Welcome to the Cornell Classics Department’s 2015/2016 Newsletter!

This past year has been exciting and transformative for the Department. Our newsletter gives you a just a taste of some of the many activities and achievements of the faculty and students in the Department through the year. With the completion of the Klarman Hall addition to Goldwin Smith, we not only emerge from a period of building/renovation disruption, but, managed by our Prof. Verity Platt, we have classical antiquity spectacularly inserted into the new atrium (see picture), indicative of our efforts to highlight the key and ongoing role of classics at Cornell and in the wider world. This coming year we are thrilled to welcome a new colleague – Dr. Astrid Van Oyen – a Roman archaeologist who writes about her work and research interests on the next page. Astrid’s arrival brings Roman archaeology back to a central place at Cornell and will offer important new teaching and research opportunities for our students (and the lure of a summer in Italy). The Classics play – Euripides’ Orestes – this past Fall, directed by Prof. Fred Ahl, was another wonderful experience. Mike Fontaine continued to promote and excite with his spoken Latin teaching and pizza lunch. For much more, read on. If you are a prospective student reading this newsletter and wondering how do I get involved in all this excitement and intellectual energy, please contact us!
Introducing New Faculty Member Astrid Van Oyen

I am thrilled to be joining Cornell from the University of Cambridge, where I hold a Junior Research Fellowship at Homerton College. As a Roman archaeologist, I am interested in marrying the richness of artefact studies with big historical and methodological questions. One of those questions touches on the very foundations of archaeology: how to write history from things, especially now that material culture studies have shown that things are not just passive props but actively facilitate and steer cognition, action, and eventually history.

My part has been to emphasize that not all things shape history in the same way. My book *How Things Make History. The Roman Empire and its Terra Sigillata Pottery*, recently published with Amsterdam University Press, explores this issue for Roman archaeology’s most emblematic type of pottery. Widespread, easily recognizable, and highly standardized, terra sigillata pots have long been equated with the spread of a certain ‘Romanness’ and cultural and economic integration. Recent approaches have countered that despite the distinctiveness and homogeneity of this object class, the same pot could mean different things to different people in different contexts. What has been lost, however, is the analytical power to differentiate between different kinds of material culture: terra sigillata has become just another type of pottery, endlessly reinterpretable, like any other kind of material culture. Instead, I re-emphasize the historical significance of terra sigillata’s standardisation: it afforded particular kinds of actions, different from other pottery. As a result of their standardisation, for example, terra sigillata pots could easily be stacked, facilitating long-distance transport on carts and ships, and often arriving on consumption sites in sets. As sets containing many different shapes, terra sigillata pots could easily cater to the needs of different types of usage, in different contexts. Paradoxically, then, it was precisely their relative homogeneity as a material class that spurred flexible reinterpretation of *terra sigillata* pots.

As the case of Marzuolo shows, in the early Roman empire standardisation and innovation were often twin phenomena. This is true not just for terra sigillata pottery, but also for blown glass, concrete buildings, or marble statues. Moreover, notions of standardisation and innovation also affect how we identify similarity and difference, and thus how archaeology sorts its objects. This dialectic will be the kernel of my future work, for which the Corning Museum promises to be a natural partner.

I look forward to collaborating with Classics Faculty and with colleagues at CIAMS on questions of Roman archaeology, material and visual culture, and archaeological method and theory, and to teaching on these and other topics. Not even the best assessment of ‘fit’, however, can anticipate the transformations that a move like this will incite, both for myself and for the Department. It is to these that I look forward most, and I am confident that they will be rewarding.
Future Plans

Emily Collins (Classics and History) is studying to obtain her master’s degree in accountancy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Emily hopes to gain experience with one of the major accounting firms and sit for her CPA license.

Katie Cruz (Classics and English) is starting her PhD in Classics at Princeton University.

Nathaniel Duvall was admitted to Georgetown University Law School.

Rebekah Foster is working at Analysis Group, a consulting firm, conducting health economics and outcomes research for clients.

Lila Goldenberg (Classics and History) is a graduate student in Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Columbia University.

Clara-Ann Joyce is employed at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in NYC.

Denise Schulze is teaching Criminal Justice to high school juniors and seniors at TST BOCES and attending grad school part-time.

