

LGI NEWSLETTER 2016

WONDERFUL NEWS

As you see in Katherine' s letter, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has generously offered us a ten-year grant of a million dollars to be used for scholarships to enable students in need to attend the Institute. We expect to increase the number of students each year as a result of this beneficence; however, this grant requires that we also raise funds, and we need you to meet the terms of the grant. We will need to raise at least thirty thousand dollars each year to pay back our part. We will appreciate any and all donations, none being too small. The fact is WE NEED MONEY. We will hold fund-raisers from time to time, the first being on Friday, March 10th from 6:00 till 8:00 in downtown Manhattan. The new provost of the Graduate Center, a classicist (hurray!) Joy Connolly, will talk to us on a fascinating topic and light refreshments will be served. More information will be sent later, but remember the date.

UBI SUNT?

We do not have the current address for the following people. If anyone knows how we can contact them, we should appreciate having that information. We don't like to lose contact with old friends.

Mary Bollinger Britton (L81)

Luke Bullock (G14)

Pat Cassidy (G81)

Carl Curtis (AL 81)

John Fitzmaurice (G86, L87, AL88)

Joan Harrison (L85, G86, AG87)

Peter Landeck (L81)

Jesse Lasser (L06)

Esther Liu (G10)

Brittany Mabry (G04)

Tim McCaffrey (G99, L03,UL05)

Fred Rowland (G86)

Mark Shiffman (G90)

Roger Stritmatter (G86)

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

We hear that **Elizabeth Baltes** (G11) defended her Ph.D. dissertation in the spring.

James Carpenter (G04) remains an independent scholar, splitting his time between Seattle and New York.

Morgan Condell (G07) got married in March. She is still teaching at U. Penn.

Joseph Conlon (L08, UL09, UG10) defended his dissertation, a commentary and introduction to Plautus' *Persa*. He finished Princeton's Ph.D. program in a record-breaking four years.

Jay Elliott (L98) is an assistant professor in the philosophy department at Bard College and is an affiliated member of the classical studies program there. His book, *Character*, will be coming out from Bloomsbury in the spring; some volumes that he has edited will be coming out soon.

Sarah Graff (G05) had twins late last year.

Mallory Monaco Caterine (G05) is still teaching at Tulane.

Jay Mueller (G97) finished his Ph.D. in classics this year from NYU. He had been teaching at the Bard High School Early College and is now working in the office of the Dean of Humanities at NYU.

Family Matters

Christine Reno (L80) has retired from teaching French at Vassar. Her son **Ed** (L96) is an assistant professor of history at Adelphi University.

LGI at the A.P.A. (S.C.S.)

Many of our friends presented papers at the January meeting of the American Philological Association (now Society for Classical Studies).

Yelena Baraz was a co-organizer of a session on The Bucolic Challenge: Continuity and Change in Later Latin Pastoral Poetry. She also gave the introduction to the session.

Caleb Dance, The Commodification of Carmina in Baptista Mantuanus' Eclogues

Carlo DaVia, What Must We Know to Benefit from Aristotle's Lecture on Ethics?

David Driscoll, Spurning Glosses: Etymological Interpretation of Poetry as a Social Phenomenon at Plutarch's Symposia

Mary-Kay Gamel gave the response to a session on New Wine in Old Wineskins: Topicality in Modern Performance of Athenian Drama Organized by the Committee on Ancient and Modern Performance.

Patrick Glauthier, The Aristaeus Epyllion in *Georgics* 4 and the Instability of Didactic Knowledge

Athena Kirk, Divergent Series: A Poetics of Greek Inventories

F.S. Naiden, The Self-Definition of Alexander the Great

Patrick Owens, *Aeneid* 13: Four Vergilian Imitators

Cameron Pearson, "Powerful Rhyme" on an "Unswept Stone": Alkmeonides' Epigram IG 1³ 1469 = CEG 302 and (Re)performance

Benjamin Sammons, Likely Story: Narrative and Probability in Euripides' *Troades*

David Sider, organizer, Herculaneum in Word and Text, organized by the American Friends of Herculaneum

Michael Tueller, Invisible Stones: Perses and the Beginning of Book-Epigram

Jeffrey Ulrich, The Mirror, Narrative, and Erotic Desire in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*

Cynthia White was the co-organizer of Rome: The City as Text and gave the response.

Advertized at the meetings were books by two of our friends: *The Mythological and Secular Centos in Antiquity* by **Scott McGill** (Faculty) published by Oxford University Press and **Emma Scioli's**, *Dream, Fantasy, and Visual Art in Roman Elegy*, in the Wisconsin Studies in Classics.

