Welcome to the Cornell Classics Department’s 2016/2017 Newsletter!

I am delighted to report that it has been another terrific year for the Department, with faculty and students making Cornell a wonderful place to be a classicist and to tell the world why classics remains vital and important. I mention just a few highlights (among many).

The fall saw “Sustaining the Antique: a 21st-century festival of classics” organized by Verity Platt on 28-29 October and involving talks by several members of the department, some distinguished guests, a living Latin showcase, and perhaps the real pinnacle, a terrific Latin reading competition with entrants from both Ithaca schools and Cornell undergraduates.

Another fall high point was the production of Oedipus (Tyrannus) November 10-12 in the Black Box Theatre at Cornell’s Schwartz Center, presented by the Department of Classics with students from Director and Translator Fred Ahl’s Theatre Performance class. The performances were of an impressively high standard to packed houses and altogether a huge success.

In September full lecture halls learned much about Roman slaves, gladiators and freedmen in the course of three terrific Townsend lectures by Jennifer Trimble, visiting the Department from Stanford.

The spring high point for the Department was the 2nd Francis Halpern Lecture, delivered by Hunter Rawlings, President Emeritus of Cornell, interim president (again) 2017-18, and Greek historian, especially of Thucydides. It was a great pleasure to have Francis Halpern’s sister, Marjorie Holden, who initiated this series, with us this spring along with her grandson Donald Holden. Hunter spoke on a theme of enduring relevance, “Communicating in a radical democracy: the ancient Athenians and us”, highlighting yet again the relevance of classics to the modern world.

Thanks to the support and generosity of the Kanders family, and the enthusiasm and efforts of Mike Fontaine and Hunter Rawlings, the start of 2017 also saw the appointment of Daniel Gallagher as the Ralph and Jeanne Kanders Associate Professor of the Practice in Latin in the Department of Classics. Dan is going to spearhead a new living Latin approach at Cornell teamed with Mike Fontaine.

In another milestone, David Mankin retires from the Cornell Classics Department this summer after many years on the faculty. He plans to continue scholarly work as an emeritus member. Hunter Rawlings has also retired (again) after remarkable service to Cornell, and rejoins our emeriti.

We look forward to a busy summer. Students take part in many activities from summer language opportunities through to participation in the Department’s (currently) two archaeological field projects, in Italy with Astrid Van Oyen, and in Cyprus with me. We look forward to 2017-18! –Sturt Manning, Chair
The headline in the Cornell Daily Sun captured it all: “Cornell Classics Appointment Marks ‘Tectonic Shift’ for the Study of Classics.” That’s a quote from Charles McNamara of the venerable Thesaurus Linguae Latinae in Munich, and it reflects the surprise, shock, amazement, and enthusiasm triggered by the Classics department’s newest appointment.

In Fall 2017 we’ll be joined by Dan Gallagher, former papal secretary in the Vatican’s Office of Latin Letters. Dan is one of the world’s foremost experts in composing Latin—writing and speaking it, fluently, in a variety of styles—as well as reading and analyzing it, and his appointment reverberated in Classics and Latin circles around the world.

And now Dan is bringing those “living Latin” skills to us. Thanks to a generous grant by the Alan Kanders family, Dan will join us for three years as the world’s first Professor of the Practice in Latin. His flagship course will be Conversational Latin. He’ll offer that each semester, as well as teach a variety of traditional Latin courses using his innovative pedagogy. Interest is already proving great, and not only among students and faculty; in her very first interview on campus, Martha Pollack, Cornell’s 14th president, even alluded to Dan’s appointment as an example of great innovation on campus:

A great example of teaching innovation is taking place in the classics department, where Latin is being taught as a spoken language.

Or, as President Pollack might have put it in Latin,

optimum quidem doctrinae novandae exemplum datur apud facultatem litterarum classicarum, ubi lingua Latina ut viva instititur.

She’s right. Latin is a dead language, but it isn’t dead the way Akkadian or Etruscan are. It’s dead the way Hebrew was until the late 19th century. Long after universities had regarded it as something dead and gone, Latin, like Hebrew, remained in continuous use in religious circles. As one of the few heirs to that living tradition, Dan can correct Latin mistakes in real time. He can suggest synonyms or circumlocutions, or ask students questions, all in Latin. Amazing as that sounds, the more students get used to it, the sooner they’ll develop great fluency and confidence in reading classical Latin texts, because it’s a proven way to increase vocabulary massively. Students won’t have to resort to the dictionary as often as they do. They don’t have to keep checking commentaries or translations to see if they have the sense right. And quo magis id facias, eo facilius fit: these skills accrue, so the more you practice it, the easier it gets.

