



Vol. 19 No. 1

News from the Harvard University Department of the Classics

Acad. Year 2013-14

## **Notes from the Chair**

**by Mark Schiefsky**

The end of another busy academic year brings an opportunity for all of us in the Department to pause and reflect on past achievements while looking forward to the challenges ahead. As always, our faculty and students have made the Department a place of remarkable intellectual vitality in 2013–14; the pages that follow describe some, but by no means all, of their many projects and successes. As a highlight of the year's academic calendar I would single out this spring's Carl Newell Jackson Lectures on "Goldilocks in Byzantium: The Paradox of East Roman Survival," given by Professor John Haldon of Princeton University.

At this time of year our thoughts naturally turn to comings and goings. Tom Zanker, who has been with us as a Harvard College Fellow and then a Lecturer for the past four years, is leaving to take up a position at Amherst College via a year in Germany as a Humboldt Fellow. We are deeply grateful for Tom's many contributions to the community – not least his success in teaching our rapidly growing course in Greek and Roman Mythology—and wish him the very best in the future.

After two years of searching we are delighted to announce the appointment of two new colleagues, Naomi Weiss and Jared Hudson, who will take up assistant professorships (of Greek and Latin, respectively) in the fall. We look forward to many years of collaboration with Naomi and Jared.

We have a bumper crop of PhD graduates to applaud this year; even better, we can celebrate their success in gaining academic positions across the country despite a job market that is challenging, to say the least. Then there are our twelve graduating seniors, whose interests (as reflected in their senior thesis topics) range across a broad spectrum from Latin linguistics to music. The diversity of their future plans is a testimony to the continuing relevance of a classical education in all walks of life. To all those who are moving on in 2014: you take with you the good wishes and gratitude of the entire Department, and we hope you will come back and visit us often in Boylston Hall. Congratulations!

# Classics Concentrators: Class of 2014



Georgiana Brinkley



Patrick Colangelo



Joseph Glynnias



Aurora Griffin



Laura Hogikyan



Gerardo Lagunes-Hernandez



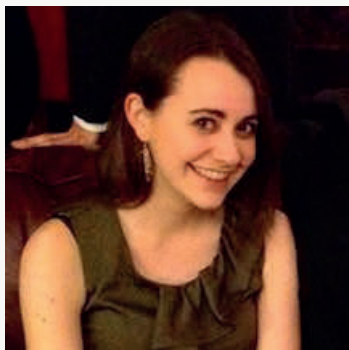
Nikihl Mulani



Alexander Newell



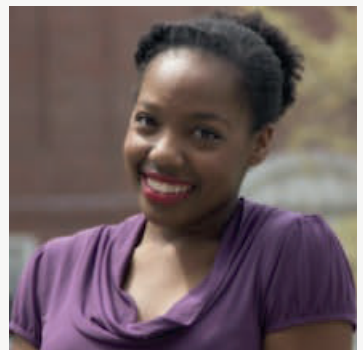
Allison Scott



Madeline Smith



Caleb Thompson



Naomi Wills

# Concentrators' Future Plans

Georgiana Brinkley

Georgie will be pursuing an MSt in Classical Languages and Literature at Oxford University. She look forward to continuing her study of Classics for at least one more year, if not many more!

Patrick Colangelo

Patrick is moving to California to run his start-up company, Spayce. He is very thankful for a tremendous four years in the Harvard Classics department.

Joseph Glynias

Joe will be working at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. next year.

Aurora Griffin

Aurora will be matriculating to Oxford in the fall at Trinity College as a Rhodes Scholar. She will be pursuing an advanced two-year bachelor's degree in the Philosophy and Theology program. She is grateful to the Harvard Classics Department for the excellent education and preparation it provided her for this next exciting step!

Laura Hogikyan

Laura will be moving to Detroit to work on Dan Gilbert's team in real estate and city development.

Gerardo Lagunes-Hernandez

Gerardo will be joining Teach for America and teaching 5th grade English in Texas.

Nikhil Mulani

Nikhil will be working on data analytics and visualization projects at Accenture's R&D group in Silicon Valley. He is hoping to bring a poetic sensibility to the brave new world.

Alexander Newell

Alex will be teaching Classics (Greek, Latin, and history) at Blair Academy next year, along with coaching crew.

Allison Scott

Allie will be teaching with Teach for America for the next two years in her hometown, San Diego. She couldn't be more excited to get back home to her family and her little dog, Tippi. She will teach Jr. High or High School mathematics, which is far from her Classics degree! She is unsure as to what the long-term future holds as most recent grads are, but is looking forward to pouring her best into whatever comes her way.

Madeline Smith

This summer, Madeline will be touring theater and opera festivals throughout Western Europe as a recipient of the Paine Traveling Fellowship. In the fall, she will move to New York City to pursue music directing and conducting on and off-Broadway.

Caleb Thompson

Caleb will be moving to Los Angeles in the fall to work in television.

Naomi Wills

Naomi will be working at a dig site in Sardis, Turkey over the summer for the second time, and immediately after she will move to Tokyo, Japan to teach English for at least one year.



