

# CLASSICS AT GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

FRANKLIN COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

VOLUME 25 · 2011

WWW.CLASSICS.UGA.EDU



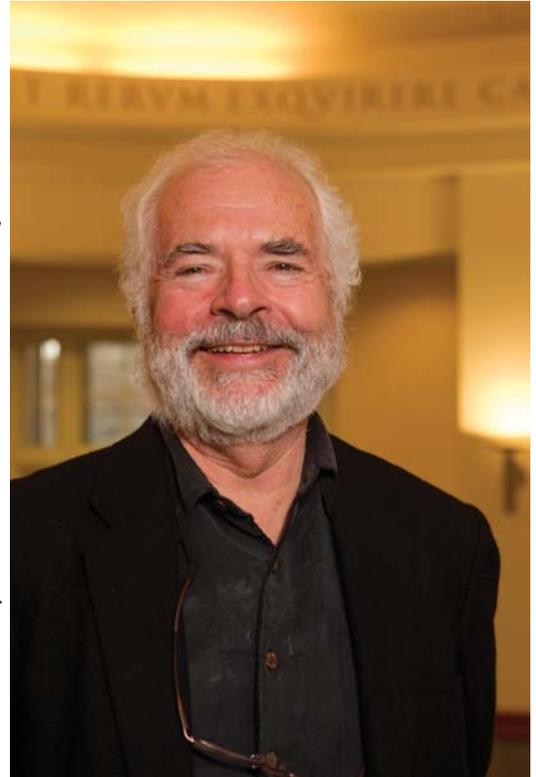
## RICHARD LAFLEUR: *Omnia disce: videbis postea nihil esse superfluum*

*Anyone who knows Rick LaFleur knows he was a driving force behind UGA's Latin program for the 39 years he was in the Department. He served as head of the Classics Department from 1980 - 2000, and as the Coordinator of the Elementary Latin Program for several years. From inspiring freshman to guiding graduate students, Rick played a powerful role in shaping minds and generating curiosity in the many students that entered his classroom .*

*In addition to his duties teaching and mentoring students, Rick has authored and coauthored many texts, including A Song of War: Readings from Vergil's Aeneid; Scribblers, Scvlptors, and Scribes; and Wheelock's Latin.*

No one can sum up these years better than the people who learned, worked with, and were inspired by Rick's love of Latin.

It is impossible to express in written words what 39 years of friendship and collegial bonding mean to me. Both of us are witness to the transformation of this university from a less than marginal player in the American academic scene to a first-rate institution that I believe belongs in the upper echelon of state universities in this country. The metamorphosis in the field of Classics has been even greater; and it is to a large extent owing to your efforts. You led the way, almost by force of will, to the transformation of our unit from a service department to a major player in the discipline at the B.A. and M.A. levels nationwide. This is a legacy of which you can be rightfully proud and one which will be ineradicable as long as we keep on making wise appointments and attracting bright students to our graduate and undergraduate programs. Your place in the unfolding story of Classics at UGA is secure, and future generations will recognize in particular your long tenure as department head as the critical period in the history of the department. I hope that the next stage of your life will be blessed with long years and health. I raise a glass to you, my friend, on a job well done and a life well lived. Carry on! — *Jared Klein*



*Rick in front of an inscription of UGA's motto in the Miller Student Learning Center: "Et docere et rerum exquirere causas" (most often translated as "To teach and to inquire into the nature of things").*

Rick is vibrant energy everywhere and at all times. He approaches each succeeding day of introductory Latin as if he were its inventor: he gestures, he jumps, he gyrates! He runs joyfully around the classroom declining and conjugating. Rick has always been an inspiration to me, demonstrating not only how introductory language should be taught, but also guiding through example as to how to inspire students to love Latin. His dedication is marvelous to behold, and we all thank him for generating so much support for Latin in the state of Georgia and beyond. — *Erika Hermanowicz*

