

T A B U L A E

DEPT. OF CLASSICS • UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA • FALL, 1993

A Time for Renovation

Anniversary celebrations reawaken good memories, foster good hopes. We think of *Aeneid* V, where Aeneas and his followers return to Sicily for rest and renovation and to celebrate memorial rites for Anchises, dead one year before; where a new, promising generation of Trojans is revealed; where the more exhausted men and women choose retirement, while stronger, bolder souls follow Aeneas to Italy. We think, too, of Augustus's *Ludi Saeculares* of 17 B.C., and how, on the third morning, Horace's youthful choir sang the great *Carmen Saeculare*, asking the gods to prolong Rome's prosperity unto future generations. It was a proud moment for Horace (who died 2000 years ago this November) when the young choir sang his words, voicing the gratitude, piety, and hopefulness of an entire people.

So too, at UNC: several of us marched on University Day, to celebrate the bicentennial of the founding of this First State University. (It is comforting to think that Hinton James, the first UNC student, was expected to take Latin and Greek.) We looked back proudly at the University's growth from small beginnings, its endurance through hardship, its rise to greatness. We rested (briefly) from labors, glad and grateful to be here. And we hoped for future prosperity, for the university and for the nation. "If we go up," said President Clinton, quoting our own Frank Porter Graham, "we go up together."

I shall remember October 12, 1993 with a touch of sadness, too, because Bob Broughton didn't march this year in his yellow-and-black "bumble-bee" robe. He died on September 17, aged ninety-three. We have basked proudly, these twenty-eight years, in the light of Bob's scholarly achievements and honors (some of which were chronicled in the first, 1988 issue of this Newsletter -- a photograph shows him holding his third volume of *MRR*, published when he was eighty-seven); and we have basked gratefully in the warmth of his continuing presence in Murphey Hall: the open door, the warm smile, the beckoning hand, the boyish enthusiasm, the humorous side-remark in the corridor.

Bob modeled scholarly *auctoritas* for us. We shall miss him, now that the door is closed.

For the rest, we continue fighting the usual battles: against ignorance and carelessness, against physical and psychological decay (but Murphey 217 has been renovated as a "Master Classroom"), and against the limits imposed on us by financial constrictions and neglect -- for Nike has not asked to sponsor *us*! Still, "we try harder." An internal review of graduate and undergraduate programs brought suggestions for improvement, many of which have been adopted. Good lecturers have come through, though funds are short; we have benefited from the proximity of the National Humanities Center (whose director, Bob Connor, is a classicist); and we have enjoyed, among other treats, an annual Broughton lecture -- John D'Arms, this spring, on drinking and drunkenness at Rome. Maury Hanson, our double-doctor alumnus (retired neurosurgeon, 1987 Ph.D. in Classics) returned to lecture on "Hippocratic Head Injuries" at a festive gathering in honor of Dr. Eben Alexander, Jr., whose grandfather, Eben Alexander, taught Greek here and presented the Department with the olive-wood staff from Marathon, which is still borne by our Chairman in ceremonial processions.

Another highlight of the year was the graduate student colloquium on March 27. This gathering (now becoming an annual event) featured several good talks on Hellenistic and Silver Latin literature, history, and art. It concluded with recital and performance, most notably of scenes from Euripides' *Medea* (dragon-chariot and all) and Aristophanes' *Clouds*.

On the personnel front: a new archaeologist, Donald Haggis, now occupies the position vacated by Marie-Henriette Gates. His Mediterranean expertise and field experience bring us back to Crete, our "ancient mother" (but without, we hope, Aeneas's bad omens).

In keeping with the Bicentennial, this issue of *TABULAE* focuses on our undergraduates, their program of study, and their thoughts and experiences after graduation. We shall return to graduate studies in 1994 -- and, graduate alumni/ae, please send us news

for that issue! Yet we must insist that our gifted, highly selected graduate students play an essential part in undergraduate teaching, whether of elementary Latin (the best language program in the College) or of classical civilization. Some, indeed, have won awards: Beth Calamia and David Johnson for their Latin teaching; Chris McDonough for his remarkable lectures and orchestration of Classics 77, "Mythology." We work closely with our TA's, and we send them forth with richer teaching experience, and stronger confidence, than many better-heeled Classics Departments manage to do.

