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First Forbes Scholarship Given to Thomas Kuhn

Thomas Kuhn, double major in Classics and History, will ride the first ever awarded Clarence A. Forbes Scholarship to Greece this summer, where he will have a volunteer position at the Athenian Agora Excavations.

The Forbes Scholarship was endowed by Carol A. Probasco to honor Professor Clarence A. Forbes.

Mr. Kuhn hopes to be a college professor one day in classical history, specifically Hellenistic history. The Agora excavations, the largest American dig in Greece, received 110 volunteer applications for 10 spots. He was awarded based on his academic work, his time already spent in Greece (he was in there for the fall semester through the College Year in

Athens), and “my strong academic recommendations.”

The experience will be valuable for him. “Not only will I be allowed to work directly with the physical materials I have been studying, but I’ll be exposed at length to archaeological methods of gathering and processing information. I recognize the importance of archaeology,” he said. ■

And Speaking of Clarence Forbes...

A Clarence Forbes Update

Your editor phoned both Carol Probasco (BA '34; MA in Latin, '36) and Clarence with the news of the first Forbes Scholarship winner.

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Vandersall Celebrates Fifty Years in Lincoln

It was 50 years ago this summer that Stanley T. Vandersall came west from Columbus, Ohio, to struggle mightily (his words) to fill the shoes of Clarence A. Forbes, who, correspondingly, switched from Nebraska to Ohio State!



Stan Vandersall

What an excuse for a party!

Stan, as longtime *Prandium* readers know, retired in December, 1985, having received a richly deserved and overdue Teaching Award the preceding spring.

Though you cannot get a course from Van any more at the University, Stan is still teaching. His Latin for Retirees classes continue. They are at two different levels. “Because of attrition of various kinds, they are

now down to four in each class. But there is a passionate core group in each of the two levels that sticks with it year after year. The desire to continue seems to be constant in the two quartets that are left. We’ll pick it up again the fall, God willing,” was the reply to the question about his activity.

Your reporter asked him for a summing up of the 50 years in Lincoln. The reply went about like this:

“I learned that what was initially a quite temporary appointment had long-lasting qualities, qualities that I received the benefit of here at UNL. The administration, the departmental staff and colleagues were almost all ... well, they were people with whom it was easy to work, and helpful in

the 37 years or so when I was in the department.

“I enjoyed virtually everything about the position here and had the chance to meet and deal with and I hope provide some benefit to dozens and dozens of devoted students. I also appreciated the personal relationships.

“UNL was at the same time a stimulating and a satisfying environment in which to teach. I have no regrets about joining the staff, and no great disappointments in the contacts I had with students and with colleagues.

“Both Amy and I are very glad we made the fortunate decision to come to Lincoln. We like the institution, the people involved and the atmosphere on the campus.” ■

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Barber Prizes Awarded for 1998

Some years it goes begging. Not this year! The Barber Prize in Latin goes to **James Garis**.

The Barber Prize in Greek goes to **Todd Sandsted**. Todd had already won the Barber Prize in Latin two years ago.

This year enough was in the Grove E. Barber bequest to award each winner \$400. The reward, of course, is more than financial. The prize always looks great on a dossier. ■



James Garis



Todd Sandsted

Prospects for Fall Presentations Shine



Look for a major speaker each semester in the *Colloquia Classica*.

The *Colloquia Classica* series has just undergone a major beefing up.

We will not just be inviting an outside speaker: at a spring meeting we decided to make it department policy to bring in one outside speaker per semester, and, if funding from the Research Council did not come through, to support the visit with department funds, so that we will be able to make our selection and invitation stick.

The series will be augmented by local speakers. Two examples which are already lined up: **Tom Winter** will give his “Thrown to the Lions” talk. It is a study, mostly from the legal writers, of all the things a Roman might do that could get him or her thrown to the beasts. (This has already been given at the State JCL, where it was a roaring success.)

Thomas Kuhn, first winner of the Forbes Scholarship, has agreed to go to Greece armed with lots of slide film; he seemed to think, when the idea was broached, that a presentation on the summer dig at the Agora Excavations in Athens would be a great idea.

