A Note from the Editor

NATHAN A. GREENBERG PROFESSORSHIP IN CLASSICS

We are delighted to announce that Thomas Cooper, Latin minor '78, has endowed a professorship in Classics in honor of Nate Greenberg! It is impossible to express adequately our gratitude to Tom for his generosity. We do hope to see him and his wife Evon this fall at a dinner to celebrate both Tom's extraordinary gift and also the wonderful gift of Nate's presence here for over 40 years. Plans for exactly how the professorship will be filled are still tentative. Watch the department website (www.oberlin.edu/classics) for further developments.
New faculty
Kirk Ormand is on research leave for the academic year. Though we will miss him (once we have choked back envy), we are delighted to have been able to appoint Barbara Clayton (OC ’77) for the year. Barbara received her Ph.D from Stanford in 1999, and has recently published a book, *A Penelopean Poetics: Reweaving the Feminine in Homer's Odyssey* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004).

Jeremy Hartnett, who was a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in our department this past year, has accepted a tenure-track appointment at Wabash College, beginning fall, 2004. We will miss Jeremy, who was an excellent colleague in every way, and we wish him the very best of luck in his new position. Fortunately for us, we were able to appoint Kendra Eshleman, who received her Ph.D in Classics from the University of Michigan in June, to take up the second year of Jeremy's two-year appointment. Kendra is a specialist in Roman social history and early Christianity, and we are delighted to have her join us.

As usual, our friends have been generous in supporting the department, and we thank you all. And don't forget to visit!

Tom Van Nortwick

Students. Thirteen students graduated this spring with majors or minors in Classics:

**Classical Civilization:**
Rebecca Fulop
Benjamin Irish
Robin Lyon
Amanda Nelson

**Greek:**
Nathan Lemons
Sandra McNaught
Molly Samuel
Tessa Shanks

**Latin:**
Mark Banta
Mario Bruzzone

**Greek & Latin:**
Patrick Schwemmer

**Greek Minor:**
Rebecca Fulop

**Latin Minor:**
Eric Brandom
Eliza Rosenberg

Nathan Lemons will begin graduate study in mathematics in Budapest this fall. Sandy McNaught has been accepted into the Peace Corps, but had not yet heard, as of this May, where she would be working. Eliza Rosenberg plans to apply to graduate school in folklore for next year. Molly Samuel worked this past summer as an intern for a project aimed at recording the history of Jewish culture in the American south. She plans to go to Durham, NC, to study modern Greek this fall. Tessa Shanks is working as an editor for Random House in New York. Patrick Schwemmer is in Japan, where he will be teaching English.
We have not heard from the rest of our graduating majors exactly what they plan to do. We expect them to fill this information gap soon!

The **Frew Prize** went to Sandy McNaught and Tessa Shanks for their excellent work in Greek. The **Swearingen Prize** (for the student who shows the greatest aptitude for the future teaching of Latin at the secondary school level) was awarded to Elizabeth Ehrenhalt, a rising senior Latin major.

The **Matthew B. Smith Prize** was awarded to Jessie Tron, a rising senior major in Greek, to assist in the extra costs of study at the College Year in Athens during the fall semester of 2004, and two rising senior majors in Latin, Glenn Lacki, and Maxwell Teitel-Paule, to assist in the extra costs of study at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome during the fall semester of 2004. (This prize is made possible by friends and family of Mat Smith, a Latin major who died the week before he was to graduate in 1995.)

**Classics Department Alumni Prizes** were awarded to Rebecca Fulop a graduating Classical Civilization majors andGreek minor, Patrick Schwemmer a double major in Greek and Latin, for excellence in the study of Classics. **Book Prizes** for excellence in beginning language courses went to Shannon Andrews (Greek) and Michael Berkowitz (Latin). The **James Helm Research Award** went to Krishni Burns, a rising junior major in Classical Archaeology, to support her participation in an archaeological dig in Italy this summer.