37th Hoplite Challenge Contest

Once again the annual thrilling battle of students vs. teachers took place the day before the Greek final grammar exam. It was marked by a scandalous start when a student discovered that he was competing only after his name was drawn. When he accepted his nomination, the teams were set. Representing the students were Stephen Dwyer, Paul Choix, Cyrus Reza, Yijia Xu, Theo Motzkin and Alyssa Finfer. The faculty were championed by Aramis Lopez, Jamie Banks (alum L13, G14), Katia Kosova, Hardy Hansen and Jeremy March. Once Rita Fleischer had read the rules of the contest, Dan Dooley was announced as arbiter, Alice Philips Walden as timekeeper, and Nicky Bangs as scorekeeper, the contest began. After thirteen exciting rounds, the faculty were named the victors, with a score of 8 to 3.

**Rita's
Digest**

Emmanuel Aprilakis (L14) completed his first semester of graduate school last December quite successfully. He was accepted into four graduate programs but chose Rutgers. Before finishing at Hunter, he read from Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* and from Lucretius. At

Rutgers, he had a prose survey from Cato to late Latin and a course in Biblical Latin in the fall and Horace in the spring. This term he's teaching Latin 101 and loving it. "I've been devoting much of my time to a Greek poetry seminar and, more specifically, the tragic chorus, on which I recently presented a paper at the Classical Association of the Atlantic States. I'm also taking a course on Roman Politics."

Kiki Aranita (L05, G07) and her co-owner of the food truck Poi Dog were written up in The Philadelphia Inquirer because they have given classes in ancient Roman food. The first one was sold out in two hours and so they rented a larger space for their next class. Local classics departments have been making inquiries about food demonstrations. It's been quite challenging to find modern equivalents of some of the ancient ingredients and methods of cooking. Apparently, it's been a great success.

In a lecture at The Graduate Center on March 21st on The Influence of Arab Lands on Textile Art During the Renaissance, **Jennifer Ball** (G96) discussed photos of textiles and embroidery and a couple of costumes supplied by a scholar of Palestinian textiles and embroidery.

Peter Baltera (G08) was a Summer Associate at Paull, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in their New York office for summer 2016.

Elizabeth Baltes (G11) is a professor of art history at Coastal Carolina University.

Jamie Banks (L13, G14) gave a talk at the Classical Association of Atlantic States with Paideia "that touched on why Latin is a great language for kids with autism and dyslexia,

using the right methods, and the benefits of teaching them linguistics as its own thing.... I'm looking to move in the direction of being the language specialist at a school for kids with language learning disabilities, since I think it's a travesty that we've given up on teaching them foreign languages to a large extent-many have exemptions from foreign language requirements at all levels, and I don't think that's necessary given the right methods."

Chris Bradley (G98) has a daughter Lilian aged two and a second child born August 16th, Emerson Grace (called Emmy). He is currently an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky College of Law and would love to start a reading group with any LGI alums in the area.

Michael Broder (L82, G83, AG 84 & 86, faculty) wrote in February that 2015 was fantastic and 2016 is even better. "I started a small literary press and we are publishing our first five books, including a poetry collection by me in March/April. I've also been curating a project called HIV Here & Now with an online poetry component and a print anthology in the works for fall 2016. I'm co-chair of the LGBTQ synagogue's Red Ribbon Initiative raising awareness about HIV and collaborating with AIDS organizations on outreach and advocacy programs." He was the featured poet of the week on the PBS Newshour Poetry Page on February 15th. He said that leaving the academic job mark t was the best decision he could ever have made.

Bill Burton (G87) in March of this year was invited to offer two lectures at the largest annual gathering of Roman Catholics in the western hemisphere, one on the book of Revelation and the other on The New Testament Background for the Eucharist. In May, he went to Germany to spend three months improving his German and in October was in Washington, DC recording a new twelve-part lecture series on New Testament

Background for the Eucharist. He was expecting to take a group of students to the Holy Land again at Christmas time.

Clare Carroll (G82) received a \$214,947 grant from the Renaissance Society of America Inc. for "Support for the Renaissance Studies."

Yung In Chae (G12) is studying a combination of ancient history and twentieth-century French intellectual history—specifically how Simone de Beauvoir drew upon the classics in *The Second Sex* to shape feminism. While pursuing her M.A., she also works at the Paideia Institute as a Research Fellow and is the assistant editor of *Eidolon*, an online magazine for informal classics scholarship that is under Paideia's umbrella. Since she is in Paris, she took a Greek class in French. "What an amazing and bizarre experience, translating a language I don't know into a language I don't know."