# Senior Theses

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Georgiana Brinkley

**The Golden Age:  
Paradise Lost or Left Behind?**  
*Advisor:* Greg Nagy; *Asst. advisor:* Sarah Lannom (G5)

Joe Glynias

**Samothrace:  
A Hellenistic Middle Ground**  
*Advisor:* Paul Kosmin; *Asst. advisor:* Coleman Connelly (G4)

Aurora Griffin

***Ciceroniani Sunt, an Christiani?:*  
The Reception of the Classics in the Late Antique Church**  
*Advisor:* Richard Tarrant; *Asst. advisor:* David Ungvary (G3)

Laura Hogikyan

**Modern Meaning-Making in Ancient Imperial Monuments**  
*Advisor:* Emma Dench; *Asst. advisor:* Monica Park (G4)

Nikhil Mulani

**Connectivity at Vindolanda:  
Human and Natural Resources**  
*Advisor:* Emma Dench; *Asst. advisor:* Rebecca Katz (G5)

Madeline Smith  
joint with Music

**Ransomed Shadows**  
*Advisors:* Greg Nagy, Richard Beaudoin (Mus.); *Asst. advisor:* Peter McMurray (Mus.)

Caleb Thompson

***Proles sine matre creata:*  
Inventing a Roman Literary Tradition in the Satires of Gaius Lucilius**  
*Advisor:* Richard Tarrant; *Asst. advisor:* Greg Mellen (G3)

Naomi Wills  
joint with Linguistics

**The Original Word Jumble:  
A Case Study of Latin Word Order in the Vindolanda Tablets**  
*Advisors:* Jeremy Rau, Isabelle Charnavel (Ling.); *Asst. advisor:* Alex Forte (G4)



## Senior Prizes

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Smyth

(Greek Thesis)

Joseph Glynias

Pease

(Latin Thesis)

Caleb Thompson

Vermeule Prize

(Classical Archaeology Thesis)

Nikhil Mulani

Hoopes Prize

Joseph Glynias

Louis Curtis Prize

(for excellence in courses in Latin)

Laura Hogikyan

Arthur Deloraine Corey  
Fellowship

(For the study of the Classics or Archaeology at  
a European university or academic institution.)

Georgiana Brinkley

Department Prize

Georgiana Brinkley,  
Joseph Glynias,  
Aurora Griffin,  
Laura Hogikyan,  
Gerardo Lagunes-  
Hernandez,  
Madeline Smith,  
Naomi Wills

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# Senior Reflections, 2014

## In A Manner of Speaking

by Nikhil Mulani

I'll never regret my decision to study classics at Harvard. Before college, reading books was all I really enjoyed doing. But now, the world feels like an open book. For me, the past four years have been a love affair with context and meaning: Why is that word, of all words, placed in that position in that poem? Why were pottery shards from Gaul found in the remains of one Roman British fort and not another? Why did a family choose to marry into one household and not another? How did a Republic become an Empire?

In intimate classes, often involving somewhere between two and ten people, I learned how to closely read and interpret relationships between the micro and the macro. I remember how, in one of Professor Coleman's classes, the smallest detail in Martial's poetry provoked a fascinating discussion about the concept and ideology surrounding *pax* (peace) in Flavian Rome. I took away lessons that I applied to every area of my life.

I learned to anxiously care about the order in which I wrote my own words in articles for the college newspaper, and the choice I made for one word over another, because classics classes taught me that the transmission of ideas (no matter how inconsequential the medium might seem to be) always forms the foundation for pursuing larger goals, whether it be gender equality or economic recovery. I have been trained to read ideas with precision—not just in languages, but also in monuments and paintings, shoes and spears, coins and perfume containers.

And what I have learned is that all the world around us is just a result of many “manners of speaking.” The shapes of everything around us—our governments, businesses, universities, families, romances—are the result of routes taken, consciously or not, that we can read and understand, if we look closely enough. Thank you so much, Classics Department. I'll keep reading the world around me. And I'm ready to use my own manner of speaking to add to it.

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## Home Is Where the Dog Is

by Gerardo Lagunes-Hernandez

If someone had told me that I would major in Classics during my first months at Harvard, I would have nervously laughed, not even sure what Classics was. One gladiator class and a bite of the banana bread pudding later, I happily signed my soul away to Osa. As thankful as I am for having learned so much from my professors, teaching fellows, and peers, I am even more grateful to the Department for giving me a home over the past three years. Boston is a cold place, but the second floor of Boylston kept me warm. Two flights of stairs was my daily exercise.

The Classics Department has given me a community that did not exist elsewhere in the College. A community filled with Bertucci's pizza (RIP), lively conversation, and Teresa's chocolates. I've had the great fortune of working in Alyson's office, and without her, my time at Harvard would not have been the same. She and Teresa have taught me a lot more than they know, and they will forever have my thanks.

Congratulations, fellow graduates. *nunc est bibendum*.

# New Graduate Students

The group at the fall cocktail party.



**Massimo Cè**

European classicist by birth and training, Massimo Cè has recently, and after a number of prior relocations, made his home in America. Before his transatlantic crossing last summer, he lived mostly in two unpronounceable Swiss cantons, both starting with a “z,” served a two-year stint at a high school in carnival-ridden Düsseldorf, and enjoyed four years of voluntary exile in the British Isles, where he did his BA in Classics at Magdalen College, Oxford. Here at Harvard he hopes to further explore his interests in Greek and especially Roman literature, and also to gain novel insights into the study of antiquity more broadly. He believes in metrical structure, teleological narratives, and the Eleusinian Mysteries.

