

Indiana University • Classical Studies Program • Alumni Newsletter

# CLASSICAL STUDIES AT IU

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association • Vol. 13 • Summer 2009

## Eternally grateful for Eternal City experience

Classical Summer School of the American Academy in Rome, 2008

by Chelsea Jensen, MAT'08

While the Classical Summer School (CSS) marked my first visit to Rome, it is undoubtedly the best way to experience the Eternal City. Not only were the schedule and presentations at the sites well-planned, well-executed, and incredibly informative, but the people made it the best journey abroad I've experienced.

Gregory Bucher was our fearless leader in his inaugural season as director of the CSS. He chose a wonderful assistant, John Hopkins; the duo shared their vast knowledge of Rome and its environs with us, sprinkling the outings and lessons with generous quantities of humor.

The trip to Rome was enhanced because my colleagues offered insights, asked thought-provoking questions, and shared a wonderful sense of camaraderie.

A long-standing tradition of the CSS is to write a play, mostly in Latin, and perform it in the theater at Ostia. Our play involved traveling back in time by accidentally getting on the 753 B.C. bus instead of our usual 75. We met Romulus, known as Aquaman by our less-than-credulous director, and taught him the technique for building concrete that would set underwater, in order to divert the Cloaca Maxima and drive away the rival Etruscans with the smell.

The play captured the essence of the program — we demonstrated our knowledge of Roman history and building techniques, including having the character playing the assistant intersperse his lines with random shouts of things like “*rufa!*” and “*peperino!*” and “*opus reticulatum!*” because we teased him for getting especially excited about building materials and concrete, while one of the students did a spot-on impression of Greg.

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Jensen, above, exits the Column of Trajan. She journeyed to Rome with fellowship support.

### *From the chair*

## Visitors enrich department

The Classical Studies Department enjoyed another busy and productive year. As the undergraduate and graduate reports in this newsletter detail the activities and achievements of our students, I will focus here on some other highlights of the past year.

In the fall semester, the department was delighted to host **David H. Porter** (Williams College) as its second Case Distinguished Visiting Professor. Porter enriched the life of the department in

many ways during his stay, not least in teaching a large lecture course on Greek culture (with an emphasis on Attic Drama) to undergraduates and a Greek course on Aeschylus (focusing on the *Agamemnon*) to advanced students. Near the end of his stay, Porter presented an engaging public lecture, “Crossing the Divide: Horatian Variations.” It was a particular pleasure for me to have him as a visitor for an entire semester, as his

(continued on page 6)



## Flipping the classics

# Part III: Hello Kitty, meet Ovid

*In hip-hop culture, “flipping” refers to reusing old material, with a different spin, in an original work.*

If you took my Latin course on Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* in the past dozen years or so, you remember the final paper assignment, with the option to write a movie scenario of several episodes from that work. One of the best of those treatments adopted a cartoon format; Ovid’s mock-heroic Perseus fit perfectly, with such cartoon clichés as our hero’s eyes popping out of his head when he first sees Andromache chained to her rock, and his being left so stunned by the sight of her that he briefly forgets to flap his winged sandals and begins to drop, à la Wily Coyote, when he runs out of cliff.

Since then I’ve discovered that an animated *Metamorphoses* had already been produced. In 1979 Sanrio, the Japanese company perhaps best known for its iconic Hello Kitty, released *Winds of Change*, an anime anthology of five episodes from Ovid’s masterwork — Perseus; Actaeon; Mercury, Herse, and Aglaurus; Orpheus; and Phaethon.

The same childlike figure, the “Wonder-Maker,” plays all the male leads; the same blonde girl plays the female ones; these two also were the figures born from stones at the end of an opening creation and flood segment.

