



Arts & Sciences

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
**PRANDIUM PERPETUUM**

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN • VOL. 13

**A Pamela Newcomb Update**

**Where Will Your Study of Classics Take You?**

Dr. Winter:

*I enjoyed the recent issue of the Alumni Newsletter. It makes me feel connected to hear from you all.*

*Thanks again for continuing to write to me, although I have not been good about answering. Please say hello to all, including the new students in your programs. I feel proud that my contributions are helping people who do not know me, but love their study in Classics, as I did.*

*My news? I gave a presentation in March 1999 to the California Association of*

*School Psychologists on the subject of providing supervision to high-risk minors. I was listed on the program as Senior Deputy Probation Officer Pamela Newcomb, M.A., University of Nebraska-Lincoln.*

*How is that for a fist full of titles? I was amused that they all assumed that my degree was in Psychology. Which reminds me of another story:*

*In 1996, I received the Thomas Guerry Award, presented by the Santa Barbara Citizen's Council Against Crime. There were several award*

*recipients in law enforcement, and we were presented our plaques and letters of commendation by the various leaders of law enforcement agencies in the County of Santa Barbara. The District Attorney and Sheriff were both very impressed with my education, and asked me questions about my studies after the ceremony.*

*I hope that there are many students flourishing in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies.*

—Pamela Newcomb

**Faculty Updates**

● **Fruitfulness and Generosity:** Verbatim from **Neil Adkin**, "In January, I was in Britain to bury my father and last September in Budapest, Hungary to give a paper entitled 'Why are the Church Fathers Better than the Classics?' (Answer: Because they achieve a higher level of finger-lickin rhetorical finesse). Meanwhile, I am on my 148th article and have given \$600 to the Library for the purchase of the Bibliotheca Teubneriana CD-ROM.

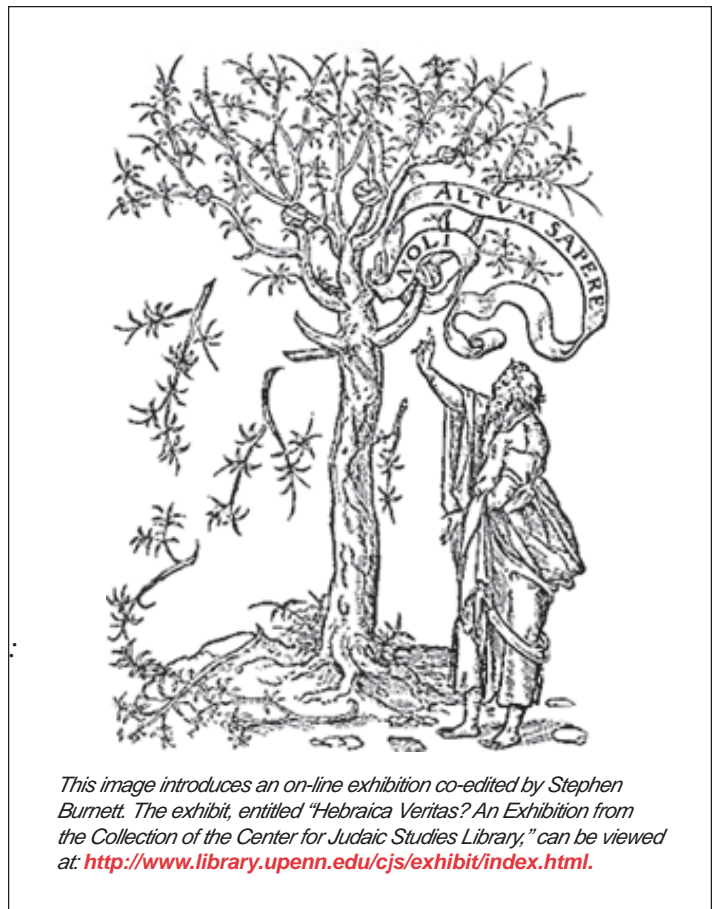
"It should also be mentioned that the father of our library-liaison-person, Gretchen Holten, donated \$1,000 this year for the purchase of Classics books/journals/CDs in honor of his mother, who taught Latin and Greek. Gifts from you, too, gracious reader, will win our eternal gratitude: remember us

in your will and live forever in our hearts."

