

ANATOMY LESSONS by Sara Ahbel-Rappe

N November of 2008, Heinrich von Staden, Professor of Classics and History of Science at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Princeton, NJ, delivered the annual Gerald F. Else Lecture, "Experiments on Animals and Humans: Greek and Roman Perspectives." While the lecture covered experiments involving the dissection of a range of animals, from invertebrate to higher mammals, perhaps the most jolting aspect of the talk involved von Staden's horrific presentations concerning Herophilus Erasistratus, a pair of third century B.C.E. Alexandrian physicians who became the first ancients to conduct vivisectory experiments on human beings, using condemned criminals as their subjects.

It was hard enough for the members of the Classics department and our students, many of us vegetarians, ardent dog owners or cat lovers, to hear von Staden's account of the vivisection of common household pets as part of a theatrical science-palooza performed for the entertainment of audiences meant to marvel at the wizardry of ordinarily respectable physicians (including the famed Roman philosopher-physician, Galen) putting the physiology of nerves and arteries on display

in living color. Indeed, recalling von Staden's lecture even now, some three months later, my mind wanders to a recent controversy surrounding the practice of using living dogs, former pets surrendered at local animal shelters, to train surgeons here at the University of Michigan. A press release from the University of Michigan's Health Services Newsroom, dated January 14 2009, in response to a critical article published by the Detroit Free Press claims, "When animals must be used, it is because we have determined there is no adequate alternative." Since writing this article in January, I learned that this policy has been changed and, owing to public outcry, the University no longer uses live animals in this way.

When he turned to experiments on living human beings, however, Von Staden's lecture reminded us of the best and worst in human beings—the noblest impulses—to heal even severely traumatized patients and to make advances in the understanding of human anatomy—coupled with the vilest developments in human history: Tuskegee, Auschwitz. It seems that little indeed, apart from time, separates us from the ancient Alexandrians and the moral complexities implied by ancient

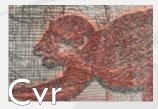
experimentation.

Von Staden's contributions to the history of science are monumental, of course; one thinks of his prize—winning monograph, Hierophilus: the art of medicine in early Alexandria (Cambridge 1989) and more than a hundred articles that he has written on ancient medicine, biology, and philosophy. His subject for the Else lecture involved an appreciation and assessment of the ethics of ancient science.

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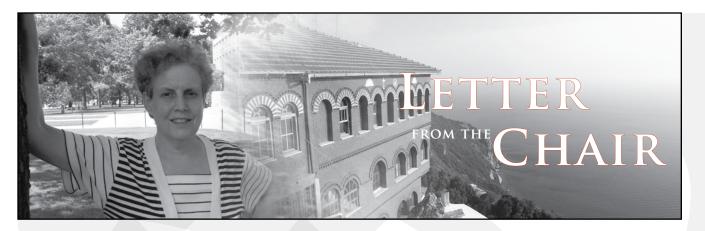
SEPT. 13, 2009

HONOR & SHAME

SPEAKERS

Douglas Cairns
Professor of History
and Classics,
University of Edinburgh

Dr. Jill Dubisch Regents' Professor of Anthropology, Northern Arizona University



t is not an easy year for anybody. Michigan has been a careful steward of its resources and has not suffered as much as many other institutions, but we expect next year to be very difficult. The job market is dismal. Our students have been interviewed for jobs that were then cancelled. The department is looking for ways to support as many of our new PhDs as we can. No doubt the recession is affecting many of you in ways large and small. Nonetheless, the department is a pretty cheerful place.



Left: Robin Axelrod, Right: Kim Johnson

I want to say a little about one aspect of life here that always makes me happier: we have a wonderful staff. We have two new staff members, Kimberly Johnson (who produces this newsletter), who handles Modern Greek matters and all our design work, producing beautiful posters and other materials. Then Allison Friendly, who was so perfectly named and also so capable, moved on to a position in LSA Advising. But we were lucky enough to find Robin Axelrod to replace her. If you have any reason to call, write, email, or stop by the department office, you will realize quickly how helpful everybody is. The work and the mood of an academic department can depend more on the staff than on anyone, but the staff are rarely properly appreciated. They genuinely care about our mission.

