

Department of Classics

University of Colorado at Boulder

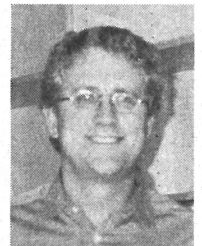
December 2001

Classics

From the Chair

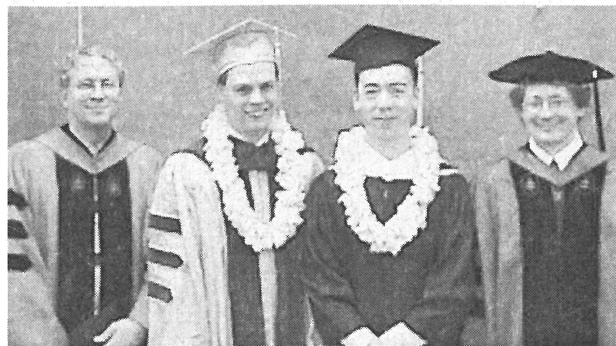
Peter E. Knox

In this, my penultimate year as Chair, it is a pleasure to contemplate the accomplishments of the many talented colleagues who now make up the faculty of the Department of Classics. At the moment the majority of our faculty are relatively recent arrivals at CU, but even I, one of the grizzled veterans, am only entering my tenth year in Boulder. This is a young and vibrant program, bristling with activity in teaching and scholarship. Before long, new books by John Gibert on Euripides, Ariana Traill on Terence, Susan Prince on Antisthenes, and Noel Lenski on Constantine will be at the publishers. Diane Conlin is pursuing projects developed during last spring's conference on "Marble in the Roman World", Beth Dusinberre is exploring Persepolis, and Peter Hunt is making significant contributions to our knowledge of ancient warfare. Eckart Schütrumpf is nearing completion of the fourth volume of his monumental commentary on Aristotle's Politics, while on leave this year on a Faculty Fellowship. Last year's Faculty Fellow, Chris Shields, is lecturing on his research projects around the globe, most recently in New Zealand. And our most recent recipient of CU's most prestigious teaching award, Barbara Hill, is marshalling our burgeoning Latin language program.



Elsewhere in this newsletter John Gibert, our Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, reports on the many activities of our graduate students and graduate alumni. Our most recent Ph.D. recipients, Douglas Doll, Paul Ojennus, and Zachary Biles, are currently teaching at the University of Oklahoma, Purdue University, and Davidson College respectively. Current graduate students are carrying on the tradition of active engagement in the teaching and scholarly activities of the Department through participation in the Association of Students of the Classical World. Undergraduates, about whom you will hear from Noel Lenski, are also an integral part of the life of the Department. In January, J.K. Melton returns from a semester at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, while Jared Benton crosses the Atlantic for the spring semester at ICCS. In the not too distant future, perhaps more CU students will be making that trip to participate in the field school for archaeology that we hope to establish.

We have all been touched by the strange and tragic events of this peculiar autumn. Many members of our Department, students and faculty, have friends and family who were close to the disasters in New York and Washington. We are all grateful that, so far as we know, none in our CU family of classicists suffered direct personal loss. As educators, we struggle to find ways to help our students-and ourselves-to come to terms with the inexplicable. The study of the past is one avenue to an understanding of the complexities of the present. Our Department has been central to that endeavor during the first 125 years in the life of the University, and so it is today, when such understanding is as crucial as it has ever been.



Chair Peter Knox (left) and Associate Chair for Graduate Studies John Gibert (right) flank new PhD Paul Ojennus and new MA Jason Miller at the May commencement ceremony.

