

CLASSICS

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Students excavating a Roman building at the archaeological site of Sidi Moulay Abdeslam, near Larache, Morocco. Zoe Smith (UTK) is showing off her one-hand shoveling skills (photo Stephen Collins-Elliott).

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Times Are a'Changing

Aleydis Van de Moortel, Professor and Head



Our beloved department saw momentous changes last year. As we were emerging from the COVID pandemic and returning to in-class teaching and seeing colleagues live again, we found ourselves saying good-bye to three core faculty. Associate Head Robert Sklenar, interpreter extraordinaire of Latin poetry, and Maura Lafferty, medieval Latinist and superb manuscript scholar, decided to retire to make more time for other pursuits. Greek historian and prose specialist John Friend took the difficult decision to resign and move his family back to New Zealand in order to take care of his elderly parents. We are sad to see them leave, but we wish them the best and will stay in touch.

Fortunately we were able to hire two advanced assistant professors last spring. Salvador Bartera, who was a lecturer in our department before accepting a tenure-track position at Mississippi State, was hired back through a national search in the Latin prose position vacated by Chris Craig upon his retirement in 2020. Bartera is an expert on the Roman historian Tacitus, and he has thrown himself into his new job with great energy and enthusiasm. Already last spring break, before actually starting his position, he set up a program of student recruitment in local high schools. As a part of this, he created a Latin club at Fulton High School together with Keith Leonard, head of the English department at the school and an aficionado of Latin. Fulton has a diverse student body, and we would very much like to recruit their students into our department.

At the end of spring, there was more good news, as we received permission to hire distinguished lecturer Jessica Westerhold as a tenure-track assistant professor of Latin poetry, replacing Robert Sklenar. Westerhold is a specialist on Ovid and other Augustan poets. She will continue organizing our annual Latin Day, and she is helping Bartera in high-school recruitment. Together, they have visited all Latin programs in Knox County to promote the study of Latin at UT. Finally, we hired Lorenzo Del Monte in another national search as a new lecturer. Currently we are searching for John Friend's replacement.

Our Latin program continued to grow last year, and we were able to schedule for the first time five concurrent sessions of beginning Latin, almost doubling the three sessions we fielded as recently as two years ago. Our numbers of majors and minors increased as well. In an effort to reach out to transfer students and those who discover their love of ancient languages late, we have added a fifth concentration to our curriculum: in addition to Latin, Greek, classical archaeology, and classical

civilization, students now are able to major or minor in classical languages, combining Latin and Greek, and thus advance faster through the major. Thus it is possible for students starting ancient languages after their first year to still complete this major by their senior year. In addition, we created a pre-professional undergraduate certificate in classical languages for students who want to become Latin high-school teachers or go to graduate school but need more language training. More information can be found on classics.utk.edu under "Prospective Students" or "Current Students." In order to streamline Latin teacher training, we have worked with the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences to launch a new bachelor's program that makes it possible for students to obtain their teaching license in four years instead of five, while obtaining a major or minor in Latin. It is our goal to increase the number of teachers we train, as there is a real need for Latin teachers in Tennessee.

Our students again did us proud last year. Most of our majors graduated with honors, and three of our Greek students earned ribbons in the national College Greek Exam. MA student in Mediterranean archaeology Nathalie Yeagley graduated with a fabulous thesis on piracy in the Early Bronze Age Aegean. As we say good-bye to her, we are welcoming a new MA student, Travis Cornell, who will be working with Stephen Collins-Elliott.

Valē/Xαίρε!
Aleydis Van de Moortel
Professor and Head

IN MEMORIAM

Richard L. Sias of Oklahoma City passed away on July 28, 2022 at the age of 94. He and his wife **Jeanette**, who predeceased him, were long-time friends and benefactors of Professor Gesell's Kavousi project and our department. They were instrumental in creating the Rutledge Archaeology lecture fund, and Dick established the Dr. Geraldine C. Gesell Endowment with the intention that it will lead to the creation of an endowed chair in Aegean Prehistory. We are eternally grateful for Dick and Jeannette's wonderful generosity.