Eliza is on the ancient history track. She is a New England girl through and through: she hails from the mountains and lakes of New Hampshire and studied for her BA at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. With the help of a US-UK Fulbright scholarship, she escaped last year to the original England and (old) Hampshire to earn her master’s in social archaeology at the University of Southampton. While there, she spent her time trying to determine what exactly social archaeology is, attempting to ski race on ‘dry slopes’ made of bristles, and learning to queue. Excited to be back where there are actual mountains and real snow, Eliza looks forward to digging further into Roman imperial history and archaeology, anthropological approaches to the ancient world, and the use of antiquity in modern politics. She also competes in tennis and rowing for Dudley House and is excited to be an Athletics Fellow next year.



**Eliza Gettel**

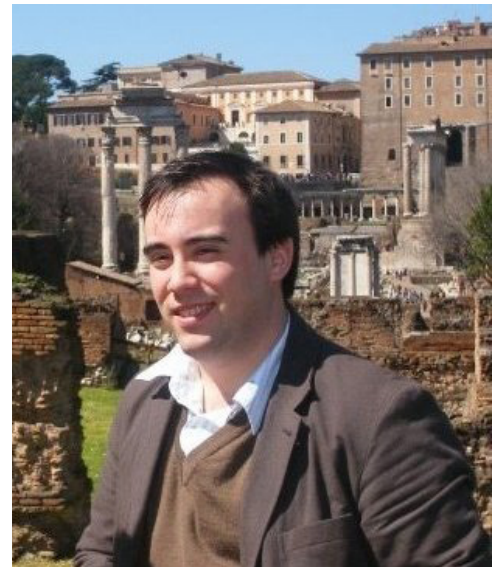




**Stephen Hughes**

Stephen Hughes was born and raised in Melbourne, Australia. An early predilection for the classics was indulged at Xavier College, where the ancient languages afforded a welcome escape from information technology and the visual arts. Many plane rides later, and following undergraduate studies at Yale, Stephen arrives at Harvard with an appetite for Greek literature of all genres and periods. Other interests include history, law, and the political applications of writing in antiquity. In his spare time, Stephen enjoys tennis and the violin. He hopes to sample many of the sporting and cultural delights of Boston in the coming years, as and when the weather permits.

Hailing from Liverpool, James was lucky enough to have his obsession with the Greeks and Romans encouraged by an exceptional Latin teacher at his state school, before substantially developing as a classicist over four years in the rather idyllic setting of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Removing his colours from the mast, he subsequently spent a year completing an MPhil in (the other) Cambridge on the symbolic associations of umbra in the *Eclogues*. Following a year of teaching in his hometown, James hopped on the next steamer to the New World in search of fame and fortune. Despite finding neither of these, he is thoroughly enjoying the chance to deepen and enrich his knowledge of the cultures of antiquity at Harvard. Beyond academic pursuits, he enjoys swimming, most racquet sports, and learning not to respond to every "How are you?"



**James Taylor**



**Lauren Zook**

Lauren Zook grew up in San Antonio, TX, moved three hours east to attend Rice University, and is pleasantly surprised that she has not yet frozen to death. She fell in with the cult of Junior Classical League in high school and never looked back. In addition to her Latin literary interests, she is working on the Graduate Secondary Field in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, so don't ask her about Judith Butler, bisexual erasure, or heteronormativity unless you actually want to hear the answer. Her extracurricular activities include acting and watching way too much television.

# Ein Sommer in Berlin

by Rebecca Miller (G5)

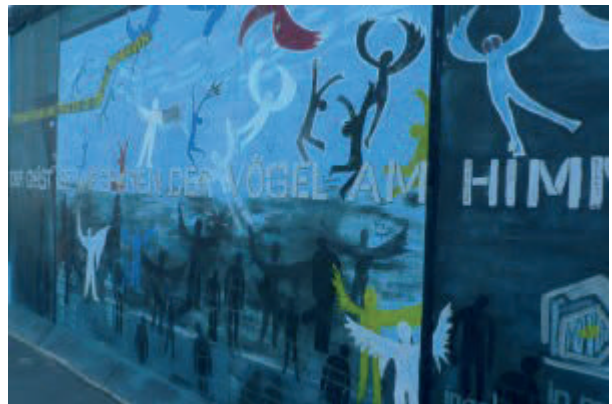
I spent the summer in Berlin interning in the Egyptian and Oriental Papyri Department at the Neues Museum. Here are some photos from my time there:



*My Neues Museum internship supervisor, Dr. Verena Lepper, and I with Pharaoh Bar.*



*View of Berlin through the Reichstag dome.*



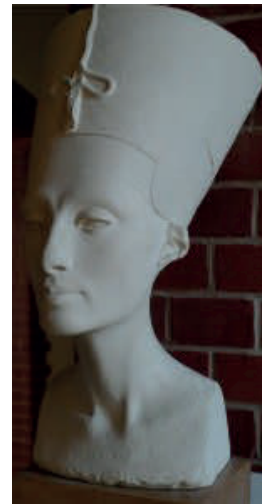
*A section of the Berlin Wall at the East Side Gallery.*



*Pharaoh Bär*



*Vokuhila—a hair salon on Kastanienallee. Those in need of a haircut, beware: Vokuhila is German for “mullet.”*



*Nefertiti bust*



# In Anatolia / Anadolu'da

by Monica Park (G4)