Some impressionistic mental "snapshots" that come fondly to mind when I reflect back over the 26 years I've known you: Our initial meeting on a spring morning in 1984 when I visited UGA for the first time during my application process to the Master's program here: your warmth and kindness that allayed my nervous fears about beginning graduate school. Taking your Roman Satire course in the Fall Quarter of 1984, and your Catullus course in the Summer of 1985 (both held in the Alexander Room... how odd it now seems that this room was once the venue for virtually all upper level classes): in these two courses I learned from you how to read Latin poetry—really READ it critically, deeply, appreciatively. Invaluable lessons that have stuck with me ever since. Rainy afternoon in April 1998, during an anxious season searching for a new job, picking up the phone and hearing a voice I didn't immediately recognize talking Latin at me: "Who in the world IS this?????" I think, while simultaneously trying to play along and give the appropriate Latin responses. Then you took pity on my confusion and identified yourself. Out of the blue, *deus ex*

*continued on page 3*

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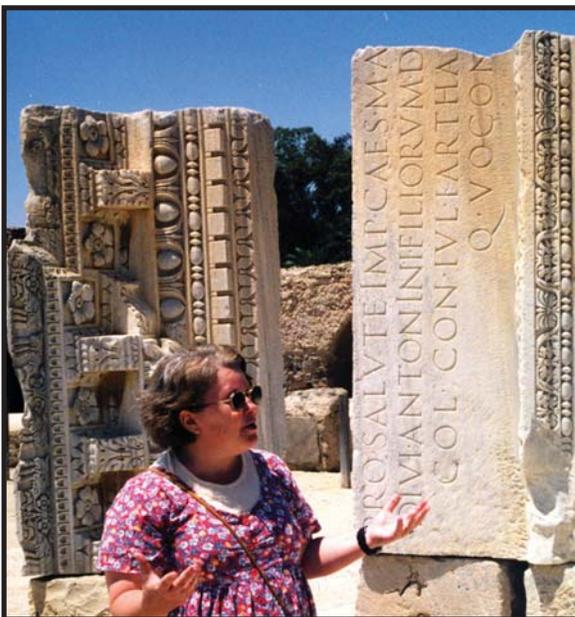
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## FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD



By the time you read this column, you will have received our first ever e-newsletter, the leaves will have finished turning and falling. Thanksgiving will be but a distant memory, and the end of the fall term will be upon us. If you didn't receive our e-newsletter, we don't have your email address in our files. Please send a message to us at [classics@uga.edu](mailto:classics@uga.edu) and ask to be added to our list. We will also put you on our listserv so that you will hear about lectures and other events sponsored by the department.

This fall a record number of students enrolled in LATN 1001, and we sponsored a

Roman banquet for them. Papyrus invitations (in Latin of course) were sent to the students who RSVP'ed (in Latin of course). After enjoying some authentic and quasi-authentic Roman dishes, awards were given for translations and for recitations from the *Aeneid* (in Latin of course). Is anyone ready for a Greek symposium? If so, what we are offering is a fantastic two-day event showcasing the poetry of A.E. Stallings (Classics A.B., 1990), who was recently awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship for her poetry, including her translations of classical verse. The two-day event will include a keynote address by Stallings and an interdisciplinary round-table discussion of the poetics of translation that will bring together UGA faculty, students, and guests from English, Romance Languages, Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, and Classics. We will kick off the event with a public poetry reading by Stallings and several other poets at Ciné in downtown Athens, a celebration of poetry that will bring together UGA faculty and students with our neighbors. We hope to stimulate interdisciplinary dialogue about poetry, translation, and the relationship between the classical past and contemporary literature, an intersection embodied by much of Alicia's poetry. The tentative dates for this exciting event are March 25-26. Watch our website for details.

The Department continues to flourish, and our undergraduate and graduate degree programs are growing. We enjoyed record-breaking enrollments in the Summer Institute, and our current group of graduate students ranks among the largest and strongest in our history. A recent survey by the Modern Language Association showed that we have the largest (and we would say strongest) Latin program in the country (read the article on page 6). Our students have won numerous competitive scholarships and other awards, and our graduates continue to move from Park Hall to jobs in a wide range of careers—including teaching, medicine, the law, and government service—and to Ph.D. programs at many prestigious universities. Our faculty is composed of dedicated and distinguished teachers and researchers, all. Our dedicated office staff is a vital part of our program.

