A (LONG) NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Drew Wilburn

We are deep in the throes of yet another freeze, and we all hope this newsletter finds you in warmer climes, or at least, warm rooms! I am pleased to be taking over editorial duties from Tom, who served with great distinction as editor of this newsletter for quite a few years.

Since the last newsletter, we have had a busy time in the department. The editor apologizes for the interim between issues, but it just means we have more to report! Since our last newsletter, we’ve had to say goodbye to Chris Trinacty, who took a tenure-track position at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Luckily for us, Chris stayed at Missouri for only a year, and we were able to lure him back here for a tenure-track job at Oberlin. He joined us in fall 2012 after a nationwide search and has been a great colleague, professor, and mentor. Jenn Thomas, who taught many classes in the department as a visiting assistant professor and as a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow, is currently working for the State Department and living in Washington, D.C.

Over the past two years, we were able to welcome two fantastic visiting post-docs from the University of Michigan: James Cook in 2011-12 and Karen Laurence in 2012-13. James taught History of Rome and a course on Greek and Roman technology, and has since moved on to teach at Trent University. Karen taught History of Greece and a course on ancient sport; she is now teaching at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Karen and James were great colleagues; we miss having them around and wish them the best of luck.

The Charles Beebe Martin Lecture Series continues each year, and we have been able to entice fantastic scholars and speakers to spend a comfortable week with us. Due to concerns about snow (well-founded this year, at least!) we have shifted the Martin Lectures to the fall. In November, Alessandro Barchiesi (Stanford University) gave a series titled The Councils of the Gods. This was followed in November with David Frankfurter’s (Boston University) series, Christianizing Egypt: Syncretism and Local Worlds. Rachel Webberman ’15 has written a feature about Professor Frankfurter’s talks.
Our former Martin Lecturers have also been busy. The past few years have seen the publication of Erich Gruen’s *Rethinking the Other in Classical Antiquity* (2012) and Simon Goldhill’s *Victorian Culture and Classical Antiquity: Art, Opera, Fiction and the Proclamation of Modernity* (2011). We were also very pleased that Leslie Kurke’s Martin Lectures volume, *Aesopic Conversations: Popular Tradition, Cultural Dialogue and the Invention of Greek Prose*, won the Goodwin Prize from the American Philological Association in 2012. Here’s the link to the citation: [http://apaclassics.org/awards-and-fellowships/2011-goodwin-award-citation](http://apaclassics.org/awards-and-fellowships/2011-goodwin-award-citation)

In other departmental news, Ben Lee assumed the chairship of the department in 2012 when Kirk stepped down. In spring 2011, Drew was promoted to associate professor and awarded tenure, AND Kirk was promoted to full professor.

The department has been humming with activity. Kirk led a winter-term trip to Greece in January 2013; check out Elizabeth Garbee’s report in this newsletter. We’ve taken busloads of students to the Cleveland Museum of Art to see traveling exhibits, and we’ve had Bardic Readings of *The Odyssey* (2012) and *The Aeneid* (2013). With Ben’s assistance, the library purchased a manuscript of *Martial* that will become a staple of many of our Latin classes; see the feature article by Ben Lee inside.

In sporting news, and thanks to the initiative of Chris Trinacty, the newly inaugurated annual Greeks versus Trojans Kickball Battle (Greek 101 v. Latin 101) is tied at a victory of each side; we anticipate a 10-year series. War has taken its toll, mostly in terms of faculty on-field injuries, but everyone has healed well.

The semester has just begun, but we know it will be over in the blink of an eye, especially for our graduating seniors this year. At graduation, we’ll be in our normal place, the courtyard between King and Rice. We hope to see you if you are back for reunion or a visit.
KAREN BARNES, departmental assistant, is in her 33rd year at Oberlin. She also works with the philosophy department and the Oberlin-in-London Program. Karen started in 1982 in what was then the economics/government departments and transferred to Classics/philosophy (“the best departments on campus”) three years later. She keeps busy with the everyday activities of the department and with the Martin Lectures in the fall (“sort of like planning a wedding”). Karen and her husband, Nelson, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a trip to Hawaii two years ago and this past July spent two weeks in Alaska. Karen’s son Brad is married with two children: Ava, 5, and Hudson, born this past December 23. Brad is a project manager for Walsh Construction in Detroit and lives in Sylvania, Ohio. Daughter Brooke spent nine years in Midland, Mich., as a chemical engineer for Dow Chemical. A year ago she transferred to Lake Jackson, Texas, with Dow for warmer weather.

