

Antiquity Now

Macalester College Classics Department Newsletter

2014



Shown at left:
The Omrit conservation team, summer 2014;
Professor Andy Overman,
Joey Frankl '14, Jesse Kling '17, Autumn Cole '14,
Rachel Wilson '15, Kelsey Coia '16, Ella Heaton '16,
Erin Gibbs '09, Kiyal Eresen '14.

Photo by Irene Gibson '15

Macalester College Classics Students Put Their Educations to Work

Welcome to ANTIQUITY NOW

ANTIQUITY NOW is an update and review of activities and opportunities in the Macalester College Classics department. Students and faculty have a lot to share with respect to publications, internships, new classes, study away and research abroad, and our alumni continue to do important and interesting things around the globe. So *ANTIQUITY NOW* provides a way for us to stay in touch and on top of what's new in *Antiquity*. Thanks to Herta Pitman our multi-gifted Department Coordinator for pulling *ANTIQUITY NOW* together. And many thanks to all the faculty, students and graduates of Macalester Classics who make the department such a lively and rewarding place to be. *ANTIQUITY NOW* is a publication of the Classics department which comes out twice a year.

Dates to remember:

Nov. 11

Study away & pre-registration lunch

Nov. 17 - Dec 5

Spring 2015 registration

Dec. 5

Study away application deadline

Dec. 1, 2 & 3

Senior Capstone presentations

July 2015

Summer Archaeological Conservation Field School in Omrit, Israel

January 2016

January in Rome

Below: Students from the Spring 2014 Classics Research Seminar gathered to celebrate publication of their joint volume.



Inside this issue you'll find:

- ~My DC Summer: Find out what four classics students did in the nation's capitol.
- ~Omrit Reflections: Student experiences participating in an archaeological conservation project in Israel.
- ~An Excavation in Macedonia
- ~Arabic Cottage: A new housing option for students who want to improve their Arabic language skills.
- ~People of Jordan
- ~Classics Department Prizes
- ~Classics Professor Updates: Beyond their classrooms, classics professors are engaged in research, writing and projects
- ~New Classics Courses
- ~Amici Classicorum

“My DC Summer”:

What Four Classics Students did in the Nation’s Capitol

In summer 2014 many of our students did internships in DC. Four of them share their experiences.

Interning with the DOJ -Alejandra (Lexii) Carillo ‘15

This summer, I interned at the Department of Justice's Criminal Division at the Office of International Affairs. The experience augmented my awareness of the international community, as I was able to interact directly and diplomatically with foreign officials. My professional and legal Spanish improved through the drafting of diplomatic notes and conversations. Furthermore, I learned the intricacies of writing prosecutors' and agents' affidavits and witness declarations. Working under real deadlines on the behalf of real victims was truly a rewarding experience. Additionally, the location of this internship was one of the best parts. Washington, D.C. is a really amazing city with a lot to offer.



Above: Grace Ablan and fellow ADC interns had a private meeting at the Lebanese Embassy with Excellency Antoine Chedid, Ambassador of Lebanon to the United States.

Protecting Arab-American Rights -Grace Ablan ‘16

I was honored to be accepted into the Anthony Shadid Internship Program at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) in Washington, DC. As the granddaughter of Lebanese immigrants to the United States, I have always felt a strong tie to my family's home in the Middle East, so I was ecstatic to have my chance to represent my community, learn more about my heritage, the plight of the Palestinian people, and the struggles of the Arab-American community post-9/11.

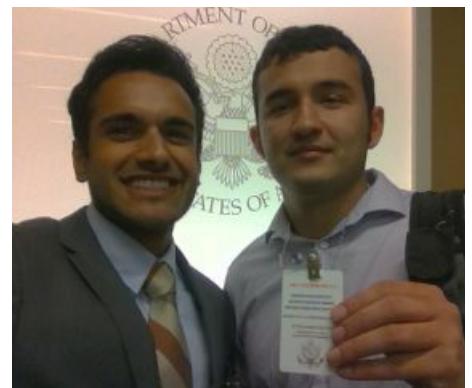
I doubt that I will ever forget my first day at ADC. I remember walking through the door and being greeted immediately by a kind “saba al-khair” from one of my coworkers before being offered enough baklawa and coffee to feed an entire village. I remember walking down the hall of the office and seeing flags of Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine among others. I remember meeting my fellow interns and breaking the ice with a heated discussion about whether shawarma from Barbar or shish taouk from Kababji is the best sandwich in Hamra. I remember the vice-president of ADC inviting us into his office with a warm “ahla w sahla.” I knew right away that I was going to feel at home at ADC