The Japanese title, *Hoshi no Orpheus* (Orpheus of the Stars), has a clearer connection with the theme announced by the narrator — the heavens of Greek and Roman mythology. Images of galaxies, nebulae, and such serve as transitions between episodes. The narrator is Peter Ustinov. Screenwriter Norman Corwin, famous from the Golden Age of Radio, makes Ustinov wonderfully intrusive in a suitably Ovidian way — he hams it up with puns, arch comments, and lots of slang.

Novel details abound throughout the five episodes.

Mercury equips this Perseus for flight with upswept wing-like hair as well as winged boots. When Perseus first encounters Medusa, she’s not a Gorgon, but the sleeping figure of a blonde. Chased by the Gorgon, he trips; while he cowers under his shield, Medusa is petrified by her own reflection. Pegasus, born from her still-writhing snake hair, has a reptilian chest, face, and forked tongue.

This Actaeon bull-rides a boar (a “crashing boar,” of course), and kills it with a dagger. At Diana’s pool, he finds not nymphs, but fairies. Before punishing this “buttinski,” Diana demonstrates metamorphic control over nature, turning plants into

flamingoes and trees into dragons.

Ovid’s allegorical Envy is depicted as a classic witch—first seen stirring a brew—who infects Herse with a kiss.

This Eurydice is not just bitten, but eaten, by a snake, one sent by Hades; as she disappears, the strings on Orpheus’ lyre spontaneously snap. In this Underworld, Cerberus is a Push-Me Pull-You sort of spotted and horned hyena. Part of Hades’ realm features a wonderland of ice cream

selection of episodes by adding ones not in Ovid’s treatment of them, such as Diana’s turning trees into dragons, and by casting the “Wonder-maker” figure in a sequence of changing roles.

As in the original, shadows and reflections are a prominent motif, often combined with metamorphosis — Perseus realizes that the beautiful blonde has become a snake-haired monster when he sees snaky shadows at his feet while he is gallantly bowing to her.

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**“Hades’ realm features a wonderland of ice cream and candy, but this Elysium is booby-trapped — the ice cream is spiked with hot pepper.”**

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and candy, but this Elysium is booby-trapped — the ice cream is spiked with hot pepper. When Hades agrees to release Eurydice, he gives Orpheus a crystal tear (one he shed in response to the singer’s music), in which he can see her reflection; he foolishly shakes it (like a snow globe?), she falls, he turns back to help her, and poof — a pile of leaves.

Phaethon is a donkey-cart driver who steals his father’s sun-chariot. This team of horses not only drives the chariot, but is the source of the solar flames; overnight they are in “parking mode” (as if mechanical rather than animate creatures) and Phaethon re-ignites them with a spark by cracking his whip.

This film was originally conceived as a rock version of *Fantasia*; when first released in 1978 with the title *Metamorphoses*, it flopped, partly because the soundtrack — music by the Rolling Stones and other groups — had no connection with the storylines. The version released in 1979 features a new, disco-style, soundtrack. The most striking homage to *Fantasia* is the depiction of Hades as the demon from the “Night on Bald Mountain” segment, but there are, naturally, also echoes from the Mount Olympus “Pastoral Symphony” segment. Echoes of other Disney films appear as well. The denizens of Actaeon’s forest include a Disneyesque squirrel, rabbit, and fox; Diana’s fairies recall Tinkerbell (but are nude); when the hunter is transformed into a deer, he begins as a fawn with a striking resemblance to Bambi.

*Winds of Change* evokes Ovid’s theme of constant transformation despite its short

This animated feature film affects a conceptually and visually striking metamorphosis of its ancient original. See for yourself in clips on YouTube; a three-minute trailer for the Japanese version gives a good sample.

— *Betty Rose Nagle, Professor*

## Classical Studies

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Classical Studies and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to [ialumni@indiana.edu](mailto:ialumni@indiana.edu).

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# Around the department

*Graduate report for 2008-09*

## Report from Graduate Studies Program

### New alumni move on as teachers, students

During the school year's opening weeks the department happily welcomed three entering students: **Charles Sloan**, a graduate of Kenyon College; **Amy Yarnell**, a graduate of Gettysburg College, and **Jason Tiarney**, who came to us from the post-Baccalaureate program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to work toward the Latin MAT.