Classics Graduate Program Marks Many Successes

This fall the Department welcomes five new students into our MA programs. Zenon Culverhouse and Holly Scriptor have most recently been graduate students in other CU departments. After earning a BA at San Francisco State University in 1999, Zenon began studying for a Master's in Philosophy in Boulder. While beginning his graduate study in Classics, he is finishing a thesis on "The Epistemological Function of Myth in Plato's Republic." Holly took her BA from Principia College (Elsah, IL) in 1996; she will receive her BA in Art History from CU's Department of Fine Arts in December, after completing her thesis on "American Modernism in New York: Alfred Stieglitz and his Galleries." Joanna Kingsbury joins us from the University of Wisconsin (Madison), where she earned her BA degree in Classics in 1999. Here in Boulder, she has begun to serve as the Editorial Assistant for The Classical Journal. Dwight Scull comes to us with an undergraduate degree in Biblical Studies from Colorado Christian

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Meet Bekki Richards, an Innovator in Distance Education

Bekki Richards, who will receive her MA in December, is quickly moving into the front ranks of an exciting new movement in Latin pedagogy, online or distance education. Last year Bekki accepted a job with the Colorado Online School Consortium (COSC) teaching Latin, and soon found herself teaching 45 of the total 250 students enrolled in all online courses in Colorado. Forty of her online students are enrolled in Latin I, and most come from Chatfield High School in Jefferson County, whose Latin teacher retired. Other students hail from Salida, South Park, Loveland, the Denver School of the Arts and Centaurus High School in Lafayette. COSC includes a total of 54 school districts so the potential number of enrollees is vast.

In September Bekki joined an E-Learning Task Force and Study Group created by the Colorado Department of Education, charged with the task of making recommendations to the governor and legislature concerning distance learning in Colorado and drafting a proposal for a state-sponsored virtual high school. In October she attended the CiTE Virtual High School national symposium in Chicago.

Bekki is well prepared for her career, having obtained a BA in Classics from Brigham Young University and an MS in Instructional Technology from Utah State University, prior to coming to CU's Department of Classics in August 2000. She has recently accepted a position as Assistant Director of Learning Design with the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium, supervising distance education for grades K-12. She begins her new job in New Britain, CT on January 4, 2002. We look forward to keeping in touch with Bekki as she blazes the trail in online education.

Graduate Program Marks Many Successes

Continued from page 1

Academy. And Dave Yates, this year's Norlin Fellow, earned his BA in Classics at the University of Virginia last spring.

Three of our returning MA students traveled and studied in Greece this past summer. After short stays in Athens and Thessaloniki, Jude Morris spent the remainder of his time on the Greek islands of Samothrace and Limnos. There he divided his time between surveying the mystery sanctuaries on those two islands for his master's thesis and long, contemplative walks along the beach. Ines Hälbig visited Athens, Delphi, and Olympia, among other places. She reports an ominous encounter with a horse called Antigone, "the crankiest, most stubborn horse" she's ever met. By first galloping and then stopping suddenly, head between her legs, Antigone eventually managed to throw Ines into a

big pool of mud. Marion Brew received the Lawler Scholarship, a full scholarship from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, last summer and had the good fortune to spend six and a half "grueling" weeks visiting sites and museums throughout mainland Greece and the island of Crete. CU Professor Emerita Hara Tzavella-Evjen was her guide to Boeotia. A fourth student, Jason Miller (who, having completed his MA here at CU in the spring, has now begun studying for his PhD), traveled to Italy. He reports finding the Capitoline Museum and Roman cuisine particularly impressive.

Altogether, we currently have twenty students enrolled in the MA program and two in the PhD program. Four are employed in the Latin classrooms and eight as Graduate Assistants in large lecture classes.

Alumni secure prestigious positions

Three alumni who recently earned their PhD's in our department now hold teaching appointments at other universities. Zachary Biles is teaching a wide range of courses in Greek, Latin, and Classical culture at Davidson College where he joins three other faculty members. Davidson has a thriving Classics program, and many of its students come to college with a strong background in the field, often a few years of high school Latin. Zachary, his wife Jill, and their 9-month-old daughter Hannah are all enjoying their new surroundings. Zachary's latest article, on "Originality and Intertextuality in Cratinus and Aristophanes," has just been accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Philology*. This year will also see the appearance of work he completed earlier, "Aristophanes' Victory Dance: Old Poets in the Parabasis of Knights" (ZPE) and a review.

Doug Doll has joined the faculty of the University of Oklahoma (Norman) as Visiting Lecturer in Classics. This fall, he is teaching Herodotus in Greek and Livy in Latin. In the spring, he will take over Intermediate Latin and offer a lecture course on Roman literature. Doug, his wife Belinda, and their son Jacob regret that Norman isn't cooled by mountain breezes, but they like their new home nonetheless.

