

October 1st, 2010
Volume 1, Issue 1

FGRS NEWSLETTER



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Friends of Greek and Roman Studies

This is the first electronic newsletter of Friends of Greek and Roman Studies (FGRS) which we hope to publish twice a year. We should like to thank all alumni who responded to the notice placed in *The Carleton Magazine* issue of the Fall 2009.

We should also like to give especial thanks to His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Greece, Nikolaos Matsis, for graciously agreeing to serve as Honorary Patron of FGRS. Immediately below we have included a statement of the purpose of the society. Also below are details of the inaugural reception.

Purpose

The Friends of Greek and Roman Studies society (FGRS) aims to bring together those interested in the Greco/Roman world and promote an awareness and appreciation of the importance of the contributions of the Greeks and Romans to modern culture. Members will be informed of relevant, current events at Carleton University (e.g. lectures, drama productions, field trips, etc.) by electronic newsletters. Where possible, FGRS will liaise with other organizations with mutual interests in the Ottawa area.

The society welcomes as members alumni, faculty, students and members of the general public who have an interest in the Greek and Roman world. It is also hoped that the newsletters will be a conduit for information about students, alumni and faculty (past and present) so that, if they wish, members may develop or maintain personal contacts with others who were members of the Classics department and/or the Greek and Roman Studies program.

Alumni especially are encouraged to provide short reminiscences either about their own time at Carleton or how Greek and Roman Studies has influenced them, whether professionally or personally, after they left Carleton.

Since this is the first newsletter it is necessary to fill in a few details as background. We apologize therefore if it is a little long. FGRS has formed an ad hoc executive committee:

Dr Susan Downie
Dr Greg Fisher
Professor Josh Beer, acting convenor and treasurer
Diane Wilson (B.A. Hons. Classics 1970) Acting secretary

Greek and Roman Studies at Carleton

Although courses in Latin at Carleton go back to its early days at the end of World War II, Classics as a department, with a full undergraduate program, only really came together in the late 1950s and early 1960s. An MA was added in the mid 1960s.



In the late 1990s, however, because of the financial difficulties the university found itself in, the programs of Classics and Religion were combined. About the same time, in 1996, the College of Humanities was founded and Classics was asked to contribute a core course to the new B.Hums degree. Within a few years Classics and Religion were incorporated into the College, where they still reside.

However, in 2008 Classics and Religion were again granted separate degree programs and Classics changed its name to Greek and Roman Studies (GRS). It now offers a full undergraduate degree program in Latin, Greek and Classical Civilization.

Currently it has five full-time faculty members: Dr Shane Hawkins (coordinator) Dr Elizabeth Klaassen, Dr Susan Downie, Dr Greg Fisher, Mr Josh Beer

"These were three weeks of intense learning and re-conceptualizing our previous knowledge"

Credit Course in Greece

This past spring for the first time a credit course was offered in Greece, a joint venture of Carleton and the University of Winnipeg, organized by Professors Susan Downie of Carleton and Pauline Ripat of Winnipeg. Professor Shane Hawkins also went and gave several talks at different sites.

What enhanced the trip was that during the week the students spent in Athens they were also accompanied by the distinguished Canadian novelist Annabel Lyon, who was nominated for the Governor General's award for her book *The Golden Mean*. The cost of the trip for the students was helped by a generous subvention from John Osborne, the Dean of FASS.

We asked Anna Avdeeva, who graduated this summer with a B.A. Hons in GRS, to give us some personal impressions of the course:



"The trip surpassed all expectations. We visited so many sites we had only heard about but which took on new meanings: from Athens to Delphi, from Olympia to Sparta, from Eleusis to Lerna, from Corinth to Mycenae. I could go on. These were three weeks of intense learning and re-conceptualizing our previous knowledge. "Oh my god, it's so huge," passes my lips more than once - at Epidauros with its magnificently preserved theatre or Tiryns with its great Cyclopean walls. Imagine climbing up the steep Phaedriads in Delphi in the blistering sun looking for moral support from new friends but also in competitive rivalry. Consider staring down at the gulf of Itea and the valley from on high and murmuring, "This is purely divine." Imagine also exploring the Lyceum with Annabel Lyon as she took notes and photos, and listening to the early morning birds in Plato's Academy. What of this shall I see in her next novel? There were also many museums to visit, but something the ordinary tourist rarely, if ever, experiences is going into the conservation and preservation labs of the American School of Archaeology. One especially vivid memory: the osteologist Maria Liston passing around a tibia of a deformed Athenian, dead for some two millennia. As an added bonus to the great classical sites there were the Venetian fortresses, entire castles with their fortifications virtually intact, open to visitors and - hurrah - unsupervised. One special personal memory is stargazing from the battlements of Acronafplion and, with friends, naming the constellations, barely changed since the days of Homer. Thank you to everyone who made this visit possible and for giving me so many treasured experiences."

Current Projects/Upcoming Lectures and Events

Currently, some GRS students are editing an academic journal *Corvus* under the direction of Dr Greg Fisher.

October 18 Lecture "Dare to be Prudent: Roman Wisdom in the Senate Speaker's Chambers," by Dr Peter O'Brien of Dalhousie University, Room 303 Paterson Hall 6pm

November 3 Lecture "The archaeology of daily life: some thoughts on how- and why - to excavate classical and Hellenistic sites," by Dr Margriet Haagsma (University of Edmonton) Room 303 Paterson Hall 6pm.

November 10 INAUGURAL "WINE AND CHEESE" RECEPTION OF FGRS with slides of Summer Course in Greece. To be held upstairs at Chianti's Restaurant (corner of Metcalfe and Gloucester Sts, Ottawa) at 7pm.

Would those who would like to attend please let Josh Beer know by **November 1**.

Email: josh_beer@carleton.ca.

This event is largely being subsidized by a sale of classical books to GRS students, donated by Marion Lapham from the estate of the late Dr Robert Develin and by John Gahan. We should like to thank both Marion and John for their generosity.

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American Institute of Archaeology Ottawa Chapter Lecture Series

Note: All lectures except where noted begin @7:30 pm

LAC = Library and Archives, Wellington Street

CWM = Canadian War Museum

U of O = Desmarais 1120

When	Where	Who	What
Oct 12	LAC	H. Eltaher	<i>Resurrecting the Ancient Library of Alexandria</i> w/Parnassos
Oct 19	LAC	Don Wiles, Prof. Em. Carleton	<i>Radiochemical Methods in Archaeology - Shroud of Turin</i> w/CIG
Oct 21	CWM @ 7	Connie Rodriguez, Loyola, New Orleans	<i>Military Dress Boots of the Emperors</i>
Nov 16	LAC	Angus Smith, Brock	<i>The Humble Dead: Mortuary Ritual in the Mycenaean Hinterland</i> w/CIG
Dec 15	LAC	Rebecca Mullin-Megarry, Trinity College, Dublin	<i>Effects of the Thera Eruption on Crete</i> w/Parnassos
Jan 18	LAC	Susan Downie, Carleton	<i>The Oracle of Zeus at Olympia and the Projection of Power in the Peloponnese</i> w/CIG, CIMS, Parnassos

Donations

This newsletter is circulated to all friends *gratis*. If anyone would like to make a voluntary donation, a Canadian tax receipt will be issued for all gifts of \$10 Canadian or more. (Please provide a postal address). Cheques should be made out to Carleton University, though you should clearly mark on your cheque that it is intended for FGRS, College of Humanities. Send to:

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