



Above: The rock, the flags, the bell.

Antiquity Now

MACALESTER COLLEGE CLASSICAL MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Classics Carries On

This issue of *Antiquity Now* follows a year of adjusting to the pandemic, and global and local crises. When we published our 2020 issue of *Antiquity Now*, I did not expect we'd still be "Bringing Our World to Students' Homes" mostly via Zoom, a full year later. The resilience and creativity demonstrated by our cohort of faculty and students is inspiring, and further confirms my faith in your ability to achieve the unimagined, once you have imagined it. It has been my privilege to assist in helping you realize your goals, for decades from Old Main 311, and this year mostly from my home. And it is my pleasure to bear witness (often in the pages of *Antiquity Now*) to those accomplishments. This newsletter is another celebration of accomplishments that have been achieved while adapting to unknowns, and to frequent changes.

-Herta



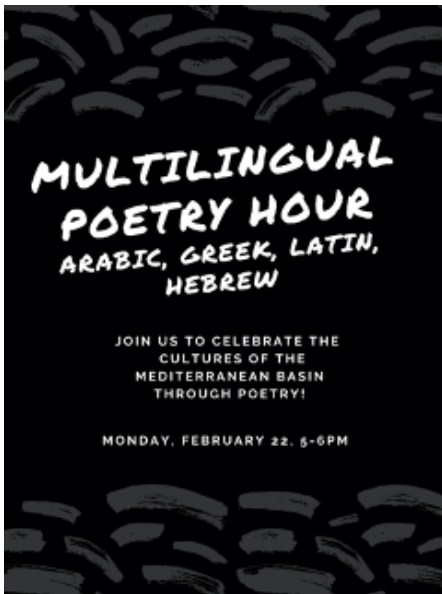
at the 2020 "Scarving Ceremony"

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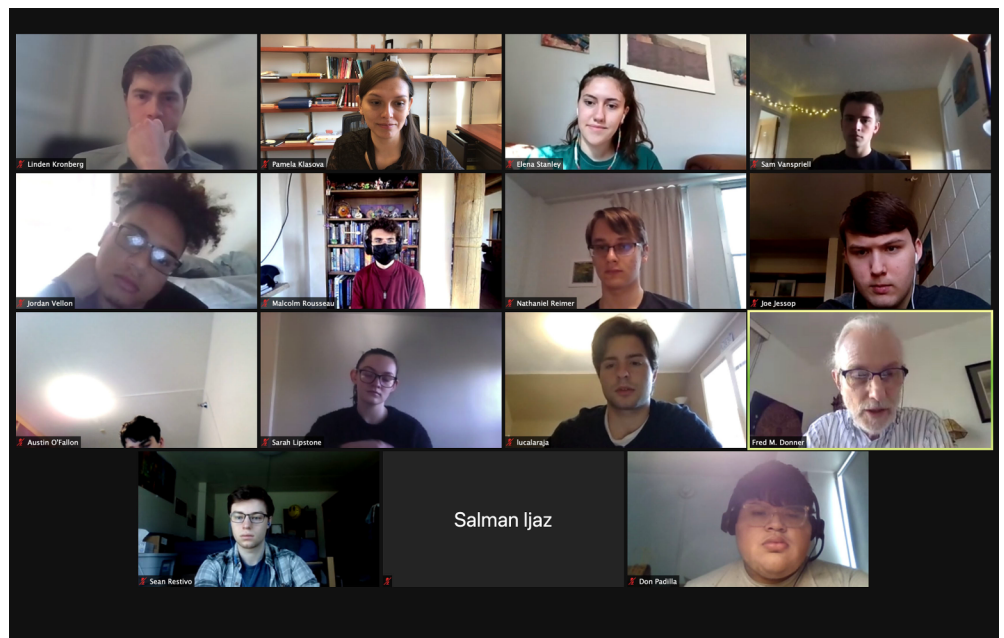
ANTIQUITY NOW is an update and review of activities and opportunities in the Macalester College Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department. Each edition shares student and faculty news in respect to publications, internships, new classes, study away and research abroad, and highlights alumni who continue to do important and interesting things around the globe.

EVENTS AND UPDATES



On February 22, we celebrated the languages and cultures taught in the Department of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East through poetry! Students recited poems in Arabic, Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. English translations were provided.

In late March, Professor Pamela Klasova had Fred Donner, author of *Muhammad and the Believers*, and much more, come as a guest to class.