And finally, we are pleased to announce a new prize, the **Gilbert Lawall Prize** in Greek. Gilbert Lawall graduated from Oberlin 1957 with a major in Latin. He went on to receive the Ph.D in Classics from Yale in 1961, and taught Classics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst until his retirement in 2002. He is well known for his articles on Greek and Latin literature, and for his role in the influential M.A.T. program in Latin at Umass. He has generously endowed a prize to be awarded to the rising senior who shows the most promise for teaching Greek on the secondary school level. The first recipient of the Lawall Prize is Arthur Jones, a rising senior major in Greek.

**Faculty.**

As I have said above, we are pleased to

![Barbara Clayton](image)

**Barbara Clayton**

![Kendra Eshelman](image)

**Kendra Eshelman**

welcome Barbara Clayton, Ph.D in Classics from Stanford University, who will
be with us for this academic year, replacing Kirk Ormand, and Kendra Eshleman, Ph.D in Classics from the University of Michigan, who will be serving as Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow for the academic year. Barbara is no stranger to Oberlin, having graduated in 1997 with a major in French and a minor in Greek. In spring 1996, she came to our rescue when Jim Helm had to fill in as Acting Dean of the College, taking over Jim's courses in mid-semester and doing a terrific job in a challenging situation. Kendra's interest in both Roman history and the early history of Christianity offers a unique perspective for our students.

Jeremy Hartnett, who received his Ph.D in Classical Archaeology from the University of Michigan in June, 2003, joined us for the year as a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow. He taught two courses, "Oiokos/Domus," which explored Greek and Roman Domestic Architecture as a source for social history, and "Roman Oddities," an innovative study of how Roman culture defined what is "odd," or "strange," how this compares to our own contemporary ideas, and what this tells us about the societies. Both courses attracted large and committed groups of students, who produced some fascinating research projects. As I mentioned above, Jeremy will be leaving us to join the faculty at Wabash. We will miss him.

Ben Lee, who taught here in 2002-03 as acting assistant professor of Classics, moved this past year into a tenure-track position as assistant professor of Classics. Once again, Ben made a major contribution to our program, teaching five courses with great success, pitching in to help with guest speakers, including the Martin Lecturer, and interacting informally with students. His commentary on Apuleius' *Florida* will be published in summer, 2004 by the prestigious DeGruyter monograph series. He gave a paper at a conference at Princeton University this April, on subjectivity in the work of Tibullus. He has begun work on a book addressing the representation of subjectivity in Latin poetry. He and his wife Melanie are expecting their second child in September. His excellent work this year makes us glad that he has joined us in a permanent capacity.

Kirk Ormand had another excellent year, teaching an overload, six courses to rave reviews. Kirk's new course, Classics 219, "Sexuality in Ancient Greece and Rome," (fall, 2003) deserves special notice here. He volunteered to teach it as an overload, in part because students who had taken other courses from him and knew of his special expertise in gender studies pestered him about it for two years. He decided to pitch the course above the introductory level, and established some prerequisites, with enrollment by consent of instructor. This was the first time we had been able to offer a class aimed primarily at majors in our Classical Civilization curriculum. The
number of majors in Classics has risen dramatically in the last 5-6 years, and is now two-three times what it was in the early 90's. These students need some opportunity to study Classical Civilization beyond the introductory level, and the response to Kirk's class was overwhelmingly positive, causing us to institute another course at that level next year. He also served as on the honors committee of Eliza Rosenberg, whose project in Religion was "Demonic Possession of Children in Early Christian Texts." His scholarship continued at a brisk pace, with one article published in Theater Journal, a chapter forthcoming in a collection to be published by Johns Hopkins University Press, and an article accepted for publication in The American Journal of Philology. He has two more articles in preparation now, plus a book on the Hesiodic Catalog of Women. Kirk continues to make significant and highly visible contributions to the profession. He was recently appointed for a three-year term to the American Philological Association's Committee on the Status of Women and Minorities. This year, he is serving as chair of that important committee, and will be running the CSWMG annual survey of the American Philological Association's Placement Service. In addition, Kirk serves as Oberlin's representative on the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and has regularly refereed books and articles for presses and scholarly journals in our profession, another sign of his excellent reputation as a scholar.

