

# CLASSICS

**T** CLASSICS

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Our valiant Hesperides team enjoying Volubilis, Morocco, during a weekend site trip. From left to right: Caroline Pope, Katie Tardio, James Nesbitt-Prosser, Katelin McCullough, Landon Bryan (UT), Zoe Mehr, Mike McCann (UT), Natalie Marud, Sara Myran, and Tony Caldwell (UT).  
*Photo S. Collins-Elliott.*

## what's inside:

[classics.utk.edu](http://classics.utk.edu)

pg. II Message from Department Head  
pg. II-IV Alumni News  
pg. IV-V Gardens of the Hesperides & Student Perspectives

pg. VI Undergraduate Updates  
pg. VII Student Excellence Spotlight, Awards, & In Memoriam

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# Back With a Bounce

With the pandemic shutdown becoming a dim memory, our department is rebounding. Last year, we hired a new Greek historian, Sam Blankenship, who is expanding our view to the East, as she is a specialist on Greek-Persian cultural interactions. New assistant professors Salvador Bartera and Jessica Westerhold have

thrown themselves into recruitment, visiting all Latin high-school programs in the region and reconnecting with teachers. Salvador also runs a Latin club in Fulton HS, which has a very diverse student body. Given the current shortage of Latin teachers in Tennessee, we want to streamline teacher training: together with the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences we have designed a double major in Education and Latin that makes it possible for students to obtain their teaching license in four years instead of five.

As UT keeps growing, we are designing new courses to serve growing student interest. Stephen Collins-Elliott has created Business and Trade in the Ancient World; Lorenzo Del Monte is reviving Susan Martin's Roman Law; and Tristan Barnes plans to offer Ancient Astronomy next year.

We are also happy to announce that, thanks to a new agreement with the University of Athens, Greece, our students can study there for a semester or a year and receive UT credit. Two of our majors agreed to be the proverbial *Caviae porcelli* (a.k.a., guinea pigs), and report here about their adventures.

We held most of our usual departmental activities last year, but a temporary faculty shortage after the recent spate of retirements forced us to take a break from organizing our classics undergraduate conference. The conference will be back in February 2024.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and do stay in touch!

*Valē/Xaίpe!*

**Aleydis Van de Moortel**  
Professor and Head

**Meagan Ayers** ('04; MA Mediterranean Archaeology '06; PhD Buffalo) stopped by to tell us that she and husband Paul are relocating from Knoxville back to Cleveland, where Paul was offered a new job. Meagan continues her work as an editor for the Dickinson College Commentaries, where she edited Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar, which we use in our classes. She also is a freelance copy editor for NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. We are sorry to see Meagan and Paul go but will be sure to remain in touch.

**Abigail Braddock Simone** ('02) of Germantown HS in Memphis was elected to the *cursus honorum* that will make her president of TWLTA in 2025-26, the first classicist president of this group in 15 years. This is a wonderful recognition of your considerable talents and drive, Abigail!

**Brian Byerly** ('22), sought **Bettye Beaumont** ('74)'s help with his application materials for graduate school. Thanks to her excellent advice he has been accepted into M.A. programs at Georgia and Kansas; he chose Kansas and received full funding. Happy trails, Brian!

It was wonderful to catch up with **Izzy Dusek** ('22), who came to our Majors Meet & Greet on August 23. She is continuing the Master's program in public policy and administration at UTK, and plans to graduate this spring. We can't wait to hear what comes next.

**David Guffey** ('17) was accepted into the Master's program in Social Work at UTK and he is loving every minute of it. Anyone who sees the glow in his eyes knows that he has found his calling in life. We are so happy for you, David, and we know that you will be an exceptionally caring social worker.

**Andrew Montgomery** ('22) stopped by to report that he has been bitten by the bug of academia. He has finished his M.A. degree in Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh with a thesis focusing on the continuity of cult from the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age in the Aegean. He is now exploring paths to pursuing a PhD in Classical Archaeology. We are thumbing for you, Andrew!

