

TABULAE

DEPT. OF CLASSICS • UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA • FALL 1998

Alma Mater Murphea

Do not be alarmed. Murphey has not (yet) changed all that much. The photograph with the legs was taken back in June when "Patch Adams," starring Robin Williams, was being filmed on campus, and Polk Place was transformed into "Virginia Medical University," where a convention of gynecologists was taking place. Just think that Mother Murphey is not worn-out (*effeta*) after all her labors but can still give birth to great teaching and learning.

Nor could your hard-working Classics Faculty be called *effete* — but we seem to be getting older, and there are dark mutterings about retirement. We continue to miss George Kennedy's invigorating presence. It is a pleasure to report that an International Colloquium on Rhetoric and Oratory in the Ancient World will be held here in his honor on October 23-24, 1998, and that many of his distinguished friends and former students will be speaking. Gerhard Koepfel, now semi-retired, teaches Roman archaeology here in the fall and spends the rest of the year in Germany and Italy. Our search last year for a Roman archaeologist brought several gifted speakers to campus, and happily, Nicola Terrenato has agreed to teach at UNC, starting in Spring 1999. An authority on Etrusco-Roman studies, trained at the Universities of Rome and Pisa, he has supervised excavations on the Palatine and at Volterra and is presently co-director of the Cecina valley field survey. We welcome him eagerly to Chapel Hill.

Highlights of the year included Derek Walcott's visit and lectures, organized by our Department in cooperation with the Department of English and the Black Cultural Center. His *Omeros*, if you have not seen it, is an enormously successful adaptation of Homeric (and Vergilian, and many other) characters and themes into more recent times and places, centering on his native St. Lucia in the Caribbean. In March we had the first graduate colloquium jointly sponsored and produced by UNC and Duke, with Jerzy Linderski providing the right auspices as keynote speaker.



The north entrance of Murphey Hall, June 1998.

The undergraduate Classics Club sponsored informal suppers and talks, and also two "poetry slams" at Starbucks Coffee at which Greek, Latin, and even some Sanskrit poetry was recited to great applause. Various picnics and parties brightened the academic year, culminating in our May graduation ceremony, when Sara Mack gave a stirring propemptic address to the new graduates. Among these was Leslie Kendrick, one of two UNC students to win a Rhodes Scholarship (out of 24 nationwide). She will study Latin and English literature at Magdalen College, Oxford, for two years. We are delighted by her achievements and by those of our other very special new alumnae/i.

Older friends of the Department will be pleased, on homecoming, to find that the books in the Department Library have now officially become the Ullman Collection. Has your Latin become rusty? Test yourself with the new plaque (text by Jerzy Linderski) which reads:

Bibliotheca Ullmaniana.

Bertholdus Ludovicus Ullmanus
Librorum amator

Aevi antiqui mediique et litterarum renascentium
indagator

Linguae Latinae in Terra Nova propagator
Vir doctus eloquens humanus

Apud Carolinenses magister optimus fuit praesesque
philologorum
In his chartis memoria eius viget vigebit

Last but not least, we want to honor the Staff who keep the Classics Department going, help and encourage us daily, and make students feel as welcome as ever in Murphey Hall. Kim Miles, Carrie Stolle, Kathy Sutton: look at those bright faces and take comfort. Ken Sams writes below about the great tradition. Returning alums may (or may not) miss the old smoke-filled Classics Office, but they will find the same good cheer and helpfulness as ever. This issue of TABULAE, dedicated to the Staff — which they of course will send out — expresses our special thanks.
—KJR

Epochs of Office

Fine departments of Classics do not simply “happen.” It takes good faculty, good students, a good library, and it also takes a good office staff. In describing the last, “good” hardly seems appropriate. How about “superb” or “stellar,” or maybe even “magnificent” to describe the hardworking team in the suite of Murphey 212? Our problems become their problems; they get us out of messes; they get things done for us; they listen to our complaining; they spoil us.

Carrie Stolle, who succeeded her mother-in-law Dot as Department Manager, has not been with us a year, yet she brought with her from her past posts at UNC a wealth of experience and know-how that have let her glide right in to become Dot’s worthy successor. I was most impressed last spring when she was able with aplomb to guide me through some mysteries in Contracts and Grants, and also get me out of a mess with “those people.” Kim Miles, Graduate Student Services Manager, seems to love working with our students, from the initial humble request for applications materials to processing PhD degree papers. We all appreciate her periodic updates on the comings and goings of students out in the world, and we are also grateful for those detailed memos she circulates when prospective students are about to visit. Kathy Sutton, who as Undergraduate Student Services Assistant is in charge of undergraduate affairs and the department’s general well-being, is the third marvel in this Murphey triad. Her motto ought to be (maybe is) “good cheer even when things are going rotten.” She doggedly seeks to bring closure to pesky problems, be it busted plumbing (happens a lot around here) or some machine that’s gone awry. She also gets to know our undergrads especially well, because she takes classes with them.



