



University  
of Victoria

Greek & Roman  
Studies



Volume 10 | 2018

## ὑπομνήματα: Notes from the Department of Greek and Roman Studies



### Message from the Chair

Brendan Burke



After some hiatus, the Department newsletter is back in an effort to document and celebrate the exciting work that all members of our Department – Faculty, Staff, and Students - have accomplished over the last two years. We also hope to preview some of the projects we are working on for the 2018-2019 academic year.

I write in my final year as Department Chair. On January 1, 2019 Dr. Ingrid Holmberg will return to the position of Chair. I started as Department Chair in 2012 and much has changed since then. Our esteemed colleague Professor John Oleson retired and we have welcomed Dr. Alejandro Sinner as an Assistant Professor in the field of Roman Archaeology. Our Administrative Assistant Sonja Bermingham retired and we now are in the very capable hands of Tracy Sobotkiewicz in the main office.

We have welcomed an impressive list of speakers over the last two years – as speakers in our Classical Association of Vancouver Island series, and as Lansdowne visiting speakers.

Our students have also changed, many going on to graduate school and professional careers, putting to use their degrees in Greek and Roman Studies. Our current students are incredibly enthusiastic and engaged with learning as much as they can about the ancient world. Through lectures, seminars, workshops, and through parties and other social events, our students are among the most engaged and motivated of any Department on campus. My colleagues and I are always truly impressed by their level of commitment and general enthusiasm. They make our jobs very rewarding.

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# Res Gestae: What Have We Been Up To?

**Laurel Bowman** gave a conference paper at the Philosophy of Art conference in Dubrovnik on "Aristotle and the ideal tragic plot"; in March, she participated in the Ideafest panel on "Graphic Women," with a presentation on *Wonder Woman*. She has had an article on "Female Writers of Ancient Epigram" accepted for the Blackwell's *Companion to Ancient Epigram* and gave a paper at CAMWS on "Decisions in the *Iliad* and in Alice Oswald's *Memorial*." Laurel continued to participate in the UVic Speaker's Bureau and acted as story consultant for several books on Greek and Roman myth for a children's book publisher (Capstone Press). She is looking forward to her leave in fall 2018, which will be spent in Spain, working on a Homeric commentary for Alice Oswald's *Memorial*.

**Keith Bradley (ret.)** Recent publications include articles and reviews in a variety of journals (*Latomus*, *Classica & Mediaevalia*, *Gnomon*, *Classical World*, *Journal of Family History*), and of special note a contribution to a book from Cambridge University Press collecting the papers of the late and very great Keith Hopkins, a former UVic Lansdowne lecturer. He finds himself in far too burdensome demand as a referee for learned journals and university presses, and is being encouraged by his wife to consider a new concept: "Just say no!" He lectured recently at the University of Sheffield in the UK, and returned briefly to Notre Dame to shepherd his last graduate student through her dissertation defence. In between he and Diane enjoyed exploring the great art museums of The Netherlands. He is currently writing what he insists will be his last word on the topic of slavery in antiquity, and hopes soon afterwards to return to other projects.

**Brendan Burke** has been active as co-director of the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project in Greece. Brendan also directed the first UVic Semester in Greece program in winter 2017 and is planning another semester in Greece for winter 2019. While administrative duties for the Department have kept him busy, he also serves on the Executive Committee of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and as Excavation and Survey Committee Chair for the Canadian Institute in Greece. In 2017-18 he was a national lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America and gave talks in Eugene, OR; Santa Barbara, CA; Tucson, AZ. He also gave invited lectures at the University of Oxford, at Cambridge, and for the Mycenaean Seminar in London. On July 1, 2018 he became the acting Director of the Canadian Institute in Greece.