But of course, one of our greatest strengths is you—our dedicated corps of friends and alumni. Your financial support helps insure the growth of our programs, including the various scholarship and grants programs that enrich the experiences of our students. It also helps support the visits of distinguished speakers each year and helps maintain our facilities. If you haven't yet made a donation to the department this year, please consider doing so today via the form in this newsletter or via our website. As always, I hope you will stop by Park Hall the next time you are in the neighborhood and see how Classics is flourishing at UGA.

*Naomi Norman*

**Classics at Georgia**, the newsletter of the Department of Classics, University of Georgia, is published annually. Please send your change of postal or email address to:



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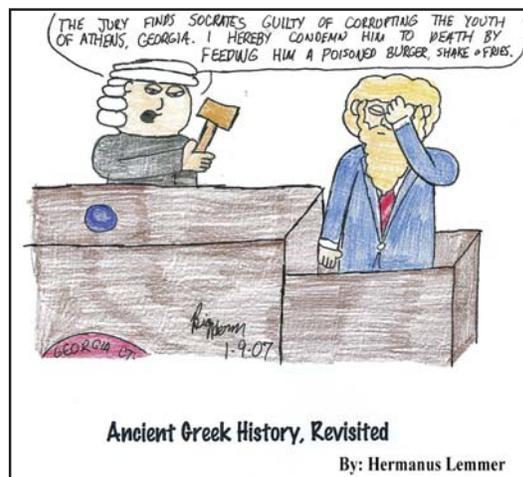
# Alumnae/i News



◀ **NEIL BEERS** (M.A., Classics, 2004) was offered (and accepted) a position at the Boston Latin School, was recently admitted to the University of Florida's distance ed. Ph.D., AND got married to fiancée Tessa this year! They created a wedding logo based on the Baucis and Philemon myth (which they also had read at the wedding) and had a Cupid and Psyche cake topper.

**BEN BYRD** (A.B., Latin, 1999) is practicing law as a commercial litigator in Atlanta. He and wife Beth just had their first son, Elliott, in March.

law firm in The Plains, Virginia. In addition, he is creating a database of cost and time savings for government divisions as a result of President Obama's "Look Back" initiative as a part-time intern at George Washington University. In January 2011, he began studying accounting part-time at Northern Virginia Community College.



**Ancient Greek History, Revisited**

By: Hermanus Lemmer

Things are going well in St. Simons Island, GA for **MARK CROWLEY** (A.B., Classical Culture 2008; M.A. Latin, 2011) and wife, Beth. The island is beautiful, and the school, Frederica Academy, is very nice. Mark is teaching Latin 2, 4, and 5 as well as two sections of ancient history. He spent a chunk of his summer writing an Ovid reader for his Latin 4 class, which covers the important passages of *Ars Amatoria* Book 1 and the *Amores*, which are not included in *Love & Transformation*. He found it very surprising how much he enjoyed the project of editing the text and providing commentary and finds himself missing research and writing more than he ever thought he would. He plans to continue to write school texts for Latin and to revise one paper (the only thing he says he ever wrote which he feels is both relevant and right) for the miniscule chance of publication as an article.

Dr. **CHERYL MAIER JACKSON** ▶ (A.B., Classical Culture, 2004; B.S., Microbiology, 2004) and her husband, Dr. Brendan Jackson (B.S., Biology, 2003) introduce their new baby, Robert Finnegan Maier Jackson, who arrived at 5:51 a.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, weighing 7 lbs., 5 oz. He goes by Finn or "Baby Bob." After attending Yale for Ph.D. and M.D., respectively, the couple are pleased to reside in Atlanta with their new "little bulldog."



**KIRA JONES** (A.B., Classical Culture/Latin, 2008) is entering her fourth year as a graduate student in art history at Emory University (Greek and Roman art). She has been lucky enough to get her archaeologist on at the Sanctuary of the Great Gods in Samothrace for two seasons and co-authored a catalog of the glass finds which will be appearing in *Samothrace* vol. 9: *The Eastern Hill*. Other than that, she is interning with the Carlos Museum for their upcoming show "For I Am The Black Jaguar," which will be focusing on Shamanism in the Ancient Americas, and preparing to embark on a dissertation about Domitian and his Minerva iconography. She says, "life is busy, but good!"

