Notabilia

• Congratulations to senior Emrys Bell-Schlatter ’09 on his selection as the 2008/09 Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen Scholar. Emrys, a Classical Studies major pursuing the Classics track, is analyzing "The Imagery of Vision in Aeschylus' Oresteia" in his senior thesis. He will attend Harvard University this fall as a doctoral candidate in Classics. The scholarship is named for Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen, who developed the Brandeis Fine Arts Slide Library from 1961-1992, has generously funded not only this yearly need-based scholarship, but also our annual Commencement prizes in Classical Literature and in Classical Art & Archaeology, and our annual fellowship program.

• Because this issue is out a few weeks later than usual, we are able to pass on some late breaking news about several upcoming or recent Classical Studies majors who will be continuing on to graduate school: Emrys Bell-Schlatter ’09 (Ph.D. in Classics at Harvard University); Josh Nudell ’08 (Ph.D. in Ancient History at the University of Missouri); Nate Ralston ’07 (M.A. in Classics at CUNY); Alex Smith ’09 (Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology at the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University); Ted Tibbitts ’09 (M.A. in Classical Archaeology at the University of Buffalo). Congratulations all!

• Congratulations to Christopher Farrell ’07, who has received his M.A. (with distinction) from King's College, London. His master's thesis was on the Eleusinian Mysteries. Chris will begin work this fall toward his M.Phil/Ph.D. in Classics at King's. He tells us that he is now nicely ensconced in a new flat in Camden, not far from the Institute of Classical Studies and the college itself. Well done, Chris!

• The 2009/10 CLARC Classical Interns competition yielded a host of applications and three new selections: Laurence Aimée Birnbaum ’10, Blake Kasan ’11, and Jessica Schaengold ’11. They will be joined by CLARC undergraduate supervisory assistant Sarah Costrell ’10, who is completing her internship this year. See our webpage for more information on working with classical artifacts in this exciting yearlong program: CLARC.
• We were delighted to see our own Professor Cheryl L. Walker featured in an article in The Brandeis Hoot last fall. Written by Naomi T. Barth, the article examined the so-called "dead" languages taught at Brandeis, including our own ancient Greek. After citing other reasons one might study the language -- from the ability to read many texts that are still not translated into English to demonstrably higher GRE scores -- Walker switched gears to another less mentioned reason: "People have used Latin and Greek as a basis of liberal arts education for approximately 2000 years, so I think it has staying power. Frankly I think there's something cool about knowing you're in a long tradition like that." Very cool indeed. The full article can be accessed here: http://thehoot.net/articles/4474.

A Classical Studies Undergraduate Departmental Representative Event: Fall 2008
Dr. Catherine Steel: Studying Greco-Roman Antiquity Abroad at the University of Glasgow

Each year the Classical Studies Undergraduate Departmental Representatives (UDRs) develop, sponsor, and host an event for students. Previous such information sessions have included graduate school panels, summer archaeological digs, and study abroad programs like the one held on September 18, 2008. The Department was fortunate to have Dr. Catherine Steel, professor of Classical Studies from the University of Glasgow, present the Glasgow Study Abroad Program. Professor Steel’s main body of research includes the writings of Cicero in the late Republican Period in two of her recent books, Roman Oration: New Surveys in the Classics and Reading Cicero: Genre and Performance in Late Republican Rome.

Before explaining their Classics program, Professor Steel placed the University of Glasgow and the city of Glasgow in perspective. With low costs and 500+ years of higher education, the school is internationally recognized for its high quality of teaching and research. The city of Glasgow itself is an affordable Victorian-style city with an affinity for culture and history much like our own Boston. Unlike our New England city, however, Glasgow boasts moderate temperatures and long summer days. It is a mere 4 hours to London by rail, with a direct airplane flight of 1-2 hours. The campus is half a mile from the city, which is a 10-minute ride by underground. Founded in 1451, the University of Glasgow is the fourth oldest university in the United Kingdom. There are approximately 20,000 students enrolled with 8,800 university faculty and staff. Ranked in the top 100 universities in the world, the University of Glasgow is a member of Universitas 21 and the United Kingdom’s Russell Group.

As a visiting Classics major, Professor Steel advises that one should expect to take a placement test for languages, for which the university has a full program in both Latin and Ancient Greek. There are eight faculty members in the Classical Studies Department, all of whom focus on different aspects of ancient history. The university opens all of its courses to visiting students, which are comparable in class size to those at Brandeis (including the intimate foreign language classes). There are also student advisers specifically trained to help international students. Although the university has guaranteed housing, living off campus is a viable option, which many students choose.