Seven of our current students completed master's degrees this year (See the list of our newest graduate alumni on page 7.); two of these students — **Holly Pritchett** and **Dianne Boetsch** — will take up PhD studies at Bryn Mawr College in archaeology and classical studies, respectively. **Chelsea Jensen**, who completed her MAT, including supervised teaching in Bedford, Ind., also leaves our numbers. Her friends here are hoping that her new secondary school appointment won't be taking her far.

By the time this issue sees publication, four of our dissertation candidates will have defended finished projects and departed for teaching positions.

**Nicholas Gresens**, who has been writing on the status of speech genres within Strabo's *Geography*, takes up an appointment at the University of Rochester with a likely summer archaeological component that is much to his taste.

**Susan Curry** will relinquish her research life at the American Academy in Rome, where she has been supplementing her interpretive studies of Apuleius and Artemidorus (among others) with investigations of animal representations in visual art, to teach next year at the University of New Hampshire, Durham.

**Corinne Shirley**, who has been completing a dissertation on the culture of youthful appearance in Augustan art and Ovidian elegy while serving as this year's Future Faculty Teaching Fellow at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), moves to Missouri State University, Springfield.

And **Varunadatta Edirisinghe**, whose dissertation studies verbal formulations in Lucretius' *de Rerum Natura*, returns to Sri Lanka where a position awaits her at the University of Peradeniya.

Much as we will miss them, they must all be congratulated on securing these teaching positions in what has officially been termed "a difficult year for job-seekers."

### Fellowships fund travels

Corinne Shirley's successor as Future Faculty Teaching Fellow at IUPUI will be **Bruce Warren**, but successor is a misnomer. In spite of our having boasted an unbroken line of incumbents since the inauguration of the program in 2004, this initiation into professional academic life is competitive and open only to students with outstanding teaching records and dissertations underway. Warren is particularly happy about the opportunity to teach a class about Roman emperors that ties in with his dissertation-in-progress on Tacitus' *Histories*.

Another success in competition is **Rob Nichols**'s award of a Virginia Grace Fel-

*(continued on page 4)*

## Papers presented at CAMWS 2009

*Annual meeting, held in Minneapolis, April 2009*

- **Jonathan Chicken**, "Warring with Words: Themistoclean Generalship in Herodotus"
- **Kenneth Draper**, "Déjà vu: Inversion in Herodotus' Stories of Croesus and Astyages"
- **Gabriel Grabarek**, "Memory and Authority in Tacitus' Use of the *Res Gestae*"
- **Nicholas Gresens**, "This Story is Believable: The Rhetoric of Truth in Strabo's *Geography*"
- **Stacie Kadleck**, "Gracchus and the Slave Army: A Subplot in Livy's *Third Decade*"
- **Holly Pritchett**, "Lysistrata as Athena"
- **Gregory Sears**, "The Abuse of Religious Ideology in the Orators"
- **Corinne Shirley**, "Time Management in the *Medicamina Faciei Femineae*"
- **Bruce Warren**, "The Southern Italian Lebes Gamikos: Its Unique Features and their Cultural Relevance"

# them·es·ter

Evolution, Diversity and Change

# Fall 2009

n. 1 a semester-long initiative devoted to the exploration of a single theme 2 a reconsideration of old truths and an investigation of new perspectives 3 an opportunity to engage the collective knowledge and creativity of students and faculty in the examination of ideas 4 a series of events to promote campus and community dialogue on challenging issues

[www.themester.indiana.edu](http://www.themester.indiana.edu)



# Graduate program

(continued from page 3)

lowship for a regular 2009–2010 membership in the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Alongside the various field reports he will prepare on sites and monuments yet undisclosed, Nichols will pay particular attention to the places and objects related to his special author examination on Greek forensic oratory.

And in a competition that requires not only a syllabus proposal, but also two interviews by student committees, **Gabe Grabarek** has landed a Collins Living-Learning Center class, “This is Sparta!”

During summer 2008, Grabarek, who is one of three graduate student winners of a Norman T. Pratt Traveling Fellowship, enjoyed a firsthand view of Sparta and prepared a report on the Temple of Artemis Orthia there.

“Sparta,” he says, “was a wonderful site because it was exactly how I had imagined it: barren! No fancy temple, no vibrant agora, just an old olive grove and a few foundation walls.” And so, in the spirit of Spartan sparseness, the only souvenirs Grabarek brought home for himself were “dirt collected from a 5th-century trench in Sparta and dirt from the hill at Thermopylae where the Spartans made their final stand.” No doubt these will be on exhibit for the Collins course, but one hopes that Grabarek’s young son got something less austere.

If Thermopylae was inevitably Grabarek’s favorite site, he also praised the beauty of the island of Mochlos and appreciated the sense of historical immediacy felt in standing at Actium before the “actual waters where the battle supposedly took place.” His other report topics were the Hagia Triada sarcophagus displayed in the Herakleion Museum and the large statues of Cleobis and Biton in the Delphi Museum.

In a two-week reprise of last year’s course work with Professor **James Franklin**, **Jennifer Jarnagin** used her Pratt Award to visit the Roman forum and museums, but made her strongest connections with Pompeii and the Naples Museum, where she recognized artifacts from Pompeii and statuary familiar from her many classes in mythology and culture.

A third Pratt winner, **Chelsea Jensen**, added her fellowship to the Bernard Goldman Scholarship of the Classical Society of the American Academy in Rome for the six-week summer program at the Academy. You can read Jensen’s firsthand account of her adventures in this newsletter. Along with her vibrant story, view a photograph

from the opening reception of the Academy’s summer school, which brought together Jensen; **Eleanor Rust**, BA’99, who had spent the year as a Rome Prize Pre-doctoral Fellow; and **Erin Taylor**, who joined the Academy community as graduate assistant for the NEH Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers.

Just emerged from her special author examination on Euripides, Taylor threw her cheerful energies into managing library reserves, producing handout photocopies and PDF files, shopping with the seminar’s co-directors for reception supplies, and negotiating with academy staff members concerning the needs and wishes of 15 academics of diverse interests and dispositions. “Unflappable,” one seminar participant called her, and Taylor proved resilient in spite of such obstacles as a fourth-floor walk-up apartment in Trastevere with no working doorbell and no Internet connection.

## CAMWS and other events

In spite of the distance, this year’s Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS) meeting in Minneapolis/St. Paul drew a strong representation from our department (listed on page 3 of this newsletter).

With the CAMWS loyalty that our graduates now carry over into their professorial lives, it’s gratifying to see how the network of past and present Indiana students continues to strengthen, especially with the now firmly established, annual “Indiana hour” staged between Thursday afternoon papers and the official graduate student happy hour.

In Bloomington, **Laura Brant** (social chairwoman), amply and ably arranged graduate-student happy hours and other events throughout the year.

Once again weather favored the Parilia Picnic, which was held in a local park’s lovely meadow. In keeping with the rustic athleticism of the original Parilia, in which young Roman buddies of Romulus supposedly leapt over bundles of burning straw, sports have come to be a main feature of our festivities.

This year saw one-time basketball coach **Gabe Grabarek** engaged in fierce competition with Charles Sloan. Unnumbered innings of softball followed, revealing some formidable talents not visible around the seminar table.

In company with Brant’s energetic social organization, Grabarek has performed the cat-herding services of graduate student representative. At a plenary meeting that he organized, students discussed with faculty the graduate program and its facilities; this led to replacement of broken-down furni-

ture in the sixth-floor offices and a request to the College of Arts & Sciences technological support staff to replace decrepit computers.

