



GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

CLASSICS
DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER



2018-2019

Classics Department Newsletter 2018-19

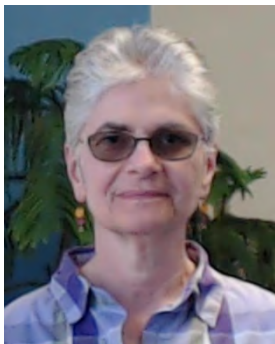
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From the Classics Department Chair

by GailAnn Rickert



Greetings from the Classics Department! I am pleased to report that the Classics Department is thriving. This year we have eight majors and three minors graduating, and our newest faculty member, Prof. Katheryn Whitcomb, has added several courses in ancient history to our curriculum. Our faculty now offer cross-listed courses with three other programs: Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies (Prof. Lesser), Anthropology (Prof.

Luley), and History (Prof. Whitcomb). Our efforts are focused on engaging students not only in the study of antiquity but in discussion and debate about questions of contemporary significance, and we are pleased to find our classes drawing a broad spectrum of students from across the campus.

In addition to a lively set of courses, the department has also had some special events this year. Our chapter of Eta Sigma Phi sponsored the first of what we hope will be a regular activity, an open discussion on a topic in the sphere of Classics and of current interest: *Who Owns Classics?* We explored several topics—the disposition of the Elgin Marbles, the political use of classical themes and art, the Classics curriculum at Gettysburg in the mid-nineteenth century. As I write my note for you, we are preparing to set off for Washington, DC for a performance by the Shakespeare Theatre Company of Ellen McLaughlin's adaptation of the *Oresteia*.

Please drop by our website to see what our students and faculty have been up to recently as well: Francesca Costa's (2019) internship at the Colosseum; Abigail Major's (2019) internship at NASA; and several new publications by our faculty.

We all, faculty and students, very much appreciate hearing from you too. We find the information you send about your professional lives inspiring and look forward to hearing more about your families, travels, and please

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do tell us what you are reading! If you are interested in helping us develop more opportunities for you to be in touch with the department, please let us know.

Finally, I would like to let you know that Clare Crone, our wonderful Administrative Assistant for the Classics and History Departments, will be retiring this summer. Clare has made the departmental office feel like a warm hearth. We have all benefitted from the skillful support she has provided faculty and students, and we are deeply grateful for the kindness, good cheer, candy, and care she has showered on us all for the last four years of her long career at Gettysburg College. We will miss her and wish her all the best. My hope is that Clare will fill in one of our alumni information forms—we would not have this Newsletter without her time and effort—to share what and how she is doing as she moves on to opportunities her retirement from Gettysburg College will bring her way. If you would like to contact her with your personal good wishes, Clare will be available by email through the end of July (ccrone@gettysburg.edu).

As always, we would love to see you and have you meet some students if you are able to visit, so please let us know if you plan to do so.

All best wishes,
Dr. Rickert

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Meet the Faculty

Dr. Benjamin Luley –

Professor Luley started a new project this past summer at the ancient site of Lattara (modern Lattes) in Mediterranean France, which was a Celtic and Roman settlement occupied from approximately 500 B.C. to A.D. 200. Previously, Professor Luley worked on a project exploring the early Roman-period occupation of the settlement itself. In summer 2017, he began a new project with French colleagues to explore the port to the south of the settlement. In Roman times, there appears to be a significant expansion of the port, and this project aims to better understand the extent and chronology of this growth, focusing on an area that has never before been extensively excavated. He excavated there in June-July 2017 and 2018 with three students in anthropology and classics from Gettysburg College.



In addition, Professor Luley led an archaeological excavation near the Gettysburg Battlefield which hoped to find the remains of a farmhouse, named the Riggs House built in the 1840's and which played an important part in the first day of fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. The Riggs House is mentioned in historical records as serving as a hospital during the battle, and was part of General Lee's headquarters. In addition, historical accounts mention that the famous Gettysburg civilian, John Burns, who fought in the first day of battle and was wounded in the fighting, was found lying on the cellar door of the Riggs House. The excavations, which ran throughout the months of September and October 2017 were a part of Professor Luley's ANTH212: *The Archaeology of Pennsylvania* course, and involved both Gettysburg College students and local volunteers from the community.

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The excavations revealed the eastern foundation wall of the foundation, including the famous cellar door where John Burns was found lying wounded.

