Since our last newsletter in 2013, I am very happy to report that the Department of the Classics has much to celebrate! We were able to add three new Assistant Professors and one Professor to our faculty: Clara Bosak-Schroeder (PhD Michigan), Dan Leon (PhD Virginia), Brian Walters (PhD UCLA), as well as Craig Williams (PhD Yale). Clara is a specialist in ecocriticism and the Classics, and Dan’s research focuses on Arrian and Alexander the Great. Brian and Craig strengthen our specialties on the Latin side: Brian is a specialist in Cicero, and Craig’s research focuses on matters of gender and sexuality, the poetry of Martial, and American Indian studies. This year we are also happy to welcome David Morris, our new Classics Librarian, who is working to preserve and expand our premier collection. We are fortunate to have with us two new lecturers, Katherine Kreindler (PhD Stanford), a Roman archaeologist, and Serena Witzke (PhD North Carolina), a specialist in Greek and Roman comedy and its reception. But the past two years have been successful in terms of faculty recognition: my predecessor in the headship, Ariana Traill, received a well-deserved Campus Excellence in Leadership Award last May, and I was honored to receive the LAS Centennial Scholarship (2013-2016) and the Langan Professorial Scholarship (through 2019). We also continue to excel in securing many other fellowships around campus, such as at the Center for Advanced Study. We take pride in being a leading Classics Department in our region (I was honored to hold the CAMWS presidency last year) and have a very strong publication record, as you can see in this Newsletter.

We are very fortunate to have a superb faculty with diverse interests in the broad discipline of Classics.

Our Department is now home to two journals: in addition to our own *Illinois Classical Studies* which is thriving in the able hands of my successors in the editorship, Angeliki Tzanetou and Ariana Traill (and is now also available on ProjectMuse in addition to JSTOR), we are the hosting institution for the *Classical Journal* through 2021 under my editorship. Both journals provide full support for two graduate editorial assistants.

2015 and 2016 were very active years for us in terms of conferences and events: an international conference in Delphi on the “New Heroes on Screen” (June 2015), a graduate workshop on Latin Imperial Epic (September 2015), and the Heartland Symposium for Ancient Studies (September 2016), in addition to a great array of talks by visiting speakers including Monica Cyrino, Kirk Freudenburg, Laurel Fulkerson, John Marincola, Rosaria Munson, Jennifer Neils, Tony Woodman.

Classics undergraduate and graduate students have accomplished very much in the past two years: through our Classics Undergraduate Travel Award we offer students the opportunity to study abroad in the Mediterranean and beyond (recent recipients: Hephestion Bolaris, Audrey Majors, and James Stark); and through the Richard T. Scanlan Teaching Fellowship, we honor the excellence of graduate teaching assistants (Orestis Karatzoglou and Whitney McComas, 2016; Sean Minion, 2015). Sean Minion was also honored with the
A Message from the Head continued

Demand remains very high, and our enrollments continue to thrive. We offer this year fifteen Latin classes, seven Greek classes, and twenty-eight Classical Civilization courses, including the highly popular Mythology, taught by Professor Jon Solomon. Most recently in an interview (Postmarks, Fall 2016), Illinois Athletic Director, Josh Whitman, commented on how influential this course was when he took it with Professor Scanlan in 1998. Go Illini! A new online version of this class was developed this year and will be offered in the summer of 2017. And we hope to offer our FLIP courses on Biblical Greek and Christian Latin in May this year. Through Professor Traill’s expertise in Latin pedagogy, we are now offering summer camps for students every summer—summer 17 will be our third year. We have many plans for the future including study abroad, while our highest priority remains to secure a permanent position in archaeology.

Thanks are due most of all to the friends and alumni whose generous donations support Classics activities, including the Richard T. Scanlan Teaching Fellowship and the Classics Undergraduate Travel Award. Your gifts are very much valued. Our website received a face lift last month, check back frequently for updates both on our website and social media (we have two Facebook groups now!). We love to hear from you: please let us know what you have been doing and consider stopping by the Foreign Languages Building, if you are in town.

