

Fall 2024 Newsletter

CLASSICS



HESPERIDES ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, MOROCCO

This past July, five classics majors from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, traveled with Associate Professor Stephen Collins-Elliott to help with processing finds from the joint Moroccan-American archaeological project Gardens of the Hesperides: The Rural Archaeology of the Loukkos Valley. The project is co-directed by Aomar Akerraz, director of the Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine, Rabat and Collins-Elliott.

This summer students worked in the conservation lab at Lixus identifying, quantifying, and inventorying the finds of the past seasons of survey and excavation from the earliest city in northwestern Africa.

"We received valuable training in the identification and quantification of ancient biological remains and artifacts, and the processing of those remains," said Landon Bryan.

Natalie Newsome explained, "We learned how to quantify artifacts, distinguish the differences between pottery sherds, find the attitude of a rim sherd, the diameter of the vessel from the rim sherd, the percentage missing of the pottery, and how to create highly detailed artifact illustrations."

Isaac Buck said the trip was an amazing experience. "From the historical sites so closely tied to the myths that I love to study to the incredible opportunity to work in an archaeological lab with materials from thousands of years ago, I felt it was an incredible privilege."

"For me," Henry Greene said, "this visit represented a unique opportunity to interface with the history of the Mediterranean in the most unmediated manner I have yet had access to, whether this was the ancient or medieval history preserved in the untold numbers of potsherds we sorted through or the living history of the cities, peoples, and customs of the nation."

Collins-Elliott led the group on field trips to nearby cities and sites, including Tangier, Tamuda, Tétouan, and Meknes. Volubilis was a favorite for several of the students.

"In Morocco, the presence of this history is palpable," Greene said. "It hums in the very air, with the Moroccan ways of life, though no doubt much influenced by the modern world." He noted that during the day the students saw a triclinium in the ruins of Volubilis. Later that day, they would sit at benches around a table in a manner not unlike the triclinium style.

Several of the students noted with appreciation the travel scholarships through the Department of Classics that made the unforgettable trip possible for them. (See how to support those scholarships on page 12.)

UT classics students looking cool under the Arch of Caracalla at Volubilis, Morocco. From left to right, Isaac Buck, Landon Bryan (with awesome hat), Natalie Newsome, Henry Greene, and Mak Pentz. Photo by Stephen Collins-Elliott.





Message from the Department Head

UT CLASSICS GOING STRONG

Aleydis Van de Moortel
PROFESSOR AND HEAD

It has been another great year for classics in Vol Country. We were able to hire a new medieval Latinist and digital manuscript scholar, Charles Kuper, who also brings considerable expertise in Byzantine Greek, thus further enriching our program and the language offerings of the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. We were sad to lose award-winning Distinguished Lecturer Theo Kopestonsky, but happy for her that she took a tenure-track position at Wabash College. In Theo's place, we hired Nikola Golubović (PhD, University of Pennsylvania), a specialist in Roman rhetoric and a linguist who speaks or reads no fewer than 13 languages. With the addition of these two energetic new colleagues, our faculty is back to its original strength.

As the number of undergraduate students at UT keeps expanding, more students are drawn to our department. Last year, our number of majors increased by 16 percent, and our minors by a whopping 35 percent. We now have a record 40 majors and 40 minors.

Much credit for this must go to our faculty's many outreach and recruitment efforts, from Latin Day (p. 3) and Archaeology Day to a variety of high school and on-campus recruitment fairs. Much kudos also goes to the excellent teaching by our faculty, and to their initiatives in creating new courses that introduce students to ever more fascinating aspects of the ancient Greek and Roman world. For example, Tristan Barnes is teaching a new Ancient Astronomy course, using UT's planetarium to simulate the skies visible to the ancients thousands of years ago. He and his wife, Reema Habib, also have designed a new study abroad course on Roman Britain, set to launch this May.

