

Department of Classics and General Humanities
Annual Report – 2008-09

0. Preamble

Our Department in the past few years has become a major contributor to CHSS and therefore, to MSU. In Fall semester 2008, roughly 2100 students were enrolled in approximately 70 sections, and our Spring numbers were not too less than that. Members of our Department continue to excel in scholarship, teaching, outreach, and service to MSU and the wider community. What follows below is hardly an exhaustive enumeration of what our Department has achieved.

I. Staffing

- A. New Hires: There were no new hires
- B. Tenure, Promotions, Retirements: Prudence J. Jones, Patricia Salzman were tenured, and Prudence J. Jones, Patricia Salzman and Sulochana R. Asirvatham were promoted to Associate professor.
- C. Graduate Assistants: We have no graduate assistants.

II. Curriculum Development:

Mythology The Mythology working group (Vickie Larson, coordinator) considered what new courses to develop and an outline for a possible Minor in mythology. The committee as a whole, with Dr. Glen Gill leading, wrote and passed through the Curriculum Committees GNHU 222: Celtic Mythology, which was based on a course Glen Gill had taught in Fall 2008. In Spring 2009 Dr. Gill taught for the first time GNHU 288: Mythic Traditions which was created last year. Toward the end of the semester the working group began to draft a fairly innovative plan to make courses in Mythology part of the core requirements of the General Humanities program, and working out this plan will be a major task for the coming year. This year our expansion of courses in online education continued. We offered two online sections of Mythology during summer 2008, and Patricia Salzman offered two sections of Mythology online for the Spring 2008. Two sections of Mythology are being offered in Summer 2009 as well, and they are well enrolled.

General Humanities Our greatest challenge this year was to deal with growth in the number of majors, an increase at times of over 100%. For example, due to an increased number of majors, in Spring 2009 we needed to offer a second section of our Senior

Humanities Seminar, our capstone course. This past year we have worked to upgrade our advising, our promotional documentation and the dissemination of information for all our programs, in particular General Humanities. We regularized our use of our Blackboard advising sites (see below) and the use of email lists to send out advising and recruiting information. The Excel files provided by CAAAL were really useful. We continued to make available to students online art and archaeology exercises for General Humanities I and the Greek and Roman civilization courses and we made small improvements in them. We do need to find ways to get more students to utilize these resources.

Curriculum issues were also engaged. We wrote and passed GNHU 520: Graduate Seminar in Interdisciplinary Humanities, which will allow us to create immediately a graduate cross-listing for 400 level Humanities courses – and not only those in our Department. We also created this course with a view toward developing an interdisciplinary MA in Liberal Studies in cooperation with other Departments. Responding to a request from English, we developed (with Glen Gill doing much of the work) GNHU 288: The History of Literary Criticism, which will be at some point cross-listed with its equivalent course in the English Department. Prudence Jones revived with great success GNHU 182: English Vocabulary, Classical Roots as a hybrid course in Spring 2009, and is teaching it at maximum capacity as a fully online course during Summer 2009, and is likewise scheduled to teach it online in Fall 2009. In Fall Dr. Senta German taught for the first time GNHU 201 General Humanities I (one of the General Humanities major's three core courses) as a fully online course, as well as a more specialized course, GNHU 320 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Humanities: Imaging Woman from the Stone Age to Barbie. She will teach General Humanities I as a hybrid course in Fall 2009.

One of our other significant accomplishments was conducting a series of careful discussions and meetings which lead to a proposal to hire a scholar specializing in the Renaissance/Early Modern Period. Our proposal was accepted by the Interim Dean of CHSS, and, as of this writing, we are awaiting word from the Provost about the final outcome. I cannot stress enough how much we require another faculty member.

Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology. Regarding the Classics, Ancient history and Archaeology courses (which serve the Classics major and minor as well as the General Humanities Major) which our Department offers, while no new courses were written up, several innovative courses were offered under our special topics course rubric, GNHU 332 (Select Topics in Ancient History) . In Fall 2008 Dr. Tim Renner offered a course on the Roman Republic, and in the Spring Prudence Jones offered a course on Cleopatra. Dr.

Jean Alvares taught for the first time a course he had created the previous year, GNHU/RELG 209 Introduction to Greek and Roman Religion. In Spring 2009 Dr. Deborah Chatr Arayamontri taught a cross-listed course (GNHU361/GNHU 332) on Ancient Technology, which was a considerable success. She started planning a course on the history of the city of Rome for Fall 2009. Likewise, Dr. Gibaldi, another one of our fine part time instructors, did planning this year for course on ancient Sicily, which will be offered in Spring 2010, and which we hope students participating in the Sicily Summer program will be interested in too.

