



*From the Chair*

**C**LASSICS HAS ARRIVED. In our last newsletter in the fall of 2007, my predecessor Richard Martin reported on our move to more spacious quarters in Building 110. Since then, we have settled down in our new habitat and are looking forward to completing our takeover of the entire building, once our temporary house-mates in Feminist Studies have moved on to their own new facilities. I would like to think that our location in the heart of the campus, in the Main Quad, reflects our standing in the university. At the very least, I believe it ought to!

Since our last report we have gained a new colleague, the Latinist Christian Kaesser, an Oxford D.Phil. from Germany who joined us from a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton. To our regret, his arrival coincided with the departure for Yale of our Hellenistic historian and Egyptologist, Joe Manning. On the plus side, Will Shearin, a former Stanford Classics major and Berkeley PhD, has returned to the Farm for two years as a Mellon postdoctoral fellow in the Humanities, and the Latinist and cultural historian Grant Parker, who joined us in 2006, has just been granted tenure.

Last fall, Ryan Johnson took over as our new department manager and thanks to his energy, efficiency, and much appreciated good cheer has already made a tremendous contribution to our program: as we have all learned, sometimes a single person can make a huge difference. Recent short-term visiting professors included Ewen Bowie and Alessandro Schiesaro, and in the spring the Onassis Foundation sponsored two courses by the Byzantinist Panagiotis Agapitos from Cyprus. Classics maintains a strong foothold in the senior ranks of the administration, with Roman historian Richard Saller as the Dean of Humanities and Sciences at the helm of the largest school on campus and with Hellenist Susan Stephens completing her tenure as Senior Associate Dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies.

During the last few quarters, our program has gone from strength to strength. In what may well be an all-time high, more than 60 undergraduates are currently majoring in Classics. This rapid expansion would not have been possible without the tireless commitment and selfless dedication of our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Maud Gleason, and our



WALTER SCHEIDEL

seasoned Latinist and Classics enthusiast Bert Lain, both of whom have not only labored hard to draw students into our program but are also making sure that they stay – and flourish. The whole department is deeply in their debt for their outstanding service. Classics also benefits from the department’s muscular contribution to teaching first-year

students: next year our faculty will teach an unusually large number of freshman seminars, and our offerings in the Introduction to the Humanities program will be enriched by a new sequence on world history that has been developed by our colleague Ian Morris.

Our graduate program has performed equally well: not only were seven of our students awarded the PhD in June 2008, but their skills proved to be in high demand. Several in this group garnered more job interviews and campus visits than they could comfortably handle and every single one of them obtained an academic position straight out of graduate school. And the last few months have brought further successes: two of this year’s graduates as well as two former graduates recently secured tenure-track positions, while no fewer than five of our current doctoral students were awarded prestigious research fellowships at the American Academy in Rome, at Harvard, the Getty Museum, and Stan-

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ford. We will do all we can to sustain this extraordinary momentum and can only hope that the current economic downturn will not diminish the otherwise excellent prospects of future cohorts.

Thanks to the generosity of past and present benefactors, our department has weathered new budgetary constraints very well: endowed funds continue to allow us to invest heavily in the education of our students at all levels – by supporting supplementary instruction, conference attendance, and research abroad – and sustain initiatives from frequent talks by visiting speakers, workshops, and conferences, to enhance ments of our online presence. But needless to say, additional resources

would help us do even better, and it is important for you, our friends and alumni to understand how much we appreciate your support in these challenging times.

In addition to numerous invited lectures, our department hosted no fewer than three international conferences during 2007-08, one on *Ancient and Modern Imperialisms* and two devoted to the comparative study of ancient Rome and China. In 2008-09, we hosted a conference on *Subversive Classics* organized by Grant Parker in April and *Inscribed Lives: Roman Epigraphy in Context* in May. We continue to benefit from the generous support of Peter Joost, a great friend of Stanford Classics, who has made possible the annual Lorenz Eitner Lecture Series on Ancient Art and Culture – featuring MacArthur

Fellow Jonathan Shay in 2008 and distinguished Princeton historian Anthony Grafton this past April – as well as our colleague Rush Rehm’s upcoming production of Sophocles’ “Electra.”

The following pages contain profiles of our newest colleagues, Christian Kaesser, Adrienne Mayor and Richard Saller, alongside updates on other faculty members. They feature news from our latest crop of graduates. They also introduce two of our recent research projects in greater depth.

It is both an honor and a pleasure to chair our program in this exciting period of growth and initiative. But now it is time to let our faculty, students, and alumni speak for themselves.

*Walter Scheidel*  
Walter Scheidel, Chair



## CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

### Faculty and Staff

#### EMERITI: (PROFESSORS)

Mark Edwards  
Marsh McCall, Jr.  
(Recalled for 2009-10)  
Edward Spofford  
Susan Treggiari  
Michael Wigodsky

#### CHAIR:

Walter Scheidel

#### DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES:

Jennifer Trimble

#### DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES:

Maud Gleason

#### PROFESSORS

Alessandro Barchiesi  
Andrew Devine  
Richard Martin  
Ian Morris  
Reviel Netz  
Andrea Nightingale  
Josiah Ober  
Rush Rehm  
Richard Saller (Dean,  
Humanities & Sciences)  
Walter Scheidel  
Michael Shanks  
Susan Stephens (Sen. Assoc. Dean,  
Humanities & Sciences)

#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Jody Maxmin  
Grant Parker  
Anastasia-Erasmia Peponi  
Jennifer Trimble

#### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Giovanna Ceserani  
Christian Kaesser

#### COURTESY PROFESSORS

Chris Bobonich  
Ian Hodder  
Eva Prionas

#### LECTURERS

Barbara Clayton  
Maud Gleason  
Bert Lain  
Fred Porta

#### VISITING SCHOLAR

Adrienne Mayor

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ryan Johnson (Department  
Manager)  
Alicia Sanchez (Student Services  
and Graduate Admissions)  
Margo Keeley (Administrative  
Associate)



# Faculty NEWS

## Updates. . .

In the 2007 Classics Newsletter we profiled the faculty, listed their recent publications and included a portrait to show their faces. The notes below are updates on the faculty's activities since then.

**ALESSANDRO BARCHIESI** winters in California, teaching and guiding doctoral candidates. In addition to teaching, his work is conditioned by the need to finish editing the giant *Oxford Handbook of Roman Studies*, co-edited with the newly appointed Classics Chair, Walter Scheidel. With 55 contributors to the *Handbook*, they tackled a monumental task. Walter selected the dust-jacket image, a giant marble foot of Constantine, from a lost colossal statue. Study of the Roman Empire continues to inform recent approaches to the East/West debate in universal history.

Barchiesi continues to edit a commentary on Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Italian (an English version is under Cambridge UP contract), with Volume III to come out next fall. He prepared several invited lectures to give in 2009, the Housman Lecture at University College London, including a plenary lecture for the FIEC conference in Berlin, and the Carl Schlam Lecture at Ohio State. The topics include a discussion of metamorphosis in the Greek and in the Latin tradition, a result of Sandro's long commentary work on Ovid, and a discussion of the poetic careers of several Latin poets and a great name of Italian letters, Boccaccio.

**GIOVANNA CESERANI** has been busy completing her book on the history of the archaeology of Magna Graecia. To this end she enjoyed, in addition to being the 2007-08 Green Faculty Fellow, an Internal Faculty Fellowship that allowed her to spend a year at the Stanford Humanities Center. Every year, the Center supports a new cohort of scholars from various disciplines in the humanities, including faculty from Stanford and other institutions worldwide along with Stanford graduate students. This was a wonderful mix of people on whom to try out new ideas and to make sure that one's work reaches beyond the confines of one's own disciplinary boundaries.

Ceserani got involved in an exciting new project this past year, in the research effort *Mapping the Republic of Letters*. This brings together faculty from English, History, French, History of Science and Classics departments to investigate the early modern networks in which, before academia as we know it, knowledge was produced, circulated, and debated about. With support of a generous Presidential Fund grant for Innovation in the Humanities, their ambitious goals are to approach this central question in modern intellectual history through new digital tools pioneered in the Spatial History Lab at Stanford.

In line with Giovanna's long-standing interest in eighteenth-century travelers and their impact on the modern study of antiquities, her segment of the Mapping project entails supervising the production of a digital map of the Grand Tour. To bring this map to fruition, the wonderful work of two graduate students

has been crucial. Sarah Murray from Classics and Molly Taylor from History are close to completing a database of the British travelers who visited Italy in the eighteenth century. The ultimate goal is to be able to answer questions about when and where people traveled, who was in the same place at the same time, how routes of travel changed over time, as well as quantitative questions involving the social status of the travelers.


For Ceserani's published writing since the last newsletter, you can see her co-edited special 2007 issue of the *Journal of the History of Collections* on *Antiquarianism, Museums and Cultural Heritage: Collecting and its Contexts in Eighteenth-century Naples*, her article *Wilamowitz and Stratigraphy in 1873: A Case Study in the History of Archaeology's "Great Divide"* in the book *Archives, Ancestors, Practices. Archaeology in the Light of its History* (eds. Nordblach and Schlanger 2008), and her papers on classical antiquity and modern Italian identity and on the eighteenth-century historiography of ancient Greece, previewed in the *Princeton Stanford Working Papers in Classics*, <http://www.princeton.edu/~pswpc>. Future projects include further study of ancient Greece in the 18th century and co-editing the *Oxford Handbook of the History of Archaeology*.