KIRK ORMAND, having gratefully relinquished the chairship of the Classics department, has been delighted to return to the classroom full time. He’s recently taught his course on ancient sexuality, just finished the introductory course in Greek History, and thoroughly enjoyed teaching Homer’s Iliad this fall for the first time since 1992. As always, Kirk credits his students with keeping him on his toes and requiring a substantial intake of caffeine in order to keep up. Kirk has traveled a good bit in the last two years. In addition to taking a group of students to Greece in January 2012 (see the report from Elizabeth Garbee in this newsletter), he spent two weeks in Greece on his own in the summer of 2011 to study Byzantine sites in and around Thessaloniki, aided by a GLCA New Directions grant. He also just returned from Australia, where he participated in the seventh biannual Homer seminar at the Australian National University in Canberra. He will show you pictures of kangaroos on request. Kirk’s A Companion to Sophocles came out from Blackwell Press in 2012; weighing in at nearly 3 pounds, this middle-heavyweight contender contains 38 articles covering a range of aspects of Sophocles’ dramas, life, and influence. Needless to say, the two star pieces in the volume are by Jed Deppman (who teaches comparative literature at Oberlin) and Tom Van Nortwick. This May, Kirk’s fourth book, The Hesiodic Catalogue of Women and Archaic Greece, will be published by Cambridge University Press. Kirk has also published articles on the Catalogue of Women, the 1963 film Jason and the Argonauts, and has pieces forthcoming on Foucault’s History of Sexuality and the use of obscenity in Hipponax. He is also coediting a volume (with Ruby Blondell) tentatively titled Ancient Sex: New Essays, currently under consideration with a publisher, located in a nearby secret underground bunker.

CHRIS TRINACY is happy to be in year two of a tenure-track position at Oberlin and has been hard at work convincing everyone that Seneca is the most interesting and exciting Latin author bar none (well, maybe Ovid). He recently completed his book, Senecan Tragedy and the Reception of Augustan Poetry, expected to be published this May. Over the last year he has also contributed chapters to two edited volumes on Seneca, organized conference panels on Senecan poetics, and began work on a book manuscript chronicling the reception of Seneca’s plays that will appear in the next few years. He’s also been at work on a new edition of poetical works for a small press in the UK. He was recently appointed an Associate Editor of the American Journal of Philology, a prestigious peer-reviewed journal with an impressive list of editors and contributors over the years. He is also the author of two novels, one of which was recently published in Italy.

BEN LEE, in his second year of chairing Classics, says he feels lucky to work in such a great department. He is teaching courses on Greek and Roman Epic, Apuleius, the Ancient and Modern Novel, and Herodotus. In 2012 the Ohio State Press published his translation (from the Italian) of Luca Graverini’s Literature and Identity in the Golden Ass of Apuleius. Last year Ben coedited and contributed to a collection of essays on the ancient novel, now published as a special edition of the Argentine Classics journal Ordia Prima (Collected Studies on the Latin Novel). The volume is tri-lingual, with Classics essays written in Italian, Spanish, and English. (Formatting this was quite a challenge!). This spring Routledge Press will publish Apuleius and Africa, a volume of 13 essays based on the international conference of the same name, which Oberlin hosted in 2010. Ben is the lead editor and contributed an essay on the African aspects of the manuscript tradition of Apuleius. He would love to hear from any and all alumni/ae!! His email blee@oberlin.edu. Salvete.
on a new project delving into Seneca’s *Natural Questions*. This summer Chris will be in Thessaloniki to present his recent work at the eighth Trends in Classics conference. He has been teaching courses in Latin ranging from an upper-level course on Vergil’s *Eclogues and Georgics* to the introductory sequence (which is always a joy to teach) and even dusted off the old Smyth to teach advanced Greek (Euripides’ *Medea*). Last spring Chris taught Roman History for the first time and will be teaching the Classical Mythology class this fall. In his spare time, he finds himself touring Lorain county playgrounds with his two children (Ada and Mick) or trying to find elusive Morrissey singles at record stores far and wide.

**TOM VAN NORTWICK** has enjoyed teaching as usual. This year marks the beginning of his “phased down” retirement. He will teach halftime this year and next year (spring only) and then have a “career sabbatical” in the academic year 2015-16, officially retiring, after 42 years, in June 2016. The prospect of not being in the classroom is daunting in some ways, but he and Mary are looking forward to traveling and enjoying their first grandchild, who is due this April. In the last couple of years, he has published essays in the *Blackwells Companion to Sophocles* (edited by the redoubtable Kirk Ormand) and *Domina Illustris*, a festschrift honoring his old friend Judith Hallett of the University of Maryland on the occasion of her retirement. His book, *Late Sophocles: The Hero’s Evolution in Electra, Philoctetes, and Oedipus at Colonus*, is due out from the University of Michigan Press sometime in 2014.

