



Department of Classics  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
Spring 2008

# Classics

## *Ann Nichols Visits CU Classics*

**B**eloved Alumna Ann Nichols visited the CU campus this past September.

Ann has supported the Department for years with her generous donations and her enthusiastic attention to our students. It has been 36 years since she graduated from CU Classics, and she was delighted to have a chance to reconnect with her alma mater and the current faculty and students who bring this wonderful place to life in the here and now. Ann went to lunch with faculty members Andy Cain, Diane Conlin, Beth Dusinger, and Noel Lenski and with Ann Nichols Fellows Emily Wilson and Dean Furlong. The septet ate at the Dushanbe Tea House, a welcome addition to the Boulder landscape since her departure. Ann also had a chance to meet a number of the other student fellows whom she has supported so generously with her annual donations. After returning home she wrote: "As I drove down to Golden on Highway 93, it occurred to me that, although everything at CU has gone through the transformations that 40 years will bring, the spirit and the heart of the school is still evident and the reasons I came to CU 40 years ago still valid. When 'Light My Fire' by The Doors came on the radio, the circle was complete." There can be no doubt about it: she's still got the spirit!

## *From the Chair: Ahead of the Curve*

This is now CU Classics' fifteenth continuous year of newsletter publication. Going back to 1994 when then Chair Peter Knox produced our first issue, we have been honored to use this forum to keep in close touch with you about the exciting things going on back at your alma mater. Prof. Knox's foresight in instituting this publication has come into clearer focus in the last couple of years as inaugural newsletters have begun to pour into our mailboxes from Classics departments at peer institutions like Brown, Princeton, Stanford, and Yale. As these schools catch up to our lead, we move ahead of the curve once *continued on page 2*



*From left, Emily Wilson, Diane Conlin, Andy Cain, Noel Lenski  
Ann Nichols, Dean Furlong*

**Colorado**  
University of Colorado at Boulder



## *From the Chair:*

*continued from page 1*

again with this inaugural digital version. With this issue you will begin receiving two annual e-mailings from the Department with news and updates in electronic format. This should offer you the chance to catch up with us more often and in smaller, more digestible installments. It will also put us all in sync with the internet age and allow us to avoid the cost to the environment of ushering more trees from the woods to the waste bin.

That being said, we are well aware that many of our friends still prefer to take their reading material in hand and curl up with it far from the flat-screen, and for this reason we ask those of you who would prefer to receive our newsletter via the post to fill out the information page at the end of the newsletter and return it to us, or alternatively, to send us a return email indicating the same. Meanwhile, a print version of the newsletter will go out at the end of the summer to our entire mailing list as well in order to give those of you who do not use the internet a chance to let us know if you prefer a paper mailing.

In this issue you can look forward to exciting news about our record setting graduating classes, our "Classics Angel" Ann Nichols, our annual spring picnic and mountain retreat, and our distinguished alumna Georgia Irby-Massie. Expect regular longer features on our alumni and more news that will vary with the season in the issues to come.

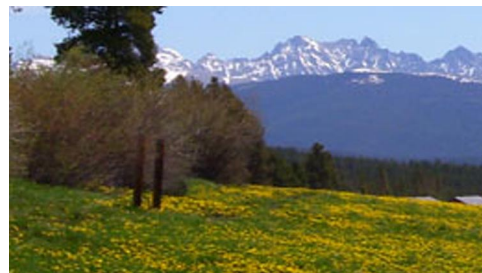
Meanwhile please do keep in mind that our Graduate Student Enhancement Fund Drive is still ongoing and that your donations to this cause would be very welcome. We are at nearly \$20,000 now and hope to get to 30K

in order to provide our graduates with educational opportunities like those available to the peer institutions named above. We hope you will be able to help us make this goal a reality!

*Noel Lenski, Chair*

## *Undergraduate Fun & Trip to Snow Mountain Ranch*

Even at a school of nearly 30,000 students, the Classics Department at CU prides itself on the warm and tight-knit social atmosphere that we foster among our undergraduates. All the faculty, and particularly our As-



*View of western face of Indian Peaks from Snow Mountain Ranch*

sociate Chair for Undergraduate Studies Andy Cain, work hard to make our students feel as "at home" as possible at a large state university. This

year the Classics Club helped to foster this sense of community by organizing extra-curricular activities such as Classics-themed movie and pizza nights. We spoiled our hard-working students in other ways as well. In early March, Andy Cain along with his wife Anna and two rambunctious toddlers, took a group of sixteen Classics undergraduates to Snow Mountain Ranch in Winter Park for an all-expenses-paid weekend getaway of fun, relaxation, and bonding outside the classroom.