As usual, even as we finish arrangements for the remaining events of this academic year, we are already looking forward to those of next year, and we hope some of our alumni and friends who are not too far away will manage to attend some of them. As a contribution to the LSA theme semester on museums, we are sponsoring a Pack Lecture by David Sider in the fall on the Library at Alexandria; we have an exciting Platsis Symposium planned for September 13, where Douglas Cairns and Jill Dubisch will look at how anthropologists have reassessed and complicated "honor and shame" as a lens for considering the values of Greek culture, ancient and modern. Kathleen Coleman will give Jerome Lectures in March, and in April we will have an Else Lecture by Mogens Hansen of Copenhagen, the great scholar of the classical polis. This issue has an article about a course Sara Ahbel-Rappe is developing for next year after she was inspired by last fall's Else lecture by Heinrich von Staden. That is what we most hope for when we sponsor visitors—that something long-lasting will develop. Sometimes it really works.

Don Cameron is in his final semester of teaching; he will go into pre-retirement furlough next year. It is not easy to imagine the department without him. As Jefferson said of Franklin, he can be succeeded but not replaced. We are working very hard to define what Great Books, which will remain a responsibility of the department, will be like in the coming years: different, but not too different. Homer and Virgil, I am happy to say, are secure.



Members of the Department are involved in publishing in various ways. Convivium will offer a series of brief introductions to some of these. The following is a description of the Michigan Classical Press by Ellen Bauerle.

Gift: The Poet and Her Community, translated by Benjamin Acosta-Hughes and Lucia Prauscello.

The main goal of MCP is to provide an outlet for important publications in Classics that might not fit well at other presses, including the University of Michigan Press. MCP has also contributed to the local community by using firms in Washtenaw County for its printing and production work. Revenue from MCP's publications will help support the department's fellowship programs, as well as the APA's David and Rosemary Coffin Fund, and the Minority

MCP's website michiganclassicalpress.com, where other details and contact information can be found.

Student Fellowship Fund.

UNCOVERING GREEK SCIENCE WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

(7TH ANNUAL PLATSIS SYMPOSIUM ON THE GREEK LEGACY)

by Richard Janko



We live in a time when thrilling discoveries are being made every year by bringing the fruits of modern technology to bear on the study of antiquity. The Greeks made enormous contributions to science—far beyond what had been known until the last few years—yet it is taking the power of modern science to prove it. The memorable Platsis Symposium demonstrated this amply.

First, Dr. William Noel of the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore brought us up to date on how technology is enabling us to read an extraordinary palimpsest containing lost works by the great Syracusan scientist Archimedes. A palimpsest is, of course, a manuscript in which one writing overlies another—in this case a tenth-century parchment which was reused two centuries later for writing a prayerbook. With modern imaging technology, and the ready cooperation of the manuscript's owner, an international team has managed to penetrate the overlying text to reveal what lies beneath: treatises by Archimedes with elaborate scientific diagrams,

lost speeches by the Athenian orator Hyperides (a contemporary of Alexander the Great) and a hitherto unknown commentary on Aristotle, possibly by Alexander of Aphrodisias (early 3rd century C.E.). There are many palimpsests in Western libraries (even in Hatcher Graduate Library), and all merit investigation using such new technology. Who knows what treasures of ancient learning they may contain?

Secondly, the application of x-ray tomography has shown us that the Greeks invented the first manually operated computer—the socalled Antikythera mechanism. Two marvelous presentations, by Greek physicist Prof. Emmanuel Roumeliotis and by Dr. Antony Freeth of London, showed us how rapidly knowledge has progressed (Dr. Freeth could not appear in person because of a family emergency, and we were all very grateful to Dr. Ulysses Balis of the Medical School for stepping in to lead us with consummate skill and knowledge through Dr. Freeth's presentation). In 1900, fishermen hauled from a shipwreck

an extraordinary object that looked like a set of bronze and iron pulleys corroded together. For many decades scholars thought it was a ship's navigational device, but the new images have revealed that it was something far more significant: a computer for determining the position of the heavenly bodies and thus for fixing the calendar. It was operated by a hand-crank attached to a series of gears that were milled with a precision that would not be equaled again until World War II. The new images are so clear that they reveal that it came with a full set of operating instructions, incised into the bronze and still partly readable. The astronomical cycles are understood with an amazing precision. The mechanism dates from the 2nd century B.C.E., and was lost in the shipwreck with a cargo of precious statuary (plunder destined for Rome?) in about 85 B.C.E.; it must have been a very rare and valuable object, whose nature we are only now beginning to understand.

ANATOMY LESSON continued from cover

His larger point seemed to be that reactions to the treatment of fellow human beings in this way provoked a response; that it was an aberration of science to have entered into such practices to begin with. As I left the lecture last November, I turned to think about my own teaching of the ancient world, and of ancient ethics in particular, and found that all too rarely did I address the ancient Greek and Roman intellectual record (not necessarily the writings of professional philosophers) with an interest in the possibilities of social, intellectual, and scientific protest and debate.

The standard approach to ancient ethics is through the lens of virtue, the good life, and happiness, for obvious reasons. Classical and Hellenistic philosophers, far from approaching the question of how one should live through appeal to duty, utility, or morality, appealed instead to the end of life, most often

conceptualized as eudaimonia or wellbeing. The question that Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics asks is how might one live the most fulfilled life possible. Aristotle's answer, broadly, through cultivating a life of virtue, informs our own study of ethics in the ancient world and rightly so.

MICHIGAN CLASSICAL PRESS by Ellen Bauerle

feeling

Verhoogt.

Michigan Classical Press, an independent publishing house, is

a response to the widespread

opportunities in Classics have been reduced in recent years.

Ellen Bauerle, a departmental

alumna and also editor at the

University of Michigan Press,

oversees the day-to-day activities

of MCP. The local editorial board

includes Benjamin Acosta-Hughes,

Traianos Gagos, David Potter,

Sara Ahbel-Rappe, and Arthur

MCP's first three titles are

updated editions of Francis

Cairns' Generic Composition in

Greek and Roman Poetry, John

Matthews' The Roman Empire of

Ammianus, and Peter Bing's The

Well-Read Muse. This summer

MCP will publish its first original

title: Franco Ferrari's Sappho's

publishing

that

Nevertheless, the ancient Greeks and Romans were not just busy living good lives, and didn't they know it! Although we tend to approach the ancients assuming that such practices as slave holding, marital infidelity on the part of husbands, lack of educational opportunities for women, and so on, were simply part of the status quo and were never open questions for moral scrutiny, in fact, moral outrage, protest, or at least debate at least sometimes went on in the ancient world.

After von Staden's talk, I walked into the office of Classical Studies with a

new course in mind, "Applied Ethics in the Ancient World." Its subtitle will be, "bring your twenty-first century prejudices with you!" In practice, it is difficult to separate ourselves as learners from what we encounter in other cultures. This difficulty is all the more apparent when we are simultaneously teaching students that 'the Greeks are us,' in some senses at least. This course is aimed at using the rhetorical angle of our position as both inside and outside classical civilization to think about social questions in the ancient world in light of the contemporary discipline of applied ethics. Von Staden's talk made me think of medical ethics, reproductive issues, questions surrounding sexuality, class conflict-places in the ancient world where our discomfort arises. Rather than checking this discomfort at the door, in Applied Ethics in the Ancient World, we'll bring it into the classroom,

ointly administered by the University of Michigan and the American Academy in Rome and delivered yearly at both institutions, the Thomas Spencer Jerome Lectures are one of the intellectual highlights for the department. Professor Henner von Hesberg of the German Archeological Institute in Rome delivered this past September the 39th lecture series on Roman Imperialism and the Power of the Media. In spite of the dire time of year, the second week of the fall term, Professor von Hesberg's lecture drew a large crowd. His topic focuses on the strategies of communication developed by the Roman conquerors in the provincial territories. Illustrated with copious images of artifacts and objects as well as architectural remains from the areas of present day France and Germany, the lectures reconstructed the visual language of images and space structure, unveiling a complex web of interactions between conquered and conquerors. The path-breaking approach focuses on the arrangement of public space in settlements that clearly reproduce the planimetry of a Roman military camp, along with the institutional buildings that would be typical of a Roman town. Among the most interesting architectural