Last summer, thanks to the generosity of the Segal Summer Travel Award, I was able to undertake an extensive exploration of the southern coast of Turkey. My partner, Hugh, and I began in Lycia, braved the hair-raising, cliff-clinging roads of the coast, and snaked our way through Pamphylia, "Isauria," and Cilicia. The trip included something like 33 sites and museums in all, crammed into 14 days. The trip was quite frankly an incredible opportunity, and I thank the department and those behind the Segal Award for allowing me the means to discover this part of the ancient (and modern!) world. Here are some of our favorite things:



*The District of Taksim: The first night of the summer protests*



*Patara: A once-prosperous sea-side town.*



*Seleucid Encounter: Stele of Antiochus I and Herakles in Gaziantep's Zeugma Museum*



*Meydancikkale: The view from the great bastion of Meydanck Castle*



*Dondurma for dessert (and also magicians and friendly atmospheres)*



# Thesis Research in Greece and Turkey

by Joe Glynias ('14)

I traveled to Turkey and Greece this summer in order to perform research for my thesis on the religious geography of the island of Samothrace, and the surrounding region. I was able to study archaeological sites in person that I had only read about, to visit remains of early Christian churches about which little has been published, and to observe and take note of the geographical features of Samothrace, the island of Imbros, the whole region, and their physical interconnectivity. In Greece and Turkey, I was able to visit and study later religious pilgrimage sites in the region: for example, the festival of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Imbros, and the great monastic center and pilgrimage center of the Holy Mountain, Mount Athos. I was able to meet local people in the various places I travelled, which resulted in me being directed to some lesser-known and harder to find sites, while also meeting with Greek archaeologists and scholars who helped guide me in my research. This was an amazing success for me academically, in addition to a fantastic experience personally, as I had the opportunity to perform independent research, build my ability with the Greek language, and visit beautiful cities and important historical sites that I had only dreamed of. Moreover, out of necessity I became very comfortable with various Greek and Turkish public transportation systems, and even learned how to drive a manual transmission.



*Samothrace: Sanctuary of the Great Gods*

To give a brief summary of my trip, I flew into Istanbul, arriving on August 11th. From there, I took buses and a ferry to the largest Turkish island, Gökçeada, or Imvros, as it is known in Greek. After spending a few days on the island, and taking a day trip to the site of ancient Troy, I traveled across the Turkish border to Alexandroupolis in Greece, then to the island of Samothrace, the focus of my research. I spent about five days on Samothrace, and saw as much of the island as I could on foot, using the relatively limited bus system, and by hitching rides whenever possible, as I only had access to a car to drive for one day. I saw almost every religious site that I had intended to see, and was able to visit the ancient mystery cult site of the Great Gods multiple times, giving myself a completely different perspective on the site that I had studied for so many months from afar. From Samothrace I went to Thessaloniki, a city I had always wanted to visit, and the capital of the region for almost 2,000 years. Thessaloniki provided a base from which I could visit the important Macedonian sites of Vergina—a site of the tombs of Macedonian kings—and Dion—the Macedonian sanctuary to Zeus at the foot of Mount Olympus. Moreover, from Thessaloniki, I could visit Mount Athos, the monastic center of the region and of much of Orthodox Christianity for the last 1,000 years. From Athos, I went to Athens, where I could both visit the Gennadius Library and study manuscripts that were hundreds of years old of European travelers, and travel to Thebes easily by bus.

After three long weeks of travel, I came back to school exhausted, but invigorated. This trip was necessary to my thesis, and I am so glad to have done it academically, and personally. The trip was fantastic as an intellectual and individual experience, and I cannot be thankful enough for the Segal Fellowship's generous assistance in making this possible.

# Pomp and Circumstance by Amy Koenig (G4)



Amy in her graduation finery in front of the Radcliffe Camera and her college (Brasenose).

Thanks to the Segal Fund, I was able to make a brief but memorable trip back to Oxford this past summer (via a short but memorable stopover in Iceland under the midnight sun), continuing my work on some of the papyrus editions I had completed as part of my Master's thesis. When working on an edition of the beginning of a land lease from Roman Egypt dating to the reign of the emperor Tiberius, and hunting for linguistic parallels in similar documents, I had discovered a transcript of a published papyrus that seemed suspiciously close to what I had in my hands: the year of the transaction and the names of both parties were the same. While I had the first eight or so lines of a lease, however, this papyrus had the end, with the lessor's signature at the bottom. *Aha*. A field trip and some negotiations later—the published document had passed into Cambridge's hands in the intervening years—I was able to verify the match, get my hands on an image, and digitally rejoin the two halves of a document that had been separated for generations. The second half had been examined and edited by Arthur Hunt himself in 1911, but the first must have lain in its tin box for

decades afterward before chance brought it into my hands.

It is not uncommon to find, in a papyrus collection like that from Oxyrhynchus, additional pieces from the same manuscript of a literary text: large rolls are easily broken up by time or for reuse, and the pieces become widely separated by the time they make it to their destination, to be rediscovered much later as each in turn catches a papyrologist's eye. But it is far rarer to find a second piece of a short documentary text like this, and it was decided that the best way to publish it would be in combination with a new edition of Hunt's half: the two would thus be reunited and could easily be studied as one nearly complete document. During this visit, I consulted Dr. Dirk Obbink, my old supervisor, about a new draft of the two halves combined that is now slated for publication in an upcoming volume of *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, and was able to reexamine my original papyrus in person with fresh eyes.

