

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

E-NEWSLETTER FALL 2007

Dear Friends:

2006 and 2007 were momentous years for the Department. In 2006, Professor **Z. PHILIP AMBROSE** retired after some 40 years of teaching here and received the George V. Kidder Award at Commencement for his distinguished contributions to the University and its students. To replace Ambrose (as if that were possible), we were able to hire not one, but two new tenure-track faculty: **ANGELINE CHIU** (PhD, Princeton, 2007), and **JOHN C. FRANKLIN** (PhD, University College London, 2002), both of whom are now in their second year at UVM. Chiu specializes in Ovid and Roman topography, while Franklin is expert in archaic Greek poetry and music, and is quite knowledgeable about Near Eastern influences on Greek literature and culture as well. In that same *annus mirabilis* **BRIAN T. WALSH** (PhD, Fordham, 2001), who has taught full-time for us as a Lecturer for the past seven years, was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

This year (2007) we are pleased to have added **WALTER M. ROBERTS III** on the tenure-track (PhD, University of California Berkeley, 2006). Roberts specializes in Greco-Roman philosophy and has a special interest in the political philosophy of Cicero. We also have a wonderful new office administrator, **PAM CUNOV**, a veteran UVM employee, who, after years of taking UVM courses on the side, will receive her BA this year with concentrations in Religion and Art.

The study of Classics at UVM continues to flourish. In future issues of this e-newsletter (stay tuned!), we will be bringing you up to date on the various activities and accomplishments of students and alumni. We will also include information and pictures from Latin Day and reports from the President of the Goodrich Classical Club. If you are a UVM alumnus or alumna with connections to the Department, we would love to hear from you. Please send any and all news our way, to the attention of Ms. Pam Cunov (pamela.cunov@uvm.edu). Meanwhile, here below is a

brief description of some faculty activities over the past academic year.

VALETE,

M. D. Usher
Associate Professor and Chair

Faculty Activities

Z. PHILIP AMBROSE (emeritus) served as a Study Leader for a Smithsonian Tour of Greece and Italy including stops at Troy and Carthage, Sept. 12-24, 2007. He reports it was a great trip, the theme of which was "In the Wake of Odysseus and Aeneas."

JACQUES BAILLY has continued work on commentaries on Latin letters, is giving a talk about Socrates' divine sign in November, and has started work on a commentary on Plato's *Theaetetus*. He also continues as pronouncer for the Scripps National Spelling Bee, now a prime time show on ABC, as well as the CanWest Canspell Canadian National Spelling bee, which airs "rolling-live" across Canada. He is teaching Etymology, Greek Prose Style, Intermediate Latin, and Aristotle this year.

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

E-NEWSLETTER FALL 2007

ANGELINE CHIU spent part of her summer in southern Italy and Sicily, where she continued her research on the relationship between literature and topography. She is also exploring the possibility of eventually launching a summer study-abroad program in ancient Roman history and topography for UVM students. When not continuing in her ongoing project on Ovid's *Fasti* and depictions of Roman identity via literary genres, she is also working on projects ranging from Plautus and Roman comedy to an examination of Ovidian influences in Silius Italicus that will appear in an upcoming volume from Brill. In mid-October she is delivering a lecture to the Vermont Classical Languages Association entitled "Rome Is For Lovers: An Ovidian Guide to Roman Topography." This year she is teaching classes in Roman satire, the literature of the late Roman Republic, classical mythology, and Homer in both Greek and translation.

JOHN FRANKLIN spent part of the summer in Greece

assisting at the Kenchreai excavations as a babysitter, and was a keynote speaker at a conference on ancient Greek music at the Ionian University on Corfu; 'The Epicentric Arrangement of the Archaic Heptachord' now awaits writing-up for consideration by *Wiener Studien*. The rest of the summer was spent working on a book MS, and nearly finishing a difficult chapter called 'Kinyras: Lordly Lyre of Cyprus'. In January he is invited to be a keynote speaker for the conference *Ancient Music in the Near East and Mediterranean Worlds*, hosted by the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem and synchronized with an exhibition of ancient musical artifacts; 'The Global Economy of Music in the Ancient Near East' will be a chapter in the exhibition catalogue.

WALTER ROBERTS is enjoying the challenge—in his first year at UVM—of shaping his TAP students into critical readers, creative thinkers, and effective writers. In addition, he is working with the editors of University of Michigan Press to bring his dissertation manuscript on Cicero to publica-

tion. His next project will explore the concerns and anxieties that unite Thucydides, Plato, and Aristotle in a critique against *pleonexia* ("greediness"). On the Roman side of things, he is looking forward to teaching 'Introduction to Roman Civilization' (CLAS 023) in the Spring term.

BARBARA SAYLOR RODGERS, on sabbatical this year, has spent most of calendar 2007, when not in classrooms or meetings, attempting to remediate the strip-mining of her landscaping (a by-product of having a library built at home). She has also been reading about the influence of Ephraem the Syrian on Romanos, a sixth-century Byzantine writer of Christian poetic homilies. Romanos, despite his name, was born in Syria and may have been of Jewish ancestry, a true representative of the multicultural world of late antiquity, and a kindly person into the bargain, if one can judge the man by the stories he tells.

ROBERT RODGERS: Although on sabbatical—which offers the occasional opportunity for a morning nap—Robert is continuing as Director for the Center for Research on Vermont. His sabbatical project is to complete a critical edition of Columella, *De Re Rus-*

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

E-NEWSLETTER FALL 2007

tica for the Oxford Classical Text series (deadline: September 2008). When not working on Columella, construction and renovation on the home front has been keeping him in practice with carpentry and painting.

MARK USHER, Department Chair, continues to work on the phenomenon of quotation in ancient authors. An article on this topic, "Theomachy, Creation, and the Poetics of Quotation in Longinus Chapter 9" (dedicated to the memory of UVM Professor emeritus Robin Schlunk, a fine scholar of ancient literary criticism who passed away in 2006), is forthcoming in the next issue of *Classical Philology*. Another related article, "Diogenes' Doggerel: Chreia and Quotation in Cynic Performance," is near completion. Diogenes the Cynic is also the subject of his second children's picture book, *Diogenes*, with pictures by Michael Chesworth (forthcoming from Farrar, Straus & Giroux) in which the outlandish comic phi-

losopher is cast literally as a dog.

BRIAN WALSH, delighted with his recent promotion to Senior Lecturer, continues to work on an ambitious textbook project (*Universitas Latina*) and to develop online Latin courses. He is presently teaching new courses on Ancient Law and the Greek Orators. He and his wife May joyfully welcomed two new children (Noah and Adam) to their family this year.