News From the Chair

Salve! On behalf of the Classical Civilizations (CLAS) Department, I’m pleased to announce the creation of a bi-annual newsletter for majors, minors, interested students, faculty and alumni. Each fall and spring semester, we will now offer updates on department events, course offerings, faculty research, current student projects, and much, much more. Here’s where you can help: we’re looking for a snappy title for our new publication, one with Classical roots and appropriate ties to the discipline. Ideas? Suggestions? We’re happy to hear them, and the winner will receive (drum roll) a lifetime subscription to the newsletter.

Meanwhile, the CLAS program has been busily readjusting itself to the growing number of majors – 25 in the Fall of 2012! – with new course offerings and events during the 2011-12 academic year. The Spring 2012 semester saw several new courses offered, including CLAS 220 (Introduction to Classical Literature) and CLAS 420 (The Later Roman Historians), as well as the reappearance of CLAS 330 (Women in Antiquity) after several years’ absence. And we’re very pleased to have yet another new course coming to the program in the Fall 2012 semester: Dr. Richard McClelland’s “Ancient Concepts of Justice” (PHIL 486), a class which fulfills the major and minor electives as well as the Core’s Social Justice (SJ) requirement. Furthermore, students wishing to fulfill their Core 200-level literature course can do so with an appropriate Classical theme, in Dr. J. D. Thayer’s two sections of “Trojan War Literature” (ENG 285). Finally, the accelerated Latin 103 course will be offered again this summer – in a new, 12-week format – for those in the Spokane area who wish to complete the first year of Latin over a shorter span. Please keep these courses in mind, as Summer 2012 and Fall 2012 enrollments begin!

One significant programmatic change should be noted by all majors: beginning in the 2012-13 academic year, the CLAS 499 Thesis course will be offered only in the Fall semester. All majors are required to complete this course for the degree, and should plan on scheduling this course in the fall of their senior year.

Finally, with over 20 students now enrolled, the CLAS Department’s new summer program, “Gonzaga-in-Turkey: Origins and Empires”, appears poised to begin. This 30-day study abroad program will bring students to many of the most important sites of ancient Turkey, including Istanbul/Constantinople, Troy, Antioch, Ephesus, Pergamum, and more. The program will be repeated in 2014; for more information about the program and its course offerings, please visit: http://www.gonzaga.edu/academics/undergraduate/studyabroad/Turkey.asp.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Goldman
Chair, Classical Civilizations Dept.
Andrew Goldman

Andrew Goldman, current chair of the department, made the rounds on a West Coast lecture circuit last fall, presenting three talks about his archaeological research at ancient Gordion, with stops at the University of Oregon in Eugene, the University of Washington in Seattle, and at the Getty Villa in Malibu, CA. The latter talk explored his most recent research topic, ancient Roman gemstones and early Christian iconography. The trip to Disneyland which immediately followed the Getty talk was purely frivolous, with no academic responsibilities attached. In early January 2012, Dr. Goldman carried out a 10-day research trip to Philadelphia, which included attendance at the annual Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) national meetings, a conference on ethnicity and race at the University of Pennsylvania, the annual meeting of the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT, for which he is a delegate-at-large), and five days in the Gordion archives and the research library of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. It was, needless to say, a busy but extremely beneficial trip. This spring he gave another lecture for the Spokane AIA Society (on March 7), attended the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest (CAPN) annual meeting at Willamette University in Salem, OR, and will speak about his work at Gordion in Santa Barbara in early April.

Ken Krall, S.J.

For a freshman and sophomore high school student, who, after two years of Latin, had little or no idea what Latin was all about, it’s still seems to me to be just this side of miraculous that I’m actually a full-fledged, bona fide Latin teacher today and enjoying it (For a detailed account of my like with Latin look forward to the future publication of De vita mea in mundo linguae latinae.) Perhaps the high water mark of the year 2011 for me was going on the first GU sponsored trip to Turkey that took place last June. The tour guide was a former student, Aydin Aygun. Also on the trip were Andre Goldman and his delightful wife Amy and Gina Freuen of the GU art department. I was there as the tour’s chaplain. What we saw with such talented people leading us made a good trip a great trip. Would that all of you reading this newsletter might yourselves experience such a pleasurable and knowledgeable trip in the future.