Cordelia Jones, '21 was at her off-campus home to receive delivery of departmental swag. In this photo, Cordelia, a Classics minor, has just received the Classics travel mug, and a History mug.

CURRENT STUDENTS

Students in the "India and Rome" course did "E-ssignments" once again, and had some really creative ones. Professor Andy Overman shared an assignment done by Isabelle Trueblood, who attended class from Cairo. Isabelle's rap about Symmachus and Bishop Ambrose in their debate c. 380 CE. is available on YouTube, [here](#).



Students in Introduction to Archaeology laid out their squares on Shaw Field.

(photo by Andy Overman)

Congratulations to Classics Department Prize Winners

Please join the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East Department in congratulating our 2020-21 prize recipients. Congratulations to Zhiyuan Wang for earning the Jeremiah Reedy Prize in Classics, and to Amy Vandervelde for earning the Virginia McKnight Binger Prize in Classics. Visitors to the third floor of Old Main may now find their names added to our commemorative plaques (or see them in the photos below.)



Alumni Events and News

MacTogether Event with our Alumni

In February, our Alumni Office hosted a MacTogether event that focused on work being done in the Middle East by our alumni, **Farah AlHaddad '17** and **Rick Lechowick '04**. A recording is available on YouTube [here](#).



At left, Farah AlHaddad



At right, Rick Lechowick

The event prompted alumnus **Don Mackenzie '66** to write, "We just finished watching your program on the Middle East by two totally amazing students. Our tears cannot stop flowing! Thank you for all that you are doing."

and **Greg Olson '78** wrote too. He offers to serve as a resource to our students. He is an experienced professional development specialist, with a geographic focus on the Middle East, East Africa, and South Asia. In the ME, he has worked in Egypt, Yemen, West Bank/Gaza, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and South Sudan. He has held senior management positions, including Chief of Party, on 7 projects in transitional/post-conflict areas. Greg's work often been at the intersection of humanitarian assistance and sustainable development, with experience in livelihoods, agriculture, water & sanitation, education, governance and community development. He has additional experience in contract management, project start-up and close-out and monitoring, evaluation and learning. Greg has an undergraduate degree in cultural anthropology from Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota and advanced degrees in education (American University in Cairo) and international business (Thunderbird). He is fluent in Arabic and currently resides in Egypt, where he provides support to several local and international NGOs."

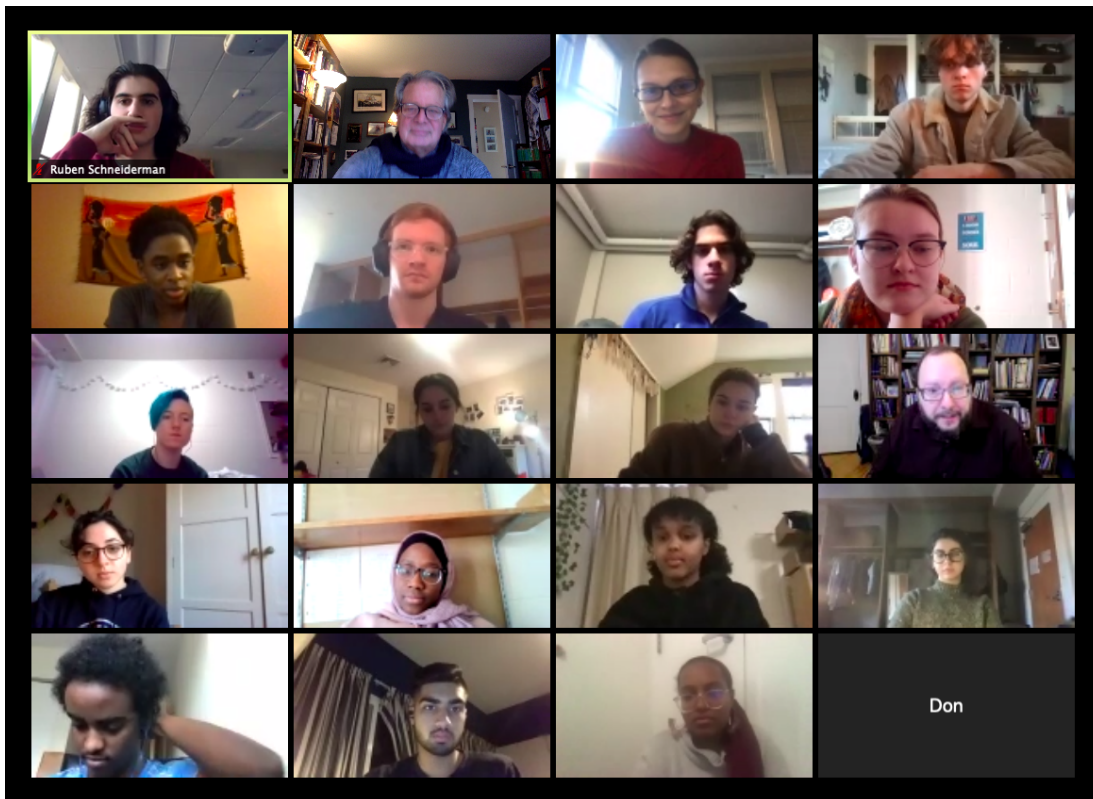
Rebecca Moorman '14 has accepted a tenure track position at Providence College in Rhode Island.