The Undergraduate Program

The photographs in this issue suggest a student's progress through Murphey Hall: from the August picnic (an innovation this year), where prospective classicists are made welcome and old-timers encouraged, to our own very special ceremony and luncheon in May for graduating Classics majors and their families. In 1993 the seniors were crowned with symbolic laurel wreaths -- or, to be accurate (as is only proper), with faux-laurel wreaths constructed by Gerhard Koepfel, director of undergraduate studies. After the large, impersonal, and unusually rowdy Commencement exercises in Kenan Stadium that morning, our little ceremony, including a brief address by Cecil Wooten, reminded the graduates and their proud families, and ourselves too, what a classical and liberal education was all about.



Elizabeth de Grummond and Kimberly Cooper revel in their faux-laurel wreaths at Commencement 1993.

Of sixteen graduating seniors, seven majored or minored in Classical Archaeology, six in Classical Civilization, three in Greek and/or Latin. So what has been happening in Murphey? How healthy are our programs, old or new? To put it briefly:

GREEK holds its own. Beginning with Greek 1 (only one section, alas!), persevering students work their way to Lysias, Plato, Homer, Euripides, Sophocles, and Herodotus -- and more, as their appetite takes them. We miss the old Greek 1-2: but what can you do in an age of fast food, fast courses, and so many conflicting pressures?

LATIN rises or falls with the schools. Thirty years ago, we offered six sections of Latin 21 (Virgil). Today we offer only one, though an excellent one (with Sara Mack). There are six sections of Latin 1 this fall, two of Latin 2, and four of Latin 3, which satisfies the foreign language requirement. A few students catch fire here, or caught fire earlier, and go on, toward the varied charms and toils of the 30- and 50-level courses.

CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (CLAR) still appeals to a wide range of undergraduates. "Ancient Cities" is a general favorite; students can proceed to Egyptian, Near Eastern, Greek, and Roman Archaeology. If they are good, Carolyn Connor will take them, literally, to Constantinople (Byzantium). Required courses for the major include Greek and Roman history, and one course beyond the fifth semester of Greek or Latin.

And how, you may well ask, does one major in CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION? First, one gets turned on -- perhaps in "Mythology" (mentioned earlier); or in Peter Smith's "The Greeks," a mix of literature, history, art, and culture; or in Cecil Wooten's "The Romans" (ditto); or perhaps, in Kenneth Reckford's eccentric "Heroic Journey" course (from Homer to Tolkien). Who knows how converts are made? They take history courses, "Age of ..." courses (Pericles, Alexander, Augustus, Nero, Justinian), advanced literature-in-translation or cultural courses, and yes, some Latin still, or Greek.

These are serious offerings. We review them periodically, we work to improve them. Last year's suggestions, now being implemented, ranged from giving a picnic, through more individualized advising, to the institution of a new senior seminar designed to introduce all majors to a broad range of classical learning. We hope in this way to create a sense of community among our Greek, Latin, "Clar" and "Clas Civ" majors in Murphey Hall.

At the same time, we try not to neglect "Julia" or "Philippos," the student who may take only one Classics course amid the whole smorgasbord of UNC offerings and requirements. We want that one course to be worthwhile and memorable: and often enough, it is. "I wish I'd known about Classics sooner," says the senior majoring in Accounting or Chemistry. "I'd have taken more Classics courses." Not altogether good to hear -- but at least, it's something!

So, What Can You Do With a Degree in Classics?

