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Antiquity Now

MACALESTER COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THE
CLASSICAL MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST



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Antiquity Now is an update and review of activities and opportunities in the Macalester College Department of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East. Each edition shares student and faculty news and highlights alumni/alumnae who continue to do important and interesting things around the globe. If you have anything to share with us, please email classics@macalester.edu to connect with our editors. Thank you and best wishes!

Department Website



Cover Photo: Majors and Minors Lunch
Edited by: Verity Wray-Raabolle, Carla Zelada

Welcome

Warm greetings to our Classical Mediterranean and Middle East community, We hope you all are thriving and finding happiness in your work, friends, and families.

Here on the 3rd floor of Old Main we have almost finished the first half of the 2022-2023 academic year.



We are celebrating our second year of being together in the classroom and on campus, after 2020 sent us scrambling to remote instruction. There are lots of exciting things to report this fall. We have 26 majors and 26 minors, and over 140 students from across campus taking Arabic, Greek, Hebrew and Latin. Our plans for January 2023 study in Rome are in place and we are planning a new season of excavations in May at Tel Shalem, Israel. 12 students in the Advanced Archaeology seminar interned this fall with The 106 Group, a cultural resource management company in the Twin Cities. The Arabic house continues to host a full slate of language and cultural events. In the spring we will welcome 3 disciplinary experts to campus to conduct an external departmental review. We'll update you on their feedback in future issues.

Professors Klasova, Lush, Overman and Severy-Hoven are assiduously working on their respective book and article projects while simultaneously nurturing their students. Our wonderful department coordinator Carla Zelada buoys our spirits and keeps all the wheels on the bus. It is a privilege to work with such engaged and creative colleagues. Now it is your turn! The spring 2023 issue of Antiquity Now will feature the news of our alumni. So I am issuing the call for an update on your activities. Please let us know where your post-Macalester path has taken you (goldman@macalester.edu, czelada@macalester.edu). We are eager to spread the word of the accomplishments of our talented Macalester graduates.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Nanette Goldman
Department Chair

Academic Opportunities



This semester, Professor Beth Severy-Hoven is teaching a first year course (FYC) entitled **Sex, Slavery, and Sacrifice: Life in Roman Literature**.

At Macalester, first year courses aim to give students a supportive environment their first semester at Macalester by providing a space that teaches them how to navigate life as a college student. Along with being a course about Roman literature, Professor Severy-Hoven's FYC will give students the necessary tools to succeed here at Macalester.

Gabriel Gonzalez ('24) is a major in the department who is also a Mellon-Mays fellow. This fall he took a trip to Chicago to present some of his research. This is what he had to say about the experience: "Every year the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program holds an academic conference at which its fellows present the research they have been working on throughout the year. This year I had the opportunity to present my research on homoeroticism in Ancient Greece at the University of Chicago. Though daunting, it was a great opportunity to be in community with other underrepresented students in the Humanities working on engaging and interesting research. My research project examines the implications of the current English vocabulary used in the field to translate Greek words of a sexual nature and imagining the new possibilities that can arise if we use terms produced by the queer community today, rather than those of a highly academic nature. For me, what is at stake here is the possibility of writing history from the margins and bringing into light marginalized narratives from antiquity rather than centering and prioritizing those who carried the most power among social and political structures from antiquity."

Department



At the beginning of the semester, students and faculty were able to meet or reunite over some delicious food from Shish. After a summer apart, it was exciting to see so many faces, new and old, come together to talk about Classics.



On September 29th, the Classics department took a trip to see a production of Euripides' tragedy *Iphigenia at Aulis*.