**HERMANUS LEMMER** (M.A., Latin, 2010) continues to work part-time as an executive assistant for a small intellectual property

**MARK MINER** (M.A., Classical Languages) reports that he has more poetic energy than the profession can absorb. This January he directed (a bit of) *Thesmophoriasousae*, IN GREEK for the APA in San Antonio. He has such a huge backlog of material to record, including *Hymn to Demeter*, *Aeneid*, *Satyricon*, Platos' *Phaedros*, and Seneca's *Hippolytos*, that he has built and furnished his own recording studio. His dual-language illustrated Greek/Japanese scripts are done, and he is negotiating for tours of Japan. His new website, [www.cyparissus.com](http://www.cyparissus.com) hosts his recordings and publicizes his performances, workshops, and other activities. His *Readings from Wheelock's Latin* will have sold its 5000<sup>th</sup> unit sometime around Christmas and he figures this entitles him to some kind of memorial. And finally, he performed *Beowulf* on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, but that's not news . . . he ALWAYS does *Beowulf* around Halloween.

**CHRISTINA WESTPHELING** (A.B., Classical Culture/Art History, 2011) recently started a position as the Family Programs Assistant at the High Museum of Art after spending the summer doing archaeology at a Hellenistic site in Egypt. (<http://christinainegypt.wordpress.com/>)

**PATRICK YAGGY** (A.B., Latin 1999; M.A., Latin 2009) and his wife Carissa DiCindio (M.A., Art History, 2007; Ph.D., Museum Ed. candidate, 2011) had a big year. First, Carissa gave birth to Graham James Yaggy on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Just a few months later, their now larger

family adopted another Boston Terrier named Gelato and then moved to Athens in August. Carissa is thrilled to be just a few minutes from the Georgia Museum of Art, where she is the Curator of Education, and Patrick doesn't mind the commute to North Gwinnett High School in Suwanee as long as he can hear the Redcoat band practice from his porch and walk to Five Points. The summer was also busy for Patrick as he put the finishing touches on his first two publications, *Thebaid 1: The Seeds of War* and *Thebaid 5: Hypsipyle and the Women of Lemnos*. These Latin readers are the first and only Latin readers for Statius' *Thebaid* (available on Amazon). More installments in the series, aimed at intermediate and advanced Latin students, will be published this summer.

news  
from  
faculty &  
staff

**CHRISTINE ALBRIGHT** taught several new classes this past year, including Classical Rhetoric, Sexuality and Gender in Greece and Rome, and Augustan Age Literature. She spent the early part of the summer working on an article about Hesiod's presentation of poetic inspiration in the *Theogony*, which she plans to finish in the fall, and she spent the latter part of the summer teaching and growing organic vegetables in her garden. This spring, she will conduct a study of the use of visual technology in the elementary Latin classroom. Most importantly, she and husband Peter Appel proudly announce the birth of their first child, Oliver George Appel! Oliver was born Nov. 4, 2010 and weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz.

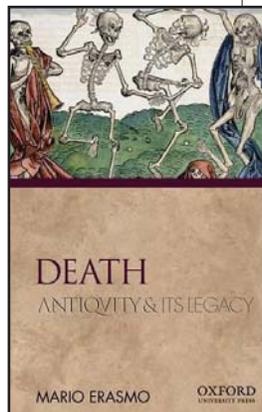
**JIM ANDERSON** had another wonderful summer with the Rome Program, and especially enjoyed teaching a new course in Spring 2011: Ancient Roman Cities. He completed a chapter—entitled “Architect and Patron”—commissioned for the forthcoming *Blackwell's Companion to Roman Architecture*, as well as continuing to make progress on his book on *The Roman Architecture of Provence*. Daughter Helena graduated *magna cum laude* from Macalester College (St. Paul, MN) in May with majors in French and Art History, and is spending 2011-2012 teaching English in elementary school and working as an *au pair* in Paris. Son Owen continues to be happy in his job in the Compilers Division of Apple Computers in California. With their children spread across the globe, Dana and Jim decided to cope with the “empty nest” by adopting a rescued Chihuahua, named Angie, who now dominates their lives.

**ELENA BIANCHELLI** spent her summer in Italy and she is back in Athens, teaching her classes and working on her translation of Timothy Gantz's *Early Greek Myth*.