## *Ann Nichols Scholarship Winners*

Ann Nichols, CU alumna and former Classics major, has proven yet again why she deserves to be called the “Classics Angel.” This past year she donated over \$27,000 to support some of our very best undergraduate majors in their study of the Classics on the Boulder campus and beyond this coming academic year. Six worthy students were chosen from a particularly competitive applicant pool to be the Ann Nichols Fellows of 2008-09. The Herodotus Travel Grant, the most substantial of the fellowships that subsidizes the expenses of studying abroad, was awarded to rising senior Avedan Raggio. Avedan, who maintains a near-4.0 cumulative GPA, intends after graduation to enter a Ph.D. program in Medieval Studies and one day to enter the professoriate. Next year, she will use her fellowship to study in Athens, Greece, where she will broaden her horizons and deepen her knowledge of the rich Classical past. For the second year in a row, Dean Furlong was awarded a Distinguished Undergraduate Fellowship to support his ongoing study at CU. Dean very admirably has kept a virtual 4.0 cumulative GPA while being an attentive father to his four young chil-

dren. He plans to write an honors thesis next year on a post-Classical Latin topic and is contemplating a career as a teacher of Latin in his native Great Britain. Four outstanding students—Lauren Brooks, Sarah Chapman, Kelley Grubbs, and David Otero—were chosen as recipients of the Romulus Travel Grant, which funds participation in the excavations at the Villa of Maxentius in Rome, a world-famous archeological dig led each summer by CU Classics professor Diane Conlin. All four not surprisingly share a passion for Roman archeology, and all four also hope after graduation to further their education in a Classics Ph.D. program.



*Ann Nichols stands with fellows Dean Furlong and Emily Wilson before her fellowship plaque in the Classics hallway*



## Undergraduate News

The 2007-08 academic year was another record-setting one for the undergraduate program in Classics at CU. Not only did we graduate an all-time high of 33 majors and minors, but our population of majors reached an astounding 112, topping last year's record high by 20 majors. This milestone is impressive for another reason: it makes us the single largest undergraduate Classics program in North America by a considerable margin. The future has never looked brighter. If the recent past is any indication, our numbers will only continue to grow in the coming years as more undergraduates on the Boulder campus discover the exciting adventures that await them in the world of ancient Greece and Rome.



*Katherine Sharp and family*

Between our December 2007 and May 2008 graduations, we said farewell to a total of 24 majors and 9 minors. In December, we celebrated the graduation of majors Damon Chick, Peter Luskin, Kelly McQueeney, and Thomas Sabin, and of minors Ryan Crennen and Tyler Haglund. In May, the department graduated majors Sarah Abelson, Claire Bellmont, Leif Berg, Garrett Branchaud, Andrew Detch, Elizabeth Franz, Elyse

Hammerly, Stefan Hodges-Kluck, Chelsea Jarvis-Jewell, Se-lene Knudson, Vicki Legendre, Jonatan McNeill, Sarah Nelson, Matthew Raica, Julia Rhine, Keely Richardson, Crystal Rome, Katherine Sharp, Jenni Vogel, and Ross Weinstein.



*Matt Raica and Elyse Hammerley*

Graduating with minors were Brian Beverly, Taylor Brackin, Katherine Flynn, Laura Liu, Jennifer Massey, Jonathan Stillman, and Nicholas Thompson. Several of our May graduates were awarded honors in Classics for their theses. Sarah Abelson and Andrew Detch each received the cum laude distinction, and Stefan Hodges-Kluck, Sarah Nelson, and Crystal Rome were awarded the magna cum laude designation. For several years running now, Classics has graduated (per capita) more students with honors than any other department on the Boulder campus. Bravo to our honors graduates and to their faculty advisors in Classics!