My trip there at that particular time had another purpose as well. At Oxford, you do not automatically graduate at the end of the year in which you finish, together with your classmates: you have to book a place at one of the many ceremonies held throughout the year, and places are often hard to come by. Many people simply graduate *in absentia*, but I thought it would be nice, if chance took me back, to receive my degree in person—after all, no one does academic ceremonies quite like Oxbridge, and where else are you going to hear so much Latin spoken these days outside of Mass?

I finally had the opportunity on this trip, three full years after I had finished my MSt, together with a few people I knew who had started their DPhils with me and had finished themselves in the intervening time. The whole thing was as sublime and ridiculous as I could have hoped, and a perfect capstone to my Oxford experience. We filed, clad in our old commoner's or scholar's gowns (mine borrowed from a kind friend, as I had misplaced my own in the years since my last formal hall) and *subfusc*, into the Sheldonian Theatre; listened to the Vice-Chancellor intone in English and Latin; and bowed before him in turn, replying "*Do fidem*" ("I give my pledge") to the charge that we observe *omnia statuta, privilegia, consuetudines et libertates istius Universitatis*. We were then herded out into the Bodleian's Divinity School, where we quickly changed into the new gowns and hoods our degrees entitled us to (finally, sleeves!) and went back in, now Masters and Doctors, to watch others go through the same process. When putting on my borrowed mortarboard—normally mortarboards are carried, not worn, but graduation is an exception—I discovered for the first time that it was a few sizes too small for my head. Oh well. I wore it anyway, and proudly.

# A Return to Leiden

by Alexander Forte (G3)

A Segal Travel Fellowship allowed me to continue happily my tradition of returning to Leiden University to bask in the obscurity of neglected Indo-European languages. For two weeks, I became acquainted with Venetic, an ancient Italic language, under the tutelage of Professor Michael Weiss of Cornell University. In the afternoons I studied topics in the Lycian language with Karl Praust of Vienna and issues of Indo-European cultural reconstruction with Velizar Sadovski, also of Vienna.

I am always glad to see Michael and Velizar, both of whom are famously brilliant and generous, and meeting Karl was also a great pleasure. There were also several PhD students from the UCLA Indo-European program, all of whom I enjoyed seeing for another summer. No trip to the Leiden Summer School would be complete without copious pancakes and late nights of discussing the peculiarities of accent-ablaut paradigms in de Burcht, a bar which lies at the foot of Leiden's old hill-top fort. This year also featured an hour-long walk on the beach with an assorted group of Sanskritists and Classicists led by the daring Werner Knobl of Kyoto University and culminating with dinner and drinks at a seaside restaurant. In perhaps the highlight of the trip, I was able to see the wonderful Bram Van Der Velden, a former special student at the Harvard Classics department who is now pursuing his DPhil at King's College, Cambridge, and who is much missed here in *Cantabrigia Nova*.

As is usual at Leiden, I met many nice people from all over the world who share similarly arcane interests, some of whom I encouraged to consider applying to Harvard, where we have the extremely good fortune of having Professors Rau and Jasanoff to delight anyone interested in Indo-European nominal or verbal morphology. To my great roommate Enrico Marcato, if you're reading this, I owe you a lengthy e-mail. Many thanks to the generosity of the department of the Classics and their continued tolerance of my dogged attempts to attain interdisciplinary status.



*Bram van der Velden and the intrepid organizer of the Summer School, Tina.*



*Alex with Ryan and Chiara of UCLA.*



# Berlin: A Nostalgic Glimpse into the Future

by Marco Romani-Mistretta (G3)

“Paris is always Paris and Berlin is never Berlin,” as a French former minister of culture famously said. The rapidly changing shape of the German capital was the first thing to impress me upon my summer stay, after my last visit to the city (some three years ago).

To begin with, construction sites are everywhere. The city center, and especially the area between Alexanderplatz and Brandenburger Tor, looks like a single, enormous *Baustelle*. The biggest novelty is certainly the recently started reconstruction of the City Palace (*Stadtschloss*): despite having been relatively spared by the 1945 bombings, the winter residence of the Hohenzollern was demolished by the GDR after the war, being considered as an obnoxious symbol of Prussian militarism. In its place stood, until 2008, the (in)famous *Palazzo Prozzo* (something like “the show-off palace”), officially known as *Palast der Republik*: this building, conspicuous for its gleaming bronze windows, was dismantled in order to erase a further source of unwelcome reminiscences. Such a story of cyclical destruction and (re-)construction of memories will not be unfamiliar, and perhaps of some interest, to ancient historians and classicists in general. The completion of the new-old castle is scheduled for 2019.



“Staatsbibliothek Berlin” by Thomas Dämmrich

A good example of the hectic rhythm of the city’s ceaseless metamorphoses is the library where I spent most of my working time while in Berlin: the Staatsbibliothek, or—more precisely—its humanities division, located in the very central Unter den Linden. During my last stay, in summer 2010, the refurbishing works made it almost impossible to find a proper reading room in the building, whereas now the library can offer a spacious, luminous, and fully renovated *Lesesaal*. Structured as a huge cube, the room is covered by a glass roof, from which hangs a rather curious sculpture in the shape of a bunch of wrapped newspapers: an image of the impermanence of every writing endeavor?

