

# T A B U L A E

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS • THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA • FALL, 1997

## *Building for the Future*

Walking out of Murphey, we see desolation. Lenoir has been gutted; a chain link fence protects the ruins; to get to Davis Library we must go roundabout, shouldering through the crowds, past a monstrosity in the Pit called Lenoir Pavilion. "We Apologize," say the notices, "For The Temporary Inconvenience During The Lenoir Renovation." And well they might. "Temporary," in this case, means fifteen months or more. With some two dozen construction projects, the UNC campus has seldom looked worse. And Murphey's time, for good or ill, or probably both, is coming soon.

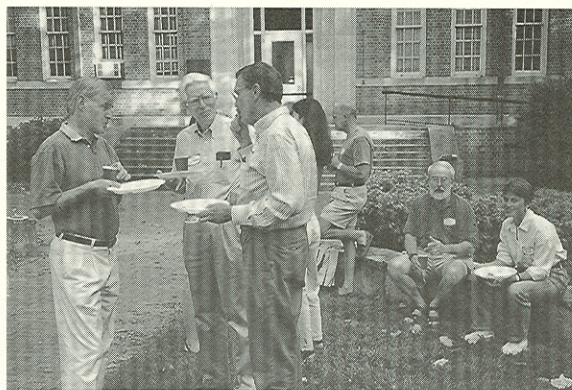
We should not, your Editor tells himself, grumble about the cost of progress; indeed, he himself would sacrifice some old-world amenities for decent air conditioning in Murphey. Last summer's hideous trenches were for laying new cable, furthering the electronic revolution in dormitory and classroom. Courses go on-line; students send in questions or comments, and teachers reply, or correct papers, or assign readings, from the privacy (?) of their studies. Learning becomes more and more (excuse the pun) a terminal affair. Is it possible that, by the time Murphey is renovated, the personal, face-to-face exchange of ideas (not to mention office hours) will have become as obsolete as the coffee and doughnuts and sweet dark elegance of an older, long-lost Lenoir? Not while we live and breathe and can still put up a fight.



*Peter Smith and Celeste Beck*

Look at the picture. Here is Peter Smith (long mainstay of our Greek program) talking with Celeste Beck, a senior and new President of the Classics Club, at the late August picnic for undergraduates old and new. Here is food and drink, and greenery (including Peter's shirt), and good conversation — a truly "academic" moment. The new freshman, or "first-year" student, soon feels at home — and maybe she'll go on with Greek.

Our graduate students are as bright and interesting as ever, innovative in their scholarship and teaching, and mutually supportive. They are even finding jobs! The Graduate Colloquium, on Performance this year, was again a success. This issue of TABULAE, however, foregrounds the undergraduate programs, which have flourished these last years under the watchful eyes of Gerhard Koeppel, Don Haggis, and Callie Connor, and not least, through the delightful energy and initiative of Classics Club members.



*at the Undergraduate Picnic*

Our second picture suggests a different point. So far, only one student has arrived (Lambrini Pappas, from Corfu and Bristol), but faculty — how many can you identify? — are clearly enjoying their own company. And so we do, chatting in the hall or discussing our research at weekly brown-bag lunches (to which you're always welcome!), or sometimes, even, hearing one another lecture (Bill Race on Homer and Vietnam, Sara Mack on Acis and Galatea) under the aegis of the Classics Club: and all this, in a world always and nec-



essarily under temporary renovation, is an ongoing blessing.

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## DAVID GANZ

David Ganz, our medievalist, has taken up the Chair of Paleography at King's College, London. A prize-winning scholar of the Carolingian Renaissance, David came to UNC in 1980 from Oxford. He has been a lynch-pin of Medieval Studies here, generous of his time and interest to students and colleagues throughout several Departments. We shall miss his open-door helpfulness, his wit, his gadfly comments and passionate advocacy of undervalued scholars and scholarship. We are proud of David's new honors, though, and wish him well in London.

## JOHN HERINGTON

John Herington died in March, to our great sadness. Married to Sara Mack in 1985, he retired from Yale in 1992 to Chapel Hill, where we benefited from his enormous knowledge of Greek, Latin, and English poetry and prose, his enthusiasm for poetry in performance, his modest, good-humored companionship, and his ready encouragement, advice, and help. He was himself preeminently what he sought for his *Hermes* series, "a scholar-humanist with a deep knowledge of, and love for, his subject." We celebrated John's life with talks, readings, and music at the National Humanities Center on May 4. A prize and scholarship for undergraduates here have been given in his honor.