Finally, there is now in place a coordinating committee to suggest speakers and to see that we do not have multiple presentations all competing for the same audience at the same time. From Classics, **Sidnie White Crawford** and **Tom Winter**, from Art and Art History, **Michael Hoff**, from History, **Vanessa Gorman**, from Anthropology, **Effie Athanassopoulos**, from Religious Studies, **John Turner**. ■

Clarence Forbes receives scholarship news, gives personal update

Continued from page 1

Both expressed pleasure at the news. Mrs. Probasco hoped the winner could give his presentation on the summer (*cf.* the *Colloquia* item) at Brentwood, which we will try to arrange; Professor Forbes, after replying “I’m glad to know,” was asked for a personal update.

“I’m the oldest person I know, and certainly the oldest Forbes anywhere. I just keep living out of habit, and since I’m in good condition, it’s a good habit.”

Professor Forbes, you’ll recall, was born in 1901.

“That was some time ago,” he said.

“I eat, drink, and if not merry, I’m pretty well off, I think.”

Nine Students Share in Endowed Scholarship Awards

Nine undergraduate Classics or Greek or Latin majors are studying this fall with help from scholarships established by alumni. The total amount they share is \$4683. We are proud of this outstanding and deserving crop of students. Three are at 4.00, one is at 3.96, all are above 3.57.

Their merit makes us the more grateful to the alums who have made it possible for us to support their study of the Classics.

The Emma C. Steckelberg endowment emolument goes to **Stephen Q. Preston**.

The accrued amount in the Ed Hirsch fund goes to **James R. Garis, Jr.**, who also won the Barber Prize in Latin. (See Barber Prize report).

Sharing the Grace I. Bridge and Oliver and Eva Reedy emolument in scholarship aid are **Aaron Hendry**, **Sherri Joyner**, and **Polly Seifikar**. The remainder of the total Bridge and Reedy funds for the year goes to **Angela Stutheit**, **Eric Larson**, **Christopher Benak**, **Sean Flanagan**, and **Diane Prier**. ■

FACULTY ▼ NOTES

In calendar '97 *The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion* appeared. Seven of the articles in it were the work of Classics Chair **Sidnie White Crawford**: "Genesis Apocryphon," "Qumran," "Qumran Community," "Temple Scroll," "Testament Literature," "Thanksgiving Scroll," "War Scroll," and "Zadokites."

Professor Crawford also gave four papers on professional programs, one in Jerusalem on the occasion of the Jubilee of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, plus one right here in Lincoln to the Kiwanis Club! She also published four reviews, served on the Board of Trustees of the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research as board secretary and got Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars.

Tom Winter visited Armenia (again) this time for the wedding of daughter Rose to Ashot Chobanian, returned to Lincoln for the wedding of daughter Ruth, and gave a talk at the American Philological Assn. He also keynoted the Nebraska Junior Classical League meeting with a talk titled "Thrown to the Lions."

Valdis Leinieks, the *City of Dionysus* opus finished, has returned to new research in Latin Linguistics.

This year we welcomed **Effie Athanassopoulos**, Classical and Byzantine Archaeology, to the department. This is a split appointment with Anthropology.

Thomas of Lincoln gave a presentation on the Latin Verb System to the Wisconsin Assn. of Foreign Language Teachers, in Appleton; chaired a session at the International Medieval Congress, and eagerly surrendered the heavy reins



left to right: Adkin: Athanassopoulos, Crawford, Winter, Leinieks, Gorman

of power to our new chair, Sidnie White Crawford. Later this summer he will be drilling Latin into students at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary (Elmhurst, PA), and may return to Lincoln for the fall semester.

Neil Adkin flew to Manchester this past year to take the GCSE in Hebrew. His grade? "A with distinction." He later returned to England to give two lectures and a seminar on "Women in Early Christianity" at the University of Leeds. England couldn't keep him, though — he became a U.S. citizen! (See Val's Latin write-up, this page, below.)

Seven of his articles appeared in print, 11 were accepted for publication, and nine more were submitted. Plus five reviews. (Is Neil slowing down?)