Tom Van Nortwick taught six courses, and enjoyed them all. He had an especially lively and motivated group of first- and second-year students in his language courses, as well as the two Classical civilization courses he taught. In the spring, he taught Horace's Odes in advanced Latin to 14 enthusiastic and intelligent students. He had not taught Horace since his first year at Oberlin, and was delighted to rediscover the poetry with such a large and accomplished group of students. He chose the Odes because this year's Martin Classical Lecturer, Michael Putnam, was speaking on intertextuality in the poems of Catullus and Horace. Since Kirk Ormand taught 15 students Catullus in intermediate Latin at the same time, the department had almost 30 well-prepared, inquisitive cadres ready for the lectures. Michael taught a session of each of these classes during his week here, a major event of students and faculty. Tom's research continued at a steady pace. He was asked to submit a prospectus to Praeger Publishers for a book on ancient masculinity, to be part of a series on the ancient world. An article, "Alternate Worlds in Homeric Epic," will appear next year in the journal Classical World, and an essay, "Achilles at Work," will be coming out in north Dakota Quarterly next year. He continues to enjoy having such terrific young colleagues.

Jim Helm has been enjoying retirement, though he has not appeared to spend much time in the easy chair as of yet. His article, "Aeschylus' Genealogy of Morals," appeared this past spring in The Transactions of the American Philological Association, vol. 134.1. He and Anne have done lots of traveling, and he continues to work on fundraising in this country for Lady Doak College in Madurai, India.

Nate Greenberg continues happily in his retirement, enjoying his grandchildren and spreading wisdom all around. The big news of late is, of course, the Nathan A. Greenberg Professorship. This is not the place to give an adequate account of the great work to which the professorship pays tribute, but suffice it to say that no one deserves the honor more than Nate. Eva continues her work as the Supervisor of Reference at the Oberlin Public Library. Both Nate and Eva would love to hear from alumni.
Speakers
This year the department had an especially busy and rich schedule of visiting speakers, in addition to the Martin Lecturer: On September 22, 2003, Professor Denise McCoskey, Associate Professor of Classics at Miami University of Ohio, delivered a public lecture entitled "Cynthia and the Geography of Empire in the Poems of Propertius." On October 28, 2003, Karen Johnson, Ph.D candidate in Classical Archaeology at the University of Michigan, delivered a lecture entitled "Transforming Childhood: Harpokrates and the Child-god in Roman Egypt." On November 10, 2003, Mary F. Brown, a graduate student in the Ph.D program in Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley and the winner of the John J. Winkler Prize for the best essay on a risky topic in Classics, delivered a lecture entitled "Medusa's Eyes: Gender, Subjectivity, and Ekphrasis in Ovid's Metamorphoses." On March 18, 2004, the Classics Department joined with Comparative Literature, English, Hispanic Studies, and French & Italian, to sponsor a "Leading Edge" lecture by Jean-Michel Rabaté, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, entitled "Theory: Future, Ancient, Fugitive." On April 26, 2004, Carole Newlands, Professor of Classics at the University of Wisconsin, delivered a lecture entitled, "The Amphitheatre and the Face of Power: or, Lionizing the Emperor."

Annual Bardic Reading
On Sunday, February 15, 2004, the Classics Department sponsored the annual all-night bardic reading, this year featuring Homer's Iliad. Over 40 students, faculty, and townspeople participated in the reading, which began at noon in Rice Faculty Lounge, and ended at approximately 4:30 am. A full pictorial record of this epic-making event can be found on the department website.

Martin Classical Lectures.
The 2004 Martin Lectures, entitled “Poetic Interplay: Catullus and Horace,” were delivered on March 8-12, 2003 by Michael C.J. Putnam, W. Duncan MacMillan II Professor of Classics at Brown University.

The individual lectures were:

Time and Place
March 8 at 8:00 pm

Speech and Silence
March 9 at 8:00 pm

Helen
March 11 at 8:00 pm

Virgil
March 12 at 4:30 pm
The 2003-2004
MARTIN CLASSICAL LECTURES
February 28-March 4, 2005
Leslie Kurke
Professor of Classics & Comparative Literature
University of California at Berkeley

Titles of series and of lectures yet to be finalized

Alumni Classicists Activities.