KJR

## The Undergraduate Program

Seen over the years the population of undergraduate majors in our department has steadily increased. While in the past years the count has ranged between about thirty-five and forty-five, there are this year at last count forty-nine majors (declared and undeclared) in the five areas of study offered. One of these is in the Combined Greek and Latin program, two in Greek, eleven in Latin, fourteen in Classical Archaeology and about fourteen in Classical Civilization. In addition one student is majoring in the Teaching of Latin in the School of Education. Each one of these has since this semester a stronger departmental identity in the form of a mailbox in the anteroom of the new Director of Undergraduate Studies, Callie Connor.

Five years ago the Department instituted the Junior Seminar, a course for upper-class-persons in which Juniors and Seniors participate in a discussion that is broad enough to offer something for everybody, the language students as well as those who major in Civilization and Archaeology. For the first two years, under the tutelage of Peter Smith, the object of study was Sicily. Edwin Brown continued with Sicily for the third year but is this year examining Crete, Rhodes and their Cultural Spheres with a class of eleven students. It is evident that this course is furnishing some of the glue which brings our majors closer together.

This past May our departmental Commencement Ceremony recognized the achievements of seven recipients of the Bachelor of Arts Degree: Meghan Agresto, Rebecca Benefiel, Sarah Black, Susan Gelb, Mike Orr, Kelly Spradley, and Jim Yavenditti. As has been a tradition for many years now we congratulated parents and friends of the graduates at this event and met with them in a relaxed atmosphere at the subsequent luncheon.

Special recognition is due to Meghan Agresto who was awarded both the Eben Alexander Prize and the Preston and Miriam Epps Prize in Greek Studies.

This past year saw a bumper crop of five Honors Theses produced in the Classics Department. The work which goes into the preparation and writing of such a thesis is a true ordeal, for it represents the "trial by fire" of a student's research capabilities at this stage of a career. No wonder that one of the young scholars referred to her thesis as "that thing." We are all very proud of these special achievements and congratulate Rebecca Benefiel whose thesis is entitled *Municipium Saepinatum: A Study in Small Town Life of the Roman Empire*, Susan Gelb who wrote on *Archaic Doric Temples in South Italy*, Leslie Kendrick who dealt with *Life, Death, and the Urgency of Living Well: the Use of Horace's Odes in Samuel Johnson's Rambler* (with highest honors), Kelley Spradley who worked on *The Original Garrisons of Hadrian's Wall Forts*, and Jim Yavenditti who presented a thesis entitled *Monumenta Hadriana: an Examination of the Hadrianic Building Projects in Athens* (with highest honors).

Thanks to the generosity of Nicholas A. Cassas, a graduate of UNC, the Department is able to award up to four Cassas Traveling Fellowships for Greece: This past year's recipients were Bright Bourne, Matthew Boyatt, Christine Clarkson, and Kathy Laxton.



Due largely to the efforts of Jim Yavenditti, the Classics Club saw the light of day in the Spring of 1995. It proved very successful this past year and is thriving this year thanks to its new president Celeste Beck. Regular meetings as well as monthly dinners with faculty and graduate students at various venues in town do much to bind our majors into a lively, coherent group. In addition to its social purpose the club also sponsored a lecture last Spring with financial support from the Carolina Parents Fund. Judging from the first dinner the Club is proving to be a magnet for our new majors and for those who are considering majoring in Classics.

Thanks also to Jim Yavenditti the Eta Alpha chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, an association promoting classical studies, was established. Charter members are Rebecca Benefiel, Sarah Black, Celeste Beck, Susan Gelb, Geri Greenspan, Mike Orr, Kelly Spradley, Jim Yavenditti, and Julie Young. Celeste is this year's president. Financial support for the chapter has been obtained from the Student Congress as well as the Parents Fund.

Please keep in touch with us and let us know periodically what you are doing. We have to date received some news from our graduates but we would like to have up-dates on what you are doing. Meghan Agresto is in Greece on a Fulbright grant. Rebecca Benefiel is spending this year in Rome on a Rotary scholarship and in the Fall of 1998 she will enter the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor as a graduate student in Classical Archaeology. During the summer Susan Gelb participated at an excavation in ancient Carthage excavating a 5th century church and now is a graduate student in Classical Archaeology at the University of Texas at Austin. Michael Orr is taking a year off here in Chapel Hill. This year Kelly Spradley will be working for Americorps in Charleston, SC. Her application to the University of Durham, England, was successful and she begins her studies in Archaeology there in the Fall of 1998. Jim Yavenditti has begun teaching at Culver Academies in rural Indiana. Besides his two Latin 1 classes and a 9th grade Humanities/History survey he is dorm supervisor and assistant coach of the swim team.