Collomia Charles (G98, L2000, faculty) has accepted a position at Collegiate, a private school in Manhattan. She will be working with **Drew Keller** (AL80, 81, AG82 & 83, faculty).

Spencer Culp (L94) was graduated from law school, spent time at the NH Attorney General's Office and the NH Banking Department. He currently works at the FDIC (Boston Area Office). He tells us that **Glen Davis** (G94) is the Public Affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus and that before joining the Foreign Service in 2006, he was a teacher of literature and philosophy and a telecommunications consultant. Glen holds an honors degree in history and literature from Harvard and Master's degrees from St. John's in Annapolis and UC Irvine.

Judah Eisenman (G15) is a Greek major minoring in Latin at the University of Maryland where he's pre-med. After leaving us, he had a one-on-one course in Aristophanes with the head of the classics department. Currently he's reading the *Iliad*. In the spring, he'll be reading

Plato and in the fall, Thucydides. He says thanks to Hardy and Aramis, he loves Greek.

Robert Farrell (G97, L98), associate professor in the library of Lehman College (CUNY), was quoted in an article in *The New York Times* of May 29, 2016 about the financial woes of CUNY. It included his picture. Robert gave a talk to CUNY librarians at The Graduate Center on November 18th.

Jennifer Ferris-Hill (Faculty) is a tenured associate professor. Her book, *Roman Satire and the Old Comic Tradition*, published by Cambridge University Press, received the Classical Association of the Mid-West Society's First Book Award.

David Galef (L83) taught in Bratislava and Beijing in 2015.

Ted Graham (G01) defended his dissertation in Greek this fall at Duke.

Daniel Healey (G13, L14) passed his Latin proficiency exam in September 2015 as well as his Italian and Greek exams.

Jael Hernandez-Vasquez (UL16) wrote, "I took the Upper Level Latin course at the Institute in order to prepare myself to teach Latin III (Ovid/Vergil) and AP Latin (Vergil/Caesar) for the first time at The Thacher School in Ojai, CA. The understanding and mastery I gained from the course left me yearning for more work in Latin (and by extension, Greek). Equally as important as the preparation I received from Akiva, Alice, and Collomia, was the opportunity to meet Katherine Lu Hsu. As a student of color it is important for me to see professors of diverse backgrounds in the field where my passions lie. Katherine has been the first non-white Classics professor I have ever met. I am truly grateful for that opportunity; it has impacted me in a way I cannot put into words."

Steve Hildebrand (L95) and his wife had a daughter Anna in June 2015. He is now the chair of the department of theology. In Spring 2016 he taught an informal course in Latin.

Marcia Karrow (G81, L83) had a new job in 2015 with the Hyler Student Assistance Authority.

Athena Kirk (G2000, UL02, faculty) addressed the classics colloquium held at Columbia on September 20th.

Bryant Kirkland (G04) received his Ph. D. in May and this fall joined the faculty of Kenyon College as a visiting assistant professor of classics for 2016-2018. His dissertation, which he expects to work up as a book, was *The Lens of Herodotus: Criticism, Imitation, and Reception in Imperial Greek Literature*. He's working on two articles: one on the Pseudo-Herodotean *Life of Homer* and the other on the ancient lost novelist Antonius Diogenes. This summer he was in Geneva for two weeks at the Fondation Hardt on their young scholars program.

Katherine Kong (L98, UL2000) and her husband announced the birth of Eli Joseph Nathan in February. His sisters are thrilled.

Katie Kretler (G91) has been in Canada the past five years, 2 at Queen's and 3 at Concordia in Montreal; before that she was in the classics department at Dartmouth. She received her Ph. D. from the University of Chicago's Committee on Social Thought. In September of this year, Katie began at Stanford as a lecturer in the Structural Liberal Arts program. She has a book on Homer coming out soon "which describes the difference made by thinking about the poems as performed. It is called *One Man Show: Poetics and Presence in the Iliad and Odyssey* and will be published by the Center for Hellenic Studies." She writes, "I treasure my time at the Institute and always think of Jack, Hardy and Gerry as examples to aspire to in my language teaching. I never would have jumped

into Classics if it weren't for that tough but exhilarating summer at the Institute."

Aaron Kroeber (G13) finished his degree at Swarthmore in June and will be teaching Latin and ancient literature in Phoenix for a year or so and will apply to graduate school next year.

Michelle Kwintner (L83, AL86, faculty) is in a four-year training program in psychoanalysis and working at the same time.

Jessica Lee (G10, UL11, administrative assistant 14, 15) was married on Sunday, November 6th, at the Bronx Zoo. Before the ceremony, they took pictures with sea lions, flamingos, and gorillas. A friend gave the ceremony speech in which "he read beautifully a Plutarch passage and a Sulpicia poem." Others gave English translations later.