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Gardens of the Hesperides: The Rural Archaeology of the Loukkos Valley

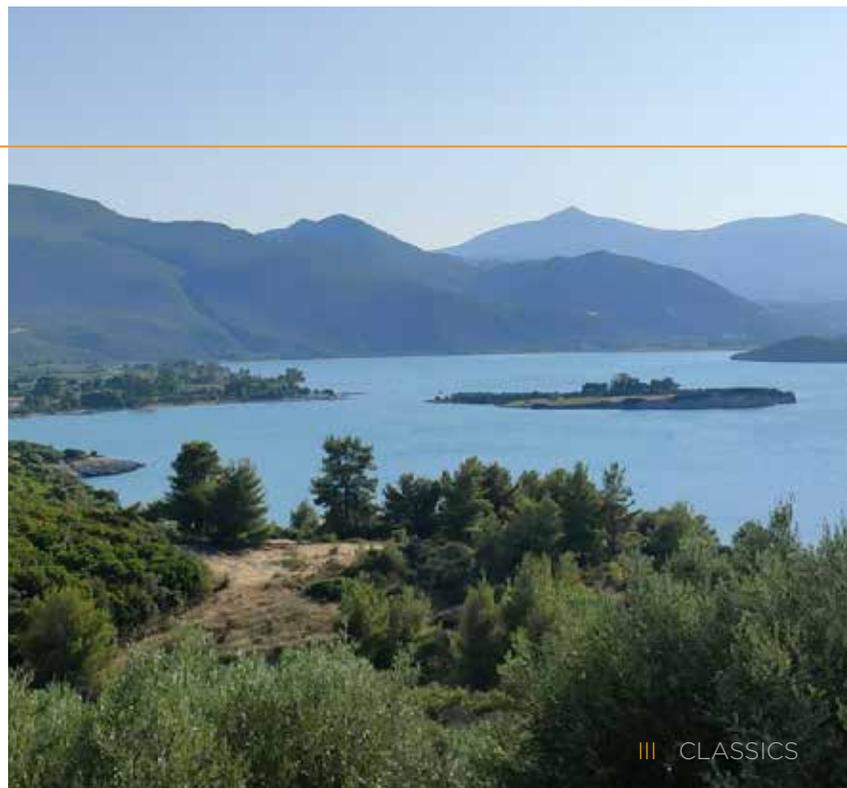
Members of the 2022 season at the Archaeological Museum at Lixus. UT students Zoe Smith, Elisabeth Peulausk, Cooper Phillips, and Amber Williams are third, fourth, fifth, and sixth from the left, respectively, and Brett Oesterle is second from the right (photo Stephen Collins-Elliott)

From May 29 to July 2, 2022, students from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, participated in the excavation season of “Gardens of the Hesperides: The Rural Archaeology of the Loukkos Valley,” near Larache, Morocco. This is a joint Moroccan-American archaeological project directed by Aomar Akerraz (Institut National des Sciences de l’Archéologie et du Patrimoine) and Stephen Collins-Elliott (UT), which examines the rural economy around the city of Lixus, the oldest city in northwestern Africa. More specifically, we are investigating whether the Roman period saw any major changes in its development.

The project had completed three years of surface survey from 2016 to 2019, a season of geophysical survey and its first excavation in 2019. The design of the project is to excavate one small to mid-sized Roman-period site each summer, in order to obtain a larger picture of the region’s agricultural economy. The summer of 2022 was the first time that fieldwork was possible since the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Four UT classics students—Amber Williams, Zoe Smith, Cooper Phillips, and Brett Oesterle—and one MA student in Mediterranean archaeology—Elisabeth Peulausk—participated.

Mitrou 2022: Study Season

As the study of Mitrou’s excavation finds is nearing its end, Aleydis Van de Moortel organized a very small study season in summer 2022, and this did not involve taking students. Georg Nightingale of the University of Salzburg began his research on beads and vitreous materials from Mitrou, and Caroline Belz (UCLA) and Amanda Iacobelli continued their study of the surface survey finds. Kaitlyn McKenna (Mississippi State University) examined burial remains for her MA thesis on child frailty at Mitrou. Van de Moortel and Giuliana Bianco are finishing their level-by-level investigations of the settlement’s architecture. The team plans to write its manuscripts for the final publication in the next few years, and then return to the field.



Elisabeth Peulausk

Travelling often involves moving around quite a lot, so it was a privilege to be able to stay in one location in Larache, Morocco for five weeks during the Gardens of the Hesperides field season and be able to get a feel for the community that lives there. While everyone else toiled bravely at the dig site, I spent the majority of my days in a small museum with a set of Medieval human remains from one of the project's sites, cleaning, measuring, writing inventories, taking pictures for research, and analyzing the bones for demographic information. These remains were found during the 2019 field season and will form the center of my MA thesis.