GMK

## Variae Viae Reportant

We continue to enjoy the achievements of our alumni/ae as they build for the future. Sound the trumpet for high school teachers like **Martha Woodard Pearlman** (BA '77, MA '81), who raised the Latin enrollment at Clearview Regional HS. (Mullica, NJ) from 28 to 80 students in three years. Shake a rattle for all those new Classics babies growing up — and get your Latin flash cards ready for them: **Ron and Carol (Lindsay) Begley** (Ph.D. '84, '88) report that Jeremiah and William have been doing Latin since the age of five in the Domus Begleiana School for Boys ("we'd happily admit girls but none has applied"); one wonders whether Thomas, born Feb. 29, 1996, will get his Ph.D. before he is seven (cf. "Pirates of Penzance"). Bang the tenure drum for Ron, at St. Michael's College in Vermont; for **Chuck Platter** (Ph.D. '89), at the University of Georgia; for **Jeff Carnes** (Ph.D. '86), at Syracuse University; for **Rick Spencer** (Ph.D. '96), at Appalachian State University; and (belatedly) for **Janet Jones** (Ph.D. '89), who now chairs the Classics Dept. at Bucknell. "I got tenure in 1995," she writes; "also bought a house & got married (to Ben Marsh...) in 1996 and we are happy to introduce Duncan Robert Jones born 12/1/96." Janet, you get the MATRONA CURRENS AWARD for 1997.

This year's FUTURE SOLON AWARD goes to **Liza Reynolds** (M.A. '94), who after graduating from UT law school is clerking for the Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Watch out for those *advocati*, Liza! A GEORGICS THREE AWARD goes to **Robin Lorsch Wildfang** (Ph.D. '93), married to a Dane, lecturing (in English and Danish) at Odense Universitet, living on a dairy farm in southern Denmark among 85 cows — and looking forward to raising piglets! A TENTH MUSE AWARD for tuned-in retirees goes to **Jane Snyder**, Ph.D. '69, Professor (optime) Emerita from Ohio State, who has just published her fifth book, *Lesbian Desire in the Lyrics of Sappho* (Columbia UP, 1997) and is currently a violinist with the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus.

We conclude, gratefully, with SOCIETAS awards for two recent undergraduates who started the Classics Club, **Jim Yavenditti** '97 and **D. Hunt** '95. For Jim, see above. D. keeps up her Latin, including spoken Latin (with Fr. Reginald Foster), teaches English as a Foreign Language, and offers walking tours in Rome. *Tanti Auguri* to all — and keep sending news!

KJR



## *Murphey on the Web*

You will soon be able to visit Mother Murphey on the Internet at <http://www.unc.edu/depts/classics>. Please let us know your thoughts on this new endeavor!

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## COMING EVENTS IN CLASSICS AT CHAPEL HILL

**Saturday, March 28, 1998.** For the first time, the graduate students in classics at UNC and Duke have decided to sponsor a colloquium jointly. The topic of the first annual North Carolina Classics Graduate Colloquium is *Finem Egressi Legemque Priorum: Oddities and Vulgarities in the Ancient World*. This year's keynote speaker will be our own Jerzy Linderski.

In classical studies, we often encounter evidence that challenges our fundamental assumptions about the ancient world. The ancients, too, faced challenges to how they viewed and experienced their world. It is in dealing with that evidence that we redefine our field, and the ancients their world. This colloquium calls for papers that call into question modern or ancient preconceptions about the ordinary and familiar in the ancient world. Topics might come from, but are not limited to, the following fields: textual criticism; literature (including language, meter, and genre); custom, ritual, and religion; politics, law, and governance; sources and historiography; and art, architecture, and archaeology. Scholars at the graduate and post-doctoral level are invited to submit original research for the colloquium. Abstracts should be 250-350 words long and should not include the author's name. Presentations should run 15-20 minutes, but if you feel you might need longer, please indicate this on your submission. Abstracts are to be postmarked no later than 10 January 1998. Please send all abstracts or requests for information to:

1998 N.C. Classics Graduate Colloquium  
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WHAT'S HAPPENING? If you have news, including news of others, and if it's news that would not give offense, please send it to: George Houston, Dept. of Classics CB # 3145, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3145. (Actually, you can even send offensive news, but we may not print it. Then again, we probably will.)

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My Degree and Year:

My News:

or send a message via email to: [gwhousto@email.unc.edu](mailto:gwhousto@email.unc.edu)