● **Tom Winter** got his Private Pilot Certificate March 17, 2000, and now co-owns a Cessna 150 with retired economics professor **Wallace C. Peterson**. He tries to fly about once a week, to stay current or even improve. He also skated a marathon in one hour, 47 minutes, 10 seconds in May. Comment: "It really, really helps to have wheels under your shoes."

All right, who was elected president Tuesday, November 7? Still don't know? On that night, Tom Winter was picked as the next president for Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 569.

"I love being active," he says. He's also Coordinator,



*This image introduces an on-line exhibition co-edited by Stephen Burnett. The exhibit, entitled "Hebraica Veritas? An Exhibition from the Collection of the Center for Judaic Studies Library," can be viewed at: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/cjs/exhibit/index.html>.*



## Department Awards \$11,907.80 in Scholarships

- **The Grace I. Bridge Scholarship** was awarded to Megan Pfaff, Classics; Jennifer Farrell, Classics; Matthew McNeely, Classics; Micaela Simon, Classics; and Caleb Plettner, Classics.
- **The Steckleberg Scholarship** was awarded to Eric Larson, Latin.
- **The Oliver and Eva Reedy Scholarship** was awarded to Terry Meyer, Classics; Lucas Schulte, Religious Studies; and Elizabeth Beer, Classics.
- **The Clarence A. Forbes Scholarship** was awarded to Jennifer Farrell.
- **The Ed Hirsch Scholarship** was awarded to Lucas Schulte and Megan Pfaff.

*Congratulations to all!*

## In Other News...

The Department made a good showing at the first display Fair of research (February 2000), with a very nice poster board by Effie, and a vulgar display of publications by Val, Sidnie, John, Neil, Dan, and Thomas.

The Classical Mythology course is nowadays taught with two lectures in Love Library auditorium, plus seven "reci" sections, one taught by the prof, three each taught by two TA's. Dawn Gilley, who comes to us from Houston, Texas, and Chris Benak are teammates with Tom Winter's sections; Deanne Hyde and James Garis are assisting Neil Adkin.

# Where Are They Now?

**Warren Embree** is back in Lincoln, and trying to start a Presbyterian Seminary. ✘ **Jim Shaul**, teaching eight college courses in Omaha (!!!), is back also, as a graduate student in philosophy, aiming for a Ph.D. ✘ **Bruce Gregg** has built up the Latin program and has installed Greek at Randolph-Macon Academy. ✘ **Rich Newell** finished his Master's at Florida this past spring. ✘ **Christian Nelson** is flying cargo planes in Texas. ✘ **Brad Potter** is getting ready to take Greek exam at Ohio State. ✘ **Michael McArthur** has commenced at Brown, taking the Horace seminar. ✘ **Bob Davis** is a pastor in North Dakota. ✘ **Sharon O'Neill** is holding forth on the Latin Internet sites. ✘ **Joe Kelly** has his certificate in teaching now, and is working at Boys Town. ✘ **Steve Stannish** is finishing his Ph.D. at Miami (Ohio) University. ✘ **Chris Benak** and **James Garis** are TA's at UNL. ✘ **Kimberly Prier** is a graduate student in Classics at UNL. ✘

From **Steve Rosenquist**, who teaches Latin at Cranbrook (Michigan): "I am teaching one section up the road at Oakland University. Having a mature audience once a week is a true elixir for me, even though I have my share of kids in my Latin classes at Cranbrook with 1600 SAT scores and 34-36 ACT scores who have their choice of places ranging from Cal Tech and UCLA to Berkeley, Stanford, Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Brown. They just ain't been on the planet long enough."

## Hey, Alums!

*Got a personal site?  
Keep it a secret from us,  
or we'll go there!*



## In the Spotlight: "Colonel Craig" Nickisch



*Craig Nickisch*

Check out Craig Nickisch's website.