Our high-quality training is reflected in our students' excellent results on national Latin exams, their ability to garner national awards (p. 6), their presentations at professional conferences (p. 5), and their successes in graduate school and the workplace (p. 11). We are very happy to see that more of our students are choosing the highly rewarding career path of high school Latin teaching, as there is a chronic shortage of such teachers in Tennessee. As we know, learning Latin is super "brain candy" for high school students.

We remain keen to stimulate research among our students. Our nationally acclaimed Tennessee Undergraduate Classics Research Conference last year drew a record number of participants (p. 4). We also enjoyed several stimulating lectures by visiting and on-campus speakers on a variety of topics in classics and archaeology.

At the end of August, we said goodbye to our good friend and business manager Ann Robinson-Craig, who decided to join husband Chris in retirement. We will miss her greatly, but will always be grateful for all she has done for us. One of her legacies is to leave us an excellent administrative team, and a fund that supports high-school Latin teacher training.

Thank you for reading this newsletter, and do stay in touch!

Valē/Xaĩpe!



NATIONAL CONVENTION OF JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

The 2024 annual convention of the National Junior Classical League (NJCL) was held on the UT campus July 22-27. Among the organizers was alumnus **RYAN VINSON**.

As many as 1,300 junior high and high school students and chaperones from all over the country spent six days enjoying talks and competing in a slew of contests on subjects such as etymology, Roman civilization, Latin vocabulary, ancient Greek civilization, and mythology. There were even an

academic heptathlon and decathlon for hard-core attendees.

Students also participated in ancient fashion, oratory, and graphic arts contests, as well as in sports events (including a marathon, of course). In short, they had a grand time immersing themselves in all things classical.

They were warmly welcomed by Beauvais Lyons, UT's divisional dean for arts and humanities, and by **JESSICA WESTERHOLD**. **DYLAN BLOY**

gave a much-appreciated talk about his excavation at the Roman villa at Vacone, providing a clear, energetic, and often humorous explanation of the nature and importance of this site, the challenges of organizing and executing a dig, and the personal dimensions of the teamwork that Roman archaeology demands.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make the Knoxville NJCL convention an unforgettable experience for our visitors!

LATIN DAY XLI

Our 41st Annual Latin Day took place on October 26, 2023, in the UT Student Union. As many as 312 young scholars from Knoxville, Kingsport, and Murfreesboro, their teachers, and chaperones attended a combination of talks and workshops.

The program was enhanced by feedback from our amazing highschool Latin teachers. Sessions were more interactive than before, and tailored to different audience levels to accommodate student attendees from seventh through 12th grade. A business meeting for teachers provided a welcome opportunity to share thoughts and talk about Latin pedagogy and the future of classics.

UT's Classics Club participated for the first time. Its students designed and moderated a myth-themed trivia game during the lunch period. Our esteemed speakers included faculty from the classics, English, and history departments. We look forward to welcoming even more young scholars on Latin Day XLII (Oct. 17, 2024), and XLIII (Oct. 30, 2025).