**John Fitch (ret.)** Following the death of his first wife Linda in 2014 and his marriage to Jenny Harding in 2016, John Fitch bade a fond farewell to Victoria, and settled in the city of Chichester on the south coast of England. Chichester is a Roman foundation (*Noviomagus Reginorum*), and stands near the vast Roman palace complex at Fishbourne. John's book *The Poetry of Knowledge and the 'Two Cultures'* appeared from



Macmillan in May 2018. Though this work is not primarily about classical literature, nevertheless Hesiod, Lucretius and Vergil's *Georgics* feature prominently in it. The book grew out of a course that John gave at UVic on those poets, and it is coloured in part by his students' responses to the course. John also contributed a chapter on "Speaking Names in Senecan Drama" to the volume *Wordplay and Powerplay in Latin Poetry* (2016). This volume is a Festschrift for Frederick Ahl, who was John's PhD supervisor in the early 1970s.

**Ingrid Holmberg** completed a year as Acting Chair for the Department in June 2016, and served the Department again as Acting Chair in spring 2017. Ingrid represented the Department by presenting a workshop about the ancient Greek language to high school students who were visiting the UVic campus through the Fresh Minds program. In spring 2017, Ingrid delivered a short talk on Homeric epic as part of a panel on languages in the Humanities at Ideafest; she also participated in the Humanities' Exploring UVic day by creating and manning a table for Greek and Roman Studies, and by chatting with the high school students and their parents while demonstrating the Department's artefacts. As of July 1, she returned from a one-year study leave during which time she was working on a book about Odysseus's name and the Homeric formulaic system.

**Geof Kron** Last year, a couple of Geof's book chapters appeared in print. One addressed the controversy over the urban population of Northern Italy, and the other looked at the complementary roles of small-scale and wealthy farmers in Roman Italy. He also finished a chapter discussing nutrition and social inequality for a new Routledge handbook on diet and nutrition. On study leave in 2016-17, Geof continued interdisciplinary research on ancient and modern attacks on democracy and social equality. He spent time in Los Angeles, Toronto, and Montreal, and took trips to New York, Philadelphia, Princeton, and New Haven. In April, he contributed a paper to a round table discussion of Walter Scheidel's recent book on violence and social inequality from

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the Stone Age to the present at the European Social Science History meeting in Belfast. In May, Geof gave a keynote lecture on social equality, the biological standard of living and demographic development, at the 19th International Congress of Classical Archaeology held in Cologne and Bonn, and served as discussant for a panel on the bioarchaeology of social inequality.

**Cedric Littlewood** was Acting Dean of Humanities in 2015-16 before beginning a five-year term as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. He continues to serve as an associate editor of *Phoenix*. In the calendar years of 2016 and 2017 he published chapters on: 'Epic and Elegy in Lucan's *Bellum Civile*,' in A. Keith and J. Edmondson, eds. *Roman Literary Cultures: Domestic Politics, Revolutionary Poetics, Civic Spectacle*; 'Seneca, Horace and the Poetics of Transgression,' in S. Frangulidis, S. Harrison and G. Manuwald, eds. *Roman Drama and its Contexts: Trends in Classics 30*; 'Post-Augustan Revisionism,' in S. Bartsch, K. Freudenburg and C. Littlewood, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Nero*, a volume he co-edited. He gave a paper on the reception of Socrates in Roman satire at the 2016 Classical Association of Canada annual conference

**Mark Nugent** delivered a paper entitled "Teaching Classical Reception: An Expansive Approach" at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South in April 2017. He also gave a talk entitled "Roasting Caesar: Talbot Mundy's *Tros of Samothrace* and the 'Camp-Fire' Controversy" at the Celtic Conference in Classics in July 2017 and at the annual UVic/UBC Day in March 2018. He published a review of C. W. Marshall and Tom Hawkins (eds.), *Athenian Comedy in the Roman Empire in Mouseion*. Mark has been very active developing new curriculum, including such courses as "Love, Sex, and the Body in the Ancient World" (Spring 2017) and "Greece and Rome in Modern Popular Culture" (Fall 2017). In Spring 2019, he will be offering "Bad Emperors," which will explore the reigns and legacies of Caligula, Nero, Domitian, Commodus, and Elagabalus. Mark continues to work on upgrading the UVic Latin Exercises Website alongside a number of pedagogical and reception studies projects.