Donors. The Classics Department is most grateful for the generous contributions made by the following alumni this past year:

Tom Cooper (Latin minor ’78)
Diane Drew (Class.Civ.’72)
Amy Gelber (Latin ’83)
Susan Gelman (Greek ’80)
Paul Harvey (Latin ’67)
Jenny Joseph (Cl. Arch. ’82)
Gilbert Lawall (Greek ’57)
Aaron Levin (Hist. ’68)
Joan Maxmin (Archeology ’71)
Douglas Quinby (Class. Civ. ’94)
Kate Rousmaniere (Class. Civ. ’80)
Frank & Ruth (Geyer) Shaw (Greek ’75)
Margaret Spencer (Latin ’81)
Ted Tarkow (Latin ’66)
Kathryn and Michael Thompson
(parents of Becky Thompson, Latin ’03)
Robert Thompson (History ’59)
Jill Zimmerman (Latin ’95)

Thank you all for your steady and generous support. It’s wonderful to have such loyal friends.

Alum News. Here’s what we’ve heard from you since the last newsletter. It’s always a pleasure to know what you’ve been doing, so please, if you haven’t been in touch for awhile, let us hear from you, by e-mail, snail mail, phone, private messenger, or, best of all, come see us.

Nell Wright (Greek & Class. Civ. ’79) sent this update: "After a hellish (and probably final) year teaching high-school Latin, I'm writing fiction. My first Classics-related story came out in August in "Cricket." They are considering another one, about a fictional stow-away to Troy. Don't be too hard on me about the translation—for kids you have to skip details and get the gist across. (Ed.: we thought the translations were excellent) My twokids, Emily (15) and Phoebe (9), play a lot of music, often with Victor and me. We all dance a lot. I dream of coming to the 25th reunion of my '79 class, but Emily's Morris team will be performing in England, and I'll probably have to chaperone. (Ed. She did indeed come to the reunion, and we were delighted to see her.) Here's a picture of the kids, from last winter.

Emily and Phoebe Troll (Nell Wright’s kids)

Tom Van Nortwick had a quick visit with John Dillery (Greek ’83) in Charlottesville last March. Both John and Sara Myers (Latin ’83) are doing well at UVa. Their children, Peter, 8, and Nikolas, 14 months, are thriving. We saw Rob and Clara Hardy (Latin ’86 & Latin ’83) a couple of times throughout the year. Sadly, the last visit was for a memorial service for Clara’s father, John Shaw, who passed away this summer. John and his wife, Julie, had been living at Kendal for the past few years. On that occasion, we also saw Ruth (Geyer) Shaw (Greek ’75) and Frank Shaw. John and Julie
audited Tom Van Nortwick's epic class this past fall, and it was a delight to have them there. We will miss John.

Deborah Fryer (Latin '84) continues her work as a producer of independent documentary films. In July, she sent us a description of her latest project: I am currently working on my first independent feature film, a documentary about healing and wellness, a medical breakthrough, a search for a cure, and the power of the human spirit to live fully in the face of enormous challenges. NO FEAR: Attitude for Life is a film about Richard Lurie, a brilliant (Wharton business degree), athletic (tournament tennis player), handsome (Robert de Niro lookalike) man diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at age 26. Despite his attempts to stave off the inevitable progression of the neurological disease through alternative treatments, such as meditation, kinesiology and acupuncture, and prescription drugs, by the time he was 35, Richard had no quality of life. His constant, uncontrollable shaking made him unable to walk, write, brush his teeth, or even sleep. His only recourse was a radical type of neurosurgery called Deep Brain Stimulation, which Richard describes as "scientists from The Far Side looking for bad cells." During the 15-hour procedure, Richard lay awake on the operating table as doctors implanted electrodes into his brain and pacemakers just below his collarbones. The electrical stimulation from the pacemakers miraculously blocked the tremors cold and gave Richard his life back. We salute Deborah for her important work, and wish she'd come visit us soon.

John Congdon (Greek '90) sent us a welcome update in March: I was just browsing the OC website and thought I'd drop you a line. I hope everything is well with you and that the Oberlin spring isn't too muddy this year. My wife Lisa Whitfield (Conservatory 1990) & I will celebrate our son Iain's first birthday this Friday; his older sister Imani (OC 2020) is thrilled. It may just have been babbling, but I swear I heard him say "ablative absolute" the other day. I just (three months ago, +/-) started working in the Advancement Office of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, which I am finding quite enjoyable.