(From left to right) Kim Miles, Carrie Stolle, and Kathy Sutton, the office staff of the Department of Classics, 1998.

This alliterative trio carries on a long-standing tradition of office keepers who have made it their business to look out for us. At the head in my ken is “she who must be obeyed,” the late Nancy Honeycutt, who was at the helm when I entered the Department. Major domo, confidante, information central on just about everything, and sometimes holy terror — Nancy would have (proudly) agreed with all this, adding her own self-proclaimed title, “Mouth of the South.” Working under Nancy in those days as graduate secretary was Erline Nipper, who retired in the late 1980s. Unassuming and conscientious, and a wonderfully kind person, Erline would always thank us with a smile for giving her work to do — often terrible, tedious stuff, back when lack of computers and photocopiers made faculty less self-reliant than they are today. Erline was, *inter alia*, master of the ditto machine, and if you don’t know what this is, count your blessings. For those of you who have not heard, Erline has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

Into the early 1980s, the office was Nancy and Erline. When a third position came to us, the one presently held by Kathy, it was initially filled by Juanita Mason, who did much to define the position of undergraduate and general secretary. For close to a decade, Juanita was a mainstay of the office. Nancy’s retirement in 1986, accompanied by a grand bash at the Europa Hotel, marked a changing of eras in the office, even though Erline and Juanita were there to ease the transition. Nancy’s successor was Dot Stolle, who came with much experience as office head at RTVMP (their loss and our great gain). Dot quickly put her own stamp and style on the running of the office, and any anxieties about life after Nancy were quickly allayed. Cool, calm, and efficient, Dot eased me into my ten-year stint as Chairman and (thankfully) put up with me for the entire, sometimes stormy period. When Erline retired, Celia DeGraffenreidt took over as graduate secretary and for several years looked after our students with her distinctive poise and efficiency. Juanita’s position came to be filled by Kim Miles,

who assumed Celia's seat when she resigned to take a higher-level position elsewhere on campus. Thereafter came Kathy, and, with Dot's retirement last winter, we have Carrie.

—GKS

Variae Viae Reportant

Seldom has the title of this section been more appropriate than this year. You, our former students, have been all over the place, and you do the most interesting and varied things. Herewith an attempt to do your ventures justice.

Rebecca Benefiel spent last year in Rome. She began the year by cleaning an apartment left nasty by its previous (male) occupant, continued with trips to the Stadio Olimpico for soccer games, and studied Latin epigraphy with Silvio Panciera. She is now at Harvard, just settling in to what we hope is a more pleasant place to live. Of Rebecca's classmates (1997's, that is), **Kelly Spradley** is now in Durham (England, not NC), where she has begun the program in archaeology and hopes to continue her work on Hadrian's Wall, and **Jim Yavenditti** is at Georgia, after a year of teaching in secondary school. He reports that he is taking three courses and teaching one, and that Athens GA is sort of "a larger Chapel Hill in a way."



Celeste Beck (right) receives her degree from Professor Connor, May 1998.

Others of you have been travelling, too. **Blair Gormley** '95 taught for three years at a private school in Virginia, and during the summer was to return to Pompeii for a third season of work on an excavation there. This fall Blair is beginning work in archaeology at the University of Bradford in England. This year's *Hercules Traveller Award*, however, goes to

Wright Doyle, who returned to Taiwan (where he used to teach) in January to teach a two-week intensive course on expository preaching. Wright is director of China Institute, an organization which tries to reach Chinese scholars in the University of Virginia area with the message of Christianity.

Many of you have veered off the Classics path and found gainful employment elsewhere. **Lee Willard** continues as an associate dean at Duke. She writes that her son plays goalie on a middle-school soccer team, and that her daughter "is just like me: what a talker!" Lee reported getting together with **Emily Jones Rushing** last New Year's. **Nita Mitchell Beecher** '75, who was Student Attorney General while she was a student here, is now a labor and employment lawyer with Boeing in St. Louis and a mother of two sons, one 13 and the other 5. Another classicist-turned-lawyer is **Liza Reynolds**, who works in Chicago as a union-side labor lawyer and, the victim of "a terribly under-rehearsed comic revue at work," has become nostalgic for *Poenulus* and the Murphey Hall Players.

Tamara Burkett works at Glaxo Wellcome and is the product manager for Raxar, a new oral antibiotic for respiratory infections. She writes that she still finds her Latin helpful, and she also reports that **Lee Delattre**, who was a double major in Latin and geography, works for Texaco in New Orleans. **Mary W. Barringer Gerdes** (PhD '95) taught at Emory in 1995-96, created a daughter, Clara, on April 16, 1996 (thus just missing the Birthday of Rome, on 4/21), and is "enjoying motherhood full-time." **Rusty Greenland** '78 wrote last spring to ask if we could recommend a current translation of the *Aeneid*. "I like lots of footnotes and explanations, too," he noted. (Did we train Rusty right, or what?) Rusty and his wife went to Spain in 1996 and spent a morning in Italica, thus fulfilling a dream he had had since he was thirteen years old.