"Colonel Craig" is professor of Foreign Languages at Idaho State University. He has won several awards. His linguistic savvy and mature yet winsome character makes him unforgettable here!

Look for the breathtaking parachute drop photo. Not to be missed!

<http://www.isu.edu/~nickcrai/>

continued from page 1

History of Math Club; Young Eagles Coordinator for EAA Chapter 569; on the Nebraska Green Party Steering Committee; and is secretary of the Board of Directors of the Great Plains Trails Network.

“Faculty time,” he says, “is infinitely elastic. Every academic administrator knows that!”

He’s learned that outside of academe they pay writers for articles. His political column in *The Christian Science Monitor* August 10, can still be read at <http://www.csmonitor.com/durable/2000/08/10/fp11s2-csm.shtml>. Ever wonder how the invention of the machine-generated concordance happened? Ask Tom, or check out his article in *The Classical Bulletin* 75.1 (1999): “Roberto Busa, S.J., and the Invention of the Machine-Generated Concordance.” It was accomplished in 1951, before IBM shipped its first computer (1953); before FORTRAN was released (1957); before modern programming was invented (1953).

And one further Winter note: The fuzz “busted” him for skate-boarding downtown.

- You can see some of **Stephen Burnett’s** work on the Web (see below). He was a double fellow during his academic year leave:

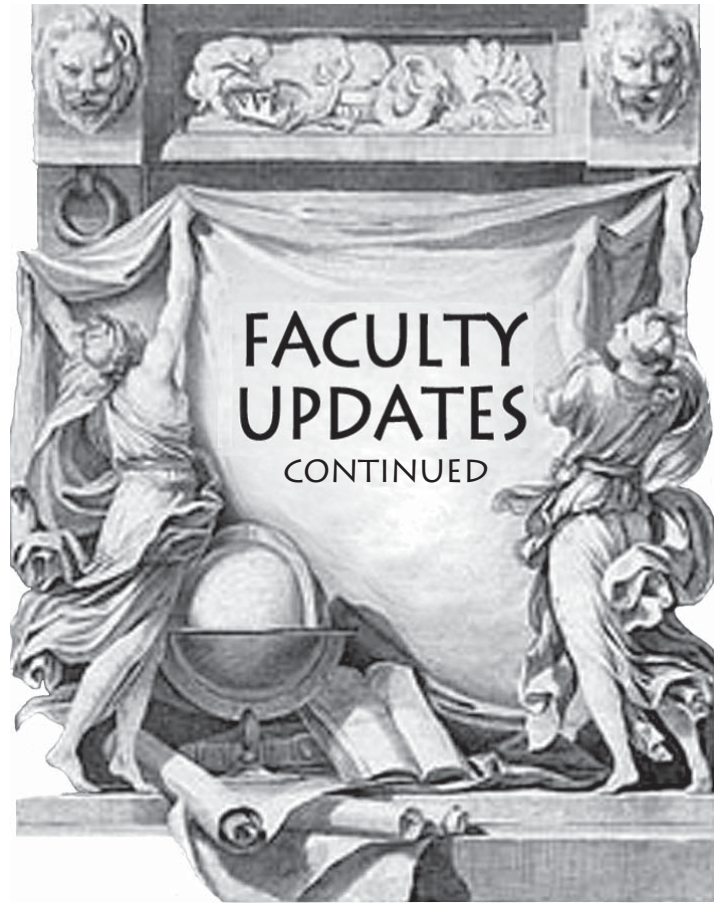
1. At the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) in the fall, working with an international team of 12 other scholars on Christian Hebraism (the Christian encounter with Jewish learning and Judaism in early modern Europe, ca. 1450-1800).

2. The American Council of Learned Societies supported his research for a book about Christian Hebrew scholarship during the Reformation 1500-1650. He had an article published and presented two papers. The article, “Christian Hebrew Printing in the Sixteenth Century: Printers, Humanism and the Impact of the Reformation,” appeared in *Helmantica (Salamanca)* 51/154 (2000): 13-42.