**Juhi Patel** ('19), who received a Master's degree in the history of medicine from the University of Newcastle while on a Fulbright year there, is now in her second year at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in South Carolina. This school trains globally-minded physicians to meet the needs of rural and medically underserved populations. Juhi just returned from the Dominican Republic, where she and her fellow students provided medical care to over 500 patients. We are so proud of you, Juhi!

**Meera Patel** ('18) graduated last December with a Master's degree in Data Science from American University, specializing in Statistics and Artificial Intelligence. She taught an introductory undergraduate class in statistics at AU, and is working on projects that involve algorithms and archaeological data. Meera, you and Stephen Collins-Elliott need to talk!

**Walt Price** ('23) is pursuing an MA degree in Ancient Mediterranean Studies at the University of Missouri with full funding. Walt, please say hi for us to fellow alumnus Jacob Brakebill ('17)!

**Zoe Smith** ('22) reached out to Bettye Beaumont ('74) for advice, and she is now working for an archaeology firm in Cincinnati, where she is gaining valuable excavation and lab experience. Fiancé Tristan, an opera singer, is receiving job offers in Europe, so Zoe is looking for graduate programs in Classical Archaeology overseas where she can specialize in Aegean Prehistory and learn more about the Mitanni and Hittites. We wish her the best of luck.

**Kaitlyn Stiles** (PhD Mediterranean Archaeology '19) married Chris Jazwa, an associate professor of Anthropology at UN Reno and Stephen Collins-Elliott's collaborator in Morocco—archaeology is a small world! Kaitlyn moved to Reno, where she is continuing her research on the Mycenaean skeletons from Golemi, central Greece, which were the focus of her dissertation. She and Chris presented a poster at the annual AIA meeting in New Orleans last January on new strontium isotope analyses and 14C datings on samples from Golemi.

We were delighted to reconnect with **Ryan Vinson** ('11) who, as co-chair of the Tennessee Junior Classical League, helped to organize its 2023 convention in Knoxville. Ryan thoroughly enjoys his position. We are looking forward to seeing him more as we prepare to participate in the convention of the National Junior Classical League in Knoxville, in July 2024, which Ryan is chairing.

**Cyrus Yoshimoto** ('22) was awarded a prestigious Schwarzman Scholarship to study leadership and global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing in 2023-2024 before going to medical school. This is a highly competitive scholarship with a 3-4% acceptance rate. Awardees come from top universities in the U.S. and abroad. Cyrus credits his Classics training and our scholarship support for helping him reach this success. We appreciate you, Cyrus, and we wish you a fascinating year in China!

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**Special Feature: Stephanie McCarter**

**Stephanie McCarter** ('00) graduated *summa cum laude* with undergraduate degrees in classics and English before going on to earn her PhD in classics from the University of Virginia in 2007. She was a first-generation college student and member of Phi Beta Kappa. She started a successful career at the University of the South (Sewanee), where she was promoted to associate professor in 2014 and professor in 2021.

This fall, she received the Professional Achievement Award from the UT College of Arts and Sciences, which recognizes alumni who have achieved a high degree of success in their chosen field, a record of notable accomplishments, and a history of outstanding contributions to their discipline and/or creative pursuits.



McCarter's greatest professional achievement is as a masterful translator of Latin poetry, for which she has gained world renown. She has produced two hefty volumes of translations, with introductions and notes, of Horace's *Epodes*, *Odes*, and *Carmen Saeculare* (published by the U. of Oklahoma Press in 2020) and of Ovid's epic poem the *Metamorphoses* (published by Penguin Classics in 2022). Another book titled *Women in Power: Classical Myths and Stories from the Amazons to Cleopatra* is in press, and McCarter is now preparing a translation of the poems of Catullus.

McCarter is the first female classicist to have translated all of Horace's poems and the first woman in 60 years to have translated Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Importantly, McCarter is sensitive to the female perspective in Horace's love poems and Ovid's stories of divine rapes of female characters. Whereas previous male translators often "romanticized" sexual assault or made light of it, even suggesting female consent, McCarter's choice of words makes the violence explicit and invites discussion of power and gender relations in Roman times as well as in the present. Thus her unflinching translations demonstrate the continuing relevance of the classics to today's world.