Eillene Leistner (L79) has begun a new job as Chief Development Officer of the American Society of Yad Vashem in Israel.

Dennis Looney (L82, faculty) has proudly on display in his office at the Modern Language Association his 1982 Latin diploma. "Quite simply I would not be sitting here if I hadn't come to the LGI as a student and then overboldly sought out employment as a Latin instructor in 1984. The rest is my little history and how I came to be a teacher." [Editor's note: Dennis was hired to teach Greek.]

Katherine Lu Hsu (G02, faculty) and her husband announced the birth of their daughter Madeleine Florence born on June 25th. She weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Brittany Mabry (G04) was a graduate student at the University of Arkansas in the department of geosciences where she studied the history of urban form along the Mediterranean coast.

Lisa Mahoney (L99, UL2000, G01) and **Sean Kirkland** (G98, L01) were overseas on sabbatical

mostly in Israel, Palestine and Cyprus for ten months. Lisa did research in Jordan and Sean gave a paper in Sweden.

Sarah Malik (UL11) recently moved to Austin, Texas after getting married in September 2015. For the past few years, she has been working in corporate communications and is now taking time off to write and get used to her new surroundings.

John Martin (L75) met **Karin-edis Barzman** (L78, administrative assistant 82) at a dinner party in Venice quite by accident. In the course of the conversation, they discovered they were both alumni and reminisced about the Institute and "what a tremendous experience" it was. John is now the chair of the history department at Duke and K.-e. is chair of the art history department at Binghamton University. After an interval, John has resumed studying Latin in a serious way and considers it a pleasure.

Sarah McClesky (G87) is the Head of Access Services at Hofstra University.

Elizabeth McNamara (UG15, UL16) is enjoying reading Thucydides and Horace at Columbia. She is also playing the part of Deianeira in Sophocles' *Trachiniae* which the Barnard-Columbia Ancient Drama Group presented in Greek in the spring. She had been in two previous productions, Aeschylus' *Choephoroi* and Euripides' *Ion*.

Tina Montenegro (L14) wrote in August that she had been in Paris for a year, writing her dissertation. She took a Latin class there and then started working by herself, a little bit each day. She finds it very hard, especially the philosophical texts she needs for her dissertation.

Sarah Nooter (faculty) got tenure at Chicago last December.

Connor North (L15), a senior at Macalester University, studied Lucan's *Pharsalia* and various works of Tacitus since he left us. He's been applying to graduate schools in classics in North America and Europe this fall. His interests are mostly in philology and Latin/Greek epigraphy.

Tom Oey (L82) is now living in Leipzig, Germany, pursuing a second Ph. D., this one in global studies. He is interested in contacting alumni from Asia as he regularly visits there.

Cameron Pearson (G05, UG07) is still in Athens preparing papers for the S.C.S. and Archaeological Institute of America, as well as writing some encyclopedia articles.

Cristina Perez-Diaz (G12, L13) has been very busy the past two years. She passed her qualifying exams in Latin and Greek here at the G.C. She presented papers at CAMWS and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in spring 2014, a paper at a Graduate Student Symposium at Oxford University (June 2015), another at the Classical Association of Atlantic States (in October). Cristina was awarded a Public Humanities Fellowship for 2015-16 by the New York Council for the Humanities in collaboration with the GC Center for the Humanities, where she is a Mellon Fellow in the Mellon Seminar for Public Engagement. As a fellow, she produced her play, *Western* in spring 2015. She worked on the bilingual edition of Jose Watanabe's *Antigona* with her translation into English. In November 2015, she hosted an event at the GC where excerpts of the play in Spanish and English were read followed by a conversation about translation with several professors.

Michael Rand (G97) wrote, "Michael is happily engaged as Lecturer in Hebrew and Aramaic at the University of Cambridge, raising two little Sabras, Nadav and Anat, in England. In his non-existent spare time he studies Arabic, and

fondly dreams of being able to get back to the study of Greek before retirement. His wife Hagar promises him that this will be possible, and he chooses to trust his better half."

Dylan Rogers (G05, UG07) is doing lots of research and teaching as Assistant Director of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. He gave a full lecture on his current research in November 2015 and finished two articles. He met John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State, when he was in Athens and was in the official party that gave him and his staff a tour of the Athenian Agora.

Gideon Rose (G82) had an article on the OpEd page of *The New York Times* on November 5, 2015, "Why we Invented Chalabi."

Marina Rustow (G95) won a 2015 MacArthur "Genius Award" for her work with materials from the Cairo Geniza—the largest collection of Jewish manuscripts ever found. She is a professor in the history department of Princeton and gave a talk at the GC on February 22nd of this year explaining how her findings deepen our understanding of medieval Muslim and Jewish communities.