## Graduate alumni news

As usual, the best sources of graduate alumni news are the annual meetings, and especially the annual gathering of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS), where **Rebecca Edwards**, MA’00, PhD’03; **Willie Major**, PhD’97; **Davina McClain**, MA’88, PhD’94; **Teresa Ramsby**, MA’95, PhD’01; and **Noelle Zeiner-Carmichael**, MA’98, PhD’02, were all present.

As a member of the CAMWS Manson Stewart Scholarship Committee, Edwards announced this year’s winners; among them was IU Junior Max Eager.

Ramsby, who has been enjoying her first tenured year at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has also been judging scholarship candidacies this year as a member of the American Philological Association’s Pearson Scholarship Committee.

Now joining the ranks of our tenured PhD graduates, Zeiner-Carmichael, of the College of Charleston, has become mother to a daughter in addition to son, Finn, and is contemplating a sabbatical, which she will probably defer for a year.

**Byron Stayskal**, MA’87, PhD’97, now returned to classics teaching at the Western Washington University, intended to come to CAMWS, but at the last minute found himself characteristically working too hard. But every alternate year brings two CAMWS meetings, and this year your columnist made good on intentions of attending one of the lively Southern Section gatherings organized by ever-energetic Secretary-Treasurer Davina McClain. Along with McClain and Major, a surprise presence at CAMWS was our first and very distinguished PhD graduate **Mervin Dilts**, MA’61, PhD’64, who notes that his recent retirement from New York University has given him added time for his OCT edition of Demosthenes, several volumes of which have already appeared.

Should anyone wonder why the preponderance of news related here concerns graduates currently teaching classics, the answer is simply access.

But our newsletter would most gladly publish word of others, if only you, who know who and where you are, will return the “What’s New” questionnaire on the back page of this newsletter. You may also submit class notes online (<http://alumni.indiana.edu>), or e-mail news to [leach@indiana.edu](mailto:leach@indiana.edu) or [vint@indiana.edu](mailto:vint@indiana.edu). — *Eleanor W. Leach, Professor and Director, Graduate Studies*

## Honorary society reinstated

It was a busy year for classics majors. Their enthusiasm and accomplishments were welcome in our classes and were recognized outside the department as well. **Max Eager** won a Manson Stewart Scholarship from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS), and **Charles Kuper** was a finalist for the College's prestigious Palmer-Brandon Prize.

The most exciting development of the year was the re-instatement of our chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics honorary society. Through the tireless devotion of **Ricky Owens** and **Matthew Uhls**, our first new members were initiated in April. Everyone is looking forward to the fall when the group will sponsor social and academic activities for students of Greek and Latin on the Bloomington campus. Because Eta Sigma Phi is open to both undergraduate and graduate students, it offers a venue for both groups to come together and share their interest.

On the academic side, the undergraduate curriculum continues to flourish with innovative new course offerings. **Margaretha Kramer-Hajos** led students in an exploration of Gender in Prehistoric Aegean through the study of Neolithic and Cycladic figurines and Minoan and Mycenaean frescoes. In "The Secret History of Classical Texts," **Bridget Balint** introduced students

to the reception of classics in late antique and medieval Europe. Our visiting assistant professors, **Greg Jones** and **Micah Myers**, enlivened their sections of Classical Mythology with a film series. And, as usual, the senior capstone course featured a special topic, "Homo Ludens in Ancient Greek and Roman Society." Led by **Eleanor Winsor Leach**, students investigated the seriousness of play and produced some serious scholarship, including four presentations at the Hutton Honors College Research Fair in April.

At the department's annual awards ceremony, it was a pleasure to recognize the achievements of our graduating seniors and to award 19 scholarships to support our continuing students (listed below). We also heard from one of last year's winners of the Pratt Traveling Fellowship, Chelsea Jensen, whose reminiscences transported us to the Roman Forum, Horace's villa, and the side streets of Pompeii.

