Message from the Chair

As the newly appointed Chair of the Department of Greek and Roman Studies, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to our annual Newsletter. This position is a responsibility and an honor for which I am very grateful. I look forward to working with staff, faculty members, and students in keeping the department well organized and happy. As in the past, we will all work together to help students and faculty members meet deadlines, and to communicate our goals effectively to the Humanities Faculty, the University, and the wider community. I look at my role as being a general resource for students and faculty. If I am unable to help you, I will certainly work to connect you with someone who can.

When asked what I hope to accomplish as Chair of this department, my answer is simple: I plan on continuing our tradition of excellence and harmony. We have a great department, a diverse faculty, and excellent, committed undergraduate and graduate students. Our enrollment numbers remain strong, but as we celebrate the university’s 50th anniversary—and 100 years of Classical studies at post-secondary institutions in Victoria—we continue to monitor the curriculum to ensure it remains responsive to the needs of students, the university, and the professional world. One of the most impressive aspects of our department is the breadth of knowledge covered by our faculty. With only eight full-time faculty members, assisted by the significant contributions of our sessional instructors, we are able to cover a very wide range of topics in Greek and Latin literature, history and archaeology. We offer a thorough, focused degree enabling students to continue at the graduate level, or to join the professional world. The success of our undergraduate and graduate students over the years in renowned graduate programs at other North American and British universities, and in obtaining employment in university teaching is a testimony to the quality of the department. We hope to build on this strong foundation as we accept students in our newly approved PhD program.

Whether you are new to Victoria or a long-time resident but have always been fascinated by the world of ancient Greece and Rome, we are a resource for you. Our department sponsors the Classical Association of Vancouver Island (CAVI), which holds monthly meetings open to all members of the Victoria community to learn more about the remarkable legacy of ancient Greece and Rome. For the fourth year in a row my colleague Greg Rowe manages the Victoria Latin Club, where high school students come to learn Latin one night a week. Finally, many of our UVic students are involved in the Greek and Roman Studies Course Union. This is a very active student organization, for both socializing and learning!

If you wish to get involved, we most likely have something to interest you. To join any of these activities, or, if you have any other questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at any time.

Brendan Burke, Chair
Tel. 250-721-8522
Email: bburke@uvic.ca

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RES GESTAE: What have we been up to?

Laurel Bowman, along with Geoffrey Kron, co-organized a successful Classical Association of the Canadian West (CACW) conference in Victoria during March entitled “Visualizing Antiquity.” The conference attracted papers from more than sixty scholars and graduate students from throughout North America, and from as far afield as Poland, England, Italy, Finland, and Australia. Publication of the papers is planned. Laurel continues to work on her “Myth on the Map” project, with funding from a UVic Internal Research Grant. The section on Apollodorus, in reader and geographic formats, should be available on the web by Christmas. Laurel is on study leave for the fall term and working on an article on Alice Oswald’s use of the Iliad in her poem “Memorial.”

Brendan Burke presented two papers at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Philadelphia in January, one of them co-authored with former UVic graduate student Trevor Van Damme, another paper at the CACW conference in Victoria in March, and a fourth at the 4th Archaeological Meeting of Thessaly and Central Greece, in Volos (Greece). These presentations concerned his archaeological research in Greece at Glypha, a Mycenaean site in Euboea, and his first season of excavations at Eleon, in eastern Boeotia. In addition, two articles finally reached publication: “The Rebuilt Citadel at Gordion”, in an edited volume from the University of Pennsylvania, and an examination of the ancient use of “sea-silk,” a fibre derived from the fan shell, Pinna nobilis, in the volume Kosmos: Jewellery, Adornment and Textiles in the Aegean Bronze Age. In May Brendan once again directed the UVic in Greece program. Since 2007 one hundred UVic students have participated in this on-site study tour. This year’s trip completed an ambitious itinerary that included central Greece, the Peloponnese, Crete, Rhodes, and coastal and central Turkey. Brendan was awarded a five-year SSRH Insight Grant for his excavation at ancient Eleon. During June and July excavations continued at Eleon with a large contingent from UVic. Brendan was also elected to Chair the Committee on Excavation and Survey for the Canadian Institute in Greece, and on July 1st he became Department Chair of Greek and Roman Studies at UVic.