Paul Ojennus, who earned his degree in May after successfully defending his thesis (under the direction of Peter Knox) on "Character and Ambiguity in Apollonius Rhodius," took up new duties as a Visiting Instructor this fall at Purdue University. He too is teaching both Greek and Latin at a variety of levels as well as developing new lecture courses on ancient literature in translation. He has completed an article on "Controversy in Callimachus' Iambus 1" and is currently reviewing a book on Apollonius.

Active Undergraduates Spread Success Across Campus and Continents

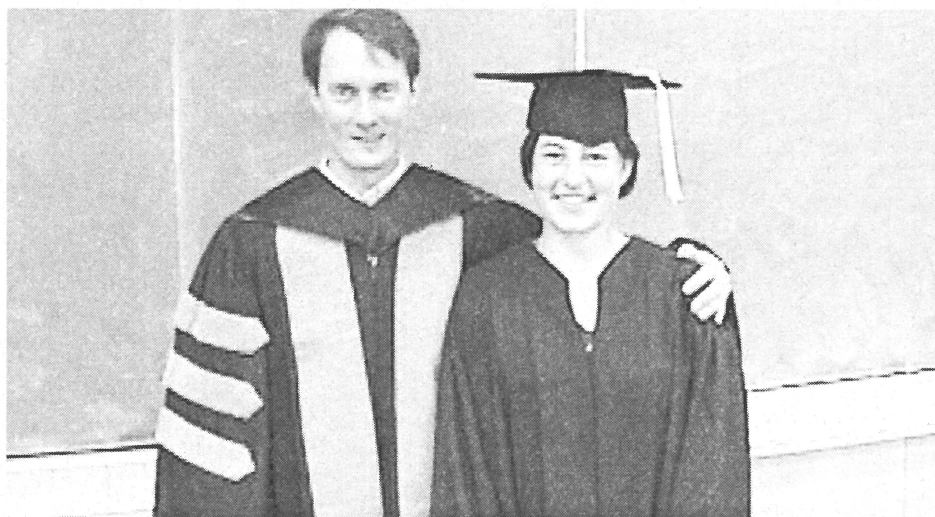
CU's undergraduate program in Classics continues to thrive with an amazing 57 students registered as majors and 19 as minors. Undergraduate offerings this fall include a full four semesters of Latin and Greek, including our popular (and demanding) new survey of Latin literature taught by Professor Knox. We also have a full slate of lecture courses in literature, culture, history, art and archaeology. In the last category, Professor Dusinger has been wowing huge audiences with a sweeping new survey of ancient Near Eastern, Egyptian, Greek and Roman archaeology entitled "Trash and Treasure, Temples and Tombs."

It was with equal measures of pride and wistfulness that we bid farewell to six undergraduates majors and one minor who graduated last spring: Andrew Bernard, who double majored in French, Sarah Koutavas, who double majored in English, Bleys Kueck, Stephanie Ladd, Amy Roberts and Classics minor Maura Williams. Stephanie, who couldn't make it to graduation, provoked only stifled sympathy given that she was in Rome at the time. Bleys, ever the language mavin, was heavily courted by Latin programs in the Chicago area. Maura has joined the German program at CU where she is pursuing an MA. Amy, still in Boulder, stops by occasionally but not often enough! All are welcome to return to their Alma Mater at any time. Professor Lenski even promises a free cup of Starbucks coffee as an enticement to the wary.

Our students have not been daunted by the current state of foreign affairs from furthering their education abroad. Classics senior Suzanne Gardine travelled to Greece this past summer to participate in the College Year in Athens summer Program on Santorini.



Newly minted BA's Bleys Kueck and Amy Roberts pose with Chair Peter Knox at May's graduation ceremony.



Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies Noel Lenski congratulates new BA Sarah Koutavas.

Currently David Darcy is enjoying the semester-long program at CYA, where the directors have taken extra precautions to ensure the safety of American students. So too, J.K. Melton, last year's recipient of the Ann Nichols "Herodotus" Travel Grant, is working hard while play-

ing it safe in Rome at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies. During a recent research trip to Rome, Prof. Lenski took Mr. Melton out to dinner in Piazza S. Maria in Trastevere, where the single greatest threat came from the plate of octopus that Lenski insisted on ordering.

