

KU CLASSICS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CLASSICS DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

www2.ku.edu/~classics • Issue 4 • Fall 2010

FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Friends,
Colleagues, Students,
and Former Students,

As many of you know, our sad news this year is the loss of Classics alumnus and Emeritus Professor Oliver Phillips. Oliver remained an essential member of the department well beyond his retirement in 1994, and we miss him. You will find remembrances of Oliver and news about our plans to establish a fund in his honor in the pages of this issue.

Oliver's spirit lives on, however, and the department continues to thrive. Signs include the enthusiasm of our fifty majors, the many accomplishments of our faculty, and the record number of applicants to the MA program. Our recruitment efforts for the graduate program were entirely successful this year. As in all past years in recent memory, every candidate we invited for a campus visit chose KU over other offers. I attribute this success not only to the considerable accomplishments of our alums, students, and colleagues, but to the collegiality of our Classics community.

With best wishes,
Pamela Gordon

Classical Theater in Greece and Kansas

This summer Prof. Dennis Christilles of KU's Theater department took a group of students to Katohi, Greece for the xth annual Theater in Greece program. There the students studied Greek culture and history, visited important ancient and modern sites, and—most importantly—rehearsed and performed Euripides *Trojan Women* in the ancient theater at Oniades.

The troupe staged the play again in late August at KU, and some 20 students, faculty, and friends of the Classics department saw the play together and participated in a "Talk Back" with the director and cast. What an experience! Professor Christilles had adapted the play to the needs and context of performance, and our discussion focused on how his production helps us think differently about our interpretation of Euripides. Here are a few questions or thoughts the experience raised for me:

This adaptation is bilingual, in English and in modern Greek. The actors commented on how important it was for them to learn the Greek, and how much this helped the play become a com-

(continued page 2)



On the steps of the sleeping hall in the healing sanctuary (Asklepieion) at Epidauros: top rows (l-r): **Olivia Bowling**, Noah Smutz, Eric Mortenson, Andrew Clark, Anne Leon bottom rows (l-r): Nora Plumb, **Olivia Bowling**, Elise Broadus, Ali Plummer, Sara Tesler, Kayleigh Peterson, Molly Campbell

Classical Theater

(continued from page one)



Kayleigh Peterson at the Minoan refuge site of Karphi (ca. 1000 BCE), el. 1126 meters above sea level

munity event. I noticed that their pronunciation was beautiful, and that the lines delivered in Greek seemed even more emotive and passionate than those in English. David Konstan's work on pity (*Pity Transformed*, 2001) suggests that when tragic characters feel pain too keenly, they lapse from regular speech into speech forms unintelligible to them and others (oioi, eieiei, etc.). Regular language reflects the character's ability to objectify their pain – that is, it reflects some distance from it. Perhaps the emotive Greek lines in this production capture that connection between (un)speech and pain: the unfamiliar language is a vehicle that intensifies the emotion in a given line.

The group chatted at length about an interesting aspect of the adaptation: Prof. Christilles kept Athena and Poseidon onstage the whole time, watching the events unfold (though unseen by the characters), where Euripides wrote them onstage at the play's beginning and then absent for the remainder of the play. This raises great discussion questions for our classes and our offices. Can the gods' perceptions change? Can they learn through (witnessing) suffering? Their presence onstage made the "theological" content more pointed throughout. One cast member reflected that the gods are never responsible for the evils humans do. So where is moral responsibility?

Athena onstage also functioned as the chorus, delivering songs of reflection and foreshadowing events to come. Her omniscient viewpoint served this choral function well, but what is gained by plural voices in the chorus, and by dancing on the stage? The production in Greece included both choral members and dancing; the stage size allowed those aspects. The more intimate Inge Theater on KU's campus did not allow them, but the intimacy and quiet of the production here added a reflective tone to the whole. Context and stagecraft matter and are aspects of interpretation.

