

# St. Olaf College Department of Classics NEWSLETTER

July, 2011

We have moved! During the last week of December the Department of Classics made the snowy trek across campus to **Tomson Hall** (the former Science Center, now transformed). After six months here, we have unpacked most of the boxes and are starting to feel at home. The third floor of Tomson has the look and sound of an international language village, and while it may lack the charm of Old Main, what a joy that all the offices and classrooms are air-conditioned!



## Majors in the Class of 2011

**Classics:** Henry Frank (+ Religion), Martin Shedd (+ Music [ΦBK]), Jennifer Stanull

**Greek:** Matt Friedrichsen (+ distinction in Math [ΦBK]), Kathryn Weaver (+ distinction in Studio Art [ΦBK]), Conner Westby (+ Ancient Studies and Philosophy)

**Latin:** Katherine Crawford (+ Medieval Studies and English), Sam Willodson (+ English)

**Ancient Studies:** Jordan Bleth (+ Biology and a Neuroscience concentration), Pierce Devol (+ Religion), Addison Larrow (+ History), Justin Luthey (+ Economics), Conner Westby (see Greek above), Shadow Zimmerman (+ Theatre)

**Medieval Studies:** Katherine Crawford (see Latin above), Cole Nyquist (+ Norwegian and concentrations in Nordic Studies and Linguistic Studies)



In the fall **Martin Shedd** (far left in the photo) will begin graduate school in Classics at Indiana University while **Jen Stanull** (2nd from left, front row) does the same at the University of Georgia. **Katherine Crawford** (next to Jen) will be studying Classical Archaeology at the University of British Columbia. All three received Outstanding Accomplishment awards from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS). Katherine also presented a paper

on “The Foundation of the Roman Imperial Cult” at the Sunoikisis Undergraduate Research Symposium in Washington, D.C. in April. Congratulations to all of our talented graduates!



**Emily Marie Sandquist '13** extended St. Olaf's 31-year winning streak by taking third prize in the **Maureen Dallas Watkins Advanced Latin Contest** sponsored by Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics honor society. In the photo she is reciting Dido's angry farewell speech from Vergil's *Aeneid*. Normally she does not wear a knife or look quite so threatening!

In 2010-11 the earnings from our **four endowments** covered a Grimsrud scholarship for a senior major (Martin Shedd), a Scarseth scholarship for a junior major (Andrew Kenfield), six prizes in the Loomis Latin and Groton Greek Translation Contests, two awards for Classics-related summer projects (participating in a dig in Macedonia, studying Biblical Hebrew), and a financial aid discount for each of two Ancient Studies majors who took our Classical Studies in Greece course.

**Guest speakers:** Gifts from the Loomis family paid for two “what I have done with my life after St. Olaf” talks by Stephanie Simione '92 and Jeremiah Harrelson '99. Our students love these chats with alumni, so if you are interested in being a speaker, please let us know; you get a small honorarium, mileage, and a free dinner in the cafeteria. Two recently hired Carleton Classics professors, Kathryn Steed and Chris Polt, also spoke at the Classics Conversation Table in the fall. In the spring we co-sponsored with the Society for Ancient History a campus visit by **W. Lindsay Adams** (see photo) from the University of Utah; he participated in a seminar, had meals with students, and lectured on “Sport in Ancient Macedonia.”



After experimenting with an unusually early date for the **Latin play** last year, we tried an unusually late date for Plautus' *Pseudolus* this year. A cast of 15 students performed the play (with a moose motif) on May 4-7. The two performances at St. Olaf were preceded

by a whirlwind tour to eight schools and colleges in St. Paul, Rochester, Edina, St. Louis Park, and

St. Peter. The piano in the photo was donated to Tomson Hall in memory of **Lloyd Gunderson**. It was perfect for play practices! Thanks to all who remembered Lloyd in their gifts to St. Olaf.



**Curricular innovations:** In the fall Chris Brunelle taught our advanced Latin Lyric course with a new twist: an Oral Communication Component. His students spent the term memorizing and reciting Horace's poetry in dramatic fashion and even made a video. During interim Steve Reece taught our first-ever Directed Undergraduate Research course, focusing on the intersection of Hellenistic and Judeo-Christian culture. We have long thought it would be desirable to have a senior capstone course, if scheduling permitted. Since the seven students who took the DUR were all senior majors, this course functioned as a *de facto* major seminar. Reviews were favorable, so be prepared to hear about more innovating in the future. You can always check on what we're up to by exploring the Classics website: <http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/classics>.

**Feasting:** To spice up our usual menu of co-curricular events (5th annual Olympics and softball game in the fall, Latin/Greek Christmas caroling, the spring Bacchanalia, field trips to attend archaeology lectures in the Twin Cities), junior **Eric Erfanian** masterminded a successful lamb roast behind Thorson Hall. In the photo Eric (left) is standing guard over the main course with the help of Matt Friedrichsen '11.