**ANDREW DEVINE** is currently on leave until the end of summer. He reported that, "for the serious reader of nonfiction," his book *The Prosody of Greek Speech* has been released in paperback by Oxford UP.

**MARK W. EDWARDS** is still quite active in a retirement home in San Rafael and enjoys the lifestyle. He presides over reading groups in classical history, philosophy and literature in his community. Mark recently returned to Homeric studies by writing twelve articles for the forthcoming Blackwell's *Homer Encyclopedia*, edited by Margalit Finkelberg of Tel Aviv University.

**MAUD GLEASON** spent two weeks in Ann Arbor last spring and two weeks in Rome delivering the Thomas Spence Jerome lectures. Her theme was the history, lore, and pharmacology of a strange – indeed imaginary – disease that caused human flesh to animalize. Maud suggests that this phenomenon connects with fears of dehumanization and hopes for transformation that were prevalent in the second and third century Roman world. In the fall of 2008, Maud taught a new course on martyrdom in antiquity, using Jewish, Pagan, and Christian texts.





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Gleason continues as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Classics Department where the program is seeing impressive growth. Last year there were two honors theses and this year there will be four. Last year there were 35 majors and 8 minors. Interest has significantly increased with a current roster of 60 majors and 13 minors.

**RICHARD MARTIN** moved to Paris in September to “recover his strength” after the end of his term as Classics Chair, under the auspices of Stanford’s “secret rehabilitation center for retired departmental chairs.” In France, Richard had the pleasure of leading 18 Stanford undergraduates at the Bing Overseas Study Program in a new course, Classical Paris. The study focuses on relevant former city residents who had an antique connection, from Caesar and Julian the Apostate to Offenbach and Cocteau. It is remarkable how much of the landscape of modern Paris has been shaped by reminiscences of Greece and Rome, from the Arc de Triomphe to the Pantheon, not to mention the actual remains of ancient Lutetia, still visible at the Roman baths on rue St. Jacques and house foundations in the crypt beneath Notre-Dame.

Martin’s residential quarter in Paris also provided the chance to get to know the Centre Gernet (a research unit on Classical antiquity, connected to the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales) and to lecture at the University of Basel. He continues to work on Homeric religion this year.

**JODY MAXMIN** continues her love of teaching, sharing her love of Classics with graduates and undergrads in several courses and seminars.

The team of Ian Hodder, Michael Shanks, and Jody recently received an award from the Presidential Fund for Innovation in the Humanities. The award funds the research project *Evoking Humanity Through Clay: a Replication Experience*. One factor supporting their application was the successful completion of a prior Presidential Innovation project, a multidisciplinary research program focused on the design, creation and analysis of ceramics, where professors Hodder, Gail Mahood, Maxmin, and Shanks collaborated.

**MARSH MCCALL** is quite busy in his Emeritus position. Marsh ended his regular teaching career this year with a graduate seminar on Aeschylus and an exciting big freshman course, moving from “Gilgamesh” to the “Aeneid.” McCall has been working hard on a book on Aeschylus for Wiley-Blackwell and lectured to Stanford alumni on several Travel/Study programs in the Mediterranean. For academic year 2009-10 he’s been recalled to teach two Department Greek language courses and the big freshman course.

**IAN MORRIS** was on leave in 2007-08 and spent most of the year scrambling to finish his book, *Why the West Rules ... For*

*Now*. This was something of a departure for Ian since most of his previous work was on the archaeology of first millennium BCE Greece and Sicily. The new book is a long-term comparative history of the eastern and western worlds, tracing the history of social development across the fifteen thousand years since the last days of the Ice Age, and projecting the trends forward into the twenty-first century. The book is now in the publishers’ hands. After final revision, it should be out in 2010 in US, Canadian, British, Dutch, German, and Italian editions.

Barry Powell of the University of Wisconsin and Morris also finished revisions for a second edition of the textbook, *The Greeks: History, Culture, and Society*, to be published by Pearson/Prentice-Hall in summer 2009. Another book, *The Dynamics of Ancient Empires*, came out in January of 2009, co-edited with department chair Walter Scheidel, based on a series of conferences organized at Stanford and in Perth, Western Australia. In spring of 2008, Walter and Ian organized another conference, “*The First Great Divergence: Eastern and Western Eurasia, 200-800 CE*,” which brought together experts to discuss a fascinating topic. Why, after the fall of the Han Empire in 220, was China eventually reunited by the Tang dynasty, but why, after the fall of Rome, has no comparably great empire ever emerged around the Mediterranean?

The other highlight of 2007-08 for Morris was that graduate students Meg Butler and Ulrike Krotscheck, who worked with him on their dissertations, both completed their PhDs and received tenure-track positions. Another student, Lela Urquhart, won a Geballe dissertation fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center but still found time to take a group of scholars from Stanford and other universities out to Sicily in the summer to complete the study of finds from the department’s excavation at Monte Polizzo.

Morris’ next big project is to finish publication of the Monte Polizzo excavations.

**REVIEL NETZ** used last year to bring several long-term projects to the finish line, so that they would stop bothering his conscience. Reviel’s essays on Israeli literature were expanded and published in book form (co-authored with Maya Arad, his wife), as *Meqom Ha’ta’am (Positions of Stress), Essays on Israeli Literature Between Sound and History*. In this book he examines the formal developments of Hebrew prosody in their ideological and cultural contexts.

Capping an even longer-term project – one that took the best part of the last ten years of his life – Reviel has now seen his transcription of *The Archimedes Palimpsest* (co-authored with Nigel Wilson) published on-line as an XML document. Unfortunately, you need to read Greek and to understand XML, to read the contents. See <http://archimedespalimpsest.net/Supplemental/ArchimedesTranscriptions/>. The manuscript was bought by its current owner on October 29, 1998, and he wanted to have it all published exactly ten years later.

While preparing his entry to this year’s newsletter, Reviel was



also finishing the index in his most recent book, *Ludic Proof: Greek Mathematics and the Alexandrian Aesthetic*, concerning both Hellenistic poetry and the history of mathematics. The book was published in May 2009.

Netz has now started a “somewhat ambitious” project, *The Poetics of Ancient Science: an Essay in Cultural History*. He hopes the essay will serve as both a brief introduction to the ancient exact sciences, and a programmatic essay in the historiography of scientific texts. Other than this, Reviel’s ambition is to sleep through the night, a goal still thwarted by daughters Darya and Tamara (now five and two years old, respectively).

**ANDREA NIGHTINGALE** is on sabbatical this academic year, and has not been on campus. Her beloved father died suddenly in September. She’s been in Boulder helping to care for her mother. Andrea expects to return to Stanford next year.

Nightingale’s absence from the campus does not mean that her scholarship is on hold. Andrea is co-editing a book with Prof. David Sedley of Cambridge University, *Ancient Models of Mind, Studies in Human and Divine Rationality* (to be published by Cambridge UP). She is also writing a book on Augustine, *World Enough and Time: Augustine on the Body and Temporality* (forthcoming in 2010). Nightingale was recently honored with an appointment as a Harvard Senior Fellow of the Hellenic Center. This Steering Committee position requires biannual meetings at the Center.

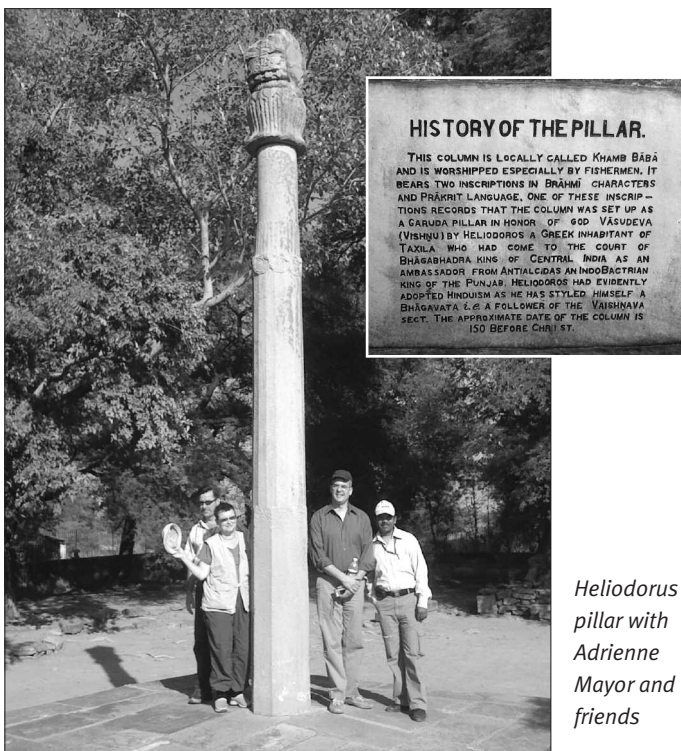
**JOSIAH OBER** finished his book, *Democracy and Knowledge: Innovation and Learning in Classical Athens*, which was published in November by Princeton UP. Although the focus is on how democracy worked in ancient Athens, the issues raised and the lessons learned are relevant in today’s democracies. *Democracy* won the Association of American Publishers 2008 PROSE Award for Professional and Scholarly Excellence in Classics and Ancient History.

