



Antiquity Now

MACALESTER COLLEGE
CLASSICAL MEDITERRANEAN AND
MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER

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Professors Beth Severy-Hoven and Nanette Goldman at a reception in April.

We Have a New Name:

We are Now The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department

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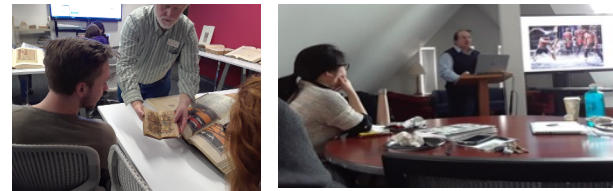
On February 13th, the Classics Department became the **Department of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East**, a change approved by the Educational Policy and Governance Committee, followed by a full faculty vote. The chair of the department, Professor Beth Severy-Hoven, in advocating for the name change, said, "We propose to change our name from Classics to the Department of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East. Our full rationale was distributed, so I won't read it to you, but to summarize, the word "classics" is used to designate what is old and valued. When the field was invented, pretty much at the same time as American higher education itself in the 1800s, Greek and Roman materials were what were old and valued. However, many regions and societies around the world have periods in the their past they refer to as classical or think of as old and valued. So we'd like to specify the region whose good stuff we study. This region includes the societies around the Mediterranean basin and the inland area of western Asia now commonly referred to as the Middle East. We teach four languages from these societies, as well as their deeply significant texts and material cultures. These four languages are Hebrew, Greek, Latin and Arabic. To mark this expanded idea of what is old and valuable in this region of the world, we'd like to be known as the Department of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East."

Classics major Miriam Eide '20 said that the change "makes [her] feel more included in the major itself" because she is more towards the edge of it, and not "focused on the historical side." While Charlotte Houghton '20 does feel like there is a nice ring to "Classics major" because of its shortness, she does think it is a good change because it captures better "the variety of things we study" as "Hebrew and Arabic aren't necessarily considered Classical languages."

Severy-Hoven adds: "We are intending to keep the nickname Classics, and our classes will still have the department abbreviation CLAS. But it's exciting for our full title to specify the region and historical periods whose Classics we study."

ANTIQUITY NOW is an update and review of activities and opportunities in the Macalester College Classical Mediterranean and Middle East 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.

Students in CLAS 101-01, "The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East" took a field trip to the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at Saint John's University in Collegeville MN, to learn about their digital manuscript preservation project. [HMML Resources and Tools for Manuscript Studies are available online here.](#)



On March 22nd, Professor Wessam El-Meligi gave a talk titled "In the Wake of Black Panther: Visual Representations of Africa from Ancient Egypt to American Comics." The talk addressed the presentation of African characters in a number of key texts and media in Western and North African literary pop culture from ancient Egyptian gods to Nubia in modern Egyptian animation; and included discussion of cannibalism in Robinson Crusoe, deAfricanization in Tarzan and Luke Cage, and Africa in Black Panther. While seemingly unrelated, a comparative reading of the visual representation of the African literary character in some European, North African, and American popular heroic fiction sheds light on similarities and differences that can start an interesting discussion.

In early March, our students attended a Greek play performed by St. Olaf students on our campus. The play was based on the ancient Greek comedy, Menander's *Dyskolos* "The Crabby Man"

The play was performed in a musical mixture of English (90%) and ancient Greek.



In mid-April, the Classics and Religious Studies departments hosted a two-day "Byzantium and Early Islam: Exploring the Late Antique Transition" conference. The conference brought together Macalester faculty and students, and international experts, to examine the shift from a Roman-Christian dominated Mediterranean and Middle East to an Arab-Islamic Caliphate, which is increasingly viewed as one of the major religious and cultural changes in history.



Students in Rome, and a cat, from left to right: Annika Sanora, Cassandra Munguia, Andy Mizener with cat on lap, Liam McMahon, and Sophia Jones.