You can also contact: Anthony Anastasie Ponomis, Assistant Director of Fund Development University of Illinois | College of Liberal Arts & Sciences 2111 South Oak Street, Suite 100, MC 608 | Champaign, Illinois 61820 Office (217) 300-3470 | Mobile (217) 417-2114 aponomis@illinois.edu

GIVE TO CLASSICS

The Department of the Classics at the University of Illinois has been fortunate over the years to receive support not just from alumni, but also from numerous friends. Contributions have played a vital role in the department's growth and success. Our Gifts in Action website details all the support we offer to undergraduate and graduate students thanks to these generous donations. For more information and on-line donations, please visit our website at www.classics.illinois.edu/giving

FACULTY NEWS

Antony Augustaklis
Antony became Head of Classics in August 2016, after a busy year as President of CAMWS at the Williamsburg meeting in March and after having taken over as editor of the Classical Journal in January. He was awarded the SCS Excellence in Teaching Award in San Francisco in January and began his term as Langan Professorial Scholar for three years in August. This year saw the publication of his commentary on Statius’ Thebaid 8 in January by OUP and the Oxford Readings in Florian Epic in June, as well as a volume of essays on the STARC-series Spartanus in November (co-edited with Monica Cynro by Edinburgh University Press). Antony is currently working on two commentaries on Silius Italicus’ Punica 3 and the pseudo-Senecan Hercules Oetaus, as well as a few edited, collaborative volumes.

Clara Bosak-Schroeder
Clara joined the department in 2015 after completing her PhD at the University of Michigan. She recently published “The Ecology of Health in Herodotus, Dicaearchus, and Agatharchides” in The Routledge Handbook of Identity and Environment in the Classical and Medieval Worlds (2016) and presented “Seeing Gorgon Skins” at Feminism and Classics VII: Visions, hosted by the University of Washington. Last year she oversaw a revision of her department’s bylaws and began serving as a faculty senator. This year she hopes to complete her book manuscript, Other Natures: Escolitan Thought in Ancient Greek Historiography. She will also develop “History of Ancient Greece,” an 8-week undergraduate course piloted last fall—and an interesting pedagogical challenge! Her graduate seminar this semester, “Eccentricism and Environmental History,” is a continual delight.

Kate Kreindler
Kate is thrilled to join the faculty at Illinois this year as visiting lecturer. She received her PhD in 2015 from Stanford University and spent the last year teaching at Stanford and at San Francisco State University. After teaching for the Department of History at SFSU, Kate, a classical archaeologist, is excited to be teaching undergraduate archaeology courses in Greek and Italian archaeology and ancient urbanism. Her own research focuses on the archaeology of pre-Roman Italy and economic development in the region. She spends her summers excavating in Italy. Kate is the associate director at the Poggio Civitate Archaeological Project, an archaeological research project and field school based at an Etruscan settlement dating to the seventh and sixth centuries BCE. This summer, she also began working at the Brock University Archaeological Project at Panteletia, where she excavated a Roman sanctuary built on the shores of the Lago di Venere in Panteletia.

FACULTY NEWS

Dan Leon
Dan has recently published an article on mentoring in Teaching Classical Languages and another on Philo of Alexandria’s engagement with the politics of the Roman provinces in Classical World. The latter connects to Dan’s wider research program, which entails a book project on Arrian of Nicomedia and the problems of writing history in Greek in the Roman empire, as well as several articles on historical narrative from the same period. Dan has also enjoyed teaching the introductory Greek sequence and is looking forward to a graduate seminar on the Second Sophistic in the spring.