-- Dianne Ma '09 is a senior majoring in Classical Studies (Classical Art and Archaeology track). A Classical Studies UDR, she is writing her senior thesis on "The Thematic Progression of Ovid’s Metamorphoses."

Spring 2009 Events

Thursday, March 5, 2009, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
The Classical Studies Colloquium Series
Marcus Folch, Assistant Professor of Classical Studies
University of Richmond
"Body and Soul Enchained: Inventing the Prison in Democratic Athens"
Location: Olin-Sang 104

Thursday, March 12, 2009, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Meet the Majors in Classical Studies
Classical Studies Faculty and Undergraduate Departmental Representatives
Location: Olin-Sang 104

Thursday, March 26, 2009, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
The Martin Weiner Lecture Series (Spring 2009)
Frank Sean
The Center for Classics and Archaeology, University of Melbourne
"Interior Design: The Excavation of Roman Theaters"
Location: Lown 2, with reception to follow

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 2:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
"IN NAMING YOU I NAME MYSELF": WORDS, WRATH, AND RETRIBUTION IN EURIPIDES' HECUBA
This symposium was made possible by a generous contribution from Jennifer Eastman '68.

- **Event I**: The Jennifer Eastman Lecture Series, 2:00 p.m.
  "What's Hecuba to him...?" The Dangerous Grief of Euripides' Hecuba
  Helene Foley, Professor of Classics and Ancient Studies
  Barnard College
  Discussion to follow.
  Location: Levine-Ross 1/2

- **Event II**: The Classical Studies Colloquium Series, 3:10 p.m.
  "Euripides' Hecuba: The Limits of Sympathy, Past and Present"
  Eirene Visvardi, Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Ancient Greek Theater
  Brandeis University
  Discussion to follow.
  Location: Levine-Ross 1/2

- **Event III**: The Classical Studies Colloquium Series, 4:10 p.m.
  A Demonstration of Dramatic Method in Ancient Greek Theater
  Eric H. Hill, Sherman Professor of Theater Arts, with actors from the April 2009 Brandeis production of Euripides' Hecuba
  Brandeis University
  Location: Levine-Ross 1/2

- **Event IV**: The Classical Studies Colloquium Series, 5:10 p.m.
  Round Table Discussion with the Audience
  Participants: Professors Helene Foley, Eric H. Hill, Eirene Visvardi, and Leonard C. Muellner (Classical Studies)
  Brandeis University
  Location: Levine-Ross 1/2

- **Event V**: A Brandeis Department of Theater Arts Production at the Mainstage Theater, 8:00 p.m.
  Euripides' Hecuba
  Directed and adapted for the stage by Eric H. Hill, Sherman Chair of the Department of Theater Arts
  Translated from the Ancient Greek by Professors Leonard Muellner and Eirene Visvardi, with the Fall Term 2008 students of GRK 115b
  Location: Mainstage Theatre. See [http://www.brandeis.edu/btc/tickets.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/btc/tickets.html) for ticket information

Monday, April 6, 2009, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
The Classical Studies Colloquium Series
The Class of 2009 Seniors
Senior Thesis Presentations

- **Emrys Bell-Schlatter '09**
  "The Imagery of Vision in Aeschylus' Oresteia"

- **Caitlin D. Dichter '09**
  "The Artistic Effect of Pompeii on French Neoclassical Decorative Arts"

- **Dianne J. Ma '09**
  "The Thematic Progression of Ovid's Metamorphoses in Relation to Human Development"

- **Alexander J. Smith '09**
  "Mussolini's Past: The Social and Political Implications of Archaeology in Fascist Italy"

- **Theodore Tibbitts '09**
On Thursday, September 25, 2008, Dr. Christine Kondoleon, the George D. & Margo Behrakis Curator of Greek and Roman Art of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, delivered the fall Martin Weiner Lecture to a large audience of Classical and Museum studies enthusiasts from the Brandeis community and the Boston area at large.

Introduced by Department Chair Professor Ann Koloski-Ostrow, Dr. Kondoleon began her lecture by commenting on proper museum management, the illegal antiquities market, and international collaboration. Having direct experience as the MFA's Curator of Greek and Roman Art, Dr. Kondoleon had much to say about these hotly contested and deeply political topics. Dr. Kondoleon discussed the importance of international cooperation to quell the growing threat of looting and the illicit trade of antiquities. The Greek and Roman Art Department of the Museum of Fine Arts has been deeply invested in an open and honest dialogue with source nations, transferring 13 objects of suspected illegal acquisition back to Italian authorities in 2001. The MFA is proud of its partnership with the Italian government in what both parties consider a respectable solution to cultural restitution and the fight against the practice of illegal acquisition by American museums, she said. In response, the Italian government allowed a long-term loan of a large Roman statue depicting the goddess of peace as a symbolic statement of respect for the MFA's work and a showpiece to occupy the empty space left from the repatriated antiquities.