*Elizabeth Franz and Noel Lenski*



# Classics



*Andrew Detch sports a smile and an honors medal*

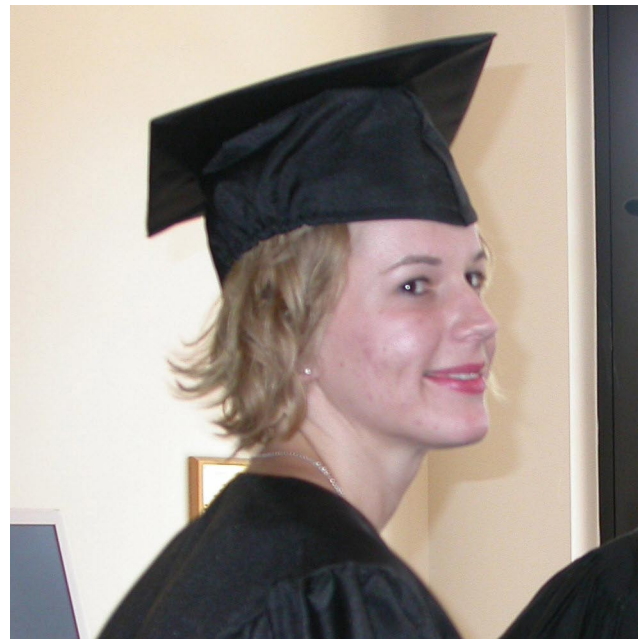
Perhaps the most common misconception among students contemplating a switch to our major is that a B.A. in Classics is mainly for people who want to become teachers of Latin (or Greek) at the secondary level. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, as our many graduates this year will attest, it is one of the most practical degrees



*Andrew Cain and Damon Chick*

there is in terms of the variety of career possibilities it opens up. Damon Chick, who served as the Classics Club president for two years, has entered the arena of local Colorado politics. Sarah Nelson,

Julia Rhine, and Chelsea Jarvis-Jewell will be heading off to law school. Jenni Vogel, a triple major in Classics, History and Economics, moves on to seek a graduate degree in business. Matthew Raica will continue to serve in the Marines while pursuing a degree in viticulture. Stefan Hodges-Kluck plans to apply to Classics Ph.D. programs in the fall and hopes one day to enter the professoriate. Andrew Detch, a double major in Classics and History, will be attending Brown University in the fall to work toward his M.A. and eventually Ph.D. in Irish history. Beginning



*A justly proud Keely Richardson*

in the fall, Garrett Branchaud will be employed by the U.S. Department of Interior. A few of our graduates will pursue exciting career paths far afield.

Peter Luskin, a double major in Classics and French, will teach English in Syria. Keely Richardson will enter the Peace Corps and put her fluent speaking knowledge of Russian and Ukrainian to good use by teaching in the Ukraine. Claire Bellmont, who wants to direct movies one day, will attend graduate school in film studies at NYU in Singapore. We are very proud of everything our graduating majors and minors have accomplished at CU and we wish them all the best for the future!



## Graduate News

The graduate program in Classics has seen a productive and interesting year in 2007-2008. We are proud of our graduates, who number fully 12 students taking their Master's degrees this year and 3 PhD students completing their degrees. The range of material covered by the students is really impressive, from ancient Mesopotamia to Late Antique Europe — over 4000 years and 3000 miles of human culture. The students' plans now upon completing their degrees are also diverse, ranging from teaching positions in Classics to further graduate training in Library and Information Science. We are thrilled by the work done by our outstanding students, although — as always — we will miss them and our interactions with them as they move onwards and upwards

### Graduators 2007-2008 include:

ANDREW CLAY (MA)  
BEN GRACY (PhD)  
BILL MARINO (MA)  
BILL WHITE (MA)  
BRENT SCHMIDT (PhD)  
BROOKE MARCELLINO (MA)  
GEOFFREY HAYMES (MA)  
JASON KIZZIA (MA)  
KRISTINA INGERSOLL (MA)  
LOVINA IKENGA (MA)  
MARY JUNKERSFELD (MA)  
MAX PFINGSTON (MA)  
PATRICK FERGUSON (MA)  
SCOTT FARRINGTON (PhD)



*Geoffrey Haymes and Diane Conlin*

into further professional exploration and development. Many congratulations to all of the students who have completed this stage of their education, and thanks to all of them also for making the department a more rewarding and interesting place to be.