Since the last newsletter, **DREW WILBURN** was awarded tenure and moved into the corner office (Sorry TVN!). His book, *Materia Magica: The Archaeology of Magic in Egypt, Cyprus and Spain* was published by the University of Michigan Press. Drew can occasionally be found delivering lectures for the Archaeological Institute of America on ancient magic: look for him in New Orleans in March and Nashville in April! Last October, Drew was a speaker at the Lived Ancient Religion conference in Eisenach, Germany, where he presented on some unusual painted ostrich eggshells from the Roman Port of Berenike, Egypt (hint: they were used for magic). Did you know that an ostrich’s egg can withstand 220 lbs? Drew has been working closely with Latin and Greek major Ryan Reynolds ’14 on a new digital, searchable map of the ancient site of Karanis that will be available on the internet sometime in the future. He has also started a new project on protective magic and architecture, which allowed him to visit Pompeii, Rome, and Seville last spring. He even tried his hand at learning Demotic, an ancient Egyptian language. Mostly, he has been keeping busy with his red-headed progeny, Patrick (4) and Claire (1.5).

**CONGRATS NEW GRADS!**

**2012 GRADUATES**

**CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION**
- Gregory Brown
- Emma Chapple
- Nicholas Lashway
- Ryan Magiera
- Kent Ochs
- Kayla Pennington
- Lillian Wennberg

**GREEK**
- Saul Alpert-Abrams (with a minor in Latin)

**LATIN**
- Eli Goldberg
- Hannah Kalson
- Victoria Karim
- Margaret Killman
- Emily Thaisrivongs
- Daniel Walden
- Zongdan Wu

**GREEK & LATIN**
- Veronica Colegrove
- Suzanne Levin (Latin)

**MINOR IN CLASSICS**
- James Countryman
- Angela Garcia

**2013 GRADUATES**

**CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION**
- Michelle Larson
- Angela Garcia

**GREEK**
- Aaron Cogbill
- Zoe Darsee

**LATIN**
- John Mallon
- Emily Watson (Latin)

**MINOR IN CLASSICS**
- Molly Bloom
- Jesse Burnside-Clapp
- Anna Dardick
- Samantha Del Vecchio
- Thomas Vozar
**OBERLIN’S MUDD LIBRARY ACQUIRES 15TH CENTURY MANUSCRIPT OF MARTIAL’S EPIGRAMS**

By Ben Lee

The library has acquired a late-15th-century Northern Italian manuscript of the works of Martial (CE 40 AD–ca. CE 103), the Latin epigrammatist, originally from Spain, known for his witty and satirical epigrams that convey numerous aspects of Roman social life. The manuscript is a singular new resource for the library’s special collections, which up to now have had no classical authors in complete manuscript form. One of only seven known copies of 15th-century Martial manuscripts to be found in American libraries, it was acquired with support from the Friends of the Library and a generous gift from Robert Taylor and Ted Nowick, residents of Kendal at Oberlin. No other liberal arts college can claim to have such a treasure available to its undergraduate students and faculty.

Benjamin Lee, associate professor and chair of the Classics department, is planning an upper-level Latin course on Martial that will feature the new acquisition. He is especially pleased that the manuscript is written in a humanist hand that is accessible to undergraduates and which will facilitate the study of paleography. Erik Inglis, professor of Medieval art history, will use it in his course on illuminated manuscripts, and it will also interest faculty in English and history.

**CHRISTIANIZING EGYPT AT OBERLIN: DAVID FRANKFURTER’S MARTIN LECTURES**

By Rachel Webberman ’14

This November, during David Frankfurter’s visit for the Martin Classical Lecture series, I was fortunate to not only hear his lectures, but also to speak with him at a dinner with students, individually at lunch, and during a discussion in a course I was taking. At his lectures, Professor Frankfurter spoke about the Christianizing of Egypt, particularly the coalescing of local traditions with new Christian ones. The lectures looked at the ways in which the domestic sphere, folk songs, and pilgrimage shrines, among many other examples, served to retain local Egyptian traditions during the process of Christianization. His lectures had us examine primary texts, objects, and structures to help show this process of syncretism.

In addition to the lectures, Frankfurter led the discussion in one of my courses, Magic and Mystery in the Ancient World. During this discussion, which was based off a chapter in Frankfurter’s book *Evil Incarnate: Rumors of Demonic Conspiracy and Ritual Abuse in History*, the conversation ranged from the satanic scare of the ’80s to the more general question about the nature of human fascination with evil. During the conversation I felt fortunate to have the scholar of the work I had read in front of me answering questions, an experience I think is rare to find at an undergraduate level, and one that reminds me how fortunate I am to be at Oberlin.
When grown-ups reminisce to us undergraduates at holiday parties and neighborhood picnics about their college days, they often tell the same stories about the same few events—a “top 10” list of their college experiences, so to speak. And while it’s often easy, in retrospect, to identify which moments in your undergraduate career were the most formative, it’s more difficult to realize how important things are as they happen to you. But as I waited in the terminal at JFK for our flight to Zurich, continuing on to Athens, I knew that the three weeks we were about to spend together exploring Greece would definitely be “top 10” material.