The MFA has become a leader of American in the reevaluation of documentation in search of illegally acquired or unprovenanced antiquities. As Dr. Kondoleon states, there is always the goal of acquiring new showpieces in such famous museums as the MFA or the Metropolitan in New York. Increasingly, however, there has been more pressure on American museums to research the documentation of potential purchases in order to avoid international criticism and the perpetuation of looting and illegally acquired antiquities. This pressure has inflated the prices of properly documented artifacts, with the intentions of deflating the value those pieces that have no history, nor any solid claim to legality in the United States. Dr. Kondoleon used the recent acquisition of a large Roman relief purchased in 2002, as a success story for proper analysis of documentation and an ethically sound investment.

Dr. Kondoleon continued her lecture by discussing the underlying purpose of a Classical collection in any museum. She believes a collection like the MFA's is meant to bring together archaeology and art history in order to present to the public a glimpse into the ancient and broadly influential cultures of the Greek and Roman worlds. She then outlined the history of the MFA in the Boston area and the longstanding tradition the museum holds in exposing the population to Classical cultures. Finally, she described the plans and goals of the current renovation to the museum's Classical wing, which will gradually open over the next few years. A short reception followed, in which students and faculty engaged in lively conversation with Dr. Kondoleon, enjoying snacks, beverages, and the congenial company.

-- Alexander J. Smith '09, a Classical Studies UDR, is double majoring in Classical Studies (Classical Archaeology and Ancient History track) and Anthropology. He will be attending Brown University this fall to work on his doctorate in Classics.

The Jennifer Eastman Lecture: Fall 2008
Professor John Bodel on Death Loves Company: Collective Burial in Pagan & Early Christian Rome
On November 13, 2008, John Bodel, Professor of Classics and History at Brown University, delivered the Fall 2008 Jennifer Eastman Lecture, "Death Loves Company: Collective Burial in Pagan & Early Christian Rome." Professor Bodel discussed the various ways in which the Ancient Romans buried their dead and what effect the conversion to Christianity had in the methods of burial. He said that Romans initially practiced both cremation and inhumation. By 50 BCE, those cremated were buried in columbia for a collective burial. Columbia were closed buildings containing niches for ash urns. Each urn was placed in a niche, sometimes alone and sometimes mixed with others, and the niche could be decorated or supplied with a shelf on which to place funerary offerings. A columbarium may hold only a single family’s ash urns or it may serve so-called “corporate groups” which could contain over 200 separate urns. The columbia separated the dead from the outside world and joined them either by familial or patron-client bonds though niches of family members were often spread far apart.

Romans could also be buried in catacombs. These were underground chambers that served only for inhumation burials. Originally consisting of only single chambers for close family, the catacombs evolved into long, complex, linked chambers that contained hundreds of burials of people not necessarily family. Professor Bodel noted that the catacombs were designed to hold as many inhumations as possible. The catacombs had an otherworldly feel and were often painted with symbolic images regarding death and the afterlife. There was no plan in catacomb construction and new chambers and rooms could be added at will. People were not really grouped by family though small children would often be buried with their parents. Wealthy Romans could sometimes build cubicula, small rooms off the main passageways where they could be buried along with their families.

Professor Bodel looked at such burial practices to determine what effect, if any, the spread of Christianity had on them. He found that there were compelling aspects of early Christian belief that could account for the rise in popularity of the catacombs. For example, the early Christians honored their dead communally and he believes that the catacombs served not as markers for a biological family, but for a spiritual family of Christians. The catacombs may even have been viewed as "way stations" on the road to salvation. In addition, the communal and "other-worldly" aspects of the catacombs lent itself to Christianity, especially in terms of its universal message of brotherhood. Despite this evidence of a Christian drive behind the catacombs, Professor Bodel does not think Christianity had much effect. Rather, it was the natural result of a greater trend that began around 100 CE when Romans began to move away from cremation and towards exclusive inhumation. The population of Rome had grown to over a million people and both columbia and catacombs proliferated. As cremation went out of fashion, space for burial was in even higher demand and the catacombs helped solve that problem.

Through his description of Roman burial practices, Professor Bodel showed how Romans shifted from cremation burials in columbia to inhumation in large, underground catacombs. Such changes may be somewhat connected with the spread of early Christianity and its emphasis on community and salvation but, as Professor Bodel made clear, such a shift towards inhumation and catacomb burial was most probably related to greater trends that changed this important aspect of Roman society.

-- Lee Marmor ’10, a Classical Studies UDR and CLARC intern, won an Undergraduate Research Program grant this spring. A junior, he is majoring in Classical Studies (Classical Archaeology and Ancient History track).