Josiah Davis spent his summer mainly shuttling between his office and McPherson library, conducting research for several articles that he managed to submit before the fall term began. In July he spent several weeks with friends and family on the east coast of the US, including hikes in the Adirondacks. He is excited to be teaching Medieval Latin for the first time, reminding all his students that it is a perfect springboard for the Late Antiquity course in the Spring!

John Fitch’s translation of Palladius’ Opus Agriculturae is now with the publisher, and he expects the book to appear in 2013. In the spring John celebrated his 70th birthday with friends at Villa Sant’Antonio, Tivoli (Italy). The villa has a Roman ground floor, with an intact nymphaeum about 10 m high; local traditions identify it as the house of the poet Horace (distinct from his Sabine farm near Licenza), so John, who taught Horace’s Odes several times at UVic, felt at home. He also visited the fans Bandusiae, where he gave a recitatio of Ode 3.13 and made an offering of good vino rosso.

Gordon Shrimpton was interviewed in October on CBC Radio about Peter Smith and the early years of UVic, which this year celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Gordon attended the undergraduate program at UVic from 1960–63, and he taught here from 1967–2007. His chapter on “Memory and Ancient History” is due to appear this fall in the book Writing the History of Memory. Gordon’s research on memory is ongoing.

Ingrid Holmberg continues in her roles as Graduate Advisor and Treasurer of the Classical Association of Canada, but she manages to advance her research on early Greek literature. In May she visited the beautifully renovated Greek and Roman galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In July and August Ingrid and Sean spent time in France and England visiting museums and archaeological sites, including the Ashmolean in Oxford, the Roman baths in Bath, Tintagel, the British Museum, and Roman remains at the Tower of London, and beneath Notre Dame in Paris.

Geof Kron gave invited talks before the Department of Classics at Stanford and the Economic and Social History Society at Oxford, bringing together the threads of his research on democratic social change and the distribution of wealth and income in both Greco-Roman and modern societies. He also helped co-organize, along with Laurel Bowman, a successful CACW conference on the theme of “Visualizing Antiquity” (see photo). Geof attended conferences at Cambridge and Columbia celebrating the centenary of Sir Moses Finley’s birth. A number of new articles and chapters are now in print or due to appear this autumn, including an already influential article in ZPE comparing wealth distribution at Classical Athens to that in other pre-industrial and contemporary societies, a study of food production for Walter Scheidel’s new Cambridge Companion to the Roman Economy, three articles in the new Blackwell Encyclopedia of Ancient History, and a substantial chapter on ancient life expectancy. Geof has been invited to co-edit a new handbook of ancient agriculture for Brill.
Cedric Littlewood prepared articles this past year on “Seneca and Greek Tragedy” for the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Greek Tragedy and on “Theatre and Theatricality” for the Cambridge Companion to Seneca. He is on Administrative Leave in 2012-13, richly earned after five years as Chair of the department. This relief from duties will allow Cedric to focus on an article concerning Ovidian influence on the Pseudo-Senecan Hercules Oetaeus. In April Cedric was delighted to be feted at a party in honour of his service as Chair.

Mark Nugent has returned to the department to teach once again during the 2012–13 academic year. His current research focuses on representations of Roman slavery in historical novels from 1965-1985 and on ideologies of masculinity in the Greek literature of the Roman Empire.

John Peter Oleson spent part of May and June in Amman finishing up research for the second volume of the final report of his excavations at Humayma in Jordan, which he sent off to the publisher in September. He also attended the Board Meeting of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman and visited the site of Humayma, where six UVic students were participating in the excavation (photo p. 7), now directed by M. Barbara Reeves of Queen’s University. John is busy finishing up his book on Roman maritime concrete, which has been promised to Oxbow Press by December.

Nick Reymond and Shalini spent two weeks in Italy over the summer. In a trip organized with military precision, they were able to see many of the “mustn’t miss” sites in this short time, including many of the art works Nick discusses in his class on Greek and Roman religion. The Vatican Tauroctony was a personal highlight (see photo), although they missed out on Rome’s best-preserved Mithraeum, below the church of San Clemente. Next time!

Greg Rowe, who recently reviewed an edition of the Greek and Latin inscriptions of Ankara, used that task and his current research into the Res Gestae Divi Augusti as excuses to travel to Ankara for his first personal inspection of that famous inscription. He is looking forward to teaching upper-level Latin for the first time at UVic (Tacitus’ Agricola), as well as a new course on Late Antiquity. The Victoria High School Latin Club, now in its fourth year, continues to thrive under Greg’s direction, and he now offers it through the Victoria Public Library outreach program.

Events of 2012

At the beginning of February members of the department travelled to UBC for our annual joint seminar, which rotates between campuses. Greg Rowe’s talk was entitled “Reconsidering Res Gestae 34.3 and the auctoritas of Augustus.” Michael Griffin of UBC spoke on the overall form of some Socratic dialogues. On February 10th, GRS Majors Miranda Siklenka and Nick Falzon spoke to the Department about mythology and history as part of the Course Union’s Athena Lecture Series (photo p. 5). Toward the end of the month, Dr. Eric Orlin (University of Puget Sound) spoke to CAVI about “Religious Toleration in an Age of Empire” and provided a seminar about “Monuments and Memory in Augustan Rome.” On March 16th–17th, visitors from throughout North American attended the Classical Association of the Canadian West conference, on the theme “Visualizing Antiquity,” organized by Laurel Bowman and Geoff Kron. The keynote speaker was Professor Elio Lo Cascio (Sapienza University, Rome), who spoke on “Visualizing the world of business and labour in the Roman world.” Professor Lo Cascio was in Victoria for a week as the Department’s Lansdowne Lecturer. He also gave talks entitled “Civium capita: the debate on the demography of Roman Italy,” “Free-born, freedmen, and slaves in rural and urban settings,” and “Roman citizens outside Italy.” At the end of March, graduate students Eva Bullard, Diotima Coad, and Georgina Henderson presented a seminar entitled “Lugdunum and Priene: Two cities in the Roman world.”

The fall term has also been busy. Several students addressed CAVI on September 20th with reports about their archaeological fieldwork in Greece and Jordan. Greg Rowe spoke about his research in Ankara. On October 19th Professor Eric Cline (George Washington University) addressed CAVI on the topic “The Ongoing Excavation of a Middle Bronze Age Palace at Tel Kabri, Israel.” On October 29th, our former graduate student Kelly Olson, now a professor at Western University, spoke to CAVI about the “Roman Toga and Greek pallium: Male Dress and Ancient Identity.” This busy year for CAVI finished on November 15th with a presentation by Brendan Burke about his excavation in eastern Boeotia.

For upcoming events, please visit the Department’s website: http://web.uvic.ca/grs.
There has always been some sort of instruction in the classical languages and culture at the University of Victoria and the institutions out of which it grew. Like so many educators of his generation, Edward B. Paul, principal of Victoria College (the predecessor of UVic) from 1903-1908 and 1920-27, was a classicist. George Black started the first informal program of classical studies during his long service at the college (1930-1951). A more directed curriculum began in 1951 when John Carson carried on classical instruction, but there was no formal Department of Classics until 1960, when Peter Smith arrived with his newly minted degree from Yale. In 1961 he and John Carson welcomed Geoffrey Archbold as a colleague. The department expanded rapidly in the late 1960s, along with the University itself, with the arrival of Gordon Shrimpton (1967), Herbert Huxley (1968), and Sam Scully (1969). This group was happily ensconced in a few offices on the top floor of the MacLauren Building. A touchingly naïve memo in 1969 argued against the Dean’s proposal to move the department to what is now Sedgewick B Wing, protesting that the small quarters suited the needs of Classics very well, and guaranteeing not to ask for more space for a decade!