**John Oleson (ret.)** continues his research in retirement. He spends most of his time on the final report of the Humayma Excavation Project in Jordan, writing the third and final volume, which concerns the Trajanic auxiliary fort. This will go off to the publisher in late 2018. Two articles on this and other subjects have appeared in the last two years, and four are in press. Several book reviews have been published and two are in press. In January 2017 he presented the 39th Edmund G. Berry Lecture at the University of Manitoba on his research concerning Roman marine concrete. In October he presented an invited paper to a graduate seminar at Harvard University concerning Aristotle's research on the deep sea, and in November he presented a paper on the Humayma fort at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Boston. He will be in Amman this June for a meeting of the board of the American Center for Oriental Research.



**Jessica Romney** completed a chapter for the *Routledge Companion to Classics and Cognitive Theory* based on her research on social identities in the Greek *symposion*, and her book manuscript *Lyric Poetry and Social Identity in Archaic Greece* which has been accepted by the University of Michigan Press. She has also been writing up her research from her SSHRC postdoc on food, geography, and Greek identity, some of which was presented at the Friday department seminar, at the meeting of the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest, and at the "Food and..." conference hosted by the Texas Tech Humanities Center. Her article "Herodotean Geography (4.36-45): A Persian *Oikoumene*?" appeared in the 2017 *GRBS* issue.

**Gregory Rowe** The highlight of the past year has undoubtedly been the student-run Epigraphy Club, where Charlie Kocurek and other students devised new and creative ways to bring their peers into direct contact with words and lives of ancient Greeks and Romans. Last May, Greg travelled to Durham to deliver a paper called "Weaponizing Images," on the concrete, physical things Romans did with and to images, and the links to things Romans did with and to human bodies. An offshoot of this research will be a Special Topics course in the fall on *Damnatio Memoriae*, where students will explore Roman condemnation of memory in light of contemporary debates about de-statuification. In the spring, Greg will teach a language class on *Koiné*, the common dialect of Ancient Greek found in the New Testament, where students will read directly from images and facsimiles of ancient papyri and medieval manuscripts.

**Gordon Shrimpton (ret.)** is great enjoying quiet retirement with his grandchildren. He, however, still serves on a committee for the CAUT and is writing on the Greek civil war, Greek memory systems, and the ostracism of Hyperbolus.

# Faculty Profile: Alejandro Sinner



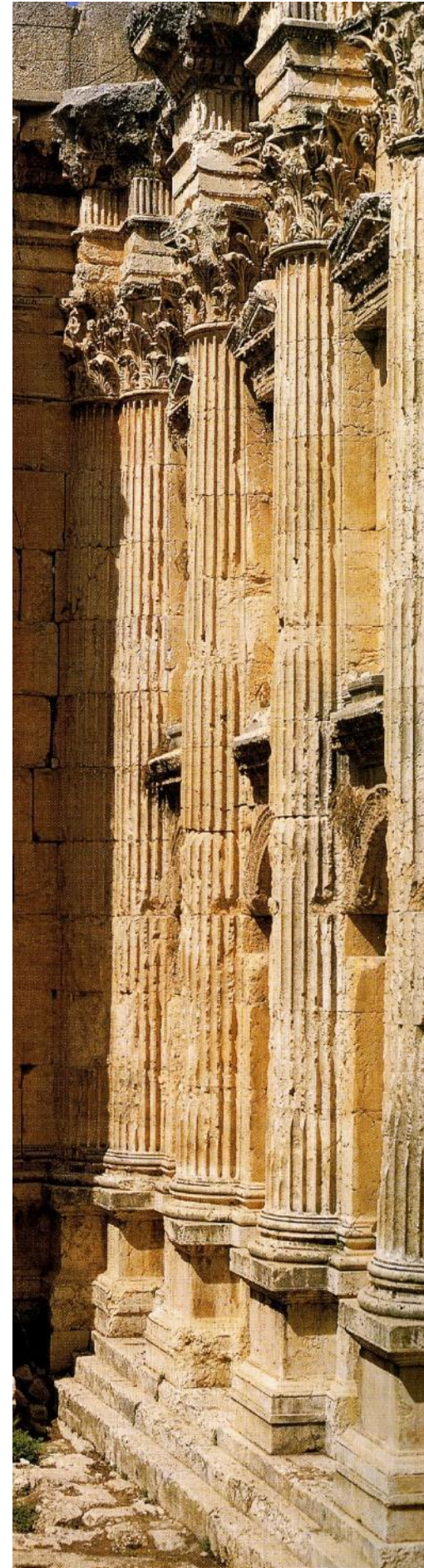
Since I am the newest arrival to our department, I would like to introduce myself (although hopefully many of you already know me after two years here at UVic). I was born and grew up in Barcelona (Spain) where I also received most of my education and training. I hold a B.A. in History, an M.A. in Archaeology and a Ph.D. in Society and Culture (2014) from the University of Barcelona. During my doctoral work, I was lucky enough to hold