Many of our former students, however, are still in Classics, one way or another. **Sarah Whiteside** (MA '70) is in her twentieth year of teaching Latin at The Altamont School in Birmingham, Alabama. Sarah was named a Distinguished Teacher by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars in 1997. Congratulations, Sarah! **Joanne Ryan** (BA in archaeology, '86) writes: "Much to my surprise, I have managed to work in archaeology and occasionally even in Classics ever since [I left UNC]." She has dug in Hillsborough, NC, at a neolithic site in Ireland, and in Jordan and Carthage. She married in 1990, moved to Australia, taught for two years at Flinders University, and now lives in Baton Rouge, where she works for Coastal Environments, Inc., an environmental firm. All of this, AND two children: Simón and Rubén. **Margaret Musgrove** sent us

pictures of her class performing scenes from Plautus' *Aulularia* under the benign gaze of the statue of a former president of the U of OK. Margaret too reports the birth of a son: Jason, born in July of 1997.

Paul Langford writes that he is still teaching at Exeter Academy and that, after twelve years in New England, he longs for the hot summer days of short-sleeve shirts and shorts. **Alain Gowing** (BA '75) is a candidate for the Program Committee of the APA but did not send us campaign literature—which we would have been *happy* to include in *Tabulae*—and **John Miller**, fresh off a splendid stint as editor of *Classical Journal*, is a candidate for the Publications Committee. **Strother Bunting Sharp** (Latin and English BA, '81) reports: "I completed my PhD at the University of Chicago in 1989. Since then the age of the students with whom I have been involved has been growing steadily younger." Strother is now doing mostly sixth-grade Exploratory Latin with middle school students in the Williamsburg/James City (VA) system. "I have been very happily married since 1989 to a man who knows no Latin at all," she reports. "We live in the country and are involved in animal rescue work and currently have 23 dogs, 2 hogs, 5 turkeys, 2 geese, 4 cats, 18 chickens, and 13 exotic birds." That makes Strother the easy winner of the 1998 *Potnia Theron* (Mistress of the Animals) Prize.

Timothy Moore learned last December that he had received tenure at Texas, and his new book, *The Theater of Plautus: Playing to the Audience*, may have appeared by the time you read this. He is a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome this year, working on a new project, "Music in Plautus." Another alum who has gone the book/tenure route recently: **Richard Spencer**, promoted to professor and given tenure at Appalachian State, published a revised version of his dissertation, *Contrast as Narrative Technique in Ovid's Metamorphoses*, last year. This past spring, Richard introduced two new courses: one entitled "Women in the Ancient World," and the other on Israel.

Alison Parker does free-lance writing for her local newspaper. She recently published recipes for Black Bean Dip and, a life-long devotee of Pace Picante Sauce (hot), for Pico de Gallo. VVR will happily send you photocopies (SASE, please), and if Alison will update Cato, we'll print her recipes next year in *Tabulae*. **Amanda Worth Tueting** writes to tell us that she is in Contract Administration (in Raleigh, NC), and that she had looked into an MAT but found it would take two years of study with no salary, and so she decided her current job was just fine. She finds her rigorous classical training can help her out in tough situations: "A sixth grade history student asked me if I could list the Punic Wars in order." She could.

—GWH

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COMING EVENTS IN CLASSICS AT CHAPEL HILL

Saturday, March 27, 1999. UNC/Duke Graduate Colloquium. Topic: "Pimps, Peasants, and Potentates: Low-Lives and Leaders in the Ancient World." As scholars of the ancient world, we are accustomed to walk the well-illuminated avenues of antiquity, seeking out monuments to noble men and great accomplishments. Rarely do we venture into the darker alleys, the familiar haunts of prostitutes and cutthroats, soldiers and drunken youths, lovelorn poets, and even the occasional emperor. Here mass and elite mixed: thugs met with wealthy slummers, craftsmen hawked their wares, courtesans advised prominent statesmen—surrounded by the nameless, faceless crowds shuffling through their daily routine. We invite the submission of abstracts from all disciplines for papers that shed light on these obscure corners of antiquity, where lowly and lofty intermingled.

Interested? For further information, please contact Noel Fiser, Department of Classics CB 3145, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599 or <classics@unc.edu>. You may also check the Department's web page (<http://classics.unc.edu/gc/>) for up-to-date information.

If you plan a visit to Chapel Hill, we'd love to see you, so please let the chairman know: George Houston, <gwhousto@email.unc.edu>; or you might want to get a list of the lectures we are sponsoring this year. For that, contact Kathy Sutton in the Department office at 919-962-7191 or <ksutton@email.unc.edu>.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING? If you have news, and if it's news that would not give offense, please send it to: George Houston, Dept. of Classics CB 3145, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3145. (Actually, you can even send offensive news, but we may not print it. Then again, we probably will.)

Yes! I have news! My Name:

My degree and year:

My news:

NOTE: If you would like, just post us via email: gwhousto@email.unc.edu.