Our typical day started with a hurried breakfast in our hotel (with passable coffee, if we were lucky) in order to be on the bus by 8:30. We spent mornings at either a museum or a site, found a late lunch (and hopefully better coffee) at a site nearby, then rode a bus to our next site or to our resting place for the night. We were given a great amount of autonomy within our rather tight schedule—and though we were always free to wander on our own, more often than not, we formed a pack around Kirk and let him lead us around. Kirk was the only member of the group with working knowledge of modern Greek, so it seemed sensible to let him do the talking for us. It was a special treat when we were joined by his friends and colleagues, because that meant an even more behind-the-scenes tour of whatever site we happened to be visiting. There were also times when our best-laid plans were foiled by locked gates or a guard post that wasn’t there before. As a consequence, we quickly developed the ability to stare meaningfully at a map and improvise. And even when we saw nothing where we expected to see an amphitheater, or a pile of rubble where there used to be an exciting wall foundation, we were never short of places to see or things to do.

There were certainly sites and museums that I enjoyed more than others (spending your first day in Greece exploring the Acropolis sets the tone for a trip), but I think my overall favorite moments were times when the bus pulled into a parking lot and I saw out the window nothing like what I had pictured in my mind—but something more atmospheric, more magical, more burdened with extraordinary purpose. For example, as a Classics student, I had read the *Iliad* both in English and Greek and had a clear image in mind of what Mycenae must have looked like…but actually being there, staring into Grave Circle B and walking through the Lions Gate along the fortification walls, I felt an immediacy that I didn’t expect. This place was real, the people who lived and died here were real, and their stories suddenly became more present and tangible.

continued on page 15
The winter-term group at the Argive Heraion. Top: Kirk Ormand points out the Propylaia. Above: from left to right: the group in front of the Parthenon, the Lion Gate at Mycenae, the group at the starting line at Olympia, and the group at the theater in Sparta.
Each year, as you all fondly recall, the Department of Classics hosts the annual Picnic/Awards Ceremony/Croquet Match, where we honor and applaud graduating seniors and have an opportunity to enjoy some convivium. As always, Tom Van Nortwick devastated the competition at the croquet match, winning much kleos and admiration.
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**OWEN CRAMER** (Classics ’62) is in his 49th year teaching at Colorado College, where the Classics department has progressed from one member in 1965 to four (including a post-doc) in 2013-14. All of us were in attendance at the APA/AIA meeting in Chicago January 2-5, in spite of epic weather, and two presented papers while Owen joined the development committee.

Owen and **BECKY LOWREY CRAMER** ’62 have an eighth grandchild, Shunta Cramer Hokari, born in September 2012, who joins brothers Soju and Tetsuzo (children of Ben Cramer and Naoko Hokari, Columbia College graduates and Doctors of Philosophy and Medicine) and first cousins Phacelia, Melica and Arenaria Cramer (children of Tom x’88 and Jane Kellett Cramer ’86) all living in Eugene. The other grandkids are Eleanor Hye-In Kang Cramer in Claremont, Calif., with Alfred Cramer and You Young Kang, Yale/Penn grads/PhDs and professors at Claremont colleges; and Elias Cramer, living in Kennett Square, Pa., with Ethan and Michele Curay-Cramer, Swathmore grads. Owen keeps up with Classics professionally, teaching courses on Greek and Latin language and literature, Homer, and ancient history and doing that in a comparatist way founded in his study of German and French at Oberlin with Heinz Politzer and John Kneller; language teaching he does in the spirit of Joe Reichard’s and John Kneller’s long-forgotten beginning textbooks for German and French. Owen and Becky were back in Oberlin for the 50th reunion of the Class of 1962, where they were glad to get together with Sharon Boyer (Oberlin 1962) and to have a memorable lunch at Kendal with Nate Greenberg.


**ROBERT CRAWFORD** ’78 writes: “My daughter Olivia is studying archaeology/anthropology at Cambridge, UK. She may concentrate on early Christian archaeology and has worked two summers in Israel. So the Classics tradition lives in our family! We are still based in the French Alps, where I am an independent writer. For New Year’s, we visited Dana Facaros (an Obie Classicist from ’75-’76), who lives with her husband, Michael Pauls, in southwest France; they are travel writers.”

