Classics Senior Capstone Presentations

Please join us in congratulating our seventeen seniors who presented their senior seminar research on this variety of topics:

Kate Himonas, Language of Love: Translations of “Song of Songs 1” into Russian and English

Greg Suber, Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: How the Great Leader Theory Influences the Modern World

Kaleb D.V. Mazurek, Abbasid-Byzantine Diplomacy: an Analysis of Ibn Al-Farra’s Treatise Kitab Rusul al-Muluk

Leon Swerdel-Rich, “Thus Shall the Scales Be Tipped”: How Shmuel HaNagid Wrote Himself a Ticket into Heaven

Eleanor McGrath, Healing Our Wounds: How Greek Communal Rituals Aided Recovery

Lanie Kohn, The Hermeneutics of Late Latin Poetry: Contextualizing Claudian’s De Ruptu Proserpinae

Lily Sadowsky, The Woman, the Rose, and the Other: A Translation of Moroccan “Muthaqafa”

Jack Schultenover, Dante’s Monsters: Using Classical Imagery to Explore Christian Morality

Michael Salzman, The Other Arabs: Urban Constructions of Bedouin Culture

E. J. MacMillan, Beyond the Pillars of Hercules: Britain as the Threshold to the End of the World in Agricola

Jake Sawyer, A Modern[ist] Translation of Aristophanes’ Acharnians

Annika Sanora, Social Justice Warriors of Antiquity: Social Justice and the Ancient Israelite Monarchy

Maia Charlotte Schiller, The Ultimate Greek Horror Story: Female Autonomy in Medea

Kate Miller, Silks, Poets, and Identity: Origins of the Syrian-Lebanese Diaspora in Immigrant America

Spencer Fugate, “And Then Sat Down to Drink:” a Mock Epic

Abigail Perrero, Dreams of the Dead: Selene and Endymion on the Sarcophagus of Claudia Arria

Michaela Sharp, A Critique of Al- Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabiyya

MACALESTER CLASSICS STUDENTS PUT THEIR EDUCATIONS TO WORK

ANTiquity Now is an update and review of activities and opportunities in the Macalester College Classics Department and is published twice a year. Each edition shares student and faculty news in respect to publications, internships, new classes, study away and research abroad, and highlights alumni who continue to do important and interesting things around the globe.
UPCOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

A Macalester team will be excavating a Roman period synagogue in Galilee in northern Israel at a site called Arbel. It is a site famous from the first Jewish revolt against Rome in 66 CE.

We will be excavating over Spring break in March. Professor Andy Overman will lead the trip and we will be joined by Professor Benny Arubas of The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. There will be an informational meeting during finals. If you are interested talk to Professor Overman.

OMRIT CONSERVATION FIELD SCHOOL - JULY 2018

For the last four summers crucial conservation work and restoration, as well as developing and constructing permanent exhibitions of our finds, has been going on at Omrit. Omrit is a Roman temple complex in northern Israel on the Lebanese border. Remarkable buildings, art and artifacts were uncovered at what is now a famous archaeological site. We offer training in conservation in the field and take a hands-on approach to learning how to save and preserve the cultural heritage and artifacts from the site.

This is perfect for anyone interested in cultural heritage, cultural resource management, or museums of any kind. The field school runs for three weeks in July after the 4th of July. We live at a kibbutz near Omrit, we are trained by some of the finest preservationists in the world, and we apply what we have learned to the ancient site.

JANUARY IN ROME 2018

The Classics Department will be in Rome for the class, "January in Rome: The Art, Archeology & Topography of Ancient Rome" from January 2nd to the 16th.

Students will join Professors Beth Severy-Hoven, Nanette Goldman, Andy Overman, and Brian Lush for the 2-credit program. The course includes a survey of the major spaces, surviving monuments and artifacts of the city of Rome from the earliest occupation of the Palatine hill around 1000 BCE to the construction of the first major Christian buildings by the emperor Constantine in the 4th century CE. Students also learn architectural building techniques, systems of dating based on types of stone and brickwork, problems in properly identifying surviving buildings, the iconography of Roman political sculpture, and techniques of Roman copying and reuse of original Greek art. The incorporation of Roman monuments into subsequent architecture is examined, including Fascist political (re)use of archaeology, as well as problems of conservation in the context of the modern city.

Finally, visits to the excavated cities of Pompeii and Ostia make visible the lives and activities of those lost in the literary record, including women and slaves.

There is a $2900 fee for the program to cover airfare, accommodations, local transportation, site and museum admissions, books, breakfasts, and dinners.

Grants are available to help make the program more affordable for students with need-based student aid.

This course will next be offered in January 2020.
**SPECIAL NOTE:** Please note that **class schedules and instructors** may change. Please check the University's official website for the most up-to-date information.