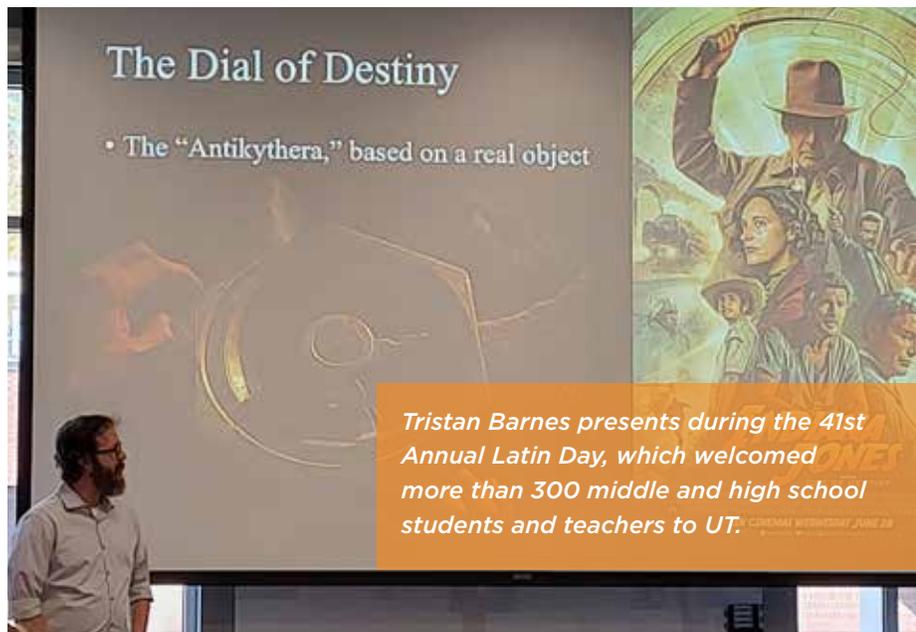
The talks for our 41st annual Latin Day included from the Department of Classics:

- Associate Professor Justin Arft, "Mythology from Greece to Rome"
- Lecturer Tristan Barnes, "The Real Dial of Destiny: The Antikythera Mechanism"
- Assistant Professor Sam Blankenship, "mater, mētēr, Mutter, Mom: The Indo-European Language Family Tree"
- Senior Lecturer Dylan Bloy, "Shipwreck! The Roman Taste for Greek Art"
- Lecturer Lorenzo Del Monte, "Roman Paintings Between Past and Present"

- Senior Lecturer Reema Habib, "Smelling Powerful: The Perfumes of Caesar, Cleopatra, and Pericles"
- Distinguished Lecturer Theodora Kopestonsky, "Defigo Eos: How to Curse Someone in Ancient Rome"
- Chancellor's Professor Aleydis Van de Moortel, "Pirates of the Bronze Age."

Also presenting were:

- Associate Professor Jacob A. Latham, Department of History, "Roman Social Media: Imperial Communication and Provincial Consensus"
- Caitlin Branum Thrash, a lecturer in the Department of English and Latin coordinator for the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, "Introduction to Medieval Manuscripts and Paleography."



The organizing committee of our undergraduate conference were, from left to right, Desirae Cordell, Adelle Rosendale, Natalie Newsome, Tony Caldwell, and Stephen Collins-Elliott. Photo by Justin Arft.

Twelfth Tennessee Undergraduate Classics Research Conference a Success

After a year's hiatus because of short-staffing among our faculty, our 12th undergraduate research conference was held at Strong Hall on February 24, 2024. The conference received generous support from alumna **BETTYE BEAUMONT** ('74) as well as from our Classics Enrichment Fund; the College of Arts and Sciences; UT's Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development; the Denbo Center for Humanities and the Arts; and the Departments of English, History, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and World Languages and Cultures.

This year's conference was impeccably organized by classics students Tony Caldwell, Desirae Cordell, Natalie Newsome, and Adelle Rosendale under the guidance of Associate Professor Stephen Collins-Elliott. To our relief, the one-year hiatus had not caused classics students elsewhere to forget about us. On the contrary: We received 55 abstracts from around the country and welcomed 36 student-speakers—both absolute records. After a warm welcome address by Robert Hinde, interim executive dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Associate Professor Trevor Luke of

Florida State University delivered the Beaumont Keynote Lecture titled, "Master and Commander: the Roman Emperor and the Sea." Luke's presentation was penetrating and yet accessible, and it generated a lively Q&A among the audience.

Our 36 student participants came from 22 colleges and universities throughout the US, from as far away as Dartmouth College, Boston University, the University of California (UC) Los Angeles, and UC San Diego. They presented research on a wide variety of topics such as, "From Bulls to Beetles: Rethinking Sacrificial Animals in the Iconography of Bronze Age Crete" and "The Role of Family Structure in the Spread of Indo-European Languages in Europe" to "Utilizing Sentiment Analysis Algorithms in the Study of Identity in Ancient Greek and Latin Literature." Once again, we were happily surprised at the wide range of research topics and the high quality of the papers as well as by the audience's keen attention and interesting questions.