**MELISSA HUNTER-KILMER** ’78 writes: “My husband, Jonathan, and I moved to Rockingham County, Va., in 2007 so we could live on a few acres with peace and quiet, neither of which was to be found cheaply enough where we were living in northern Virginia. I had hoped to get a job teaching ESOL in a local school system with my brand-new master’s degree, but that didn’t work out. Just as well, because Jonathan’s health issues required a growing amount of time from both of us. So I started two businesses and have a lot of fun with both. One is a business called Write on Topic; I find gigs for writers and editors and then manage them. (No, I don’t need more writers and editors. I need more gigs for them!) The other is the Mayland Pumpkin Patch, which is basically me growing and selling pumpkins, gourds, loofahs, Indian corn (or ornamental corn for those who are politically correct), handmade knitted and crocheted things, and anything else I can think of. This year, I think we’ll have ornamental cabbage, too. Jonathan died unexpectedly in November, so I guess I could get a full-time job now if I wanted to; I have time enough. However, I find that I love having the freedom to stay home and build ties with my community via my church and the pumpkin patch. I’m very sad that he’s dead, of course, but my life has an
overall trend of getting happier all the time, and I look forward to that happiness being more present. Our four grown children, their spouses, and five young grandchildren are wonderful medicine, as are the pumpkins and our dog. Thurber is a mastiff and probably the only Classics tie-in that I have left, except for my books. Did you know that Hannibal used mastiffs as war dogs? Fun fact for the day!”

WELLING HALL ’79 is the Plowshares Professor of Peace Studies at Earlham College. Her son, Cory Ventresca ’17, is a first-year student at Oberlin.

ELLEN BAUERLE ’80 writes: “In recent months past and future as executive editor for Classics and Archaeology, I’ve had the pleasure of publishing books or articles by several Obies, including Drew; Tom, whose new Sophocles book is likely a late 2015 item; Larry Ball’s (’78) review of the Grainger/Dalby cookbook in the upcoming Amphora issue; John Dillery ’83, whose book on local historiographers (Berossos and Manetho) is due out later this year; Jim Morrison ’79, whose interdisciplinary book on shipwrecks is due out this year also, and Pam Gordon ’78, whose book on Epicurus came out last year. I also did books by Pam Gordon and Sara Myers ’83. Kirk is contributing a piece to our forthcoming volume on Ancient Obscenities. Good school for authors, Oberlin is—I’m very grateful.”

JIM TUCKER ’81 writes: “After doing a PhD at the University of Michigan and teaching at Colorado College long ago, I’ve been living in Budapest for many years, translating Hungarian, German, Russian, Italian, and French into English. It seems I am using the philological arsenal I learned from Professors Greenberg, Helm, and Van Nortwick every day. Missing them all. I’ve also been studying watchmaking and biking around the region. I have a great dog and wonderful friends.”

ROB HARDY ’83 teaches part time in the Classics department at Carleton College, where he’s piloting the an experimental two-day-a-week “flipped classroom” version of elementary Greek. “I also serve on the Northfield School Board and as an advisor to the Northfield Skateboard Coalition. I just received the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative Making a Difference Award for exceptional efforts to positively impact the lives of Northfield youth.” His wife, CLARA SHAW HARDY ’83, is a professor of classics at Carleton and currently serves as president of the college faculty. “Our son Will is a junior majoring in music theory and composition at St. Olaf College (across town from Carleton), and looking forward to a new city and new challenges as we become empty-nesters. Family news: Owen has five years of Latin under his belt, but we couldn’t convince him to study Greek even though his school offers it. Our daughter Philippa (Yale ’15) just took a Roman art class ‘so she could figure out what Mom was talking about’ (and to knock off a humanities credit). First text home: ‘Now I know why you named the cat Livia!’ And she wants us to take a trip to Rome together.”
our son Peter just declared a religion major at Kenyon College. On our trips to and from Gambier, Clara and I often stay in Oberlin, where Clara’s mother lives. On our visit in August, we had lunch with Tom and Mary, and dinner with Kirk and Gayle. Last but not least, Clara and I are celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary in June.”

SARA MYERS and JOHN DILLERY ’83 are enjoying sabbatical leave in Cambridge, England. John is working on Herodotus and Xenophon, and Sara on Columella and Statius. “Our son Nikolas is with us here, while Peter is a first-year student at the University of Virginia. We are keeping up with Tom on Facebook from overseas!”

JON BERRY ’84 earned his MA at the University of Chicago in 1986 and PhD there in 2000. Since 2001, he’s been teaching a variety of classes at Mount Carmel High School in Chicago—“usually the upper-level Latin classes and various levels of English and reading skills. Lately, I’ve been teaching classes in creative writing and film; for a few years, I was the dean of languages.” John lives in Wheaton, Ill., with wife JOAN LOOI ’84, an independent sales rep for various yarn companies. Free time is devoted to children Emma (15) and Eli (9).

CHRIS FRANCESE ’87 teaches classics at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. “I have twin boys, Sam and Walker, who are 11. I had dinner with Obie classicists and friends Rob Hardy and Clara Shaw Hardy in Chicago at the APA. They got out while the getting was good, whereas I was trapped there during the polar vortex. Looking forward to visiting the alma mater in March for the first time since Nate Greenberg’s retirement! A volume, coauthored by Scott Smith and me, of translated sources for Roman civilization is coming out with Hackett in March, which is very exciting. I have contracted a bad case of digital fever in recent years and have been directing a project called Dickinson College Commentaries. I think this is the first alumni notice I’ve ever contributed to anything, so thanks to Tom and Drew and Facebook for the nudge.”

