

GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

CLASSICS
DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER



FALL 2016

Classics Department Newsletter 2016

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Classics Department Newsletter 2016

From the Classics Department Chair

by GailAnn Rickert



Dear Alumnae and Alumni,

It is a pleasure to send greetings and best wishes for the coming new year, along with our first Classics Department Newsletter. We have been talking about starting a Newsletter for some time, and now Clare Crone, our Administrative Assistant, and Maria Kurt, a sophomore Classics major, have produced our first edition. We look forward to keeping you informed about the Classics department and

hearing from you so that we can learn more about what you are doing and share all the ways that the study of Classics is still a part of your lives.

As you see below, some new faculty have joined our department, and we are excited about the paths into the ancient Mediterranean world their scholarship and teaching will open up for us. Professor Snively is on sabbatical this year, spending time in Athens and the Republic of Macedonia. When she returns, we look forward to hearing about her adventures and sharing them with you.

Please have a look at our Classics Department web page, so you can see what courses we are offering and learn more about our current students and faculty. I hope that you will have occasion to visit us or write if you have any questions or interests we can help you pursue. If you are thinking about visiting campus, please let us know ahead of time so that we can create an opportunity for you to spend some time with our students and faculty.

Many thanks to those of you who have already sent us news! We look forward to hearing more from all of you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Rickert

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Department of Classics

GailAnn Rickert, Chairperson

Carolyn S. Snively, Professor

Rachel Lesser, Visiting Assistant Professor

Benjamin Luley, Visiting Assistant Professor

Christopher Kurfess, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Clare Crone, Academic Administrative Assistant

Classics Website: <http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/classics/>

About the Faculty

Christopher Kurfess –

Having read mainly comic books in my early years, I have studied Classics and Philosophy of one sort or another since my days as an undergraduate in the Great Books Program at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. Despite a quite intimidating first encounter with Greek and the works of Plato and Aristotle in my freshman year, a deep fascination with Greek philosophy took hold, and I eventually wrote a senior paper on Plato's *Republic*. After graduating I enrolled in an M.A. program in Eastern Classics at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I developed keen interests in Sanskrit, the philosophy of the Upanishads, and Zhuangzi. This led, in turn, to intensive study of Greek and Latin at the Latin/Greek Institute at the City University of New York, as well as to further graduate study in East-West Comparative Philosophy at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, in Philosophy at Kings College London (where I wrote an M.Phil. thesis on Plato's *Cratylus*), and in Classics, Philosophy and Ancient Science at the University of Pittsburgh. I received a Ph.D. in Classics from Pitt, having written a dissertation, *Restoring Parmenides' Poem*, on the fragmentary remains of the early Greek philosopher Parmenides of Elea.



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At Gettysburg I am teaching Beginning Latin and Intermediate Latin. I have also taught various courses in myth, classical literature, philosophy and the humanities at the University of Pittsburgh, at West Virginia University, and at Carroll Community College. Areas of current research include the Presocratic poets, the dialogues of Plato, Aristotle's philosophy of nature, and the later reception of classical thought.

I live in Westminster, Maryland with my wife, Sarah, and our son, Leonard.

Rachel Lesser –



Professor Lesser teaches courses in Greek and Latin language and literature, Greek history, and gender and sexuality in ancient Greece. Her primary research interests are in Greek poetry, art, and culture, and she uses a variety of modern critical theories and approaches in her work. She focuses particularly on desire, gender, and narrative in Homeric epic, and is writing a book tentatively titled *Desire and Plot in the Iliad*. She is also interested in the American and

British reception of classics in the 19th–21st centuries, and recently published an article on the Star Wars franchise and the epic tradition in the online journal *Eidolon*. Professor Lesser received her Ph.D. in Classics, with a designated emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality, from the University of California, Berkeley. She also holds a B.A. in Classics from Columbia University, and a second B.A. in Classics and English from Oxford University. She is originally from Amherst, Massachusetts, and enjoys country living, outdoor adventures, ultimate frisbee, playing the cello, traveling, reading, and listening to National Public Radio. Professor Lesser joined the faculty of Gettysburg College in Fall 2016.

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Benjamin Luley –

A native of Central Pennsylvania, Professor Luley received his B.A. in history and anthropology from Penn State University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Chicago. His research focuses on the archaeology of Iron Age and Roman Europe and the Mediterranean, and in particular on how the expansion of the Roman Empire effect the Celtic peoples of France. Professor Luley excavates at the archaeological site of Lattara (modern Lattes), in Languedoc, France, where along with French colleagues he unearthed remains of a first-century B.C. tavern. In addition, he has led Gettysburg College students excavating at the Revolutionary War site of Camp Security near York, Pennsylvania. He has published research articles in journals such as *Antiquity*, the *American Journal of Archaeology*, and the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*.



