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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: December Cookie Party
Edited by: Verity Wray-Raabolle, Carla Zelada

Welcome

Happy Spring, friends of the Classical Mediterranean and Middle East.



We are about to wrap up another academic year, celebrate our graduating seniors and move on to our summer plans. We recently completed the 10-year external review of the department. Many many thanks to all of you alumni who filled out the survey last summer. Your insights will help us plan our curriculum and programming in the coming years.

We are fortunate to have a large number of majors and minors in our current enrollments. It continues to be a great privilege to work with such engaged and deeply thoughtful students. They remind us every day of all of you who have walked the halls of Old Main and inspired us with your curiosity.

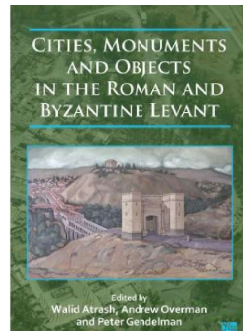
In May, **Andy Overman** and I will be taking 14 students to begin a new Roman period excavation project at Tel Shalem, Israel. Look for more information about that in the fall issue of *Antiquity Now*. **Pamela Klasova** and **Brian Lush** will be making preparations for their sabbaticals and work on their upcoming publications. **Beth Severy-Hoven** shepherded 22 students to Rome and Pompeii this January in her legendary January in Rome course. **Carla Zelada** keeps us all together and functioning with her organizational wizardry and indomitable enthusiasm.

Please let us know of any news. We love connecting with you, and relish time spent with you when you visit.

Warmest regards,
Nanette

Faculty News

This year, **Professor Brian Lush** has been completing a lengthy journal article that approaches Apuleius' 2nd-century CE Latin novel, *Metamorphoses*, by examining the experience of its asinine protagonist Lucius as what theorists Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari describe as a "line of flight" or an evasion of capture within rigid structures of physical composition, language and social life. Apuleius, Lush argues, depicts the trajectory of Lucius' line of flight first through his sorcery-induced openness to transformation, then through his physically intensive experience of becoming-animal, and finally in the novel's open-ended and potentially interminable account of Lucius' religious initiations.



Professor Andy Overman co-edited a book on the Archaeology of the Cities of the Levant. The book was published in November 2022.

Seniors and Alumni

Capstones

Shaherazade Khan ('23)
"Nomadic Cities: Archaeological Storytelling of Spaces In-Between"

Kathryn Alldaffer ('23) premiered her capstone entitled "Frenzy, Fear, and Fantasy: Imagined Histories of the Bacchanalia of 186 BCE." "This capstone combines the format of a creative writing project and an academic research paper in order to examine the inherent fictionality of histories surrounding the Bacchanalia of 186 BCE. Through my writing, I have imagined the life of a woman practicing Bacchic rites, looking at her through her own words, as well as examining closer the imaginings that male writers throughout time may have projected upon her."



Awards

On May 1st, the classic department hosted our end of semester picnic where we got to present an award to an outstanding senior. The Virginia McKnight Binger Prize is awarded to an outstanding student who demonstrates an exceptional proficiency in classical languages and/or ancient history. This year's Virginia McKnight Binger Prize was awarded to senior **Kathryn Alldaffer ('23)**.



Alumni News

Patrick D'Silva ('03) finished his PhD in Religious Studies from UNC Chapel Hill in 2018 and is currently a Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies in the Religious Studies department at the University of Denver.

Michelle Coblens ('16) will be starting her medical residency in Denver this fall.

Josh Wink ('22) is currently working as the main project lead for the DC Solar for All program.

Eesh Kandpal ('05) is an economist at a small, policy-focused think tank.

Katherine McCarthy ('22) is attending an Applied Human Rights Masters Program in Vienna, Austria.

Amy Vanderveelde ('21) is completing her second year of graduate school in Classics at the University of Illinois.

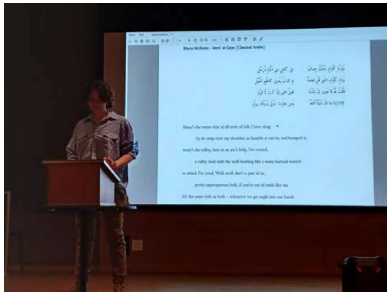
Kate Peterson ('11) is a licensed psychologist in the Santa Clara area.