Cathy Schine (L75) held a reading/discussion/book signing from her new book, *They May Not Mean To, But They Do*, at a Barnes & Noble in

Manhattan on June 13th. She also discussed it on public radio on June 15th.

Zoe Senecal (G14) is working in the admissions office of the University of Arizona.

Aaron Shapiro (L05, G06, UG07, faculty) teaches Latin in Manhattan at a private girls' school whose students are 11 to 17 years old.

Zrinka Stahuljak (L98) received a Guggenheim for Medieval and Renaissance Literature, it was announced on April 6th. She will take it in 2017-18, which gives her time to plan the year between now and then. She's thinking of New

York for part of the time since Fordham's Center for Medieval Studies has invited her, but more likely, she'll go to Paris.

Erin Thompson (G03) gave a talk to the classics department at the GC on May 6th. Her topic was, "By Means of a Little Castration": Manipulation of Ancient Art by Private Collectors. Erin is an assistant professor at John Jay College (CUNY), having gotten her Ph. D. in ancient art history at Columbia and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. Her book, *Possession: The Curious History of Private Collectors*, was published by Yale University Press, in May 2016.

Meenakshi Venkatasubramanian (G90, L91) finished her thesis and received her second Master's last week.

Ryan Warwick (L13, UG14) in the fall of 2015 read Euripides' *Helen*, was learning Sanskrit, programming computers, writing his senior thesis on the Renaissance humanist Flavio Biondo, and was a Latin tutor at Bard. Since then, he has finished a translation of *Antigone* that he hopes to turn into "a larger piece of theater at some point" and is currently in the doctorate program at Johns Hopkins where he must learn French, German, and Italian.

Ed Witherspoon (G86) is the head of the philosophy department at Colgate University.

Elizabeth Wright (L04) and her husband announced the arrival of their second son, Gregory Victor, on January 13th at 1:52 a.m. He was 7 pounds 3 ounces and 19.75 inches long.

I can think of no better way to spend the summer months in New York City than learning to read classical Greek poetry, drama, and philosophy—or Latin poetry and prose, if that is what you are inclined to do. In the early 1990s, I was so inclined.

Writing this piece for the newsletter today, it is hard for me to believe that 25 years have already passed since my two summers of basic Greek and basic Latin at the Institute. Back then, the Latin/Greek Institute was housed in the CUNY Graduate Center's old location on 42nd Street and 5th Avenue, and classes were held in the spacious seminar rooms of the Grace Building next door, where, I remember—of all things, oddly enough—the air conditioning being particularly intense.

The desire to learn Greek had been sown many years earlier. I first learned in my world history class in the 9th grade, in India, about the influence of the Greeks on Gandhara art and how Alexander the Great had made it all the way from Greece to India in 326 B.C. Later, in college, also in India, reading the works of Homer, Sophocles, Plato, and Aristotle in translation, I remembered that ancient connection between India and the Greeks, and was fascinated enough by it to want to learn more about Greek language and culture.

I ended up coming to the United States for graduate school in 1989, hopeful that I would be able to combine English literature, which I had majored in as an undergraduate, with my interest in classics and learn Greek along the way, which is what the Latin/Greek Institute at CUNY -- and CUNY's classical studies consortium -- enabled me to do.

To me, nothing can quite parallel the experience of learning to read ancient Greek, of reading and comprehending Plato or a play by Euripides in the original language. It was as if I had made a direct connection to the ancient past of over two millennia ago and immersed myself completely in another world altogether, a foreign world of epic heroes, tragic heroines, and Socratic dialogues. It was an experience not unlike that of Keats encountering Chapman's Homer.

Stepping out into the late-afternoon sun streaming down over 5th Avenue after our classes had ended for the day, I remember being jolted back to the present, where steam escaped from the sewers and subways rushed headlong underground, but where the Corinthian pillars of the New York Public Library across the street assured me that the ancient past was not *that* far away, nor was it altogether forgotten.

Today, as a copyeditor of academic and trade books in the humanities and social sciences, I have found my knowledge of the classical languages to be immensely useful; occasionally, I have had the opportunity to edit texts containing a bit of ancient Greek or references to the classics, which never fails to make me nostalgic for my summers at the Institute and my other encounters with classics and classicists in New York. Copyediting requires close attention to language and to detail, and I believe that the rigor of those summer courses I took at the Latin/Greek Institute, the excellence of the pedagogy, and the creative way in which students are introduced to both classical languages and literature have contributed toward making me a solid editor.