McCarter's work has received rave reviews in international journals such as Cambridge's *Classical Review*, Spain's *Exemplaria Classica*, and *Bryn Mawr Classical Reviews*. Her translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, one of *The New Yorker's* best books of 2022, this year received the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award from the Academy of American Poets. In one glowing review of that work, Richard Tarrant, Pope Professor of Latin at Harvard, notes that "As a vehicle for serious engagement with Ovid's poem in English, McCarter has no rival."

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Her works also have received major media coverage and she has presented invited seminars around the world. It is no exaggeration to state that Stephanie McCarter has become one of the world's leading translators of Latin poetry.

"Classics professors nurtured my intellectual development, while also helping build my confidence in ways both big and small," McCarter said. "My classics professors continue to be a guiding beacon as demonstrated by my presence here tonight made possible because they thought me deserving of this award. I am deeply touched once again by their kindness and readily give them every bit of the credit. I really do owe them and this university everything I have achieved in my career."

## Gardens of the Hesperides: The Rural Archaeology of the Loukkos Valley, 2023 Season

By Stephen Collins-Elliott

Hesperides team members excavating the rural site HESP-51/LA13 with a view of the Atlantic Ocean, with Zoe Mehr (UNR) and Landon Bryan (UT) at the sifters. Photo S. Collins-Elliott.



"Adventure. Heat. Neck tans. These are all things that could describe the lives of an archaeologist. When I joined the *Gardens of the Hesperides* project, I did not know what to expect. This was my first fieldwork experience and my first time being out of the country, so it was a new experience for me all around. I learned many valuable things over the course of my journey in Morocco: excavation principles, laboratory etiquette, GIS systems, and that Moroccan Sprite is leagues above any found here in America. I also had the great opportunity of making lifelong connections with other students and professionals in the field. I would like to thank Professor Stephen Collins-Elliott for the opportunity and the Department of Classics for the Haines-Morris scholarship, which made it possible for me to take part in this memorable trip."

- LANDON BRYAN

### STUDENT EXPERIENCES:

"I had the honor this summer to participate in archaeological fieldwork with Professor Collins-Elliott and his colleagues on the Hesperides Project. Each moment spent in the field was valuable to me as a student in archaeology. I was introduced to GIS systems, archaeological methodology, and local Roman terracotta morphology, and met professional archaeologists working in their various specialized fields. While in Morocco, I was introduced to new languages and cultures. We had the opportunity to see multiple archaeological sites, such as Lixus and Volubilis, and witness their respective finds in the local museums. I was able to make connections with other students on the trip as well as professionals contributing to the Hesperides Project. I now have lifelong friends who will one day be colleagues. I also have gained experience in the field as well as a newfound respect for the process of fieldwork altogether. This experience was beyond valuable to me as a student. One of the most important revelations during my participation this summer revolved around my enjoyment in the field. Each aspect of the work was enjoyable, from cleaning pot sherds, to discovering something ancient in the compacted dirt. I would highly recommend any student interested in archaeology to pursue field work on this project. I'd like to give my great thanks to the scholarship committee of UT's Department of Classics and the Haines-Morris travel scholarship, as well as to those who participated in the *Gardens of the Hesperides: The Rural Archaeology of the Loukkos Valley* project."

- TONY CALDWELL

This June marked the last summer season of fieldwork of the joint Moroccan-American archaeological project, *Gardens of the Hesperides: The Rural Archaeology of the Loukkos Valley*, a collaboration between the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the *Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine*. Co-directed by Aomar Akerraz (INSAP) and Stephen Collins-Elliott (UT), this project had the aim of surveying and excavating the countryside around Lixus, the earliest city in northwestern Africa, to determine the impact of Roman annexation on the local economy.