Kirk Sanders
Kirk currently serves as Head of the Department of Philosophy and continues his work in Hellenistic philosophy and Xenophon’s Socratic writings. He is finishing work on the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Epicureanism (co-edited with Jeffrey Fish of Baylor University) and his translation of Xenophon’s Socratic Writings for Hackett. He is also working on a philological and philosophical commentary on Xenophon’s Memorabilia 1.

Jon Solomon
Ariana Traill

Ariana is working on a book length commentary on Plautus’ *Casina*. She spoke on “Plautus and the origins of Roman Satire” at a conference on Plautine Comedy and its Intellectual Context, in Athens, Greece, this summer and saw book reviews appear in CW and JRS. In the spring, she taught a course entitled “The Tragic Spirit” (but which definitely included comedy) for the first time and is now enjoying a foray into Medieval Latin. She continues to serve on a number of committees, as well as directing the Latin Program and Classics Summer Camps for kids every June! She was recently elected vice president for the Illinois Classical Conference.

Angeliki Tzanetou

Angeli has completed two journal issues on Greek and Roman drama, now published in *Illinois Classical Studies* 40.2 (2015) and a second one on Gender, East and West, co-edited with Maryline Parca in *Classical World* 109.2 (2016). She is currently serving as co-editor of *Illinois Classical Studies* with Ariana Traill. Most recently, she gave a conference talk and lecture at the Growing up *MaterITHERS* Conference in Basel in May 2016 and at the “Gender and Sexuality Workshop” at the University of Chicago. She is writing a book on Athenian motherhood and politics. Other smaller-scale projects examine the representations of Athenian democracy and imperialism in light of modern political theory and scholarship on post-colonialism and imperialism.

Brian Walters

Brian was recently on Humanities Release Time and is busy trying to finish his book, *The Deaths of the Republic: Images of the Body Politic in Cicero’s Rome*. He is teaching an advanced Latin course on the topic of Roman medicine and introductory-level survey of Roman and Italic material culture. His translation of Lucan’s Civil War was published in August 2015 (Hackett) and a recently completed article titled “The Circulation and Delivery of Cicero’s *Post Reddito ad Populum*,” is set to be published in *TAPA* in May 2017. He co-organized a panel with Jessica Westerhold (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) titled “Cicero Poeta,” on the subject of Cicero’s poetry, for the annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies (Toronto, 2017). When not working he continues to be enchanted and amazed by his wife, young son, and two cats.

Craig Williams

Craig’s recent publications include “Friends, Romans, Errors: Moments in the Reception of enunciativa” (in Bas Dufallo, ed., *Roman Error: Classical Receptions and the Problem of Roman Flavius*, forthcoming from OUP), “The Rhetoricity of Gender and the Ideal of Medicinares in Vitruvius’ De architectura” (*Arethusa*), “Roman Homosexuality in Historical Fiction from Robert Graves to Steven Saylor” and “Too Gross for Our Present Notions of Propriety: Roman Homosexuality in Two Nineteenth-Century Translations of Martial’s Epigrams” (both in Jennifer Ingleheart, ed., *Ancient Rome and the Construction of Modern Homosexual Identities*, OUP 2015). In connection with his research and teaching interest in animal studies, he has given papers on representations of animal eros in Greek and Latin literature. Meanwhile, his project on Native American receptions of Greco-Roman antiquity, in particular texts written in Greek and Latin by American Indians, has been drawing increasing attention. Here at Illinois, a story on his project was published in May 2015 (http://illinois.edu/emailer/newsletter/7386.html).

Serena Witzke

Serena received her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2014. As visiting lecturer, she is teaching classes such as Ancient Comedy and Performance and Classics in Film and looks forward to teaching a course on the Classical Tradition in Victorian England (top hats and Romes) in the spring. Her research focuses on ancient New Comedy, gender and sexuality in antiquity, and Oscar Wilde. She is working on a monograph entitled, *Reconsidering the Recognition Comedy: Menander, Plautus, Terence, and Oscar Wilde*, using Wilde’s meditations on identity and self-development to reconsider negative behavior and character growth in ancient New Comedy. Recent and forthcoming publications include “Violence against Women in Ancient Rome: Ideology versus Reality” in *The Topography of Violence in the Greco-Roman World*, "Gendered Patterns of Recognition in Menander's Sllinioi in *EnGro*, and “Gender and Sexuality in Plautus,” forthcoming in the *Blackwell Companion to Plautus*.