What I did not know before arriving at ADC, however, was that this experience would challenge and change me in so many positive ways. During my time at ADC, I got to draft press releases, action alerts, and updates. I researched topical issues, assisted in drafting letters to the editor in response to biased press coverage, and even helped respond to media and public information requests. I helped organize the largest annual gathering of Arab-Americans, the ADC National Convention. I met ambassadors and other dignitaries. I went to protests and rallies. I discussed topical issues with some of the most important leaders in our community.

My summer at ADC was truly an unforgettable experience. I will cherish the memories and incredible learning opportunities as I work to complete my undergraduate education and begin to develop my professional life. Shukran kteer, ADC!

Interning with the DOS -Salman Haji ‘14

After graduating from Macalester, I began a summer internship in Washington, DC at the U.S. Department of State. I served in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Office of English Language Programs. This experience taught me the positive impact Public Diplomacy plays in international relations of the US and other countries through a "behind the scenes" look at budget allocation, participant selection and orientation, program evaluations and communication between Washington and embassies overseas. After my internship, I began my first semesters as an MA in International Affairs candidate at American University. Believe it or not, but Macalester prepared me extremely well for a graduate education.



Above: Dairush Ubaydi (Classics Major '14) visits Salman at his internship.

“My DC Summer” continues on the next page.

Interning at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington DC: An Interview with Duncan Griffin '16

What did you do at the Center for Hellenic Studies (CHS)?

This summer I worked as a Publications Intern at the CHS. I formatted scholarly articles and book chapters to eventually become eBooks. I spent the bulk of my time formatting the works according to CHS standards.

Describe the CHS.

The CHS is a research center run by Harvard University whose purpose it is to facilitate the study of the ancient Greek world. Every year the Center hosts a number of visiting professors from colleges and universities across the world who in turn get to use the Center's vast library and other resources to conduct their research. The CHS also publishes articles and books whose subject matter has to do with the Greek world.

The CHS is located in Washington, D.C. It is situated within a beautiful forested area, not far from Georgetown. Quiet and green, the whole place is really quite thoroughly isolated from the hustle-bustle one might expect of the city.

How did you get the internship?

After hearing of the opportunity, I did a bit of research and was immediately sold. It was a classics internship, located in Washington, D.C.; furnished housing was provided; there would be buffet-style lunches on weekdays; and it was paid. First, I sent in a personal statement, a resume, a cover letter, and two letters of recommendation. A few weeks later they scheduled me for a fifteen-minute video interview, which took place a few days later. Shortly after that they emailed me to tell me that I had gotten the internship. Throughout the application process I was doubtful about my chances. I was shocked to actually get it. It really is an attainable opportunity, and well worth the time and effort.

What did you learn from your experience at the CHS?

While I did learn a number of useful new skills, what I really took away from this internship was the experience of being exposed to the world of classical academia. I spent every day in the midst of scholars, often at the top of their field, who lived and worked at the Center. It was a unique pleasure to be able to sit down with a visiting professor and chat for a little while about his or her work over lunch, to not only learn about interesting subject matter but to really gain insight into how scholarship happens.

What was it like to live in Washington, D.C.?

Living in D.C. was amazing. To begin with, all the museums and monuments are spectacular; even after a summer living there I did not see all the sights D.C. has to offer. Personally, I most enjoyed spending my free time wandering through the city's bookstores. Washington, D.C. has some truly great ones. Public transportation was great as well, the Metro in particular. Getting where I wanted to go without a car was inexpensive and easy to do without getting lost.

What was your average day like?