Tim Wallace ('02), a Senior Geography Editor at the New York Times, joined us over the lunch hour on Monday, April 24. Tim was a Geography and Classical Archaeology double major, and through a Q&A discussion Tim detailed his career path and how Macalester ignited his academic and professional trajectory.



Department

This semester, students in CLAS 362: Intermediate Greek II: Poetry, along with **Professor Severy-Hoven**, served as the editorial board for the department's own journal, *Studies in Mediterranean Antiquity and Classics (SMAC)*. This role has given the students an insight into what it's like to be published in a journal as well as what it looks like to referee a journal and vet entries. This also gives an opportunity for other students in the department to publish their outstanding research.



On March 4th, the department celebrated its annual poetry hour, this year through the Campus Center After Dark programming. Students in the department and beyond read poems in Hebrew, modern and ancient Greek, and Arabic. The campus community showed up in a huge way to support the department which was awesome to see.

During Ramadan, Muslim students organize Iftars every Friday at the Arabic House. These gatherings are open to those who are practicing Muslims and those who are not. Everyone in the community is welcome to share food, talk, and exchange cultures and traditions.



Events



This April, students and faculty met in the fourth floor lounge of Old Main to talk about course offerings for the fall of 2023.

Conversations included study abroad opportunities, the process of declaring a major or minor, and the different possibilities that are open to those who graduate with a degree in Classics.



Another incredible opportunity that students in the department have had recently was the ability to gain hands-on experience in the field of archaeology through work with the 106 Group. Students in **Professor Overman's** Advanced Archaeology Seminar were in the field in the fall working at a couple of different archaeological sites. They were able to find real artifacts and work with professionals while also gaining experience that will be an incredible leg up post-graduation. Macalester highlighted this opportunity in an article that can be accessed via the QR code at the top of this page.

Last fall, **Professor Overman's** advanced Greek class had the opportunity to visit The Hill Memorial Manuscript Library (HMML) at Saint John's University to look at their vast collection of manuscripts in Greek and many other classical languages. Students learned through a hands-on presentation about the rich manuscript tradition and how HMML has been working for decades to save endangered manuscripts. Students were even able to meet alum Katrina Schlude '03 who is currently Director of Advancement at HMML.



Class Spotlights

Classics in Film

Professor Brian Lush

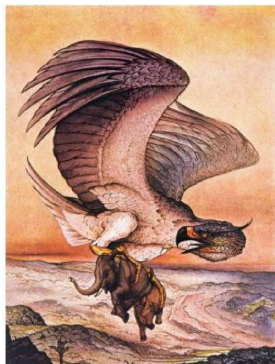
This course explores the filmic legacy of impactful story-patterns and themes from the Greek and Roman traditions. We read and discuss a number of epic and dramatic sources from Mediterranean antiquity, and trace how crucial motifs and questions raised in those narratives are creatively deployed in cinema. The films explored in this course include not only direct adaptations of ancient stories, but also points of connection between antiquity and film along thematic and stylistic lines. This course features live film viewings in student "viewing pods," and draws upon a broad array of genres from global film-making. The films that we view and intensively discuss in this course include, among numerous others, Hayao Miyazaki's captivating anime, *Spirited Away*; Aki Kaurismaki's humanist immigration stories, *Le Havre* and *The Other Side of Hope*; Denis Villeneuve's expansive Quebecois/Lebanese mystery, *Incendies*; Charles Burnett's inimitable portrayal of the clash between past and present, *To Sleep with Anger*; Kathryn Bigelow's cinematic treatment of war trauma, *The Hurt Locker*; Akira Kurosawa's groundbreaking samurai masterpiece, *Yojimbo*; and Jean Cocteau's surrealist adaptation of ancient myth, *Orpheus*.