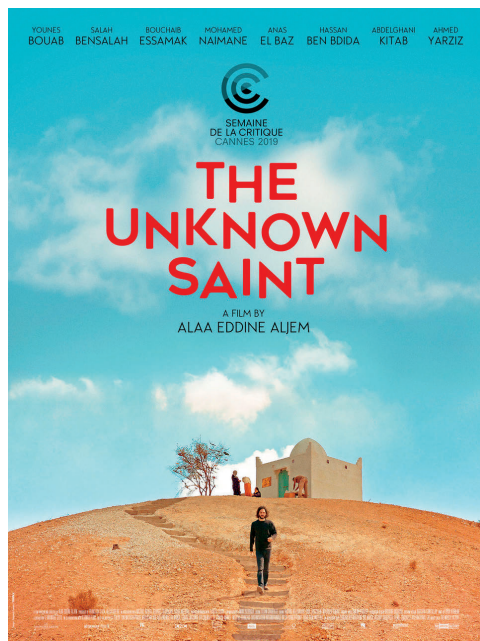
After being presented with some contextual information from Professor Lush, students and faculty were able to grasp the complexity and nuances of the piece.

This semester, the Arabic program invited poet Maya Abu Al-Hayyat to come and share some of her art with students in Arabic language classes. She read selected poems from her book *You Can Be the Last Leaf*. Afterwards, students were able to hear about her poems and inspirations during a Q and A session.



Events

Before students registered for the upcoming spring semester, the department hosted an informal lunch to preview classes that will be offered. Students ate pizza and hoagies and talked to professors and peers about next semester's offerings.



The Arabic house hosted a movie night on November 21st to watch the Moroccan film *The Unknown Saint*. The comedy is directed by Alaa Eddine Aljem and was released in 2019. Students had a brief dialogue lesson before the film and talked about themes in Arabic afterwards.

We will be having our Classics Cookie Party on December 9th in the Harmon Room of the library! Keep an eye out for a photo caption contest in the spring newsletter with photos from the event!



In The World

This January, faculty and students will be spending two weeks in Rome with our reinstated January in Rome program. After a pause due to COVID, the program will resume this year with 22 students and 4 faculty. Over the thirteen days in Italy, students will visit many notable sites and museums including Pompeii and Vatican City. The goal of the trip is to conduct a survey and exploration of the major spaces, 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-5th centuries CE. Before their departure, participants have done coursework to learn about the history of the spaces they will be visiting and while in Rome, will give presentations about their activities.

On June 3rd, Macalester's Classics Department invited alumni, faculty, and students to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Omrit excavations in Israel.

This event highlighted the monumental work undertaken by the department at the site during its twenty years of excavations and research. In attendance were alumni from the very first years of work at the site. **Theresa Vogel ('00)**, **Michael Kreher ('16)**, and **Jason Schlude ('02)** all presented on important topics within the context of the excavations. Theresa spoke about the transition to Omrit and the early years at the site, Michael talked about conservation and cultural heritage at the site and beyond, and Jason spoke on the significance of Omrit after 20 years.

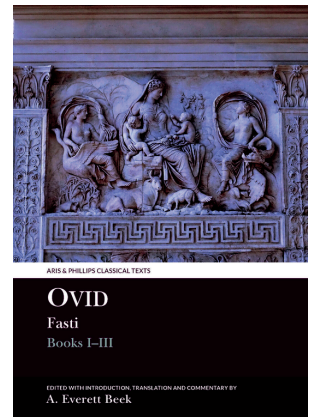


Professors Andrew Overman and Nanette Goldman will be leading an excavation this summer at Tel Shalem in Israel. Tel Shalem is a Roman Military Camp from the time of the Emperor Hadrian and the Bar Kochba Revolt – 133-135 CE – the 2nd Jewish Revolt against Roman rule in Judea. Students from the department will work with institutions, both from the US and Israel, to learn more about the history of the camp and broaden our understanding of the time period.



Faculty and Alumni News

Anna Everett Beek ('06) has authored a book on Ovid's *Fasti* that was released on December 1st of this year. Anna, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics at Knox College, puts forward an original translation of the classic poem that hopes to lead the reader through a year in ancient Rome. The translation, along with an informative introduction and concise commentary, allows the reader to immerse themselves into the poem.