From May 22 to June 23, 2023, UT Department of Classics students Tony Caldwell, Landon Bryan, and Mike McCann worked as part of an international team of Moroccan, American, and British archaeologists excavating two small rural sites, HESP51/LA21, located to the east of the sanctuary of Sidi Khayri, and HESP23/LA43, Koudiat Hmamou, located to the south of Sidi Khayri, on the north side of the Loukkos river.

Project staff this summer included Layla Es-Sadra (Mohamed V University, Rabat), Katelin McCullough (Hollins University), Katie Tardio (Bucknell University), Jonathan Lester (Cambridge Archaeology), Caroline Pope (Vanderbilt University), Chris Jazwa, and Kaitlyn Stiles (University of Nevada at Reno). Other undergraduate and graduate students from the Universities of Michigan, Minnesota, and Nevada at Reno also participated.

The project accomplished its goals in uncovering the phases of occupation at these two rural sites, which emerged in the late first century BCE, showing evidence of rural intensification prior to the arrival of the Roman military and administration, which aligned with the results of the two previous seasons of fieldwork. The team looks forward to finishing the publication of Project Hesperides. Stephen Collins-Elliott plans to excavate in the Lixus area next summer, in a prospective project focusing both on Lixus itself and on the surrounding countryside, comparing the development of the city and countryside in the pre-Roman period.

Project Hesperides expresses its thanks for the support of the *Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine*, the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco, the UT Department of Classics, UT College of Arts & Sciences, UT Office of Research, Innovation & Economic Development, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Archaeological Institute of America, the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the University of Nevada at Reno.

"Digging in Morocco was an experience unparalleled to anything in my life previously. I had the privilege of going on an expedition with people who have the same niche interests and curiosities, and the opportunity to discover and discuss ideas with them. Digging in North Africa was a nearly transcendent experience, with beautiful beaches and hills in a full 360 degrees around you and in the distance. Unearthing the sites of ancient civilizations for the first time since they had been covered is a feeling that cannot be replicated or simulated in an academic or digital setting. We alone had the opportunity to learn more about these sites and possibly impact the world of archaeology itself. On our off days, we were very generously given trips to cities across the country, from Tangier near the strait of Gibraltar to the capital, Rabat. In these cities, we toured other attractions, museums, natural formations, ancient sites, and the modern shops and restaurants that sprawl around them. College is the prime time of your life to have this experience and it may even help you to make archaeology a life-long profession."

- MIKE MCCANN



## Excavating a Roman Villa at Vacone, Italy *By Vakarís Paulauskas*

In spring 2023, I was fortunate to take a class with Professor Bloy, when he brought to my attention the archaeological excavation that he is co-directing in Italy. The Vacone project, run by Rutgers University since 2012, is uncovering two superimposed ancient Roman structures: a Republican era building that had been built over by an Imperial era Villa. The site is located ca. 30 km north of Rome. Thanks to my Haines-Morris travel scholarship from the Department of Classics, I was able to participate in this excavation. During the four weeks of excavation, we had three free weekends that allowed us to travel throughout Italy. I went every weekend to the *Citta Eterna* or, as most know it, the city of Rome. Not only was I able to experience traveling around my favorite city, but every week when I came back I was able to learn more about the “hands on” part of history that had eluded me while studying in class. The excavation was hard, but once the ruins had been uncovered it was very rewarding.

## Studying Classics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece: UT Classics Majors Ethan Peebles and Cynthia Hazelton Report



Time seems to work differently in Greece. The material remains of Antiquity and the Middle Ages are juxtaposed with modern architectural and artistic attempts to redefine or reinterpret the much honored past. Thousands of years of prehistory and history can be seen with the naked eye, even from the classroom windows of the unique campus of the University of Athens, a school following in an academic tradition tracing itself back to Socrates and Plato.

This is an environment tailored for the enthusiastic student: the English-language classics program has approximately 80 students from many different countries dedicating up to four years of their lives to study in the land of the ancient Greeks. Committing to the program for even a semester or a year, as we are doing, is enough to transform one’s understanding of the ancient world, and even the modern world! Classes may be held in a lecture hall or an ancient odeon, in a conference room or the fifth-century BCE remains of a Periclean building project.