The obvious first answer is, "I can teach," and many of our undergraduates have gone on to, or are headed for, academic careers. **George Mason '69** became Chair of the Humanities Division of Saint Meinrad College in August of 1992. **John Kirby '77** has been at Purdue for several years. Last spring he was a fellow at Purdue's Center for Humanistic Studies, and as you read this he is on sabbatical at Choate. He reports, "I am currently at work on a commentary on Aristotle's *Poetics*, and I would like to think that I am within sight of the end." John's recent publications include items in *Ramus* and *Antichthon*. His two children are Susannah (14), who attended Choate's theater program last summer, and David (11).

Roy Rowe '68 writes that he has been in Alaska for the last five years. He went intending to join the faculty of the University of Alaska Anchorage, but promptly took a four-year-long leave of absence to work in the schools in the Native villages of St. Paul Island (Aleut) and Angoon (Tlingit). He is now back at the U. of Alaska, serving as chair of the Department of Administration and Foundations. **Gavin Sundwall '91** is hard at work on his graduate degree in the Department of History here at UNC-CH. He spent this past summer at the Graduate Seminar of the American Numismatic Society in New York.

Rhys Townsend '74 went on from classical studies to art history. He spent the years from 1977 to 1981 at the American School in Athens, taking part in digs on land and under water, and is now Associate Professor of Art History and Archaeology at Clark University. **Jonathan Avery** is in his fourth year of graduate work at Yale, where he has completed his exams and is looking for a dissertation topic by "working his way through the Lucianic corpus." **Martha Welborn Bowsky '72** teaches at the University of the Pacific and, when she can get hold of them, publishes Greek inscriptions of Roman date. **Robin Rhodes** is in Davidson, NC, this year, writing on Greek architecture, and making plans for a trip to Greece in the Spring.

Somehow it is harder to keep up with people who go into secondary teaching, but **Sarah Ward Whiteside '70** reports that she has been teaching Latin at The Altamont School in Birmingham, Alabama, since 1978. She was awarded the Brooke

Hill Teaching Chair in 1992. **Tara Kott** went on from here to George Mason, where she earned her certification in English, and she is now teaching in the Arlington County, VA, schools.



Picnic for undergraduates, September 1993. Foreground: Ebea McCrary and Sara Mack. In back, Brandon Sharp, Peter Smith, and Britt Moran.

Most of our undergraduates, of course, do *not* go on in Classics or pursue academic careers. They have ended up all over the world, doing all sorts of things. **Hubert Hawkins** writes, "I am happily retired early from teaching. I now carry the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* from 1 AM to 6 AM 365 days per year. *Nox est perpetua nulla dormienda!*" **John Kast '82** came to Homecoming last year and spent an hour reading Greek in the Classics Department Library. He is close to completing his seven-year training in Neurosurgery. **Sarah Cox** has lived in New York since she left Chapel Hill. She is a graduate student at Columbia, currently at work on a dissertation on the Flavian period. Sarah attended the summer program of the American Numismatic Society in 1988: "I have hung around there, in various capacities, ever since. I was named the Schwartz Fellow for 1990-92 and have been the research assistant to the Greek curator since then."

Barney Rickenbacker '59 recalls the faculty of the last generation. "We stood in awe of Ullman, and I hung on every word of Getty's. I remember talking to Dr. Getty for what seemed a whole afternoon about golf and his memories of the great Bobby Jones..." After some graduate work and teaching, Barney began a new career: helping businesses find ways to assist employees with alcohol problems and other difficulties

that might impair their safety or productivity. He now manages such a program for Carolina Power and Light in Raleigh. **Michael Taylor '69** lives in Albemarle (near Charlotte, not the Sound), where he is an attorney with a practice "which ranges from banking and commercial law to personal injury actions." He has recently revised and published the second edition of his book on Athenian art and politics and is beginning work on the American Civil War. His wife, Susan, is a District Court Judge, and Susan and Michael have two sons.