Classics majors will be on the road this year in the Mediterranean. Two undergraduates won Pratt Traveling Fellowships: **Ricky Owens** will participate in the College Year in Athens Summer Program, while **Nicholas Marshall** explores Greek archaeological sites. Next fall, **Lauren Lombardi** will study at Loyola's Rome Center, supported



*Graduating seniors (from top left) Jennifer Thompson, Nichole Tramel, Parker Krieg, Mariah Coley, and Nicholas Marshall.*

by a David and Jenny Curry Scholarship for Study Abroad.

To all our students who will be traveling this year, whether on a first journey to Greece or Italy or on the first leg of their postgraduate adventures, we say keep well and stay in touch! — *Cynthia Bannon, Associate Professor and Director, Undergraduate Studies*

## 2009 Awards and Scholarships

### **CAMWS Award for Excellence in Classical Studies**

Charles N. Kuper

### **Lillian Gay Berry Scholarships**

Sarah Jones  
Katharine Neff  
Molly Perchlik

### **David and Jenny Curry Scholarships**

Jay Goldrick  
Lauren Lombardi  
Anthony McDonald  
Astrid Richardson

### **Alice Fox Scholarships**

Zachary Barnes  
Amanda Demaree  
Ian Doig  
Ricky Owens  
Matthew Uhls

### **Gertrude Johnson Scholarships**

Katherine Colvin  
Max Eager



### **Norton-Mavor Latin Prize**

Katharine Neff

### **Verne Schuman Scholarship**

Lauren Lombardi

### **Pratt Traveling Fellowships**

Nicholas Marshall  
Robert Nichols  
Ricky Owens

*Above: Scholarship winners (front row, from left) Molly Perchlik, Amanda Demaree, Astrid Richardson, Ricky Owens, and Zachary Barnes; (back row, from left) Robert Nichols, Max Eager, Ian Doig, Matthew Uhls, James Goldrick, Katherine Colvin, Sarah Jones, Katharine Neff, Anthony McDonald, and Nicholas Marshall.*



## From the chair

(continued from page 1)

stellar teaching at Carleton College inspired me to pursue classics as a career.

The department was also fortunate to have two talented, recent PhDs as visiting assistant professors for the entire year to help meet strong demand for our courses: **Greg Jones**, a John Hopkins University PhD and Hellenist, and **Micah Myers**, a Stanford University PhD and Latinist. Jones and Myers together taught over 600 students in classical mythology, and did so with great energy, enthusiasm, and success. We are very pleased that both will be with us for a second year, helping to cover our course offerings with two faculty members on leave and Tim Long in retirement.

In the spring, as part of the IU College of Arts and Sciences' periodic "External Review" of departments, we had the pleasure of hosting a distinguished committee of reviewers: **Erich Gruen** (Berkeley); **Richard Martin** (Stanford); and **Alan Shapiro** (Johns Hopkins). They met with undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and administrators, and offered helpful advice as the department makes future plans for its curriculum and program.

Our faculty continues to be very active as teachers and scholars. Special note should be made of the fact that **Bridget Balint** was awarded tenure this year. She will be on sabbatical in the fall and teaching at Harvard in the spring. Her book, *Ordering Chaos: The Self and the Cosmos in Twelfth-Century Latin Prosimetrum*, has just been released by Brill. To see what other faculty members have been up to, check out their individual Web pages at our recently revised Web site:



Faculty members (from left): Jonathan Ready, Madeleine Goh, Bridget Balint, Betty Rose Nagle, Matt Christ, Eleanor W. Leach, Margaretha Kramer-Hajos, Cynthia Bannon, Tim Long, and James Franklin.

<http://www.indiana.edu/~classics/>.

**Steve Perkins**, BA'91, a teacher at Indianapolis's North Central High School, wrote to share his good news that the North Central Latin program has established the Timothy Long Classics Scholarship.