Carolyn Snively –



Currently on Sabbatical for 2016-17
Academic Year
Read more about Prof. Snively's work
[here](#)

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Prizes and Awards

2016 Spring Honors Day Awards

Shaffer Prize in Classical Studies: Anoush Hana Aghababian
Rachel Marie Grande

Established by Mary M. Shaffer in memory of Dr. William Frederick Shaffer, Franklin Professor of Greek, and awarded to a senior who demonstrated outstanding achievement and promise in Greek, Latin, or classics.

Phi Beta Kappa: Rachel Marie Grande

The Gettysburg College chapter elects to membership around five to ten percent of the senior class who have distinguished academic records and exhibit high moral character and intellectual curiosity.

Fulbright U.S. Student Program Grant: Anoush H. Aghababian

Awarded to facilitate cultural exchange and promote mutual understanding. Anoush has been using this to teach English in Yerevan, Armenia, at the Russian – Armenian (Slavonic) University.

2016 Fall Honors Day Awards

Samuel Garver Latin Prize: Hayden R. Hall

Awarded to the student who has made the greatest progress in Latin during the first year of college; created by Rev. Austin S. Garver.

Hassler Latin Prize: Marni L. Smith

To be awarded to the best Latin student in the junior class; created by Charles W. Hassler.

Muhlenberg First Year Student Prize: Joshua R. Wagner

Awarded to the first year student, taking Greek or Latin, who attains the highest general quality point average; created by Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg.

Events, Organizations, Etc.

Greek Exhibition Field Trip

On Saturday, September 24, 2016, Professor Lesser brought students from two Gettysburg Classics courses (Greek History and Classics of Greek & Latin Literature) to see a visiting exhibition on "The Greeks" at the National Geographic Museum in Washington, D.C. They were joined by Dean Rickert, chair of the Department of



Classics, and Professor Else from the Department of Art & Art History. Everyone had a great time looking at and learning from Greek works of art and archaeological finds dating from the Mycenaean period to the age of Alexander the Great. In the picture, students and faculty--inspired by the exhibition's "Trojan horse"--are ready to storm the museum.

Classics Welcome Party



The Classics Department held a welcome party for Classics majors and prospective majors on Thursday, October 20th, 2016. Professor Lesser, Professor Luley, and Dean Rickert were present to talk about courses and take part in discussions on what the

students would like to see the department do, as well as how to get other students interested in the major. Everyone involved enjoyed the food and had a great time!

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Eta Sigma Phi

A Classics honorary society for students who maintained a B or better average in at least two courses in the department, who are enrolled in an additional classics course. The faculty advisor is Professor Rachel Lesser.

Classics Department News

2015-16 Student Staff



The History Department celebrates our 3 student staff here in the Administrative Office during the Career Development Student Appreciation Week held April 11 – 15, 2016. They were very excited to take their “survival” packages along with

them to help get them through the end of the semester and finals week. From left to right: Anoush Aghababian '16, Classics major; Chentese Stewart-Garner '18, Sociology major; and Keira Koch '19, undeclared but strong interest in History and Classics.

Alumni News

**Thanks to all our alumni who submitted their news!
We look forward to hearing back from you in the
years to come, and always welcome a personal visit to
campus!**

Class of '58

Ada Louise Kreider Steirer –

I ended my career as a Research Associate in Community and Economic Development at Clemson University's Strom Thurmond Institute in 2006,

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was a researcher, editor, and writer. During my teaching career in the fifties and sixties I taught Latin and Russian in Pennsylvania schools.

Class of '68 –

Kenneth Diable –

I have retired as an ELCA pastor. I continue to teach for Mount Aloysius College, Cresson PA, and Saint Francis University, Loretto Pa. I received my PH.D. in Old Testament Studies from Drew University, Madison NJ, in 2007.

Class of '72 –

Gretchen Cranz Fornof –

Majored in Classics and Theater Arts, got M.A.R. from Gettysburg Seminary in 1976, M.Div. in 1996, served a parish for 10 years and am happily retired!!

Class of '88 –

Brendan Gerrity –

A brief update on me since I graduated in 1988 with a Management major and Classics minor. I worked in consulting for a couple of years and then got my MBA from Bucknell. While I was there I was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship and went to study in Sydney, Australia for my second Masters in International Economics. Following graduation, I joined Procter & Gamble in Sydney, working in Marketing/Brand Management for Australia and New Zealand. Subsequent promotions saw me move to the regional office in Singapore, covering ANZ, ASEAN, and India and then to the Hong Kong office, covering HK, China, Taiwan and Korea. I was then headhunted to lead the largest luxury retailer in the Middle East and moved to Dubai. Following 18 years of living abroad, I decided to be nearer to family and moved back to the US and I'm currently based in Southern California, working as VP of International Marketing for MASCO Corp., a branded buildings materials company. In my travels, I've been to over fifty countries, including Greece and Italy multiple times. It was nice to be able to recall the classroom lectures from Weidensall Hall and then be at the actual location, be it the Parthenon, Delphi, the Roman forum or Coliseum.

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Class of '77

Cal Holloway –

Both Laurie '77 and I continue to cherish our time and skills learned in the department. Latin was eliminated from the curriculum of Columbus City Schools last year, so Laurie now teaches English. I continue to use Greek in preparation for my sermons and occasional recreational use.