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**CLASSICS 101: THE CLASSICAL MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST**

Do you know the stories of Moses, Jesus and Muhammad? Have you read from the Odyssey, the Aeneid or 1001 Nights? Who were Darius, Cleopatra and Fatima? Study a time before East and West. Hear dead people!

This introduction to the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East, taught by Beth Severy-Hoven, with guest appearances by every member of the department, is the gateway to all Classics has to offer.

Today Islam and the Arab world are often presented in contrast with the West in a sort of timeless and unending ‘clash of civilizations.’ Classics 101 aims to counter this narrative by exploring the multiple deep, long-term connections among the languages, religions and peoples around the Mediterranean Sea. What were the relationships among speakers of Hebrew, Greek, Latin and Arabic in the past? How did Judaism, Christianity and Islam develop among them? Why are Greek and Roman traditions sometimes seen as in tension with Christian or Arab traditions — and has that always been the case?

Readings include selections from Genesis, Exodus, Homer, Herodotus, Euripides, Plato, Vergil, the Gospels, Josephus, Imru Al-Qays, the Qur’an and 1,001 Nights. Legendary and historical figures include Moses, Helen of Troy, Cyrus, Darius, Pericles, Alexander, Cleopatra, Jesus, Augustus, Perpetua, Constantine, Muhammad, Fatima, Aisha and Omar.

At right: Photos of notes from course-naming brainstorming.
Reconstructing the King: Excavating and Exhibiting Herod the Great

Dudi Mevorach, senior curator of the Israel Museum Jerusalem, spoke to a full house at lunch time on November 15. He shared the dramatic story of the life and death of Herod the Great. And revealed how the largest exhibition ever of the archaeological finds, buildings, and cities of Herod the Great Builder was developed and presented to the public from around the world.

Creating Colloquial Arabic Language Learning Videos

Three students from the Spring 2017 Advanced Arabic Independent Study, Ruth Kendrick ’17, Nick Bascunan-Wiley ’17, and Abby Massell ’18, created a Youtube page where they uploaded videos explaining colloquial Arabic words and phrases in order to prepare students planning to go abroad where Modern Standard Arabic isn’t as common.

Taking in Euripides’ Electra

The Classics Department organized a group of thirty to attend the Ten Thousand Things production of Euripides’ Electra in October. Discounted tickets and free bus transportation made it possible for Classics students and professors to attend. The play was performed at Indigenous Roots Theater on St Paul’s east side. We were fortunate to bring Ten Thousand Things’ director Michelle Hensley to campus for a follow-up discussion of the theater company’s history and approach to theater production.

Translation - Imagination - Transformation

In October, an International Roundtable program celebrating multiculturalism, multilingualism, and the art and craft of translation featured student literary translations. Two Classics students were selected to participate in the panel. Kate Himonas and Jake Sawyer represented us with great distinction. Congratulations to them both.

Above: Audience at talk by Dudi Mevorach, about archaeology related to Herod the Great.

Drawing Inspiration

Professor Wessam El-Meligi explores events and emotions of the modern Middle East through drawing and writing graphic novels. In September, he shared his work at a Classics lunch called "Y, Y & Why?" He also presented “Censorship, Controversy, and Conversation” for the library's Banned Books Week events, where he spoke of his own experiences with censorship and the Egyptian government. His graphic novels, *Y and Y*, and *Jamilla* are published by Seshat Press.

Photo at left: Kate Himonas and Jake Sawyer (first and fourth from the left) participate in the translation panel.
In the spring, students in Hebrew and Arabic classes, and Professors Nanette Goldman, and Wessam El-Meligi, met for lunch to learn about how these languages overlap. (photos above)

This semester, students of Professor Ernesto Ortiz-Díaz and Professor Wessam El Meligi gathered for a session on linguistic archaeology, combining Arabic and Portuguese. (photo below)

Middle Eastern food was served at both events.

Above: The audience at at the "Y, Y, & Why?" talk.

Seniors majors presented capstone research projects on December 11, 12, and 13.

Twenty-four students and faculty will be in Rome in early January with the "January in Rome" class.

On January 26, the Arab-American culture organization Mizna will screen "Those Who Remain" by Eliane Raheb, Lebanon/UAE, in the James B. Davis Hall., time TBA. Learn more about the Mizna Arab Film Fest 2018 Tour here: [http://mizna.org/articles/events/183.shtml](http://mizna.org/articles/events/183.shtml)

March 7, the St Olaf Players will perform a Latin comedy at 5 pm in Mairs Concert Hall.

April 14 and 15 Conference on Islam & Late Antiquity, details forthcoming.