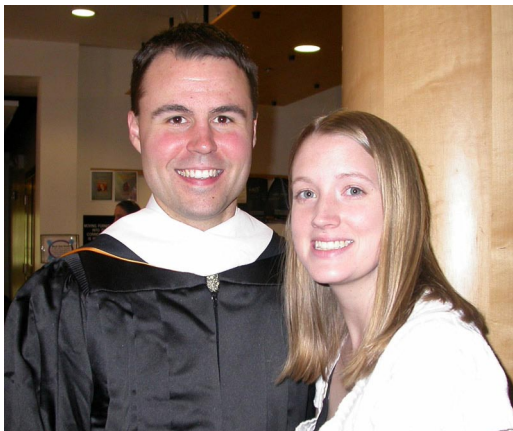


*Bill Marino and his one month old son Matthew*



# Classics

A number of our students have been the recipients of grants, both internal and external, to help them with research, travel, delivering papers at conferences, and other aspects of professional development. Mandy Sherpe made good use of a dissertation fellowship in the spring of 2008 to complete her graduate exams, write a dissertation prospectus, and work on the initial chapters of her thesis. Mandy Sherpe and Kristina Ingersoll were awarded travel grants to present papers at the convention of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South in April, held this year in Tucson. Julia Byers, Jake Morton, and Emily Wilson were awarded grants for summer projects in 2008: Julia and Jake will join Classics professor Diane Conlin at her field school in Rome at the Villa of Maxentius, while Emily will pursue extra summer training in Latin and work with artifacts in the museum of the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, Jake Morton was granted the



*Andrew Clay and his wife Adrienne*

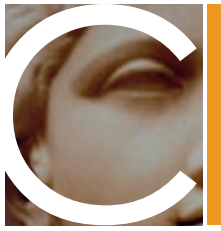
Jane Waldbaum award by the Archaeological Institute of America, one of only five in the nation, to participate in Prof. Conlin's field school this summer.

We are pleased to be welcoming ten incoming graduate students to our program next fall, including eight Master's students and two PhD students. Thanks to the exceptional quality of our applicants, we secured all three of the University's top graduate fellowships for next year (Chancellor's, Devaney, Arts & Sciences) and are therefore able to fund seven of our incoming students with multi-year packages.

We will be tremendously grateful for any additional gifts that you might make to our graduate fund, however! Our goal is to be able to fund ten new students each year, as well as offering them additional support for summer travel and/or research projects. Please give anything you can to the Classics Department to assist us in meeting this important goal! We are reliant on private donations to help our outstanding graduate students meet the requirements of our demanding field, and we appreciate your financial assistance very much indeed.



*Mary Junkersfeld and Peter Knox*



## Annual Spring Picnic

Every spring, around the festival of Floralia on the first of May, Colorado Classicists gather at a Boulder park to frolic in the beginning of spring, and the end of the semester. Braziers are enkindled for the roasting of hamburgers and hotdogs. Professors pull themselves away from dusty texts and fragmentary statues to do homage to the season. Students take a much needed break from their end of term labors writing papers and studying for tests as they emerge from their (not so) Platonic caves into the light of a spring afternoon to have some fun. This year was no exception. Colorado, Classics undergraduates and graduates joined their professors at Martin Park in South Boulder where they fortified themselves with a sumptuous feast of picnic fare and disported themselves on the yard with games of football, frisbee and *in*

## Alumni News

**Michael Barrett** (MA 05) was married to her longtime fiance Justin Carpenter in Ouray, CO on September 22, 2007. The happy couple now lives in Colorado Springs.

**Denver Graninger** (MA 99) met Noel Lenski this March at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he is thriving as an Assistant Professor of Classics. Graninger specializes in Greek religion, on which he completed his PhD at Cornell University in 2005.

**Richard Payne** (BA 03) will travel from Princeton to Konstanz Germany next fall to take up a multi-year position as a researcher on eastern medieval - especially Syriac - religious and social history.



*Stefan Hodges-Kluck and Jake Morton engage in competitive philosophical posturing at the spring picnic*

*primis* volleyball. This last has become the culmination of an annual rite, which cannot end until the Department's Hellenists and Latinists have tested themselves in an agonistic match of what the learned term volleyfollis, a sport that, if it was not yet played by the ancients, certainly should have been. This year the Hellenists were due their comeuppance, having suffered defeats in four straight sets in spring 07. But alas, the mood was too jovial for anyone to keep score, forcing a postponement of the championship until next year.

**Crystal Rosenthal** (MA 06) serves as a McDermott Curator at the Dallas Museum of Art where she recently co-curated an exhibit entitled "Either Side of Gray: Exploring Black and White."

**Danielle Steen-Fatkin** (BA 98) finished her PhD at Stanford in 2007 and received a yearlong fellowship at the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem to continue her research on Jewish ritual bathing this year.

**Elle Tauer** (BA 97, MA 99) has started her own law firm, Greenwood and Tauer, P.C. in Denver. Elle was married last September to Tony Acardi in Castle Rock. Noel Lenski and Alison Orlebeke were in attendance.