**DAMARIS CORRIGAN** had an excellent year teaching and is looking forward to continuing good times with her students in the semesters to come. She is currently studying zooarchaeology in connection with her work on Alexander's cavalry. Although she lost a cat and her beloved horse recently, she has taken in a stray silver puggle (poodle and pug cross) whom she and Brian have named Chloe.

It has been a busy year for “Beware the Ides of March,” the Reacting game written by co-authors **KEITH DIX** and Carl Anderson (Michigan State University). The game was part of an Honors Roman Culture course taught by Dix in fall 2010; Dix, Anderson, and **Naomi Norman** teamed up for a panel on Reacting in the Classics curriculum at CAMWS Southern Section, which included a mini-version of the game; and Dix and Anderson served as Gamemasters for the Rome game at UGA's Reacting Conference and at the annual meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education.

**MARIO ERASMO** spent last summer photographing ancient tombs in Rome and Portus Necropolis, Ostia Antica for his forthcoming, *Death: Antiquity And Its Legacy* (Oxford, 2012). While in Rome, he was also spotted with pedometer in hand walking out tours for his next book *Strolling Through Rome: The Definitive Walking Guide to the Eternal City* (IB Tauris, 2013). This is his fifth book. His suitcase will get more wear and tear when he returns to Italy Spring semester 2012 to teach on UGA's Cortona Studies Abroad Program. Still in Italy, Mario will be teaching on UGA's Horticulture Maymester Study Abroad Program *The Grand Tour: Art and Gardens of Italy and France* that will focus on ancient sites and the legacy of ancient Rome on art, architecture, gardens, and travel narratives from Palermo to Paris.



Earlier this year **MARILYN EVANS**, returned to Athens, Georgia after completing the requisite courses and exams in the PhD program at UC

Berkeley. She is now teaching part-time in the department, learning Italian, and writing her dissertation. This past summer she returned for her third consecutive season at Gabii, an archaeological project run by the University of Michigan just outside of Rome. She is looking forward to returning to Italy next year, but is quite happy in Athens in the meantime.

After an adventuresome year of traveling and teaching a Pindar seminar at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, **NANCY FELSON** returned to the U.S. in June. She participated in a Reacting to the Past Conference at Barnard College and was honored for her years of service on the national Reacting Board. She intercalated family time and writing over the next two months, delivering one paper, “Pindar of Thebes,” at a conference on Authorship, Authority, and Authenticity in Archaic and Classical Greek Song at Yale. Conveniently, this is where her son Alex and his family live, and where Alex teaches. She is revising the conference paper for publication; it also is the basis for two chapters in her book-in-progress, which explores travel from place to place in Pindar's victory odes and focuses on Pindar's use of Thebes and Theban themes as poetic material. Nancy is spending the fall in Cincinnati—the home of her 97-year old mother Virginia. She is a Margo Tytus Scholar at University of Cincinnati and is continuing her work on the Pindar book. She co-authored an encyclopedia entry with **Jared Klein** on “Deixis in Linguistics and Poetics.” She returns to Athens, GA sometime in late January.

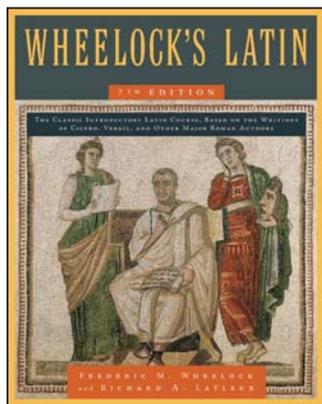
**BOB HARRIS**, enjoys his five classes. Each one is his favorite class! He still brings flowers to school despite record-breaking temperatures and on-going drought...loathes computers and is convinced that all electronic gadgets cause encephalomalacia...was transported by chariot to Richmond in May for his son's wedding...is unable to understand why teachers can be prosecuted for falling in love with their students... has marked, commented on and graded 772 Medical Terminology correspondence papers this year and suspects this is a foretaste of hell... will never forget viewing Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life*—the experience of a lifetime.