remains, von Hesberg showed us a gym, or rather a palaestra, on the Rhine island, equipped with a swimming pool, or natatio. Such a space is clearly meant to foster public exercise and corresponds to the type of arrangements of public space that are familiar to us from the idea of a Campus, such as the Campus Martius immediately outside of the city wall at Rome or the Campus Iuventutis in Pompeii. In spite of having been strongly built over in Medieval times, this training camp for warriors and wrestlers allows us to envision a space where Roman soldiers and provincial citizens may interact and communicate within the social structure that their own interactions are creating. In the Rhine island ruins we are able to discern a community in the making, whose models are necessarily those of the urban Italy and Rome, but whose distinctive features as a political body result from the hybridization of Roman and local cultures. The revolutionary approach applied to the study of urban settlements at the border of the empire allows us to observe how Roman architectural models are created and constructed to respond to the stimuli arising from the social groups that they are supposed to serve. The questions Professor von Hesberg asks concern the type of political life that unfolds in such spaces. The methodological and theoretical strength of von Heberg's lectures relies, however, not only on the emphasis he puts on hybridization and community building at the border of the Roman empire, but especially

on his acknowledgement of the limits to social blending that we can infer from the way the architectural space is arranged. To this effect, von Hesberg shows how in such places as Lugdunum (modern Lyon in France) and Colonia (modern Köln in Germany) the altar to the gods, the religious space, and the temples, are clearly marked as sacred to Roman gods. The language of the reliefs, horns of plenty, or cornucopiae, and deities that resemble Mercury, with staff in hand and standing on a sky globe, suggest the approach of the Roman conqueror to the conquered by means of a language that discloses the Romans' idea of their own identity as world masters and conquerors. Perhaps this vehicle of social interaction between Romans and locals in border settlements blends with a form of negotiation of the idea of community that creates encircled spaces for such exchanges to occur. The place of social hybridization, in other words, is clearly marked as separate and discrete not only from nature's wilderness but from what the borderline empire used to be like before the Romans arrived to 'civilize' the peoples that they unfailingly continue to construe of as 'barbarians.'



On October 27, 2008, the department sponsored a free public presentation of *The Argument*, a play written and performed by David Greenspan (it won a special citation at the Obies). In this one-man play, Greenspan plays Aristotle as he delivers the Poetics. As soon as we saw the reviews of the New York production, we knew we had to bring this to Ann Arbor if we could; this is a play not just based on Aristotle, but quite specifically on Gerald Else's Aristotle's Poetics: the Argument—and Else, one of the most important figures in the history of Classics at Michigan, was born in 1908. There could be no better way to celebrate the centenary of a Hellenist who was devoted to connecting antiquity to the contemporary world.

Initially, the show is a little disconcerting. Greenspan waits at the side of the stage and then steps forward and begins to speak; there is no curtain or other formal marker that the play has begun. He is Aristotle, lecturing, the way many of us in the audience regularly lecture—but his style is not quite that of any of us. Greenspan moves a lot more (and a lot more fluidly), and he makes stylized faces and gestures to evoke the conventional masks when speaking of "comedy" and "tragedy." These at first were off-putting. But as he continued, speaking very quickly but clearly, the more the audience found itself carried along. At times Greenspan's Aristotle is mildly sardonic; I had never seen much wit in the Poetics, but he found it. The play moves smoothly from the Poetics itself to explanations of particular points that were recognized immediately as Else's by those who know Else's book well, and then, occasionally, into passages that do not come from the Poetics at all—passages in which Aristotle talks about Plato. Aristotle, as he expresses his profound

disagreement with Plato about the value of poetry, is thinking as much about his old teacher as about poetry itself. When we no longer agree with our teachers' ideas, yet know that without those teachers we would not be ourselves, we feel a peculiar mix of love and frustration that can fuel our most powerful thinking. Greenspan nails that, and thereby makes a 40-minute version of Aristotle's treatise a moving experience of theater.