The Spring 2009 Classical Film Series

The spring Classical Studies Film Series began at the end of January with the continuation of the first season of HBO’s Rome. Even if you missed this continuing feature, we hope you have a chance to join us in medius res. Also cued up this term: Oliver Stone’s Alexander and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. All are welcome. Come early to join in our pizza party!

**Wednesday, January 28, 2009,** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
The Classical Studies Film Series
HBO's Rome, Season 1 (2005): Episodes 7 and 8
Kevin McKidd, Ray Stevenson, Indira Varma, Ciarán Hinds, James Purefoy, Kenneth Cranham, Kerry Condon, Polly Walker, Max Pirkis, Lindsay Duncan, Tobias Menzies
Location: Shiffman 219

**Wednesday, February 11, 2009,** 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
The Classical Studies Film Series
Oliver Stone's Alexander (theatrical release, 2004)
Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer, Anthony Hopkins, David Bedella, Jessie Kamm, Jared Leto, Rosario Dawson, Christopher Plummer
Location: Shiffman 219

**Wednesday, February 25, 2009,** 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
The Classical Studies Film Series

file:///Users/jbarry/Desktop/Classics%20Website/web-content/Temp$$.html
HBO's *Rome*, Season 1 (2005): Episodes 9 and 10  
Kevin McKidd, Ray Stevenson, Indira Varma, Ciarán Hinds, James Purefoy, Kenneth Cranham, Kerry Condon, Polly Walker, Max Pirkis, Lindsay Duncan, Tobias Menzies  
Location: Shiffman 219

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009**, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
The Classical Studies Film Series  
*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1966)  
Zero Mostel, Phil Silvers, Jack Gilford, Buster Keaton, Michael Crawford, Michael Hordern  
Location: Shiffman 219

**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
The Classical Studies Film Series  
HBO's *Rome*, Season 1 (2005): Episodes 11 and 12  
Kevin McKidd, Ray Stevenson, Indira Varma, Ciarán Hinds, James Purefoy, Kenneth Cranham, Kerry Condon, Polly Walker, Max Pirkis, Lindsay Duncan, Tobias Menzies  
Location: Shiffman 219

**Photo Gallery: Fall 2008 Lectures and Other Gatherings**

Our fall 2008 events included speakers in the Weiner and Eastman Lectureships, at which the following photographs were taken.

**THE FALL 2008 MARTIN WEINER LECTURE**

The annual fall Martin Weiner Lecture was given by Dr. Christine Kondoleon, Behrakis Curator of Greek and Roman Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Faculty, guests, and students mingled at the reception.

Row One (above, from left to right): Scenes from the Martin Weiner Lecture Reception in September. (1) Dr. Kondoleon with Fine Arts Professor Charles McClendon; (2) Professor Bernadette Brooten of NEJS and Dr. Kondoleon.
THE FALL 2008 JENNIFER EASTMAN LECTURE

Students, faculty, and other classicists attended the annual Fall 2008 Jennifer Eastman Lecture, delivered by Dr. John Bodel, Professor of Classics and History at Brown University.
Row Two (above, from left to right): (4) Lee Marmor ’10 and Alex Smith ’09 with Professor Bodel; (5) Graduate Certificate candidate Claudia Filos ’94 and Brett Dorn await the lecture; and (6) Professor Bodel with the Classical Studies UDRs (Lee Marmor ’10, Alex Smith ’09, and Dianne Ma ’09) and Classical Studies chair Ann Olga Koloski–Ostrow.

Row 3 (above, from left to right): (7) The Classical Studies UDRs (Lee Marmor ’10, Alex Smith ’09, and Dianne Ma ’09) with Classical Studies chair Ann Olga Koloski–Ostrow; (8) Classical Studies Professors Cheryl Walker and Leonard C. Muellner await the lecture; (9) Lee Marmor confers with Professor Steven Ostrow (MIT).

Nota Bene

The title illustration on this e-newsletter was constructed from contiguous images of Cubiculum, West Wall, from the House of the Ceii, Pompeii: I.6.15; Photographic Credit: Jennifer Stern, July 2007.

The quotation following our title is taken from Eunuchus, by 2nd century BCE Roman playwright Publius Terentius Afer (Terence).

Unless otherwise noted, event photographs are by Ann Olga Koloski–Ostrow.

Photograph of Dr. Catherine Steel from the University of Glasgow’s website: http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/classics/ourstaff/catherinesteel/.
Photo Gallery Credits. Jennifer Eastman Lecture: Photos 6 and 7 by Jacob Weisfeld ’09.

Department of Classical Studies, March/April 2009.