competitive fellowships in the United States, at Princeton University (2011-12) and at the University of California, Berkeley (2013). In 2014, I was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellowship from the History Department at York University. In July of 2016, I started my position as an Assistant Professor in Roman Art and Archaeology here at the University of Victoria.

Broadly speaking, I am interested in any aspect of the social, cultural and economic history of the Roman world, especially that of the western provinces. My research, however, focuses mostly on Roman Spain and includes, among other topics, Iberian numismatics – on which I edited a book in 2012 and published another volume in 2017. I am also interested in identity construction and cultural change, demography and the study of the pre-Roman languages and epigraphies in the Iberian Peninsula. Very few people know that, in addition to Phoenician, Greek, and Latin, at least four writing systems were used to write the Palaeohispanic languages: Tartessian, Iberian, Celtiberian, and Lusitanian. In total, over three thousand inscriptions are preserved in what is certainly the largest corpus of epigraphic expression in the western Mediterranean world, with the exception of the Italian peninsula.

Since 2006, I have been involved in the excavations of the ancient site of Ilduro (Cabrera de Mar, Catalonia) in northeast Spain where I am currently directing a project. I am very proud to say that while I am writing these lines, our team is already in Spain and ready to begin our fourth excavation campaign focused on the excavation of a significant portion of two republican houses (2nd-1st c. BCE) and several rooms of the imperial sanctuary. For those interested in the project objectives, we examine how, at first, cultural contacts, and, later, an intense colonial process, led to cultural change and the formation of a whole spectrum of provincial identities in the Roman west between the 2nd c. BCE and the 3rd c. CE. This interesting and long process led to the formation of a multicultural and diverse Roman Empire, therefore making it elemental to our understanding of the ancient world.

I teach a broad range of related courses: Last year I taught Ancient Technology (GRS 376), Pompeii (GRS 374), Classical Archaeology (GRS 203) and Greek and Roman Civilization (GRS 100). This year, I am teaching again the last two courses (GRS 203 and 100), a class on Roman Art and Archaeology (GRS 372) and a seminar devoted to the study of Roman material culture (GRS 428B). I really hope to see some of you in class, digging, or around campus.





## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Congratulations to 2018 Greek and Roman Studies graduating majors Sarah Kahale, Russell Marko, Paige Peterson, Amy Russell, Simone Mollard, Emily Candell, Deianeira Kupchanko-Tropf, Tara Fietz, Tara Jacklin, and Megan MacKenzie—as well as to our 17 GRS minors!

Students ran the weekly Epigraphy Club, working with Dr. Rowe to transcribe and translate a range of Greek and Latin inscriptions, from an epitaph for a well-travelled pig to doggerel from the walls of Pompeii (“Innkeeper, I peed in the bed. I admit it and I’m sorry—there was no chamber-pot”). Reportedly the most popular student society in UVic Humanities, the Epigraphy Club also attracted the attention of the American Society of Greek and Latin Epigraphists, which featured the group in its December newsletter.

Professor Greg Woolf’s Lansdowne lectures on mobility around the ancient Mediterranean (and its limitations) drew crowds and inspired extended debates in the new undergraduate lounge.

