Dr. Carol L. Delaney Presents Jack McGrory Lecture

Following last year’s successful inaugural Jack McGrory Lecture in the Humanities, which brought Jonathan Shay to campus to speak about his study, *Achilles in Vietnam*, the Department is pleased to announce the second speaker in the McGrory series. This year we are welcoming Dr. Carol Delaney, visiting professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Brown University and emerita professor at Stanford, who will be speaking about her recent book, *Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem: How Religion Drove the Voyages that Led to America*. We have planned this presentation to coincide with Columbus Day.

The Jack McGrory Lecture becomes the third major continuing lecture series in the department, joining the Burnett Lecture and the Adams Lecture. The format for “McGrory Day” follows the format of our other two lectures: students get the opportunity to meet our visiting scholar in the Burnett Seminar Room in the morning, and a lecture presentation, open to the public, is held in the afternoon.

Professor Carol Delaney, a graduate of Boston University, went on to receive an MTS from Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago. Her book publications include *The Seed and the Soil: Gender and Cosmology in Turkish Village Society*, *Abraham on Trial: The Social Legacy of Biblical Myth*, *Naturalizing Power: Essays in Feminist Cultural Criticism*, and *Investigating Culture: An Experimental Introduction to Anthropology*.

The Jack McGrory Lecture in the Humanities will be at 2 pm in the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center Ballroom on October 14. Admission is free.
Adams Lecture in the Humanities

Late in the fall semester, the department will host the 20th annual Adams Lecture in the Humanities. This year we have invited Dr. Yunxiang Yan, onetime native of Beijing and currently Professor of Anthropology at UCLA who serves as the Director of UCLA’s Asian Studies Program. Dr. Yan will be speaking about folk morality (and immorality) in contemporary China as he looks at the interplay between avowed ethical rules of behavior and the justifications of day-to-day behavior in Chinese society.

Faculty News


Dr. Risa Levitt Kohn, now in her second year of chairing the Department, has been traveling with the exhibition she curated with the Israel Antiquities Authority. Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Ancient Times opened this past May at the Boston Museum of Science and will be moving in November to the Leonardo Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah for a six-month run. Look for her article, As Though You Yourself Came Out of Egypt: The Ethos of Exile in Ezekiel, in the special volume of the journal HeBAI this fall.

Maria Rybakova, Assistant Professor of Humanities, is trying to live down her ever growing status and recognition as a major author of Russian literature. When she is not busy writing her next fictional masterpiece, Maria has been busy producing scholarly articles on Nabakov and Virgil. Associate Professor Joseph Smith has been immersed in his research on the metrics of Roman drama which he finally wrapped this summer in a long, long article. He is currently editing an Encyclopedia of Roman Drama for Wiley Blackwell.

Dr. Yan was forced to drop out of school at age 12 and spent the subsequent twelve years working as a shepherd and farmer in two Chinese villages during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Yan returned to school in 1978, earning a B.A. in Chinese Literature and an M.A. in Folklore and Mythology from Peking University, and a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Harvard University. He has co-authored and written numerous publications and articles in the field of anthropology.

Professor Yan’s talk will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 2 pm in the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center Ballroom. Admission is free and open to the public.
From Artifact to History: Reconsidering Hellenistic Sardis

The 44th annual Gail A. Burnett Lecture in Classics features Dr. Andrea M. Berlin, the James R. Wiseman Chair in Classical Archaeology at Boston University. Her lecture at SDSU will be on February 27, 2014 at 2 pm in the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center Ballroom. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dr. Berlin will pose the question: “What is the effect when the aura and advantages of political power vanish—yet life continues on for the people who live somewhere?” She has been studying that question at Sardis, a large ancient city in western Anatolia. Her focus is on the Hellenistic era, the period from the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BCE through Octavian’s victory over Antony and Cleopatra at Actium in 31 BCE. She will delve into the effects of empire: what life was like for people who lived at the edges of power but did not participate in its wielding.

Dr. Berlin received an MA in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology from the University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute, and a Ph.D. in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Michigan. She has been excavating in the eastern Mediterranean for over thirty years, working on projects from Troy in Turkey to Coptos in southern Egypt to Paestum in Italy. She is one of the Archaeological Institute of America’s most accomplished teachers and lecturers, having travelled to over 60 societies across the United States and Canada, most recently as the AIA’s 2008 Joukowsky Lecturer.

Alumni News

Wendy Wira, Classics ’00 (BA: Language emphasis) is now the full time Latin instructor at La Jolla High School and Muirlands Middle School. This is a dream program that Wendy has waited patiently to take over since she started teaching at LJHS in 2008–2009. The caption reads: “I don’t always speak other languages, but when I do, I prefer Latin.”

Umanisti

Umanisti, the student club of the Department of Classics and Humanities, forges ahead in the deep woods of the cultureless mob on campus. The club, founded as the Classics Club in 1970, became Umanisti in 1990 to make Humanities majors feel welcome and co-equal in the running of the club.

Junior Annie Huynh (who will graduate next year with a BA in Classics-Language Emphasis) serves as club President this year and is lining up a roster of the usual activities—film viewings, brown bags, and the occasional costume ball—with a few unusual undertakings. Umanisti will attempt a marathon read-through of some classic work this year as practice and advance for a planned marathon read-through of Homer’s Iliad in the Fall of 2014.

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Will they be going to the Getty with Joe this fall? Does the sun rise in the East? Is the victorious youth’s butt made of bronze?

Professor Joseph Smith does his best to advise Umanisti.

For more information, email umanistisdus@yahoo.com.

Here’s something new: find Umanisti on Facebook. Like them!

Students in the Department of Classics and Humanities traveled to Italy this past summer and recounted their experiences:

Senior Valerie Smith (BA: Classical Humanities ’14) spent her summer in Sicily at a program that combined architectural field study with classroom work on the classics. “It was like living in a textbook! You walk down to the open market and along the way you pass by three temples and a stone siege tower. My archaeology class consisted of walking around town and mapping the original structures that were beneath our feet. It was very impressive to see all the people who were born and raised on the island of Ortigia, just walking past the 3,000 year old Temple of Apollo sitting in the entrance of their town.”

Joey Ramirez (BA: Classical Languages ’13) was the outstanding graduate in Classics and Humanities. He was the recipient of a Jack McGrory scholarship for supervised study with faculty and used the stipend he received to travel to Rome this past July and August. The photo (above) shows the major pool of Hadrian’s Villa outside of Rome. Joey was studying with a program called Vivarii Novi Schola Aestiva (Summer School of the New Revival) which attempts to immerse its students entirely in spoken Ciceronian Latin. Joey was a brave soul who survived the ordeal, and felt as though “…the whole experience was like something out of a Fellini movie.”

Carlo Nunneri (BA: European Humanities ’14) spent the summer participating in the Florence Summer Program and roaming through Switzerland and France. The photo (below) shows Carlo on top of the Brunelleschi’s Duomo with Giotto’s bell tower in the back. “The view is breath-taking from up there and is equally as beautiful looking from the top of the bell tower. Climbing to the top takes some work and as the top gets closer, space becomes smaller and it gets very hot.” Carlo also visited the Louvre in Paris and spent a few hours viewing Greek and Roman artifacts (plus the Mona Lisa of course). “The museum is outstanding, and getting to see all of the sculptures that I have learned about was fabulous.”