Cate Bonesho '09 has been awarded the Frankel Institute 2021-22 fellowship to work on her second book dealing with the treatment of Gentile rulers in Jewish texts. [Read more here.](#)

MORE CLASSICS



Our Classics Department meetings were adjusted for COVID in every season.



Arabic students in Professor Pamela Klasova's Elementary Arabic class welcomed Professor Yaron Klein (Carleton College). He talked with them about Arabic music and played his *oud* (= Middle Eastern guitar-like instrument).

Student Opportunities in Classics

Our department is often asked to share information from other organizations. We consolidate that information on our ["Opportunity Updates" section of our website](#). The Opportunity Updates listings are the place to find calls for papers (C), internships (I), job opportunities (J), grad programs (G), volunteering opportunities (V), fellowships (F), research/project opportunities (R), scholarships (S), learning opportunities (L), networking opportunities (N), workshops (W), events (E), study away notices (A), and more. [Find opportunities by visiting Classics Opportunity Updates here.](#)

Classics in Pictures



At left: Nanette claims Bernie is a "closet classicist."

Above: Classics Cookie party, 2020-style.

Below Nanette Goldman teaches in person.



One more story by HERTA

In the year since our last newsletter, we have found ourselves capable of rising to unexpected challenges. I am certainly happy to be closing the door on the worst of COVID, and optimistic about what is to come. I wrote a note for that 2020 newsletter that foresaw more than I anticipated at the time. Challenging my inner oracle, I wrote a message that is even more appropriate now, as I will be retiring on May 31. I have had good fortune, for over 20 years, to make my work home in Old Main 311 (and more recently in the blue guest bedroom at my house), and to spend some of that time with you.

With minor edits, here again is my message from the message I wrote last year:

I'm reflecting on the over twenty years that I have worked in 311 Old Main. My rear-view mirror says "Objects In The Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear," but Meatloaf says "Objects in the Rear View Mirror May Appear Closer Than They Are." I say that both these things are true. In January 2020, just as a new virus was starting to make news, I had a big anniversary. On a January day, (now 21 years ago) I interviewed with the acting chair of History, and the then-chair of Classics, Andy Overman, for a temporary job to serve as department coordinator for the rest of the semester. I got the job. And I worked in the same room for 20 years, except for the last year I worked at home. I remember telling my interviewers back then that my prior work experiences would combine to make me a good fit for this job. I was right. I didn't tell them that I couldn't type. I still can't. I remember telling another staff person early on, that I didn't take the job to make friends. I made many friends. My job has been everything I expected, and so much that I did not expect. Even here in my lovely little nest-away workplace, I'm alternately: surprised, delighted, inspired, infuriated, distracted, amused, informed, proud; by/with/of my work, my co-workers, my co-students, and the world my work has opened to me. The pandemic has made me even-more-than-usually willing to flaunt professional convention, and say feelings; to offer and reach for comfort from one another; to be tender with you, and appreciate my own good fortune. I point to the past, and to our past, to see our way through this moment, and I try not to sound like an old windbag doing it, but sometimes I say things that I think are worth repeating. It has been my privilege to assist in helping you realize your goals, for decades from Old Main 311, and this year mostly from my home. And it will be my pleasure to carry our connection into my retirement.

This little history isn't an ending. I'm looking back, AND ahead. To the things we are hoping to do together again and soon. I've loved my Macalester years. I am not saying goodbye. I'm looking forward.

Auf wiedersehen,

Heart, Herta



At left, Herta practices her "retirement coffee drinking on a patio," proving herself retirement-ready