Sebastian Anderson

Sebastian completed his dissertation proposal in March and will spend the year at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens on the SLCL Dissertation Completion Fellowship. His project titled “Poetry in Public,” examines the issues of performance, reperformance, and publication in archaic Greek poetry, including inscribed epigram, that is, how the epigraphical material can inform our understanding of poetry in this period. He has spent much of the summer and fall studying inscriptions in museums and at sites throughout Greece.

Konstantinos Arampapasalis

Kostas has completed all courses and exams and is preparing his dissertation proposal in the field of Flavian epic poetry.

Katie Cantwell

Katie is on her first year in Classics, having recently completed a MA in Comparative World Literature at Illinois. She will be presenting this spring at CAMWS on Homeric tropes in popular film. Her research is currently focused on Roman theater and classical reception. Upon completing her MA, she plans to pursue her PhD in Classics at Illinois.

John Foulk

John is a third year MAT student who is currently completing the requirements for his teaching license, including classroom observations and teaching in preparation for his student teaching practicum beginning in January. He is teaching LAT 102 and Medical Terminology. This past summer he attended the Classical Summer School at the American Academy in Rome, during which he visited the monuments and sites of Rome, Pompeii, Herculanenum, Paestum, and Ravenna, to name but a few, and collaborated with students and teachers from across the world.

Stephen Froedge

Stephen is entering his second year in the PhD program and looking forward to finishing his PhD exams within the year. He is primarily interested in Latin epic.

Christopher Gipson

Christopher is a first-year PhD student, having just finished his MA in Classics. His research interests include Greek drama, Greek historiography, and religion. He is looking forward to presenting this coming spring at CAMWS on cultic associations in Sophocles. He is also attending courses on a Survey of Latin Literature and a seminar on Ancient Ecocriticism and Environmental History, while preparing for the remaining PhD exams.

Charlotte Hunt

Charlotte is in her first semester as a MA student in Classics. She currently works as a TA for the Classical Mythology course and as a tutor for middle to high school aged students. Charlotte presented last October at CAMWS-SS on nature religion in Roman philosophy, and her interests are primarily in ecological criticism and environmental history.

Orestis Karatzoglou

Orestis has been a student since 2011. In spring 2013, he earned the MA degree under the supervision of Professor Traill with a thesis on “*Athiophiatric Oracles.*” His main interests include Old Comedy and Ancient Philosophy. He has taught Greek, Latin, Myth, Modern Greek, and he is currently working as the editorial assistant for the *Classical Journal*. He is writing his dissertation proposal on Plato.

Adam Kozak

Adam is currently in his second year of the PhD program having earned his MA at Illinois in 2015 and is in the process of completing his comprehensive exams. He presented a paper on Martial at CAMWS last Spring and co-organized the Heartland Graduate Workshop at Illinois in September. In addition to Martial, Adam’s interests include nature in the ancient world, Plavonian poetry, and Stoic ethics and cosmology.
Graduate Student News continued

Michelle Martinez
Michelle is a second-year MA student in Classics and holds the Illinois Distinguished Fellowship. She presented last spring at CAMWS on Apuleius’ engagement with Hellenistic poetry. She taught a Latin outreach program at Carrie Busey elementary school during the spring of 2016 and taught the “Meet the Greeks!” camp to 9-12 year olds at the Spurlock Museum this past summer. She has passed both MA exams in Greek and Latin and is starting coursework in the Foreign Language Licensure Program. Her research is currently focused on the comparison of ideal wives to honey bees in Greek literature.