RACHEL SEIDMAN ’88 lives in Carrboro, N.C., and is associate director of the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The SOHP is celebrating its 40th anniversary, and contains over 5000 interviews with Southerners from all walks of life. (See more at www.sohp.org.) Rachel’s older daughter, Eliza, completed all of her college applications (including one to Oberlin, where she would be the third generation in her family to attend), and Rachel can hardly believe that her offspring is nearly the age she was when she first walked into Tom Van Nortwick’s office for freshman-year advising. Much of the focus of Rachel’s professional work has been in the field of women’s history, women’s studies, and leadership development for young women. Although her professional path has not hewed closely to a classicist’s route, she finds herself citing Lysistrata regularly to her students! One of Rachel’s students started the Who Needs Feminism? social media campaign, which has swept the web over the past few years. Find more about it at www.whoneedsfeminism.com. Rachel (occasionally) tweets @rfseidman.

Top right, then left to right below: Commencement/Reunion Weekend 2011 attendees Mary Riles ’91 and Tom Van Nortwick; Nathan Daniels ’07, Alice Norquist ’07, and Kirk Ormand; Dexter Brown ’11 and Laura Wilke ’11; and Commencement/Reunion 2012 attendees Zongdan Wu ’12 and Tom Van Nortwick.
ALUMNI NEWS, cont.

From left: Commencement/Reunion Weekend 2012 attendees Eli Goldberg ’12 and family; Tori Neuman ’12, Aaron Cogbill ’13, and Tom Van Nortwick; and Commencement/Reunion 2013 attendees Tom Van Nortwick and Lauren Flicker ’04.

Musician MARY RILES ’91 (see photo on previous page) writes: “I have a studio of cello students, both adults and kids, and I love that I get to establish long-term relationships with them in which I have the opportunity to see them learn and grow over a period of years. I also perform and gig with a variety of ensembles in the Seattle area, including the Seattle Modern Orchestra and the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra. I live in a neat old house with my partner, Ted, and three kids, a daughter, Hazel, almost 5, and twin daughters, Joanna and Emily, 1 1/2. A few years back I took a three-quarter course through the University of Washington Extension in Writing Fiction For Children. I have continued to write, though sporadically, and I meet with friends to write and share work once a week or so. I have friends in the cluster before mine, and am considering coming to Oberlin for this year’s reunion to hang out with them. I came for my 25th, the first time since I graduated, and had a wonderful time. It is probably time to come back, since the Oberlin t-shirt I bought Hazel on the occasion of my last visit is way too small for her now, and I need to supply my younger two as well.”

DAVID COREY ’92 and ELIZABETH CAMPBELL COREY ’94 are expecting their third child, Margaret Grace, in early April. David and Elizabeth both enjoy tenure at Baylor University, where they teach political philosophy. Elizabeth’s work on the philosopher Michael Oakeshott was recently featured in the Cambridge Companion to Oakeshott. David’s most recent book, The Sophists in Plato’s Dialogues will be available from SUNY Press later this year.

ELLEN CRAIG ’95 lives in San Francisco and works as a director of a software company called Unanet. “I’m going to Carnevale in northwest Italy soon to celebrate my 40th birthday with friends and family,” she writes.

STACEY CARTER ’99 recently left her position as director of expansion and outreach at I CAN SCHOOLS in Cleveland to accept a position as a School Leadership Fellow at Crescent City Schools in NEW ORLEANS! She writes: “I am doing well, and love living in the Big Easy. When my fellowship ends, I will be the principal (and founder) of a K-8 charter school here in the city. I am looking forward to getting back to what I do best—educating children and helping them get to Oberlin for college!”

BECCA COOLONG ’99 lives in East Longmeadow, Mass., with her husband, Bob, and 4-year-old son, Robbie. She writes: “After completing an 18-month fellowship with the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Jewish Community Center Association of North America, I am now one of 18 people to have completed the first cohort of the Jewish Experiential Leadership Institute. After completing that program I was promoted to director of youth and family services for the Springfield Jewish Community Center in Springfield. I’ve included a picture of my Robbie at Old Sturbridge Village just for fun!”

ELI KRELL ’03 finished her PhD in performance studies at Northwestern University. She writes: “I successfully defended in December 2013, and will graduate with graduate certificates in gender & sexuality studies and in teaching from the Searle Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching. I am currently on the market, applying to posts in
ethnomusicology, performance studies, gender and sexuality studies, and interdisciplinary studies. It was the firm basis in literature, language, and, most of all, the discipline required to learn Greek that helped me to succeed in graduate school. Thanks, Classics at Oberlin!"