Samantha Viramontes is planning on applying to medical schools.

David Zha is working at a law firm and probably going to law school in the future.

Classics Minors
We would also like to congratulate our Classics minors for 2015:

Carlos Kong
Robert Pena
Michelle Quezada-Valenzuela
Andrew Ryu

Ph.D. Recognition

Catherine Kearns (Katie) earned her BA from The George Washington University in 2006, an MA from the University of Arizona in 2008, and defended her doctoral thesis in April of 2015. In 2012-2013 she undertook a Fulbright student grant (2012-2013) on Cyprus, where she did fieldwork for her dissertation, which focuses on social and environmental change in one region of the island during the Iron Age. In addition to excavation and geophysical survey on Cyprus, Katie has also worked in Italy, Jordan, and Armenia, and has published articles and book chapters on topics related to her interests in landscape archaeology, materiality, archaeological science, and environmental history. She is an Andrew Mellon postdoctoral fellow in the Humanities and Classics at Stanford University for one year before beginning a tenure-track position at the University of Chicago in the Department of Classics.
Annetta Alexandridis spent the last academic year as a fellow at Cornell’s Society of the Humanities. Under the umbrella theme Time she worked on plaster cast collections of Greco-Roman art in a global and particularly colonial context. To that purpose she also co-organized, with Lorenz Winkler-Horacek (Free University Berlin) an international conference on plaster casts held last October in Berlin. Destroy the Copy II continued a symposium held at Cornell in 2010. This summer, Prof. Alexandridis is in Berlin to work on editing the proceedings of both conferences as well as a book manuscript on Ζώα. Images of the Body Between Man, Woman and Animal in Ancient Greece. In addition, she spent two weeks in Turkey to study funerary culture at Sardis.

Caitie Barrett had a busy and enjoyable year in 2015–2016. Her publications from this past academic year include a co-edited volume, Figurines grecques en contexte: Présence muette dans le sanctuaire, la tombe et la maison (Villeneuve d’Ascq: Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, 2015), as well as two articles on terracotta figurines as evidence for religious and ritual practices; an Oxford University Press handbook chapter on material evidence for ancient Greek religion; an Oxford University Press bibliographic article on Hellenistic and Roman Egypt; and several articles for encyclopedias and museum catalogs. She also obtained a book contract with Oxford University Press, and wrote the majority of the manuscript for her forthcoming second monograph: Domesticating Empire: Egyptian Landscapes in Pompeian Gardens. An article derived from this project, “Recontextualizing Nilotic Scenes: Interactive Landscapes in the Garden of the Casa dell’Efebo, Pompeii,” has been accepted for publication in the next issue of the American Journal of Archaeology (2017). Additional articles in press or forthcoming include two Oxford University Press handbook chapters, one on “Archaeology of Ancient Religions” and one on “Egypt in Roman Visual and Material Culture”; an article on the contextual analysis of Greco-Roman “magical gems” (forthcoming in the McDonald Institute Monographs series); and an article on the uses and valuations of terracotta figurines in Hellenistic domestic contexts (forthcoming from the Swedish Institute at Athens). She also delivered talks at international conferences hosted by the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, and the Swedish Institute at Athens. In fall 2016, she looks forward to teaching two new courses: “Archaeology of Ancient Greek Religion” (a 3000-level undergraduate seminar) and “Graduate Introduction to Greek and Roman Archaeology” (a 6000-level graduate and advanced undergraduate seminar).

Charles Brittain has been on leave. He is working on a commentary on Augustine, De trinitate 10.

In 2015-6, Mike Fontaine taught Latin courses on Sallust and Plautus, and pioneered two new courses: The traditional one, “Introduction to Ancient Rome,” which he’s repeating next year, was a big hit. The coolest thing about the second, “Wine Culture,” is that for the first time ever, Cornell let him offer an optional section taught entirely in Latin…and almost 20 people took it. Research-wise he published his Neo-Latin book and scads of other articles about Rome or Latin, including one in Foreign Affairs and three in Eidolon, the new public-facing journal in Classics. In January 2016 he was suddenly elevated to the purple as Acting Dean of the University Faculty; but, like Cincinnatus, he has already gone back to his plow. Amid all this Alyssa became an executive vice president and general counsel at Tompkins Trust Bank, Ava finished kindergarten, and Jake ruled the roost in the Dragons room of his daycare center. In summer 2016 he (Mike) went off to Rome to once again lead the Paideia Institute’s Living Latin in Rome program, where he was joined by five Cornell Classics students.