Legio XIII Invades CU's Campus

Cries of “adveniunt Romani” rang across CU’s campus early this fall when Legio XIII, a renowned UK-based troupe of re-enactors of ancient Roman domestic and military life, invaded on September 6 and 7 at the invitation of the Classics Department. The legion, which has served as advisors for the movie “Gladiator” and several BBC and Discovery Channel productions, marched across Norlin quadrangle and put on ten performances in the Mary Rippon Theatre to audiences that numbered over 700 in total.

Prior to the arrival of Legio XIII, the Department sent invitations to Latin and history teachers at nearby secondary schools and parents of home school students studying Roman culture and the Latin language. When these guests arrived, they joined the ranks of CU Classics students whose instructors were accompanying them to performances. Since Legio XIII demonstrates Roman life through active participation by its audiences, students and faculty alike stepped on stage to engage in such activities as dressing for a day in ancient Rome or learning to march in the same way Roman army recruits did.

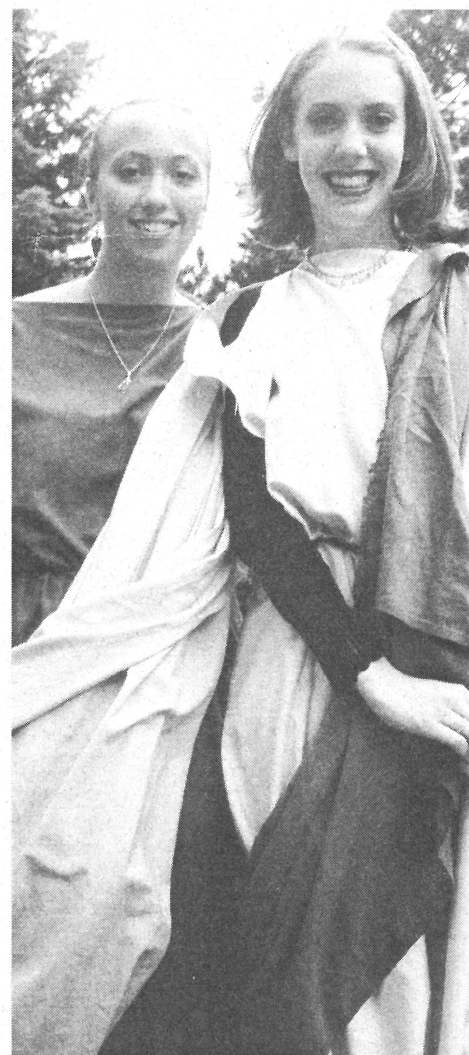
The response to the “invasion” of Legio XIII was overwhelmingly positive, and numerous voices are already calling for their return. The department wishes to thank its generous benefactress, Ann Nichols, and the Arts and Sciences Outreach Program for helping bring such a memorable event to Boulder’s campus.



Gaius (left) and Marcus (center) marshal their new recruits.



Marcus Cassius, centurion of Legio XIII.



Antonia Sabina poses with a student who is newly dressed for a day in ancient Rome.



News from our Alumni

Mary Bridges Jenson (BA 1982) teaches world history at Broomfield High School and recently spent her second summer digging at Contrada Mella, a pre-historic to 1st century BC site, in southern Italy, with Professor Paolo Visona. Mary enjoys receiving news from the Intercollegiate Center in Rome and would love to hear from others who have the same CU Classics and ICC connection.

John Thorburn (PhD 1993), assistant professor at Baylor University, recently published "Euripides' Ion: The Gold and the Darkness" CB 76.1 (2000) 39-49 and "The Third Stasimon of Euripides' Alceste" SCI 19 (2000) 35-49. John's translation and commentary on the Alceste will be published in a few months by Edwin Mellen press.

Georgia Irby Massie (PhD 1994), who teaches at Louisiana State University, has finished the page proofs and indices for a Hellenistic Science Sourcebook, which she co-edited with **Paul Keyser** (PhD 1987) for Routledge. Georgia teaches several Latin, Greek, and ancient civilization courses and also manages two web sites at LSU. She recently read a paper at the Louisiana Classical Association drawing parallels between the Turnus-Aeneas duel in Aeneid 12 and the final fight scene in the martial arts film "Bloodsport", which is about an annual martial arts competition in Hong Kong.