He also is now General Editor of ARCA Classical and Medieval Texts, Papers, and Monographs, and General Editor of Papers of the Leeds International Latin Seminar (8 vols, 1997-). He won an Award for Contributions to Students, and got Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars

Brian Bennett, History of Religions, University of Chicago, begins a two-year appointment in the fall.

In summer 1997 **John Turner** was appointed (for the third time) as Visiting Research Professor at Université Laval in Quebec, Canada, where he completed his (English) translation, introduction, and commentary on *Zostrianos*. This 132-papyrus-pages treatise is the largest in the Nag Hammadi Library discovered in Egypt in December, 1945. It will appear later this year in the French language series of Nag Hammadi critical editions as *Zostrianos. Traité sethien platonisante* (Bibliothèque copte de Nag Hammadi, section Textes; Québec: Presses de l'Université Laval; Leuven-Paris: Peeters; ca. 550 pp.).

This fall he also began work on a similar introduction and commentary (in French) on a related treatise, *Marsanes*. This occupies the whole of Nag Hammadi Codex X. It will appear in 1999 as *Marsanes. Traité sethien sur le monde spirituel*, in the same series (ca. 375 pp.).

This summer he will begin co-editing the collected proceedings of the Society of Biblical Literature Seminar on Gnosticism and Later Platonism, which he founded in 1992. He also continues to work on his monograph *Sethian Gnosticism and the Platonic Tradition*, which he hopes to complete in a "Wimpy" leave in fall of 1999.

John heads up the Religious Studies program at UNL, which will soon become a major wing of our department, with its own track in the Classics MA program. It will eventually be proposed as an undergraduate major. ■



Neil Adkin

BRITANNICUS NOSTER CIVIS FACTUS EST

(*panegyricum a Valdis Leinieks scriptum*)

Ut omnes nuper audivimus, Neilus Adkinus ante diem quintum decimum Kalendas Maias civis Americanus factus est. Quod praecipue aptum est homini nato ante diem quartum Nonas Quintilis, quem diem constat natalem esse Civitatum Consociatarum Americanarum.

Non solum natus est die festivissima, sed civis factus est paene die gratissima publicanis, ante diem septimum decimum Kalendas Maias. Ab his felicissimis initiis nullum est dubium quin longe et prospere in nobis victurus sit et omnibus sua maxima eruditione profuturus sit.

Quam ob rem Neilo Adkinio de re optime gesta gratulamur. ■

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Alpha Program Awards Two Post-docs to Classics Department

The Classics Department is represented by two courses in the brand-new Alpha Program at UNL. The Alpha program is a learning community. This was a chance to hire, in effect, a post-doc in Classics.

A Classics course and a Religious Studies course proposed by the department were both funded.

Bob Gorman, UNL BA '84 and MA '88 with a PhD from Penn will teach Classics 182/183 "Heroes, Harlots, and Helots: the Family in antiquity." Bob is also husband of our classicist in History, Vanessa Gorman.

Religious Studies 182/183 "Sacred Writings of the World's Religions" will be taught by visiting assistant professor **Brian Bennet**. Brian brings an interesting background to the department — his main area is Eastern Orthodox Christianity. His central linguistic area is Russian, with Old Church Slavonic, in addition to the usual French and German. He come to us with a PhD from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He designed and taught some new courses at Xavier (Chicago), notably "Mythology and Religion," and Native American Religion."

He will also teach Classical Mythology here. We could call it Dodecatheism 180. ■

ALPHA

12 Alums Earmark Gifts for Department

Since one year ago, (July, '97) 12 alums have donated to the Classics Department.

Alphabetically, they are:

Dr. Scott A. Frankforter
Ms. Nancy Peters Hastings
Mrs. Beth Schmid Hegeman
Dr. John J. Jacobsen
Miss Kay E. Monson
Mr. Richard W. Motzkus
Miss Pamela S. Newcomb
Ms. Kathleen A. O'Shea
Mrs. Myrtle V. Pabst
Mr. Frederic C. Pearson
Mr. Alan L. Reese
Mr. Thomas E. Winner

Each has received a handwritten individual thank-you note. ■