After my research was complete, I was able to travel more throughout Morocco before briefly visiting Portugal and Spain. Given my interests, I spent most of my time visiting every museum and historical site that would have me. This helped me to develop a sense of the cultural diffusion that occurred in the western half of the Mediterranean during the Middle Ages – particularly through viewing a certain kind of architecture. This style, which is a combination of Christian and Islamic aesthetic principles, involves beautiful wooden ceilings, intricately carved arches, and brightly colored ceramic tiles and is termed Mudéjar in Spain.

Although I have spent some time in multiple European countries, visiting Morocco this past summer was my first



Stephen Collins-Elliott with Hesperides team members during a site trip to Meknes. Elisabeth is third from the left.

time in Africa. I can honestly say that I have never been to a country quite like Morocco. The blending of Berber, African and Arabic cultures is fascinating to see and manifests itself in everything from the food to the architecture and, not least of all, the people who live there who were very kind and welcoming. I am very grateful for the Susan Martin Excellence Scholarship and Haines-Morris Travel Scholarship from the Department of Classics, which funded my travel and research.

Zoe Smith

Thanks to an Athena Travel Scholarship from the Department of Classics, I was able to partake in the Hesperides Archaeological Project in Morocco. I found this excavation to be exceptionally exciting in regards to both its technological advancement and modern methodology. I loved working with the modern applications that the project employs, such as GIS mapping and photogrammetry, both of which create a detailed interactive database that allow researchers to recreate and re-excavate the trenches. Excavating in Morocco with the Hesperides Project allowed me to observe the inner workings of a modern excavation as well as experience a culture that is unknown to most. The rich culture of Morocco surpassed my expectations. I will never be able to forget the memories I acquired in Morocco such as watching caravans traveling alongside roadways, exploring the narrow alleys of the medieval souk, enjoying the tea served in our 17th century CE riad, and experiencing the sheep sale on the Marjane parking lot.



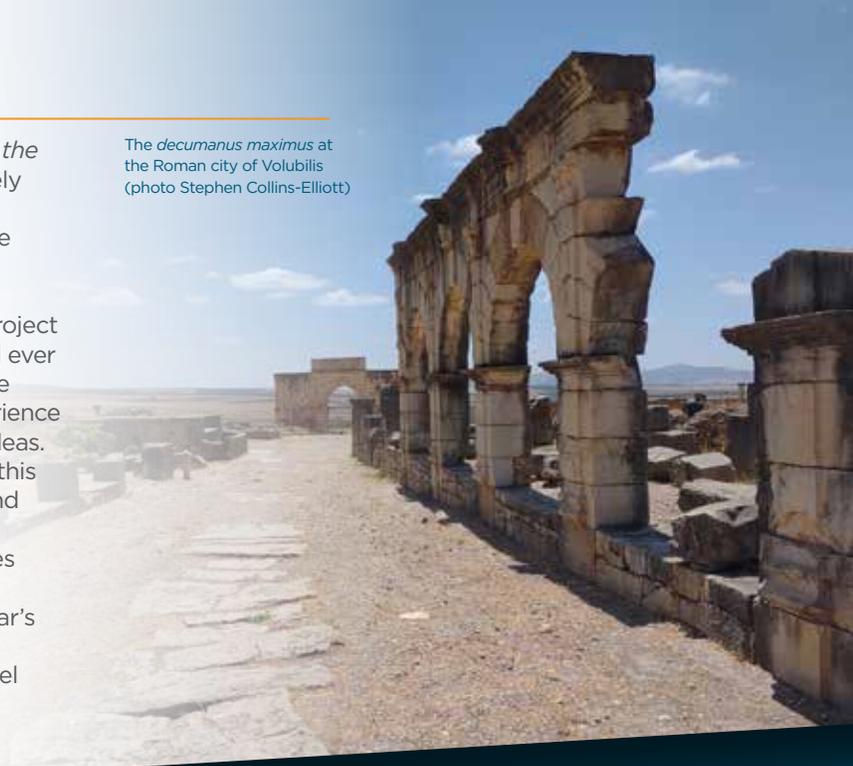
Zoe Smith (UT), Cooper Phillips (UT), and Maggie Culuris-Harp (UNR) courageously breaking ground in Area D at Sidi Moulay Abdeslam (photo Stephen Collins-Elliott)

Cooper Phillips

My participation in the 2022 Field Season of the *Gardens of the Hesperides* project was a fantastic experience that I will surely never forget. The work was strenuous, and the hours were long, but the feeling of uncovering cultural remains that were thousands of years old was a hugely rewarding experience.