**REBECCA HOLCOMBE** was busy this year overseeing the renovations and remodeling of the Alexander Reading Room, the Gantz Computer Lab and the Department of Classics copy room. In the meantime, she baked a coliseum cake for our annual event celebrating Rome's birthday

Our new work study student **ERICA NICHOLE KENNON** is a junior at UGA, studying Consumer Journalism with a focus in Fashion Merchandising, and Magazines with intention to minor in Consumer Economics. This is her first year working for the Classics Department and she loves it already! Erica is originally from Meridan, CT, but now resides in Kennesaw, GA with her mother and toy poodle, Razz. She is an executive for UGA's award winning chapter of The National Association of Black Journalists, the founder of Athens Scholars Journalism Workshops, and has just finished an internship at *O*, the Oprah Magazine in New York City.

During the past year **JARED KLEIN** completed most of a monograph entitled *Interstanzic Repetition in the Rigveda*. He also started the process of working into a coherent unit the 21 articles which will form the chapters of a book entitled *Stylistic Repetition in the Rigveda*. Despite their similar sounding names, the two are based on significantly different material. In addition, Professor Klein held the Fulbright-University of Vienna Distinguished Chair in Humanities and Cultural Studies from March-July, 2011. While in Vienna he taught courses on Stylistic Repetition in the *Rigveda* and Rigvedic and Indo-European Discourse Structure. He also gave a paper before the Vienna Sprachgesellschaft. More recently, Prof. Klein presented a paper at the

Fifth International Vedic Workshop held in Bucharest, Romania. His article “Negation and Polarity in the Greek, Gothic, Classical Armenian, and Old Church Slavic Gospels: A Preliminary Study” appeared in a volume of selected papers from the 2009 International Workshop on Indo-European Syntax and Pragmatics held at UGA and funded by the Norwegian government. But his proudest “achievement” occurred when five of his students, including two UGA Classics graduate students, attended the annual Indo-European summer school at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands, making UGA the best represented school at this important event.



**RICK LaFLEUR**, after 39 years in UGA’s Classics Department, 21 of them as head, retired this past June. To everything there is a season, and though he immensely enjoyed virtually every aspect of his work—the teaching, the writing, the administrative duties—the time simply seemed right to step away from the day to day responsibilities of professorship to spend more time with his wife Alice, and the children and grandchildren. During his final year in the department he continued his undergraduate and graduate teaching

and his service as coordinator of the elementary Latin program and supervisor of the Latin TAs; his new 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *Wheeloock’s Latin* was published this past spring, and over the summer he completed his revision of *A Song of War: Readings from Vergil’s Aeneid*, which is due out from Pearson Publishing in spring, 2012. He is continuing with his online distance education courses in beginning Latin and Latin teaching methods; and he took great pleasure both in last fall’s MLA report that UGA’s Latin enrollments topped those of all other U.S. colleges and universities, and in this fall’s announcement that his former student and long-time friend, Alicia Stallings, was recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship. It was a long and joyful run, this marathon, and now Rick and Alice are doing their utmost to heed the sage counsel of Horace’s *carpe diem*, harvesting the bounty of each and every day.

Work study student **TANACIA LOVENCE** is a senior at UGA studying Consumer Economics and Pre-Law and has been working in the Classics Department for two years. She is from Guyana originally, but now lives in Stone Mountain, GA with her parents and three siblings. She has been very active on campus with organizations that include Student Union, Designated Dawgs, NABA, and other organizations. Tanacia is currently consumed with classes and driving the UGA buses and doesn’t have as much time for organizations as in years past. In the spring she will be interning at the State Capitol in Atlanta and will miss Classics very much, but promises to be back!

**JOHN NICHOLSON** continues to teach a broad range of Latin and Classical Culture courses, including an upper-level class last fall on Juvenal and Martial. In June 2011 he took over as Director of the Classics Summer Institute, and in addition to administrative duties offered a graduate course on Tacitus to an overflow class of 26 excellent Institute students. On the home-front he and his pack of floppy dogs are about to move into an antebellum house they’ve been restoring where they look forward to having a lot more room to loll about.

As the new Director of the Reacting to the Past program at UGA, **NAOMI NORMAN** attended the Reacting conference at Barnard College this June. While there she served as Gamemaster for the Athens Game and played the Red Clay game. “Red Clay” is about Cherokee

removal from Georgia and was created by UGA faculty members Jace and Laura Weaver. She was grateful not to have to play Gov. Lumpkin in the game (look it up), but was certainly challenged by the role of John Schermerhorn who was sent by President Jackson to negotiate the removal that led to the Trail of Tears. After that experience, she was happy to get back to research on Carthage. Very few tears there.