The piece discusses how Homer’s Circe story and Plutarch’s parody of it address the possibilities of human and animal communication; in connection with this research, Athena taught a new undergraduate course this spring entitled “The Animal in Greek Literature and Thought.”

Over the summer she returned to Greece and Italy to study Greek inventory inscriptions. Highlights included photographing and making squeezes of a fourth-century inventory of dedications from the Heraion on Samos, visiting the newly reorganized section of the Athens Epigraphic Museum with Athenian casualty lists, and studying the bronze tablets from Locri in Reggio Calabria. Athena will spend the coming fall semester as a fellow of the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C.

Sturt Manning continued as Chair of the Department and also introduced a new course: “Climate, Archaeology and History”. Some of this work translated into publications, such as a long article by Knapp and Manning in the American Journal of Archaeology in 2016 (vol. 120: 99-149) on the end of the Late Bronze Age (around 1200 BCE) in the eastern Mediterranean. With the help and collaboration of students, he continued archaeological fieldwork projects in Cyprus (see elsewhere in this newsletter) and undertook other work on dendroarchaeology in Turkey, Israel and China. It was a particularly exciting year for student achievements in
classical archaeology. Amanda Gaggioli – see elsewhere in this newsletter – graduated as a Classics Major and goes on now to Stanford to undertake graduate work in classical archaeology, while no fewer than 3 archaeological PhD dissertations were defended in the Department over the past year: Carrie Fulton, Catherine (Katie) Kearns and Jeffrey Leon (and two of these students start positions as assistant professors this summer: Carrie at the University of Toronto, and Katie at the University of Chicago).

Hayden Pelliccia: I have just completed a very long article on a very short poem (an epigram of Callimachus'), and hope to complete some other longer articles on short subjects before the summer is out. Last term I was delighted to teach Horace’s Odes to advanced undergraduates—apparently the first time the Odes have been taught here since the departure of Gregson Davis in 1994. I had always heard the Odes were good and it turns out they are. This fall I will teach Tacitus’ Histories, also at the advanced undergraduate level. In addition to working on articles this summer I am reading the Iliad—another work that is very good—together with as much of the ancient commentaries on it as I can stomach.

Verity Platt: After spending last year as a fellow at the Society for the Humanities, it was a delight to return to the classroom this fall, especially to a seminar taught jointly with Courtney Roby on Pliny and encyclopedism, followed by a course held jointly with Yale on notions of the ancient artist. In March, our Cornell group met with Yale colleagues in Washington DC for an inspiring visit to the Power and Pathos exhibition of Hellenistic bronze sculpture at the National Gallery, followed by a workshop at the Association of American Universities (kindly hosted by Hunter Rawlings). Meanwhile, spring 2016 saw my volume The Frame in Classical Art: A Cultural History (co-edited with Michael Squire) go into production with Cambridge University Press, while I continue to work on my book about “narratives of making” in ancient texts about the visual arts.

This year I also completed articles on poets’ tombs and artist anecdotes, as well as pieces for the ‘Touch’ and ‘Sight’ volumes of the Routledge series on The Ancient Senses. I was especially delighted to publish a piece on “The Matter of Classical Art History” for a special edition of Daedalus on “What’s New About The Old?”, about the current state of Classical Studies – not least because speaking to a wider audience about the relevance of antiquity feels increasingly urgent in today’s climate. It has been encouraging this year to take part in the Cornell Public Voices Fellowship, run by the fabulous Op-Ed Project, which has led to articles on Classics, contemporary art, and politics in Eidolon and Ms. Magazine. I’m looking forward to the department’s “Festival of Classics” this coming October, when we will be exploring the continuing significance of the old for the new, alongside the ongoing struggles we face in “sustaining the antique” – all amidst the Cornell casts recently restored and installed in the new Klarman Hall!