Over twenty students participated in Macalester's January in Rome course taught by Professors Nanette Goldman, Brian Lush, and Beth Severy-Hoven. They visited and made tours of surviving monuments and artifacts of the city of Rome from the earliest occupation of the Palatine around 1000 BCE to the first major Christian buildings in the 4th century CE.

Students learned architectural building techniques, systems of dating based on types of stone and brickwork, problems in identifying surviving buildings, the iconography of Roman political sculpture, and issues of Roman copying and reuse of original Greek art. They made visits to the excavated cities of Pompeii and Ostia to make visible the lives and activities of those lost in the literary record, including women and slaves.

Soniya Coutinho '18 says that on a typical day "We would eat breakfast in our hotel, often including lots of cappuccinos and pastries. The hotel was in Trastevere, an outer region of the city of Rome, so we would take public transportation (usually either the tram or the bus) to get to the first site of the day. Over the course of the trip, we visited various historical sites, museums, churches, and ancient ruins. We usually walked from site to site, which was exhausting given the number of miles we ended up walking every day over the cobblestone streets and up and down the hills of the city, but it also allowed us to fully experience the city. Rome is incredibly beautiful, with amazing architecture and wonderful side alleys with trattorias and gelaterias, and some of my best memories of the trip include just wandering the streets of the city. Most days we would stop mid-morning to have a coffee break, where we'd drink more cappuccinos or the Italian version of hot chocolate. We'd break off into smaller groups and find lunch on our own, but most days we'd come together as a large group for dinner. We did also have two free days, which we were allowed to use however we'd like, and we also took two day-trips, to the nearby cities of Pompeii and Ostia.

FALL 2018 CLASS SCHEDULE

CLAS 111-01	Elementary Latin I	MWF	09:40 am-10:40 am	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 111-L1	Elementary Latin I Lab	T	03:00 pm-04:00 pm	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 113-01	Elementary Arabic I	MWF	09:40 am-10:40 am	Wessam El Meligi
CLAS 113-L1	Elementary Arabic I Lab	TBA	TBA	Wessam El Meligi
CLAS 113-L2	Elementary Arabic I Lab	TBA	TBA	Wessam El Meligi
CLAS 117-01	Elementary Hebrew I	MWF	12:00 pm-01:00 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 117-L1	Elementary Hebrew I Lab	R	01:20 pm-02:20 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 117-L2	Elementary Hebrew Lab	R	03:00 pm-04:00 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 121-01	The Greek World	MWF	10:50 am-11:50 am	Brian Lush
CLAS 145-01	Pagans, Christians and Jews in Classical Antiquity: Cultures in Conflict	TR	09:40 am-11:10 am	Andrew Overman
CLAS 194-01	FYC, Sex, Satire & Slavery: Life & Literature in the Roman Empire	TR	01:20 pm-02:50 pm	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 231-01	Intermediate Latin I: Prose	MWF	01:10 pm-02:20 pm	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 241-01	Intermediate Arabic I	MWF	10:50 am-11:50 am	Wessam El Meligi
CLAS 241-L1	Intermediate Arabic I Lab	TBA	TBA	Wessam El Meligi
CLAS 241-L2	Intermediate Arabic I Lab	TBA	TBA	Wessam El Meligi
CLAS 260-01	Introduction to Ancient/Medieval Art	MWF	10:50 am-11:50 am	Serdar Yalcin
CLAS 261-01	Intermediate Greek: Prose	TR	08:00 am-09:30 am	Andrew Overman
CLAS 294-01	Songs of Lament and Resistance: Crisis Poetry of the Ancient Mediterranean	MWF	02:20 pm-03:20 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 294-02	Art/Arch Ancient Egypt	MWF	03:30 pm-04:30 pm	Serdar Yalcin
CLAS 294-03	Art and Architecture of the Islamic World	TR	03:00 pm-04:30 pm	Serdar Yalcin
CLAS 483-01	Advanced Reading in Latin	MWF	03:30 pm-04:30 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 490-01	Senior Seminar	TR	03:00 pm-04:30 pm	Brian Lush

Topics Course for Fall 2018 offered in the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department