**CHUCK PLATTER** spent the year relearning the Undergraduate Coordinator job, taught an Aristophanes seminar, and published a few book reviews. This semester he is teaching a freshman seminar on the trial of Socrates, compiling a bibliography on Plato’s *Apology*, and writing a commentary on Xenophon’s *Symposium*. In the spring he will be teaching in England as faculty on the UGA at Oxford program.

Just days before the east coast earthquake **JoANN PULLIAM** was thankful that she was one of the last to ride the elevator to the top of the Washington Monument in D.C. before the shake cracked and closed it indefinitely. While she likes adventure, standing in a small room 555 feet above ground level with debris falling is not her idea of fun. Then, traveling to the “other” Washington to visit her daughter in Moses Lake, WA, she and husband, Stan, had a wonderful time visiting Seattle, Mt. Rainier, the massive Grand Coulee Dam, Wenatchee—the Apple Capital of the World, and the stunning vistas of the desert and canyons of the Columbia valley that rival any scenery in America.

*Busy* characterized **NICHOLAS RYNEARSON**’s year. He finished writing an article on beauty and value in Homer’s *Iliad* and continued to work on his book about Plato. He spent the summer in New York and Philadelphia, enjoying the urban environment and writing in various libraries and coffee shops. This fall he is thoroughly enjoying his classes, teaching an enthusiastic group of graduate students in the Greek Poetry Survey, exploring the ancient novel in translation with a mixed group of undergraduate and graduate students and introducing first-years to Greek literature in a First-Year Odyssey Seminar. He continues his work as a volunteer yoga teacher at Rubber Soul Yoga Revolution.

This year **SARAH SPENCE** received an NEH collaborative research award and a residency at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio Italy, both to work on her translation project with colleague Elizabeth Wright and Classics alum **Andy Lemons**. The project has grown to include close to 7000 lines of Latin poetry published within the first year following the battle of Lepanto in 1571, which Harvard’s *I Tatti* series will publish. Sallie is hard at work on the next issue of *Vergilius*, the journal she edits for the Vergilian Society. Her son Ned has started his freshman year at Northwestern University, where he is thriving in the School of Communication. Husband Jim continues as chair of Comparative Literature.

**KAY STANTON** spent the month of May as Songwriter in Residence at UT (Knoxville)’s National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NimBios). Look for her songs on toxoplasmosis and fractals next year. The other big honor Kay had was opening for the B-52’s on their home turf for their 34th anniversary show! In the meantime, she completed the Certificate in Academic Advising here at UGA.

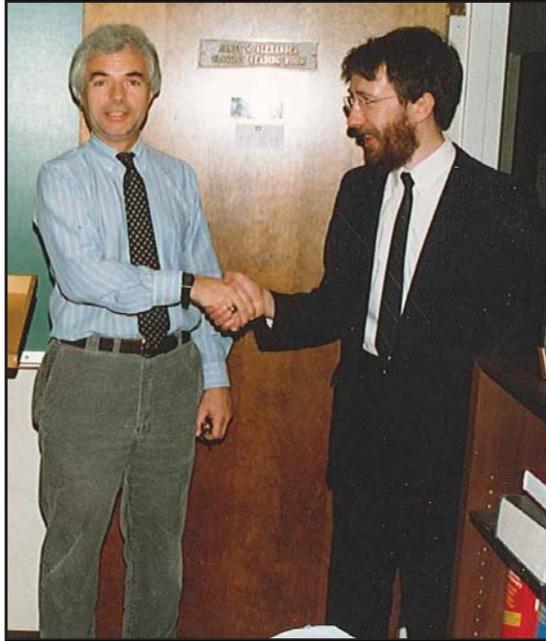
This past year **BEN WOLKOW** gave two talks on Orphism at UGA. One at the Classics Colloquium during the spring entitled “Play it Again Sun: Cosmic Music in the *Orphic Hymns*.” For the Summer Institute, he gave a talk on Orpheus’ appearance in Latin literature. The trifecta will be completed this fall when he will present on Orphic poetry and the epic tradition for the graduate proseminar. His book on the *Orphic Hymns*, co-authored with Apostolos N. Athanassakis, lacks only the index, and will be forthcoming in early 2012. Ben continues to teach a wide array of courses, with a delicious emphasis on Greek this academic year. Of note in his personal life, he has become an uncle for the first time.