Archaeology Minor. The interdepartmental working Group (Anthropology, Classics and General Humanities, Art & Design, Earth and Environmental Studies) Archaeology curriculum working group met, and we have made preliminary discussions of new additions to the program and other aspects of program development, such as creating links to archaeological excavations in Italy, which students in our programs may be able to attend, or having a field school at the Bond house next year.

Classical Languages. As a result of work done this year, we are getting our MAT program in Latin ready for the next stage of approval. The working group (Patricia Salzman, coordinator) was able to write up and pass through the curriculum committee the following Graduate courses: LATN 501 Latin Literature of the Republic; LATN 502 Latin Literature of the Golden Age' LATN 519: Graduate Latin Teaching Methods' LATN 553: Vergil. We also plan soon to write up courses in Silver Age Latin, Ovid and the Roman Novel.

Another major initiative, which will carry over to the new year, was to take up the issue of using the monies which our Latin and Greek students must pay as part of the language lab fee to purchase software to enhance teaching for our Department. We have identified some useful software, and we hope to purchase this in 2009-2010.

Our Latin enrollments show a steady increase, including at the advanced level. We have now worked out how to offer Intermediate Latin I and Intermediate Latin II each semester, whose enrollments continue to grow. Dr. Victoria Larson offered for first time in a long while Roman Satire, which was well enrolled. And Dr. Renner, each semester, has had one to three students taking LATN 319: Latin Teaching Methods with a view to teaching Latin in middle or secondary school.

III. Programs, Projects, Special Events:

We continued to sponsor public lectures, either on our own initiative or in collaboration with other departments and units. Our own department sponsored two lectures on mythology:

⊕ Dr. Glen Gill gave a lecture, “Tolkien and the Word: Biblical Archetypes in The Lord of the Rings” April 2nd, 2008

⊕ Dr. Paul Leggett gave a lecture. “The Redeemer Hero - From Marduk to Star Wars” November 6th, 2008

We co-sponsored the “Interest in the Past” series of daytime, lectures which were:

- “From Politics to Erotics: “The Rape of the Sabine Women” and the Re-Invention of Tradition” Meredith Safran, Classics, Princeton University October 7, 2008
- “The British Museum: An Anglo-Saxon View” Sonja Marzinzik, Curator, Insular Early Medieval Collections, The British Museum, London November 13, 2008

We continued to co-sponsor lectures for the North New Jersey Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America:

- Kate Pechenkina (Anthropology, Queens College-CUNY), on the bioarchaeology of early Chinese communities; September 20
- John Younger (Classics, U. Kansas) on artists in the Aegean Bronze Age, October 20
- Lauren Hackworth Petersen (Art History, University of Delaware), on representations of Roman freedmen, November 10
- Donny George Youkhanna (SUNY-Stony Brook; former director of the Iraq Museum) on the looting of antiquities in Baghdad during the U.S. invasion, February 19
- Moain Sadeq (Near Eastern Studies, U. Toronto; Director, Palestinian Antiquities Authority, Gaza) on the architectural heritage of Gaza, April 20.
- Rosemary Joyce (Anthropology, UC Berkeley) on the early history of chocolate in Mesoamerica. March 12, 2009

IV. Other Department/Program Achievements and Endeavors:

We continued to develop and improve our Blackboard advising sites. These are.

(1) CALA: Classics and Latin Advising. All majors and minors in Classics and Latin are enrolled into this BB site, where students can find various advising documents (including advertisements for upcoming courses) as well as a discussion board.

(2) GHAA: General Humanities Advising. All majors in General Humanities are enrolled into this BB site, where students can find various advising documents (including advertisements for upcoming courses) as well as a discussion board.

(3) AMAP: ARCHAEOLOGY MINOR ADVISING PAGE. All Archaeology minors are enrolled into this BB site, where students can find various advising documents

(4) LECC: LATIN EXERCISES AND DRILLS. For the past three years, Jean Alvares and Prudence Jones have been creating Latin Drills for Blackboard, and we continue to develop more.

(5) CGHXC: Classics and General Humanities Extra Credit. Jean Alvares has also created this BB site which students can join in order to view and do exercises on various units covering art and archaeology from the Neolithic to the latter half of the Roman Empire. Several full and part-time instructors have given students extra credit for completing these exercises.