Cast member Darwin Lujan, who played Agamemnon's emissary Talthybius, described his character arc from messenger to witness to moral participant. Lujan saw development in his character's role as Talthybius grew more uneasy with the evils that follow the evils of war. His comments and his portrayal give life to one of Euripides' greatest accomplishments—the rich-



Above: **John Younger** taking a photo at Orchomenos, Boiotia



Above left: **Olivia Bowling** giving her report on the Temple to Apollo Epikurios at Bassae (seated at left [l-r]: **Noah Smutz, Andrew Clark, Sara Tesler, Ali Plummer, Elise Broadus, Molly Campbell**)

Left: **Ali Plummer & Olivia Bowling** out-racing Noah Smutz in the Olympic stadium

ness and respect he gives to minor characters. This respect is enabled by the addition of a third speaking role in Athenian drama, but it is more than that. Euripides makes opportunities for us to get to know lesser men and women – by returning them to the stage throughout the action (recall all those various messengers in Aeschylus and Sophocles), and by letting them do more than report. Moral responsibility is everywhere and everyone is interconnected.

Thanks to the KU Theater and Prof. Christilles for such an engaging event. ●

—Tara Welch

Oliver Phillip Spirit Lives On

Obituary for Oliver Phillips from the Lawrence Journal-World

Professor Oliver Phillips died February 16, 2010 at Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

He was born October 23, 1929, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Oliver C. Phillips, Sr., and Blanche Phillips. He received a B.S. in Education at K.U., an M.A. at the University of Missouri, and a Ph.D. in Classics at the University of Chicago in 1962. He taught in secondary schools in Kansas and Missouri, was a professor at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, and in 1964 became a professor at K.U., eventually becoming chair of the Classics Department, a position in which he served for 12 years. He retired in 1994 and was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus.

Professor Phillips was a visiting professor at the University of Cologne in 1983. He received the Mortar Board Outstanding Educator award at K.U. in 1978, was a member of the American Philological Association, and was long active in the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, by whom he was honored with an "Ovatio" in 1993. He formally retired in 1994, but continued to teach honors sections of Western Civilization at K.U. until 2001. Until a month before his death he was reading Greek weekly with three associates. He also continued to contribute to an innovative online cooperative project translating and commenting on the "Suda," a Byzantine historical encyclopedia.

He served for a time as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 52, in Lawrence. He was on the building committee for St. Margaret's Episcopal church where he was active as a teacher and lector. He was an active member of the Endacott Society of KUAA and the Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Survivors include his wife Shirley, his two sons Stephen Phillips and wife Jean of Perry, KS; Mark Phillips and wife Becky of Portland, Oregon; five grandchildren, Grace Phillips, Laura Phillips, Tom Phillips, Luke Phillips, and Nick Phillips; and his beloved dog Bingo and cat Kiki.

Services were held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Lawrence with Fr. Matt Zimmerman officiating. An excerpt from Fr. Zimmerman's eulogy follows. ●



An Excerpt from Father Matt Zimmerman's Eulogy

I'll propose to you that, following the example of Jesus at the Wedding at Cana, we all are called to be wine makers, and I think Oliver was a wine maker extraordinaire. Through his gifts of storytelling and teaching he was continually inviting those around him to wake up.

If a story was worth telling in the classroom then it was worth telling at the dinner table. If there was something worth knowing in the classics, there was something worth knowing about a car engine. There was something about the Oregon Trail worth enough trouble to take a family vacation and follow it through six states to learn and experience it.

Oliver seemed to read Paddington Bear with the same passion with which he read Virgil. In fact, his experience of laughing so hysterically at a Paddington Bear story he was reading to his sons caused them to pull over off the highway and wait while Oliver laid in the back seat trying to regain control. I would venture a guess that he never had that experience with Virgil.

Several years ago during one of my visits to Lawrence I finally did something I wanted to do since 1975. I went by to see Oliver and I had a gift for him. I explained to him that before I met him my primary and secondary education life was very much the stuff of water. I knew the principal's office as well as I knew my teacher's classroom.

