick-off Brunch in the cozy home of Professor Marianne Hopman on 9/25/15. And what a fall it was! The Classical Receptions group held four of eight workshops (see page 8), the department hosted seminar speaker Professor emeritus Seth Schein from UC Davis for his talk “Commenting on The Iliad I,” and offered two brown bag talks: the first with Chloe Balla, of University of Crete at Rethymnon, who presented “On the origins of the idea of a beastly human nature. Plato and the sophists.” Our Chair, William N. West presented the second, “The Renaissance (In)Humanism of Angelo Poliziano.” Three classically-themed Chicago outings rounded out a busy Fall. Faculty and students saw the Charles Ray exhibition at the Art Institute Chicago, and the world premiere of the *Agamemnon* of Aeschylus,



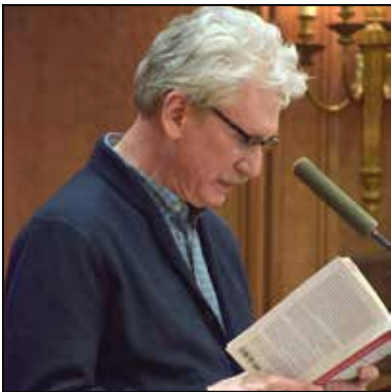
translated by Nicholas Rudall at the Court Theater. On a snowy December morning students and faculty visited the Field Museum of Natural History “The Greeks: Agamemnon to Alexander the Great” exhibition. Finally, Classics celebrated the end of Fall quarter with its annual holiday party at the Celtic Knot.



CLASSICS YEAR IN REVIEW WINTER 2016



Spike Lee photo by Rob Hart



Days after Winter quarter began, Spanish and Portuguese, Comparative Literary Studies, and Classics co-hosted a book party for Reg Gibbons in the Leopold Room in Harris Hall. Peers bestowed heartfelt accolades, and Reg read from his new book *How Poems Think*. Congratulations.

How Poems Think explores distinctively poetic modes of thought, guided by the associative forces of rhythm, sound, metaphor, and uses examples of Sappho, Pindar, and others.

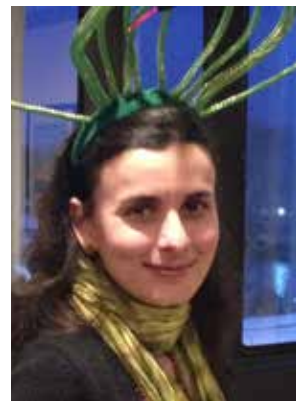
On 1/29, students in Professor Hopman's "Love in Antiquity" class (CLA250) trekked to the Field Museum for the Greeks exhibit. Thank you WCAS Dean Mary Finn for sponsoring both Field Museum trips.

In February, Classics hosted the second annual Lupercarnivalia, a hybrid take on Mardi Gras (Lupercalia/Carnival) conceived of by Professor Francesca Tataranni. Folks came in costume as Medusa and more, ate decadent

desserts like King Cake and paczki, and grooved to Zydeco, Cajun, and New Orleans jazz.

And how else to get through an endless, Chicago winter than by going to the theater! Students and faculty in the department capitalized on Northwestern's School of Communications theatrical talent by attending two plays: *Big Love* – a "wild version of an Aeschylus play that blows open the gender divide and gives new meaning to 'until death do us part'," and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, "a satirical musical comedy with a reimagined take on gender stereotypes, social class, and the intersection of love and comedy," based on the plays of Plautus.

When Sara Monoson learned that Spike Lee was filming a movie about gun violence in Chicago based on the ancient Greek comedy *Lysistrata* called *Chi-Raq*, the Classics professor and chair of Political Science invited Lee to speak. The Contemporary Thought Speaker Series, the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and the Departments of Political



Science and Classics hosted “An Evening With Spike Lee.” About 1000 people turned out for a screening of Chi-Raq, followed by a talk with Lee and two former Chicago gang members.

“The ancient play was satire in rhythmic speech and song about a sex strike by women to force men to make peace,” said Sara Monoson, chair of the department of political science at Northwestern and Professor of Classics. “It was full of obscenities, hilarious antics and was also deadly serious about male violence. ‘Chi-Raq’ was both remarkably faithful to the spirit of the original play and fiercely in the moment today, as the intense discussion demonstrated. The way the evening brought antiquity into the 21st century was electrifying.”