Nevertheless, there was a move to the Sedgewick Building in 1970, a fortunate transition to a lovely one-story cedar complex designed by Arthur Erikson, surrounded by rhododendrons and ferns, where one frequently saw golden pheasants and quail in the underbrush. Professors Campbell, Fitch, and Oleson arrived during the 1970s, bringing the teaching faculty to a critical mass sufficient to allow a Master’s program. In 1979 the department moved to its present quarters in the Cleanihue B Wing, more removed from nature but closer to classrooms and the library and with beautiful views of Mt. Baker and the Sooke Hills. In 1996 the department’s name was changed to Greek and Roman Studies, to reflect better what we teach. The department’s reputation for excellence in research and teaching allowed us to protect our faculty contingent despite retirements and departures in difficult financial times, and in 2003 we were finally allowed to add a position for a specialist in Greek Archaeology, bringing the number of full-time positions to eight: 2 Hellenists, 2 Latinists, 2 historians, and 2 archaeologists. This staffing allows a creative balance between the two classical cultures and their issues. A PhD program was approved by the Board of Governors in 2012.

Because of space considerations, the many faculty members on term contract who have contributed to the work of the department over the years have had to be omitted.

John P. Oleson, Roman Archaeology, 1976 to present.
Ingrid E. Holmberg, Greek Literature, 1991 to present.
Laurel M. Bowman, Greek Literature, 1992 to present.
Cedric A.J. Littlewood, Latin Literature, 1998 to present.
Gregory D. Rowe, Roman History, 2002 to present.
Brendan Burke, Greek Archaeology, 2003 to present.
J. Geoffrey Kron, Greek History, 2007 to present.
Josiah E. Davis, Latin Literature, 2008 to present.

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Undergraduate News

Three students from our department won the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award in 2011: Charlotte Dawe, Melissa Mann, and Ana Wagner. Charlotte also received a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship pursue a Master’s degree in our department. Ana received graduate funding to pursue a Master’s degree in Greek archaeology at Brock University. Melissa is currently completing her Honours degree here at UVic. This year, the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards in our department went to Glenn Beauvais and Susana Reyes. Both are finishing their Honours BA degrees with us. Miranda Siklenka received the ASOR Heritage Fellowship for travel to the Humayma excavation in Jordan. Tori Bedingfield, who graduated with an Honours BA in 2011, won a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship to complete her Masters degree at Queens University in Roman archaeology. Another former Honours BA student, Ruben Post, now studying at McGill, was awarded the Graduate Student Research Paper Prize at the Annual Classical Association of Canada Conference: “Demographics, Fortification, and Territorial Integrity in 4th and 3rd c. BC Boeotia.”

Student Awards in 2012

We once again had a deserving crop of GRS prize winners. The Catriona Cameron Bingham Prize was awarded to Sandra Harper, the George P. Black Memorial Scholarship to Sean Weeks. The Greek and Roman Studies Scholarship was split evenly between Nick Falzon and Christopher Hebda, while the Edward B. Paul Memorial Scholarship was split between Karley Wilson and Andrew Rozendal. The Peter L. Smith Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies was split evenly between Elliott Fuller and Luke Curtil. The Irene Lee Book Prize in Latin was awarded to Raya MacKenzie, the Butterfield Law Book Prize to Olivia Fraser, and the Hector McDonald Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies to Susana Reyes. Seven Classical Association of Vancouver Island Book Prizes were given to Rose Pappas-Acreman, Alexandra Greene, Annie Mayse, Miranda Siklenka, Emma Fedderly, Glenn Beauvais, and Graham Butler. The Richard Serle Dundas Scholarship went to Melissa Mann, who also was awarded a President’s Scholarship.
UVic Reaches Out

In late spring every year the university invites incoming undergraduate students to campus so that they may learn about the departments and their course offerings at an event called “Experience UVic.” This past May, Cedric Littlewood and Josiah Davis, with the aid of Charlotte Dawe and Olivia Fraser, supervised our booth at the expo and informed many excited visitors about the world of Greek and Roman Studies. Cedric also gave a brief presentation, to rave reviews, about the benefits of studying the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. We hope to see many of these students in the coming years, and the event forms an important part of our outreach efforts to the UVic community.

