



2005-06 in the department

I write these notes in early July from the comparative peace and quiet of home, as the builders have moved into the department's premises in 11 Woodland Road and are busy with their hammers and drills.

This is the physical manifestation of the major organisational change I mentioned in my notes last year, the amalgamation of the faculty's 14 existing departments into three schools. From 1 August, we will join with English, Historical Studies and Theology and Religious Studies to form the School of Humanities.

The former departments will retain their disciplinary identities through their

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teaching programmes and research, but the aim in the formation of the school is to shift the ever-growing burden of administration from academics to a

centralised and enlarged body of dedicated administrative staff.

Hence the building works, which will transform the complex that has been familiar to the generations of students who have studied in it since the move from the Wills Building in 1986. Three of

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the former academic offices in the 'spine' behind number 11 are being knocked together to form one of the three school offices; the other two will be on the ground floor of the main villa.

The Junior Common Room will be enlarged, and the glass passage at the back of Woodland Road will be extended behind numbers nine and seven to link up with the lecture rooms behind numbers three and five (a plan long mooted and at last being brought to fruition).

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inbrief

A VINTAGE YEAR

This year the Beare Prize in Latin went to **Fred Hitchcock** (BA 2006), the Momigliano Prize in Ancient History to **Emma Grant** (BA 2006) and the Gould Prize in Greek to **Tim Giddings** (BA 2006). This has been a vintage year: no fewer than 11 of our new graduates got first class degrees.

INTERNATIONAL ANCIENT CULT AND RELIGION PROJECT

Richard Buxton

(pictured right) has been elected President of LIMC/ThesCR (Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae/Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum).



This prestigious international project is involved in producing an encyclopaedic reference work on ancient cult and religion, and about ten substantial volumes will be produced under the auspices of the Getty Foundation over the coming years. For further details of the project, visit www.rzuser.uni-heidelberg.de/~m99/thescra/.

The opportunity is also being taken for considerable refurbishment of the teaching spaces. If the truth be told, 20 years of wear and tear and twice the number of students it was planned for had left the Woodland Road complex looking rather shabby, and the facilities were badly in need of up-dating. I will make sure to include some photographs of the redevelopment in next year's *Sphinx*.

Organisationally, each discipline within the School of Humanities will have a Head of Subject, who will be responsible for research planning and staff development, and a Head of Education, who will see to the delivery of the teaching programme.

To help ease the transition, I'll be taking



on the role of Head of Subject for Classics and Ancient History for 2006/07, and will then be succeeded by Gillian Clark



(pictured left); Ellen O'Gorman (pictured left) will be the inaugural Head of Education. The first Head of the School of Humanities will be Charles

Martindale, who has spent the past six months fine-tuning the arrangements for the new school. Much remains to be done before the students return in October, so fingers are tightly crossed that everything will be ready in time.

In the meantime, the department has been as busy as ever, and some of its

many activities are detailed elsewhere in this issue.

We came to the end of an era with the retirement in December 2005 of Lin Pountney, who had been our departmental administrator for nearly 10 years. Lin had selflessly taken on an ever-increasing roster of tasks, and this Head of Department doesn't know how he could have done the job without Lin's unfailing support and encouragement. 'Retirement' is probably not the word, for none of us can imagine Lin putting her feet up.

Lin's successor is Louisa Guy, who had no sooner come into the department than she picked up where Lin had left off; the dynamic partnership she has developed with Ann Clarke has carried the department through a year that has been fraught and frantic by turns.

Duncan Kennedy
Head of Department

New Joint Honours course

This year saw the first intake of 10 students for the new Joint Honours degree in Archaeology and Ancient History. The degree was developed by



Shelley Hales (pictured left) in collaboration with Tamar Hodos from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Blackwell lecture series

As announced in last year's *Sphinx*, the Oxford-based publisher Blackwell has agreed to sponsor a prestigious series of annual lectures by internationally renowned scholars which will subsequently be published in book form. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eric Thomas, has also given very generous support to the series.

Preparations are now advanced for the first lectures in spring 2007, which will be delivered by Professor Ian Morris of Stanford University on the theme of the Athenian Empire.

The lectures will take place on 30 April, 3 May, 8 May and 10 May next year. We are hoping that they will attract an enthusiastic audience, and we would be delighted if our alumni, from Bristol or further afield, saw them as an opportunity to revisit us.

If you are thinking of attending, please register an initial interest with Duncan Kennedy, c/o the Department of Classics and Ancient History, 11 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1 TB (duncan.f.kennedy@bristol.ac.uk), who will send you further details and a formal invitation closer to the time.



The Institute of Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition

Many aspects of the department's research take place under the auspices of the Institute of Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition, which was founded by Bob Fowler in 2000, and is currently directed by Charles Martindale.

Since its foundation, the institute has raised nearly £500,000 in charitable grants and private donations, and this has enabled not only the appointment of postdoctoral fellows, but also the support of a wide range of activities which span the Faculty of Arts.