Ober did a “fair amount of lecturing” on the subject of the book at Oxford (All Souls), Harvard, Columbia, and the Wilson Center in DC. Lecturing at Tromsø, the northernmost university in the world, he saw the midnight sun, “an odd sort of life-goal.” He also presented a series of lectures on the book in Besançon, at the Université de Franche-Comté.

Ober traveled to India last January to explore the quasi-Greek architecture at the great Buddhist sanctuary at Sanchi and the famous (to Hellenistic historians) Pillar of Heliodorus – a second century BC dedication to the Hindu god Vishnu by a Greek named Heliodorus – one of the most evocative bits of evidence for the Indification of the Greeks (the flip side of Hellenization). At Stanford, Professor Barry Weingast, of the Department of Political Science, and Josh are teaching a course on “high stakes politics” in Greece and early-modern Europe. The course was developed with a President’s Initiative for Innovation in the Humanities grant. Josh is currently President of the APA – his one-year term lasts through early January.

**GRANT PARKER** enjoyed some research time in 2008, making progress towards his project on obelisks in the Roman Empire. He continues to find these monoliths interesting as symbols of power and as objects of collection. From July to December, Grant was able to spend time in Munich, together with his wife and young boys. They tried to make the most of that city’s wealth of libraries and museums.

On the teaching front, it was a great pleasure to become re-acquainted with Tacitus, the most sophisticated of Roman historians. Parker’s advanced undergraduate class, focusing on book one of the *Annals*, considered Tacitus’ place within ancient traditions of historical writing. Of course, it is also a primary source for one of Roman history’s great “what-if” moments: the death of Augustus and the accession of the brooding Tiberius. For several students, this was the final Latin course in the curriculum of the degree, so it was all the more important for our class to make this text come alive. There was much help from the ancient Tacitus: his pointed, insinuating style made for lively discussions, in and even out of class. The first half of 2009 proved



*Heliodorus pillar with Adrienne Mayor and friends*



Buddhist  
Sanctuary  
at Sanchi



busy, not only with new courses to teach but also with two international symposia to organize: *Subversive Classics* (on politically subversive evocations of antiquity in modern times) and *Inscribed Lives* (on Roman epigraphy), both in the spring. The latter complemented a graduate seminar by that name which Parker is teaching together with Walter Scheidel.

**ANASTASIA-ERASMIA PEPONI** has been involved in the planning and organization of the Network for the Study of Archaic and Classical Greek Song – an international project dedicated to the study of lyric poetry and performance. The core members of the Network met in Oxford last June, while an open conference is scheduled for this coming summer in Delphi, Greece and is sponsored by Stanford Classics. The conference, entitled *The Look of Lyric: Greek Song and the Visual*, will explore the relationship between the verbal and the visual in Greek lyric poetry. It will focus on the way the media of lyric performance (song, instrumental music, and dance) are represented in Greek vase painting and sculpture.

Natasha recently gave two lectures (at Oxford and at EHESS – Centre Gernet in Paris) relevant to her interests in Greek aesthetics. She is currently teaching a graduate seminar on *Pleasure in Greek Thought*. The seminar focuses on the conceptualization of pleasure in Greek poetic, historiographical, and philosophical texts.

**EVA PRIONAS** was very busy in 2008 and does not expect to slow down in 2009. She lectured on the topic of *Hellenic Ideals and the Future of Education in the US* in Washington DC, Saint Louis, and New Orleans. She continues to serve as president of the Modern Greek Language Teachers Association to promote scholarship, effective teaching practices and professional development for those who teach Modern Greek at the University level. Eva also continues her work as president of the Greek American Professional Women’s Society, a network whose members are involved in many educational and cultural activities in the Bay Area.

Prionas became an ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) certified Tester in Modern Greek and obtained Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Testing (WPT) certification. After receiving certification she’s now involved in certified language proficiency testing at a national level. Eva continues her collaboration with the Fulbright program and continues to be a mentor and to lead summer orientation FLTA programs at Stanford.

Eva started work towards establishment of a Stanford-Harvard Collaborative Alliance in Modern Greek language and culture and she is leading a pilot Long Distance Language Education Program with focus on the Native American Languages. As coeditor, Prionas is finishing her work on the book *Web-based Instruction for the Less Commonly Taught Languages*, to be published by CSLI Publications, Stanford University.

**RUSH REHM** has a dual role in Classics and Drama, which includes serving as Artistic Director of the Stanford Summer Theater (SST). In 2008, Rush produced SST’s 10th anniversary season, a celebration of the work of Irish playwright Brian Friel, including productions of *Translations* (full of Latin and Greek!) and *Faith Healer*. This coming summer, SST will mount *The Electra Festival*, featuring a production of Sophocles’ *Electra*, staged readings of other Electra plays, a film festival on mythic Greek heroines, and a symposium “Public and Private Vengeance: The Trojan War and Electra.” *The Electra Festival* has received generous support from Stanford’s Classics Department, the Continuing Studies Program, and Stanford institute for Creativity and the Arts.

Since the 2007 Classics Newsletter, Rehm has published “If You Are A Woman – Theatrical Womanizing in Sophocles’ Antigone, and Fugard, Kani, and Ntshona’s The Island,” in *Classics in Post-Colonial Worlds*, eds. C. Gillispie and L. Hardwick (Cambridge 2007), and “Festivals and Audiences in Athens and Rome,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Theatre*, eds. M. Walton and M. McDonald (Cambridge 2007). Several other articles are in the pipeline, ranging from staging ancient tragedy today to rituals in Sophocles.

**WALTER SCHEIDEL** spent the academic year 2007-08 as a Fellow at Stanford’s Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, enjoying freedom from routine obligations, stimulating company, free lunches, and expansive views of the Stanford campus.

In September, Walter returned “much refreshed” to take over as Chair of Classics from Richard Martin. In addition to his new administrative duties that include service on the Appointments and Promotions Committee for the Humanities, Scheidel continues his research on many fronts. Since the fall of 2007, he’s attended conferences and delivered invited lectures at a number of American campuses as well as in Austria, Denmark, Sweden, and Mongolia, and taught a research seminar for junior faculty



## Faculty NEWS



in Munich, Germany. Most recently Walter traveled to Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Cambodia to establish new academic contacts and to broaden his cross-cultural horizons.

In the spring of 2008, Scheidel ran two international conferences at Stanford to promote comparative historical analysis of Roman and early Chinese history. The beginning of the new year witnessed the publication by Oxford UP of two edited volumes, *The Dynamics of Ancient Empires: State Power from Assyria to Byzantium* (with Ian Morris) and *Rome and China: Comparative Perspectives on Ancient World Empires*. With departmental colleague Alessandro Barchiesi, Walter finished editing their new *Oxford Handbook of Roman Studies* that includes contributions by over 50 scholars from all over the world and will be published in the near future. In recognition of his scholarship, Walter has just been appointed to an endowed chair and is now the Dickason Professor in the Humanities. He is determined to catch up with old book contracts, starting with a general survey of ancient demography for Cambridge UP.

**MICHAEL SHANKS** significantly reoriented his archaeological research in the last year or so, focusing on the Northern Frontier of the Roman Empire in the UK. In the summer of 2009, with colleagues at England's Durham University, he begins the excavation of the Roman fort and town of Binchester – Ptolemy's Vinovium and one of the mainstays of the border region around Hadrian's Wall. See <http://documents.stanford.edu/MichaelShanks/352> for more detail. With Giovanna Ceserani, Michael is building an international research network to reevaluate the antiquarian tradition – <http://documents.stanford.edu/MichaelShanks/306>.

Shanks has been in the news recently – the latest Chrysler

concept vehicle unveiled at the 2009 Detroit motor show was based on research in his lab – <http://documents.stanford.edu/MichaelShanks/39>. Michael's work, with artist Lynn Hershman, appeared at San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art in the exhibition *The Art of Participation 1950-Now*, alongside work of John Cage and Yoko Ono – <http://documents.stanford.edu/MichaelShanks/381>.

In academic year 2008-09, Michael's teaching continues to mix contemporary design with archaeology. Shanks taught a Continuing Studies class on archaeology and will teach courses in the long term archaeological perspectives of *Urban Sustainability*, and *Ceramics: Art and Science* – multidisciplinary approaches with hands-on experimentation. He will lead a Spring 2009 graduate seminar on *Pragmatogony* – archaeological perspectives on the origins of things.

**JENNIFER TRIMBLE** continues to work on the publication of the IRC-Oxford-Stanford excavations in the Roman Forum. This past year, Jen wrote or had published articles and book reviews from other areas of her research including visual replication in portraiture and the study of mapping and process in the third century CE Severan Marble Plan of Rome.