Prudence Jones also organized two open houses for students preparing to register, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.

Prudence Jones also continued as faculty advisor to Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics Honor Society, and this year six members were inducted.

Prudence Jones and Patricia Salzman were in charge of vetting candidates for the Kibbe and Peins scholarships, which were awarded during Spring Semester.

In April 2009 Dr. Moain Sadeq (Near Eastern Studies, U. Toronto; Director, Palestinian Antiquities Authority, Gaza) was at MSU as a Visting Fellow of the Center for Global Education, and Dr. Sadeq gave guest lectures for two of our classes.

Professional Semester: Our Department, working with Rita Jacobs, Bryan Murdock and Beverly Ververs, has intensified our efforts to encourage our majors to enroll in the Professional Semester. After a series of meetings, a new letter was written advertising this Cooperative Education course and sent out to our majors and materials on the Professional Semester were added to our advising pages.

V. Activities of Administrative Units within Departments

Our department is connected to, but does not formally manage, the Institute for the Humanities and the Center for Heritage and Archaeological studies, although faculty in our Department, Dr. Tim Renner and Dr. Victoria Larson, have major leadership positions in these units. Here I wish to simply report the main programs. The annual reports of these organizations will, I am sure, give more information.

The Institute for the Humanities put on a very respectable number of programs this past year. These were

- ◆ “Classics Day, 2008,” Friday, October 24, 2008
- ◆ "Mediating Presidential Politics." Tuesday, October 28, 2008
- ◆ Humanities in the Schools Day “Carpe Futura: Visions of the Future,” December 12, 2008.
- ◆ Teaching Mythology: Beyond the Basics,” February 5, 2009.
- ◆ World Cultures Day, 2009: Gender Roles in a Global Context," March 27, 2009
- ◆ “Literacy and the Achievement Gap in Schools - Charleston Latin: A Solution" Thursday, June 18 -Friday, June 19, 2009

The Center for Heritage and Archaeological studies sponsored these talks as part of the “House and home lecture series “ with grant support from the NJ council for the Humanities

- “The structure of House and House as Structure: Spatial Symbolism in Lowland South America and the West Indies” by Professor Peter Siegel. February 2, 2009.
- “Living Conditions of the Urban Middle Class in the Roman Empire” by Professor Deborah Chatr Aryamontri, February 16, 2009
- “The Van Reyper-Bond Families in Montclair, NJ” by Professor Rhoda Halperin and Rebecca Catts March 23, 2009
- “Patriots, Tories, Inebriates and Hussies: The Historical Archaeology of the Abraham Staats House as a Case Study in Microhistory” by Professor Richard Veit, March 31, 2009
- “Away from Home: The British at Raritan Landing” by Rebecca Yamin, April 13, 2009
- “House and Home in the Delaware Valley: 1675-1740” by Professor Bernie Herman. Wednesday, April 29, 2009

- “African American Schoolhouses and the Concepts of Home: An Imagined Community in the Suburbs” by Professor Elgin Klugh May 4, 2009
- “Our House in Havana in Memoir and Film” moderated by “Carlos Ortiz and Roger Zapata. May 28, 2009.

There were also two workshops for students and teachers, co-sponsored with the Institute for the Humanities

⊕ “Habitats and history: A morning of lectures and discussion for high school classes.” February 10, 2009

⊕ “Home and Belonging in Literature, History and Film” March 31, 2009

A. Scholarship

Jean Alvares

“Considering Desire in the Greek Romances Employing Lacanian Theory: Some explorations” Fourth International Conference on the Ancient Novel in Lisbon, Portugal, July 2008.

“Lars and the Real Girl and the Pygmalion Myth,” Classical Association of the Atlantic States, November 2008.

Review of *Cambridge Companion to the Ancient Novel*, Tim Whitmarsh Editor. *Classical Outlook*, 86.2

Review of *Utopia Antiqua*, by Rhiannon Evans. *Classical Outlook*. 82.1

Tim Renner

A Prose Passage on the God Chnum,” in *Sixty-Five Papyrological Texts Presented to Klaas A. Worp on the Occasion of his Sixty-Fifth Birthday (P.Lugd.-Bat. 33)*, ed. F.A.J. Hoogendijk and B.P. Muhs, 41-45. Leiden: Brill, 2008.

“Literary Papyri,” Chapter 12 of *The Oxford Handbook of Papyrology*, ed. Roger S. Bagnall, Oxford Un. Pr. 2009, 21pp. (in press).