I was brought there by a rather unusual task for a classical scholar. In fact, I was working on a fairly recent manuscript: a handwritten German dissertation that investigates the idea of *techne* in Plato’s dialogues. This doctoral thesis, written in 1927 by Fritz Jeffré and directed by Werner Jaeger, is one of the earliest and most interesting philological works to provide an extensive treatment of such a compelling topic. Thanks to a grant from the Charles P. Segal Student Research and Travel Fellowship, I had the opportunity to autoptically examine different copies of Jeffré’s handwritten text and to complete my work on it.

Living in Berlin for a while, and obviously having to look for an apartment there, enabled me to gain a better understanding of an issue that recurs very frequently in Berliners’ conversation (as well as in their election campaign): housing. People living or wanting to settle down in Berlin appear to be rather obsessed with the *Wohnungsproblem*. Old and new dwellers are noticeably worried out the increasing rent rates. Last July, Berliners were shocked by a statistical study of the Bertelsmann Foundation, according to which less than 10% of the housing supply in Berlin’s central districts is affordable for families whose income does not exceed 60% of the average income. The difficult housing situation, in other words, does not just concern such notoriously expensive neighborhoods as Charlottenburg, Zehlendorf, and Wilmersdorf, but reaches even into the traditionally cheaper ones. Is Berlin becoming a glittering, gentrified European capital in the wake of Paris and London? Perhaps it is still too early to draw conclusions, but I for one will certainly go back and see.

# Studying Roman Law at University College London

by Charles Bartlett (G3)

During the summer of 2013, I made a very exciting foray into the study of Roman law, having beforehand done little aside from self-directed secondary reading in the field. I had decided over the course of the previous fall that I would like a more thorough introduction, and I asked Professor Emma Dench if she knew of any opportunities. Invaluable as ever, she suggested I email some of her former colleagues at University College London. A few messages later, my position as an assistant on [Projet Volterra](#), an initiative for “the study of Roman law in its full social, political and legal context” and centered at UCL, was arranged.

I first met my advisors for the summer, Prof. Michael Crawford, Dr. Benet Salway and Dr. Simon Corcoran, during a conference that they had organized at the end of June. The conference was entitled “Law, Lexica and Libraries: Italy and Francia between the sixth and eleventh centuries,” and brought together the contributors to the [Festus Project](#) and to Projet Volterra. On the Monday after the conference, I met my advisors for lunch in the Housman Room, where we discussed my work for the summer.

I was to produce an electronic version of the edition of the Lex Romana Canonice Compta created by C.G. Mor in 1927. This text, a collection of “*Capitula Romanae legis ad canones pertinentia*,” was composed in ninth-century Italy, and the manuscript containing it is inventoried as Par. Lat. 12448. Over the course of the next two months or so, I collected, ordered, and checked the constitutions contained in the LRCC, and made notes on how its creators drew from earlier codifications of Roman legal material, documenting especially deviations from the standard versions of those other codifications.

After the summer my work on the project continued, and my advisors and I are currently discussing several questions related to the text. We hope that further analysis of it will shed light on the movement of legal codes during the medieval period, and on the processes of legal compilation. I continue to enjoy this work very much, and I wish to thank the Segal Fund for the generous grant that allowed me to pursue it.



*Much of my work was done at the very well-equipped Institute of Classical Studies Library, in the Senate House of the University of London.*

# Agora Excavations

by Dan Bertoni (G6)



*Ruins of the temple of Apollo Patroos, with the temple of Hephaestus in the background*



*Atop Mt. Olympus on a cloudy day*

Q. What do you get when you put a philologist in a hole for eight weeks? A. You mean you went back to check? Bad jokes aside, I did spend the past summer as a member of the dig team at the Excavations in the Athenian Agora, thanks to a travel grant from the Segal Fund. This experience allowed me to wake up daily before dawn, breathe dust under the merciless sun, develop an extensive set of calluses, and occasionally find something really cool that made it all worthwhile. Plus, my wife Colleen was working on the conservation team at the dig, so I got to see firsthand how the unearthed objects were cleaned and given first aid.

This was my first visit to Greece, and the weekends off from the dig allowed me to go hiking on Crete, swimming on Santorini, climb Mt. Olympus, and tour several sites on the mainland. I also got to see the real-life value of studying ancient Greek as I decoded the names of the vegetables for sale at the local *laiki*. But most of my time was spent on the dig. A typical day began with a two-mile walk downhill from our apartment in Gyzi to the Agora, followed by a workday that was interrupted for a brief cookie break at 9 am and lunch at 11. I got to know the stray dogs that lived among the ruins, learned how to scrub pottery sherds with a toothbrush, and learned the value of squatting flat-footed while digging. The day would be rounded out with me returning uphill in the afternoon sun, ending up on the other side of Lykavittos Hill from the American School, assuring myself that I would summon the energy to visit the library tomorrow.

Beyond the physical aspects of the excavation, and despite my few visits to the Blegen, my time in Greece exposed me to another side of the field of Classics. My research is on how people's relationship with the natural world is expressed in texts, and working on a dig taught me other ways of exploring that relationship, as well as how modern scholars make connections between texts (especially Pausanias' *Periegesis*) and the physical remains of the ancient world. I appreciate having had the opportunity to participate in a very different form of research into the ancient Greek world. I come away from it convinced of the value, even for philologists, of getting one's hands dirty.