I had little confidence in my academic abilities, but listening to Oliver week after week I found myself changed. Oliver weaved wonderful stories but attached to those were bits and pieces of his passion and they landed in me. From that point on I switched my focus from critiquing my abilities to embracing my passions and that has made all the difference. While the origins of my journey towards priesthood began with the experience of a woman in my youth, who helped raise me, it was my experience of Oliver that made the journey possible. My gift for Oliver—as you can probably guess—was a bottle of wine.

Our world sorely needs people who can call our passions out, fill us with a lust for life. Today we celebrate and give thanks for one of God's gifted wine makers. ●



Oliver Phillips, professor of classics.

Tom Murray Remembers Oliver Phillips

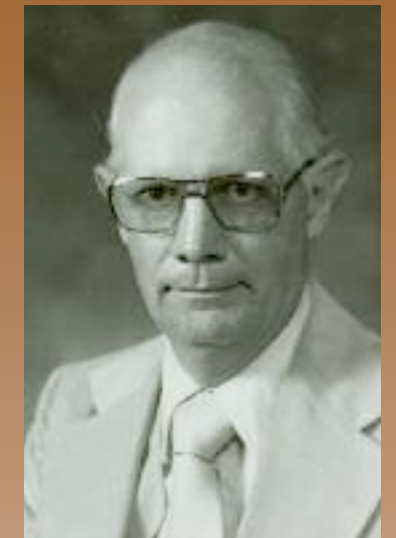


It was my privilege to study Greek and Latin with Oliver C. Phillips in several upper-level classes when I was a student at the University of Kansas in the late 1960s. I still remember translating Lucretius with fellow students on the front lawn of Watson Library in the spring of 1968, "prostrat' in gramine molli." Reading, analyzing, reciting and memorizing Mimmermus, Sappho, and the other Greek lyric poets with Professor Phillips is another of my fondest undergraduate memories.

Professor Phillips was, first and foremost, a master teacher. He was the polar opposite of the hypothetical economics professor, for example, who is famous for his books and articles on economic theory but is virtually incapable of teaching Economics 101. I don't think I knew any other professor at K.U. during the time I was there who inspired as many students outside of their majors as

he did, especially those who took his Greek Mythology course. Since Professor Phillips left us seven months ago, I have frequently thought of something that I have needed to discuss with him, only to remember that my mentor and dear friend is no longer here to answer my inquiry—as he had always done most amiably for over four decades.

Oliver Phillips was also a consummately devoted husband and father. With the changes we have experienced in our society over the years, this has become less prevalent than it used to be. Oliver Phillips lived an exemplary life, and I will miss him deeply for the rest of mine. ●



Oliver Phillips Scholarship Fund

Plans are being developed for a scholarship fund in remembrance of Professor Phillips, with awards going to prospective Latin teachers. Letters will soon be going out with full details.



Faculty News

TONY CORBEILL spent his sabbatical semester in Fall 2009 as a Visiting Fellow in All Souls College at Oxford University. He returned to KU for a Spring semester at the Hall Center for the Humanities during which his book manuscript on Latin grammatical gender and its relationship with literature, religion, and hermaphrodites continually threatened completion. Two publications appeared in 2010, on “Gender Studies” for the *Oxford Handbook of Roman Studies* and on Cicero’s *De haruspicum responsis* for the volume *Form and Function in Roman Oratory.*

PAMELA GORDON: I spent some pleasant afternoons this spring *directing a reading group at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library*, under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Stan Lombardo’s translation of the *Iliad* was the assigned reading, but the topic (as set for this NEH project by the Aquila Theatre Company) was “From Homer to Hip Hop.” Some of the students would have preferred to focus exclusively on Homer, but we had a great time exploring connections between traditional poetry and—to cite one example—the way a 1989 song by the Hip Hop group De La Soul samples Otis Reading’s whistling in “(Sittin’ on) the Dock of the Bay” (1968). My book, *The Invention and Gendering of Epicurus*, will appear this winter with University of Michigan Press.

STAN LOMBARDO: Last year I rather unexpectedly fell in love with Ovid (we had been pals for a long time) and wound up translating his *Metamorphoses* during my Fall sabbatical. The book came out at the beginning of this semester. Like Professor Gordon, I participated in the Aquila Theatre Company’s NEH *Iliad* project over the summer, meeting with a great bunch of townies at the Lawrence Public Library. Memories of Oliver Phillips continue to flood my mind. One of the photos here shows Oliver riding his bike in front of Old Green Hall, and I can still feel myself pedaling alongside him, sometimes with students, on long rides through the country.