Clearly, our conference is attracting very bright young scholars who are deeply engaged with classics.

It is now quite common for us to meet promising graduate students and young faculty in the field who experienced their first scholarly conference at UT and remember us warmly.

Classics faculty presided over nine well-attended panels. During the lunch hour, Associate Professor Justin Arft, Assistant Professor Sam Blankenship, and Luke held an optional professionalization workshop on "Classics as a Career and Beyond."

The presenters included UT students Victoria Padgett, Henry Greene, George Livesay, and Evan Shannon.

Collins-Elliott expresses his deep gratitude to his colleagues for generously giving their time. He also acknowledges the hard work, initiative, and efficiency of the student organizers, and extends a special thank you to Ann Robinson-Craig (business manager) and Jessica Black (events and communications coordinator), Mitchell Harper (travel coordinator), and Megan Beeler (space coordinator) for their logistical support and very helpful administrative oversight.



Ann Robinson-Craig Retires

After 32 years of devoted service, our stalwart and beloved Ann Robinson-Craig has taken well-deserved retirement.

She served mostly as the chief budget director of the College of Arts and Sciences, and in the last two years as the business manager of the shared administrative services team assisting the Departments of Classics, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, always giving it her all, and then some.

A history major, she is a fervent believer in the mission of the College of Arts and Sciences, and she has dedicated her career to making it flourish. The entire college has benefited greatly from her wisdom, expertise, and immense knowledge of UT's finances and administration. During her two short years as our business manager, she has shaped the shared services team into a cohesive, efficient unit.

In addition to all this, she has endowed together with her husband, Professor Emeritus Chris Craig, scholarships to support the training of future Latin high school teachers. We are immensely grateful for all she has done for us. It is no exaggeration to say that throughout her career, Ann has been *saxum nostrum* ("our rock"). For her amazing accomplishments, she has received the Chancellor's 2023 Volunteer Spirit Award, the highest honor given by UT to a staff member. We wish her and Chris many happy years in retirement.

Students Present at Classical Association

Two of our students—HENRY GREENE and WALTER PRICE—wrote excellent research papers for Assistant Professor Jessica Westerhold's Latin class and were encouraged by her to present their work at the biennial meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle, West, and South—Southern Section (CAMWS-SS) in Greensboro, North Carolina, Nov. 3-4, 2023. Both received CAMWS Manson Stewart Travel Scholarships, and Greene was given in addition generous funding by Professor Emeritus Chris Craig from his Faculty Public Service Award to cover the expenses of conference travel and stay.

Greene, a senior in classics and philosophy, and a prospective Latin teacher, spoke about, "Problems in Epicurean Readings of Horace." Price, an alumnus of our department ('23) and now a graduate student at the University of Missouri, Columbia, gave a talk titled, "Poetic Uses of Structure and Meter in Catullus 108, 51, and 23." Our congratulations to Henry and Walter for this significant achievement.

"There were many fascinating presentations, but I think my favorite part was interacting with so many interesting and knowledgeable people, and getting a feel for the shape of the world of classics. It's always a pleasure to get to talk to those who are passionate about the same things that you are." - Henry Greene

"The best part of the whole experience was how much passion everyone had in their work and the joy they had in sharing it with others." - Walt Price



STUDENTS HONORED AT AWARDS BANQUET

At the end of each year, the department holds a celebration and awards recognition for our students. Associate Professors Justin Arft and Stephen Collins-Elliott served as the masters of ceremonies on May 1, 2024.