And that is surely the most exciting aspect of Dan’s appointment in the department—he complements the work we’re already doing. Our aim in classics is to understand the classical Greek and Roman world. As students hone their language skills with Dan, they’ll be able to carry out their research more quickly and competently than ever before.

So these are exciting times in the Classics department! We invite any interested alumni to stop by on their next visit to see for themselves how a dead language is coming back to life at Cornell.
Congratulations Class of 2016

Future Plans

**Colleen Cournoyer** *(Classics and Linguistics)* is attending graduate school at Sacred Heart University in CT to get her Masters in Teaching degree and become certified to be an elementary school teacher. She hopes to eventually be further certified as a reading and literacy specialist.

**Eric Erle** *(Classics and Economics)* is an intern at MedCap Funds.

**Amanda Gaggioli** *(Archaeology and Classics)* is in the Classical Archaeology graduate program at Stanford.

**Emma Harman** *(Classics and English)* is studying for a masters degree at the University of Oxford.

**Avichai Kapach** *(Classics)* is a graduate student at Brown University.

**Adam Mahar** *(Classics and College Scholar)* is employed at Epic Systems in Madison, WI as a Server Systems Engineer.

**Quinn Olsen** *(Classics and Engineering)* is working for a structural engineering company in Boston.

**Colton Siegmund** *(Classics and Near Eastern Studies)* is in the Cuneiform Studies (Assyriology and Sumerology) PhD Program at the University of Chicago.

**Anita Venkatesh** *(Classics and Biological Sciences)* is attending the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville.

**Vivek Venkatesh** *(Classics and Biological Sciences)* is attending the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville.

**Alex García and Daniel Parsons**

**Ph.D. Recognition**

**Carrie Fulton** received her B.A. in Classical Archaeology and Biology from Bowdoin College (2006) and a M.A. in Anthropology with a specialization in Nautical Archaeology from Texas A&M University (2009). Her dissertation was, Lost in Transportation: Trade Networks and the Materiality of Cargoes in the Ancient Mediterranean (2015), which develops a theoretical framework for using shipwrecked remains to explore trade networks. Her work focuses on nautical archaeology trade, shipbuilding, ancient religion, 3D digital recording procedures, and landscape studies. She has participated in terrestrial and underwater excavations in New York, Maine, Florida, Turkey, and Cyprus. Carrie is working as an Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of Toronto.

**Jeffrey Leon** is working as a User Experience Designer.

**Goran Vidović** finished his undergraduate studies in Classics at the University of Belgrade in 2006, and earned and MA in Medieval Studies at the Central European University in Budapest in 2008. Meanwhile he was teaching Greek and Latin on a high school level and publishing translations into Serbian. In 2010 he moved with his wife Bojana to Ithaca where his two children were later born. His main interests so far have ancient drama and Latin literature, and his dissertation explored the metapoetic aspect of Terence’s comedies. Goran is working as an Assistant Professor of Latin at the University of Belgrade.
Faculty Notes

Between April 19 and May 1, Fred Ahl was in Brazil, where he gave extended seminars on Plato’s *Cratylus* to the Department of Classics at the Federal University of the Paraná in Curitiba and the Department of Philosophy at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte. He also delivered the keynote address at the seventh meeting of the biennial international conference *Simpósio Lendo, Vendo e Ouvindo o Passado* sponsored by the Federal University of São João del Rei. And on May 19 he presented a paper: “How satire shapes epic in Lucan and other ancient poets,” at a convention at the University of Aix Marseille, whose theme was *The Confusion of Genres in Lucan’s Pharsalia*.

Another fall high point was the production of Sophocles’ *Oedipus* (Tyrannos) November 10-12 in the Black Box Theatre at Cornell’s Schwartz Center, translated and directed by Frederick Ahl, and using incidental music drawn from the Brazilian choro tradition, and sponsored by the Department of Classics. The cast drawn entirely from students in Fred’s Theatre in Performance class -- who enroll with a guarantee they’ll get a part, however small. Many had no prior theatrical experience; five were not native speakers of English. Oedipus was, for some, their second or third performance with the program. Luby Kiriadiki (also winner of the Latin poetry recitation contest at the festival of classics) had previously appeared in Fred’s staging of Seneca’s *Trojan Women* and of *Euripides’ Orestes*, as had Yunqi Tian, and Erial Zheng. For Angaelica and Francesca LaPasta, as for Griffin Smith-Nichols and Nathan Chazan, Oedipus was a second performance with us. Our Mandarin speakers worked many extra hours to hone their performances to the highest standards. Oedipus was a huge success and played to packed houses.

Among Caitie Barrett’s recent publications is a new article in the *American Journal of Archaeology* entitled “Recontextualizing Nilotic Scenes: Interactive Landscapes in the Garden of the Casa dell’Efebo, Pompeii.” In first-century Pompeii, paintings and mosaics depicting Egyptian landscapes (especially images of the Nile River) were popular forms of domestic decoration. Many of these scenes include images of pygmy-like figures engaging in seemingly bizarre behaviors, such as fighting with crocodiles, drinking and carousing, or engaging in public sex on the riverbanks. Such images raise important questions about the ways that Romans conceptualized Egypt and Egyptian culture: what did the idea of “Egypt” mean to people in Roman Italy, and why did Italian consumers want to display these sometimes outrageous-looking images in their homes? Previous research on so-called “Nilotic scenes” in Roman art has generally explained their popularity in terms of either the cult of the Egyptian goddess Isis, or the Roman promulgation of anti-Egyptian stereotypes. Prof. Barrett’s research seeks to move beyond such binary approaches by recontextualizing Egyptian imagery within Pompeian houses. Her *AJA* article focuses on the case study of one particular house at Pompeii, the so-called Casa dell’Efebo, within which paintings of life on the Nile form just one part of a larger garden installation whose visual culture suggests a broad range of imagined landscapes. Transforming domestic space into a microcosm of the larger Roman empire, the images and objects in this garden invited their viewers to engage in open-ended ways with changing constructions of imperial, local, and cultural identities.

From right to left, starting at back: Luria Greene, Joseph Nechleba, Abi Cherry, Nathan Chazan (in the shadows at the back), Zijin Li (striped dress), Jaclyn Huang. Front row: Erial Zheng, Sydnie Chavez.

Prof. Barrett at the Temple of Isis in Pompeii.
In addition to this recently published article, Prof. Barrett also has a forthcoming book on images of Egypt at Pompeii, *Domesticating Empire: Egyptian Landscapes in Pompeian Gardens* (under contract to Oxford University Press). She continues to serve as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Archaeology. This year, her teaching included a graduate course on Greek and Roman archaeology and three undergraduate courses on Greek religion, magic and witchcraft in the Greco-Roman world, and the history and archaeology of Cleopatra’s Egypt.

Now Prof. Fontaine is finishing editorial duties on a book titled *Quasi Labor Intus: Ambiguity in the Latin Language* (Brill).

Alyssa is thriving as general counsel of Tompkins Financial, Ava finished first grade, and Jake can’t wait to start kindergarten this fall. *Vita beatast!*

In 2016-7, Mike Fontaine taught Introduction to Ancient Rome and three sections of Latin FLAC, a seminar-style discussion section conducted in Latin (the theme was *Amor/Roma*). For the second time he spent the summer in Rome with an extraordinary group of classics undergrads, including five Cornellians, as head professor of the Paideia Institute’s Living Latin in Rome program. He published a slew of papers and took an unforgettable trip to the *Bibliotheca Alexandrina* in Alexandria, Egypt, where he spoke on free speech and censorship in Roman comedy (check out the pictures below to see the face of higher education in Egypt today).

Athena Kirk spent the Fall 2016 semester as a Fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., where she continued work on her monograph the Tally of Text, on Greek catalogues and inventories. She also received an Affinito-Stewart Grant from the President’s Council of Cornell Women for a related project. This new project, which she began last summer and will continue this coming summer, focuses on ancient record-keeping practices and values by examining stone inventory inscriptions produced in ancient Greece. With the adoption of writing, Greek city-states found a new outlet for amassing, displaying, and counting prestige objects: in short, the advent of literacy changed the medium of economic communication. Scholars have struggled to determine the ultimate purpose of these inventories, often dismissing them as useless documents; Prof. Kirk suggests, however, that they were a crucial vehicle for civic financial propaganda. The centerpiece of this project will be new digital analysis of examples from the extensive (and baffling) corpus of fifth- and fourth-century BCE treasury inventories, based on scanned paper squeezes, such as the one pictured in the Samos Archaeological Museum.

Continued on page 8
Summer 2016 has seen the first excavation season of the Marzuolo Archaeological Project (MAP), led by Astrid Van Oyen (Cornell Classics), in collaboration with Rhodora Vennarucci (Arkansas) and Gijs Tol (Melbourne). The project included students and staff from the Universities of Cornell, Cambridge, Arkansas, and Groningen.

Marzuolo is a Roman-period rural site in southern Tuscany (Italy), near the village of Cinigiano. Previous excavations at the site had revealed production evidence of so-called terra sigillata pottery – the Roman empire’s most emblematic, widespread pottery used for eating and drinking. The very presence of this production at a rural site challenges existing knowledge, which assumes that production of these pots was situated in cities with a wide distribution network. MAP investigates how the site came into existence, how a community of craftsmen formed, and how a local innovation process took place at Marzuolo. Targeted excavation is combined with spatial and scientific data analysis, 3D modeling, and material studies.

The 2016 excavations clarified the chronological phasing and spatial layout of the site. It has become clear that the launch of standardized ceramic production at Marzuolo went hand in hand with planned development of the site around or soon after the turn of the millennium, which represented a considerable investment. We found the impressive foundation of a large building, as well as a two-room warehouse structure that probably flanked a street. This new evidence raises tantalizing questions about who was investing and where knowledge came from, and suggests new hypotheses regarding the economic power of rural communities. Later activity on the site included a medieval church surrounded by burials, one of which we excavated.

The 2017 excavations will focus on two possible production areas, with the aim of better understanding the transformation of technical practices at the site over time.
Summer 2016 saw a number of Cornell students join Sturt Manning to participate in the Kalavasos and Maroni Built Environments (KAMBE) Project in southern Cyprus working primarily on the history of two major Late Bronze Age (1700-1200 BC) sites and the subsequent Iron Age (Classical) occupation in the region. The project, which started back in 2008, is now a Cornell and University of British Columbia (former Cornell postdoc Kevin Fisher, now a faculty member at UBC) and University of Chicago (former Cornell PhD student Katie Kearns, now a faculty member at Chicago) and University of Toronto (former Cornell PhD student Carrie Fulton, now a faculty member at U of T) collaboration. One major task was to test the geophysics from 2015 (led by Cornell Department of Classics Visiting Scholar Tommy Urban) where we believed we would find some substantial architecture. We had to move a lot of earth, but, finally, viola! We found a monumental wall some 6 feet below the surface (see photo) in one trench and traced altogether over three trenches. In summer 2017, as part of a Cornell Classics Department ‘explourse’, we plan to expand the excavated area and clarify the date and purpose of this so far unique structure (where, until our geophysics, no one expected to find anything). Hopes are high it may represent a so far missing initial phase for the wider settlement. It will be a summer of discovery.

Cornell Classics Department Postdoc and project co-director Georgia Andreou preparing ‘the wall’ for its final recording and photographs, Maroni Vournes, Cyprus.

MA and PhD student exchange program with the Institut für Archäologische Wissenschaften at the University of Freiburg/ Germany

This spring we launched an exchange program with the Institut für Archäologische Wissenschaften at the University of Freiburg/Germany. Spearheaded by classical archaeologists Ralf von den Hoff, Freiburg and Annetta Alexandridis, History of Art/Classics, it aims at introducing students of Greek, Roman or Late antique/Byzantine archaeology to the academic culture of the other country. Students spend 4-6 weeks at Freiburg or Cornell, participate in seminars, attend lectures and give a talk about their own research project. Speaking German is by no means a requirement, although we encourage Cornell students to familiarize themselves with the language. Our first ‘guinea pig’ was Tobias Wild from Freiburg, who stayed in Ithaca from March 5 to the beginning of spring break. On March 27 he presented his project “Visual representations of Hellenistic rulers in small scale statues” in the CIAMS brownbag seminar. Tobi loved it here; people, intellectual atmosphere - and snowstorm included. Thanks to all students and faculty, who have made Tobi’s visit such a success! His Cornellian counterpart, Evan Allen, PhD student in History of Art, will spend several weeks at Freiburg this coming June/July. For more information and for indicating interest please contact Prof. Alexandridis (aa376).

Evan Allen, Jessica Plant, Tobias Wild, Kathleen Garland, Peter Osorio.
The highlight of Verity Platt’s year was teaching a course on the ‘Ancient Senses’ during Spring 2017, which gave her a chance not only to work with some fantastic students, but also to pressgang colleagues into sharing their expertise on everything from the sound of war in Thucydides (Jeff Rusten) and games with Echo in Hellenistic epigram (Hayden Pelliccia) to the haptic dimensions of tragic bodies (Nancy Worman) and the mathematics of harmony (Andrew Hicks). Other highlights have been our Fall event “Sustaining the Antique” (see p. 10), a trip to Paris in December 2016 to deliver a series of lectures at the EHESS, and the publication of a CUP edited volume on The Frame in Classical Art: A Cultural History (which includes a fantastic paper by Courtney Roby). After a packed few years, Verity is looking forward to finishing her book Beyond Ekphrasis during a sabbatical in Fall 2017, and then to a fellowship at Cornell’s Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future in Spring 2018, where she will be working on an eco-critical reading of Pliny’s Natural History.

This March Hunter Rawlings and Jeff Rusten sponsored a two-day workshop on some of the most controversial and puzzling passages in Thucydides: the digressions, subjects of pre-circulated papers by us and Tim Rood (Oxford), Liz Irwin (Columbia), Philip Stadter (North Carolina); David Mimno (Cornell, information science) demonstrated “text-mining” techniques to identify Thucydides’ stylistic overlap with other authors; Kyle Khellaf (Yale) and Cornell graduate students and faculty (also from History and Philosophy) joined them in intensive discussion. The result was a radical challenge to conventional interpretations of these texts: for the four longest digressions, stressing their heterogeneity from the main narrative and from each other and the insights they offer into approaches to history distinct from the rest of the work; for the short digressions, that they perhaps divert our attention away from topics the main narrative wants to avoid.

Eric Rebillard’s new book (Greek and Latin Narratives about the Ancient Martyrs) was published by Oxford University Press in April 2017. It is a collection, with facing-page translations, of Greek and Latin Acts of Christian martyrs. While Herbert Musurillo in his authoritative collection claimed to gather the most ‘authentic’ and ‘reliable’ accounts, recent scholarship—most notably Bart Ehrman and Candida Moss—has rejected all claims of authenticity and described these texts as forgeries. This collection attempts at moving beyond this dichotomy and at providing a textual basis for a new appraisal of these narratives. The texts included are known either to Eusebius (d. 339) or to Augustine (d. 431) and focus on martyrs executed before 260 CE. Eric Rebillard’s next monograph will explore the context of composition of these first narratives and examine them in their contemporary horizon of reception.
Undergraduates in Italy

Italy was crawling with Cornell Classics students in summer 2016! Mikaela Hamilton and Gaela LaPasta spent their summer getting down in the dirt at an intercollegiate archaeological excavation near Naples. Further north, in Rome, Cesca LaPasta, Luby Kyriakidi, Scott Rodeo, Erial Zheng, and Derek Li spent five weeks at the Paideia Institute’s Living Latin program, led by Mike Fontaine. When the Paideia crew took an overnight trip down to Pompeii, everyone met up on Spaccanapoli street, in the historic center of Naples, for an impromptu gelato or two (it was *hot*!).

Exploring Cleopatra’s Egypt on Campus

Prof. Caitlín Barrett’s undergraduate lecture class, *Cleopatra’s Egypt: Tradition and Transformation*, recently visited the Johnson Museum. Students examined objects from Ptolemaic Egypt and the Roman Empire, as well as more recent images demonstrating later portrayals of Cleopatra and Egypt in the Western artistic tradition.
SUSTAINING THE ANTIQUE
a 21st-century festival of classics

October 28 & 29, 2016
Goldwin Smith Hall & Klarman Hall

All events are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

SUSTAINING THE ANTIQUE
a 21st-century festival of classics

Unless otherwise stated, all events are in the Rhodes Rowings Auditorium, Klarman Hall.

Friday, October 28th

3:30 Welcome
Verity Platt (Cornell) - "Sustaining the Humanities"
Hayden Pellicca (Cornell) - "What Got Me Hooked on Classics"

4:00 Latin reading competition
Featuring local school and Cornell undergraduates

5:15 Living Latin Showcase
Featuring Michael Fontaine (Cornell), John Kuhner (the Papyrus Institute), and Cornell students

6:00 Reception (Klarman Hall)

7:00 Ann Patty - "The Talking Dead"
Author of Living with a Dead Language, My Romance with Latin

Saturday, October 29th

10:00 Panel: Ancient Science, Technology, and the Environment
Courtney Roby (Cornell) - "Ascelpia in the Lab: Deriving New Remedies from the Ancient Pharmacy"
Astrid Van Oyen (Cornell) - "Roman Coca-Cola? Innovation Past and Present"
Stu Manning (Cornell) - "The Classical Climate: Understanding the Past, Predicting the Future"

11:30 Panel: Art and Cultural Heritage
Caitlin Barrett (Cornell) - "Imagining Ancient Egypt from Augustus to the Arab Spring"
Verity Platt (Cornell) - "Speaking Statues, from Rome to Cornell"
Annetta Alexandridis (Cornell) - "Making Plaster Casts: A NeverEnding Story"

12:30 Drop-in Sessions
- Tours of the plaster casts newly installed in Klarman Hall
- Workshop on the restoration of casts with local conservator Maria Manery
- Dendrochronology and archaeology showcase: Classics Department

2:00 Panel: Classical Antiquity and American Politics
Jill Frank (Cornell) - "The Power of Drones"
Hunter R. Rawlings III (Cornell University President) - "The Lion in the Path"
Alexander Livingston (Cornell) - "Two Cheers for Populism"

3:00 Panel: The Discomforts of the Past
Nicole Giannella (Cornell) - "Why Study Slavery?"
Tad Brennan (Cornell) - "Plato's Misogyny"
Jeff Ruskin (Cornell) - "Comedy is Not Pretty"

4:00 Coffee and Classical Refreshments (Klarman Hall)

4:30 Richard Fletcher - "Young Marble Giants: The Contemporary Art of Ancient Philosophy"
Classics professor, blogger, and curator of contemporary art, Ohio State University

6:30 Reception (Klarman Hall)

8:00 Concert
Annie Lewandowski (Cornell) performs her staged song cycle Bitter Banquet, inspired by the plays of Euripides. Featuring David Yearsley (Cornell).
“Cold comfort: speeches to and from the deceased in early Roman verse-epitaphs,” by Allison (Allie) Boex will be published in the journal Latomus in late 2017 or early 2018. The paper suggests that certain kinds of fictive orality are licensed by premature death, and explores whether these examples of fictive orality offer evidence of a belief in real communication between the living and the dead.

Liana Brent is the recipient of a two-year Andrew W. Mellon Foundation / Samuel H. Kress Foundation Pre-Doctoral Rome Prize in Ancient Studies at the American Academy in Rome. During this time, she will complete her dissertation, Corporeal Connections: Tomb Disturbance, Reuse, and Violation in Roman Italy, while expanding her research on the body in Roman social memory and enjoying visits to museums and archaeological sites.

Jake Nabel has been awarded a Residential Postdoctoral Fellowship by the Getty Research Institute for the 2017/18 academic year. Jake completed his PhD in the Spring 2017 semester with a dissertation titled “The Arsacids of Rome: Royal Hostages and Roman-Parthian Relations in the First Century CE.” In Los Angeles, he will join a group of scholars working on the research theme “The Classical World in Context: Persia” at the Getty Villa, where he will begin a new monograph on relations between the classical Mediterranean and the empires of ancient Iran.

Katrina Neff, administrative assistant in the Department of Classics, died Nov. 30, 2016 at her home in Lansing. She was 57.

“Katrina quickly established herself as the heart and soul of the classics department,” said Hayden Pelliccia, professor of classics, who hired Neff while he was serving as chair of the department. “Like a good classicist, Katrina combined a robust and shrewd pessimism about human nature with a cheerful interest in all its varieties and an unbounded affection for familiar specimens. She regarded the department as her family and the department regarded her as theirs.”

“She was my right hand and a dear friend to all,” said Miriam Zubal, administrative manager for classics. “Katrina was so incredibly hard working and dependable and would just do anything for you.”

Her genuine interest in other people and her generous enthusiasm will long be remembered by everyone she came into contact with.