Scott Morschauser –

Professor of Ancient and Medieval History, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ.

Class of '84

Sam McNew –

Hi! My name is Sam McNew '84 BA in Classical Studies (cum laude). I was promoted to Central Supply Supervisor at the Masonic Village of Elizabethtown PA in June of this year. Though my career path did not take me in the direction of my major, I still love the classics! I'm on a lifetime project collecting Simplicius' Commentary on Aristotle's Physics (thanks to Prof. Coulter) and still pull out my Proclus' Elements and Damascius' On First Principles from time to time.

Class of '90

Darren Poley –

Librarian for theology/humanities/classical studies at Villanova University. I am also currently teaching a first-year experience seminar called “Augustine and Culture: Ancients” that allows me to explore works of ancient literature with freshman at Villanova. Another piece of news: my oldest daughter Emma Poley is a sophomore at Villanova University; is in the Honor Program; and has declared a double major in Classical Studies and Humanities.

Class of '94

Elizabeth Tee –

Continue to run my PR company, Troncosi Public Relations, of 16 years in Bermuda. Bred my Cavalier King Charles Spaniel in May 2016 and she had four healthy puppies.

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Class of '98

Dr. Brent Hege –

I was selected by my bishop to serve as co-chair for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017.

Class of '00

Matthew Sullivan –

Matthew got married on September 18th, 2015 and is currently working for a non-profit fundraiser in Greater Boston.

Class of '02

Anthony Grattini –

I am a Middle School Science Teacher at Southern Highlands Preparatory School Science Olympiad Coach - the middle school students earned 3rd in the state of Nevada in March 2016. Also am a Lego Robotics Coach NJHS Advisor. I'm married and have a 3 year old son named Giuseppe. I love my background in Classics (Latin) as it helps me explain the origin of the many scientific terms with Latin and Greek beginnings. I am grateful to have Dr. Etheridge and Dr. Pool as role models for the type of teacher I strive to be every year. Thanks Gettysburg College!

Class of '04

Darcy Pooler –

Married April 2015 to Scot Pooler. Welcomed daughter Evelyn (prematurely) in December 2015. All are happy and healthy. Darcy is currently a Scientist at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and is the Assistant Director of the Clinical Pharmacology resource at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

Class of '05

Katy Mereen –

I am living in Alexandria, VA, and have lived in the DC area for almost a decade now. I serve as the Executive Director of the Digital Dialogue Forum, a tech policy roundtable. My husband, Tom Wilk, is a fellow Gettysburg 2005 grad (he majored in Philosophy and Economics) and

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we've been married since 2010. We have a two year old son who loves anything orange and blue.

Class of '07

Sarah Dugan –

I was recently promoted within the HR Department at The Kimmel Center for Performing Arts. While not directly related to my studies at Gettysburg, I use what I learned in Classics often!

Patricia Hay –

In addition to my Classics and Anthropology from Gettysburg, I have an M.A. in Applied History and an M.S.Ed. in Secondary Education. I am a Latin teacher for both face to face and online students.

Class of '10

Rachel Buckley –

In 2013 I received my Master's in Elementary Education from DePaul University and in 2015 I received my Master's in Reading from Roosevelt University. I taught kindergarten in the Chicago Public Schools for 3 years before moving to the Hartford, CT suburbs this past summer. I currently teach 4th grade reading at Museum Academy, a magnet school in the Capitol Region Education Council.

Allyson King –

I'm working as an assistant managing editor at Allen Press, which specializes in academic journal publishing. I currently manage the peer review process for 16 publications, ranging from computer science to rubber chemistry to medical studies.

Class of '13

Alexander Skufca –

Alex Skufca is entering his fourth year as a PhD student in the Department of Classics at Florida State University. He has recently given papers at the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. In the summer of 2015, Alex participated in an international program at the Humboldt University of Berlin on "Globalized Classics."

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Class of '14

Andy Monthey –

I recently got engaged to Emily Wagman (Middlebury College, Class of 2013). I also accepted a full-time associate attorney position at Robinson & Cole, a law firm in Boston, Massachusetts. I will be taking the Massachusetts bar after graduating from William & Mary Law School in May of 2017.

Class of '16

Anoush Aghababian –

I recently received a Fulbright scholarship to teach English in Yerevan. Having lived in Japan, accompanied Prof. Snively to Macedonia, and studied in Italy and Indonesia, this is my fifth major abroad experience. I am teaching an advanced-level English course on world art history at the Slavonic University. With interests in classical languages and Early Christianity, I am extremely excited to be exploring the world's first Christian nation. I will be returning to the States in June and will resume my Master's work at the University of Georgia.

Send Us Your News!

Do you have some news you would like to share with the Classic Department and your fellow Classics grads in next year's newsletter? If so, please fill in the information below and return this form to:

Classics Department Newsletter
Gettysburg College Campus Box 394
Gettysburg PA 17325

Or, visit us on the web at:

<http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/classics/>

Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

News: _____

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