294-01 Songs of Lament and Resistance: Crisis Poetry of the Ancient Mediterranean, Professor Goldman

What characterizes the responses to collective or individual crises? This course investigates poetic expressions of lament and resistance generated out of national or private catastrophe in the classical Mediterranean and Middle East. We start in the Mesopotamian civilization of the 3rd millennium B.C.E. and move through time and space culminating in the early Islamic era. This course will be framed by a variety of questions, foremost of which is what *is* crisis literature. Other questions of import focus on stylistic features of the genres, intended audiences, the *topoi* of sorrow, gendered rhetoric, portrayal of the enemy/source of crisis, the ritual functions of the literature, concepts of self/group, intertextuality and referential language, to name but a few. We will use as our primary sources English translations of Sumerian, Akkadian, Egyptian, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin and Arabic texts. This course meets the General Education WA requirement, serves as a context course for Classics majors and minors, and also fulfills the major research project requirement for Classics majors.

AFTER MACALESTER CLASSICS: ARTREPRENEURS, TWO COINCIDENTALLY SIMILAR JOURNEYS



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Emily and children, exterior of Jean Jean Vintage in East Lansing MI, interior of The Big Lake in Grand Marais MN, Abby prepping the shop.

Entrepreneurs Emily Duffelmeyer '03 and Abby Tofte '09 are Classics alumnae who are both about to open unique brick and mortar stores. The trajectory from Classics student to "artrepreneur" may seem unlikely, but is in fact a good fit for these two.

Emily has owned Jean Jean Vintage, selling vintage jewelry for about 8 years [on Etsy here](#), and [also on this website](#). Jean Jean Vintage is about to open in a storefront in East Lansing, Michigan.

Abby also started selling art, ceramics, jewelry gifts, crafts and books that celebrate the North Shore at [The Big Lake online](#), as well on this [Facebook page](#). Her physical retail space will open in Grand Marais, MN in May.

Here Emily and Abby answer questions about their journeys from Macalester Classics majors to business owners.

1. What have you been up to since graduating Macalester and how did you start your business?

Abby: Like many of my fellow classmates, I left for an internship in Washington, DC weeks after graduation. This was an unpaid internship with Congressman James Oberstar, the Congressman from my home district in Northern Minnesota. I then moved on to a paid internship at the National Democratic Institute, working in their Middle East division, specifically focusing on the Levant Region. This was my dream job. My dream region, working with my favorite countries within my favorite region. I love Palestine. I love Israel. I love Syria. It was perfect! Except, that a paid internship in Washington, DC is not really very sustainable for folks who need to pay their own rent, feed themselves and pay student loans. So, I ended up keeping my restaurant gig I landed that summer, and waitressing 2 nights a week after my dream job work day and then doubles on Saturdays and Sundays. I still managed to have a WONDERFUL time, I had an incredible MAC group of friends to hang out with.

I ended up moving back to Minnesota on the North Shore of Lake Superior because, quite frankly, I needed to make more money. I decided to move for one summer, waitressing to build a nest egg for a fall move back to DC. My thought was that I could make enough money to only work my day job. However, I quickly realized that I REALLY missed the beauty and community of Northern Minnesota. I also met my husband that summer (who had also come "home" for the summer to make money in the tourist season, then head back to Colorado).

Long story getting longer, my part time gig at Sivertson Gallery quickly turned full-time, from buyer to General Manager and then Gallery Director, overseeing two galleries. Once I stopped freaking out trying to figure out how I would use my degree in Northern Minnesota, I realized I actually loved being a manager of an art gallery. I realized that I would love to run my own business, I would love for that business to directly support its artists and makers, and I would be able to support the nonprofits I care for.

The Big Lake opened as a webstore in July of 2017 and we will open our brick & mortar shop in the harbor town of Grand Marais in May. We offer an approachable art gallery with jewelry, ceramics, wall art, books and cards that reflect the beauty and culture of the North Shore of Lake Superior. We are an active member of the arts economy up here in Cook County, and I couldn't be more excited to open our doors!