SPRING 2016

On April 20th, the Department hosted a talk with Christophe Goddard, entitled “Euergetism, Christianity and municipal culture in Late Antiquity: from Italy to Jordan (fourth-sixth centuries AD)”. Dr. Goddard specializes in the history and archeology of late antiquity and in ancient religions. He is currently affiliated with the French Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), and has previously held positions at NYU, the French School in Rome, and the University of Reims.

Then, on a perfect June day, students, faculty, alumni and friends gathered for the Lambroast, and to celebrate the 2016 Joseph Clyde Murley Award winners—lakeside.

The Murley Awards are named after the late Professor Joseph Clyde Murley, a member of the Department of Classical Languages at Northwestern from 1921 to 1957. Murley’s four children provided an endowment fund to establish the Murley Prizes in 1959, to be used “in the interest of furthering work in the humanities.”



Congratulations to the 2016 Murley Awards Winners

Undergraduate Achievement by a Classics Major – Noah Samuel Repel
Undergraduate Achievement by a Classics Minor – Marie Louise Peeples
Undergraduate Research in Classical Literature and Culture – Perry Richard Hart for his winning essay,
“The Senecan Distinction between Godhood and Apotheosis”
Excellence in First-Year Greek – Kevin Zaporski
Excellence in Accelerated Elementary Ancient Greek – Joshua Drews
Excellence in First-Year Latin – Nicole Marie Roberto
Excellence in Second-Year Latin – Andrew Lynn Harlan

Other Awards and Recognitions

The Department also recognized a graduate student TA and those undergraduates who went abroad:

Outstanding Performance by a Graduate Teaching Assistant – Will Cochran

Study Abroad 2016-2017 Students
Cecilia Wilson and Anthony Escobar, both who attended the ICCS Rome Program

CLASSICS UNDERGRADUATES

Following the 158th Commencement ceremony, Classics hosted the Classics Tea, a luncheon for graduating Classics Majors and Minors and their families.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016

Evan Armet
Cara Conway
Lejia Duan
Jenna Fritz
Diana Liang
Martin Majewski
Vincent Mao
Connor Martin
Scott Erik Olsen
Marie Peeples
Grace Phelps
Wares Salehzai
Benjamin Sandeen
John Tinsman
Hannah Wright



*Commencement speaker, Seth Meyers, receives an honorary degree
photo by Jim Prisching*

SUMMER DISPATCH

Two Classics majors reported on how they spent the summer of 2016.

Melissa Baroff spent eight weeks interning under Dr. Judy Mann in the European Art Department of the St. Louis Art Museum. Melissa helped research artworks for an upcoming exhibition at the museum. The SLAM internship program also included tours and info sessions with different departments within the museum, so every intern was able to get a complete idea of museum life. Melissa greatly appreciated the opportunity to experience life from behind the museum exhibits!

Andrew Jovanovic had the privilege to represent Northwestern University at the 2016 United States Olympic Swimming Trials in the 100m backstroke in Omaha, NE. Additionally, he was chosen to be the best man at a wedding of his long time friend and was also asked to be the Godfather of the Groom's baby boy the following day. He spent August in Serbia learning

out to speak Serbian and more about his family's heritage. He also spent a night in Rome before returning to the States. "Just before I left for Europe, I learned how to ride a motorcycle, bought one, and now ride one around campus. One could say that this was a life changing Summer for me..."



Professor Platte's summer mythology class examine classical receptions in artworks at the Block.

CLUSTER AFFILIATES SPOTLIGHT

The Graduate Classics Cluster sustains a robust interdisciplinary community interested in Greek and Roman antiquity. It draws students not only from comparative literary studies and philosophy but also political theory, English, art history, theater and drama, history, communication studies and more. Affiliates enjoy a program of research workshops, distinguished visiting speakers, Greek and Latin reading groups, trips to area museums and performances, special events, informal gatherings and access to small grants to support research and conference travel. Two Cluster affiliates went abroad last year:

Frederika Tevebring spent the 2015/16 academic year in Berlin through the support of the Social Science Research Council's (SSRC) International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF). In Berlin she did research for her dissertation on the mythical figure Baubo and its reception in nineteenth-century Germany. Frederika is particularly interested in how Baubo, who was often described as obscene and grotesque, clashed with German ideas of Greece as an



ideal civilization. Her research includes work in the archives of the Berlin museums. The work has been productive, although she has discovered that archival work has its own particular challenges. "Sometimes I spend hours deciphering a hand written letter that turns out to be mostly about the archaeologist's worried mother or who ate the most potato salad at the latest party." In January she travelled to San Francisco to present her findings at the Annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies. Her panel was called "Sexuality in Ancient Art" and generated an interesting discussion on how sexuality has been (and perhaps ought to be) approached in ancient studies. The paper was well received and has been nominated for two awards. **Catherine (Cassie) Olien** completed her 5th year of an Art History/Classics Cluster PhD. Her dissertation is called "Ancient Cyprus in the Universal Museum: A Comparative

Study of European Reception ca. 1860-1914" and has involved extensive research abroad in London, Paris, and Berlin. During her fourth year, from Jan to June, she participated in the Classics Cluster exchange with the Classics Department at Royal Holloway, University of London, and was able to take classes on campus as well as perform research in the British Museum. This academic year, she was based in Berlin, on a Fulbright Research Grant, conducting research in the archives of the State Museums of Berlin. This year she began the first of a two-year Kress Institutional Fellowship (2016-18) at the Institut national d'histoire de l'art (INHA) in Paris, where she will continue archival research at the Louvre. **Will Cochran**, who is associated with the Ancient Philosophy Program, talks about his involvement with the Classics Cluster and his role as a Brady Fellow.

"My involvement mostly consists of being a TA for PHIL 210-1, CLAS 211, and CLAS 212—all of which have been very enjoyable experiences and have helped me round out my research on ancient Greek and Roman philosophy. I've also continued to take cluster-approved courses, and I was the organizer of the Greek Reading Group for the last two years.

In 2015, I was selected to be a Brady Graduate Fellow, which means that I get to mentor the same small group of civic-minded undergraduates as they make their way through the three years of the Brady Scholars Program in Ethics and Civic Life. The program is essentially designed to give students the theoretical knowledge and practical experience needed in order to complete and implement a service project which is designed to improve the Evanston community in some way. Being part of the Brady Scholars Program continues to be an immensely rewarding experience for me, mostly because of the people I have gotten to know, and the things I have been able to learn through the program. More information on the Brady Scholars Program can be found here (www.bradyprogram.northwestern.edu).

Finally, the Classics Cluster welcomed four new affiliates in Fall 2016.

Eloisa Bressan

Poetry and Poetics: PhD

My main interest is in the persistent role of classical literature in twentieth-century poetry, and specifically in the poetics through which modernist poets create literary spaces that function as places of representation, mythopoeia, and inter-traditional dialogue. I first came to this interest in my Master's thesis in Modern Philology at the University of Padua. My project consisted of a translation of Ezra Pound's Cantos I, II, IV, V, VI, into Italian (my mother tongue), and the translation was accompanied by an extensive commentary that focused on the palimpsests of Ancient Greece and Medieval Provence that Pound developed in these early parts of his magnum opus. Studying the mythical space created by the conflation of these two literary cultures, there emerged a composite image: a golden, radiant, timeless Mediterranean, founded upon a curious set of connections linking Ancient Greece and Medieval Provence.



Ancient Philosophy Program

The ancient philosophy program hosted a two-day conference (March 18-19) on Plato's late dialogues, often considered his most profound and difficult explorations of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and politics. Our speakers were Klaus Corcilius (UC-Berkeley), Emily Fletcher (UW-Madison), David Sedley (Cambridge), Justin Vlastis (UC-Berkeley), Mary Louise Gill (Brown), and Constance Meinwald (UIC). We also hosted colloquia featuring Oksana Maksymchuk (U. of Arkansas), "Aristotle's Account of Dream Images in the *Parva Naturalia*"; and Debra Nails (Michigan State), "Platonic Interpretive Strategies and Doing the History of Philosophy".

CLUSTER AFFILIATES SPOTLIGHT *continued*

I am generally interested in the process by which existing places are “mythicized”—that is to say, the manner in which, in epic literature, their presence is re-enchanted through lyrical passages.

My interests also lie in the issues of re-elaboration and transposition of the classics on the contemporary theatrical scene, which is the main object of my collaboration with the Italian theater company Anagor.