Special congratulations to Kilmeny Jones, who placed second in the Classical Association of Canada National Greek Sight Translation Competition (junior level), and Avery Hiebert, who earned an honourable mention in the Latin equivalent. We hope both will be back next year to compete at the senior level!

A growing trend in GRS classes has been to supplement written work with creative projects. For Dr. Bowman’s Greek Tragedy class, Ryan Kim created costumes and filmed scenes from Aeschylus’ *Eumenides*. Engineering students in Dr. Sinner’s Ancient Technology course built a 2-metre-high Roman *ballista* (bolt thrower). Adele Bibault made a mold and a blown-glass *poculum* (drinking vessel) and Tiffanie Hui borrowed a cobbler’s anvil to produce a pair of *caligae* (Roman soldiers’ hobnailed boots).

As every year, teams of UVic undergrads accompanied Dr. Sinner to his excavation at Ilduro in Spain and Dr. Burke to his at Eleon in central Greece.

Graduate students and undergraduates gain valuable experience in every aspect of an excavation, from supervising other student diggers to sorting and drawing finds.

## GRADUATE NEWS

Over the years, we have had a veritable slew of excellent graduate students. Our students come from all over North America, and cover the fields of Greek literature, Latin literature, Greek and Roman archaeology, Roman history and Greek history. Our graduates have become tenured and tenure-track professors at Memorial University, the University of Michigan, Brock University, Queens University and the University of Winnipeg, as well as professional archaeologists, research librarians, and the Head of Classics at Harrow. Some even teach at UVic!

In May 2018 Arnold van Roessel completed his MA on the Latin naturalist and philosopher Pliny and has been awarded a 3-year SSHRC PhD Scholarship to attend the University of Toronto. Neil Barney also completed his MA thesis on elite education practices in Seneca. Devon Lohrasbe will complete her thesis on the origins and meaning of the Minotaur myth and is continuing on to an MA in Museum Education at UBC. Belated congratulations to Devon for her 2017-2018 SSHRC CGS scholarship!

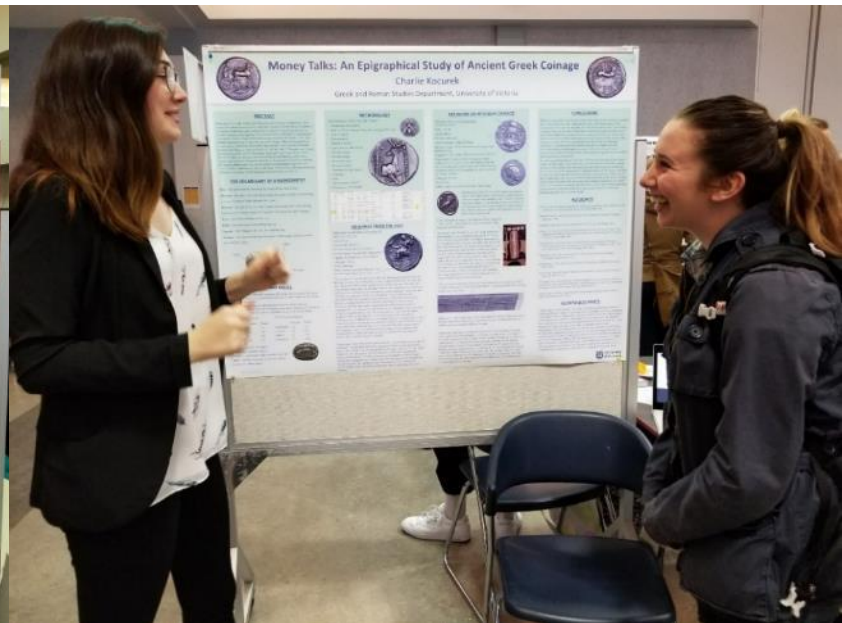
This summer Sandra Grujin excavated in Spain at Ilduro with Dr. Sinner and began work on her Master’s thesis. Alyssa Allen returned to Greece with Dr. Burke to work at ancient Eleon and begin her research. David Douglas was awarded a fellowship to participate in the Summer Seminar, Ancient Greek Religion in Situ, at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

More congratulations to Alyssa Allen, David Douglas, and incoming MA student Jonathan Roy, among others, for their 2018-2019 SSHRC CGS awards. Four of our five MA students will be SSHRC fellows next year!