Mornings I would take the short walk from the interns' house to the office, where I would work for roughly six hours, with a break for lunch. Most of my time was spent in an office with the other Publications Interns, where we would work on our CHS-provided Mac laptops to format whatever we happened to be in the middle of. The nature of my work allowed me to go at my own pace and according to my own method. I usually listened to music while working. After work, I would walk back to the house and relax, sometimes with the other interns, sometimes just reading a book. One thing I especially liked was the flexible system by which we scheduled our thirty-hour workweek. We could get into the building to work at any time, and our schedule was remarkably flexible. I sometimes worked a few hours over the weekend to make up for hours I would miss because of plans I had made for a weekday.

Has this internship led you closer to pursuing a career in classics?

Before this internship, a potential career in classics was certainly on my radar for the future. Having completed the internship, it remains very strongly on my radar, but I now have the benefit of having been exposed to the world of classical academia. I don't know for certain what I will do after I graduate, but this internship has certainly made me give serious consideration to my options that involve a future in classics. This internship has given me an invaluable glimpse into what such a career might be.

The Summer Archaeological Conservation Field School in Omrit, Israel

In summer 2014 the Classics department opened the inaugural season of the Archaeological Conservation Field School. The field school is held at the Omrit site in northern Israel that Macalester has been excavating for fifteen years. The department has partnered with Israel Antiquities Authority conservation staff to study and practice conservation and preservation methods on the site. A group of ten worked for most of July on the materials and buildings that have been uncovered through the course of excavations. They also traveled throughout the country, visited and studied other archaeological sites, as well as topics related to tourism, and exhibition practices. They also stayed in Jerusalem for several days following their fieldwork. Erin Gibbs, ('09 in Classics) was Associate Director of the program and the Field Director for the team.

Below: 1. Omrit Conservation Project team 2014

-Photo by Irene Gibson

2. Joey Frankl and Kelsey Coia on the site.

3. Step conservation by Autumn Cole, Ella Heaton and Erin Gibbs



Omrit Conservation Project Participant Reflections

-Rachel Wilson '15

The three weeks I spent in Israel this July were absolutely amazing. Over the course of the trip, I lived on a Kibbutz, worked on an archaeological site, swam in the Mediterranean, and traveled around the country. All of this on its own would have been lovely, but the trip was made even more memorable because of the people traveling with me. Since our group was small, we got to spend a lot of time together, and I can honestly say that I enjoyed getting to know everyone. There was rarely a minute that went by where we weren't laughing about something, whether it was finding a particularly large cockroach in the kitchen or playing egg-ball at the site. I am so glad I got to have all of these exciting adventures with such a wonderful group of people!

-Ella Heaton '16

This trip was full of hard work, but a lot of fun. Andy's selfies are priceless. The small group of students plus Erin and Andy allowed us to get to know each other really well and work as team. I count every member of the group as a friend and I'm so happy these were the ones who got to come along. We all meshed really well and learned so much from each other. The insects were a challenge: from the cockroaches in the bathroom to the spiders on the ceiling to the ants everywhere. But the bees were the worst. Running from bees was my primary aerobic exercise in Eretz Israel. I was stung at least 5 times, all on my upper left arm. These insects also caused me to involuntarily throw my sandwich out of sheer fear. Eggball: The hitting of superfluous hard-boiled eggs with a scrap of site wood as if it were a baseball. The ladies at the kibbutz who packed our lunch will never know.

-Joey Frankl '14

Using an ancient rhetorical device, I will not discuss the facts of my field experience this summer in Israel. I will not name our world-leading Israeli conservation instructors or relate my amazement at watching a centuries old fresco be removed from an ancient synagogue wall. I certainly will not discuss our private tour of the UNESCO world heritage site, Akko, led by the Director of the Israeli International Conservation Center. Instead, I will call attention to the rarity of Undergraduate Field Schools in Archaeological Conservation. Most American collegiate institutions will not invest the time and money to train undergrads in such a niche set of skills. Also, unlike traditional excavation, conservation is neither glorious nor tangible. But, as I learned during my four years at Macalester, it has always been the goal of Andy Overman and the Macalester Classics Department to foster well-rounded, ethical, and sympathetic scholars. So, this summer, as we applied lime-based mortars to the steps of a 2,000 year-old Roman temple, I understood that we were cultivating our skills as conservators to ensure the survival of ancient materials for generations to come. This underlines the mission of the humanities: sharing.