Eric Rebillard currently serves as Director of Graduate Studies. A French translation of his Christians and their Many Identities in Late Antiquity (Cornell University Press 2012) has recently been published by a major publisher in Classics (Les Belles Lettres). It was an interesting and a little awkward experience to be translated into his native language! 2015 saw a major update to the Classical Works Knowledge Base (cwkb.org) with new search possibilities and the publication of the database as Linked Open Data. He also edited with Jörg Rüpeke (Erfurt University, Germany) a very well received volume on Group Identity and Religious Individuality in Late Antiquity (Catholic University of America Press 2015)

Courtney Roby: My happiest news from the past year is the appearance of my first book (Technical Ekphrasis in Greek and Roman Science and Literature), which was published this spring. Other research highlights of the past year included a conference on distributed cognition in Edinburgh and work with manuscripts at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. My new project, on Hero of Alexandria, will take me to conferences in Paris and Oslo in the coming year. Meanwhile, I have continued to explore the fascinating world of book history through Rare Book School – thanks to RBS! I’ll travel to conduct and present research in Budapest and Philadelphia.

This has been my first year as Director of Undergraduate Studies for Classics, and learning the ropes of this new role has been challenging but rewarding. It’s great to have the chance to get to know our undergraduates and their experiences better in this broader context. Teaching has been a lot of fun this year, including a broad range of classes from a graduate seminar on Pliny to a first-year writing course on “Classics and Comics.”

This spring has also seen the continuation of the “Dioscorides lab” work some enterprising undergraduates began last year on the basis of the Ancient Medicine class; this year the work has expanded to include many more kinds of tests on many more remedies suggested by Dioscorides, and it’s been wonderful to see that work evolve (thanks once again to Dr. Maria Laux, and to Prof. Manuel Aregullin who has kindly made his lab available). I had the opportunity to talk about that work in giving one of the Plantations lectures this fall, and even got to talk about it on local radio. It’s a great experience to be able to tell a broader audience why Classics matters!

Jeff Rusten was delighted to be part of a rustic-retreat-style Corhali last summer in Nenours (look it up) where our faculty (Athena, Pietro, Verity) and grad students (Dennis, Natasha) were stellar. 2017 in Nauplio! The rest of his summer was spent in the wilds of Thucydides Book one (two articles in press, commentary done this summer, Penguin translation next).

This academic year was devoted to reviving two lecture courses, “Periclean Athens” and “Theater sport and spectacle.”.
Traveling Seminar to Ravenna

As part of this semester’s seminar on late antique Ravenna, all participants (seven grads, two undergrads, and myself) spent Spring Break viewing the monuments at first hand. It takes patience to get from Ithaca to Ravenna – three flights plus the transfer from Bologna – but the opportunity to discuss such splendid structures as San Apollinare Nuovo, the Mausoleum of Theoderic, and San Vitale as a group more than compensated for the tedium of transit. Since then, she excavated in Cyprus with Prof Sturt Manning in June 2015, and revisited Maroni in January 2016 to produce high quality aerial images and 3D models for the upcoming publication of the survey volume. She also conducted a reconnaissance of the upper valley with the use of a UAV drone, where she identified and recorded additional probable archaeological sites, including a Bronze Age tomb.

During spring semester Georgia taught Geographic Information Systems for the Humanities and the Social Sciences, during which she demonstrated to graduate students how to implement, organize and visualize spatial data for history, classics and archaeology. She has received a Scholarship from the Teaching and Learning Practitioners Fellowship program to use her course in a study of digital environments in the education of humanities.

Introducing Postdoctoral Research Associate Georgia Andreou

Georgia joined the Department of Classics in March 2015 as a post-doctoral research associate. Much of her work has focused on preparing chapters for the publication of the Maroni Survey Archaeological Survey Project—a study that aims to understand the anatomy of the Late Bronze Age urban landscapes of the south-central coast of Cyprus. Since then, she excavated in Cyprus with Prof Sturt Manning in June 2015, and revisited Maroni in January 2016 to produce high quality aerial images and 3D models for the upcoming publication of the survey volume. She also conducted a reconnaissance of the upper valley with the use of a UAV drone, where she identified and recorded additional probable archaeological sites, including a Bronze Age tomb.