In addition to fieldwork, Professor Luley is also working on a manuscript for a book exploring the impact that the Roman conquest had on the local Celtic inhabitants of Lattara during the first century B.C. and first century A.D.

Dr. Rachel Lesser –



This has been a fruitful and exciting year with regards to both my research and teaching.

In 2018–2019, I presented and published in several venues on my research specialty of Homeric epic, exploring old and new critical approaches to the study of Homer, and particularly Homeric heroines. In June 2018, I published a brief essay surveying feminist Homeric scholarship and suggesting a queer approach to Homeric heroines entitled “Homeric Studies, Feminism, and Queer Theory: Interpreting Helen and Penelope” in *Cloelia*, the online journal of the Women’s Classical Caucus of the Society for Classical Studies. In March 2019, I delved deeper into this project with a paper called “How Queer is Homer’s *Iliad*?”, which I delivered at Florida State University in Tallahassee as the invited keynote speaker of the Classics Department’s “Classics Week.” I expanded further on the same topic in a conference paper delivered in April at the Annual Meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS) in Lincoln, Nebraska, which was entitled “Queer Hero: Achilleus and Masculine Gender Norms in the *Iliad*.”

I am especially pleased about a forthcoming article that I have written on female Homeric intertextuality entitled “Female Ethics and Epic Rivalry: Helen in the *Iliad* and Penelope in the *Odyssey*,” which will be published

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in the prestigious American Journal of Philology in June 2019. In September 2018, I was invited back to Columbia University to give a lecture to instructors of the core course Literature Humanities on teaching the *Odyssey* to first-year undergraduates. Finally, I am happy this year to have made significant progress on the preparation of my book manuscript, *Desire and Plot in the Iliad*.

In August of 2018, I continued my own education through the Paideia Institute's two-week Living Greek in Greece program focused on speaking Ancient Greek, which took place in a beautiful seaside town on the northern coast of the Peloponnese. In this session, the program was centered around reading and performing in Ancient Greek Euripides' tragedy *Orestes*. I had the opportunity to play the part of Menelaus, the rather heartless Spartan king who returns home from the Trojan War with his reclaimed wife Helen only to abandon his nephew Orestes to be sentenced to death in Argos for the murder of his mother Clytemnestra. It was an amazing experience to immerse myself in Ancient Greek with an intergenerational community of like-minded students and scholars—with plenty of breaks to swim in the sea, relax on the beach, and eat delicious food at beachside cafes. We also spent a delightful weekend contextualizing the play by visiting the ruins of Mycenae and Argos, and exploring the hopping port town of Napflio.

I came back to Gettysburg inspired to teach for the first time a course on Ancient Tragedy (in translation). My students and I had a great time reading and discussing a number of Greek and Roman tragedies, as well as studying modern stage and film adaptations of these tragedies. For their final project, two groups of students wrote their own adaptations of plays by Euripides and performed them to great acclaim in the Stevens Laboratory Theatre on campus in early December.

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Dr. Katheryn Whitcomb -



Dr. Whitcomb began her position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics and History in Fall 2018. She holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University, and the A.B. from Bryn Mawr College. Her interests include the political and social history of the late Roman Republic and early Empire, non-Roman perspectives on Rome, and Hellenistic history. Most recently, she has taught at Haverford College, Villanova University, and

Franklin & Marshall College. In addition to teaching language and literature courses and Greek and Roman History, we look forward to Prof. Whitcomb adding a number of new courses at all levels for Classics and History.

Prizes and Awards

2018 Fall Honors Day Awards

Samuel Garver Latin Prize: Lilian Shea '21

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: Abigail Coakley '20

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

Muhlenberg First Year Student Prize: Lilian Shea '21

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

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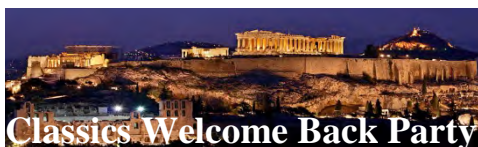
2019 Graduation Banner Carrier: Francesca Costa '19

2019 Spring Honors Day Awards Shaffer Prize in Classical Studies Greek: Madison Cramer '19 Classics: Liam Hamilton '19

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.

2019 Departmental Honors Liam Hamilton Michael Miller Sarah Tokar Meghan Vogel

Events, Organizations, Etc.