Jeremy Mondejar (MA 1997) visited the department in November on his way back to visit family after completing a stint teaching English in Taiwan. Jeremy looks forward to a PhD in Religious Studies.

Bob (MA 1997) and **Jennifer Smith** (MA 1997) visited the CU campus in the first week of August. Both are living in Tulsa, Bob's hometown. Bob is working as a computer consultant and is teaching Latin at the community college level. Jennifer is teaching middle school and has just been offered a position as an instructor in Roman History at Oral Roberts University. They passed through Boulder on their way to a Montessori conference in Breckenridge. Both send their greetings to fellow alumni.

Tracy Dickinson (MA 1998), a resident of Hanover, New Hampshire, has accepted a position teaching Latin at Woodstock Union High School for the spring semester.

She also does pottery, working as an assistant in a studio class in exchange for studio time.

Jonathan Gottsegen (MA 1999) stopped by the department in July. He was traveling to Colorado to vacation with his wife Dana and son Jack. Jonathan teaches Latin at the Harvey School in Westchester County, New York, where Jonathan is from. He enjoys his job and enjoys being near his parents, but still misses Colorado and its beautiful weather.

Chris Kintzel (BA 1998, MA 2000) has been accepted into the Museum Studies Program at George Washington University in Washington, DC and looks

forward to beginning his program.

Bleys Kueck (BA 2001) has accepted a job teaching Latin to 6th, 7th and 8th graders at the Baker Laboratory School, which is associated with National-Louis University in Evanston, Illinois, a school at which all students take Latin. Bleys teaches a number of students using First Latin and Latin is Fun, and works on building language skills in both English and Latin as well as doing various cultural activities. National-Louis University and the Illinois Classical Caucus, under the leadership of Bleys' colleague Rickie Crown, are organizers of the Latin Pedagogy Workshop held annually in July.

Lively Lectures Abound This Year

This year the Department has an outstanding lineup of public lectures. Thanks to our faculty's active recruitment of top speakers in the field, we have already hosted three guest lecturers on the CU campus this fall. Ted Lendon of the University of Virginia offered a rousing treatment of "Revenge and the Outbreak of the Peloponnesian Wars" on October 26 to an audience of nearly 80. On November 2 Scott Scullion of Union College generated a spirited response with his fascinating discussion "Nothing to do With Dionysus", a compelling revision of old orthodoxies on the role of Dionysian ritual in Athenian Drama. Volker Losemann of the University of Marburg treated us to a superb survey of "Classics in Germany during World War II" on November 14. In addition, our own Eckart Schutrumpf delivered a provocative lecture on "Teen Sex, Abortion and Related Issues in Aristotle's Best State" on November 29.

This spring promises more excitement when four additional scholars will visit the campus and offer public lectures. On February 18, Cynthia Damon of Amherst College will speak

about her specialty, Roman Historiography. On March 21 and 22, Elizabeth and Garth Fowden of the National Research Foundation in Athens will turn our attention to Late Antiquity. Elizabeth will offer an examination of "Sharing the Holy in the Late Antique East" and Garth will enlighten us on "Hellenism and the Umayyad Leadership." Working at the other end of Antiquity, Donald Mastronarde of the University of California Berkeley will speak about Euripides on April 10. And finally, toward the end of April - a date has not yet been set - Johann Thom, currently at the Institute for Advanced Study, will speak on Hellenistic History.

All of these events are open to the public. Alumni in the area are especially encouraged to attend. The lectures will all begin at 4:00 pm (venues to be announced) and generally last one hour followed by a half hour of questions and then a reception where all are welcome to meet the speaker. If you have further questions about any upcoming lectures, contact our departmental lecture coordinator Noel Lenski (303-492-8184 or lenski@colorado.edu).

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News from Alumnae and Alumni

We hope that you will take a moment to fill out the form below. We are always interested in hearing from our former students.
Please help us also to keep our mailing list up to date.

Name: _____ Degree/Year: _____

Major: _____

Address and phone number: _____

e-mail address: _____

News about you:



Classics

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