Professor Pamela Klasova has recently published an article in the *Journal of Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies* titled *A Tyrant's Legacy in Medieval Syria: Al-Ḥajjāj b. Yūsuf on Trial in Ibn 'Asākir's History of Damascus*. The article provides a close reading of a biography of al-Ḥajjāj b. Yūsuf al-Thaqafī (d. 714), the infamous tyrant of Islam, from the monumental biographical dictionary by Ibn 'Asākir (d. 1176) *Tārīkh madīnat Dimashq* (History of Damascus). Professor Klasova argues that Ibn 'Asākir carefully structured the biography to lend support to his own theological Ash'arite positions on the legitimacy of an unjust ruler and the status of a sinner in Islam.



Study Abroad

Beatrice Mellsop ('24) is a Macalester Classics major who spent this semester studying abroad through College Year in Athens. She was willing to provide some insight into her experiences for anyone interested in the program.



Q What is your favorite class that you're taking abroad?

A My favorite class is probably Intermediate Ancient Greek, as I really enjoy Greek and it's nice to build on the Greek I learned last year. However, I am also taking a class on art and archaeology in the Aegean region, which is really cool.

Q What would you tell students looking at your program?

A It's a great program! Administration can be a bit disorganized, but most of the professors are great. It is very intense for Classics students, but it seems to be less rigorous for other majors.

Q What is one fun experience that was made possible by your study away program?

A I've been taking a marble carving workshop organized by the program at a local studio. It's been a lot of fun and isn't something I would be able to do easily in the U.S.! It's not an art medium I had ever considered before, but I've enjoyed the process a lot.

Spring 2023 Context Courses

| Number | Name | Days | Time | Instructor |
|---------------|--|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| CLAS 101 - 01 | The Classical Mediterranean and Middle East | M W F | 10:50 am-11:50 am | Beth Severy-Hoven |
| CLAS 145 - 01 | Pagans, Christians and Jews in Classical Antiquity: Cultures in Conflict | T R | 01:20 pm-02:50 pm | Andrew Overman |
| CLAS 194 - 01 | Greek and Arabic Myths | T R | 09:40 am-11:10 am | Klasova, Lush |
| CLAS 194 - 02 | Classics in Film | M W F | 03:30 pm-04:30 pm | Brian Lush |
| CLAS 200 - 01 | Ancient and Medieval Philosophies | M W F | 09:40 am-10:40 am | Geoffrey Gorham |
| CLAS 223 - 01 | Introduction to Archaeology | T R | 09:40 am-11:10 am | Andrew Overman |
| CLAS 283 - 01 | Art and Architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome | M W F | 02:20 pm-03:20 pm | Serdar Yalcin |
| CLAS 294 - 01 | Art and Architecture in the Islamic World | M W F | 10:50 am-11:50 am | Serdar Yalcin |

Spring 2023 Language Courses

| Number | Name | Days | Time | Instructor |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| CLAS 212 - 01 | Elementary Latin II | M W F | 02:20 pm- 03:20 pm | Brian Lush |
| CLAS 212 - L1 | Elementary Latin II Lab | R | 08:30 am- 09:30 am | Brian Lush |
| CLAS 214 - 01 | Elementary Arabic II | M W F | 01:10 pm- 02:10 pm | Pamela Klasova |
| CLAS 214 - L1 | Elementary Arabic II Lab | T | 01:20 pm- 02:20 pm | Pamela Klasova |
| CLAS 218 - 01 | Elementary Hebrew II | M W F | 12:00 pm- 01:00 pm | Nanette Goldman |
| CLAS 218 - L1 | Elementary Hebrew II Lab | R | 10:10 am- 11:10 am | Nanette Goldman |
| CLAS 218 - L2 | Elementary Hebrew II Lab | R | 01:20 pm- 02:20 pm | Nanette Goldman |
| CLAS 332 - 01 | Intermediate Latin II: Poetry | M W F | 02:20 pm- 03:20 pm | Nanette Goldman |
| CLAS 342 - 01 | Intermediate Arabic II | M W F | 02:20 pm- 03:20 pm | Pamela Klasova |
| CLAS 342 - L1 | Intermediate Arabic II Lab | T | 02:30 pm- 03:30 pm | Pamela Klasova |
| CLAS 362 - 01 | Intermediate Greek: Poetry | M W F | 09:40 am- 10:40 am | Beth Severy- Hoven |