She continues to work in a number of smaller projects with particular focus on the design of a geographical platform to monitor the erosion of coastal archaeological sites through photogrammetric reconstruction. She is soon returning to the field to assist Prof Sturt Manning in the excavation of ground-truthing trenches at the Late Bronze Age Maroni complex in June.

She is currently preparing a paper investigating on the inter-visibility of Bronze Age archaeological sites from the Symboulos and Paramali valleys (Cyprus), and a paper employing digital image analysis for archaeological surveys. Her paper ‘Understanding the Rural Landscapes of Bronze Age Cyprus’ has been accepted by Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology (December 2016).

Still frame from the 3D model of the Roman site of Zygi Petrini

Aerial photo of the Late Bronze Age site of Maroni Vournes
Wine Culture

This year brought a collaborative offering from the Cornell University Viticulture & Enology Program and the Cornell Classics Department. Wine Culture (CLASS/VIEN 2810) explored the complex interactions between wine and culture. This popular course, taught by Mike Fontaine and Justine Vanden Heuvel (Viticulture and Enology), not only tasted wine in class, and on the road in the Finger Lakes; it also inspired an art exhibit.

Plant-based Medicines: Ancient Greece and Rome and Beyond

Classical Greece was the birthplace of the humoral medical model that persisted throughout the Roman Empire, the medieval Western and Islamic worlds, and even into the 19th century. Courtney Roby gave a talk that presented the history of pharmaceuticals based on cultivated and wild plants that were developed within that long tradition through the collaboration of physicians and herbalists. That history now includes the Cornell Plantations themselves, which furnished the raw materials for some recent experiments testing the efficacy of ancient pharmaceuticals against microbes and cancer cells.

Power and Pathos Exhibition in Washington DC

Our Cornell group with Yale colleagues in Washington DC for an inspiring visit to the Power and Pathos exhibition of Hellenistic bronze sculpture at the National Gallery, followed by a workshop at the Association of American Universities (kindly hosted by Hunter Rawlings).
Current Graduate Student News

Natasha M. Binek (2011) traveled to Athens in the summer of 2015 to conduct a (thrillingly) close autopsy of the Dipylon oinochoe, a Late Geometric wine jug that is thought to bear the earliest substantial inscription in the Greek alphabet. In June, she presented her interpretation of the controversial last segment of the oinochoe’s graffito in France at the 2015 Corhali conference. Her paper has been subsequently accepted for publication in *Hesperia*. In 2016 she presented two additional papers: the first (“The Alignment of Medea and Eros in Apollonius and Euripides”) at a graduate conference at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the second (“The Helen Episode and the Myth of Scylla: Two Arguments for Vergilian Authorship”) at a CAMWS conference in Williamsburg, VA.

Andrew Meis, with the generous support of the Classics department, spent the summer in Athens at the American School of Classical Studies touring the archaeological sites of mainland Greece and Crete. Upon returning to Ithaca, he began his second year of coursework at Cornell, in which he read Pindar with Hayden Pelliccia and examined Greek catalogues with Athena Kirk, among others. This spring, while serving as a teaching assistant, Andrew was able to explore the interactions between Greco-Roman peoples and the Egyptians in Caitlín Barrett’s course “Egyptomania.” He looks forward to reading Plato’s *Republic* in New Haven this summer with Charles Brittain and Tad Brennan, and then preparing his A exams next year.

Liana Brent (2012) is working on her dissertation, which focuses on grave disturbance, reuse and violation in Roman Italy. She will present her research at the Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference at La Sapienza (Rome) in March, during the course of a six-week research trip to Rome as the recipient of a Michele Sicca Grant for Research in Europe from the Cornell Institute for European Studies. This summer she will return to the Vagnari Cemetery Project as the site supervisor for a bioarchaeology field school in Puglia, at a site that provides important material for her dissertation.