-Kiyal Eresen '14

What I loved about this trip was that it wasn't just about conserving an ancient site, which in itself was extraordinary and daunting at the same time, but it was also about being part of political history. Right in the middle of a live crisis, we had to experience what it means to watch events unfold just a couple hours away and to feel helpless. We learned how to be composed in the face of such helplessness and we learned it from the people in the kibbutz who were only concerned about the human lives. We acquired invaluable knowledge on stone and plaster conservation from the few best in their fields. Their enthusiasm in sharing their knowledge had a great impact on us. We got to implement that in Omrit with the guidance from the best professor and the best mentor. The guidance and energy of Prof. Overman and Erin Gibbs made all the difference for us students in contributing to the site.



Above: Ruth Kendrick '17, Almutaz Alnaas '17, and Celeste Robinson '16.

Arabic Cottage: A new housing option for students who want to improve their Arabic language skills.

Starting in September 2014, the Classics Department's Arabic language students have the option of living in The Arabic Cottage. An article about this new opportunity appeared in the Mac Weekly here: <http://themacweekly.com/2014/05/arabic-house-living-option-offered-for-2014-15-academic-year/>

Arabic Cottage Report -Celeste Robinson '16

Greetings from the Arabic house! We are very excited to be living in a new language house this year. The Arabic house was created because of student interest and a rapidly growing Arabic program. We're happy to see so much energy around learning Arabic at Macalester and we want to make the Arabic house a resource for our community. Since we moved in, we've been practicing Arabic with each other, labeling household items with Arabic, and hosting group study sessions. We're planning to host some great events over this year, including an Open House, movie discussions, a speaker, and a weekly conversation hour with tea. Hopefully we can collaborate with groups like MENAA, MacSUPER, MacHOPE, Food Hub, and other language houses to bring meaningful and fun events to campus. Keep an eye out for announcements about our events, and feel free to come visit any time! We want to give many thanks to Professors Wessam El-Meligi and Andy Overman! We wouldn't have an Arabic house without your support.

Love, The Arabic house!
(Mutaz Alnaas '17, Martine Cartier '17, Ruth Kendrick '17, Celeste Robinson '16)

An Excavation in Macedonia -Ben Shields '17

This past July I participated in an excavation at the ancient city of Stobi in Macedonia. I worked with a dozen or so other students, ranging from college age to early 40s, on the largest known home in ancient Stobi. This home is of significance not only for its size and obvious wealth, but also because emperor Theodosius I likely stayed here during his visit in 388 AD. While in Stobi, Theodosius banned heretic gatherings and also outlawed any public discussion regarding religion. The home is decorated with many lavish Christian icons and symbols (Stobi is known for its mosaics and excellent preservation), but at its center, where the owner slept, some Dionysian imagery can be found.

Our section, a 5x5m square, was actually dug up once before prior to the first World War, long before Stobi's most famous excavator, Jim Weisman, ever got there (Weisman is a former teacher of Professor Andrew Overman's -- the Classics world is so small!). But time, not to mention lousy record keeping, necessitated a redo. Most of the objects in the area were probably removed the first time, but that didn't mean we couldn't find anything ourselves. The highlight was an oil lamp fragment with the Christian chi-rho. Holding it sent chills up my spine.

It's not all glamour, though; we started digging every morning at 6:40 and went until 1pm. By 8am, it was in the mid 80s, and by lunch it was pushing 100. It didn't take an archaeologist to figure out why there is no Islamic period at Stobi. In the evening, we heard lectures about coins, pottery, religion, and the like. We usually cleaned newly unearthed pottery as well, learning about different motifs as we went. On weekends we visited other Macedonian cities, including the remarkable Ohrid. You must go if you're ever in this country!

As long as you don't drink the tap water, Macedonia -- Alexander's homeland -- is an extraordinary place, unlike any you've probably ever visited. No Classicist should miss it.