Space allows only a few highlights to be reported:

- In September 2005, six speakers from Bristol (Katherine Harloe, Duncan Kennedy, Miriam Leonard, Pantelis Michelakis, Ellen O'Gorman and Ika Willis) travelled to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor at the invitation of their 'Contexts for Classics' group and presented papers on the theme 'Classical Reception and the Political'. Our hosts made a formal response to each paper, and lively discussion ensued. The event was widely seen as a considerable success, and a return visit to Bristol by

members of 'Contexts for Classics' is planned for 2007.

- The interdisciplinary character of the institute's work was reflected in a half-day conference in the Victoria Rooms organised in March 2006 by two of the institute's Fellows, Katherine Harloe and Liz Potter, entitled 'Future Music and the Classical Past: Wagner and his Legacy'. Four invited speakers from London, Cambridge and Stanford representing both classics and music explored Wagner's renewal of the classical past and the problematic legacy he bequeathed.

- A 'brainstorming event' organised by Duncan Kennedy and Charles Martindale was held to launch a new monograph series they will be editing, entitled *New Directions in Classics*, to be published by I. B. Tauris in conjunction with the institute. It was attended by members of the international advisory board, potential contributors and other interested parties, including Alex Wright, classics editor of I. B. Tauris. There were 11 short presentations, some on areas in which books might be published, others on specific possible projects.

inbrief

BOOKS PUBLISHED

This year has seen the publication of books by Miriam Leonard (*Athens in Paris*, Oxford University Press), Genevieve Liveley (*Ovid: Love Songs*, Duckworth) and Pantelis Michelakis (*Iphigeneia at Aulis*, Duckworth), and collections of essays edited by Vanda Zajko and Miriam Leonard (*Laughing With Medusa: Classical Myth and Feminist Thought*, Oxford University Press), by Charles Martindale with Richard Thomas of Harvard University (*Classics and the Uses of Reception*, Blackwell), and by Pantelis Michelakis with Fiona Macintosh and Oliver Taplin of Oxford University and Edith Hall of Durham University (*Agamemnon in Performance: 458 BC to AD 2004*, Oxford University Press).

STAFF NEWS

Silke Knippschild from the University of Dresden will be joining the department as Lecturer in Ancient History in September 2006. Silke is a Greek historian, with special interests in ancient diplomacy and iconoclasm.

Congratulations to Ellen O'Gorman on her promotion to Senior Lecturer, and to Henry Power, currently postdoctoral fellow in the Institute of Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition, on the award of a prestigious Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, which means he will be with the department in Bristol for two further years.

Visit the institute's website for full reports and more details of upcoming events
www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/birtha/centres/institute/



Top: Dr Shelley Hales on Mount Vesuvius, overlooking the Bay of Naples; Middle: Shelley and third year students in the baths at Pompeii; Bottom: a rainy railway station at Pompeii

Away in Pompeii

Supervising undergraduates on a six-day visit to Italy may not always make for the most relaxing vacation, but Easter 2006 saw Dr Shelley Hales and Dr Joanna Paul organise a successful trip for 20 students – many of whom were finalists studying the ‘Pompeii’ unit – to the Bay of Naples.

Dr Joanna Paul reports.

‘ This biannual trip to visit the Vesuvian sites (with a good measure of holidaying thrown in) is in its third year and, by now, Shelley and I are well equipped to deal with most eventualities – save perhaps the next eruption of the volcano.

So, when our early morning departure from Gatwick proceeded with no lost passports and no missed flights, we had high hopes for a smooth-running and fun week, and we were not disappointed.

Much of the enjoyment comes from introducing students to the ruins of the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, or the villa at Oplontis, sites which may be familiar to us, but which never lose their fascination.

Other aspects of the trip are also becoming customary, from the long (but rewarding) slog up Vesuvius – which always begins with ineffectual haggling with the local minibus drivers and ends with an endurance trek around the crater in the foggy and freezing microclimate of the mountain – to sampling the nightlife in our base, Sorrento (whether that be the multitude of delicious pizzerias or the more dubious attractions of Mr Fogg’s nightclub).

This year we also enjoyed seeing some new sights. Undeterred by the traffic, we took a longer-than-usual walk through

Naples, allowing us to take in not only some subterranean excavations of ancient Neapolis, beneath a church, but also a very modern brand of Italian hero-cult – a street-side altar to Diego Maradona.

After visiting the Herculaneum excavations, a walk down Il Miglio d’Oro – the Golden Mile – showed students the faded and crumbling grandeur of the 17th- and 18th-century palazzi that housed the Bourbon royals and antiquarians who played an important role in the site’s rediscovery.

And on the final night, the famed Good Friday procession through the streets of Sorrento was a captivating spectacle for those of us with enough energy left to make the 4 am alarm call.

Exhausting, then, but an enjoyable trip, and we hope to be back again – if Sorrento is ready for us ... ’

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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