A similar event took place on September 29th, a university-wide Open House to celebrate the beginning of UVic’s 50th year by opening all the departments to visits by the community. Undergraduate and graduate students and faculty set up displays and welcomed the visitors with explanations of what Greek and Roman Studies is all about.

In April, the Department hosted a Classics Day for students from Esquimalt High School and their teacher Anita Roberts, organized by Greg Rowe. Seven faculty members talked about aspects of the ancient world and the research they are most passionate about. Laurel Bowman, for example, used the example of Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex* and asked students to consider why Athenians attended performances of tragedies when they already knew the well-worn plots. Her answer is that they came for the telling, not the tale. *Oedipus Rex* isn’t the story of the man who killed his father and married his mother; it’s the story of the man who *found out* he’d killed his father and married his mother. The event was a great success, and we plan to repeat it this year with students from more area high schools.

A similar initiative is the UVic Latin Club, which Greg Rowe directs. This year the club, meant to make up for the absence of Latin language instruction in the regional high schools, will be run as part of the Victoria Public Library community outreach program.

Graduate Program News

The following M.A. candidates successfully defended their theses in 2012: Angela Pass (“Juvenal, Martial and the Augustans: An Analysis of the Production and Reception of Satiric Poetry”), Lindsay Brill (“Veterinarians in Ancient Rome”), Trevor Van Damme (“Remembering the Mycenaeans: How the Ancient Greeks Repurposed their Prehistoric Past”), and Kelsey Koon (“Granaries and the Grain Supply of Roman Frontier Forts”). Lindsey, Trevor, and Kelsey have all gone on to further graduate study in their fields of interest. Trevor was awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship for his PhD study at UCLA. Lindsey and Trevor won the American Philological Association Outstanding Student Award.

An energetic crop of new graduate students has arrived since the last newsletter: Neil Barney (Subliterary documents from the late Republic), Joshua Binus (Greek tragedy), Charlotte Dawe (An early English translation of the Aeneid), and Lauren Tee (Lucretius and stoic philosophy). Neil has an Outstanding Graduate Entrance award and has been nominated for the John O. Dell Graduate Scholarship. Joshua and has been nominated for the Gordon & Hilda Fitch Scholarship, and Lauren has been nominated for the David and Geoffrey Fox Award. Charlotte holds both a Canada Graduate Scholarship and a UVic President’s Research award. Our continuing MA students are Eva Bullard (Romans in the Czech Republic), Diotima Coad (Pauline Christianity), Craig Harvey (Roman Ceramic Building Materials), and Georgina Henderson (Roman architecture). Diotima has been appointed by the Learning and Teaching Centre as a Teaching Assistant Consultant for the Departments of Pacific and Asian Studies and Greek and Roman Studies for the 2012-13 academic year.
You are invited!

The Classical Association of Vancouver Island (CAVI) was founded in 1971 as a way of fostering relations between the department and members of the general public interested in Classical studies. The main activity has always been the organization of public lectures on all aspects of Greek and Roman studies by local and visiting classical scholars, and we have hosted over 200 well-attended presentations since the association began. Please send in your e-mail (to sbemming@uvic.ca) so that we may put you on the e-mailing list for our lectures and other activities. You may also check the department website for information on upcoming CAVI-lectures and other events (http://web.uvic.ca/grs/web_pages/events.php). Membership is free to students; $10.00 per annum for others.