Margaret McLaughlin
Art History: PhD

I graduated in May from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with degrees in Art History and Classics. My senior thesis was on Odryian royal ideology in the 4th century BCE. I am primarily interested in cross-cultural interactions between the Mediterranean and the Near East, usually focusing on the late Classical and Hellenistic time periods. Outside of academics, I spend my time enjoying the outdoors, reading, and knitting.

Paymun Zargar

Philosophy: PhD

While studying Islamic philosophy in Iran, my interest in ancient thought and languages emerged out of a research curiosity to trace the origin of Suhrawardi's philosophical insights. I learned classical

Persian languages to explore the ancient philosophical thoughts. Then I aspired to learn ancient Greek, and when I moved to the U.S. I



studied ancient Greek at San Francisco State University. My approach to Greek philosophy is problem-oriented; I am interested in questions concerning intentionality, meaning, concept, content, perception, and virtue ethics which play a pivotal role in our contemporary philosophical discussions, and I think the Greeks have so

much to contribute to these philosophical problems.

I love to travel to cultures that have maintained their authentic and traditional way of life, and hike in pristine nature.

Tess Cavagnero

Comp Literary Studies:
PhD

Tess Cavagnero recently completed an M.A. in Classics at the University of Kansas. Her classical interests include Greek and Senecan tragedy, theories of ekphrasis, and Neronian literature. As a student in the Comp Lit department, she is primarily interested in film theory, and believes that feminist theories of cinema have much to contribute to the study of ancient tragedy.

Classical Receptions Workshop

This has been a banner year for the Classical Receptions workshop, whose programming closely engaged with the Chicago cultural scene. The workshop played a key role in the organization of two events focusing on Spike Lee's adaptation of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* in his recent film *Chi-Raq*: a screening followed by Q&A with film director Spike Lee, and a conversation with screenwriter Kevin Wilmott. The workshop also hosted a vibrant discussion with Sean Graney, founder and artistic director of the Hypocrites,



Sean Graney

about the genesis, goals, and challenges of his 2015-2016 production of *All Our Tragic*, which wove together plots and characters from all thirty-three surviving Greek tragedies into a twelve-hour performance, as well as exciting talks with leading receptions scholars: historian Margaret Malamud on African-Americans and



Arts and Science of the Ancient World: The flight of Daedalus and Icarus mosaic by Roger Brown in Chicago's Loop (120 N. Lasalle St. lobby)

the classics; classicist Thomas Jenkins on the graphic novel *Three*; and art historian Richard Neer on Poussin's classicism. In May the workshop hosted the third Annual Classical Receptions Conference bringing together scholars and graduate students from Northwestern, the University of Michigan, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to discuss thought-provoking examples of classical receptions as well as key methodological questions, and to enjoy a glorious tour of “Ancient Rome in Chicago.”

FACULTY NEWS



Graziela Byros has taught a wide variety of courses for the Department of Classics during the past academic year. These included elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels of Latin, and a literature course. She has also re-designed Scientific

Vocabulary through Classical Roots, a course with a long tradition in WCAS, to have a stronger connection to Classics and the ancient world, specifically to the Greek and Roman roots of scientific inquiry and practice. She made the Associated Student Government's Faculty Honor Roll 2015-2016 for Latin.



Reg Gibbons' book about poetry, *How Poems Think*, published last fall by University of Chicago Press, has recently received reviews in *The Nation* and the 2016 OUP annual *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory*. His new book of poems, *Last Lake*, will be published in October by

University of Chicago Press, and he will publish a book of very short stories in 2017. Forthcoming are also an article on "Teaching the Translation of Poetry" in fall 2016 from Routledge in the volume *Teaching Translation: Programs, Courses, Pedagogies*, edited by Lawrence Venuti; a short story in the literary magazine *Catamaran*; and a poem in *A Public Space*.



Ann Gunter returned from her research leave via Cologne, where she co-taught with Professor Anja Bettenworth a graduate seminar on Classical Reception for an exchange program between Northwestern and the University of Cologne. This year she taught undergraduate courses in

Art History, Classics, and Humanities.