Sophia Taborski was thrilled to have begun her PhD at Cornell this fall having completed her Bachelor’s in Classics and History at the University of Pittsburgh last spring. In the summer of 2015, she presented her honors thesis, “‘Not Just for the Birds: Augury and Archaic Attic Vase Painting’ at Prophets and Profits, XVI UNISA Classics Colloquium, and is currently preparing it to be published in the conference’s edited volume. At Cornell, she has continued pursuing her interests in the materiality of religion and has also developed an interest in Roman glass. She also had the opportunity to visit Ravenna this spring with the travelling seminar, “Problems in Byzantine Art” taught by Ben Anderson and the Power and Pathos exhibition in Washington DC with the joint seminar, “In Search of the Ancient Artist” taught by Verity Platt. She looks forward to excavating at Argilos with the University of Montreal and working with Cornell’s cast collections this summer.

Katie Jarriel spent October 2015 surveying the island of Naxos (Greece) in her third field season with a team from Cambridge University. For the 2015-2016 academic year, she served as the Assistant Director of the Cornell Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies (CIAMS), and she looks forward to another year in that position. Katie is currently finishing her dissertation. She recently returned from Florida where she presented two papers on her dissertation research and chaired a session during the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting.

Jonathan Warner spent the summer of 2015 in Berlin studying German at the Goethe Institut. Upon returning to Ithaca, Jonathan continued his coursework, writing on Thucydides, Pindar, and archaic Greek mercenaries. This March, he presented his paper, “Natural and Elemental Imagery in the *De rebus bellicis*,” at CAMWS in Williamsburg, VA. Next year, Jonathan will continue preparing for exams and developing his ideas for conferences and journals.

Jonathan Warner
Spotlight: Anamda Gaggioli

Before beginning my collegiate studies, I could not have imagined all of the experiences and opportunities that my curiosities for the ancient world and love for playing soccer would have led me to over the past four years. After immediately enrolling in Archaeology courses my freshman year, I soon discovered the value that Classics had to offer in enriching my ability to think critically about past human life and further realizing its relevance for understanding the world as it exists today. I have found myself grappling with questions which have concerned the minds of humans for millennia, while devoting many hours to reading ancient history, literature and philosophy, deciphering ancient texts from their original languages, and spending my summers halfway across the world on excavations to uncover 3000 year old human remains under the hot Mediterranean sun. My experiences working with dendrochronology and discovering the applications of natural sciences to archaeology and history further elaborated my perspectives on the ancient world. I have been able to do all of this, while also satisfying my competitive and ambitious spirit on the soccer field. The past years spent running between classes, the dendrochronology lab, and soccer practices, training, and games pushed me beyond my physical, mental, and intellectual limits, and I know that my combined experiences in Archaeology, Classics, and soccer lead to an exciting road ahead. I cannot begin to express how grateful I am for all of the time spent with my professors, coaches, and teammates who have shaped my personal and intellectual growth during my time at Cornell.

Amanda has accepted admission to Stanford Classics (turning down Brown, Chicago, Oxford and Cornell).
Alumni Profiles

Jason Damsker (1993) (classics and chemistry double major) went on to medical school at Hahnemann University School of Medicine (class of 1997) in Philadelphia. He completed his internal medicine residency at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. Jason then completed his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center/Temple University Hospital. He is an attending medical oncologist/hematologist in the Philadelphia suburbs.

“I am happily married to my wife Sharon and have two children Justin (10) and Abigail (6) - we live in Upper Dublin, PA.”

Nathaniel Duvall (2015) is now attending Georgetown Law School.

Sally A. Eliot (née Marshall) (2001). After roughly a decade teaching Latin (“and the occasional bit of Greek when lucky”) in the classroom and doing online instructional design for Latin literature, Sally has gone back to school to get her PhD in Instructional Technology at the University of Central Florida. She has had a very successful first year, with her first publication in print (“Motivating the Online Language Learner”, Zammit, Eliot, Kelly, & Martindale, Proceedings of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology 2014) and an acceptance to the competitive Research and Theory division of the same organization for November (Eliot & Hirumi, “The Elusive Construct of Emotion: An Interdisciplinary Critical Literature Review”). “While it’s been strange transitioning to the world of APA formatting and not generally being allowed to cite anything older than ten years (ten years!), I’m consistently amazed how often ideas from my Classics background, especially in philosophy, continue to be seminal in this difficult branch of educational theory.”