Field trips take you from the National Archaeological Museum to archaeological sites on the island of Crete. Athens itself provides an endless list of activities: museums, lovely Byzantine churches, archaeological sites both known and unknown, markets, restaurants, and lots of souvlaki and loukoumades stands! This study-abroad program and its staff makes finding friends and navigating Greek city life easy and enjoyable. However, the program also requires commitment. It is not a vacation, but an immersion in the philosophical life. Reading, discussing, and—yes—working on Greek grammar—are still required. But as we have learned in just two weeks of classes, the returns—intellectual, social, cosmopolitan—are worth every minute.

We are so grateful to be able to enjoy these amazing experiences thanks to scholarships from our Classics department: Cynthia received a Susan Martin Excellence Travel Scholarship, an Albert Rapp Memorial Scholarship, and a Haines-Morris Award; and Ethan an Athena Travel Scholarship as well as the inaugural Robert McDow Scholarship. We are so excited about our invaluable experiences and cannot wait to see what the rest of our time in Athens has in store for us!

## Spotlight on Student Excellence



We hosted our annual Eta Sigma Phi banquet where we initiated several new student members for their excellent performance in Greek or Latin. We also recognized students for their outstanding academic work and awarded scholarships for the upcoming academic year and study abroad programs. Congratulations to our students for their devotion to the study of classics and their hard work. We are all very proud of their successes!

This year, we hosted our 40th annual Latin Day at UT and shared the world of ancient Rome with young scholars who filled the conference rooms to hear faculty lectures on several riveting topics. Learn more about these student engagement experiences at [tiny.utk.edu/ClassicsNews](https://tiny.utk.edu/ClassicsNews).



### WELL DESERVED TEAMWORK AWARD

At the spring staff awards meeting of the College of Arts and Sciences, our own Humanities Shared Services team of **Jessica Black** (middle), **Megan Cottrell** (right), and **Mitchell Harper** (left) have won the College’s 2023 Teamwork Award. These three “musqueteers” provide specialized staff support to Classics, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, housed on three different floors, and including fifty-four faculty and hundreds of students. They do so with unfailing efficiency and courtesy, and through seamless, daily collaboration. We are so grateful to them for all their excellent work.



### VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARD

Our business manager **Ann Robinson-Craig** has received the 2023 Volunteer Spirit Award at the 2023 Chancellor’s Honors Banquet. This is a really big deal: it is the highest distinction given to a staff member of the university. Ann more than deserved this for her 30+ years of devoted and superb service as the budget director of the College of Arts and Sciences. Bravo, Ann! We feel so blessed to have you on our team.

### IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the passing of **Laurie Height Keenan**, who was a lecturer in our department in the 1990s and went on to be an editor at Bolchazy-Carducci, a premier publisher of Latin textbooks and translations. Chris Craig, Susan Martin, Betsy Sutherland, and David Tandy remember her with great fondness as a wonderful, joyful person and a beloved teacher. Our condolences to her husband Jim, their children, and grandchildren.



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## Classics Funds

Generous friends and benefactors have established a variety of funds to help our students and faculty in their work. With the establishment of our exciting new study-abroad program at the University of Athens, we expect that more students will need funds to take advantage of this opportunity to broaden their horizons, both intellectually and culturally. We hope that you will consider supporting us by donating to one of our scholarship funds (**Athena Travel Fund, Classics Diversity Fund, Christopher Craig** and **Ann Robinson-Craig Fund, Susan Martin Fund, Mediterranean Archaeology Fellowship, Moser Fund, Rapp Fund, Rutledge Memorial Fund**), faculty support funds (**Classics Enrichment, Gesell Fund, Henbest Fund**) or archaeological excavations (**Hesperides, Kavousi, Mitrou**).

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 classics website [classics.utk.edu](http://classics.utk.edu).

Maximas gratias vobis agimus!