## FACULTY NEWS



On July 1, after nine years of stellar service to St. Olaf as Provost and Dean, **Jim May** made a graceful exit from administration and is now on sabbatical in some undisclosed spot, where he hopes no one will be able to find him. As he recovers from the stress and tries to remember how to be a normal (well, he was never that!) faculty member, he is putting the final touches on his Cicero Reader and starting other projects. He remains Vice President for Professional Matters for the American Philological Association (APA) and the CAMWS Orator. Here we see him singing a Latin version of “My Michigan” at the CAMWS Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. He and Donna are lucky to have two delightful daughters-in-law, Sheila (+ Mike) and Bethany (+ Joe). Joe just graduated from Ranger training; both he and Bethany are second lieutenants in the Army. If you would like to listen to Jim's 2011 commencement address with its many classical themes, go to: <http://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia/streams/playevent.cfm?eventid=433>.

**Steve Reece** had a busy year that included many hours of meetings on the Library Committee and the Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) Advisory Panel. *Homer's Winged Words*, the monograph that he published in 2009 through Brill, was honored at a book party at St. Olaf in April. Now he is hard at work hunting for classical allusions in the New Testament. Like the Mays, he and Rhonda are blessed with a wonderful daughter-in-law, Kayli (+ Taylor), who has just taken her medical boards. Taylor is spending the summer nearby, teaching math to Upward Bound students at St. Olaf. Daughter Hannah will be a senior at Pacific Lutheran University in the fall. Steve and Rhonda enjoy visiting her--and Crater Lake (see photo).



**Anne Groton** is nearing the end of her term as Secretary-Treasurer of CAMWS; the transition to her successor at Monmouth College should be complete by next June. The picture shows Anne with her CAMWS administrative assistant Sue Newland, running the registration desk. Sue has found a new job on the first floor of Tomson Hall; we are glad she is still in our building because we don't like losing her! This past year, besides chairing the department and teaching the second year of Great Con, Anne became the advisor of Blue Key Honor Society and organized two workshops on performing Plautine comedy. Her niece Betsy has been hired to photograph opera in Italy this summer, and her niece Caroline, a college junior, will be studying in Vienna this fall.

**Chris Brunelle** continues to thrive in the Great Conversation program, in which he is teaching for the third time; this spring he attended the annual conference of the Association for Core Texts

and Courses (ACTC) at Yale, where he chaired a session on Herodotus and delivered a paper on “Juvenal's Excellent *Satires*.” As a member of the APA Development Committee, he would be happy to take your money! He has finished translating Ovid's *Ars Amatoria* II into limericks and become interested in the question of what books people in the past kept under their pillows. In April he teamed up, as pianist, with Dan Dressen and Janis Hardy for a moving performance of Benjamin Britten's *Canticle II: Abraham and Isaac* in Chapel. He gained the most notoriety, however, by teaching the last day of Greek 111 outdoors in December (see photo). High-energy offspring Julian (8), Leo (5), and Sebastian (5) keep Chris and Serena hopping.



**Valerio Caldesi-Valeri**, now midway through his two-year appointment at St. Olaf, has adjusted quickly to life in Minnesota; in the photo (left) he displays his batting technique. This spring he gave an engaging talk on “Minos and the Administration of Justice: Refashioning of a Cretan Myth” for the Language and Literature Group. He and his wife Teresa are expecting their first child, Lisabetta, very soon. **Larry Myer** and Valerio



both did yeoman's work for us this year, teaching our large lecture courses. As you can see, Larry performed other labors: a camera crew caught him shoveling his walk in Minneapolis! We wish him all the best next year as he completes his dissertation.



**Tim Howe** (History Department) led the 2011 Classics interim in Greece, adding Monemvasia and Preveza to compensate for having to miss northern Greece (where the museums are closed and/or the roads blocked). In June he spoke on Alexander the Great at a conference in South Africa; while there, he and his wife Mary went on a wildlife safari and took this close-up shot of St. Olaf's mascot.



**Alumni News:** Marquis Berrey '03 has received his doctorate in Classics from the University of Texas and will begin a tenure-track job at the University of Iowa this fall. Meanwhile Jennifer Easler '10 will be joining Jennifer Starkey '07 in the Classics Ph.D. program at the University of Colorado. Sorry that we have no room to mention anybody else.



And now for a group goodbye: here we are with Kathryn Weaver '11 on Commencement Day in the atrium of Tomson Hall. Please come and visit us in our new digs or send us news about you ([groton@stolaf.edu](mailto:groton@stolaf.edu)). It brightens our day to hear from you. So long until 2012!