Emily: I moved to Michigan the summer after graduating and seriously fumbled around for a year while my husband started graduate school. I eventually went back to the only thing I really knew how to do -school- and completed the first year of a Master's program in French. My heart wasn't in it. I worked at a family-owned café on weekends and got pulled from the front lines to do some accounting work and employee training. I was shocked to find that I really enjoyed the behind-the-curtains parts of the business. I spent the next several years as a buyer and manager for Zingerman's Community of Businesses, which is renowned for its leadership, service, and open book finance principles. I eventually left that work to start my own business - Jean Jean Vintage - and I have been doing it ever since. I sell vintage, antique, and original jewelry, with a focus on the Late Victorian-Art Deco Eras. I love being an entrepreneur. It lights up all the parts of my brain. I've grown my e-business from \$0 to \$250K in the last eight years and I am opening a storefront in May - onward! I live in Lansing, MI, with my husband (Soren Anderson, '01) and our two little boys.



Photos from The Big lake and Jean Jean Vintage Facebook pages.

2. How did your time at Macalester and/or in Classics influence or impact your life now?

Emily: I spend a lot of time in my job thinking about the passage of time, the role of jewelry in material culture, and the kinds of objects that people value in their daily life. That frame of mind ties directly to the work I did as a Classics major at Macalester. And when I evaluate, photograph and write descriptions for my sales listings, I always do so with historical context in mind.

Having nothing to do with my business ventures, I will say that one of the lasting gifts of Macalester (other than my husband and my two best friends) is the experience I gained on study abroad in Morocco in 2002. That, more than anything else during my time at Macalester, was life-changing. I have been back to Morocco a few times in the last fifteen years and I remain in close contact with my host family there. I will never forget how supportive and encouraging the Classics faculty was when I chose to study there, even though it was not an obvious choice as an archaeology major.

Abby: I would say that my Classics experience, especially my two summers in Omrit and a J term in Greece, helped to solidify and build my deep appreciation of functional pottery. To unearth the handle of a mug, used by folks thousands of years ago, and hold it in my own hand, led me to think of my own morning coffee rituals in a much more thoughtful way. If someone was to look at my mug, thousands of years from now, I would love for them to hold something that actually meant something to me. Not a cheap, commercially made cup that I picked up from a conference, I want to savor my morning coffee and evening tea with a beautiful handmade mug, in colors I adore, thrown and glazed by an artist's own hands.

The greatest gift of my Macalester education was to realize the value and beauty of being part of a community that takes care of each other. I always find it funny that even though I worked for Congressman Oberstar in DC, I met with him more when I lived on the North Shore! Never did I see our senators in DC, but living in Grand Marais that first year I got to chat with Senator Amy Klobuchar at least twice, and former Senator Al Franken stopped by one time. Growing up in a small town, I thought all changes had to be made at a much higher level, in bigger cities, with fancier titles. It has been a humbling learning experience to realize that much of the change that I see making a difference in my community's day-to-day life starts at the ground level, with a few folks who feel a change needs to be made, so they make that change. I am so grateful I ended up on the North Shore, and especially in Cook County.

3. Do you have any advice for current Classics majors?

Abby: Following graduation, if you do not quickly land your dream job/internship/opportunity, or more importantly if you DO land the "dream" job, but it simply doesn't feel right, don't be afraid to wander. You just might find your true work passion somewhere you would have never imagined. Not in a million years would I have thought I would find such joy as a retail clerk turned general manager of an art gallery, and eventually as a small business owner. My life is nothing close to what I thought it would be following graduation, and I am so grateful that I allowed myself to go off course.

Emily: I would encourage you to explore the tangential professions/trades that might be available to you after studying Classics. Think outside the box of graduate school, museum work, etc. Could you be a gemologist? Could you be a surveyor? Could you be a librarian working with historical documents? Try to hone in on what it is about Classics that you are really drawn to and let that be your beacon for all things post-Macalester. Is it Greek? Is it rocks? Is it the feeling of working with a team in the field at Omrit? Is it languages? Is it something else? Grab that thread and follow it when you find it. It may or may not lead you to further studies in Classics, but it will certainly lead you to meaningful work.