The Classics Club, led by Francesca Costa '19 and Sarah Tokar '19, organized the annual welcome back party for Classics majors and minors, as well as potential majors and minors, on September 24th, 2018. The Classics professors were present to speak about the courses they are teaching throughout the year, as well as to talk with students about their interests. There were activities for students to participate in, and everyone enjoyed the food, including Servo cookies, and had a wonderful time!

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Classics Honor Society 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.

Fall 2018 Initiates:

Francesca Costa
 Maria Kurt
 Lilian Shea
 Sarah Tokar



Spring 2019 Initiates:

Jonathan Tracey
 Meghan Vogel
 Oskar Wilander

Classics Department News

Senior Seminar

In the spring, with a graduating class of eight Classics majors, the department offered a Senior Seminar, “Living in the Ancient City.” Throughout the semester, students learned about the social, religious, political, and economic aspects of ancient cities, particularly in Roman cities. Students also worked on individual research projects, which were then presented at the end of the semester in front of faculty, friends, and peers.

Students: Francesca Costa, Liam Hamilton, Maria Kurt, Abigail Major, Mike Miller, Scott Moore, Sarah Tokar, and Meghan Vogel

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2018-19 Student Staff

The Classics and History Departments celebrate our returning student staff for one last year together, here in the Administrative Office.

From left, **Maria Kurt '19** a Classics major and Education minor, **Lillian Shea '21** a History major and Public History minor, and **Keira Koch '19** an Indigenous Studies major and Public History minor.



Maria and Keira will be graduating in the Spring, and Lily will be studying abroad this upcoming Fall.

Classics Students Abroad

Fall 2018

Liam Hamilton '19



Budapest, Hungary

Budapest is not only one of the most beautiful cities in Europe – it's one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Budapest is the first place I've been to outside of the U.S., and I couldn't imagine picking a better place. From the food to the buildings, to the culture, everything about Budapest was

fantastic. I got to go on dinner river cruises, see ancient ruins revamped into bars, as well



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as see ancient buildings and architecture, travel around Europe, and learn about one of the most fascinating places to ever exist.

Spring 2019

Allison Herman '20



Rome, Italy

Rome is an absolutely incredible city, and being surrounded by the ruins has been an absolute dream come true. I have been ecstatic on every field trip my classes have taken to the Forum, to the Palatine hill, the

Colosseum, Ostia, and even a

weekend trip to Pompeii and Herculaneum! Being able to see all of these buildings and monuments with my own eyes has really helped me understand how the ancient city might have been organized spatially, not to mention how truly massive everything that the Romans built was. It has been at the same time everything I expected and more, but also not what I expected at all (for some reason, I pictured places like the Forum to be more compact and boy was I wrong about that!) When I've got my head out of the past, however, I've been having a great time exploring Trastevere, eating gelato, and drinking coffee! One of my favorite dishes that I've had since coming here has been Pasta Amatriciana, and I've been learning how to cook it myself so I can have it - or something similar - to make for my friends and family when I come home! I could not recommend studying abroad here to underclassmen more.

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2019 Graduating Majors and Minors



Francesca Costa – Classics Major with Studio Art and Public History Minors

Samuel Engel – Anthropology Major and Classics Minor

Liam Hamilton - Classics Major and Economics Minor

Maria Kurt – Classics Major and Education Minor

Abigail Major – Classics and History Major with Environmental Studies and Public History Minors

Mike Miller – Classics and Economics Major

Scott Moore – Classics and Political Science Major

Chloe Parrella – History Major and Classics Minor

Sarah Tokar – Classics Major and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Minor

Meghan Vogel – Classics Major

We invite you to connect with Students!

Are you willing to visit campus and talk to students? Are you willing to have students contact you? If yes, what is the best way to reach you!!!

Please fill out the online form and the Classics Department and students will be happy to get in touch and arrange to make this happen.

Click [here](#) or go to

<http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/classics/alumni/AlumniNews.dot>

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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 '69

Charlotte Wilcox

After a way too busy year in 2017, I was able to relax in 2019. BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL continued on Broadway, on tour in the US, on tour in the UK and in Australia. But I had no new shows so I was able to travel. Spent three weeks in Portugal and Spain and it was especially fun as I had taken a year's worth of Spanish lessons. Can't say I was able to speak effectively but I was able to understand and to read which certainly enriched the trip. It was a Smithsonian tour and on it I met the parents of a recent Gettysburg grad which was a lot of fun. Speaking of Gettysburg grads I have one working for me now in my New York office. Nicole Hindley is dedicated and a great addition to the office. BEAUTIFUL just celebrated its fifth anniversary on Broadway. We had a week of festivities and on the actual anniversary Carole King played herself in the final scene. It was thrilling to see her live and up close. Now on to a few new shows in 2019 and 2020. I will be busy this year but am still planning trips to London, Paris and a tour through Germany. Best to all of you.