Trimble took her seminar on *Cultural Heritage* and *Classical Antiquities* to Rome during spring break. There, the group visited major museums, discussing the city's rich historical traditions of curating its ancient heritage and exploring some of the extraordinary new initiatives in representing Rome's past for modern audiences.

This year, in addition to other courses, Jen is teaching a new *Introduction to Classical Archaeology* and a new class on *Roman Portraits and Persons* that explores visual and textual concepts of personhood and biography.

In September, Trimble became the department's Director of Graduate Studies, a time-consuming but rewarding job that involves making sure that Classics recruits great new PhD students and that the students already in the Department are progressing well and have the resources to develop groundbreaking research of their own. ☐



PHOTO COURTESY OF: KATIE DOOLING

# A Brief Saga of Stanford Classics and the Archimedes

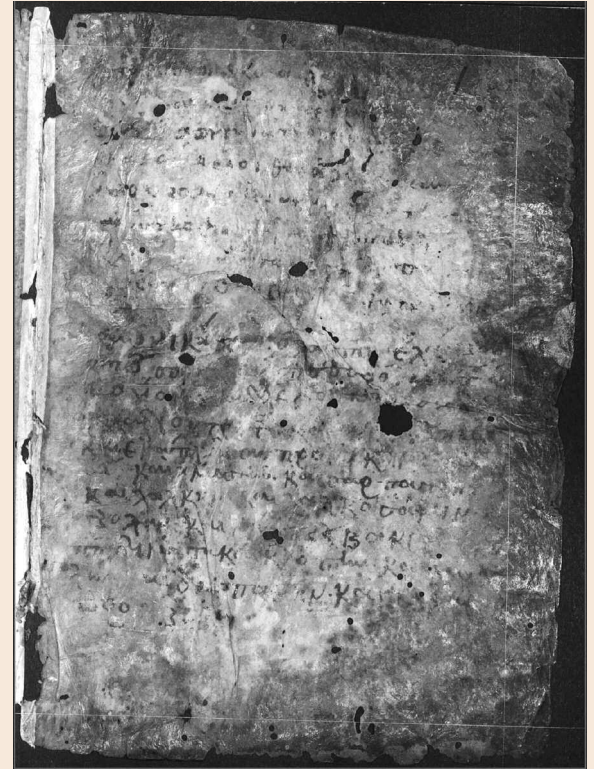
Classics Professor Wilbur Knorr resurrected Archimedes in the 1970's and '80s. In a series of papers culminating in two major books, *The Ancient Tradition of Geometric Problems*, in 1986 and 1989, *Textual Studies in Ancient and Medieval Geometry*, he recovered the mathematical methodology in Archimedes' works. Knorr showed the textual path through which Archimedes' work survived – or failed to survive. He did this at Stanford, as a Classics and Philosophy faculty member. And, he did it without access to the most important source, *The Archimedes Palimpsest!* Several times, he tried to get a look at the manuscript, rumored at the time to be in France or Switzerland. Knorr even tried to have Stanford acquire the codex but negotiations failed and Knorr tragically died in 1997, without ever seeing the manuscript.

I arrived at Stanford in September of 1999 as Knorr's replacement. I already knew that I was about to edit the Palimpsest. It had resurfaced in a Christie's auction on October 29, 1998 and was purchased by an anonymous private owner. In March 1999, I had word from Will Noel, Curator of Manuscripts at Baltimore's Walters Art Museum: the owner had deposited the manuscript in their care and they wanted me to take a look.

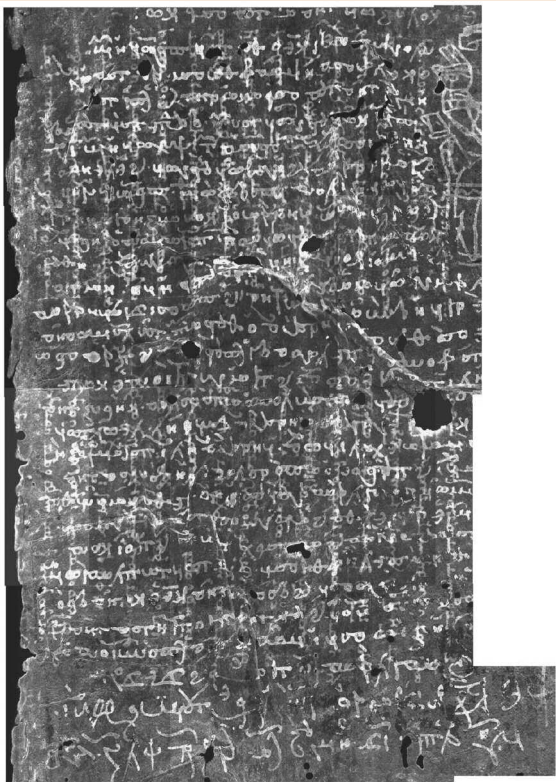
Seeing the codex, I was shocked. There was nothing useful to gain by looking with the naked eye since the manuscript was essentially destroyed.

Originally written by a Byzantine scribe, about 975 AD, the manuscript was

lost through the crusades and reappeared in Jerusalem where it was recycled into a prayer book in 1229. The original Archimedes text was scraped away and a new book of prayers written on the recycled parchment. It stayed in the Judean desert for centuries, unrecognized until it was finally transferred to Istanbul, sometime in the 19th century. Then the pace picked up considerably: one scholar noted that the book had traces of old writing; another recognized that they were by Archimedes; Johan Ludwig Heiberg, the greatest scholar of Greek mathematical texts, showed up in 1906 and managed, incredibly, to transcribe much of the



*Archimedes Palimpsest – Naked Eye View*



*Archimedes Palimpsest – Imaged View*

manuscript.

Then the manuscript was lost, most likely stolen, and vanished from sight once again – probably into a Parisian attic. There it remained through the 20th century, acquiring not only dust but also deadly mold and, shockingly, even some forgeries. Someone had the bright idea of recycling the parchment once more, this time as the foundation for a forgery of Byzantine miniatures! For their “care,” the Parisian owners were rewarded with \$2,000,000 – the price the manuscript fetched at Christie's in the fall of 1998. In the spring of 1999, there it was — a brownish pile of moldy pages where the hidden writing, once mostly deciphered by Heiberg, was almost gone.

Progress in the next decade required excruciating patience, and a few technical miracles. Ultra-violet images helped in highlighting the Archimedes traces – but



# Palimpsest

a new processing algorithm designed especially for this project made those traces literally jump out of the page. When nothing else worked, Uwe Bergmann, a scientist from Stanford's Linear Accelerator, offered his help: a beam of X-Ray Fluorescence allowed us to detect the presence of tiny amounts of iron molecules, the telltale sign of the medieval ink. The invisible kept being made visible, brown mold and all.

Sometimes, of course, the invisible remained just that. However, if you can read even a few letters, you begin to guess which words they form. If you can read a few words, you begin to guess the mathematical thought – and from that point on things really begin to roll... So it was – for the last ten years, very important years in the historiography of Greek mathematics. In 2001, we announced the hitherto unsuspected use of actual infinity in an ancient mathematical text, discovered on the 105th page of the Palimpsest. In 2003, the hitherto unsuspected presence of combinatorics in Archimedes' writing was discovered on the 177th and last page. We filled in the details for many of Archimedes' proofs: we now understand his mind – the greatest scientific mind of antiquity – much better than we did before, much better than even Knorr did.

On October 29, 2008, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the resurfacing of the manuscript, the entire transcription of the Archimedes text – containing, for the first time, effectively everything written on the pages still extant since 975 AD – is online. (Reviel Netz and Nigel Wilson, <http://archimedespalimpsest.net/Supplemental/ArchimedesTranscriptions/>).

I take this moment to commemorate another presence: that of my great predecessor here at Stanford, Professor Wilbur Richard Knorr. Much of my analysis of the manuscript owes a great deal to his scholarship: indeed, the use of actual infinity was partly anticipated by him. If he could only see page 105 of the palimpsest!

Reviel Netz, February 2009



## New Faculty FACES



**CHRISTIAN KAESSER** came to Stanford at the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year. He was born and raised in Munich, Germany, a country with a longstanding tradition of admiration for classical antiquity. During his academic career, he took advantage of the fact that Classics is one of the most international disciplines of the Humanities, traveling widely before coming to Stanford. Christian received his undergraduate degree from the University of Heidelberg in 2002, where he was trained by mainly British and American scholars. After a doctorate from Corpus Christi College at the University of Oxford (2005), Kaesser was for three years a post-doctoral scholar at Princeton's Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts. He also spent time at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Italy's foremost academic institution.

Inspired by the variety of national academic traditions of studying Classics, Kaesser's interests have taken him far from Germany's romantic adulation of the classical Greeks. Christian is now a literary critic studying only texts from ancient periods, which his fellow countrymen once regarded as non-classical (at best) or derivative and corrupt (at worst). He developed an early interest in the poetry of the Hellenistic period and in Greek literature written under the Roman Empire. Later, he became a Latinist, studying literature of the Roman Republic and the Augustan period and Christian Latin poetry from the empire's late stages.