Classical Archaeology at UVic

The department has a long history of involving its undergraduate and graduate students in archaeological fieldwork. The Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project (EBAP), a Greek-Canadian collaborative project of which Brendan Burke is a co-director, conducted its first full season of excavation in 2012. The team's work at the acropolis of ancient Eleon (Boeotia, Greece) expanded knowledge of the Mycenaean occupation and also produced important new information about the site's re-use and re-building in the Archaic and Classical periods. Eight UVic students took part: Samantha Bartlett, Joe Bellows, Matt Bullock, Nick Falzon, Max MacDonald, Rose Pappas-Acreman, Kinsey Smith, and Lauren Tee. Six UVic students also took part in the Humayma Excavation Project in Jordan this year: Miranda Siklenka, Ana Wagner, Craig Harvey, Olivia Fraser, Kelsey Koon, and Natasha Banky (see photo). Craig was assistant director of the project, which John Oleson directed until 2005. In 2007 direction was handed over to M. Barbara Reeves, a former BA and MA student in our department who now teaches at Queen's University.

Stay in Touch

If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter in electronic or printed format, please telephone (250-721-8514) or send an e-mail message (sbemming@uvic.ca) to our Department Administrator Sonja Bermingham, informing her of your wishes.
Your gift will change lives

The department is always looking for ways to increase the number of scholarships and bursaries available for students. There are many ways for you to help—whether through increasing existing endowment, creating a new scholarship or bursary or contributing to other projects—your gift will make a tangible difference to a student’s success. The Margareta von Rudloff Travel Assistance Award has been particularly important to our students over the years. Craig Harvey reports: “I am very grateful for the support I received from the department in the form of a von Rudloff Travel Award in 2012. The funds provided allowed me to stay and work at the American Centre for Oriental Research in Amman (Jordan), where I conducted my research on Roman ceramic building materials. Much of my thesis depends on the data collected this past summer, which I could not have accomplished without the help of this award.” The department is especially grateful to Mrs. Anne Millar, who made a generous $10,000 donation for the Eastern Boeotia (Greece) Archaeological Research Fund, helping to solidify the department’s reputation for archaeological fieldwork.

Karen Whyte, the Development Officer for the Faculty of Humanities, reports the following: The University of Victoria is celebrating its 50th anniversary from June 2012 to June 2013. To honour that milestone, the Faculty of Humanities is committed to creating new endowments in support of scholarships, bursaries, and travel funds. We are delighted to inform you that an anonymous donor will match each new gift or pledge of $25,000 or more towards the creation of new awards to benefit undergraduate students. Your gift can make a real difference by recognizing excellence in Greek and Roman Studies, or by ensuring that a student can gain invaluable international experience through research and study abroad.

Of course, smaller gifts are welcome too! You can help the department through increasing an existing endowment by donating to the Greek and Roman Studies sustaining funds (see the form below). In all cases your gift will enhance the intellectual growth of our students. Donations to the department can take many forms—a gift to celebrate accomplishments, a gift to remember a loved one, annual gifts to honour your graduation, or a planned gift in your will. All donations will receive a charitable tax receipt.

I am here to help you realize your philanthropic goals. I can be reached by phone at 250-853-3893, by email at kwhyte@uvic.ca, or by mail at University of Victoria Annual Giving Office Alumni House PO Box 3060 STN CSC Victoria BC V8W 3R4. Donate online: http://web.uvic.ca/givingtouvic/index.php

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### YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!

1) I wish to support the following funds:

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- [ ] Gordon and Hilda Fitch Scholarship
- [ ] Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project

2) Amount of gift: _______________

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- [ ] monthly gift per month $________ start date:________ end date:________

3) Method of Payment:

- [ ] Visa
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Signature (required for credit card): _______________________________________________________

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- [ ] I would like information on bequests and other forms of planned gifts
- [ ] I would like information on gifts of publicly traded securities

Thank you for your support for the students and programs at this university.