**Christine Zachary** (attended CU 1970-74) reports that she went on to finish her degree at the University of Oregon but that she still remembers her CU Classics years fondly and finds that "taking classics at CU has had a lifelong effect on me." She is now a fine artist and antique dealer in Portland.



## *Featured Alumna: Georgia Irby-Massie, PhD '94*

As a child in humid and hilly Athens, Ga., I would spend hours contemplating a painting of the desert southwest, mesmerized by the Joshua tress and dramatic mesas; and I was determined to go west. Although the rugged snowcapped mountains of Colorado are not quite the alien landscape of my youthful imagination, the postcard blue skies and crisp mountain air, nonetheless, inspired my intellect and imagination in much the same way. My first views of Boulder are indelibly burned into my memory – the dramatic wall of slate grey mountains rising from the plains into wisps of clouds, cheerful Mediterranean tiled brick buildings. No less welcoming were faculty and fellow students. The doctoral program afforded me just the right amount of freedom tempered by demanding and interesting classes. My relationship with Vergil, intimate in High school after two years and an AP exam – it was Vergil who seduced me into the Classics – deepened and matured under Ernst Fredricksmeyer. To this day, I think fondly of Joy King especially when I read Lucretius. My Greek owes much to Eckart Schütrumpf in whose Thucydides course I learned to read Greek and in whose Greek Prose Composition I came to appreciate this difficult language for all its mathematical complexities. Likewise, my Latin teaching career was so carefully fostered by Barbara Hill whose gentle patience and methodical approach remains my pedagogical paradigm. Space does not allow an exposition of all my debts to the faculty at CU – faculty who advised and encouraged my first conference presentations and article submissions,

mock job interviews, and a mentor whose rigorous expectations forged a raw mass of enthusiasm into a burgeoning scholar.

Further, the ties of friendship with fellow students are adamant. We were a small group, close and protective of each other. We encouraged and supported each other with study

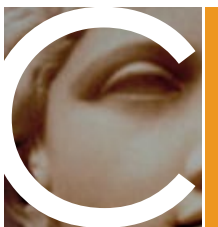
groups, translation parties, long chats about all things classical, mock-oral comps parties, post-defense celebrations, roller-blading on the Boulder Creek Path, and skiing at A-Basin.



Boulder was a difficult place to leave, but the raw knowledge, life lessons, and friendships forged on the Hill continue to serve me well, through two successful teaching gigs, at LSU and Baylor, both jobs secured in part with the sup-

port of fellow Buffs on the inside, and a plum Assistant Professorship at the College of William and Mary.

My current work in the history and reception of Greek science results directly from this graduate school experience. Professor Schütrumpf mentored my self study into a (then) rarely pursued aspect of our discipline – the history and philosophy of science. And a partnership with a fellow alumnus, Paul Keyser, has produced two books. The unique juxtaposition of my own specialized and unusual training (I also studied mathematics at the University of Georgia) with a broad program of teaching across the Classics curriculum at the College of William and Mary enables me to make interesting connections and ask important questions. The answers, in turn, may yield real about how the Greeks viewed themselves and may bring students of the Classics to a greater knowledge of Greek natural philosophy and a deeper understanding of their interpretations of the workings of the cosmos.



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# Classics

## Newsletter Survey

As we move to a digital format for our newsletter, please help us keep in touch with you by completing the following survey and returning it to us at: Department of Classics; 248 UCB; University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0248. You can also complete this form online at [www.colorado.edu/classics](http://www.colorado.edu/classics):

### Address Information:

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Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

### Preferred Newsletter Format:

I would prefer to receive my newsletter in two annual installments via email: ☐  
I would prefer to receive my newsletter in one annual mailing via the post: ☐  
I would prefer not to receive a CU Classics newsletter: ☐

News you would like printed in upcoming CU Classics newsletters (or email your news to [lenski@colorado.edu](mailto:lenski@colorado.edu)): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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## Giving to CU Classics

We are so very grateful for all the past financial support we have received from our alumni and friends. The quality of our operation depends on your generosity. Please consider a donation to Classics, whether by mailing a check (made out to the "CU Foundation") to: Department of Classics; 248 UCB; University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0248 or by giving online at: [www.cufund.org/giveonline/index.php?ID=8](http://www.cufund.org/giveonline/index.php?ID=8) (scroll down to "Classics Department" and click "give online").

Enclosed is my gift of: \_\_\_\$1000 \_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\$200 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$\_\_\_\_\_

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