Clayton Schroer
Clayton is now in his fourth year in the PhD program; having completed his coursework he is now near to finishing his written examinations. Last year he presented a paper at CAMWS on the reception of the Classics in the early American space program; he also presented a paper on exile and identity in Statius’ Thebaid at the SCS meeting in Toronto in January.

Jennifer Stanull
Jen is a third-year PhD student. She is currently teaching LAT 102. This fall, she presented a paper on Xerophontes’ Oeconomicus and feminist memes at the Heartland Workshop.

Jessica Wells
Jessie is in her fifth year. She holds the Illinois Distinguished Fellowship. She is currently preparing her dissertation proposal.

FACULTY BOOKSHELF

Statius, Thebaid 8: Edited with an Introduction, Translation, and Commentary
By Antony Augustuszki
(Edinburgh, 2016)
This commentary presents the first full-length edition of Thebaid 8, with text and apparatus criticus, and an English translation. A detailed introduction discusses the Argive/Theban myth in the Greek and Roman literary tradition and art, as well as the reception of the book in subsequent centuries, especially in Dante’s Divine Comedy. The accompanying commentary explores questions of interpretation and Statius’ language and literary craft, with particular emphasis on the exploitation of various Greek and Latin interests in his poetry.

Oxford Readings in Flavian Epic
By Antony Augustuszki
(Oxford, 2016)
The epics of the three Flavian poets (Silvius Flaccus, Statius, and Valerius Flaccus) have, in recent times, attracted the attention of scholars, who have re-evaluated the particular merits of Flavian poetry as far more than imitation of the traditional norms and patterns. Drawn from sixty years of scholarship, this edited collection is the first volume to collate the most influential modern academic writings on Flavian epic poetry, revised and updated to provide both scholars and students alike with a broad yet comprehensive overview of the field.

STARZ Spartacus: Reimagining an Icon on Screen
By Antony Augustuszki and Monica Gryno
(University of New Mexico)
(Edinburgh, 2016)
The figure of Spartacus often serves as an icon of resistance against oppression in modern political movements, while his legend has inspired numerous receptions over the centuries in many different popular media. This new essay collection brings together a wide range of scholarly perspectives on the four seasons of the acclaimed and highly successful premium cable television series STARZ Spartacus (2010-13), with contributions from experts in the fields of Classics, History, Gender, Film and Media Studies, and Classical Reception.

Ben Hur: The Original Blockbuster
By Jon Solomon
(Edinburgh, 2016)
Ben-Hur: The Original Blockbuster surveys the Ben-Hur phenomenon’s unprecedented range and extraordinary endurance; various editions, spin-off publications, stage productions, movies, comic books, radio plays, and retail products were successfully marketed and sold from the 1880s and throughout the twentieth century. Today Ben-Hur Live is touring Europe and Asia, with a third MGM film in production in Italy.

Lucan: Civil War
By Brian Walters
(Hackett, 2015)
Written in the reigns of Nero (the emperor against whom Lucan was implicated in a conspiracy and by whom he was compelled to commit suicide at the age of 25), the poet’s dark, ambiguous, unfinished masterpiece focuses on the disintegration of the Roman body politic and the war between Julius Caesar and Pompey that ultimately lead to the end of the Roman republic. This translation aims for a poem both as rugged as Lucan’s and as reader-friendly as possible.
Hephestion Bolaris  
(BA Classics and Economics, 2016)

The summer I spent taking an immersive course in Latin and a supplementary course in Ancient Greek at the Academia Vivarium Novum was a unique and, for me, very enriching experience. The philosophy, that these “dead” languages can only truly be comprehended if we learn to speak and write as the ancients did, completely changed my perspective on Classical literature. From learning the basics on day one, such as identifying Rome on a map in Latin, we slowly learned to internalize the vocabulary and rules of grammar to actively speak the language. I was pleasantly surprised by how the immersive nature of the academy helped me deepen my knowledge. We spoke Latin in our Latin classes (and Greek in our Greek classes). We dined in Latin, we played soccer in Latin, we wrote as the ancient authors did, completely changed my perspective on Classical literature. From learning the basics on day one, such as identifying Rome on a map in Latin, we slowly learned to internalize the vocabulary and rules of grammar to actively speak the language. I was pleasantly surprised by how the immersive nature of the academy helped me deepen my knowledge.