"Dr. Timothy Long, a professor of Classical Studies at Indiana University, has long been a friend of the Latin program at North Central," says the description on the school's Web site. "From 1998-2007, he facilitated an annual research trip for our Advanced Placement Latin students to IU. He graciously met with our students each year over lunch and frequently invited us to sit in on one of his classes. Dr. Long retired in 2007, and to thank him for all he did to further the cause of Latin at North Central, we established the Timothy Long

Scholarship. This scholarship is open to any senior who completes the application and is presented at our annual awards dinner in May."

The 2008 recipient of this award, **Benjamin Ullrich**, will attend IUB in the fall and plans to minor in Classical Studies.

As I complete my fourth year as chair, I am grateful to the many people whose efforts, often behind the scenes, make the department successful: our office staff, **Derek Vint** and **Yvette Rollins**; **Kim Hinton**, our undergraduate staff advisor, **Cynthia Bannon**, our director of undergraduate studies; **Eleanor Leach**, our director of graduate studies; our energetic faculty; our excellent students, undergraduate and graduate; and our committed alumni.  
— Matt Christ

## Eternal City

(continued from page 1)

In the course of having fun and eating too much delicious food, we were exposed to new ideas along with the ancient monuments many of us had only seen before in books. I was particularly excited one week, when three illustrious guest lecturers presented to us: **Eleanor Leach** (my advisor at Indiana University) on the paintings in houses on the Palatine; Eric Varner at the Montemartini Museum, on Republican portraiture and sculpture that was re-cut, reused, or mutilated; and Elizabeth Bartman at the Palazzo Massimo alle Terme on a number of its holdings. We additionally benefited from the expertise of Larissa Bonfante on the Etruscans, Penelope Davies on the role of competition at the end of the Republic, and John Clarke on the interplay among patrons, artists, and viewers in ancient art.



Rome reunion (from left): Erin Taylor, Eleanor Rust, and Chelsea Jensen.

We also heard firsthand accounts from excavators at sites, including Darby Scott at the House of the Vestals.

We felt like VIPs not only when we learned from renowned scholars, but also when we were granted permission for access to exclusive sites. We climbed the Columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius, went inside the Pyramid of Cestius and the Temple of

Romulus, and explored the Imperial fora.

Although I have studied ancient art for some time, I discovered new things every day; for example, in the Forum of Augustus I learned of the room to the left of the Temple of Mars Ultor, where a colossal statue of Augustus once stood. Its large footprint can still be seen on a large base.

It may seem cliché to say one must go to Rome to understand the city and its monuments. But seeing them, the layout of the city, and the relationship of its monuments cannot be replicated in a classroom. This will not stop me, as a future high school teacher, from sharing the thousands of photos and knowledge I gained while in Rome with my students.

I would like to thank the members of the Classical Society, without whose scholarship the trip would not have been possible. I would also like to thank IU for its Norman T. Pratt Traveling Fellowship.

## Before 1960

**Mary Adams Rich**, BA'30, writes, "I reached 100 years on July 9, 2008," and adds, "I changed majors my second year, taught Latin for two years, and worked for the Department of Public Works for five years." Rich has three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She lives in Escondido, Calif.

**Gerald S. Woodard**, BA'43, MA'48, writes that he and his wife, Georgia (Ingram), BA'48, are living comfortably in Bell Trace, a retirement community in Bloomington, Ind. Gerald, who is a Sagamore of the Wabash, served as editor and head of the publications section of the Indiana Geological Survey for nearly 39 years, while Georgia served as assistant to the secretary of the IU Board of Trustees. Both currently volunteer at the Bloomington Hospital.

## 1960s

**Jane Stuart**, MA'67, MA'69, PhD'71, lives in Greenup, Ky. In 2007 her son, Erik Juergensmeyer, received a PhD in rhetoric, composition, and the teaching of English from the University of Arizona.

