

June 1996

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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER PRANDIUM PERPETUUM

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Mummies to be explored

The University of Nebraska Museum has enjoyed the volunteer services of our Egyptologist graduate student Alan Kirkland. This has led to much of interest, including (a) an Egyptian exhibit in the Love Library, done jointly with Thomas Rinkevich's Egyptian class, and (b) the X-Ray photography of the Museum's three human mummies and several animal mummies. This X-Raying is funded in part by a small grant from the Classics Department, and will be done this summer. ■



Alan Kirkland points to a detail on a mummy case. With funding from Classics, he is having the mummies x-rayed this summer.

A Classical Interregnum

It is with deep affection and gratitude for his years of service that we report Val's stepping down as chairman of the Classics Department. Evelyn Jacobson, professor of German, and who had been half-time in the dean's office, is serving as chair for an interim year.

This is working well, as she intermediates between the modes of the department and of the Dean's office.

Val, useful whenever called upon to advise, is enjoying not being chair, and having more time for work.

We know, gentler reader, you are wondering "where is the new chair coming from?" Or who will be Praeses Classicorum?

We don't know. The dean has interviewed all of us. ■

New Classics Major

The new Classics major has been approved and is now in place.

What's new?

More breadth. It consists of 15 hours of core courses, including a new interdisciplinary course on classical civilization: literature, history, archaeology, philosophy, and religion; an additional nine hours from four areas of emphasis (art and archaeology, language and literature, religion and philosophy, and historical studies), plus six hours from outside one's emphasis.

The major was drafted by Esther Cope, History; Robert Haller, English;

Michael Hoff, Art History; Evelyn Jacobsen, Modern Languages; Alan Steinweis, Judaic Studies; Thomas Rinkevich, Classics, and John Turner, chair. This committee's draft was submitted to the Classics Department, then through the upper channels. ■

Inside

- Alumni News Up-date
- New Staff
- Awards
- Colloquia Classica

Made in Nebraska

Six sessions of November's Society of Biblical Literature Convention, held in Philadelphia, were put together and orchestrated here.

John Turner put together six panels featuring, in all, 42 speakers from nine countries to mark the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Nag Hammadi Library. 7,500 scholars attended the SBL convention, and about 750 (10%) attended the Nag Hammadi presentations.

Turner presided at the sessions and is now busy editing the papers into a two-volume set to be published by E.J. Brill later this year. ■

Making Waves

Michael Hoff, our avenue to the ancient archaeology and art, is making waves.

At our national joint convention (APA/AIA, American Philological Association/American Institute of Archaeology) in December, the delegates were talking about, not Tom Osborne, but Mike Hoff!

Two pieces of Nebraska news went through the convention hotels in a wave: there was a new AIA chapter chartered in Nebraska for one, and the International Conference on the Romanization of Athens (April 18-20—see separate story) for the other. Hoff is a treasure for his way of making things happen, and, by being a resource for our students and student offerings, is a strength of the department no matter where he is housed. ■



Michael Hoff thinks globally. Photo by Tom Winter.

Secretarial Cut Leads to Changes

Jacque Boydston Keller, our secretary since Marien Dicke went to the Dean's Office, has taken a better job on the ag campus. The Dean's office cut our department secretarial time in half, allocating the other half to give secretarial support to the Women's Studies Program.

Jacque would have to split her time between Classics in the morning and Women's Studies in the afternoon. Her response was to find a new job.

We already miss Jacque. Some of the benefits of her time with us remain. Most notable of these is our new lounge.

Yes, she converted the foyer into a lounge.

She had the wall-mounted

bench seats removed and had the cast-off furniture from the Athletic Director's office brought in. The result is a much more sociable and hospitable air to the approach to the classics alcove. ■



Val Leinieks, Justin Firestone and Bob Garman discuss matters in our new lounge. Photo by Tom Winter.

Susan Alcock Keynotes Romanization of Athens Conference

Susan Alcock, University of Michigan, led off the International Conference on the Romanization of Athens Thursday evening April 18, 1996. The conference events took place in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden on the city campus.

Among the presenters was Michael Hoff, who will give "An Assessment of the Physical State of Athens from Sulla to Augustus." His cargo was the surprising demonstration that the physical destruction from the storming of Athens by Sulla in 88 B.C. was

never repaired until Augustus!

The conference was truly international—note the provenance of the speakers listed below.

Others appearing were: Kevin Clinton, Cornell; A.J.S. Spawforth, Univ. of Newcastle; Christian Habicht, Institute for Advanced Study; Daniel J. Geagan, McMaster Univ; Susan Walker, the British Museum; John Kroll, UT-Austin; Elizabeth Will, Amherst; Susan I. Rotroff, Washington Univ; Olga Palagia, Univ. of Athens (Greece, not Georgia!); Robert D. Lamberton, Washington Univ; and Hermann J. Kienast, German Arch. Inst, Athens. ■

Highlights from '95/96
in the Classics Department

Leinieks in the Pink

A year after the shocking news of the heart attack in the night and the drive to the ER, Val Leinieks is pleased with the outcome of his heart surgery (5x bypass), and more than for just staying on this side of the sod.