The primary focus of Kaesser's current research is a book manuscript, *Causes and Cases in Ancient Aetiological Elegy*. Ancient aetiological elegy—Callimachus' *Aitia*, Propertius IV, and Ovid's *Fasti*—is a genre where authors compile antiquarian explanations of the origins of more or less obscure rites, cults, customs, and the founding of cities. Kaesser argues that its thematic scope is much broader: in these poems, the antiquarian explanation of origins was intricately linked with



CHRISTIAN KAESSER

the scientific and philosophical analysis of causation and with questions of moral and legal responsibility. From a modern perspective, these three items make odd bedfellows; but he shows that in antiquity, their relation was conceived differently. To Christian's initial despair as a literary critic, his research was dragged into ancient philosophy and science, and into the conventions that govern ancient discussions of moral responsibility, especially at court. However, despair turned into delight over new discoveries, and now this is one of the reasons why he loves Classics – within this field “there exist no disciplinary boundaries that prevent such crisscrossing between sub-fields.” Kaesser feels that Classicists are interdisciplinary by definition.

Christian is also fascinated that the ancients, contrary to modern notions summarized in the slogan ‘art for art's sake’, were always interested in the role of art in people's lives. By and large, art for the ancients was not a universe on its own, accessible only to professionally trained specialists. The ancients' art generally resembled modern TV shows more than our modern view of them as classics suggests. Ancient authors sought to appeal to their audiences, and to talk about questions that mattered in a way they would find appealing. Kaesser is interested in genres where this connection between life and literature is especially important, such as biography. He published a piece on Plutarch in a recent issue of *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies* and is proud to have reintroduced Nepos' biographies into Stanford's Latin curriculum. Christian is interested in ancient rhetoric, not just as tropes and figures, but also as an art of using

CONTINUED ON – PAGE 10

words to affect people’s thinking, their politics, and ultimately their lives. Kaesser is also interested in the proselytizing features of Latin martyrdom poetry: he published two pieces on Prudentius’ *Peristephanon*, one in *Ramus* and one in a forthcoming volume on ancient elegy.

Christian is fascinated by the interaction of ancient literary criticism and ancient poetry, especially in Callimachus, and has published an article on this subject in a recent volume of *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik*. Kaesser believes that what scholars think influences what poets write. He has developed an interest in the classical tradition of his own country. Yet, as a proud native of Munich—once the center of counter-reformation and still Germany’s Catholic capital—he focuses not on Northern Germany’s Protestant philhellenism, but on the Catholic tradition of studying Classics that flourished in the country’s South and in Austria. Kaesser is preparing a study on the great Munich philologist and editor of Callimachus, Rudolf Pfeiffer; and pursues a project on the reception of the classical world in the operas of Munich-born Richard Strauss and his Vienna-born collaborator, Hugo von Hofmannsthal.

**ADRIENNE MAYOR**, a Visiting Scholar in the Classics Department since 2006, has a broad spectrum of experience in various aspects of Classics and the history of science. We missed profiling her in the 2007 Newsletter. Adrienne has been a “trespasser in many fields,” yet her contributions in those fields have apparently been welcomed: she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Letters by Montana State University. MSU recognized Adrienne for her work linking ancient myths and paleontology and demonstrating Native American knowledge of fossil evidence, and especially for “bringing international recognition to the state of Montana and its Indian people.”

Mayor investigates scientific realities embedded in myth and classical antiquity. Her research looks at ancient “folk science” precursors, alternatives, and parallels to modern scientific methods. Her two books on pre-Darwinian fossil traditions in classical antiquity and in Native America opened a new field within geomorphology. Adrienne’s book on the origins of biological weapons uncovered the ancient roots of biochemical warfare. She is active in classical folklore and is also a Visiting Scholar in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology Program. Mayor’s work has been featured on NPR and BBC, the History Channel, and other popular media, most recently National Geo-



ADRIENNE MAYOR

graphic and USA Today. Her books are translated into Asian and European languages including Modern Greek. She is currently completing a book about the life and legend of Mithridates of Pontus, scourge of Rome and the world’s first experimental toxicologist.

Mayor’s book, *The First Fossil Hunters* (2000), explains how ancient Greek and Roman discoveries of mysterious petrified bones of extinct dinosaurs and mastodons led to myths about griffins, giants, and monsters. This book has inspired TV documentaries and museum exhibits in Europe and the US. Her book, *Greek Fire, Poison Arrows & Scorpion Bombs* (2003, rev. ed 2009), traces the mythic origins and historical practices of biological warfare, from the legendary Trojan War to real battles in the Roman Empire. *Fossil Legends of the First Americans* (2005) gathers Native American discoveries and myths about fossils, from tiny shells to enormous dinosaur bones, with stories from more than 45 different tribes, beginning with the Aztecs and Incas.

Mayor lectures at conferences and universities across the nation. She also served as a consultant for the exhibit, “Mythic Creatures,” which draws on her research and includes some mythic fossil-creatures from her book on paleontology in Greek and Roman times. The exhibit opened at the American Museum for Natural History (2007) and is now traveling to the Field Museum in Chicago (2008) and to museums in the US, Canada, and Australia. Adrienne was elected a Fellow of Pangea Institute [[www.pangeainstitute.us](http://www.pangeainstitute.us)].

Adrienne’s activities in 2008 included media interviews and consulting assignments. Her interviews have been published in a variety of media, including *The Lupercal Cave Discovery in Rome* [USA Today], *Human Sacrifice/China Tomb Discovery* [National Geographic News], “Legends” issue, [Holland Herald], and *Toxic Honey* [Haaretz Daily News, Israel].

Radio and TV interviews included Cryptozoology, Pangea Institute [Radio], discussion of her role in the “Mythic Creatures” exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History [Medill School of Journalism], “Thunderbird” and “Mermaid” legends for the Monster Quest series online video gallery [History Channel], and “Shadows in the Dark” [Radio]. Consulting assignments included TV shows on mythology [Discovery Channel and National Geographic], “Monster Quest” video series, and advising for “Ancient Ink” [History Channel].

Publications in 2008 included reviews of Sandra Blakely, *Myth, Ritual and Metallurgy in Ancient Greece* for International Journal of the Classical Tradition; John Lee, *A Greek Army on the March* for Anglo-Hellenic Review; Jane Garry and Hassan El-Shamy, *Archetypes and Motifs in Folklore and Literature* for Journal of American Folklore; George Lankford, Reachable Stars for Journal of Folklore Research. Adrienne published *Suppression of Indigenous Fossil Knowledge*, in Agnotology, eds. R. Proctor and L. Schiebinger. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008.

## New Faculty FACES



**RICHARD SALLER** arrived at Stanford in 2007, too late to be profiled in that year's Classics Newsletter. He came to California from the University of Chicago, where he served as Provost, to become the Vernon R. and Lysbeth Warren Anderson Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences and Professor of History and Classics. Richard started to follow his father's footsteps by enrolling in the engineering curriculum at the University of Illinois. However, he was "carried away" by a course in Roman history and made Classics and History his life's profession. Richard teaches a freshman seminar on Roman History, continuing his love for this subject.

Saller's research concentrated on Roman social and economic history, in particular patronage relations, the family, and the imperial economy. He used literary, legal and epigraphic materials to investigate issues of social hierarchy, gender distinctions and economic production with the aid of current social science theory. Richard began teaching at the University of Chicago beginning in 1984, became dean of the Social Sciences Division in 1994, and Provost in 2002.



RICHARD SALLER

Prior to Chicago, he was an assistant professor at Swarthmore College and has held visiting professorships and fellowships at the University of California, Berkeley and Jesus College, Cambridge.

Saller has a PhD from the University of Cambridge [1978] and a bachelor of arts degree in Greek and History from the University of Illinois (1974). In 2005, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the author of several books, the most recent one co-edited with Stanford professors Ian Morris and Walter Scheidel.

- *Personal Patronage under the Early Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 1982)
- *Patriarchy, Property, and Death in the Roman Family* (Cambridge University Press, 1994; paperback 1997)
- P.D.A. Garnsey and R.P. Saller, *The Roman Empire: Economy, Society and Culture* (London, Duckworth; Berkeley, Ca., University of California Press, 1987), translated into French, Italian, German, Greek, and Spanish.
- Walter Scheidel, Ian Morris, and Richard Saller, eds., *The Cambridge Economic History of the Greco-Roman World* (2007)

## Updates from our 2008 Classics PhD Graduates



*Stanford Classics "hooded" seven PhD graduates in 2008. The great news is that every one of them has a job and that all of them are working in their chosen field.*

**MEG BUTLER** and her husband Ralph Maurer moved to New Orleans in July 2008. Meg started a tenure-track position at Tulane University, where she's been teaching courses in ancient Greek history and culture. This year's lineup includes Greek Tyranny and Democracy, War and Power in Ancient Greece, The Greek Way of Death, and Temples and Festivals in Ancient Greece. Two weeks after returning from a whirlwind hurricane evacuation, their son, Ralph Dillon Maurer, was born, and he graciously allowed Meg to go back to teaching the very next week. Tulane's Department of Classical Studies was excited to be welcoming Stanford's own Eva Prionas in March as the 2009 Georges Lecturer, right after the 2009 Mardi Gras

festivities wind down. Both Ralphs and Meg will be spending almost a month in Greece this summer, allowing her to work in the lab at ancient Helike and to make a quick trip up to northern Greece. Ralph and Meg miss everyone at Stanford but are very happy to be back in the South. Butler's new colleagues and students made her first year at Tulane a very good one!