Our 2024 **ETA SIGMA PHI INITIATES** were: Robert Greene, Priscilla Owens, Drew Piper Jr., Katie Emler, Madeleine Shroades, Landon Bryan, Apeksha Sawarkar, Wyatt Smith, Lela Flowers, and Dorothea Stansell. Our leadership team for Eta Sigma Phi and the Classics Club, Ethan Peebles and Desirae Cordell, remain in place and have done a stellar job organizing our activities and membership.



Several students were recognized for their outstanding academic work during the 2023- 2024 academic year, or have been awarded scholarships for 2024-2025. Ethan

Peebles received our signature Arthur H. Moser Memorial Scholarship for language students, and CC Hazelton our signature Albert Rapp Memorial Scholarship for archaeology and civilization students. Landon Bryan and Henry Greene received Haines-Morris Scholarships, and Mak Pentz a Haines-Morris Award. Evan Shannon received a departmental *Poikilia* scholarship. Shannon also was honored with a national Snowden scholarship of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for participation in a 2024 summer seminar in Greece, as well as with a UT Commission for Disability Undergraduate Student Award.



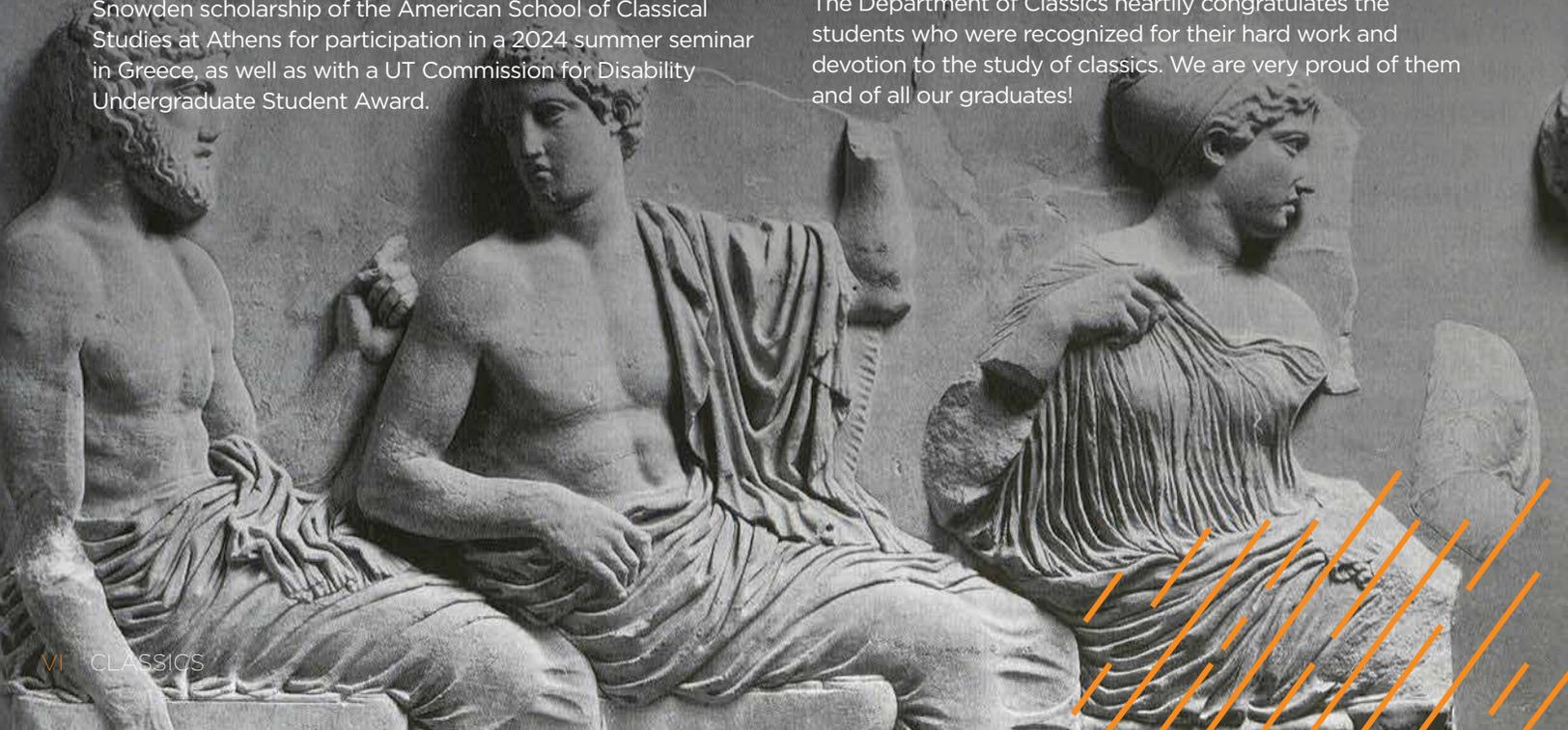
Several students were awarded departmental travel scholarships: Landon Bryan received an Athena travel scholarship, Henry Greene an S.D. Martin Excellence Scholarship, and Isaac Buck, Natalie Newsome, Mak Pentz, and Ben Smelser Haines-Morris travel scholarships, which enabled them to participate in the Hesperides project in Morocco.