SAM GRACE ’05 writes: “I’m ABD for my PhD in anthropology as of May 2013 and now I’m living in Quito, Ecuador, where I’ll be doing my dissertation fieldwork for the next year. And I’m worried I won’t be able to get a copy of the newsletter because I live far away, which would be really sad because I love keeping track of everyone’s life there. Also, I’m with Tessa Shanks—I think we should all get together for a Sappho reading with Kirk (alternatively, can someone please talk him or someone into leading a get-together on Google Hangouts where people who are still up on their Greek can make the rest of us feel like we’re not as far out of the loop as we actually are?)”

SARAH KESSLER ’05 lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her husband, cat, and two bunnies and works as an office manager at an animal hospital on the Upper East Side. She writes: “I have been working there for the past 6.5 years as a receptionist and was promoted about six months ago. I’m moving up in the world! I recently celebrated my one-year wedding anniversary and am learning to play the guitar. I’ve been doing a ton of singing over the past year. I sing with an NYC-based early music and contemporary choir called Khorikos. We recently completed a tour of the Czech Republic and have performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. I also got to sing backup live on stage at the Beacon Theater for Goldfrapp and did a studio recording of backup vocals for My Brightest Diamond’s next album due out later this year.”

MAXWELL TEITEL PAULE ’06 writes: “I managed to get hired out of grad school as a visiting assistant professor at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., last year. I was then hired tenure-track there this year (WOOO!!). There was much rejoicing. My wife, SARA LINDNER PAULE ’06 and I bought a house, because the housing market is ridiculously cheap in the rust belt.”

CARLY DAVITA MACHADO ’06 writes: “I’m living in Brooklyn with a great community of fellow Obies and working as an administrator in the investments division of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I get to walk through the Greek and Roman collection every day on my way to work!”

ALLISON CHOAT ’07 writes: “I am still living in Boston, spending my days as a travel and event planner for a small business services company and my nights directing. The year 2013 was a big year. Our small theater company was nominated for multiple Elliot Norton Awards, which are sort of like Boston’s Tonys. Our next production is Company. You can see pictures and follow the shenanigans at www.moonboxproductions.org. The year also saw me revisiting voice lessons for the first time since graduating from the conservatory; to my delight, I’ve dropped registers down to mezzo, which means I can now live out my long-time dreams of belting at the top of my lungs while dressed as a 19-century pubescent boy. I am lucky enough to be in touch with many dear friends from Oberlin and the famous 2006 Classics Hall, including Lee Butler, …”
Elizabeth Arnold, Thomas Mayfield, Dan Rodriguez, Karen Frenchu, and Michael Berkowitz, all of whom reside in the Boston area. I visited my high-school Latin teacher over the Christmas holidays, along with married friends from my high school class, one of whom is now a middle-school Latin instructor himself, and their baby son. It was a wonderful gathering of many generations and declensions. Once the show is over I’m looking forward to spending more time with the classics—hopefully revisiting some Latin translation for fun, which I miss doing, and continuing my epic quest to read the entire Mahabharata (in English, not Sanskrit!) In 2014 I hope to keep directing, keep reading, and keep learning—hopefully including enrolling to earn my yoga teacher certification and bring a new postural awareness to the actors and athletes I work with daily in the Boston theater world. I miss Oberlin all the time and wish everyone the very best!”

DANNY KANE ’07 writes: “I’m still teaching Latin in Staten Island. I (and/or Latin, unimportant distinction) have/has made many students cry. Last year, we defended our championship in the New York City Dionysia with our adaptation of Euripides’ Bacchae. For the fourth year in a row, I’m taking students to Europe, this time France, Switzerland, and Germany. I’m retaking Greek at Hunter College due to some vague interest in pursuing a graduate degree, entirely for fun. Seriously, I was going through Classics withdrawal. Kirk, I wish I’d been a better student my freshman year at Oberlin—this Greek stuff would be a lot easier.”

ANNA LEINBERGER ’07, after a brief dive back into the world of academia in the UCLA classics department, is an editor in a non-fiction publishing house in San Francisco. She writes: “We publish books that change the world—no better place for an Obie! (Berrett-Koehler, www.bkconnection.com if you are curious!)” Classics has not altogether disappeared from her life though, as she recently joined the board of directors for the Metta Center for Nonviolence—“a nonprofit headed by Berkeley professor emeritus Michael Nagler, a Homerist and Gandhian scholar!”

THOMAS H. BUCK ’08 is in his second year of work in Greek history at the University at Buffalo and his 10th consecutive year of college, with no end in sight. He returned to Greece for the American School’s Summer Session ’13, where he won great victories in the stadia at Olympia and Nemea. He looks forward to seeing everyone at the next reunion.