# Turkey

by Lizzie Mitchell (G4)



*Bringing up the theatre in  
Pompeiiopolis*

The generosity of the Charles Segal fund allowed me to spend large swathes of last summer in Turkey, digging in rural Kastamonu, travelling to sites and museums in central Anatolia, and inflicting my new-found beginner's Turkish on anyone and anything which would stand still long enough for me to get out a Merhaba.

I spent three weeks in Taköprü in north central Turkey, looking for a Roman *macellum* in the provincial capital of Paphlagonia. A few hundred metres from our trench a marble theatre, complete with inscribed architrave blocks and putto-and-garland relief frieze, was quickly emerging from the ground, and over the hill excavations continued on a vast Roman/Late Antique villa.

We had to leave our trench just as we struck what seemed to be Roman layers of occupation, and I look forward to returning next year to see whether they really are, and to try to read some sense into the fragments of church architecture piled up along with tiles and millstones against a Late Antique wall in the upper layers of excavation. After failed attempts last year and the year before, I finally made it to the renowned Taköprü International Garlic Festival.

From Taköprü I headed south, and began a month-long trip round several major museums and sites of central south Turkey and the west coast. On the way, I encountered the Phrygians for the first time, and their lion-flanked cliff-face tomb chambers had exactly the shock-and-awe effect one imagines someone was aiming at. The chambers and façades were scattered in a surreal landscape of bolders and plateaus, with more horses-and-carts than cars on the roads. At the end of a long day of goat-dodging, just before the sun set and at a petrol-fuelled gallop, we made it to the "Tomb of Midas" at Yazlıkaya ("Inscribed rock"), a vast and magnificent 7th-6th century BCE façade which turned out to be nothing but a façade, with cows grazing peacefully behind it and certainly no tomb chamber in sight.

More pertinently to my research, perhaps, I had the glorious free run of a series of empty archaeological museums, at Konya, Afyon, Burdur, and the slightly more frequented towns of the south coast. I spent hours looking at overwrought 2nd and 3rd century sarcophagi, and trying to put them in the (usually label-less) context of the myriad smaller grave-markers usually to be found in the museum gardens, on which Mediterraneo-international columnar microarchitecture and Totenmahl scenes give way to locally-designed family line-ups and itemised collations of women's possessions. The kindness of museum guards and curators was almost reason enough in itself to visit many of these collections, and I hope that future research projects will lead me back to many of them.

The visits made possible by the Segal fund will contribute immensely to my dissertation project; they will also make it possible for me to set the objects of my study into a much wider and longer context of the sites and material culture of Asia Minor. I'm already planning my return to Turkey: next stop Commagene!

# Harvard Certamen, 2014

by Gabriel Molina ('15)

On Saturday, March 29th, 2014, the Classical Club hosted the 5th annual Harvard Certamen. The event reached record numbers as seventy teams of over three hundred students from ten states convened for one of the largest Certamen tournaments in the country. Middle and high school students from around the country gathered to display their impressive skills in a quiz bowl-like game of fast recall of facts concerning the classical civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome.



*Certamen 2014*

The event began in Emerson Hall where Professor David Elmer delivered the opening remarks. Professor Elmer, while presenting about competition in the Iliad, described Certamen as a positive-sum game and compared it to ancient funeral games, in which everyone receives a prize. Following the remarks, the students, teachers, chaperones, and volunteers moved to Sever Hall for three preliminary rounds of twenty questions each. A lunch break included popular guided tours of Harvard's historic campus, after which the teams and coaches returned to Sever to determine if they had advanced to the semi-final round. In each division, the top nine teams, based on total points in the preliminary rounds, competed in semi-final rounds for a spot in the finals. The twenty-question final rounds, which featured all-around remarkable play and intense competition, were often decided in the last few, exciting questions. Oak Hall School (FL), Boston Latin School (MA), and Advanced Math & Science Academy (MA) were crowned Harvard Certamen 2014 Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced Division champions, respectively. The Classical Club would like to congratulate all participating players and coaches for their extraordinary preparation and exhilarating performance. Furthermore, the Club would like to recognize and thank Professor Elmer, Teresa Wu, Alyson Lynch, and all the volunteers, from Harvard and beyond, whose Herculean efforts made this event run smoothly and successfully.

# My Summer in Athens

The Mediterranean in its summer glory, usual recollections of my childhood in Athens which I never had, the “whiteness of the memory” of Plato and the stelae of Kerameikos, reconnecting with dear old friends and colleagues—might all be out of the scope of this report. *Τὸ εὔπνουν τοῦ τόπου ὡς ἀγαπητὸν καὶ σφόδρα ἡδύ...*

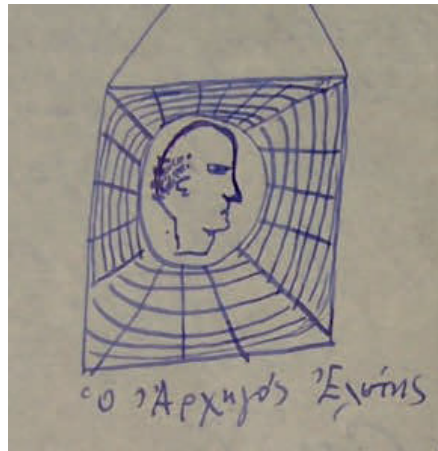
Nevertheless, diving into the Elytis Archive was equally exciting. A particular delight for an Elytis scholar was his unpublished (auto)biography stretching over the 200 pages and reaching until his last days. It includes many small details of his life: minutiae of his reading interests, his acquaintances with various well-known figures of Greek, French, and Anglo-American literary scene like Albert Camus and Lawrence Durrell or—to make a small self-referential twist—his excitement of looking at Solomos’ manuscripts for the first time. Among many others, I had a chance to examine Elytis’ correspondence with his French translator Xavier Bordes, to whom the aged poet had sent precious explanations and editorial interventions of the kind a literary scholar can only hope for. The same applies to his literary exchange with Nanos Valaoritis, another well-known Modernist poet, which also presented me with exquisite material for the study of Greek modernism, and which I hope to publish in due time. I also had a chance to examine and photograph some of the unpublished texts by the Greek-British philosopher and poet Dimitrios Kapetanakis, one of the first translators of Hölderlin in Greece.