Gone with the recovery are the recurrent arthritic-like pains in the shoulder, problems with water retention, and low back pain. Val observes that having a healthy heart is good for the other major organs, and the whole body, too.

Teubner in Stuttgart is about to publish his book *The City of Dionysus* — all about the Bakkhai of Euripides, and more. Val has also just sent off an article on HAMOQEN in *Odyssey 1* to Glotta.

And Turner, too...

John Turner, a year after his balloon angioplasty, looks healthier, and can sometimes be seen leaving the office in a sweatshirt out to get some exercise!

It's a trick to fit exercise into his busy schedule: In the past year, John has

a) chaired the interdisciplinary committee to redraft the classics major (see separate story),

b) organized and presided over a six-session event recognizing the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Nag Hammadi Library (see separate story),

c) been named editor-in-chief of a new text and translation series *Pennumbra Mediterranea* to be published by SUNY Press (this series will have mainly non-Greek and non-Latin religious and philosophical and religious texts in low-cost editions suitable for personal and classroom use), and

d) has been working on getting a chair in Judaic Religion added to the Classics Department. ■

Our students heard from again:

Recently ran into **Mary Eckart**, a Latin student from early '70's; she is a now a social worker in the Department of Social Services.

Jim Shaul was in Lincoln lately for the state wrestling tournament his son was in. Jim is a circuit-riding classics, religion, and philosophy teacher at a list of Omaha area colleges!

Kirk Summers is now an assistant professor in the department of Romance Languages and Classics at the University of Alabama.

Marc Koenig is now an M.D. specializing in radiology, and is back in Lincoln with wife Kerri and family. Welcome back, Marc and Kerri!

Dirk Obbink is lecturer in papyrology at Oxford!

Rex Wallace is associate professor of Classics at U Mass-Amherst.

Julie Johnson is associate professor of Classics at Southwest Missouri State.

Bob Gorman (*Gormanius Maximus*) is visiting assistant professor at UNL.

Some awards...

This February, the Thomases Twain, Rinkevich and Winter, were each honored by the UN-L Parents' Assn for Services to Students.

John Turner and Valdis Leinieks received Service Awards: Leinieks for 30 years service to the University (28 of them as chairman!) and Turner for 20 years.

A 30-year desk clock now adorns Val's desk, alongside the Mickey desk clock that Erica got him for Christmas!

Last year Tom Winter joined the "gold watch corps" and sports a 25-year Bulova Accutron. On back it says "Bulova Quartz Base Metal Bezel Stainless Steel back Water Resistant." Stan's, which he got in 1973, was still a gold watch, 14 karat plate. ■

1996 Barber Prize Awarded

Todd Sandsted, a junior from Grand Island, has won the 1996 Barber Prize for the sight reading of latin. The prize was established by the will of Professor Grove E. Barber in the '30's for the third-year student best at sight reading latin as determined by examination.

The prize was last won in 1992, by Rick Newell (it went begging in 1993-1995).

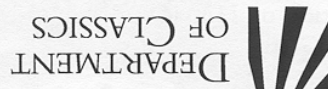
The Barber Prize committee consists of Professors Robert F. Haller, English Deptment and Thomas E. Rinkevich, Classics Deptment and Tom Winter (chair), Classics Department. ■



Tom Winter, chair of the Barber Prize Committee, presents a check (\$250) to Todd Sandsted. Photo by Vickie Carrithers.



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Meet Vickie Carrithers

Vickie Carrithers, our new secretary, is an undergraduate student half-time and our secretary half-time. She was widowed about four years ago, and decided to come back to school now that her youngest child is in college, and she has "plenty of time, for a change." Mrs. Carrithers is majoring in Family and Consumer Science.

She has two children, plus four older stepchildren, and four grandchildren. She is very pleased with her fellow students, whom she finds very polite and accepting.



Vickie Carrithers. Photo by Jennifer Smith.

Writer/Editor - Tom Winter
Publication Design - Lori Anderson

Colloquia Classica

During the school year Colloquia Classica was largely a home-grown deal, and may give some clue as to what we're up to:

September 20

ROMANS GOING BLIND

Tom Winter

October 18

POETIC LICENSE IN HESIOD,
VERGIL, CATHER

Thomas E. Rinkevich

November 15

EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE ON
GREEK MEDICINE

Plinio Prioreshi, M.D.

February 21

ATHENIAN REGULATIONS
FOR MILETUS

Vanessa Gorman

April 3

THE ACCESSION OF
CLAUDIUS

Paul Myers

April 17

OFFERINGS IN GREEK TEXT
AND EGYPTIAN SITE

Alan Kirkland