

GREETINGS *from* THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, PHILOSOPHY, & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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Note of Welcome

Joseph Romero '93

Had you told me when I graduated from Mary Washington College more than 25 years ago that I would one day have the privilege of chairing the department, you could have knocked me over with a feather.

But here we are! Not all of you will have studied with me, so a few words: my great loves—apart from Elizabeth and our children—are books and great conversation (which means, in short, I must have found the right profession). Mostly I think, write, and talk about poets of the Hellenistic era writing in Latin or Greek. FAVORITE AUTHORS: Horace, Shakespeare, Jane Austen, P.G. Wodehouse, Phillip Roth. FAVORITE MUSICIANS/COMPOSERS: Brahms, Rogers & Hart, Ellis Larkins, Sarah Vaughan, 10,000 Maniacs. CONVICTIONS: the Oxford Comma, think-yes-but-do-please-ACT, and calories well spent ... After making rank of full professor in Classics, I chaired the Music department for two years (sic!), spent a year living on two coasts thinking about higher education in general, and now? Well, here I am, all yours. No greater, nor more humbling, an honor than to serve as chair to the people I have grown up with—my colleagues in CP&R—and to get to know you, our lasting achievements—if we have achieved anything at all—knowing some of you once again, and others, perhaps, for the first time. I do look forward to the conversations.



A brief history of our long association

Cayce Walker '21

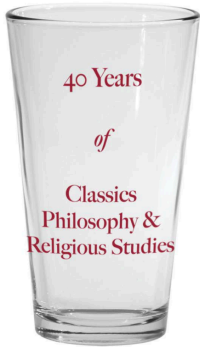
Q: *Just how long have C, P, & R been a part of what would come to be UMW?* A: Between 1911, when our ancestral college, the State Normal and Industrial School for Women (a college for teachers), and 1979, when the official department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion Department (CPRD) was formed, these three programs underwent many changes and developments. Classics—at least, Latin—was part of the curriculum from the start. Philosophy was not added as a course of study until 1937, when it first bloomed within the Psychology and Education Department. Religion was not added till many years later, 1965, with the arrival of the noted historian of Christianity, Elizabeth Clark. Dr. Clark chaired Religion until the formal creation of CPRD in 1979 of which she served as inaugural chair till 1982 before departing for Duke. She was succeeded by Janet Wishner (PHIL), Bob Boughner (CLAS), and Jim Goehring (RELG), culminating in our beloved Craig Vasey (PHIL), who remained in the role longer than any before—from 1999 until 2019. A huge thank you to Professor Vasey for serving us so well for so many years and a huge welcome to Professor Romero as our new chair!



curriculum
breve
vitarum

In Classics, **Angela Pitts** has a book contract from Routledge to co-author a collection of women authors in ancient Greece and Rome; **Liane Houghtalin** is on sabbatical this term, but last spring directed upper level Latin students in a production of Plautus' *Amphitruo* (in Latin, of course). **Romero** is keeping busy (see above) ... In Philosophy, **Craig Vasey** hosted a conference on *The Good Place* (NBC)—I believe there was a trolley full of philosophers spotted downtown; **David Ambuel** stepped back from the brink of retirement and, wonderfully, has committed to stay with us for the foreseeable future; **Mike Reno** is distinguishing himself as a brilliant professor and productive scholar on Kant; and **Jason Hayob-Matzke** presented original research in environmental ethics in Liverpool (no beatles were harmed in the process) ... In Religious Studies, **Mehdi Aminrazavi** took on an exciting new role directing the Khatib Program in Religion and Dialogue at UMW; **Mary Beth Mathews**, when not presenting at ASCH or Harvard, has been seen at many, many athletic events: she is our NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative; **Dan Hirshberg** is burnishing his considerable rep as a scholar of Buddhism and a leader in Contemplative Studies; and over the winter holiday he will be leading a group of students to Japan to study Zen and the Arts; and **Jennifer Barry** will be traveling extensively in the US and Europe to promote her recent and well-received book, *Bishops in Flight* (UCalPress).

Save the Date & Make a Gift



This year marks our 40th anniversary as the department of Classics, Philosophy, & Religious Studies. To mark the occasion we have planned a celebration of our majors, alumni, emeritus/emerita faculty, and the UMW community. We would love it if you could stop by and take part. There will be plenty of food, friends, music (*Hazel Run* features some of the best musicians in Fredericksburg!), and not too much ceremonial talking (promise). Stay tuned for updates!

SAVE THE DATE When: April 10, 2020, 4-6 pm Where: Heslep Amphitheatre (if rain: Trinkle Rotunda)

& In the spirit of anniversaries and the changing seasons, we hope you will please **MAKE A GIFT** (umw.edu/cpr). Your contributions are used to support the endowment of student scholarships, study abroad, fund student and faculty research, and helps us stay in touch with you! This year, the lion's share of the proceeds will go to endow the Elizabeth Clark Lecture Fund. Please *give* and *do give generously*.



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| Classics, Philosophy, and Religion