2013 was a largely successful year for graduate researchers in Victoria. A number of classicists completed a PhD or M.A. degree. Sonya Wurster was awarded a PhD for her thesis ‘Reconstructing Philodemus: The Epicurean Philosopher in the Late Republic’. Her thesis examined how Philodemus promoted Epicurean doctrine not only to philosophers but to the Roman elite and demonstrated how Epicurean principles could help them enact their political and social commitments more effectively. James O’Maley delivered his PhD completion seminar on ‘poetic belatedness’ in the *Iliad*, examining how Homer relates to alternative poetic traditions and how he positions the *Iliad* as the last of a long tradition of epic poetry. This is ultimately a competitive gesture to relegate alternative traditional stories and poems to little more than ‘footnotes’ of the *Iliad*. He will submit his thesis in early 2014. Kyle Conrau-Lewis delivered his completion seminar for his M.A. thesis, looking at how Statius positions adheres to and resists epic models of genealogy.

Postgraduates also delivered papers at a number of conferences and forums. Particularly worthy of mention is James O’Maley’s paper ‘Parasitic Epic: Mythic Paradigms and Greek Archaic Poetics’, which received high commendation at the ASCS conference in Sydney in January for the OPTIMA prize (Outstanding Postgraduate Talk in a Meeting at ASCS). The ASCS conference also included other Victorian postgraduates, Corinna Box’s paper ‘The Un-Speaking Woman: Female Expression in Ovid’s Amores’ and Kyle Conrau-Lewis’ paper ‘Oedipodiumides: Statius’ Subversive Use of Patronymics’. Two postgraduates also attended the Homer Seminar at ANU in 2013. James O’Maley delivered a paper ‘poetic belatedness’ and Kyle Conrau-Lewis also gave a paper ‘Patronymics in Statius’ *Thebaid*. The University of Queensland also hosted an interdisciplinary postgraduate conference ‘Perspectives on Progress’, Kyle Conrau-Lewis gave a paper entitled ‘The Opus Aureum in Thomistas: A Theology of Progress and Heresy’ and Kate McLardy gave a paper ‘Theoretical Progress? — Interceptions of the Themophoria’.

A number of Victorian postgraduates also attended AMPHORAE, an annual postgraduate conference for Australian and New Zealand postgraduates. This featured a varying range of exciting papers, testament to the breadth of research interests. A list of papers is given below:

- Jessica Di Benedetto, ‘The mutating Hero: from ancient warning to modern icon’
- Kyle Conrau-Lewis ‘Rewriting Ennius? Quotation of poetry in Cicero’s *Pro Caelio*’
- Brad Jordan, ‘The Consular provinciae of 44 BCE: Caesar’s *acta* and Subsequent Developments’
- Kate McLardy ‘Eidola: Effigies in the Rites of Adonis-like Gods’
- Emily Poelina-Hunter, ‘Art Imitating Life: Tattooed Figurines of the Aegean Bronze Age’
- David Rafferty, ‘”Blame Clodius”: the praetors of 62BC and their provinces’
- Kimberley Webb, ‘The Augural College: A Snapshot of its Political Role in the Middle to Late Roman Republic’

The University of Melbourne will also host the next AMPHORAE in July 2014. Kimberley Webb, Brad Jordan and Jarrad Paul will be the convenors. For enquiries contact Kimberley Webb at k.webb@student.unimelb.edu.au.

Postgraduates also delivered talks at the Ancient World Seminar series at the University of Melbourne. A list is detailed below:

- Thomas Caldwell, ‘Titus and Mucianus: The Instigator and the Mediator’
- Kyle Conrau-Lewis, ‘Family Trees in the *Thebaid*: The Missing Links.’
- Thea Potter, ‘I am the boundary of the agora: the stone from horos to Hermes.’
- William Purchase, ‘Plato and Platonism in Sallust’s *Proems*’
- Kimberley Webb, ‘Caesar’s Real or Perceived Illegalities: 49–44 BC’
• Monique Webber, ‘Recreating the Past: Imperial Conservation and Restoration Strategies’
• Simon Young, ‘The Urban Landscape of Cremna in Pisidia and the Arrival of Rome: Expressions of Civic Identity in Public Architecture’

In addition to this, James O’Maley and Jarrad Paul have organised a regular graduate seminar series. The inaugural paper was delivered by James O’Maley entitled ‘Intertextuality Without Texts Current Directions in Homeric Research’. The next instalment was delivered by Monique Webber ‘vultu erat … serenoque tranquilloque: Imperial Portraits and Public Opinion’.

Monash University recently held a postgraduate conference for current and recent graduate students, celebrating the introduction of the major in ancient cultures in 2014. A list of presentations is given below:
• Jessica Di Benedetto ‘Marston and the Lie-Detector - Myth as historical precedent’
• Anuradhi Jayasinghe ‘Proclus on the role of catharsis in the education of ideal citizens’
• Steve Joyce ‘Growth or decay? A prophetic reading of Gildas’s De Excidio Britanniae’
• Liberata Luciani ‘Remembering the Practicaities of Meeting Human Needs: A Southern Italian Folk Tradition with Roots in Ancient ‘Magic’ Practices’
• Kate McLardy ‘Thesmophorian Influences in Rome: One, Two or Three Festivals?’
• Jonathan Ratcliffe ‘Rome, Pergamum, Miletus: Nicander of Colophon and the Intercultural Value of the Roman Foundation Myth in Second Century BCE Anatolia’
• Tom Sharkie ‘The Literary Affair of the Erotic Moon - Tracing the Theme from Sappho to Ritsos’

It is hoped that this conference will become a regular event at Monash and that a conference proceedings will result from it.

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