She presented papers at international conferences: "Beyond 'a series of ecstatic moments'? Achaemenid Art at the International Exhibitions of Persian Art in London (1931) and New York (1940)," for "The Persian Empire: Reception, Appropriation and Argumentation from Antiquity to the Present Day" (Kassel, October 2015); "Animal Friezes in Orientalizing Greek Art. Issues in Transmission and Meaning," for "Animals in Mesopotamia: Their Relations to Gods, Humans, and Things," Finnish Institute in the Middle East and Intellectual Heritage in the Ancient Near East Project, University of Helsinki (Helsinki, December 2015); and "'Egyptian' and 'Egyptianizing': Style and

Agency in the Iron Age Mediterranean," for "A Cultural Biography of Egypt" (Leiden, January 2016). In May she delivered four lectures on "Cultural Transfer and Cultural Identity in the Eastern Mediterranean" at the University of Paris-Sorbonne.

She continued editing *A Companion to the Art of the Ancient Near East* (Wiley-Blackwell) and published a chapter in *A Companion to the Etruscans*, ed. Alexandra Carpino and Sinclair Bell, Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.



Marianne Hopman enjoyed a productive and rewarding year teaching, doing research, and serving in various administrative capacities. She lectured on the role of Io in the *Prometheus Bound* at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and on Freud's interest in the Oedipus myth at the

Collège de Philosophie in Paris. Her 2015-2016 course offerings included a Greek seminar on the *Prometheus Bound*, a lecture course on the poetics of erotic love in antiquity, and the coordination of the Classical Receptions workshop. As Classics Cluster director, she organized a lively outing series to see performances of *All Our Tragic* (The Hypocrites), *Agamemnon* (Court Theatre), *Big Love* (Northwestern University), as well as exhibits including "Charles Ray" at the Art Institute and "The Greeks" at the Field Museum. Her article on "Mythical geography in the *Odyssey*" was published in the *Dossiers d'Archéologie* in November 2015, while her monograph *Scylla* and her edited volume *Choral Mediations in Greek Tragedy*, both published with Cambridge University Press, came out in paperback editions in June 2016.



Richard Kraut was awarded a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, for research in moral philosophy to be conducted in 2016-17, while he is on sabbatical leave. He also was awarded a full-year Visiting Fellowship from Corpus Christi

College, Oxford, where he will be spending his sabbatical year. In March 2016 he lectured at the Sorbonne on Aristotle's ethics, and in June 2016 he was the keynote speaker at a conference on happiness and virtue at Trinity College, Dublin.

Sara Monoson spearheaded a collaboration with political science to host Spike Lee's visit to Northwestern for a screening of his Lysistrata-inspired film, *Chi-raq* (see p. 4 & 8), followed by a workshop session with the

FACULTY NEWS *continued*



screenwriter. She conducted a new seminar on Aristophanes and political satire “with a great bunch of NU grads and undergraduates,” and published “Aesop Said So: Ancient Wisdom and Radical Politics in 1930s New York,” in *Classical Receptions Journal*. She delivered the keynote address at Loyola University Baltimore’s Humanities Symposium as well as one at Colgate’s celebration of their completion of a digital project on Socrates. She is currently working up a project on “*Clouds* and the Battle of Delium” after presenting it at a conference at Columbia University in September and looks forward to teaching a new course on “Oligarchy and Democracy in Ancient Greek Theory and Practice” as well as further developing the Atlas part of the Classicizing Chicago Project. She is also chair of the department of political science and hopes to facilitate more collaborative projects across departments.



Ryan Platte arrived at Northwestern this fall as Associate Professor of Instruction and Director of Greek instruction. He is very pleased to have overseen a truly banner year for the Greek program which saw the largest elementary Greek enrollments in recent memory. He is now eager to watch these students progress through next year’s courses on the New Testament, Plato, and Homer. He is also pleased to have embraced the department’s philosophy of showcasing Classics beyond the classroom by accompanying students to study Classics at the Field Museum, the Art Institute, the Block, and local theater companies. He facilitated a summer ancient Greek reading group, which attracted students from the department and beyond. He has had a productive year of research as well, the highlight of which is the completion of his book *Equine Poetics* which will be published next year by the Center for Hellenic Studies and Harvard University Press. He also contributed to a volume on Classical reception studies, with a piece entitled “Homeric Past and Southern Future: Song Culture in *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*,” which will be appearing soon from Palgrave Macmillan.