# JAMIE CASSELS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD (JCURA) 2017-18



One JCURA poster - *An Insight on the Socio-Political Background around the New Monumental Tomb of Pompeii*



Charlie Kocurek's poster, *Money Talks: An Epigraphical Study of Legends on Hellenistic Greek and Roman Republican Coinage*

**Undergraduate Research** Our Department had two Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA) winners in 2017-18. One studied gladiatorial shows in Pompeii on the basis of a newly-discovered epitaph, and Charlie Kocurek traced the evolution of ancient Greek coin legends. Both were supervised by Professor Gregory Rowe.

In 2018-19, Jacob Engstrom and Allie MacIlroy are expected to be our JCURA researchers, working on independent research projects. Jacob will work with Professor Brendan Burke on an early Mycenaean burial from the excavation at ancient Eleon, and Allie will work with Professor Mark Nugent focused on concepts of the body in ancient medical literature.

**New Arrival!? Not quite.** The Department of Greek and Roman Studies is very happy to welcome Dr. Trevor Van Damme as a lecturer for the 2018-19 academic year. Trevor is a UVic alumnus (GRS BA Honours 2010, MA in 2012). His graduate work was funded through SSHRC. He finished his PhD at UCLA in 2017 after three years of fellowships at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. While teaching with us, Trevor will be holding the prestigious Michael Ventris Memorial Award for Mycenaean Studies from the Institute of Classical Studies in London.



Trevor (far left) taught for UVic during the Semester in Greece Program 2017 and works as a ceramics specialist on the excavations at ancient Eleon and ancient Methone in Greece.

His teaching will cover second year ancient Greek (GREE 201-202), Greek Art and Archaeology (GRS 371), Greek and Roman Mythology (GRS 200), and The Ancient World on Film (GRS 204).



With 10 UVic students, Brendan Burke led the first Semester in Greece program from January to March 2017. Living at the Canadian Institute in Greece hostel, the students lived and studied in Athens for two months and then hit the road, visiting Crete, the Peloponnese, Northern and central Greece. The program was a great success and will run again in Winter 2019. If you are interested contact [bburke@uvic.ca](mailto:bburke@uvic.ca)



Meet and Greet 2017



Lansdowne guest speaker 2017,  
Professor Nikos Papazarkadas, UC Berkeley



Lansdowne guest speaker 2018, Professor Greg Woolf,  
Institute for Classical Studies, London with GRS faculty



GRS Epigraphy Club



CAC speaker and former UVic MA student, Dr. Fanny  
Dolansky (Brock Univ.) with Drs. Rowe and Bowman



Professor Mark Nugent giving the Department's talk  
at the annual UBC/UVic exchange





Last year, Classics Professor Emeritus Noel Robertson decided to donate his classical library when he retired to Victoria after teaching at Brock University (1970-2002). Highlights of the collection include most volumes of SEG (*Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*), a key resource for anyone interested in Greek history and inscriptions, and the complete set of the LIMC (*Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*). Associate Professor Ingrid Holmberg (above, with Laura Robertson) and Assistant Teaching Professor Mark Nugent collaborated with McPherson Library staff, the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities, and the Development office to appraise, catalogue, and shelve the amazing collection. The Department is very grateful for this gift!

## Your Support Makes a World of Difference!

Donations to awards such as the **Peter L. Smith Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies**, the **John Peter Oleson Scholarship**, and the **Gordon and Hilda Fitch Scholarship** are what make education possible for countless students – without donor support many students would never have the opportunity to reach their full potential. An award is a powerful motivator that builds confidence and encourages students to strive to do their best.

[Donate online](#) or **contact Chrystal Phan**, Development Officer, Faculty of Humanities, 250-853-3893, to discuss what you would like to achieve with your giving goals.

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Thank you for your support for the students and programs in Greek and Roman Studies.