Vanessa Matravers  
(BA Classics, 2016)

I have enjoyed my past two years being a Classics student at the University. But, that season has passed and into the working world I have been flung. My working experience had an unexpected jump as I went from a Program Director for a camp in the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana’s resident camp program to being a Director in that camp. I continue to work with them for weekend programs since the summer has ended. I have also started as a substitute teacher in the Batavia Public School District.

Nick Dee  
(PhD Classical Philology, 2017)

I defended my dissertation on Tacitus in August and am now a visiting lecturer at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, IA, for the 2016-17 academic year. At Cornell, each faculty member teaches one month-long course at a time, and so far I have taught Roman History and Classical Mythology. I look forward to a full slate of beginning Latin courses this winter and spring. The small and quiet campus, set on a hill in rural Iowa due east of Cedar Rapids, has welcomed me warmly. With the school’s total enrollment at just under 1000 students, I have already taught 5% of the student body in a matter of a few short weeks!

Amy Norgard  
(PhD Classical Philology, 2016)

As Assistant Professor of Classics at Truman State University since Fall 2016, I have taught Roman Civilization and Latin at all levels from the elementary sequence to an advanced reading course on Petronius and Apuleius. The most rewarding part of my job is working closely with students. I oversee student research projects, and I am the academic advisor for Classics Club and Truman’s chapter of Eta Sigma Phi. This year I have piloted a service learning project in which five Truman Classics majors teach Latin and Classical culture to a local fourth grade class; my students are learning how to be effective teachers while making strong connections with the community.

James Stark  
(BAT Latin, 2015)

This is my second year teaching at Collinsville High School in Collinsville, Illinois (just outside of St. Louis). I absolutely love the school and the surrounding area. As the only Latin teacher, I’m currently teaching all four levels of Latin (roughly 100 students, plus two more who work with me after school on Fridays). I have already established a firm reputation as a the strange, geeky Latin teacher (whether we are reenacting gladiatorial combat, singing about the 7 Kings of Rome, or watching video game trailers that re-imagine the 2nd Punic War, there is plenty of nerdy fun to be had in the Latin classroom). Right now, I am focusing heavily on developing a sense of pride and identity in my Latin students while still maintaining the rigor needed to learn Latin effectively. Outside of the classroom, the students certainly keep me busy. We have been expanding the Latin club with more frequent activities (at least once per month), and we make a point of attending both of the Illinois Junior Classical League conventions (IJCL South & IJCL North). We are also going on a trip to Italy in summer 2018—something that I definitely would not have had the confidence to organize if I had not had the opportunity to travel there at the end of my undergrad. Last but not least, I am also the co-sponsor of the newly established video game club. If anyone ever wants to check out what is happening in the CHS Latin program, they can check out our very modest class website (https://sites.google.com/a/cusd.kahoks.org/chs-latin/).

Sergio Yona  
(PhD Classical Philology, 2015)

After two years at Baylor University, I am now an Assistant Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Missouri. I am enjoying reading Cicero and Vergil with his students this semester. With my wife and five boys we have made friends in Columbia and are loving the fall weather! ☃
Teachers ranked as excellent

* The instructor ratings were outstanding.