MICHAEL SHAW: 2010 began on a very sad

note, with the death of Professor Oliver Phillips, who had first welcomed me to Lawrence in 1970 and remained a colleague and friend. In March at the annual convention of the Classical Association of the Midwest and South, I gave a paper, and had the singular pleasure of presiding over a session where Emily Kratzer, a PhD candidate at UCLA and possessor of a Kansas BA, gave a paper on Philoctetes. Another memorable experience was seeing KU classics graduate student Jeff Easton receive a university teaching award. Oxford University Press has published a collection of Sophoclean plays, which contains my essay on the Electra. From the end of May to mid-June, I traveled in Greece, especially Crete, with Prof. Younger and the KU Greek tour group. In true American Schoolstyle, we climbed every mountain, so to speak, and I also remember with pleasure Prof. Younger’s lectures, especially those on the Minoans.

TARA WELCH: Since last year’s update I’ve returned to my roots and tried some new things. I am back in the language classroom this Fall, teaching intermediate Latin (roots) and intermediate Greek (new challenge). I had a stint as graduate advisor (new) and am back to being undergraduate advisor (familiar ground). I wrote an article on “Elegy and the Monuments” for the new Blackwell Companion to Latin Elegy (an old friend), and another on vision, warfare, and knowledge in Vergil’s *Aeneid* (the *Aeneid* is an old friend about whom there is always something new to discover). I have written a (new) chapter on Republican coinage (the Tarpeia and Sabine Women coins, precisely) for my (old) book on Tarpeia, and by the time you read this I will have sent off the manuscript for *Oxford Readings in Propertius*, an edited volume. It has been an energizing year.

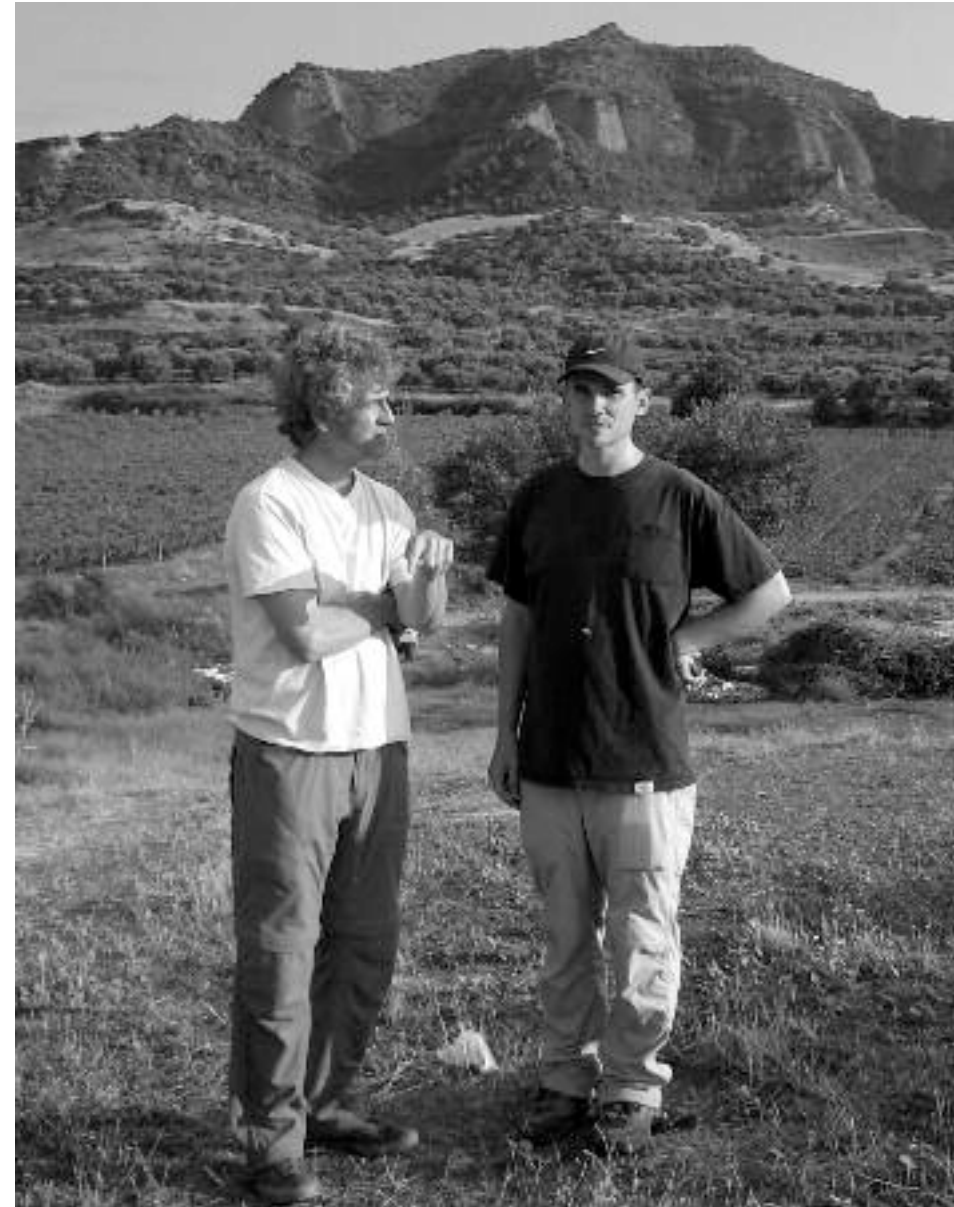
JOHN YOUNGER is in his third year as Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, shepherding a PhD proposal which is in its final stage of the approval (or not) process; the target date for knowing if the Board of Regents will pass the proposal (or not) is mid October. This past summer he led 10 KU students on his biennial archaeological tour of Greece (20 May to 20 June). His latest research projects include identifying grammar in Linear A, a book project on “The Female