PLOY KEENER ’09 writes: “Um, CHRIS MOTZ ’09 and I got married this past June. I guess that was a big deal. For our honeymoon, we visited a ton of Roman sites in southern France, including Glanum and the Pont du Gard. (If you’re really interested, you can read all about it on my blog: http://ployandchrishoneymoon.wordpress.com). Chris is in his second year of graduate school at the University of Cincinnati (pursuing classical archaeology). I am in my second year of full-time teaching at Walnut Hills High School, which just happens to be my alma mater. I am teaching all Latin I this year, which means I have five sections of about 30 students each, mostly 7th graders. It’s fantastic, and I love going to work (almost) every day. We’ve applied to go to the ASCSA program this summer, so
we’ll see if that happens. Hope you all are doing well and staying warm!! We’ve missed four days of school because of the weather already, and Chris has gone to about 5 classes total since the semester began. I’m fine with it, as long as we don’t have to start adding days in June. We’ll be up for our reunion this May, so hopefully we’ll get to say hi!”

*Editor’s note: Congrats to Ploy and Chris, who join a long line of Oberlin Classics marital unions, including Rob and Clara Shaw Hardy ’83, John Dillery and Sara Meyers ’83, and others!*

**JORDAN JANCSEK** (Class. Civ. ’11) writes: “I am living in Boston, pursuing a dual MA/LIS degree in history and archival management at Simmons College. I coach swimming part time at the Winsor school and work as a graduate student assistant in the Simmons Archives. On a more ‘classics’ note, I was able to travel to Rome this past summer for a class with school, and was able to impress everyone with my knowledge of Ancient Rome. I even saved everyone a guided tour and gave my own of the Forum, whoo hoo!”

---

**Manuscript, continued from page 5**

The codex manuscript is an excellent example of a handwritten work created after the advent of printing. It will facilitate comparison with early printed humanist texts and with older medieval handwriting. The fact that the manuscript consists of a mixture of paper and parchment is another characteristic that makes it an interesting artifact for Oberlin’s expanding books studies curriculum.

Soon after suffering damage during Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the codex was put up for auction, and a potential buyer indicated plans to cut up the manuscript. Dr. Scott Gwara, a professor of literature at the University of South Carolina and owner of King Alfred’s Notebook LLC, literally rescued the manuscript from the chopping block and had it restored and rebound by Etherington Conservation Services, based in North Carolina. The library was able to acquire the manuscript in part because of its commitment to keeping the codex intact.

While on review at Oberlin, the manuscript was examined by Frank T. Coulson, director of palaeography and professor of Medieval Latin at Ohio State University, who emphasized its potential for interdisciplinary teaching and research and its value for undergraduate learning, particularly highlighting the 15th-century marginal annotations.

---

**Winter Term, continued from page 6**

than they could have ever been from simply reading words on a page.

I felt the same way when we climbed the hill to the sanctuary at Delphi, when we sat on the benches in the amphitheater at Epidaurus, and when we drove past the Hot Gates where Leonidas and his men made their last stand. I suppose that somewhere in the back of my mind, I knew that these places existed, that they were more than proper nouns in a language I was learning. But my most precious souvenir from our winter-term trip to Greece was coming home knowing that I had stood where they had stood. I had been inches from the helmet of Miltiades, my shoes had been covered in the mud from the Olympic Stadium, and I had seen the home of Agamemnon with my own eyes. From the time we landed in Athens, to when we passed through Sparta and made our way to distant Macedonia, we had gone beyond the world of myth and legend into a place of things that are. No longer simply abstractions in history books, these ruins, these sites, this history now belonged in part to us and had become part of our story. And we, a group of college students from Ohio, had become a part of theirs.
Oberlin Alumni Travel Program

TOUR CLASSICAL GREECE: ATHENS, NAFPLION, DELPHI • OCTOBER 19-26, 2014

ESCORTED BY PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS KIRK ORMAND

Join other alumni for an exclusive Oberlin College tour to Greece with Professor of Classics Kirk Ormand, who spent the 2007-08 academic year in Athens, Greece, as the Elizabeth A. Whitehead Professor in the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. Journey from the ancient city of Athens and across the Peloponnese Peninsula through Spartan territory. Visit the prehistoric site of Mycenae, legendary home of Atreus and Agamemnon. Travel to Delphi, the center of the ancient world, and see the site of the most famous oracle in the ancient Mediterranean. Discover the treasures of Greek history in the world’s finest collections of Greek antiquities. Take a leisurely walking tour through Athens, the capital of Greece and birthplace of democracy and philosophy, and see the fabulous new Parthenon Museum. Enjoy the delicious fresh seafoods, delectable cheeses and local wines of Southern Greece. A brochure and details are available at the link below.

This tour is one of several international trips sponsored annually by the Oberlin Alumni Association. For more information, visit http://new.oberlin.edu/office/alumni/travel-tours/. Please consider traveling with fellow Obies!