Greek and Arabic Myths

Professors Pamela Klasova and Brian Lush

This course explores demonstrable resonances and shared themes in distinct but adjacent regions of the Mediterranean basin and the Classical Middle East. Drawing upon primary source texts and images over the span of a millennium in these regions, we explore instances of direct influence (e.g., by the Middle East upon Western traditions) as well as commonly held attributes (between Classical Middle Eastern and Greek mythic sources). Greek sources include core mythic texts such as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Hesiod's *Theogony*, *The Homeric Hymn to Hermes*, as well as a selection of ancient dramatic texts. The course will feature such Arabic sources as the historian al-Mas'udi's account of the origin of the world, poems by Imru' al-Qays, and *The Arabian Nights*. In this way, this course works to tear down the artificial partition between "East" and "West" promulgated by Orientalist narratives of difference, as well as bringing together the separate disciplines of Classics and Arabic Studies – fields typically separated by institutional structures (as different fields of study) and by modern political ideologies (as the "Arab World" vs. "the West"). This course is also, so far as we are aware, the only one of its kind in American academe – a course that productively juxtaposes and travels across the disciplinarily-imposed boundaries between Arabic and Greek storytelling traditions in antiquity.



In The World

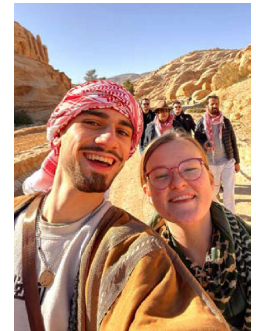
Over winter break, 22 students along with **Professors Severy-Hoven, Goldman, and Overman** restarted the department's biennial trip to Rome. After completing classwork and some pre-departure lessons on things like basic Italian, the group was able to enjoy their two weeks in Italy.



They visited sites such as the Colosseum, Pompeii, and the Vatican. The department is looking forward to continuing this program going forward post COVID.



Students in the department **Sami Banat ('24)** and **Grace McDonough ('24)** are studying abroad in Beirut, Lebanon this semester. During their time abroad they were able to take a trip to Amman, Jordan and see the ancient city of Petra!



The students excavating in Tel Shalem are excited to embark on their trip this May! Thanks to a generous donation from Duane and Sue Burnham, the group is able to spend three weeks in Israel expanding our knowledge of a military camp under Emperor Hadrian.



Fall 2023 Courses

Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
CLAS 122 - 01	The Roman World	T R	9:40 am-11:10 am	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 129 - 01	Greek Myths	M W F	8:30 am- 9:30 am	STAFF
CLAS 194 - 01	Ancient Comedy	M W F	10:50 am- 11:50 am	STAFF
CLAS 202 - 01	Sanskrit and Classical Religion in India	M W F	9:40 am- 10:40 am	James Laine
CLAS 260 - 01	Introduction to Art History I: From Prehistory to the Medieval Period	M W F	10:50 am- 11:50 am	Serdar Yalcin
CLAS 294 - 01	Advanced Archaeology Seminar	T R	9:40 am-11:10 am	Andrew Overman
CLAS 294 - 02	Ancient Healing and Medicine	T R	1:20 pm-2:50 pm	Andrew Overman
CLAS 294 - 03	Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt	M W F	2:20 pm-3:20 pm	Serdar Yalcin
CLAS 490 - 01	Senior Seminar	T R	3:00 pm-4:30 pm	Andrew Overman

Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
CLAS 111 - 01	Elementary Latin I	M W F	9:40 am- 10:40 am	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 111 - L1	Elementary Latin I Lab	T	1:20 pm- 2:20 pm	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 113 - 01	Elementary Arabic I	M W F	1:10 pm- 2:10 pm	STAFF
CLAS 113 - L1	Elementary Arabic I Lab	R	3:30 pm- 4:40 pm	STAFF
CLAS 115 - 01	Elementary Greek I	M W F	2:20 pm- 3:20 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 115 - L1	Elementary Greek I Lab	T	10:10 am-11:10 am	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 115 - L2	Elementary Greek I Lab	T	3:00 pm- 4:00 pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 231 - 01	Intermediate Latin I: Prose	M W F	10:50 am- 11:50 am	Beth Severy-Hoven
CLAS 237 - 01	Intermediate Hebrew I	M W F	12:00 pm- 1:00pm	Nanette Goldman
CLAS 241 - 01	Intermediate Arabic I	M W F	2:20 pm- 3:20 pm	STAFF
CLAS 241 - L1	Intermediate Arabic I Lab	T	3:30 pm- 4:30 pm	STAFF
CLAS 485 - 01	Advanced Arabic	M W F	10:50 am- 11:50 am	STAFF