**CHRISTELLE FISCHER-BOUVET** is currently working at the University of California, Berkeley, as a Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Swiss National Science Foundation. Her new research project focuses on ethnicity in the ancient Eastern Mediterranean from Alexander the Great to the early Roman period. Christelle is affiliated with

the Center for the Tebtunis Papyri at the Bancroft Library and the Department of Classics. In addition, she is preparing the publication of the Greek papyri belonging to the Stanford Classics department, in collaboration with Professor Willy Clarysse (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and revising her book project on "Army and Society in Ptolemaic Egypt (323-30 BC)". In August 2010, Christelle will start to teach Greek and Hellenistic history at UCLA as an Assistant Professor of Classics.

**BILL GLADHILL** is currently braving the bitter climes of a wintry Montreal at McGill, becoming more and more impressed with the snow removal machin-

CONTINUED ON – PAGE 14



## 2007-08-09 Department of Classics

### ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-08

Ancient and Modern Imperialisms II Symposium  
***The Appropriation of Ancient Empires  
Within Modern Imperial Cultures***  
Organized by Grant Parker (Stanford)  
November 2–3, 2007

Symposium: NY Public Theater Workshop Production  
***Tyrants, Gods, and Wild Women***  
Organized by Richard Martin (Stanford)  
November 10, 2007

Julia Kindt (University of Sydney)  
***Geertz, Gould and the Symbolic Dimension  
of Greek Religion***  
January 9, 2008

Christopher van den Berg (Dartmouth College)  
***The Ideologies of the ‘Couch’ and  
the Pulvinar in Roman Culture***  
January 23, 2008

Dr. Jonathan Shay, Clinical Psychologist  
(Dept. of Vet. Affairs, Boston)  
***Eitner Lecture: Homer on Military Leadership***  
January 31, 2008

Stephen Hinds (University of Washington)  
***Ovid in Exile AD 8 – 2008***  
February 1, 2008

Emily Mackil (UC Berkeley)  
***From Fragmentation to Flourishing: Institutions and  
The Political Economy of the Greek Koinon***  
February 7, 2008

Meredith Safran (Montclair State University)  
***The Difference Between Women and Cows:  
Cattle-theft, Bride-theft and the  
‘Sabine Women’ Episode in Livy, AUC I***  
February 11, 2008

Stanford Ancient Chinese & Mediterranean Empires  
Comparative History Project  
***State Power and Social Control in  
Ancient China and Rome***  
Organized by Walter Scheidel (Stanford)  
March 17–19, 2008

Mellon-Sawyer Seminar Colloquium,  
Departments of Classics and History, Stanford  
***The First Great Divergence: Europe and China, 300-800 CE***  
April 6–7, 2008

Uri Yiftach (Hebrew University and  
Center for Hellenic Studies)  
***Witnessing Contracts in Ptolemaic Egypt:  
The Demise of a Legal Institution***  
April 24, 2008

Helene P. Foley (Barnard College and  
UC Berkeley Sather Professor)  
***Medea as American Other***  
May 5, 2008

Josephine Crawley Quinn (Worcester College)  
***Coastal Connectivity in Hellenistic Africa***  
May 12, 2008

American Society of Papyrologists and Stanford University  
***American Society of Papyrologists’  
Summer Institute***  
Organized by Joseph Manning (Stanford)  
July 1–31, 2008

### ACADEMIC YEAR 2008-09

Christian Kaesser (Stanford)  
***Introduction to the Department of Classics***  
October 8, 2008

John Clarke (U. of Texas, Austin)  
***Ancient Roman Visual Humor in Theory  
and in Practice***  
November 3, 2008

Yannis Petropoulos (U. of Thrace):  
(Onassis Foundation Lecturer)  
***Of Beards and Boar Hunts – Or Coming  
of Age in the Odyssey***  
November 13, 2008

Claudia Moatti (U. Southern California and Paris)  
***Mobility and Cosmopolitisation  
in the Roman Empire***  
November 17, 2008

# Lectures & Seminars

Beat Brenk (U. of Basel)

***The End of Antiquity at Jerash: Excavations of the Cathedral***

December 1, 2008

Mary Beard (Cambridge and UC Berkeley Sather Professor)

***The Power of (Roman) Laughter***

December 4, 2008

Roberta Mazza (UC Santa Barbara,  
U. of Bologna)

***Are All Publicans Sinners? Economy, Society, and Early Christian Writings***

January 26, 2009

Ruurd Nauta (U. of Groningen, Netherlands)

***The Authority of the Satirist in Juvenal***

February 2, 2009

Richard Talbert (U. of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill)

***Worldview and More in the Portable Roman Sundial***

February 13, 2009

Maud Gleason (Stanford)

***Tracing the Figure[s] in the Carpet***

February 19, 2009

Chris Faraone (U. of Chicago and  
Getty Villa)

***Roman Imperial Magic and Medicine***

February 23, 2009

Pascale Brillet-Dubois (Lyon U. &  
Center for Hellenic Studies)

***Challenging War Ideology: Euripides' Trojan Women***

February 25, 2009

Anthony Grafton (Princeton U.)

***Eitner Lecture: Encountering Antiquity in Renaissance Europe:***

***Greeks, Jews, and Humanists***

April 2, 2009

***Subversive Classics Conference***

Organized by Grant Parker (Stanford)

April 3–4, 2009

Shadi Bartsch (Brown U.)

***Metaphors and Motivation: Figural Language in Senecan Stoicism***

April 7, 2009

Panagiotis Agapitos (Cyprus U. and  
Stanford Onassis Foundation Visiting Professor)

***'Towards a Higher Vision' and 'Into the Depths of Words':***

***The Aesthetics of Layering in Byzantine Art and Literature***

April 13, 2009

Bert Lain (Stanford)

***What is Textual Criticism? An Answer With Examples From My Own Work***

April 23, 2009

Mark Wilson Jones (Bath U.), co-sponsored  
by the Archaeology Center

***Gifts to the Gods: The Conception of Temples and Columnar Orders in Ancient Greece***

April 28, 2009

***Annual Conference of the Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG)***

Organized by Ian Hodder (Stanford)

May 1–3, 2009

François Lissarrague (Paris and Getty Villa),  
co-sponsored by Art History

***Satyrs and Centaurs: The Art of Cross Breeding***

May 5, 2009

***Epigraphy Workshop: Inscribed Lives***

Speakers include: Rebecca Benefiel (Washington and Lee),  
John Bodel (Brown), Jonathan Edmondson (York),  
Sabine Hübner (NYU), Christof Schuler (Munich), and  
Beryl Rawson (Australian NU)

Organized by Grant Parker & Walter Scheidel (Stanford)

May 9, 2009

Susan Mattern (U. of Georgia)

***Emotions in Galen***

May 14, 2009

Will Shearin (Stanford)

***Body Logic: Cicero on Epicurean Dialectic***

May 21, 2009

Katerina Zacharia (Loyola Marymount Univ.),  
co-sponsored by Film Studies

***Discourses of Hellenism in the Films of Theo Angelopoulos and Michael Cacoyannis***

May 22, 2009

***The Electra Festival***

Organized by Rush Rehm (Stanford)

July 15 – August 13, 2009

ery here and his own ability to slip down icy steps on the way to the Metro without fracturing any fibulae. Bill is an Assistant Professor of Classical Studies in the History Department. When not teaching or writing, most days are spent with his family, making homemade bread, drinking “insane amounts” of espresso, reveling in baklava at Akaban, while thinking about human sacrifice, the Georgics, and folk etymology (among other things). If ever in Montreal, all Stanford Classicists are more than welcome to visit whether for business, pleasure, or a mixture of both. From Bill: *Salut!*

**ULRIKE KROTSCHKE** took a summer post-doc after graduation at the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) in Berlin. When this effort was completed, Ulrike started a tenure-track appointment at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. She team-teaches one class a quarter and is continuing her research interests in Archaic Greek maritime trade. Krotschek recently received a grant to con-

tinue the publication of *The Archaic Shipwreck Pointe Lequin 1A*, and she will be spending the summer in Marseilles working on this project.

**MICAH MYERS** is currently a visiting Assistant Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington, after completing his PhD in the summer of 2008. In addition to a fine Classics Department, Indiana U is on a beautiful campus, far enough but not too far from big-city Indianapolis. Micah is teaching courses on Classical Myth and Ancient Epic. His current research projects include an article on geo-poetics in Lucan for the forthcoming Brill’s Companion to Lucan and a book project based on Myers’ dissertation, *The Frontiers of the Empire and the Boundaries of the World in the Augustan Poetic Imaginary*.