Experience in Prehistoric Greece,” and some architectural-sculptural problems in the Parthenon. This year, too, he is a lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America and continues as chair of Information Technology for the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

ELIZABETH BANKS: After a productive two months in Athens/Argos last Fall, I completed the volume on the Lerna Neolithic settlement and objects early in July. It joined in the Princeton editorial offices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens my volume on the Early Helladic III Lerna settlement and architecture which was accepted for publication in Spring of 2007 - ??? Hope springs eternal, and I have started my final contribution to the Lerna series, the Bronze Age objects, the subject of my 1967 dissertation, the data for which I have been updating through the years as I have been in Greece on the other projects. Fortunately I am in good health and may live to see at least one in print!

EMMA SCIOLI: This Fall I am enjoying a Faculty Research Fellowship at the Hall Center for the Humanities, where I continue to work on my book on dreams and visual experience in Latin elegiac poetry. I gave two talks on material from the book last spring, one at CAMWS in Oklahoma City comparing the vivid depiction of Rhea Silvia’s dream in Ovid’s *Fasti* with the image of Rhea Silvia asleep on a mosaic from Ostia, and another at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, on dream and ekphrasis in Propertius 3.3. My article on women’s dreams in Latin epic appeared in TAPA in May 2010, and the book I co-edited with a colleague at the University of Mainz, Germany, entitled *Sub Imagine Somni: Night-time Phenomena in Greco-Roman Culture*, which contains essays by KU alumna Sarah Iles Johnston and KU Classics professor Tony Corbeill, among others, was published in June. My daughter Celeste is almost 4 and keeps us very busy at home.

PHIL STINSON once again conducted field research in Turkey last summer in conjunction with his book project on the Roman Civil Basilica of Aphrodisias (see his article in this newsletter), and he also worked briefly at



Phil Stinson

Sardis. In late June, Phil showed Anthony Corbeill and Joclyn Kitchen around these digs (photo). Last spring, Phil gave a public AIA lecture at the Joslyn Museum in Omaha about his research at Aphrodisias. On a totally different subject, Phil recently completed the manuscript for an article on perspective in Roman Second Style wall-painting and gave a seminar about this new research at the Hall Center for the Humanities at KU.