### Spring 2015

ARAMPAPASLIS, K  
FOULK, J  
GAON, S  
KARATZOGLOU, O  
KOZAK, A  
* LEON RUIZ, D  
MCCOMAS, W  
MCVEY, A  
* MINION, S  
SCHROER, C  
* SANDERS, K  
* SUNDERS, K  
WELLS, J  
* MCVEY, W  
* LEON RUIZ, D  
* SCHROER, C  
KARATZOGLOU, O  
GAON, S  
FOULK, J  
* CANTWELL, K  
* LEON RUIZ, D  
* SCHROER, C  
* SANDERS, K  
* SUNDERS, K  
WELLS, J  
* CANTWELL, K  
* LEON RUIZ, D  
* SCHROER, C  
* SANDERS, K  
* SUNDERS, K  
WELLS, J  

### Fall 2015

* AUGUSTOKASIS, A  
ARAMPAPASLIS, K  
BOSAK-SCHROEDER, C  
* CANTWELL, K  
FOULK, J  
GAON, S  

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**CONFERENCES**

**EXHIBITION & DISPLAY**

*SI Annual Academic Advisory Board* Exhibit: September 17-October 14, 2016. The Art and Science of Reading and Writing Ancient Greek. The Classical Seminar, the History of the Classics, and the Library's Greek and Latin collections are the focus of the 40th anniversary exhibit sponsored by the SI Annual Academic Advisory Board. The exhibit features highlights of the Greek and Latin collections, with an emphasis on the work of SI faculty and students. The exhibit is open to the public from September 17 to October 14, 2016. The opening reception will be held on September 14, 2016, from 5:30-7:00 PM. The exhibit will be located in Room 225, the Classics Seminar library. For more information, please contact the SI Annual Academic Advisory Board at info@siannualacademicadvisoryboard.org.

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### Illinois Scholarship

Classics Undergraduate Travel Award: The Classics Undergraduate Travel Award is a travel grant supporting undergraduates who wish to participate in conferences, seminars, or other scholarly activities related to Classics. The award is intended to support students in their academic and professional development. The award is open to undergraduate students currently enrolled in a Classics course. The application deadline is March 1st. For more information, please contact the Classics Department at classics@illinois.edu.

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### FROM OUR NEW CLASSICS LIBRARIAN, DAVID A. MORRIS

Through a happy confluence of events, 1909 would prove to be a formative year in the history of the University of Illinois. In that year, William Abbott Oldfather and Arthur Stanley Pease joined the university's new Department of Classics, while Phineas Windsor became Library Director, ultimately serving in that capacity for over thirty years. These men would lead their respective institutions to international prominence. Here, on the prairie, a campus originally intended to be little more than an agricultural and industrial school, Windsor laid the foundations for what would become one of the grandest libraries in the world, while Oldfather and Pease established one of the most distinguished centers for the study of Greek and Roman antiquity. The efforts of these three men coalesced in a singular way when, with Windsor's blessing, Oldfather and Pease pulled all pertinent volumes out of the main stacks and brought them to the Classics Seminar, which was already home to the collection of philologist Wilhelm Dittenberger, acquired a few years earlier by the university. The Classics Library, as we would recognize it, was born.

The Classics Library Collection is among the three largest libraries of its kind in the nation, and one of the most important in the world. Perhaps more than any other American institution of higher learning, the University of Illinois has tied its academic enterprise to the cultivation of its research library—that is, the totality of the library's collections and services. And there is assuredly no group of scholars on this campus more appreciative of the intimate bond between a successful academic program and its library collection than Illinois Classics.

With this context ever in mind, I am committed to bolstering our place as one of the world's leading Classics collections through the aggressive expansion of our holdings, collecting across all relevant fields, in all the major languages of scholarship, in both print and digital formats. We are presently engaged in a robust program of retrospective purchasing, closing whatever gaps might exist with our peers, including the likes of Harvard, Chicago, and Michigan. While building upon our tremendous strengths in Classical literature and philology, I will continue to assemble a collection that can support a range of studies, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of our field. As we have many tens of thousands of volumes related to Classical studies in the Main Stacks, I will assert greater curatorial control over this extended collection, and work to integrate these holdings more seamlessly with what we have in Room 225.