Classics Department Prizes 2014

In spring 2014, the classics department established The Jeremiah Reedy Prize to honor the legacy of Jeremiah Reedy, a classics professor who retired in 2004. The first recipient of the Reedy Prize is Salman Haji '14, a classics student who has provided exceptional service to the classics department, as did the scholar for whom the prize is named.

The 2014 Virginia McKnight Binger prize for outstanding students in Latin or Greek was awarded to Rebecca Boylan, Joseph Frankl, Nora Kassner, and Jiaochen Ke, all class of 2014.

Photo to right: Jeremiah Reedy Prize plaque.



People of Jordan –Irene Gibson '14

It was incredibly nice to return to Irbid, Jordan again. Though my last time I was there for study abroad and lived with students, this summer I received a grant to conduct independent research and live with a host family. My second experience was completely different; I felt much more integrated into Jordanian culture, especially as I was one of the only Americans in the entire city.

While in Jordan, I worked on three projects: interviewing Jordanians and Syrians about Syrian refugees for Macalester's International Roundtable in October, researching cultural exchanges for one of my senior capstones, and conducting a study on how Jordanian university students perceived Americans and where those perceptions came from. And, of course, I practiced my Arabic all the while; it was so awesome to be in a country that spoke it again!

Below are little snippets of what my experience was like; for more stories, feel free to visit altalbh.blogspot.com, where I posted about my experiences abroad.

I often write about larger, more general themes in my blog, so I'd like to take some time to write down individual short stories about people I've met. These stories are just stories that stuck out to me, and in no way definitively do or don't represent Jordanians as a whole. They just represent the Jordanians I've talked to as people, not as a people. I have far more stories than these: here are just a few that have affected me the most.

- I met a professor who cannot stand the Jordanian government, because he believes it acts as if it is God.
- I met a student who hates the Jordanian government because it is corrupt.
- I met a man who hates the Jordanian government because he knows people who have been abducted in the middle of the night for speaking out, then return a week later with marks and bruises all over their body.
- I met a student who said he was using his personal connections to keep his record clean; otherwise he wouldn't get a job. He had gotten in a fight when he was barely a teen; that dispute would cost him his employment if someone found out, now that it's ten years later.
- I met a refugee who isn't Muslim anymore, she's atheist, but doesn't dare tell any of her relatives because she knows they'd kill her.
- I met a student who loves Islam, but continually tries to research and interpret on his own because he's sick and tired of hearing sheikhs say that Jews and Christians are enemies of Islam when he goes to mosque. Sometimes, he meets with these sheikhs to argue with them about their interpretation. His stories reminded me of staying after mass to argue with a priest about how Islam isn't a religion of terrorists.
- I met a relative that believes Hamas is a terrorist organization, and wants to save the Gazan people from dying by getting rid of Hamas. He also believes ISIS is not Muslim, because Muslims do not kill Muslims. I hear that a lot about ISIS; nobody likes them here.
- I met a boy who hates gays because it is forbidden to be gay in Islam. He's gay.
- I met a student who said he had no idea that Jews wanted peace in Gaza; a link on my Facebook page was the first time he had even heard of the idea, and he was astounded. He shared it with his friends, but they didn't believe it was real.
- I met a son who was so eager to please me at his family's house that he spent more than the family normally spent in a week so that he could provide me with a classic Jordanian meal and desserts and snacks and tea and juice.

Jordanians suffer the same problems and overcome them for the same victories that Americans do, but do it in a different way. People fear coming out as gay, people fear doubting their religion, people want to speak contrary opinions but fear community reaction in Jordan, in the U.S., and all across the world. It's not the same risk or the same situation or the same culture. But it is the same humanity.



Irene posing and dancing with Jordanians

Classics Professor Updates

Beyond their classrooms, classics professors are engaged in research, writing and projects.



Beth Severy-Hoven writes to us from Rome

"My book, *The Satyrca of Petronius: An Intermediate reader with Guided Review*, was published this spring by the University of Oklahoma Press. This book began five years ago as a Keck summer grant with Chris Larabee, '11 and was changed dramatically after being used by several Macalester Latin classes. Student input was a key to the success of the book. Teaching abroad is a major focus of last year and this. In January, we took 20 Macalester students to Rome for two and a half weeks of lectures, projects and pasta, and this year I'm serving as the professor in Charge of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. And I'm happy to report that my work teaching, publishing, and working in such capacities at the college as the Strategic Planning Committee were recognized in some significant way last year. I was promoted to become a Professor of Classics, and in addition was awarded by the Provost a Trustee Prize for distinguished service. It was a good year.