Beyond supplying first-hand field and lab experience, this project also provided me with exposure to a culture unlike any I had ever encountered before. Living in Larache, as opposed to a more widely visited city, gave us a truly authentic Moroccan experience that introduced us to all kinds of new foods, customs, and ideas. Our weekend travel excursions were certainly a highlight of this trip, as almost every week we went and visited a new city and any nearby archaeological sites. My favorite memories from these trips have to be visiting the souks and medinas of cities like Tangier and Meknes, and also seeing the famous (albeit reconstructed) Arch of Caracalla at Volubilis. Overall, this year's field season was an immensely gratifying experience, and I am extremely grateful to have received a Haines-Morris Travel scholarship from the Department of Classics, which made it possible for me to participate.

The *decumanus maximus* at the Roman city of Volubilis (photo Stephen Collins-Elliott)



Retirement Parties

On December 14, 2021, COVID had sufficiently receded to allow us to recognize Chris Craig with a "live" retirement party. Students, colleagues, and friends from far and near attended—some of them on Zoom—to celebrate Chris' illustrious career and innumerable *res gestae*. As is fitting for a true Roman veteran, he was given his wooden sword and a Latin *diploma*. On September 6, 2022, we held a joint retirement party for John Friend, Maura Lafferty, and Robert Sklenar. John received a Greek epinician epigram, and Maura and Robert were given Latin *diplomata* in recognition of their many contributions to our department. The evening ended with a magnificent cake topped with a Minoan goddess in celebration of Geraldine Gesell's 90th birthday.

Latin Day XXXIX

The delayed Annual Latin Day took place on October 28, 2021, in the beautiful and spacious UT Student Union. By all accounts it was a huge success. Just under 200 young scholars attended 11 different talks and enjoyed boxed Roman lunches. Our esteemed speakers included faculty from four different departments at the University, offering attendees a truly rounded and interdisciplinary experience. This year we welcomed even more young scholars to another program of diverse talks on ancient Rome and the Latin language from multiple departments. Latin Day XL was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

This event is not possible without the expert work of Megan Henderson and her team at UT Conferences or without the curious, intellectual enthusiasm of the young scholars, their teachers and chaperones who fill the halls of the Student Union.



Chris Craig about to parry his retirement cake with wooden sword



Geraldine Gesell after blowing out the LXXXX candles on her birthday cake (photo Holly Jackson-Sullivan)



Robert Sklenar anticipating all the ways in which he will use his retirement gift of chef's knives (photo Holly Jackson-Sullivan)



To see the full list of presentations for Latin Day XXXIX and read more about UT Classics, please visit us online at classics.utk.edu

Classics Undergraduate Conference



Beaumont Keynote speaker Vassiliki Panoussi (in red dress and matching mask) with student presenters at our 11th classics undergraduate conference; students who presented on Zoom are not included (photo J. Arft).

The 11th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Classics Research Conference took place at Strong Hall on February 19, 2022. The conference was sponsored by the Classics Enrichment Fund of the Department of Classics, with generous co-sponsorship by Bettye Beaumont, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Chancellor's Honors and Scholars Program, the Office of Research and Engagement, the UT Humanities Center, and the Departments of English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religious Studies.

This year's conference began with the opening remarks from John Zomchick, provost and senior vice chancellor. Next, Vassiliki Panoussi, professor of Classics at the College of William & Mary, delivered the Beaumont Keynote Lecture. Her fascinating and incisive presentation, "Celebrating Isis: Ritual and Ethnicity in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*," was a model for students and scholars alike on how to achieve innovation through curiosity and careful research.

Twenty students from 14 colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada presented their research to an enthusiastic audience on a wide variety of topics. Examples include "Horace's Use of the Myth of Icarus in the *Odes*," "A New Narrative? Gender and Freedom in the Epitaph of Allia Potestas," and "A Low Cost UAV Based LiDAR System for Application at Archaeological Sites in Anatolia." Once again, we see that undergraduates at UT and across the country are engaging in cross-disciplinary work that will shape the future of our field.