Lauren Kerr Freund (2005) is a Litigation Counsel for Penske Automotive Group, managing litigation across the country for the world’s second largest automotive dealership group. She deals with consumer, commercial, employment, and personal injury liability.

Megan Gier (2014) left Cornell and she moved back to Chicago and has been working for Kaplan Test Prep as an ACT instructor. Since late April, Megan has been working as a Student Ambassador at Expo Milano 2015 (this year’s International Expo) in the USA Pavilion. Her main job there is to act as a docent, guiding visitors through the exhibit and answering their questions about the content of our pavilion, which showcases American culinary innovation and our contributions toward solving the problem of global food security. When she returns to Chicago in August, she will be starting a Master’s in Applied Linguistics with a concentration in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at the University of Illinois - Chicago.

Raza Hoda (2011) attended medical school at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. He is a resident physician in the Department of Pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Stevie Hull (2010) is now in her fourth year in the Classics PhD program at Brown. She is currently working on a prospectus entitled, “Mentorship in Late Antiquity” which looks at comparative representations of student/teacher interactions in Greek and Latin literature of the period. This summer she is also working on an Edtech startup that develops writing apps for high school students.

Patricia Kickland (2000) is married with 2 children. Deputy prosecutor in Honolulu, HI.

Justin Schwab (2001) received his BA in Classics from Cornell in 2001, and obtained a PhD in Classics from the University of California (Berkeley). However, he is not active in the field. Justin obtained a JD from Yale Law School in 2010 and, after clerking for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the Utah Supreme Court, he has been practicing in the DC office of Baker & Hostetler since January 2013. He still enjoys reading the classics for recreation, however, and his family has continued their involvement in the department and the field - his younger brother Whitney, another graduate of the department, is now a professor of ancient philosophy at the University of Maryland (Baltimore County), and Lehman (7th of 8 siblings) is a Cornell undergraduate and has already taken a number of the department’s offerings.

“On a personal note, my wife Juliet and I met each other in the summer of 2002 while attending Father Reginald Foster’s Latin Experience in Rome. We now live in Washington, D.C. and have 3 children (who I hope will all in turn study Classics!).”


Stevie Hull and Patricia Kickland at the Living Latin in NYC Conference held by the Paideia Institute for Humanistic Study.
This has been an exciting year for the Cornell Cast Collection! Decades after they were ignominiously removed from the ground floor of Goldwin Smith Hall, some of our most prized pieces have found a dramatic new home in the new Klarman Hall. Now the Nike of Paionios swoops down from her high base into the Groos Family Atrium, where she is accompanied by two Venus statues (the Venus de Milo and the Venus Colonna) and a display of figures from the Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, painted black to resemble their bronze originals. All these pieces were restored in 2014/15 for the “Cast and Present” exhibition in the Johnson Museum, curated by Annetta Alexandridis, Verity Platt and Andy Weislogel, thanks to a generous donation by Madeleine Bennett ’48.

This spring, I have been working with our loyal and brilliant conservator Kasia Maroney (of Boston Restoration) to prepare a series of friezes for installation elsewhere in the new Klarman extension, kindly made possible by Carolyn Levine Coplan ’76, Neil L. Coplan ’76, and Alison Coplan ’11. The former Temple of Zeus café has temporarily turned into the “Workshop of Pheidias,” as panels from the Lycian Harpy Tomb and Nereid Monument and friezes from the Temple of Athena Nike in Athens are cleaned and restored. Our hope is that these will introduce a visual conversation between different styles, periods, and cultural traditions into the Klarman space, emphasizing the Greek world’s relationship to the Near East, alongside the complex relationship between Greek and Roman art that is exemplified by the Villa dei Papiri casts and Venus statues, all of which emulate and adapt different aspects of Classicism.