The papers: “The More Things Change: Jews and Other Germans in Eighteenth Century Germany,” at “Jews and Pietists in Dialogue in Enlightenment America,” Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania, September 30-October 2, 1999; “Martin Luther’s Encounter with Jewish Bible Commentaries,” at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies conference “Hebraica Veritas? Christian Hebraists, Jews and the Study of Judaism in Early Modern Europe,” University of Pennsylvania, May 1-3, 2000.

Finally, Steve is co-editor for an exhibit on the worldwide web entitled “Hebraica Veritas? An Exhibition from the Collection of the Center for Judaic Studies Library.” It can be viewed at: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/cjs/exhibit/index.html>.

- **Vanessa Gorman**, courtesy appointment with Classics, and ancient historian in the History Department, has been awarded tenure. Vanessa, of course is the spouse of our Classics B.A. and M.A. **Robert Gorman**, “Gormanius Maximus” in Leiniekspeak. The professors Gorman have bought a house on the Eastridge bus route, and have two wonderful dogs. (*I know dogs, and these are wonderful dogs. —ed.*)



- Also frequently seen on the Eastridge bus is **Stan Vandersall**. Stan is on the bus enroute to faithfully visit **Amy Vandersall**. Mrs. Vandersall has had a stroke and is at the Tabitha home. Stan’s dedication is an inspiration to see. Stan himself is doing just great. He looks just like he looked the last time you saw him. They have a grandchild who is entering college.

- **Clarence Forbes** is 99! Professor Forbes, of course, was born September 6, 1901. “At the first sign of a cold, play three sets of tennis.” — Clarence Forbes.

- **Sidnie White Crawford**, our chairperson, is on leave this year with a fellowship at Harvard. No, not the Harvard that is 70 miles east of Lincoln.

- **Effie Athanassopoulos** has received an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship for 2000-2001. Her project is “Archaeology and Text in Medieval Greece: The View from the Countryside.” She will research the subject of rural settlement, land use and agrarian systems of the medieval period in Greece based on evidence provided by the documentary and archaeological records.

- Vice-chair **Thomas Rinkevich** moves up as utility furniture in **Sidnie White Crawford’s** absence the coming year, becoming known as Acting Chair (or *Sedes Agens*). Professor Crawford is on fellowship at Harvard Divinity School.

The Acting Chair (*cathedra hypocritica*) continues as Chief Advisor. Thomas taught a mere

continued on back

## Faculty Updates

*continued from page 3*

13 hours in Spring semester, compared with a measly 11 this term. In the spring one of the courses was a refurbished Scientific Greek and Latin class, taught on the computer through the auspices of UNL's Course Info system.

Development of this delivery was aided immensely by a grant from the Humanities Resource Center (**Stephen Hilliard**, Director), and will continue to be improved next semester. The "fun" course this term is his hieroglyphics course.

Other activities include publication of the working text for the elementary Greek courses (The Structure of Attic Greek), wherein he reveals to the students that this is a lofty

language, and a 3.5-week stint in Ireland, assisting aspiring ecclesiastics in the manipulation of Latin, and the chairing of two Latin sessions at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo.

Thomas also continues his efforts at marshalling the lexical evidence of Martial's epigrams, the building of the technical vocabulary databank, and the prospects of the future in Latin.

And as always, excelsior.

● Seventh book, commentaries, paper, and a book contract marked world-traveler **John Turner's** year. John, head of our Religious Studies Program, has finished introductions and commentaries to "Zostrianos" and "Marsanes" from the Coptic texts found in 1945 at Nag

Hammadi, Egypt. See La Bibliotheque Copte de Nag Hammadi.

The seventh book, to appear early summer, is *Sethian Gnosticism and the Platonic Tradition*. It will be published in Paris! The paper was "Gnostic Sethianism and The Pre-Plotinian Theological Interpretation of Plato's Parmenides." He gave it at the Seventh World Congress of Coptic Studies meeting at Leiden, the Netherlands.

And, to top it all off, 'Les Belles Lettres', publishers of the well-known Bude series of critical editions of Greek and Latin texts, Collection des Universites de France, has asked him to prepare a 2-300 page summary of his research on Gnosticism and Platonism.