Barbara Newman has published *Making Love in the Twelfth Century: Letters of Two Lovers in Context* (Penn, spring 2016). These 116 Latin letters and fragments, written nine hundred years ago, represent by far the longest correspondence between any two individuals from the entire Middle Ages. They were exchanged in real time between a teacher of philosophy and his brilliant female student, chronicling the turbulent course of their affair in prose and verse. Many think they may be the “lost love letters” of Heloise and

Abelard. The book presents a new translation and commentary, an essay on the history of emotions, and a discussion of the controversial authorship question. Prof. Newman is now translating *The Book of Special Grace*, a volume of mystical revelations written by the nuns of Helfta in the 1290s.



John Schafer had an exciting year: besides returning happily to Evanston after an invigorating and productive sabbatical, he gave presentations at the CAMWS meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, as well as at Bard College, the University of Zurich, and Columbia University. Work continues on his Catullus book, as well as projects Senecan and Vergilian.



In the Fall Quarter of 2015, **Francesca Tataranni** taught her new research seminar titled “Ancient Rome in Chicago” which introduced Northwestern undergraduates to the legacy of ancient Rome in Chicago as reflected in the architecture, art, and other forms of cultural production in the city. The class produced a highly innovative virtual walking tour which Tataranni presented several times to different audiences on campus. In the fall of 2015, she was elected for the seventh time to the Northwestern Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll and at the end of the academic year 2015-16 she had the pleasure to host her fifth Northwestern Alumni trip to Italy’s Magnificent Lake District.



Taco Terpstra taught courses on the economy of the Roman Empire, both at the upper level and the freshman-seminar level. In December he presented a paper at the international conference “Sinews of Empire: Networks and Regional Interaction in the Roman Near East” at the Norwegian Institute at Athens. Some of his recent work, including articles on the imperial cult and the use of writing material in Roman Egypt, is slated to appear in 2017. Last academic year he started working on a new book project with the working title *Roman Trade: A New Economic History*, under contract with Princeton University Press. In the summer he spent two months as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Ghent, Belgium. Finally, he is the fortunate recipient of a 2016-17 Fellowship of the Loeb Classical Library Foundation (Harvard University) and is looking forward to making good progress on his book project the coming academic year.



Robert Wallace taught his tried-and-true “Ancient Athens,” plus a course on Thucydides, the research seminar for majors, and a freshman seminar on all surviving plays of Sophocles, expecting to finish a book on that playwright this very summer. During the year he lectured on Aristotle in Athens, law and equality

in Coimbra, Portugal, Sophocles in Rome and Ferrara, Sokrates in Pisa, and the origins of the idea of equality in Ontario. He published an article on what he calls Plato’s Sokrates project and an *Oxford On-line Bibliography* on Perikles, and completed essays on an obscure Spanish coinage of the late Roman Republican period, on Sophokles’ *Electra*, and on “Equality, the demos, and law in archaic Greece.” After 28 years’ gestation, his book, *Reconstructing Damon*, on the Athenian music theorist Damon was published in September by Oxford. Also published was his co-authored translation of and commentary on Aristotle’s *Constitution of the Athenians*, written in modern Greek. He was a Visiting Scholar for two weeks in the Fall at the American Academy in Rome. He was appointed to the board of Chicago’s History in Your Hands Foundation, to promote the study of ancient coinage for example in the Chicago Public Schools. He is the Classics Department’s Senator in the Faculty Senate, and is President of NU’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Will West enjoyed the opportunity to present a brown-bag talk entitled “The Renaissance (In)Humanism of Angelo Poliziano” to the Department of Classics in the fall. Angelo Poliziano (1454-94) was a classical scholar at the center of

the Medici project to imagine Florence as a Renaissance of the ancient world and one of the early innovators of classical philology. While Poliziano and his contemporaries called



their studies of Greek and Latin history and culture through their surviving texts “humanities”, Poliziano’s methods relied on the independence of the patterns and rules of linguistic expression from human intention. Because it was not human, language expressed the passage of

time and changes in worldview that no human could otherwise experience. Will also presented a talk at the 2015 Newberry Library History of the Book Symposium, “Reading Euclid Backwards,” which looked at how early modern readers made use of printed texts of Euclid’s *Elements*.

John Wynne enjoyed another year of advising as Director of Undergraduate Studies in Classics.



He taught an exciting new class on ‘Ancient Conceptions of the Gods’ in which students read mythological sources for the Greco-Roman gods, and then the ancient philosophers’ reactions to the myths. He has been writing on the eternity of the soul in

Cicero, on an early Christian author named Minucius Felix, and on ancient philosophers’ answers to the big question of why the gods allow bad things to happen.



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