It's always great to get the Classics newsletter, even if I am remiss in not sending my own updates.

Bronwen Wickkiser (Latin '91) is beginning her second year teaching Classics at Gustavus Adolphus. In May she sent the following welcome update: I was just chatting with Scott Newstrom as we wind up our first year here at Gustavus. 'Halcyon days' is how he described his time at Oberlin. We're both still adjusting to things-Gustavus. Greetings to the department for me. Just today I got my TAPA with Jim's article on Aeschylus. I look forward to reading it as soon as finals are over."

We are also delighted that Bronwen will be coming here to give a guest lecture on November 11!

Molly Pasco-Pranger (Latin '92) is in her third year in the Classics Department at Wesleyan University, and doing well. The big news from her is the arrival of Asa James Pasco-Pranger, born 6/19/04 at 7:05 p.m.-- 8 lb 4 oz. then and already 14 lbs. now! Tom and Mary Van Nortwick will be seeing the whole family in late September, when Tom gives a guest lecture at Wesleyan.

Asa James Pasco-Pranger!
Stacey Carter and two of her award-winning students

John Cotts (Latin '94) is starting a tenure-track appointment in History at Whitman College in Washington state. He came through Oberlin in May for his reunion, and we had a chance for a good talk. His book is forthcoming, and he is looking forward to beginning this new phase of his career. (For those not current on their Washington geography, Whitman is in the middle of wine-growing country—time for a visit!

Matt Duvall (Cl. Civ. '94) performed as part of Oberlin's Artist Recital series with their ensemble, eighth blackbird, on April 10, 2004. The reviews were stellar!

Ellen Craig (Latin '95) continues as Associate Principal Violist of the Toledo Symphony, and violist of the Odyssey String Quartet. She joined Tom and Mary at the Stratford Theater Festival this summer, for dinner and a play. She is currently spending many hours working for Kerry-Edwards.

Nancy Weissmann Galler (Cl.Civ.'95) continues to teach history in southern California. We saw her and her husband, Bruce Galler, at her reunion last May. They are expecting their first child soon.

Antonio Trujillo (Latin '98) sent us a long-overdue but very welcome update: "How goes it in Obie-land? I would have written back to you yesterday but it was a miserable 70 degrees and sunny and I just could not bear to sit in front of my computer. I guess you are wondering what I've been up to since leaving you all. Basically it's been a little of this and a little of that. Nothing related to my chosen fields of study, but them's the breaks. I've become an uncle three times over. I had a wonderful opportunity to raise my niece, which I took advantage of. Best three years I've had. Just started a new job with CTB-McGraw Hill as a test evaluator. Our current project is grading the high school exit exams for the state of New Mexico. Kind of gives me a real sense of power knowing that I, with my #2 pencil, control the future of some hapless high school kid. Bwa ha ha! *ahem* But I digress. On another note, as it were, I am also an amateur musician. Soon after graduation, I joined two local community bands, the Watsonville Adult Community Band, as a trumpet player, and the Pacific Brass Band, as a cornet player. I have been a featured soloist with both groups in the past year. Anyways, that about covers it." We hope that now that he's warmed-up, Antonio will write again soon.

Stacey Carter (Class. Civ. '99) sent us an excellent update in July, describing the success of her students in the Model UN project for the second straight year: "I work at an alternative school for kids with behavioral and emotional issues as well as those who are classified special education/learning disabled... so I have my hands FULL on a regular basis... most of these kids have been told that they would never amount to anything, been kicked out of schools... been given up on. Model UN is a worldwide program where students prepare for a full year to simulate the workings of the United Nations as delegates in two days. They have to research countries, topics, and learn protocol and etiquette in order to participate. The most prestigious schools in the city, and country participate, as well as schools from all over the world. This is the second year that my kids have participated. More than 2000 students participated this year, and awards were given to 45. My students got TWO. We were also awarded one the first year we participated... And these are kids that the system has given up on! As you can tell, I love these kids... and they are just as capable as the ones in the frissy froo froo schools with money. In a lot of ways better! Cause we beat them out! We got recognized! :)" We look forward to seeing her here in Oberlin in September.