Journal volume edited: *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* 45 (2008) (edited with Peter Van Minnen, University of Cincinnati, and John Whitekorne, University of Queensland.)

Mary English

Continued to be the editor of *Classical Outlook*, the only journal dedicated to Latin teaching, and one of most widely read Classics journals.

Prudence J. Jones

"Cleopatra VII" and "Claudius Ptolemy" in *The Dictionary of African Biography* ed. Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel Akyeampong (Oxford University Press, in press).

"Cleopatra's Cocktail." *Classical World* (in press).

"Alexandria," in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome* ed. Michael Gagarin and Elaine Fantham (Oxford University Press, in press).

"Teaching Reception via Dido and Cleopatra." *New England Classical Journal* 35.2 (2008) 111-21.

"Cleopatra for Girls: Nineteenth Century Biographies and the Female Ideal." Classical Association of the Atlantic States Annual Meeting. Princeton, NJ. October 8, 2008.

"From Plutarch to Shakespeare to Liz Taylor: Images of Cleopatra on Canvas, Stage, and Screen." What Becomes a Legend Most? (Antony and Cleopatra Symposium sponsored by The New York City Opera). Columbia University. January 10, 2009.

Review of J.M. Ziolkowski and M.C.J. Putnam, eds. *The Virgilian Tradition: the First Fifteen Hundred Years. Vergilius* (in press).

Review of S-A. Ashton, *Cleopatra and Egypt. The Classical Outlook* (in press).

Sulochana R. Asirvatham

"No Patriotic Fervor for Pella: Aelius Aristides and the Presentation of the Macedonians in the Second Sophistic.," *Mnemosyne* 61.2 (2008).

"Ancient Ideas, Postmodern Echoes: American Politics after 9/11 and the Greek Rhetoric of Identity," *Theory & Event* Volume 11:1 (2008).

"The Roots of Macedonian Ambiguity in Classical Athenian Literature," in *Essays Presented to Eugene N. Borza*, Regina Books (2009).

Patricia Salzman

Latin Elegy and Narrative: Fragments of a Story. P. Salzman, and G. Liveley editors Ohio State Press. 2008. Patricia Salzman also helped write the introduction for this volume.

“Snapshots of a Love Affair. *Amores* 1.5 and the Program of Elegaic Narrative.” in *Latin Elegy and Narrative: Fragments of a Story*. P. Salzman, and G. Liveley editors Ohio State Press. 2008.

B. Grants/Contracts/Awards

Dr. Patricia Salzman was awarded \$1000 for her SBR proposal.

Dr. Glen Gill received a travel grant from Global Education of \$800 to present a paper and attend the “Classical Myth and Psychoanalysis” conference, to be held 3-6 September, 2009, at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Dr. Tim Renner, along with Dr. Rhoda Halperin, was awarded a grant of ten thousand dollars by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for a public lecture series on “House and Concepts of the Home: Places and Belonging in a Global World,” sponsored by the Center for Heritage and Archaeological Studies.

C. Professional Distinctions (Offices in professional organizations, etc.)

Mary English was Executive Director of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States.

Jean Alvares was webmaster for the New Jersey Classical Association and the New York Classical Club.

Mary English and Sulochana Asirvatham continued their work with the Advanced Placement Board, both as graders and working on broader development concerns.

D. Pro-bono Work, Community Outreach, Service to MSU

This year, Jean Alvares (Corresponding Secretary), Aditya Adarkar, and Victoria Larson served on the University Senate. Aditya Adarkar served as the head of the General Education Committee, as well as the Coordinator for the Asian Studies program. Mary English served as Chair of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Aditya Adarkar also continued his participation in Montclair State University’s Research Academy for University Learning.

Our faculty continue to do outreach work:

Jean Alvares gave a workshop on Schliemann, Troy and Mycenae for the Nov. 2008 meeting of FLENJ, and gave a presentation on Lucan’s *Pharsalia* for Classics Day

Mary English, Jean Alvares, Patricia Salzman and Glen Gill gave presentations for the Institute for the Humanities program, Mythology, Beyond the Basics (see above).

Prudence Jones gave a lecture, "Cleopatra and Caesar." at Richard Stockton College. November 8, 2008.

Dr. Senta German continued her work for SAFE (Saving Antiquities for Everyone), and organization which fights against looting and the improper sale of antiquities and works to educate the public on these issues.