AFTER MACALESTER CLASSICS: NONTREPRENEURS, TWO LANGUAGE MAJORS FOLLOW DISSIMILAR PATHS

IRENE GIBSON '15

BEN SHIELDS '17



What is your favorite memory of the department?

Visiting Andy and the archaeology team in Israel was great! I was conducting research in Jordan, and took a few days off to visit everyone in Jerusalem and travel around together. As it was during the Gaza War, things were very intense, but I learned a lot.

Though I was a languages concentrator (Nanette Goldman had grounds for a restraining order), I also focussed a great deal on archaeology during my time at Mac. So my answer is a tie between the two sub-disciplines. On the archaeology side: I'll never forget my first visit to Herodium, the first site I ever studied seriously, with the Omrit crew. Herodium was the "vacation home" of King Herod the Great (the lovable villain of the Macalester Classics department), built in the present-day West Bank. Seeing the place was like dessert after studying it.

On the language side, for my senior Biblical Hebrew translation project, I chose the Book of Jonah. Reading it, I felt for the first time that the language had at least partially registered in my mind; I could almost relax as I made my way through it. It was a fitting project to end college with, because graduating feels something like being swallowed by a large sea creature who doesn't notice you.

How does what you learned in your major impact your work?

I majored in Arabic under Classics, which I still find very useful. After Mac I did a research Fulbright in Kuwait, where I spoke some Arabic. Recently my research at Oxford deals with refugee movements in Europe, and as part of my research I volunteered at an NGO in Berlin and spoke Arabic to Syrian families there. A lot of fun to talk in Arabic with kids.

I'm not exactly the exemplar for holding down a stable career, but I have been working as a freelance journalist since graduation. Many subjects that I write about are directly linked to my major, the most obvious being a profile of Emily Wilson, the translator of the newest *Odyssey* edition. I'm currently writing for a website about Roman-era archaeological sites in the Middle East and North Africa, and last year I tutored a Biblical Hebrew student for several months. In short, I think about the things I studied in college every day. No matter what I do with my life, there is no disputing that my intellectual foundation lies heavily in my major.

Do you have any advice for young majors?

My advice is to take advantage of an environment where people believe in you. Many of the opportunities I've had, especially abroad, are due to the advice or support of a professor at Mac. Also keep in touch with people- Mac alums are everywhere and they're amazing.

Many times in life, you can feel like you're in the middle of a completely wasted chapter or crushingly uninspiring period of time. The only advice I can offer at my age and life stage is trust that you will revise that opinion much sooner than you think — even when supposedly monumental experiences, such as study abroad, initially present themselves as duds. I hesitate to give any advice at all, because the trajectories I designed for myself as a young major have all disappeared or metamorphosed beyond recognition. The cliché, "follow your heart," really means, when something feels important — do it, despite logistical issues and received wisdom. If you have that luxury, as many Mac students do, then there is no excuse not to! But like any good Mediterranean pagan, don't hide from omens either.

ALUMNI REPORTS

Rachel Wilson '15 is at the University of Southern California earning a Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Screen and Television.

Ellie Heaton, '16 has been accepted into the U of MN's [Heritage Studies and Public History](#) master's program. I will be entering the program this fall and following the archaeology track. This spring and summer it looks like I will be working for the cultural resource management firm 106 Group as an archaeological field technician.

Duncan Griffin '17 has enrolled in the MLIS (Master's of Library Information Science) program at the University of Maryland, College Park, with a Graduate Assistantship in the Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives, a 20 hour/week position, and it includes full tuition remission in addition to a healthy stipend.

Rachel Biesse, '13 and **Michelle Coblens, '16** got together for Shabbat in Jerusalem.

Rachel is attending medical school at the University of Ben Gurion, Beer Sheva, Israel

Michelle has been working at a kibbutz and studying Hebrew at a Hebrew Ulpan for the last six months prior to applying to medical school.