ur department is sponsoring a new archaeological project in Central Italy, centered on the ancient city of Gabii. In June and July 2009, about 20 graduate students and 40 undergraduates will be excavating at the site while staying in nearby Frascati. The Gabii project represents the first opportunity, certainly since the introduction of advanced excavation techniques, of investigating a significant portion of one of the Italian cities that were part of the first wave of urbanization in the Archaic period (ca. 900-500 B.C.E.). At Gabii, conditions for recovery should be very good, since it is an abandoned site owned by the Italian state. The city was located on a strategic position along the Via Prenestina, about 12 miles east of Rome and had emerged during the Iron Age as one of the primary urban centers in Latium. A rich body of textual evidence and epigraphic sources attests to its cultural and political importance especially during the Archaic and Early Republican Ages (6th-5th c. B.C.E.). Extensive field surveys carried out in the late 1970s yielded an impressive quantity of material dating to the early phases but revealed that a major contraction occurred during the Late Republican and Imperial periods. It seems that Gabii has been only marginally impacted by the phase of great public monumental projects that characterizes the vast majority of Italian cities at that time. If this is true, then it is extremely likely that the original urban layout and structures of the archaic and early/mid-Republican periods have been substantially preserved.

In the summers of 2007 and 2008, intensive geoarchaeological investigations at the site were applied, as a first step of a multi-stage project. A little less than half of the estimated size of the settlement (c. 60 hectares) was surveyed with a magnetometer to locate buried structures. This survey picked up a regular pattern of linear anomalies that can be in all likelihood interpreted as streets. The urban layout appears based upon a previously unknown trunk road that follows a contour line around the lake of Castiglione, bending far to the north, presumably in the direction of Tibur. Secondary orthogonal streets branching off from this main artery delineate orthogonal blocks, wrapped around the truncated cone formed by the volcanic crater. Subsurface sampling (boreholes) has demonstrated the existence of well-stratified archaeological deposits associated with these magnetic anomalies, creating ideal conditions for direct archaeological investigation. This summer, two excavation areas wide enough to include sections of three adjacent blocks will be opened to further our understanding of the structure of the settlement: one area will be centered on a massive rectangular anomaly (a podium?) to the north of the main artery; the other one will be opened to the south of the modern Via Prenestina. Over the next two to four years, it is expected that the results of the excavation will offer a significant contribution in future discussions of planned urbanism in ancient Italy.

ATTENTION ALUMNI!

Alumni news is on our website and we would like to hear from you! Please let us know what you have been doing since you left the University as an undergraduate or graduate student in our Department.

You can also visit our website for more information on purchasing a Classical Studies t-shirt. Shirt texts include "Michigan Classics," "Michigan Classics Alumna," and "Michigan Classics Alumnus." All proceeds go to help support the undergraduate initiative. Please show your support!





In May, Roma Viva! Latin students will travel to Italy for a nine-day study trip that gives them an opportunity to study in Latin the topography and monuments of the Eternal City. The emphasis here is "in Latin," for the work of the class is, not only to read Latin texts about the various sites. monuments and artifacts Rome in situ, but to discuss, and even live them in Latin, the target language. Housing will be shared apartments in which students share the domestic activities of shopping, cooking and cleaning as they discover some of the challenges and rewards of managing aspects of daily life in another language. The goal is to provide students of Latin a taste of a linavistic and cultural immersion experience comparable with their modern languagelearning peers.

Days are spent visiting sites and museums, or just getting to know the Rome of today, a city that offers clues about its past around every corner: a curved street shows us in relief the contours of an ancient theatre; a plaque on the side of a church tells us in Latin the height to which the Tiber once flooded; a gap in a wall affords a glimpse down to the level of the city in the time of Domitian. Even a trendy hot spot such as the Trevi Fountain compels us to reflect upon popular etymology (tres viae), the

importance of water in Rome's history, and the ingenuity of her engineers. Archaeological sites themselves, of course, provide locations about which we not only read and discuss texts, but also in which we can "perform" texts in situ. Ostia, the port city of classical Rome, offers a rich case in point: this preserved site feels like an ancient city, and while visiting, students will have opportunities to declaim in an ancient forum, enact a scene from a drama in the theatre, and read the account by Augustine of his mother Monica's death, while picnicking on the very site.