Class of '90

Darren Poley

Classics major Darren Poley '90 continued his studies earning his M.A. in Religion from The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and his M.S. in Library and Information Science from Drexel University. Since 1998 he has been a librarian at Falvey Memorial Library, Villanova University. He currently is the Associate Director for Research Services and Scholarly Engagement, as well as the theology, humanities & classical studies librarian. He has also been a regular faculty adjunct at Villanova from 2000 to the present, including now teaching in the Augustine and Culture Seminar Program.

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Class of '99

Travis Kreider

After 17 years teaching a variety of subjects, including Latin, I have begun a new adventure. I am now only teaching Latin in Camp Hill schools.

Class of '04

Holly Taylor

Holly is currently working as an early Childhood Educator. This has been her first year back at teaching, after a hiatus for child rearing at Fairville Friends School, a Quaker preschool and kindergarten in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Class of '05

Tom Fraatz

Tom received his PhD in theology from Boston College examining the Book of New Testament and its depiction of the Roman Empire. He is currently teaching at St. Lawrence University.

Class of '05

Amy Yarnell

Amy transitioned into the Master of Library Science program at IU, from which she will be graduating in May. Within the MLS program, she has a specialization in Digital Humanities, so the Classics background is still being put to good use. For her Capstone Project, she is working on creating a digital edition of Tacitus' *Histories*.

In personal news, Amy got married this past May! Her husband and she have two adorable cats. 😊

Class of '07

Sarah Dugan

In 2019 I will be celebrating both 5 years with The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, as well 10 instructing the Musical Theatre program at Chestnut Hill College. I can't say I use my Classics experience in my jobs exactly, I often reminisce about the performances that happened in Prof Cahoon's classes and outside of Plank Gym. And it sure does help my Jeopardy game! If anyone is interested in learning

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about working in non-profits or arts administration, don't hesitate to reach out!

Class of '08

Elizabeth Hocker

I completed my PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of Oklahoma in August. Since graduating, I have been working as an institutional research analyst at a university in Oklahoma.

Class of '13

Alex Skufca

Alex Skufca will defend his dissertation “From Alexandria to Rome: Diodorus Siculus on Late Hellenistic Politics and Universal History” at Florida State University in April 2019. He recently gave a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies and attended a summer seminar given by the Lumen Christi Institute at UC Berkeley on Augustine’s *City of God*. A paper titled “Tyrant and Antityrant: Archetypes and Exemplarity in Nepos’ Sicilian *Lives*” has appeared in *Papers of the Langford Latin Seminar* (May 2018), and the journal *Ancient Society* has accepted his “Political Regimes and the Historian in Diodorus Siculus.”

Class of '14

Logan Tapscott

After completing a Masters of Art in Applied History at Shippensburg University and Masters of Library and Information Science in 2016 at Clarion University, 2018 was a very eventful year. I started my first full job as a contract librarian at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives National Laboratory Center; completed a Digital Curation Certificate through University of Maryland, and moved into Silver Spring, Maryland.

Class of '15

Emily Wilson

Emily is working as a Technical Services Assistant at Chester Public Library and Reference Clerk at Monroe Free Library. She is currently in

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her second semester of Graduate School, pursuing a master's degree in Library and Information Science.

Class of '16

Rebecca Barth

I started my Master's program at Messiah College-Higher Education Student Affairs last summer and I will graduate in May 2020. I am currently in Law and Higher Education and thanking the gods that I had taken Greek Orators as we will be conducting grievance hearings to argue and debate relevant issues in the next couple of weeks.

Class of '16

Anoush Hana Aghababian

I'm at the University of Georgia now, finishing my Masters. My thesis deals with Latin and Classical Armenian deictic pronouns in the Gospel of Matthew. I plan on pursuing my PhD in the Fall 2019 at a program TBD!

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Send Us Your News!

Do you have some news you would like to share with the Classics 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:

<https://www.gettysburg.edu/academic-programs/classics/alumni/>

Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

News: _____