I am also committed to enhancing the navigability of our collections. Beginning in the spring, we are planning on a series of information sessions that are intended to guide faculty and students alike through our holdings in Room 225, but also through what we have online, and in other parts of the library system, including special collections.

What else does the future hold? I am committed to improving our place as one of the world's leading Classics collections through the aggressive expansion of our holdings, collecting across all relevant fields, in all the major languages of scholarship, in both print and digital formats. We are presently engaged in a robust program of retrospective purchasing, closing whatever gaps might exist with our peers, including the likes of Harvard, Chicago, and Michigan. While building upon our tremendous strengths in Classical literature and philology, I will continue to assemble a collection that can support a range of studies, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of our field. As we have many tens of thousands of volumes related to Classical studies in the Main Stacks, I will assert greater curatorial control over this extended collection, and work to integrate these holdings more seamlessly with what we have in Room 225.

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Book & Manuscript Library. In addition to my Illinois library degree, I hold an MA in Medieval History from the University of St. Andrews, and I am about to complete a PhD in Medieval History from the University of Notre Dame. Prior to my appointment as Classics Librarian, I had received a Rome Prize in Medieval Studies from the American Academy in Rome, where I held the Samuel H. Kress Fellowship and served as a special consultant to the Academy’s Arthur & Janet Ross Library.

I assume responsibility for the Classics Library Collection at a time of profound change. Besides having a new librarian, the collection also has a new location. This past summer, in the months prior to my appointment, the Classics Library moved from a physical proximity to each other that will encourage innovative research across the disciplines.
in other subject libraries on campus. We now have in production three new library guides, which will be made accessible through the University Library and Classics Library websites over the course of this academic year. The first guide will serve as a portal for our extensive collection of journals, bringing together hundreds of titles in one, easy-to-browse place. The second will serve a similar function, but will instead be devoted to book series, including ongoing runs of critical texts such as Loeb or Budé, commentaries, monographs, and essay collections. Beyond being a convenient gateway—with direct links to catalog entries, online versions, and publishers’ websites—the presence of short descriptions for each series will make this guide a useful introduction for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. The third guide will highlight the Classical Latin and Greek texts found in Illinois’s remarkable special collections: papyrus fragments, medieval manuscripts, incunabula, and facsimiles, housed mainly at the Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the Spurlock Museum here on campus. A principal aim of this guide would be to encourage scholars to incorporate these primary materials directly into their research and teaching.

Furthermore, I regard the active promotion of the Classics Department and its library collection as an essential objective—whether on campus, nationally, or internationally. Starting this January, the Classics Library Collection will have a home on Twitter. Our feed will not only provide a steady stream of news, links to articles and reviews, and other updates, but it will also cultivate a following among a vastly wider audience than would otherwise be possible. In line with the University Library’s overarching goals, we will boost the Classics Library Collection’s presence in digital repositories such as HathiTrust, thus further advertising the depth of Illinois’s holdings. We will propose and zealously pursue opportunities for cooperation with other cultural institutions, such as the American Academy in Rome and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, including the possibility of webinars, invited speakers, and other joint projects.

In these and other endeavors, fundraising will be absolutely critical. I pledge to work tirelessly to build up our private endowments, with the goal of making our acquisitions as “recession-proof” as possible, particularly in these times of economic uncertainty on both the state and national levels. Additionally, I hope to raise benefactions for the endowment of fellowships for visiting scholars, and for the provision of a speaker series, highlighting new and innovative research techniques in Classics and related fields in the humanities.

This is my vision. I feel inestimably privileged for the opportunity to share it with you, and to try to implement it in your service. I do not embark upon my task lightly, but I do so joyously, confident that, together, we will work to advance a great department, a great library, and thus, in our own way, the republic of letters. ❖