**William D. Curtis**, MAT'68, is a high-school teacher and coach in Olympia, Wash. He has taught Latin for 37 years, and coached high-school baseball and basketball for more than 20 years. Curtis has led teams to the state's knowledge bowl and academic decathlon, achieving eight state championships. He lives in Lacey, Wash.

**Jane Lantz Wiggs**, BA'68, lives in Jacksonville, Fla., where she works as an editor in the Mayo Clinic's section of scientific publications. She writes that she and her husband, Joe, have enjoyed exploring Florida and the southeast since relocating from Minnesota three years ago. In 2008, Wiggs finished seventh in the AARP National Spelling Bee in Cheyenne, Wyo.

## 1970s

**Sander M. Goldberg**, MA'74, PhD'77, is a professor of classics at UCLA. He is co-editor of the book *Haydn and the Performance of Rhetoric*, which has been published by the University of Chicago Press. He lives in Los Angeles.

## 1990s

**Gary D. Farney**, BA'91, contributed a Latin translation to Maureen Dowd's op-ed piece "Are We Rome? Tu Betchus!" for the *New York Times* on Oct. 11, 2008. Farney is an associate professor of history at Rutgers University. To read the op-ed, go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/opinion/12dowd.html>.

## 2000s

**Sarah E. Smith**, BA'05, lives in Indianapolis. In May 2007, she married Matthew J. Rubin, BS'05, who works as business development manager for IU Research and Technology Corp. in Indianapolis.

## *Alumni spotlight*

# Hallmark writer draws on IU classics background

This year's most substantial item of alumni news comes from the lead feature of the Fall 2008 issue of the American Philological Association's publication *Amphora*.

Here, under the headline "The Good Humor Man: A Classicist at Hallmark," author **Willie Major**, PhD'97, contributes a profile of **Scott Emmons**, MA'87, PhD'91. Emmons has been on the humor writing staff for the well-known greeting card company since 1993.

As Timothy Long's dissertation student, Emmons completed a study of scientific methodology in Herodotus and went on to a teaching position at Berea College, but success in the jokes line soon brought him to Hallmark.

In a position whose challenges allow for a gratifying interassociation of "his creativity, passion for humor, and classical education," Emmons, who professes still a penchant for reading Greek and Latin for pleasure, credits his classical training for the mental discipline that his current profession requires.

"Writing humor," he observes "can be very hard, and it helps to have the patience and self-critical impulse that I developed when working on a PhD in Classics."

Through Hallmark, Emmons has also published books of funny poetry: *Christmas Unwrapped* and *Get Your Gray On*.

Most recently, he exploited his educational background in *Myth-Demeanors: Twisted Tales of Ancient Greece*, of which he declares, "While other authors aim to preserve the myths for yet another generation, my objective is to see just how much punishment they can take. Through tortured metaphors, forced rhymes, and overblown rhetoric, I have attempted to do to the Greek myths what Apollo did to Marsyas."

Major's *Amphora* article includes some samples of Emmons's irreverent poetizing along with some of the charming illustrations contributed by a collaborator.

Readers without access to the publication (which your local library may carry), can find samples online: <http://www.wordchowder.com>.

## Degrees awarded in 2008–09

### MA in Latin

Diana Beuster  
Chelsea Jensen (MAT)  
Mike Vasta

### MA in Greek

Dianne Boetsch  
Laura Brant  
Jennifer Jarnagin  
Holly Pritchett

### BA in Classical Studies and Classical Civilization

August 2008  
Dru Shields

### December 2008

James Gray  
Stephen Kehres  
Andrew Miller  
Benjamin Miller

### May 2009

Michelle K. Adams  
Jenrie Aerin  
Matthew Thomas Angel  
Mariah Elizabeth Coley  
Charles Parker Krieg  
Nicholas Marshall  
Jennifer Erin Thompson  
Nichole Annette Tramel  
James Edward Wray

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