-Beth and her daughter at Ostia

Congratulations to Beth on her New Book, *The Satyrca of Petronius: An Intermediate Reader with Guided Review*

Severy-Hoven's latest book "Makes Petronius' elegant, raunchy masterpiece accessible to a new generation of students of Latin"

Find it here: <http://www.oupres.com/ECommerce/Book/Detail/1865/the%20satyrca%20of%20petronius>

Brian Lush's List

-My article "Combat Trauma and Psychological Injury in Euripides' Medea" finally came into print in the fall in the journal *Helios*, volume 40.1 (spring 2014)

-The article that came out of my research last summer, titled "Popular Authority in Euripides' Iphigenia in Aulis," is forthcoming in the *American Journal of Philology*, volume 136.2 (June 2015). This is one of the field's most well known and prestigious publications!

-The article that I completed during my sabbatical ("'What Sacrifices Are Necessary': Departure from Ritual Paradigms in Euripides' Electra") is currently under review at an inter-disciplinary Humanities journal

-I've completed an article on Euripides' Helen titled "Simulation, Seduction and Helen's 'Clone Story'" that is in the final stages of revision. I plan to send it off within the next month or so.

-In April 2014, I gave a presentation at the annual meeting of CAMWS of my work on Iphigenia in Aulis.

-On Sept. 19, I presented at Macalester's interdisciplinary colloquium, Visualities of Memory, on the topic of war trauma in Greek Tragedy.

- I'll be presenting my recent research on Euripides' Helen in November to the Humanities Faculty Colloquium and as an invited lecture on Feb. 6 in the Dept. of Classical and Near Eastern Studies at the U of M.

Andy Overman Writes

In addition to chairing the department, directing the Field School in Omrit, and developing and teaching new courses, Andy has had several publications come out this year. He published an article on "The Economy of Galilee in the Roman Period" for Fortress Press in their monograph *Galilee in the First Century: Archaeology, History and Text*. He also published an article on the Roman Imperial Cult entitled, "Jesus, Mark and Caesar: The State of the Relationship in the First and Second Century" in a festschrift published by Eisenbraun's for James, S. Strange; an article entitled "The Destruction of the Temple and the Conformation of Judaism and Christianity" in a volume, *Jews and Christians in the First and Second Centuries: How to Write Their History*; and a chapter in Blackwell's *A Companion to the Archaeology of the Roman Republic* entitled, "The Archaeology of Palestine in the Republican Period."

Wessam El-Meligi reports...

I'm teaching Arabic for the third year at Macalester. I'm enjoying the wonderful experience of coming back after being here the first time as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in 2008-9. Arabic classes are growing, with over 40 students studying Arabic this fall. The number of students majoring in Classics/Arabic is increasing. We now have an Arabic Cottage for the first time. Study abroad for Arabic is moving to new countries, from mainly Jordan and Morocco to include Oman and the United Arab Emirates. The travel warning for Egypt has been lifted so I'm keeping an eye on that hoping we can offer January in Alexandria for students of Arabic. I visited my hometown, Alexandria, Egypt, this summer, to see family and friends and catch up on reading the most recent Arabic novels. I have added a few things to a class comic book I have used in the past two years here, a graphic novel adaptation of one of Egyptian writer Naguib Mahfouz's short stories. I illustrate the graphic novel and students write the script in both Arabic and English, after they have read the original. I am also busy redecorating my office with poems written in Arabic and illustrated by students. I gave a radio interview to WCCO about developments in the Middle East. I also gave an interview to Committee Films who have been commissioned by History Channel to make a TV show called *Monsters, Myths & Legends* that will be aired sometime in 2015. I talked about the origins of Djinn and Genies in early Arabic culture. I also moved to a new house, not as close to campus this time, but I still enjoy walking to campus and I enjoy giving independent classes in the evenings. Until it starts snowing, that is.