From further afield, **Wright Doyle** wrote us September 20: "I leave tomorrow for a month in Asia, mostly India: my first visit there. Some danger involved. A book in English by me was published in Chinese this year." **Fred Williams** is in the Peace Corps in Lesotho, having moved there from Tunisia, where he helped people breed rabbits and chickens. He reported looking across the bay at Tunis, to the spot with twin peaks which, according to legend, was Vergil's inspiration when he described Aeneas' landing in *Aeneid* I. "I never look upon it without a thrill and thoughts of the seven battered ships pulling into a quiet cove," writes Fred. **Nancy Proctor**, who is in Rome this year to work with Reginald Foster and to start learning Greek ("Finally" as she says), has sent us a video, *Penelope*, which she wrote with Francisco de Paula, with music by one of our current students, **Titus Bicknell**. The video was exhibited in an exhibition entitled *Absent Bodies/Present Lives* at the Leeds City Art Gallery this Fall.

On a sad note, we must report the death, on August 29, 1993, of **Abby Wolfson**, who was an undergraduate classics student here in 1980-81 before transferring to St. John's in Santa Fe. She had been living and studying in Colorado since 1984.

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Address Correction Requested

Richard Hasty Jr. '76 is currently a Manager for Cap Gemini America, a French-owned international consulting company. He, his wife (Sheree King Hasty, UNC '79) and their three children (ages 10, 7, and 4) live in Tampa. Richard feels a classics degree gave him excellent preparation for his work: "After all, the *real* classic literature was the foundation of logical reasoning... So I was fortunate to get a jump on the future and miss out on a boring business degree." **Jane Hairston Romani '84** has for the past five years worked as a freelance business writer in the Research Triangle area. She writes feature articles for employee magazines, newsletter copy, brochures, and video scripts. She appreciates the training in English grammar and syntax, as well as the analytical skills, she acquired here. **Mark Suskin** reports that, after beginning graduate work in classics, he found that his real calling was physics. "I eventually landed in the right place for me. I took a Ph.D. in Physics at Johns Hopkins, and now work on designing trajectories for space flight to other members of our solar system." He still reads Homer, Catullus, and Virgil, and he adds, "More power to you all. It may look sometimes like the world is trying to pass you by, in its headlong rush into technology... But if the world thinks that it can really go anywhere good without a knowledge of the Classics and all that they entail, then the world is mistaken, and embarked upon a soulless journey. You are the keepers of a very particular and lovely form of wisdom, and I appreciate what you do."

Well, Mark, the feeling is mutual. We are delighted by our students and all that they do, and we remember you all fondly. Wherever you are, on whatever journey embarked, fare you well.

COMING EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, UNC-CH

Saturday, March 19, 1994: Third Annual Graduate Colloquium. This year's title: "*Ut et in occasu suo splendorem et ornamenta praeteritae vitae retineant: Ancient Ceremony and Spectacle.*" W. Robert Connor will give a keynote address, "Ancient Ceremony and Ritual: The Problem of Method." If you would like to propose a paper on some aspect of ancient spectacles or ceremonies, or would like to receive more information about the colloquium, please write to Jim Abbot, Hugh Cayless, Hans Mueller, or Matt Panciera c/o the Department.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 14, 15, 16, 1994: Productions of Plautus' *Poenulus* by the Murphey Hall Players under the direction of John Starks. For tickets (free) or more information please write to Debbie Felton c/o the Department.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, October 13, 14, 15, 1994: Biennial Meeting of the Southern Section of CAMWS in Chapel Hill, with headquarters at the Carolina Inn. This meeting is one of the Bicentennial activities of the University. There will be papers and, probably, a performance of Plautus' *Poenulus*. To join CAMWS and thus receive further information, please write to: John F. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer, CAMWS, 118 KMB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

Saturday, November 5, 1994: We have tentatively scheduled for this date a small conference in honor of T. Robert S. Broughton. There will be four to six invited papers on the Roman Republic. For further information, please write George Houston in the Department.

HAVE YOU MOVED? Please send us your new address:

Name, degree, and class:

Street address:

City, state, zip:

DO YOU HAVE NEWS? Please send us word of what you have been up to. We will include as much of it as we can in next year's *TABULAE*.

Yes, I have news! It is: