

PRANDIUM PERPETUUM

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A RETIREMENT
RECEPTION FOR PROF.

VAL LEINIEKS

THURS., SEPT. 8, 2005

3:30 P.M.

DUDLEY BAILEY LIBRARY

(ANDREWS HALL LIBRARY)

Students of VAL LEINIEKS will never forget his characteristic energy, system, clarity, and insistence—and backbone.

Colleagues? I, for one, found him the essential person to discuss issues with, issues of content, meaning, Greek, Latin, and history. It is given to few to see the world as clearly as Val.

“I’ve never made a decision in my life,” he claims. Any choice was so crystalline, there was no choice to be made! ☺

EDITOR’S NOTE: The 2004–2005 school year marked a historical transition for the Department. Stanley Vandersall died, and Valdis Leinieks retired. We added an Arabist from New Zealand, Simon Wood, and our alum Bob Gorman, already on board as a lecturer, is to take the Leinieks tenure line. Therefore, the heart of this issue is a set of appreciations of Stan Vandersall, of Val Leinieks, and an introduction to Simon Wood and Robert Gorman.

New Professor Awarded Layman Fellowship for Research in Lebanon

Our new professor, SIMON WOOD, was awarded a Layman fellowship for research in Lebanon this summer. *Dis aliter visum*: it is no time to travel in Lebanon, and Simon is summering (summering?) here in Lincoln. You can see why at the posting of U.S. State Department Travel Warnings: <http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_924.html>

I see part of the text says, “U.S. citizens who disregard this warning...” Of course, Simon is not a U.S. citizen, but would be taken for one too easily. We mortals have



Simon Wood

plans... Well, at least Simon has the Layman award in his dossier!

Simon has a Ph.D. from Temple, and a B.A. from University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. He has studied

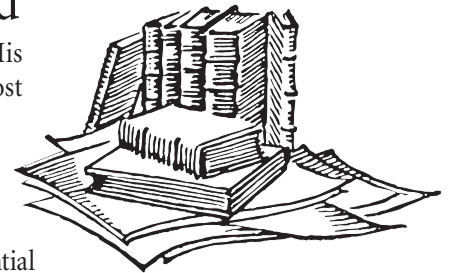
in Jordan and in Egypt. He has specialties in Modern Islam, Qu’ran and Hadith Studies, Muslim-Christian Relations, and Textual-historical methods for the study of Religion. ☺

Adkin Publishes Like Mad

NEIL ADKIN is still publishing like mad. His articles now number in the upper 180’s. Most notable, though, is his 500-p. book *Jerome on Virginitate Servanda: A Commentary on the “Libellus de Virginitate Servanda,”* Cambridge, 2003.

It opened to rave reviews: “fine and thorough first English commentary on an enormously influential text.... an invaluable tool for all working on patristic, and (it may be added) medieval, Latin and Greek’, while *Classical Review* (2005) says: “A[dkin]’s scholarship is impeccable... The patristic source criticism is masterfully executed. A. has raised the bar to a different level... His ground-breaking commentary... will assuredly remain the authoritative work... for a generation or more to come’.

In 2005 Adkin received a “5 Year Recognition Award for Contributions to Students.” Neil won the “UNL Humanities Center Faculty Research and Creative Activity Fellowship for 2003. Neil notes that his “mother continues her gifts to our library. Join her and win a place in our hearts forever!” ☺



Reintroducing Bob Gorman

BOB GORMAN, now a lecturer, will step into the Leinieks tenure-track line. Bob got his B.A. here in 1984. Students of that vintage will remember “Maximus.” He got his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 1995. His dissertation was titled *Cicero and the Socratic Method*. In research, he is interested in the ways in which a place was found (or made) for Greek philosophy in the world of the Romans. He does our Latin, which is thriving by the way—would you believe TWO sections of second year Latin! He also is technologically savvy. Our website <<http://unl.edu/classics>> is basically his work. ☺



Scholarships, Assistantships & Fellowships

The Clarence A. Forbes scholarship for summer study in the classical lands has been awarded this year to ERICA REA. She will use it to work at a Roman site in Israel. The Forbes was endowed by Carol Probasco, B.A. 1934, M.A. 1936 in honor of her admired professor.

At its annual scholarship meeting, the department awarded 2005-2006 scholarships to: SEAN WHITE, MELYNDA ADAMS, ERICA REA, ANDREW VAUGHAN, SUSAN EISENHAUER, CHRISTIAN THOMSEN, JESSICA BURKET and WILL SCHMEEKLE. These awards are from the endowments of Grace I. Bridge, Emma Steckelberg, and Willa Shea.

The research assistantship went to MATTHEW MEYER; Graduate Teaching Assistants for next year will be LISA BUNGE, ALICIA HOWELL, and KENNETH ROLLING. ☺

Religious Studies Faculty Prove Frequent Grant Awardees

SIMON WOOD is not alone with his fresh award: the Religious Studies faculty is frequently awarded research grants. STEVE BURNETT returned from time in Germany for the spring; SIDNIE WHITE CRAWFORD has a fellowship this spring at the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, and JOHN TURNER was away on one last summer. Four tenured/tenure-track faculty, four research awards 2004-2005. One-to-one." ☺



Adkin Inspires Winning Poet

The 2004 Vreeland Award here went to MARY KATE MCCARNEY for her poem "Adkin's Iliad." It's about her experience in Adkin's Greek class. It will appear here if I can get permission to reprint. ☺

Our Modern Age

New "Technology Stations" are being set up in our Classics foyer, funded by the Instructional Equipment Fund through the Dean's Office. Starting this fall, our students will be able to use the following resources right in our foyer:

- * PERSEUS DIGITAL LIBRARY
- * ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ISLAM
- * LSJ ELECTRONIC GREEK DICTIONARY
- * THESAURUS LINGVAE GRAECAE
- * LATIN NOW V9 DELUXE
- * MUSAEUS SOFTWARE
- * WIRELESS INTERNET

We are hoping that this will be a big asset for our students. ☺



Our top-notch students Kimberly Price and Adam Kavan were recently married. We're very happy about this.

Student Speaks at Professional Convention

A rare feather in the cap went to our student LISA BUNGE this spring: she was on the program of the 101st meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS) in Madison, WI this spring. Her paper was titled "Augustine's Exposition of the Psalms and manichean Philosophy."

(I was also there, delivering "How to Throw a Spear on a Sling.") Miss Bunge also participated in the Lollardpalooza Conference here in Lincoln, which was in large part organized by our lecturer STEPHEN LAHEY. ☺

Interesting Note

The Classics and Religious Studies department is thick with surnames that have a variant in final -s. I've heard people refer (alphabetically) to Adkins, Meyers, Winters, Woods. No, none of it.

It simplifies matters to note that there isn't a final -s in the department. ADKIN is Adkin, MEYER is Meyer, WINTER is Winter, and WOOD is Wood. ☺



IN MEMORY
STAN VANDERSALL

Nowadays, educational psychologists call it “Mastery Learning.” You do it over and over until you meet standards, (Think Drivers License testing) and it is done with computers. **STAN VANDERSALL** was there all along, but he did it all by personal dedication, by hand and by bluebook.

You did the assignment on the left pages, and made the corrections he called for on the right openings. He made assignments, and he graded them, and not just once! Having his students learn was Stan’s priority, and he saw to it with Herculean inputs of his own time. You could get all the help you wanted.



TOP: Professors Rinkevich, Leinieks, and Vandersall, July 4, 1972.
RIGHT: Stan’s oak is in the meadow south of Andrews Hall.



the “hospitality chair,” but it’s actually an homage to Stan Vandersall. That chair in Stan’s office was a comfortable place to be. When I was a kid professor (hard to believe how young I was!) I needed help, and Stan’s office was generally where I went to get it. You could smoke in those days, and Stan would have his pipe going, just like my grandfather. Same brand of tobacco!

In the good ol’ days, Stan and Amy hosted a clam chowder dinner every December for the department. And when the department was at our place, Stan and Amy would stay after everyone else was gone, and Amy would go to the piano and play. Amy helped with my violin studies, practicing

piano-violin duets. What a treat!

Since his little house on L Street was practically on my way home, in good weather, we walked home together. The Rock Island line was still operating, and one fine fall day, a train was approaching. “Let’s hurry Stan, to cross before the train,” I said. “Let’s rest here a minute; we’re about to be favored by a train!” he replied. And so we stood there, and appreciated the train.

I never just walked on past his house, but always enjoyed a moment or so of Stan and Amy’s hospitality before continuing on. When Amy had her stroke, and finally had to move in to Tabitha, Stan spent his days there. Their 60th wedding anniversary was

there. Stan’s total commitment to Amy was inspirational. Finally, Stan ended up in Tabitha himself. My daughter and I took him a plate of cookies Christmas day, 2003, the last Christmas he was alive.

Stan was straight up and down, no shading of anything. When we had the department dinner to celebrate the Teaching Award that decorated his retirement, he faulted me about the nomination dossier, for putting everything in the most favorable light. Know what? Stan Vandersall just didn’t understand how very very much he was appreciated!



Stan and Amy at Stan’s retirement party

There is a comfortable chair next to my desk, right where Vandersall had the one in his office. I call it



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