The following UT faculty presided over six well-attended panels: Justin Arft, Dylan Bloy, Theodora Kopestonsky, Maura Lafferty, Robert Sklenář, and Jessica Westerhold. Aleydis Van de Moortel, head of the Department of

Kavousi Report

The publication of the Kavousi Excavations is progressing. One volume, *Kavousi IV: The Early Iron Age Cemeteries at Vronda* is in page proofs and should be printed early in 2023. This will be a two-fascicule work: one containing the text, the other the figures, plates, charts, and tables. The next volume, *Kavousi V: The Tombs around the Kastro*, is nearly finished but not yet at the press. The volumes on the Kastro settlement and the Vronda shrine are still in process.

Classics, concluded the conference by praising the excellent student presenters. Justin Arft announced the winners of the Beaumont Prize for Best Student Paper: Cyrus Yoshimoto (UT) for his paper "Analyzing the Significance of the Antonine Plague" and Phoebe Hancock (University of Ottawa) for her paper "More Common Than You Think: Queer Women in the Roman Empire."

This year, a record seven students from UT presented alongside their peers. Here is the list of UT student speakers, in order of presentation:

- Cyrus Yoshimoto
- Zachary Graham
- Zachary Costa
- Zoe Smith
- Elijah Welton
- Ethan Peebles
- Andrew Montgomery

Justin Arft and John Friend, the faculty sponsors for the conference, express deep gratitude to their colleagues for generously giving their time. They also acknowledge the expert work of the student organizers Zachary Costa, Alexa Davidson, Lydia Davis, Ethan Peebles, Adelle Rosendale, and Zoe Smith. They give special acknowledgement to Kelle Knight (humanities business coordinator) and Jessica Black (grants and contracts coordinator) for their logistical support and seamless administrative oversight. Their efforts were instrumental to the organization and the success of the event.



Archaeologists Geraldine Gesell (UT Knoxville) and Jeff Soles (UNC-Greensboro) receiving a honorary plaque from the vice mayor of Ierapetra, Ms. Maria Roumeliotaki.

CLASSICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our advisory board continues to inspire us with great ideas and concrete guidance. Last year's members were Chair Vicki Weaver, vice president and HR director at Mountain Commerce Bank; Patrick Biddix, professor of higher education in the UT College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; Leigh Anne Cutshaw, Latin teacher at Hardin Valley Academy; Jennifer Hardy, senior associate registrar at UT; Holly Jackson-Sullivan, development officer in the UT College of Arts and Sciences; Susan Martin, distinguished professor of classics and provost emerita, UT; Stephanie McCarter, professor of classics, Sewanee: The University of the South; Zachary Costa (Latin '22); and Natalie Yeagley (MA Mediterranean Archaeology '22).

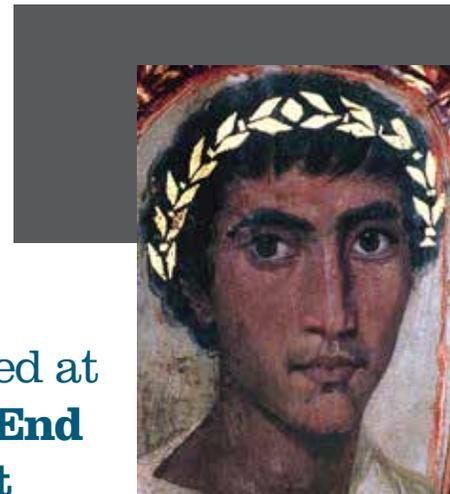
On November 17, 2021, they held together with Classics Advisory Council member emerita Bettye Beaumont and Associate Dean of Libraries Holly Mercer our second professional development webinar for classics majors and minors. Two of our majors, Brian Byerly and Andrew Montgomery, took their advice to heart and were accepted into good MA programs in Classics at Kansas and Edinburgh, respectively.

ALUMNI NEWS

Classics Advisory Council member Patrick Biddix ('01), has been honored with the first Jimmy and Ileen Cheek Endowed Professorship at UT. Patrick is a national expert on sororities and fraternities, student mental health issues, alcoholism, and hazing. He has written or edited ten books in the last eight years, two of which are now standard textbooks. Kudos and congratulations on this amply deserved honor!