JON BRUSS continues translating from German, Latin, and German-Latin macaronic texts scheduled to appear within the next year in

the American Edition of Luther’s Works, most recently a ‘*Commentary on Some Chapters of Matthew*’. His article, “Epigram,” appeared in Clausen’s and Cuyppers’ *Companion to Hellenistic Literature* (2010). As co-organizer of “Lutheranism & the Classics,” held 1 and 2 October 2010 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, he spoke on “Philip Melancthon and the Ideal of Wittenberg Humanism.” The conference examined the sixteenth-century Wittenberg reception of classics. His *Ancillary Exercises* is now due out as an inclusion in Groton’s *From Alpha to Omega*. ●

A Happy Reunion



Phil Stinson

Phil Stinson’s fieldwork at Aphrodisias in Turkey is in the final stages of completion, and summer 2010’s agenda consisted of tying up loose ends. A particularly loose loose end involved solving the puzzles surrounding the Basilica’s dedicatory inscription. Like many public buildings in ancient Greece and Rome (modern analogs: think Wescoe Hall or the Leid Center), the Basilica’s construction (late 1st c. AD) was honored with a text inscribed right on its facade for all passersby to see. Dedicatory inscriptions addressed the civic functions of public monuments as they mentioned the names of builders, financiers, and dedicees.

Excavation in the 1970s uncovered five fragments of one such inscription inside the ruined Basilica at Aphrodisias. More fragments of the same text had been recorded by 19th c. early travelers, only to be lost and found again later. During the process of drawing the inscriptions for his book this past summer, Phil made a small but nonetheless important breakthrough, which in many ways exemplifies the oft-times slow, fits-and-starts process of making progress in classical archaeology. Phil demonstrated that two of the dedicatory inscription fragments were once one. With assistance from a crane and the site’s crack (no pun intended) marble conservation crew, the two blocks were lifted (see photo), placed end to end, and finally rejoined. Reunited after many centuries, the two fragments now re-write a single but significant Greek word, ANEIKHTΩ dat., “unconquered” or “invincible.” This special designation was certainly an imperial Roman titular attribute, for which emperor Phil and Aphrodisias’s team of epigraphers, however, are *not* certain—probably Titus or Domitian!

Alumni/Alumnae News

PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS

Whether your name appears in this issue or not, please send us your greetings, your comments, and your news for next year's issue. We will be happy to hear from you. E-mail your news to classics-news@ku.edu. Or write to: Newsletter Editor, Classics Department, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7590. Or use the link on the web version of this newsletter: <http://www2.ku.edu/~classics/newsletter.html>. Please also let us know if you would like us to list an address or URL along with your entry.

In May 2010, at the invitation of Classics undergraduate students, **Roshan Abraham (BA 2002)** visited KU and delivered "Divination and Divinization in the Greek Magical Papyri" as the keynote speaker for our annual awards ceremony and celebration. After KU Roshan earned his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania (2009), and is now happily back in the Midwest as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics and Program in Religious Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. About teaching at Wash U, Roshan says, "I'm *loving* my courses this semester (New Testament Greek and Intro to New Testament)... I think I've really found my niche in religious studies/early Christianity. Though I wouldn't trade my degrees in Classical Studies for anything. :)"



Wade Cartwright

Wade Cartwright, BA, date, lives in New York with his partner Blake. His address: 210 Scholes St., D2, Brooklyn, NY 11206

Ben Shockey, BA year, is the Executive Director of Friends of Sharon Art Studio, a non-profit arts organization supporting San Francisco's largest public art center. He is also a Ph.D. candidate in English Literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Ben resides in San Francisco, CA, with his domestic partner, Harley Augustino. He writes: "KU Classics was the highlight of my undergraduate experience. In addition to the academic rigor, studying Greek allowed me to have an experience not unlike that of a small liberal arts college — close contact with professors, and classes of only 7 or 8 students. Largely because of the small classes, we also had a tight knit community of students. I have fond memories of hours studying (and, yes, occasionally partying!) with Monica Peck, Wade Cartwright, Catherine Peace, Elpida Anthan, and other KU Classics undergrads and grad students." Address: ben.shockey@gmail.com.