Two of our students were recognized as Volunteers of Distinction: Houston Boyd in classical civilization, and Adelle Rosendale in Latin. The College of Arts and Sciences also recognized outstanding graduates for the May 2024 commencement: Houston Boyd for classical civilization, Adelle Rosendale for Latin, and Tony Caldwell for classical archaeology. In addition, the department gave senior awards to Tony Caldwell in classical archaeology, Christina Onolfo in classical civilization, and Adelle Rosendale in Latin.

Henry Greene also received our department's Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS) Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Classical Studies, and Tony Caldwell was given the department's Dedication and Service Award.

Many of our students excelled at the CAMWS National Latin Exam 2023-2024. For Intermediate Latin, Grant Williams placed in the cash award group (the highest); Alexander Wyrick and Joshua Adedokun placed in the book award group (the second highest). Noah Hornback, Lela Flowers, Lauren Shinn, Houston Boyd, and Kaitlyn Emler earned certificates of commendation. For Advanced Latin, Henry Greene placed in the cash award group (the highest).

The Department of Classics heartily congratulates the students who were recognized for their hard work and devotion to the study of classics. We are very proud of them and of all our graduates!



UT CLASSICS STUDENTS SUMMER EXPERIENCES IN GREECE

EVAN SHANNON (HAINES-MORRIS AND *POIKILIA* SCHOLARSHIPS)

This summer I attended the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) Summer Seminar II “Alexander to Actium: The Archaeology of Hellenistic Greece,” led by Professors Thomas Rose and Jake Morton. We toured nearly all of mainland Greece, visiting 37 archaeological sites and 18 museums. The program included 20 students from diverse backgrounds, including undergraduate students, graduate students and professors.

One of my primary interests within classics is disability studies, particularly in relation to current academia and classical reception. I found great value in seeing archaeological evidence for sanctuaries to Asklepius, god of healing, as well as in observing how museums chose to organize and present the evidence. My favorite sites were the Nekromanteion and the Sacred Oak of Dodona. These sites have persisted in ritual and public interest, and I find the continuity across the ages beautiful.

My participation in the ASCSA seminar was partially funded by the Society for Classical Studies’ Frank M. Snowden Jr. Undergraduate Scholarship, with additional support from a Haines-Morris Travel Scholarship and a *Poikilia* Scholarship from UT’s classics department. As a first-generation, low-income student, I have always dreamed of studying abroad, but it wasn’t until this summer that that dream was actualized.



Evan Shannon grooving at the Parthenon. It's 2,500 years old, and never gets old.