**ANDREW MONSON** received a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Classics Department at New York University. He teaches Greek and Roman history, especially the Hellenistic period, as well as courses on the economy and politics of the ancient world. Andrew is organizing a 2009 conference in Abu Dhabi

to promote the global and comparative study of ancient history at NYU’s new campus in the UAE. In the meantime, he is preparing for publication a book based on his dissertation, tentatively titled, *Agriculture and Institutions: Economic Change in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt*. Although a Minnesota native, the New York winter climate is a shock after Stanford but Monson lives only two blocks from his office and library and is gradually exploring the Big Apple.

**DAVID PLATT** filed his dissertation, *A Cultural Studies Approach to Roman Public Libraries: Social Negotiation, Changing Spaces, and Euergetism* at the end of May 2008 and received his PhD in June. Since then, he has continued in his position at Stanford’s Art & Architecture Library, where he has worked for the past three years. David originally took the position of Evening Supervisor (in November 2005) to support himself while completing his dissertation; he was promoted to Operations Manager in 2007. David is currently exploring his options in teaching and research, academic librarianship, and cultural resource management. □



## 2008 COMMENCEMENT in Classics

### Presentation of Graduates

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH HONORS

Emma Margaret Sachs  
Shila Shyam Soni

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CLASSICS WITH HONORS IN HUMANITIES

Ann Felice Foisie Schiff

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS, CLASSICS

Lane David Barrasso  
Sara Poorfarahani  
Denis James Griffin  
Jeanette Catherine Kreuze  
Prentice Huntington Miller  
Kasey Elizabeth Tucker

#### MINOR IN CLASSICS

John Hanney McGee  
Yan Meng  
Brian Alan Truebe  
Kyle Denton White

#### MASTER OF ARTS

Sara Poorfarahani (co-term)  
Erik Jacob Hope (co-term)  
Aditi Iyer (co-term)  
Sarah Katherine Janda

#### DOCTORS OF PHILOSOPHY

Margaret Erwin Butler  
\*Christelle Isabelle Fischer-Bovet  
Charles William Gladhill  
\*Ulrike Krotschek  
\*Andrew Patrick Monson  
\*Micah Young Myers  
David Stuart Platt

\* Summer 2008 Graduates



# Stanford Classics’ Monte Polizzo Archaeology Project



Early days in the excavation: the sanctuary, June 2001. In the foreground is the altar where the red deer were dismembered; in the center is the round shrine.



A wine-cup of the ‘East Greek B2’ style, dating 575-550 BCE. Chemical analysis showed that this cup was made in or near Monte Polizzo, not imported from Greece.

The summer of 2008 was the ninth and final season of Classics’ archaeological project at Monte Polizzo. Polizzo is a modern name since the site’s ancient name is unknown. Located in western Sicily, Monte Polizzo is roughly an hour’s drive from Palermo, and was inhabited between about 650 and 550 BCE. According to Thucydides, the people who lived in this region were “Elymians.”

Our project goal was to study how Greek colonization of Sicily’s coasts affected the native population. We focused

on excavating the site’s religious center, and got some interesting results. Contrary to what archaeologists initially thought, Greek colonization apparently had only a small impact on Elymian culture between 650 and 550 BCE, and the natives’ interest in Greek material culture was almost entirely restricted to Greek wine! The mountainside, by the way, is still used as a vineyard, 2,600 years later.

After 600 BCE, the people at Monte Polizzo imported large numbers of Greek amphoras used for shipping wine and

started growing their own wine grapes. They also used hundreds of Greek-style wine cups, although chemical analysis has now shown that these cups were all made in or near Monte Polizzo, not bought from Greek potters.

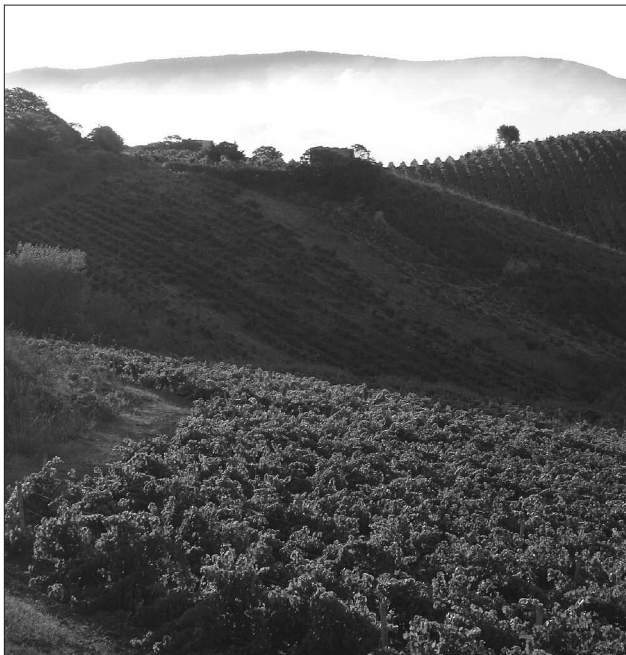
Rather than imitating Greek religion, Elymian rituals were in fact very conservative, involving big sacrifices of red deer on a stone altar outside a circular shrine at the summit of the mountain. If anything, the Elymians seem to have reacted against Greek religion, deliberately turning back toward native practices of earlier centuries.

Monte Polizzo was destroyed by fire soon after 550 BCE. Over the next fifty years, most of the Elymian villages in western Sicily were abandoned, but one village—Segesta, famous for its magnificent fifth-century temple—grew into a city that led Elymian resistance against Greek expansion. Only after 500 BCE did indigenous traditions in religion and material culture decline, perhaps because the rulers of the powerful Elymian city-state at Segesta wanted to compete with the Greeks on their own terms.

Thanks to support from the Tresidder Fund, the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Education and other donors, more than 100 Stanford undergraduates and 15 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows participated in the project, along with many students and scientific specialists from universities around the world. Of the participants, several of the undergraduates have gone on to graduate work in Classics or Anthropology; half of the Stanford graduate students and postdocs now have tenure-track faculty positions in Classics; and the finds from Monte Polizzo have been analyzed in PhD dissertations — not just at Stanford but also at universities as far away as Buffalo and Barcelona. For Sicily Dig participants, Monte Polizzo indeed produced a lot of scholarly gold. ☐

*Ian Morris*, April 2009

*Ian Morris is the Jean and Rebecca Willard Professor of Classics and Professor of History*



Morning on Monte Polizzo: the north slopes of the site under vineyards, July 2002.



## Graduate student NEWS

*Here are personal snapshots of a few of the hard working, intelligent, and accomplished young scholars who comprise the current Classics graduate-student cadre.*



JASON AFTOSMIS

**Jason Aftosmis** came to Stanford from UC Berkeley and is now a fifth-year PhD candidate. His research ranges over Greek literature, but has been focused primarily on Archaic Greek poetry. Next year Aftosmis will start at the Harvard Society of Fellows, where he will finish

his dissertation and begin work on other projects. There are a number of things he will miss about the Stanford Classics community,

**Rachel Ahern** will be taking up a tenure-track position in Classics at the University of Oklahoma this fall. Rachel is finishing a dissertation on Homeric Rhetoric and Aristotle's Rhetoric, advised by Richard Martin, Natasha Peponi, and Andrea Nightingale.



SEBASTIAN DE VIVO

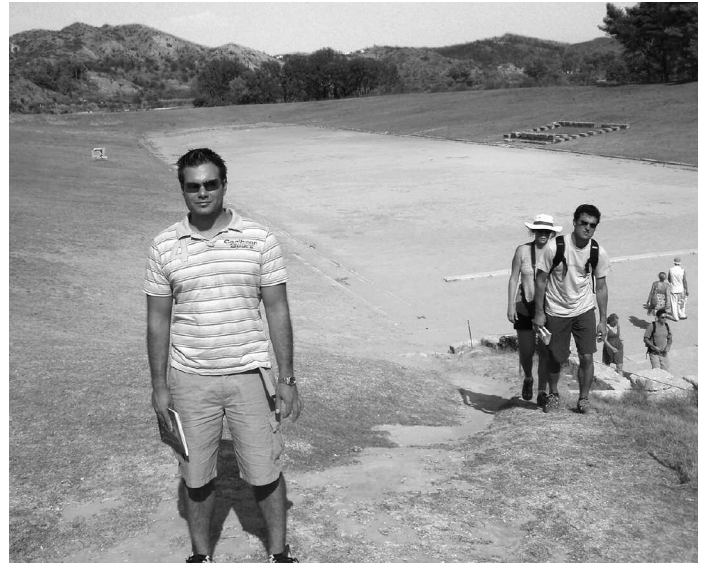
**Sebastian DeVivo** graduated with a BA in Liberal Studies and Classics from California State University, Los Angeles. His research centers on warfare in Archaic Greece, particularly how battle was experienced and then represented – in vase painting, funerary and religious monuments, and poetry. Other interests include monuments, trauma, and the history of collecting. Sebastian is currently in his sixth year at Stanford.