Jason Maltsbarger, BA 2002, MA 2010, writes: "During my last semester at KU, I was fortunate enough to be hired on as a full time faculty member at Whitefield Academy, a K-12 Classical Christian School in Kansas City. I was elated not only because I had taught there before and would be returning, but also because my recent years as a graduate student in Classics at KU had given me a new appreciation for the curriculum that I would teach at Whitefield."

As a Classical school, Whitefield's approach to education is derived from the ancient

Greek and Roman model. In addition to teaching the Greek and Latin languages, we also instruct the students in the Progymnasmata exercises of Aphthonius and in Mortimer J. Adler's *Great Books* series. So, by the 12th grade, Whitefield students have read such Classical greats as Homer, Herodotus, Thucydides, Sophocles, Plato, Aristotle, Hippocrates, Vergil, Tacitus, Plutarch, and Quintilian.

Since I finished at KU this past summer and started at Whitefield in August it has been non-stop excitement. I teach a 9th grade Greek class, a 9th grade Humanities class, a 10th grade Humanities class, and an 11th grade Rhetoric class. Soon I will

begin a small section of Latin with a group of 7th graders.

I look forward to inviting faculty members of KU's Classics Department to Whitefield so that I may introduce my students to the very teachers who cultivated my love for Greece and Rome. I miss you all and look forward to seeing you again."



Christopher Wilhelm received his PhD in Indo-European Studies from UCLA in 2001, and has been teaching Latin at Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena since 2002. He writes: "In November I'll be giving a paper at my old program's conference (<http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/pies/ieoprogram.html>)

<<http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/pies/ieoprogram.html>> . It started out being about how the Aeneid is based on a migration that actually happened, only it's the Etruscans' story rather than the Romans' . But that turns out to look like old news after the last decade or so.

So it'll be mostly about the story of Antenor in Book I of the Aeneid, and the Raeti and Veneti." Chris and his wife Laura have led some student groups in Italy, and they hope this year to take a group to Greece. Chris can also be reached via email: christopher.wilhelm@mayfieldsenior.org <<mailto:christopher.wilhelm@mayfieldsenior.org>> .

Eura Ryan, MA 2006, just completed an advanced degree in Library Science from Empe-

ria State University, through their program in Portland, Oregon. Eura works at a library for the blind and physically handicapped where she provides services and access to books for all Washington residents who cannot read standard print. Now that she has graduated she plans to stay in Seattle and continue to help Seattleites and Washingtonians find and

apartment in Toronto and slowly getting my bearings of the city. The semester begins in early September, and I am excited to begin my qualifying-year reading seminars. In my few spare moments, I may even play on the department's softball team. I miss everyone in the Classics department at KU, but I hope to keep in touch." His contact information:

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Joan McCool, MA Classics '91, PhD English '98, taught English at North Carolina State University from 1993 to 1999. She especially enjoyed teaching Classical Backgrounds of English Literature. Since 1999 she has worked for State Employees' Credit Union where she

is currently a Senior Vice President. Her license plate reads, "Festina?" She wishes she could attend the class being team-taught by two of her favorite professors this fall: Pam Gordon and Stan Lombardo.

Toby Moody, BA 2010, writes: "I graduated KU in May with a BA in Classical Languages and Classical Antiquity, and University Honors. This fall, I am starting my first year of the six-year PhD program in Classics at the University of Iowa, where I hold a TA position. I will be taking seminars in Greek and Latin, as well as TA'ing for six discussion sections of Classical Myth." Contact information:

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(Home) 2042 9th St. #75, Coralville, IA 52241. ●

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A special thank you to Professor Emeritus Oliver Phillips, for his handsome gift of 76 Oxford Classical Texts and Teubners. ●

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