BEN SMELSER (HAINES-MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP)

This summer, I was extremely fortunate to participate in the excavation of the Megalos Peristeres cave in Crete under the direction of Professor Thomas Strasser of Providence College, Rhode Island. The cave was only a few kilometers away from the University of Crete in Rethymno, and I was lucky enough to get to know some of its students. Crete was absolutely stunning, and the culture was rich and beautiful. I will never get over the views of the mountains every morning when I woke up, and the sunsets on the Aegean Sea towards the end of the day.

Digging in a cave was quite the experience. My major is in classics, and I study mainly the Iron and Hellenistic Ages. However, the goal of this dig was to find evidence of late Pleistocene to early Holocene humans in support of the theory that those early humans inhabited Crete. This was my first excavation, so I really didn’t know what to expect; little did I know digging in caves is hard because of the difficulties differentiating stratigraphic levels. The soil was rough and rocky, and honestly, it was hard to determine different soil compositions. However, we managed to get it done.

The best part of the experience was the people I got to work with and learn from. Professor Strasser and the co-director, Assistant Professor Miriam Clinton, taught me so much about the practice of archaeology as well as the subject of prehistoric humans. The students were phenomenal, and we are still friends. I very much thank the UT classics department for giving me a Haines-Morris Travel Scholarship to make this experience happen.

Excavation team in the Megalos Peristeres Cave, Crete. The first and fourth from the right are UT students Andrew Montgomery and Ben Smelser, respectively. Third from the left is director Thomas Strasser. Photo by Dimitra Skoulikari.



FACULTY NOTES



Professor Emerita **GERALDINE GESELL** was happy to see another volume of the *Kavousi* final publication appear. She continues to spend about six months a year at the Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Center for East Crete in Greece, researching and writing her own volume of the Kavousi publication.



STEPHEN COLLINS-ELLIOTT co-authored a chapter detailing the state of the field on the applications of geophysics in archaeology in Morocco and Tunisia. He also published a package for the open-source statistical software platform R titled *lakthesis: Consensus Seriation for Binary Data*, which provides a graphical interface for archaeologists to seriate contexts and finds assemblages (putting elements into a sequence on the basis of similarity). Last spring he served as acting department head and faculty sponsor of the 12th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Classics Research Conference.



SAM BLANKENSHIP greatly enjoyed her first year at the university. In addition to teaching, she continues to think and write about Achaemenid Persian historiography and its influences on biblical texts such as Ezra-Nehemiah and Esther, as well as on the self-presentation of Alexander the Great and the diadochi. In November she traveled to the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in San Diego to present an invited review of a fascinating forthcoming book on Jewish scribal responses to Achaemenid imperial ideology.



LORENZO DEL MONTE continues to write on the economic and political history of archaic Greece. He is now working on a publication that explores the development of the Greek state apparatus through early laws establishing economic value equivalences. He also works on Linear B and Roman law, and is increasingly interested in classical reception, especially in contemporary art, movies, and poetry. Del Monte plans to offer a Roman law course this spring, while also mentoring students in Linear B through individualized studies.

TRISTAN BARNES celebrated the publication of his co-written article “On the Theme of *Katasterismoi*—An Attic White-Ground Lekythos with the Figure of Krotos,” which dealt with a very early depiction of the constellation Sagittarius in the form of a satyr. He hopes to put that experience to good use in his new course, CLAS 389: Ancient Astronomy, which will survey conceptions and uses of the night sky throughout the ancient Mediterranean. He also looks forward to a study abroad program on Roman Britain that he is developing with Reema Habib for the May mini-term.