Nanette Goldman's Work is (about, and to) Play.

I am currently teaching a wonderful group of first year students in a course called "Tenors in Togas," in which we study operas based on Greek and Roman myths and legends. The focus of our inquiry is the adaptation of Latin and Greek stories and texts for the musical stage. In addition to our activities in the classroom, we will attend musical performances related to our work in various Twin Cities venues. I'm also teaching the first semester of our 2-year Hebrew sequence, as well as an advanced Hebrew independent study on fathers and daughters in the Hebrew bible and the Rabbinic literature. I serve as co-advisor for the senior honors project of Rachel Wilson. Rachel is writing a novella based on the lives of three historical women from Mediterranean antiquity. During the summer I performed in the orchestra for the musical *Evita* at the Ordway Theater in St Paul. I accompanied in a string quartet the singers John Legend, Jessica Sanchez and Lee Greenwood. I have a full fall and winter schedule of performances with the Minnesota Sinfonia and the Lake String Quartet. In late September I was featured as a guest on MPR's Music with Minnesotans, hosted by Steve Staruch.

A link to the audiocast is here:

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/music-with-minnesotans-nanette-goldman>

Tenors, Togas, Tears: An Interview with Nanette Goldman

How did you come to develop this course?

In graduate school I taught a course on the hero in ancient literature. When we came to the section on Aeneas I thought the students might like to break up the routine of reading and discussion and just listen to music on the subject. Dido and Aeneas by Purcell has long been one of my favorite works so it was a natural choice to teach to the students. I fell apart when I was playing for them; 'Dido's Lament'. I still can't discuss it without shedding a few tears. I am drawn to musical adaptations of classical stories. When teaching Ovid's Metamorphoses, I also found much that composers and librettists had borrowed for their operas over the centuries. The opportunity to teach a First Year Course gave me the reason to formulate something new, so the course was born.



What do you love about this subject?

Sometimes the beauty or sorrow of an ancient story defies words. Music can be a way of accessing the emotional content, without the restrictions of the verbal language. Opera of course has text, but for me it is the musical setting that is the most powerful.

What is your favorite part of the course so far?

I'm really enjoying watching the students who don't know, or have a lot of familiarity with opera, become comfortable listening to the music and expressing their reactions. I'm also constantly surprised by the range of astute observations. Every day I am schooled by these sensitive first year students.

You are also a Professional Musician. What instruments do you play?

Violin and viola

How many nights a month on average do you perform?

15-20 nights a month

What is one of your coolest moments or memories performing with a rock star?

The high point was backing Led Zeppelin at the Target Center, although The Who is up there and also the Talking Heads' David Byrne. I love the screaming crowd, and big stage, and sharing musical moments with great performers.

How do you balance your love of classical languages and music?

In practical terms, the balance works out by divisions in the day. During the day, I'm teaching and at night and on weekends, I can perform. But more broadly, language, especially poetry, and music are natural partners. There is so much of the ear involved in sensing and remembering the rhythms of any language, classical or otherwise. So really they are integrated endeavors and the balance just happens organically.

Anything New in Classics?: 2014-2015 courses that have not been offered before

This semester Classics is offering *Introduction to Museum Studies*, along with Anthropology and Fine Arts. The class is team-taught by Professors Andy Overman and Olga Gonzalez of Anthropology. *Tenors in Togas* is a first-year course being taught by Professor Nanette Goldman. Spring Semester will find Professors Wessam El-Meligi and Andy Overman team teaching a new course called *FRENEMIES: Calaphate and Byzantine Empire in late Antiquity*, and Professor Overman will also be teaching a two-credit course on *Dialogue on the Modern Middle East*.



Alejandra (Lexii) Carillo declares her Classics Major.



Students in *Introduction to Museum Studies* get hands-on instruction from Erin Gibbs '09 about preservation techniques.

Amici Classicorum*

Interested in supporting a classics student or becoming one of the *AMICI* of Macalester Classics? You can help by providing financial aid for international travel and research for one of our students. If you are interested in helping out, contact our chair, Professor Andy Overman at: Overman@macalester.edu

* Roughly translated, "Friends of Classics"