

## **Subject: W&M Classical Studies Greeting and Update**

June 15, 2014

Dear Friends:

We've just concluded another busy and successful year in Morton Hall. Let me take a moment to share some recent highlights with you . . .

On a beautiful Mother's Day afternoon last month we welcomed 17 students into the ranks of classical studies graduates. This group was as talented and accomplished as ever. Graduate studies in classics and education as well as teaching, travel, and the world of work are just a few of the destinations awaiting our grads. We'll miss their talents and enthusiasm. At the same time, we're confident in their ability to create lives of meaning and purpose, and we are proud to welcome them to our ever-growing body of classical studies alums.

<http://www.wm.edu/as/classicalstudies/news/graduation-2014.php>

As many of you remember, energetic and innovative teaching has always been a critical component of what we do in our Department. This will be especially important in the future, as the faculty of Arts and Sciences revamps the general education curriculum to emphasize critical thinking and engagement across various disciplines. An exciting example of these new emphases is the Freshman Seminar recently taught by our own Lily Panoussi. Entitled "When Odysseus Met Harry," the seminar explored timeless themes using ancient texts and modern literature, in this instance Homer's epic poems and the wildly popular Harry Potter novels. The course was a great success and serves as a fine example of the creativity that typically informs our teaching. Be sure to check out Professor Panoussi's discussion of the course (see the video box on our departmental home page).

<http://www.wm.edu/as/classicalstudies/index.php>

After much planning we are poised to welcome our first class of post- baccalaureate students this fall. These are students who already hold undergraduate degrees and wish to focus on classics for teaching, graduate school or personal enrichment. This group of six is exceptionally strong and we can't wait to welcome them to our Department. We'll have more to say about them in our next newsletter!

In the meantime, do mark your calendar for our next Homecoming celebration on the weekend of October 18-19. Details to follow.

And do keep the alumni news coming . . . as always, we are delighted to hear from you. Here's a link to our web form:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/classicalstudies/alumni/sendnews/index.php>

Best wishes,

John

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