Rebecca Geshowitz (Class. Civ. '99) wrote to say that she will soon be starting work toward a degree in Physical therapy. The editor is delighted to hear this, and hopes she will give him the friends' rate...
Anne Grenon (Class. Civ. '99) will begin graduate work in Library Science at Syracuse University this fall. She sent along new contact info: "1414 Hawley Avenue Syracuse, NY 13203. After July 30th, all email should go to my permanent address: anne_grenon@yahoo.com

I'll let everyone know my new phone number when I switch over my cell to NY. Until then it will stay as: (802)318-1539."

Stefan Kamola (Greek & Latin '01) came through Oberlin this past fall, and stopped to visit. He will be starting the MA program in Central Asian studies at the University of Washington this fall. He will be in Denny Hall, where the Classics Department is also located, so, as he puts it, "there should be no shortage of good conversation."

Nick Potkalitsky (Greek & Latin '01) sent us the following news in the spring: I am applying to John Carroll University's school-based M.Ed./licensure program (in Cleveland). 12 months. 3 months in the summer, all the course work. Then a full nine months in a local school teaching, yes, Latin. I think this is a really good fit for me. One full of possibilities. As you might know, my real loves are of a more mystical variety: meditation and prayer, drone-based music, ceramics." He was working out some details of his program when we last spoke, but will begin work this fall.

Tico Wolff (Greek '01) will be starting graduate work in Archaeology at Boston University this fall. He has been working since graduation on various digs, some of them academic, some commercial.

Sarah Miller (Class. Civ. '02) stopped by last fall, when she was making a presentation here for students interested in "Teach for America." She has been teaching in rural Mississippi, and says that she has loved the experience, but is unsure about whether she'll stay past this year.

Nima Shirazi (Cl. Civ. '02) wrote to ask if we'd seen the movie "Troy" yet. Tom and Mary subsequently saw it, and had to deliver a "thumbs-down", though Mary did think Brad Pitt looked good in greaves. No review yet from Nima, nor any word about whether he in fact went to Athens for the Olympics, as he hoped to do. Stay tuned.

Sean Harrigan (Greek '03) wrote in March to say that he will spend a second year at the post-bac program in Classics at Penn, and then apply to Ph.D programs in Classics for 2005.

Rebecca Thompson (Latin '03) sent an excellently newsy letter in May. She had a fine year teaching Latin. The Riverside School, Lyndonville VT, where she teaches, has 34 students (4th-8th grades), and they all take Latin! "I never thought I'd have to explain the genitive case to a fourth-grader." None of us were surprised to hear that her students swept the competition at the annual Latin Day held at the University of Vermont, winning the coveted "Silver Bowl." She says she will definitely stay at least one more year, and that she has been having "grammar fights" with the English teacher at Riverside. This editor, at least, would never be so foolish as to engage Becky in such a fight.

Mikka Tokuda-Hall (Greek '03) sent us news in May: "I miss Oberlin lot, as always, and think of it often. Things in Philadelphia are great - I'm still working at my Office-Space-esque temp job at Blue Cross, where I transcribe appeals meetings and write lots of "no, they won't pay for that" letters, and also manage to surreptitiously read a lot, write e-mails, etc, so I can't complain, especially since the people are really nice. Other than that, I'm taking photography and jewelry making classes at the neighborhood art studio and hanging out with Sean's post-bac classmates when I can, so it's been a pretty fun year."
CLASSICS ALUMNI QUESTIONNAIRE

[Fall 2004]

If you haven’t yet responded to our plea for information about what you have been doing since you left Oberlin, please tell us about yourself (further schooling, career developments, family details, news of other Oberlin Classics graduates and reflections on your Oberlin education, etc.) Include your photo for our photograph album.

Please correct your Name and Mailing Address below and return to the Editor:
   Thomas Van Nortwick, Department of Classics, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074
   Many thanks!

Check, if applicable: [ ] Please don’t forward this news to the Alumni Magazine.

E-Mail address: ________________________________________________________________

My news is (feel free to attach another sheet):