AL DUNCAN

**Al Duncan** is a third year PhD student in Classics who came to Stanford from the University of Michigan with a BA in Classics and English (2006). A love of etymology and an interest in the earliest sources of the European humanistic tradition motivated Al toward a career in Classics. His graduate research focus is on Attic tragedy in performance, both ancient and modern. Duncan is particularly interested in the performance of fifth-century drama in later, non-Athenian contexts from Ptolemaic Egypt to 21st-century Broadway. His career goal is to

become a professor of Classics and the Humanities more broadly, who is also involved in collegiate or professional dramatic productions. Al enjoys listening to and playing music and is kept busy as the Classics Department's graphic designer. Last summer, he was a member of Patrick Hunt's Alpine Archaeology Project team of 30 Stanford students who cycled along the Rhone River, following the likely route of Hannibal's army.



FOIVOS KARACHALIOS at Olympia

**Foivos Karachalios** studied Classics at the University of Athens, earning a BA and an MA degree. Next, he received an MPhil at the University of Cambridge. Foivos chose Classics as his field because, toward the end of high-school, he discovered that he was "reasonably good with the ancient languages." Now a second year PhD student in the Classical Literature track, Karachalios focuses on the archaic and classical Greek world. His research lies at the intersection of literary interpretation and political, social and intellectual history. Thanks to the support of the Department, Foivos has given talks on Aristophanes and Bacchylides at the APA and CA annual meetings. His current priority is fulfilling the rest of his pre-dissertation requirements, including, of course, passing the general examinations.



JAMES KIERSTEAD

**James Kierstead** was born in Canada and grew up mainly in Britain. A citizen of both of these countries, James has also lived in Germany and Italy. He was educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he studied Classics



## Alumni Notes




*Below is some news from a few of our alums. We enjoy hearing from alumni, recent or otherwise, and will be featuring them more prominently on a new department website to be launched this summer. We invite you to use the last page of the newsletter to write some news and send it by mail, or to send us an update via email to [classics@stanford.edu](mailto:classics@stanford.edu).*

**Nicole Cooper** BA Classics, PhD Psychology, married Eric Baker (BA Harvard, MBA Stanford) in spring 2008. Nikki co-authored a chapter in *Adolescent Psychopathology and the Developing Brain* (Oxford), eds. D. Romer and E. Walker (2007).

**Marcus Folch** has just accepted a tenure-track job offer from Columbia University. In 2006, he defended his dissertation on *Genre, Gender, and Performance in Plato's Laws*, working with Andrea Nightingale, Natasha Peponi and Reviel Netz. Folch has been teaching at the University of Richmond since then.

**Marden Nichols** is the recipient of two postdoctoral fellowships: one to the British School at Rome for 2008-09 and a subsequent one at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is completing her dissertation at Cambridge.

**Emma Sachs** graduated in 2008 with a double major in Classics and Art History, receiving Honors in Classics and the Chairman's Prize for Community Service. She spent the summer as a Sand Hill Fellow (awarded by Stanford's Haas Center) working for the Packard Foundation, where she continued to work in Autumn 2008 while applying to graduate programs in ancient art and archaeology.

**Eirene Visvardi** has just accepted a tenure-track job offer from Wesleyan University. Eirene defended her dissertation on *Dancing the Emotions: Pity and Fear in the Tragic Chorus*, in 2007, working with Richard Martin, Marsh McCall, Natasha Peponi and Andrea Nightingale. For the past two years, she's been the Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Classical Studies and Theater Arts at Brandeis University. 

and Philosophy, and at King's College London, where he focused on Ancient History. James' interest in Classics began when his mother read myths to him at bedtime. He learned Greek and Latin at boarding school in England. At university, after concurrently taking courses in Political Philosophy and Greek History, he decided to focus on the study of ancient and modern forms of democracy.


Kierstead has an unusual job history, working as a barman in rural England and London, and teaching English in Stuttgart, Modena, Italy, and Tanzania. James has enjoyed traveling to more than a dozen countries, taking part in a similar number of plays, and engaging in sports at various levels (despite related injuries...). Now in his second year at Stanford, he hopes to be able to "continue to be of some use to others in the future through teaching and research."



SARAH MURRAY

**Sarah C. Murray** is a second year PhD student in Classics and Archaeology. Sarah grew up in the rural Appalachian community of Marietta, Ohio, and graduated from Dartmouth College in 2004, with a degree in Classical Archaeology. She came to Classics late in life "since Appalachia affords few opportunities for exposure to this sort of thing," randomly having wandered into a course on Imperial Rome, midway through college.

Murray found the field appealing for the usual reasons – lots of time spent outdoors, the vivacity and wit of the Classical civilizations, and the intellectual variety of working in such a rich, multidisciplinary field. However, she decided to pursue Classical archaeology as a career because of the unique way that the field straddles the pragmatic/artistic vocational divide. Though she hasn't yet decided on a dissertation topic, her interests are in exploring Greek sociopolitical history through material remains and in the theory and practice of archaeological survey. Sarah recently completed a chapter on Macedonian religion for the forthcoming *Blackwell Companion to Macedonia*. Future projects may include "Minoan Fortifications" and a Giannis Pikoulas inspired study of routes in Bronze Age Korinthia. Murray also enjoys "cartooning, the novels of Kingsley Amis and Vladimir Nabokov, and running marathons."

**Lela Urquhart** accepted a tenure-track offer from the History department at Georgia State. Her dissertation is about indigenous responses to Greek and Phoenician colonial religion in the Western Mediterranean; she has been working with Ian Morris, Giovanna Ceserani, Richard Martin, and Josh Ober. 





# Administration NEWS

*The Administrative Department staff has changed significantly since the 2007 Classics Newsletter was published. Ryan Johnson is the new Department Manager, and Margo Keeley is the Administrative Associate. Alicia Sanchez continues in her role as student services and graduate admissions administrator.*



RYAN JOHNSON

**RYAN JOHNSON** joined Classics as the new Department Manager in September of 2008. During his six years as a member of Stanford’s administrative staff, Ryan worked in two other humanities units, the Humanities Fellows Program and the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. He received his B.A. in English from U.C.

Berkeley and attended graduate school in Stanford’s English Department.

This year, Johnson is devoting much of his attention to positioning the Classics Department effectively in the challenging financial environment and to supporting the community of graduate and undergraduate students that help to define the department.



MARGO KEELEY

**MARGO KEELEY** came to Classics in late January 2008, after several previous temporary assignments at Stanford. Her professional experience includes work as a technical editor, small business owner, and director of a parent-education preschool in East Palo Alto.

Keeley is the “go-to person” for room reservations within the department and for problems with the copiers or printers. Since she also manages the key card door

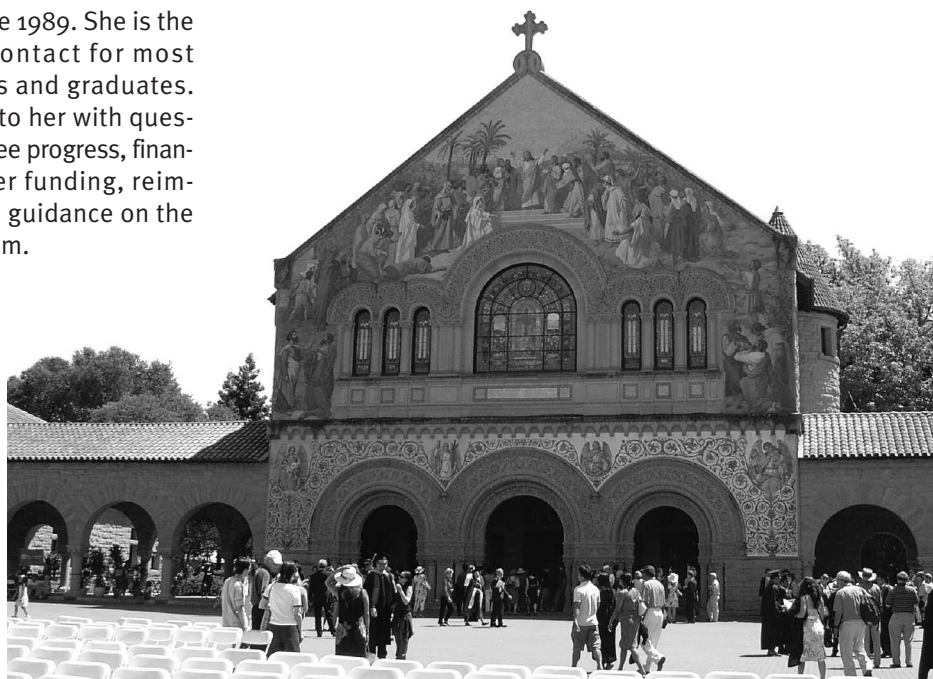
software, she has the pleasure of meeting new members of the department soon after they arrive. Margo loves working with Ryan Johnson and Alicia Sanchez, and enjoys helping to solve problems for faculty members and students.

When she is not at work, Margo loves to read, to travel, and to swim with dolphins. Keeley has also been a volunteer Cuddler, holding premature babies at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, for over 10 years.



ALICIA SANCHEZ

**ALICIA SANCHEZ** has been in the department since 1989. She is the first point of contact for most undergraduates and graduates. Students come to her with questions about degree progress, financial aid, summer funding, reimbursement, and guidance on the graduate program.





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