We hope again, as we have been fortunate in the past, to hook up with Monsignor Cleto Pavanetto, former head of the Latin Letters department in the Vatican Secretariat of State and Praeses Emeritus of the Opus Fundatum Latinitas. Pater, as the students fondly call him, speaks no English, but is fluent in Latin, so this catapults students into the reality that the Latin language really is a viable mode of communication. Meanwhile, Pater charms students with his anecdotes, wit -- and connections: he has whisked every group past the Swiss Guard at the Santa Anna gate into Vatican City with a commanding flick of his wrist and a beaming declaration that "These are my friends; they come from Michigan; they speak Latin!"

by Gina Soter

Upon request he has delivered a private missa Latina for us in a small Salesian chapel within Vatican City, at which appropriate students assisted and performed reading. Though he has arranged for us a tour of the Vatican Gardens, an invitation to the swearing in of the Swiss Guard, a papal audience, students' fondest experience on the trip tends to be the time with the man himself.

Roma Viva! was designed primarily for students in an intensive Latin class cosponsored by the Residential College, a class that has been exploring the pedagogical benefits of using spoken Latin in the classroom. Other suitable Latin students are eligible as well, and each year a mixed group of first-years and seniors, undecideds and majors embark on an adventure new to all. Some return inspired with new directions for their studies, others with a better understanding of the commitment they already have. A graduate student interested in Latin pedagogy and in spoken Latin regularly accompanies the trip.

Support from Arts at Michigan, OIP, Classical Studies, Residential College, and Rackham has helped keep costs affordable for students.



THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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TOO MUCH IS NEVER ENOUGH: LUXURY AND DECADENCE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

by Karen Acton

On February 6th and 7th, the Classics graduate students hosted the biennial University of Michigan Classical Studies graduate student conference, "Too Much is Never Enough: Luxury and Decadence in the Ancient World." Many of us have been to conferences where the emphasis had been on every day life and the lived experience of the ancient world. We thought that it would be interesting to approach that topic on the grand scale yet again, and think about what people in the ancient world valued and spent their money on. In any case, what better way to spend a weekend than by thinking about luxury and decadence?

The conference began with the keynote address, delivered by Professor Ann Kuttner of the University of Pennsylvania. In her paper, "Portable Meanings," she considered the significance of small luxury objects and the relationships that existed between the object, its owner, and its viewer. Her talk and the opulent surroundings of the Kuenzel Room of the Michigan Union set the tone for the next day, when seven graduate students from programs across the country (and Canada!) delivered their papers in the equally opulent Rackham building. One of our goals with this conference was to highlight Michigan's traditional strength in interdisciplinarity and diverse methodological approaches, and presenters spoke on a range of topics including the economy of the 4th century B.C.E., Ptolemaic gemstones, and the significance of food in Pompeian wall paintings. All in all, we were treated to an opportunity to consider an interesting topic from a wide variety of disciplinary and methodological perspectives.

The turnout for the conference was excellent. Graduate students in the three classics programs, faculty members, and even interested people from beyond the department attended the keynote and the graduate student sessions the next day. Every paper was followed by a lively and constructive discussion, and we believe the speakers all went home thinking overwhelmingly positive things about the Classics community here at Michigan.

We also had an opportunity to demonstrate our fabulous hospitality and to show what Ann Arbor has to offer, and we would like to thank everyone who was willing to host speakers during the conference, drive them to and from the airport, and show them the best bars and restaurants in town.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks on behalf of my fellow organizers, Joe Groves, Lisa Cakmak, and Karen Laurence, to the Department of Classical Studies, the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology, and the Interdepartmental Program in Greek and Roman History for their generous support.



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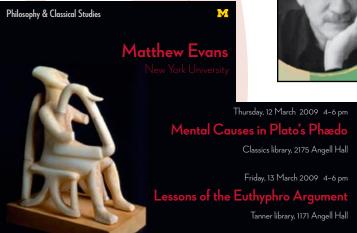
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Classical Studies Winter/Spring 2009

Events





Translation Lunch
March 10, 2009
12-1 pm
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For details on these events and others visit

Isa.umich.edu/classics



The 8th Roman Archaeology Conference April 3 – April 5, 2009 | Rackham Building For details: sitemaker.umich.edu/rac2009/home

4th Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Midwestern Greek Historians and Political Theorists

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