David Oosterhuis

This academic year has been a busy one for me, one especially filled with travel. I attended the annual meetings of both the American Philological Association (in Philadelphia this January) and the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest (in Salem this March) where I chaired a panel on Ancient Epic. It’s always a pleasure to see other scholars in the field and let them know how strong the Classics program is at Gonzaga. On behalf of the University I also traveled to Regis University in Denver in October to take part in the annual Western Conversations conference of Jesuit universities. The highlight of my year, though, was the opportunity to return to my alma mater, the University of Iowa, to present a paper at a conference entitled Re-Creation: Musical Reception of Classical Antiquity. Scholars from all over the globe attended, and from fields as diverse as Opera History, Musicology, Theatrical Arts, and, of course, Classics. My paper, “Orpheus, the Original Penniless Poet: Plutus/Pluto in Anaïs Mitchell’s Hadestown.” was very well received and I am currently preparing it for publication in a special edition of Syllecta Classica devoted to the conference.

I have also been busy at Gonzaga, though, teaching seven courses this year. Two of those were newly developed: a course on Roman Epic in the fall, and Introduction to Classical Literature in the spring. The latter in particular looks promising as a great way to introduce non-majors to the world of Greek and Roman literature. I have been knocking the rust off of my Greek by teaching the Elementary sequence this year, and have enjoyed reading Livy, Suetonius, Ovid, and Horace with the advanced Latin students. Outside of the classroom it has been a pleasure serving as the faculty advisor to Gonzaga’s Latin Club (or Clvb) and continuing the tradition, begun last year, of giving them a lecture tied to a classically-themed film, this year’s being on Spartacus. On the suggestion of the students Dr. Goldman and I have created a weekly conversation group, Carpe Cocktails, which has proven to be a
As part of Fall Family Weekend and National Archaeology Day on Oct. 21, 2011, four CLAS majors presented their 2010 and 2011 experiences at archaeological field schools in the Mediterranean and Near East. The event, "Dishing Out the Dirt: Student Experiences at Archaeological Field Schools", took place in College Hall and featured narratives by (L to R) Tony Pierucci ’12, Leah Marley ’12, Sydney Taylor ’12, and Anthony Johnson ’14. Photo by A. Goldman

quite pleasant way to interact with our students and the larger Gonzaga community in an informal and convivial manner.

There have been a number of opportunities to connect with the larger local community as well. Last summer I was interviewed for the local NPR program Just a Theory twice, appeared on the cover of Gonzaga magazine, and gave a talk to the Inland Northwest Freethinkers Society. The most rewarding project, however, is still being developed. With the help of Gonzaga’s Latin Club and in coordination with the Salish College Press I am working to translate the records of the St. Ignatius mission from the 1800s, all of which are in Latin. This is the rare opportunity that allows students of Latin to use their skills to benefit a living community. Our hope is that we can turn it into an ongoing, nationally known program.

News from the Latin Club

The Latin Club had an eventful year. The traditional crepes sales were strong and a new fundraiser was tried: charging students for the privilege of throwing darts at a life-sized drawing of Julius Caesar. Balloons filled with stage blood were placed strategically on the drawing. Prizes were awarded, of course. Elections were held in December, allowing the new officers to preside over Spring Semester. The current officers are:

Anthony Johnson, President
Louis Cunningham, Vice-President
Victoria Fallgren, Secretary and Treasurer

The club also found a new service project: working on the translation of records from the St. Ignatius Mission. These date from the 1840s, are entirely in Latin, and are of great genealogical and historical interest to the local Salish tribes. In addition plans are underway for what promises to be a very entertaining video project.
Course Offerings Summer 2012

LATN 103: ACCELERATED ELEMENTARY LATIN—Dr. Oosterhuis, MTWR 9:00-11:00 a.m.
This twelve-week course offers students the equivalent of the entire first year of the Latin sequence at Gonzaga. It is designed to allow students to enter LATN 201 in the fall. An intense and hopefully rewarding experience!

Course Offerings Fall 2012

CLAS 310: GREEK GODS & HEROES – Fr. Hartin, MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. 3 credits
A study of Greek Mythology that uses texts (in translation), architecture and archaeology to explore the most important characters and stories of Greek mythology that have become part of the art, literature and imagination of western civilization. This course gives students insight into approaches toward the understanding of myth, especially classical myth that are helpful for their own studies and interests.