Our long-standing, end-of-Fall-semester tradition, the Classics Cookie Party, dates back until at least the year 2000.

"C" is for cookies, and Classics! "C" is for Classics Cookie Party! "C" is for cookies and camaraderie. We make the cookies. You eat them!
ALUMNI REPORTS

Alysha Alloway '17 is in post-graduate study of Geography, and working for the City of St. Paul on mapping. She tells us she is “also working as a TA for a large undergraduate Geography course here at the U [University of Minnesota] (400 kids!! Wow!). The TA work has happily secured me full funding.”

Catherine (Catie) Bonesho ’09 won the 2017-2018 Emeline Hill Richardson Pre-Doctoral Rome Prize. She is now the Rome Prize Fellow in Ancient Studies at the American Academy in Rome. Catie also had a book note published in the web journal Ancient Jew Review. Her note Jörg Rüpke’s Religious Deviance in the Roman World: Superstition or Individuality? (Translated by David M.B. Richardson), Cambridge University Press, 2016

Lexii Carillo ‘15, having completed her Fulbright study in Mexico, reports she is now in “New York at Columbia doing a Masters in Global Thought (it is an interdisciplinary program with a focus on econ). She says, “everything I’m learning is fascinating. The economic world has its treasures.”

Bo-Sung Kim, 17 completed a summer Macalester Startup Program incubating a Twin Cities fast-casual with flavors from Korea, is currently working at the Center for Study Away as a part-time "Graduate Assistant," and in January will be attending the American University of Beirut (Lebanon), pursuing a Master in Public Health with an emphasis on Health Management and Policy.

Ben Shields '17- is a free-lance writer and editor in NYC for the Paris Review, Huffington Post.

Rachel Biesse ’13 is currently attending Medical School at the University of Ben Gurion, Beer Sheva, Israel.

Max Edwards ‘13- is at the Rabbinical School of Boston, Cambridge MA

Rae Hohle ’17 is an associate Software Consultant for Fishbowl Solutions, St. Louis Park MN.

Kyle Ronchetto '17 is completing the M. Div. program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Missouri.

Xavier Keeto ’11 is attending University of Washington, Masters degree in Library and Information Science,

Daniel Picus '10 is a visiting Fellow at the University of Michigan's Frankel Institute for Jewish Studies 2017-2018.

Rachel Wilson '15 just completed MFA in Creative Writing at San Jose State University

Kelsey Coia '16 is working in the conservation labs of the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

Benjamin Rubin '02, will be back at Mac in Spring 2018. This time he will be the professor, teaching Intro to Archaeology.

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

Benjamin Rubin '02, and Jason Schlude '02, recently published Arsacids, Romans and Local Elites: Cross-Cultural Interactions of the Parthian Empire. Rubin received his PhD in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology at Berkeley and is now an Assistant Professor of Classics at St. John’s University in Minnesota. Schlude finished his PhD in archaeology at Michigan and is a professor at Williams College in Massachusetts.

A Conversation with New Classics Majors

Frankie Gillis '20
and Sophia Jones '20
by Maisie Rossi '20

Why do students choose to become Classics majors? What courses do they like? What plans do they have for studying away? Answers from two new Classics majors.

Why Classics?

Franki: I'm lucky because I knew I wanted to be a Classics major before starting college. Greek myths have always fascinated me so I wanted to learn more about the culture that created such strange stories. I also love the sense of mystery that follows archaeology because there is still so much to be discovered. My experience so far as a Classics major is amazing. I haven't had a dull Classics course yet and doubt I ever will. There is always something amusing to learn and so much history to cover.

Sophia: I wasn't sure what I wanted to study when I started at Macalester, but my first semester I took Hebrew and India and Rome and knew Classics was what I wanted to major in. Not only do I really like my classes, all my professors have been great and the department just feels very welcoming. I also love how the Classics department at Mac doesn't just focus on Greece and Rome, but includes all of the ancient Mediterranean.

Favorite Classics course so far?

Franki: My first and favorite Classics course at Mac was Elementary Latin with Beth. I originally didn't like the language aspect of Classics but this class changed my mind. I have many fond memories from the class but the best part was having a Latin insult contest. The graphic creativity of my classmates will never cease to amaze me.

Sophia: My favorite class would have to be Intermediate Hebrew, as basic as it sounds. There's something so rewarding about reading Bible passages in their original language. So much of the meaning is conveyed through the language and it's really lost in translation. I've grown to appreciate these stories a lot more by reading them in Hebrew and discussing the historical contexts from which they emerged.

Study abroad plans?

Franki: I hope to study abroad at Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. This program seems fun and challenging.

Sophia: I'm participating in the January in Rome program so I will be going to Rome this winter!