# Rick LaFleur

*LaFleur News, continued from page 1*

*machina*, you offer me a job at UGA: an invitation home: *Deo gratias*. It's been a pleasure and an honor. I don't quite know how we'll get along without you at the heart of our activities, but we'll do our best to follow your impressive example. My very best wishes as you embark on your retirement. *Ad multos annos!* — *John Nicholson*

When my children were small they loved coming up to Mom's office for the parties and since Dr. LaFleur is a party sort of guy there were usually plenty of parties back in those days. The children sometimes became confused when I would start talking about a certain professor and I would have to describe to them who I was talking about. But I never had that problem with Dr. LaFleur because he was the "eyebrow" guy. This all started, to the delight of my children, when one day Dr. LaFleur got this mischievous glint in his eyes, gathered the children around, and proceeded to transform into "Eyebrow Man."



He began to twiddle with his eyebrows and unkink the curls until his eyebrows completely covered his eyes and came down nearly to his nose. He then danced around as my children laughed with glee. The children loved seeing "Eyebrow Man" and I loved how he always took time to make them feel special. — *JoAnn Pulliam*

My favorite memory of Rick took place on my first visit to UGA. I was not seriously considering going to UGA at the time, but I thought I should at least visit the Classics department before ruling it out. After my meeting with Rick, however, my mind was changed, largely due to his enthusiastic affirmation of the importance of Classics, his unreserved confidence in the UGA program, and his immediate encouragement to apply for the Warlick-Mannion Scholarship. For me, this marked the start of a very positive experience in the Classics department, which provided me with a great foundation for my subsequent studies in Early Judaism and Christianity. — *Wayne Coppins*

## UGA Latin Program Largest in U.S.

- adapted from *Columns*, Feb. 14, 2011

It was announced earlier this year that the University of Georgia's Latin program is the largest of any two- or four-year college or university in the nation. This is the result of a survey conducted by the Modern Language Association in 2009.

The survey shows that students in Latin courses across the country peaked in 1962 at 702,000 and declined steadily for several years before making a slow comeback. Fortunately, Latin has remained strong at UGA and the Classics Department had 62 undergraduate Latin majors in 2010.

Naomi Norman, head of the department said, "The reason we haven't suffered a decline is due to the work that Rick [LaFleur] and others did in the lean years, and what many people don't realize is that our graduates go on to careers in many professional areas, including the Foreign Service and the National Security Agency, as well as law, education, medicine and so many other fields."

"In addition to having one of the largest classics faculties in the U.S., it is also one of the strongest and most diverse," said Rick LaFleur, who retired last spring, but served as the coordinator of the elementary Latin program for several years, and as head of the department for more than 20 years. "And interest in the department as a major has only grown over the years. We're also proud of the service aspect of the department, since we are very much involved with K-12 programs throughout the state."

## Classics Alumna awarded MacArthur Fellowship

I was thrilled, as were many at UGA, to read in the *New York Times* that ALICIA (A.E.) STALLINGS (A.B., Latin, 1990) had received a MacArthur "Genius" Award. This was particularly exciting because, last year, I was the direct beneficiary of Alicia's deep poetic sensibilities and insider's knowledge of the making of poetry: she informally sat in on my ten-week Pindar seminar at the American School in Athens, Greece. Besides her precise and poetic translations of Pindaric passages and her contributions to discussions of articles and to the class's strategies of analysis, Alicia presented as her end-of-term project an insightful survey of the reception of Pindaric victory odes in English poetry, with a focus on theme, meter, and diction and on the diverse translations, appropriations, and imitations.



Our class also attended her daughter's christening, for which she wrote an inspired poem, "Atalanta," and we went to the Athens Centre to hear her read recent work. Several inspired students bought her most recent book of poetry, "Hapax." I cherish the friendship we all developed over the year and look forward to seeing Alicia on this side of the Atlantic next spring.

— *Nancy Felson*



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