CLAS 420: ANCIENT ROME IN POP CULTURE – Dr. Oosterhuis, TR 10:50-12:05 p.m. 3 credit
This course deals with the various ways that ancient Rome has been portrayed in (primarily) American popular culture over the last century and how those portrayals have shaped modern attitudes towards the historical Rome. Through films, novels, plays, and television, students will examine appeal of Rome and the shifting reasons for choosing it as the setting for popular entertainment.

CLAS 499: SENIOR THESIS – Fr. Krall, TBA
The Classical Civilizations capstone course, designed as a seminar and independent study to introduce majors to the broader discipline and focused on research and writing of a senior thesis project. Majors must complete this course during their senior year, study a topic in greater depth than possible in the 300-level courses, and produce a significant research and writing project using primary and secondary sources. The course is offered only in the Fall semester and is mandatory for all senior CLAS majors.

ENGL 285: TROJAN WAR LITERATURE – Dr. Thayer Sec. 01, MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. 3 credits
Sec. 02, MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.
This course will survey the body of literature dealing with the legendary Trojan War and its aftermath with emphasis on its Classical roots, but also visions of it from the Early Modern and Post-Modern perspectives. Fulfills A & S 200-level literature requirement. Can also be used for the CLAS major and minor as an elective, with permission from the CLAS department chair.

GREK 201: INTERMEDIATE GREEK I – Dr. Oosterhuis, MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. 3 credits
This course continues the sequence in Attic Greek. Students will complete approximately fourteen chapters of Groton’s Alpha to Omega. Concepts introduced will include the optative and subjunctive moods, conditions, and indirect discourse.
HIST 303: ATHENS IN THE 5TH CENTURY BC – Dr. Goldman, MWF 1:10-2:00 p.m. 3 credits
The history of ancient Greece from the Bronze Age through the end of the fifth century BC, with special emphasis on the city of Athens and its political, social, and economic landscape during classical Greece. Prerequisite: HIST 101

LATN 101: ELEMENTARY LATIN I – Sec. 01, Fr. Krall, MTRF 8:00-8:50 a.m. 4 credits
Sec. 02, Fr. Krall, MF 2:10-3:00 p.m.
TR 2:10-3:00 p.m.
Sec. 03, TBA MTWR 3:10-4:00 p.m.

LATN 201: INTERMEDIATE LATIN I – Fr. Krall, MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. 3 credits

LATN 301: ADVANCED LATIN PROSE I: LIVY - Dr. Oosterhuis, MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. 3 credits
This course is devoted to building the skill of translating Latin prose and introducing students to some of the most important Roman prose authors. Most of the class will involve translation and discussion of unabridged and unadapted Latin prose. The particular authors that we will be reading have yet to be determined.

PHIL 486: ANCIENT CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE – Dr. McClelland, TR 10:50-12:05 p.m. 3 credits
This course examines ancient theories of justice, ancient practices and institutions relevant to the promotion (or denial) of social justice in ancient classical societies, and compares both theory and practice with modern conceptions and practices of social justice. Where possible, the course also establishes connections between theories and practices of justice and contemporary biological studies of social cooperation and related matters. Our aim will be to extract the best thinking on these issues from both ancient and modern sources.

Mission Statement
The Department of Classical Civilizations – the oldest at our university – provides undergraduates with access to over 2,500 years of human experience drawn from the multicultural world of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East. Coursework emphasizes the history, material culture, mores, and values of the societies that have helped shape Western civilization, drawing attention to the significant achievements of the past and the considerable impact of their legacy upon the present. Students are required to complete a balanced curriculum divided between the study of ancient languages (Latin, Greek) and their contemporary societies. Through this combined focus, students gain a broader comprehension and appreciation of the rich cultural, humanistic heritage stemming from the classical world. By immersing students in the study of the languages and ethnically diverse societies of antiquity, the program prepares them for careers within a world that is increasingly multicultural, interdependent, and global in outlook, in such fields as politics, ethics, business, law, sciences and education. The ancients themselves embraced this model of liberal arts education; according to the Roman orator Cicero, such cultural and historical study “illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.” The program’s courses are by nature interdisciplinary, with application to the sciences, art, theater, literature, philosophy, religion, politics, and government. Moreover, through addressing relevant issues of gender, ethnicity, and interaction between cultures, the curriculum reaches well beyond the borders of Greece and Rome to embrace other civilizations across the world and time.