Jake Sawyer (center) visiting Kacie Reilly and Connor North at UC Boulder while checking out grad programs.

Connor North '17 reports: "This past weekend me and KC Reilly had the incredible pleasure of hosting Jake Sawyer at CU. Moving on from college (especially one as awesome as Mac) can be a complicated thing at times, but I always feel lucky to be a part of this extended Mac Classics community that continues to enrich my life in so many ways."

Aaron Beek '06 is an instructor in the History Department at the University of Memphis.

Chris Dayton '98 says, "After majoring in Classics and History at Mac, getting my first archaeological field experience with Andy Overman at Chersonesus, and then following in Andy's footsteps to graduate school at Boston University, I founded the Cultural Resources Division at a small environmental firm in Austin, Texas in 2009. My program now has eight full-time staff archaeologists and five historians working in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Field experience in this region is far less important than a positive, open attitude, critical thinking ability, and writing skills, all of which should distinguish Mac grads from most other candidates." Chris has offered to make himself available to any Mac grads want to work in his region or are just looking for general advice about building a career in CRM consulting (where he tells us, 90% of US archaeology happens). If you are interested, contact the department office to obtain his contact information.

Congratulations to our about-to-be alumni!

Classics Seniors 2018!

Conversations with New Classics Majors

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



At left, Charlotte Houghton, Kayleigh Kaminski, and Miriam Eide

Why Classics?

Miriam: When I came to Macalester I really wanted to study the Middle East and in particular Arabic. I decided to study International Studies and Arabic as a double major. Classics offers me a strong foundation of the historical context for my International Studies major.

Charlotte: I think I've been interested in Classics to some degree since middle school, which is actually when I started studying Latin. I really liked the language, and my teachers always taught us something about the culture as well. I think that's maybe what I like most about Classics, that a lot of stuff from then is still relevant today, even though it's thousands of years old, and it's interesting in its own way. So I really just want to keep studying it and learn as much about the Classical world as I can, because even with all we know and have evidence for, there's still a lot that's a mystery, and I kind of like that. I don't know what I'm going to do with Classics after graduation, but I'll figure something out because it really is something that I care about and want to keep studying.

Kayleigh: Since I was five years old, I've been absolutely fascinated by archaeology and the ancient world. When I came to Macalester, I knew I wanted to study something related to archaeology. During my first year, I took Intro to Archaeology with Andy Overman, and I fell in love with the discipline of archaeology and the Classics department at Macalester. After a trip to Israel to excavate at Tel Shalem with Andy during the spring of my first year, I declared my Classics major, and in the year since then, I've loved the Classics community on the third floor of Old Main. The professors are all real characters who are both incredibly brilliant at what they do and wildly interesting people, and the students are equally wonderful and passionate.

Favorite Classics course so far?

Miriam: Classics 101 with Beth Severy-Hoven. It is fun to relearn history from a less Western-centric perspective.

Charlotte: I love all of the language classes I've taken in the department, both in Latin and Greek: the professors are great, the classes are a good dynamic, and the texts we read are usually just hard enough so that I learn without being overly difficult. But I think my favorite class is the one I'm taking with Beth now, "Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Ancient Greece and Rome." It's my first time taking a class with Beth, who is brilliant, and always facilitates great discussions in class. I'm getting to read a lot of texts that I wouldn't otherwise, and it's really teaching me to think about Classics in a different perspective: how to evaluate sources and be wary of biases and what they can tell us, and how to bring other ideas into conversation with Classical texts.

Kayleigh: Intro to Archaeology with Andy Overman and Greek with Nanette Goldman have been my two favorite Classics courses so far. Andy's class was just so fun and interesting, and Greek is the perfect combination of infuriatingly difficult and wonderfully fascinating that I just love going to class each day—especially on the days Nanette brings food!

Study Away Plans?

Miriam: I am planning on studying abroad in Morocco at AlAkawayn University.

Charlotte: I'm currently planning to study abroad with the ICCS program in Rome next spring.

Kayleigh: I'm planning on studying abroad in Amman, Jordan during the spring of 2019.