The lighter side did not lack too: my suspicions that Elytis had an interest in such bizarre disciplines as numerology and astrology—following his ancient forefather and one of his literary models, Plotinus—proved to be correct. And so I had a look at a “graphological analysis” of Elytis’ handwriting by an unknown “professeur” from Southern France: “Imagination et fantaisie très active et originale...”

This journey also provided me with a chance to meet some of Elytis’ life-long friends and acquaintances and hear their treasurable testimonies on his life. Particularly helpful was Tzina Politi, a renowned Elytis scholar and Professor Emerita at the University of Athens, who answered my many questions about her friendship with Elytis, and of course Ioulita Iliopoulou, Elytis’ life partner and a poet herself, who kindly and patiently responded to all my philological inquiries.

The Archive unfortunately does not permit reproduction of the photographed material, so my findings will have to wait for some later date to see the light of day.

With Professor  
Tzina Politi in  
Pankrati



A detail from a letter by  
Nanos Valaoritis (Doc. No.  
2.3.67). Elytis’ friends often  
accused him of spending  
too much time at home.



# Valete

## PhD Recipients, Spring 2014



***Daniel Bertoni***

Entering the PhD program six years ago, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't expect to have so many opportunities for research and travel, I didn't expect to end up writing a dissertation on plants, and I certainly didn't expect to end up at the University of Miami, where I'll be starting in August as a visiting assistant professor. Thanks to all who have helped navigate the unexpected, both in this department and in South Asian Studies. Be in touch if you're in southern Florida in the next year and you need to take a break from the sun.



***Claire Coiro Bubb (and Henry!)***

In some ways I left the Department four years ago, when I moved to New York City to be with my husband after finishing my coursework, but my thoughts have never been far from Boylston and my beloved Smyth, and I will continue to miss you all. I want to thank the truly wonderful friends, advisors, and administrators who helped me navigate around the pitfalls of long-distance study and the delightful distractions of motherhood! Geographically, I will be staying put, as a visiting assistant professor first at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World and then in the New York University Department of Classics.

# Valete

## PhD Recipients, Spring 2014



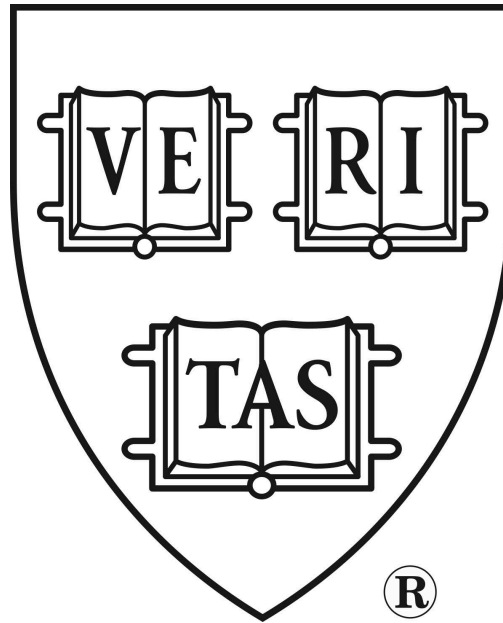
**Tom Keeline**

For five years now I've been telling people that I've been living the dream. Harvard and the Classics department have been the most congenial place imaginable, and I'll be forever grateful for everything that I've been given here. Many of the most important things I won't be leaving behind: the friendships I have made I expect will last a lifetime. If you find yourself 3,000 miles west of here in Washington, drop by Bellingham, where I'll be taking up a post in September as assistant professor of Classics. I look forward to making regular pilgrimages back east to the joys of Boylston and the riches of Widener as well. *Valete pancratice!*



**Julia Scarborough**

One occupational hazard of writing a dissertation on violated pastoral in Greek tragedy and in the Aeneid (or, Why shepherds stop singing and start killing people) is a certain mistrust of idylls. Nevertheless, as I leave Harvard after six years, I know I will keenly miss many *loca amoena*—Smyth, with its view over treetops and towers; Appleton Chapel candlelit for Compline; the garden of the Longfellow House, where the reader's peace is disturbed chiefly by rabbits; and Burdick's, whose *pains au chocolat* I recommend to all demoralized quiz graders. Even more, I will miss the delightful conversations that spring up so readily on the second floor of Boylston Hall (sometimes even in Latin!). Sadly though I leave Cambridge, I am looking forward to beginning a postdoctoral fellowship at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and to discovering the idyllic possibilities of a whole new landscape.



Please email any news or announcements to  
[classics@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:classics@fas.harvard.edu)  
or mail them to  
Alyson Lynch

Department of the Classics  
204 Boylston Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138

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