Magister Sandy "Harenosus" Hughes ('05) from Bearden High bought a condo last year, and is a first-time homeowner. Besides his on-going hobbies of Speaking Latin and Latin composition, he has worked with Marco to develop a Medieval Fair and a Medieval Studies class in Knox County Schools. His current project is to develop a Greek Studies class next year. It is a lot of hard work but very rewarding. As he concludes, "Omnia Fausta!"

We were delighted to hear from Aaron Mullis ('07), who has developed into a fireball of entrepreneurial activity. After graduating, he went to law school, where he helped low income clients settle tax debts with the IRS. He then focused his legal practice primarily on the same issues. At the same time he began renovating old houses and renting them. He also became a licensed contractor and began building new homes. Currently he lives in Switzerland with his wife. Since Aaron cannot practice law in Switzerland, he plans to take long distance business courses while brushing up on Latin and German.



Students Honored at Eta Sigma Phi/End of Year Banquet

The 2022 Eta Sigma Phi initiation for our Beta Delta chapter saw the addition of the following new members on account of their excellent performance in Greek or Latin: Alex Robertson, Alexa Davidson, Ashley Holt, Brian Byerly, Christen Sholes, Ford Brewer, Jake Carr, Keenan James, Kailee Messer, Kaylin Fleenor, Kendra Day, Lauren Whaley, Nora Clarke, Robert Hill, Reese Hamilton, Saturn Shannon.

Reema Habib gave an entertaining and heartfelt reflection on how she became interested in classics and archaeology, and Justin Arft served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Our outgoing leadership team for both Eta Sigma Phi and the Classics Club—Zachary Costa, Lydia Davis, and Zoe Smith—handed the torch to Ethan Peebles, Adelle Rosendale, and Desirae Cordell, who will organize and lead the group this year.

Several students were recognized for their outstanding academic work during the 2022 academic year or awarded scholarships for the upcoming 2023 year. Walter Price received an Albert Rapp Memorial Scholarship, Ethan Peebles a Haines-Morris Award, and Mary Walter a Rutledge Memorial Scholarship for her ongoing M.Ed. training in Latin teaching.

Students were also recognized for their work abroad sponsored by departmental scholarships: Zoe Smith received an Athena Travel scholarship and Cooper Phillips received a Haines-Morris Travel scholarship to participate in the Hesperides project excavation (Morocco), and Elisabeth Peulausk received an S.D. Martin Excellence Scholarship for conducting MA thesis research at the Hesperides project.

We also recognized our outstanding graduates for the May 2022 commencement: Lydia Davis for Latin and Cyrus Yoshimoto for classical archaeology. In addition to these honors, Students received the following departmental prizes: Senior Latin Prize: Brian Byerly, Senior Greek Prize: Lydia Davis, Dedication and Service Prize: Zachary Costa.

In addition, Daniel Green received our department's CAMWS Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies

We recognized three of our students who earned ribbons in the national College Greek Exam: Daniel Green, Gabrielle Boyer, and Sean Grace.

Finally, the following members of our department were also recognized for the induction into Phi Beta Kappa: Brian Byerly, Daniel Green, Walter Price, and Zoe Smith.

The Department of Classics heartily congratulates the students who were recognized for their devotion to the study of classics and their hard work, and we are all very proud of their success.



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Thanks to the generosity of our many friends and benefactors, we have been able to establish a wide variety of funds over the years. Our new **Christopher Craig and Ann Robinson-Craig Excellence Fund** provides scholarships for students training to be Latin teachers. Other funds support student study and travel (**Athena, Classics Diversity, Susan Martin Excellence, Mediterranean Archaeology Fellowship, Moser, Rapp**) or archaeological excavations (**Hesperides, Kavousi, Mitrou**). With the establishment of the **Geraldine Gesell Aegean Prehistory Endowment**, the late Dick Sias wanted to promote research and teaching in that field. It was his wish that others would contribute to this fund so that it will grow and eventually enable us to establish an endowed chair in Aegean Prehistory in Dr. Gesell's honor.

Information on how to contribute to these and other classics funds can be found on the envelope enclosed in this newsletter. Information and online giving portals are also available on our website at classics.utk.edu.

Classics Funds

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