Meanwhile, the welcome return of Hunter Rawlings to the President’s office means that casts have also met an enthusiastic reception in Day Hall. Following the chance discovery of a lost bust of Abraham Lincoln by Henry Crans (the College of Arts and Sciences Director of Facilities), our cleaned and spruced-up portrait of the Gettysburg orator now sits alongside a bust of his Classical model, Pericles, speaking to President Rawlings’ abiding interest in the significance of antiquity for American political history. -- Verity Platt

-- Verity Platt

On November 16-18 students in Ancient Theater Performance course, in collaboration with the Classics Society of Cornell University staged very well received performances, in English, of Euripides’ “Orestes” in the Blackbox Theater in the Schwartz Center for the Creative and Performing Arts. The cast included Luby Kiriakidi as Electra, Mikaela Hamilton a member of the chorus, Angela Link as the messenger (and a member of the chorus), Xenia Ludtseva as Apollo (and a member of the chorus), Griffin Smith-Nichols as Orestes, Erial Zheng the chorus leader, Angaelica LaPasta as Helen and Hermione, Francesca LaPasta as Helen and Hermione, Anjum Malik as Menelaus, Nathan David Chazan as Tyndareus, Alex ter Weele as Pylades, and Yunqi Tian as the Phrygian slave. The play was translated by William Arrowsmith and directed by Frederick Ahl.

Electra, played by Luby Kiriakidi ’18, left, talks with Orestes, played by Griffin Smith-Nichols ’19, while chorus members Mikaela Hamilton ’19, Angela Link ’16 and Xenia Ludtseva ’18, wait in the background during the Department of Classics’ production of "Orestes" Nov. 16.

Menelaus, played by Anjum Malik ’16, left, commiserates with Orestes.

Tyndareus, played by Nathan David Chazan ’19, explains to the audience why he wants both Orestes and Electra executed for their crimes. Photos: Chris Kitchen/University Photography

Photos: Robert Baker/Cornell Marketing Group
Summer 2016 has seen a field season of the Cornell University-University of British Columbia (UBC) KAMBE project in southern Cyprus, co-directed by Sturt Manning (Cornell Classics) and Kevin Fisher (UBC – and a former postdoc in Classics at Cornell). Classics major Amanda Gaggioli along with Cornell graduate students Chelsea Cole and Gabby Borenstein and Cornell postdocs Brita Lorentzen and Georgia Andreou as well as Cornell Visiting Scholar Thomas Urban joined students from UBC, Brown University and SUNY Buffalo and other researchers in a range of fieldwork endeavors exploring aspects of the settlement history and landscape use of the Vasilikos and Maroni valley areas from the end of May to the start of July. Initial results were reported 2 July at the 35th Annual CAARI/Department of Antiquities/ARU Archaeological Workshop in Lefkosia, Cyprus.

The project combined a range of geophysical survey methods to detect ancient built structures in this landscape via non-invasive techniques, with pedestrian survey (looking for actual debris on the ground – like potsherds and lithic material) and then limited excavation of selected areas to ground-truth findings and to provide chronological and material information on these buildings and the settlements involved. Figure 1 shows Thomas Urban using a cesium magnetometer at a Late Bronze Age to Archaic site (ca. 17th-6th centuries BC) with Amanda Gaggioli assisting, while Figure 2 shows Cornell PhD graduate, and currently Stanford Postdoc, Katie Kearns using a fluxgate magnetometer at an Iron Age site (ca. 8th-6th century BC).

The team undertook small-scale excavations at Kalavasos Ayios Dhimitrios (KAD) and Maroni Vournes (MV) to ground-truth, investigate, and elaborate on the geophysics findings. Figure 3 shows a trench at Maroni Vournes in action with several of the team. Exciting finds include, among other things, evidence for a sophisticated drainage system at KAD and hitherto unsuspected large-scale built structures of likely Late Bronze Age date (later second millennium BC) at surprising depth from the modern surface at MV which may entirely transform our previous understanding of this important urban center. We used a flotation machine courtesy of the Cyprus Institute to try to isolate organic materials for analysis from soil samples from the excavated contexts at each site: Figure 4. In addition, we salvage-excavated the remains of an impressive Late Bronze Age tomb exposed by coastal erosion in the sea scarp at Maroni Tsaroukkas – recovering around 140 pounds of ceramics, and, among other things, a lovely small stamp seal.

In addition to the archaeology, several of the team volunteered on some of their afternoons off to come to the mountains to help with a dendrochronology project studying Pinus brutia in Cyprus. The cooler conditions and great views may have been part of the reason! Figure 5 shows the group at the summit of Kyparissia peak after sampling.