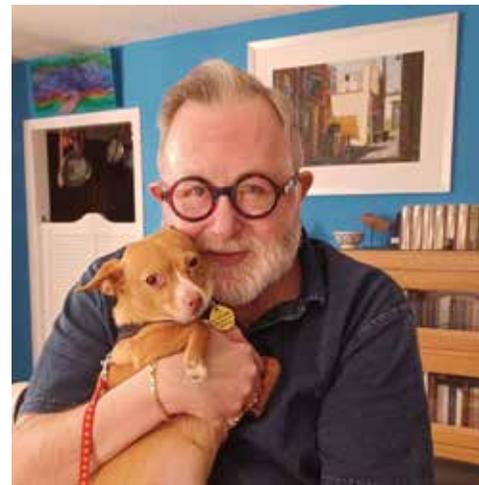




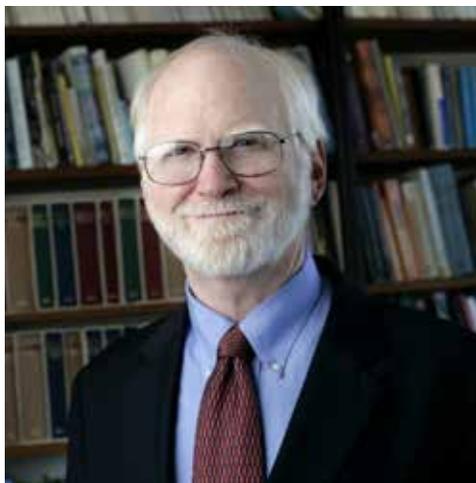
NIKOLA GOLUBOVIĆ is delighted to have joined the UT Department of Classics. He specializes in Latin literature of the first three centuries AD, with a particular focus on rhetorical education. His article on the ancient use and transmission of the “Minor Declamations”—a collection of Roman school exercises—is set to appear in *Classical Philology*, and he recently wrote about Horace’s *Satires* for a publication in his native Serbian. He continues to cultivate his interest in historical linguistics by working on Vlach, another language he grew up speaking.



JESSICA WESTERHOLD started 2024 by presenting a paper with Salvador Bartera at the annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies (now published in *Classical Outlook*). She was thrilled to teach Augustan poetry last spring. Her students shared their translations at UT’s first Translation Symposium. Westerhold spent the summer diligently researching for her next monograph, *Representations of Happiness in Latin Elegy*. During the National Junior Classical League convention she was honored to address the opening assembly and to give a talk on one of her favorite poets, Sulpicia. This fall, Westerhold is looking forward to Latin Day XLII.



Professor Emeritus **ROBERT SKLENÁŘ** has fully recovered after treatment for non-Hodgkins lymphoma, and the cancer is in remission. He thanks his colleagues for their support and assistance, especially Aleydis Van de Moortel, Tina Shepardson, and Chris Craig. He is returning to scholarship with a conference paper titled “Horace, *Odes* 4.7 and Rainer Maria Rilke’s ‘Herbsttag’: Two Perspectives on the Place of Humanity in the Cosmic Cycle,” delivered at the 104th Anniversary Meeting of CAMWS—The Southern Section in San Antonio, Texas; he will present an expanded version in October 2025 at the National University of La Plata, Argentina.



CHRIS CRAIG, professor emeritus, has enjoyed another year of relentless reading, decorous exercise, and travel to both coasts, places in between, and across the pond. He is deeply touched by the outreach of students from each of his four decades at UT. He is excited that three former students, magistra Abigail Braddock Simone (’02) of Houston High School, magister Sandy Hughes (’05) of Bearden High school and magistra Mary Walter (’22) of Pigeon Forge High School (recipient of the first Craig teaching scholarship!), will be presenting in November at our annual state language teachers conference (TWLTA), a program organized by Simone as incoming president.



ALEYDIS VAN DE MOORTELE continues to be thrilled to lead such a wonderful group of students, faculty, staff, and advisory board members. In the spring she enjoyed a research leave to work on the final publication of the Mitrou Archaeological Project. She published an article on a potter’s kiln at Mitrou, and she co-published an article on the relative and absolute chronology of Mitrou, which supports a long duration of the Late Helladic I phase and the recent scientific redating of the Theran eruption to the 16th century BCE. She participated in national and international conferences, and gave invited lectures at the University of Münster (online) and the University of Catania.



Research professor **MERLE LANGDON** co-published an article in the *American Journal of Archaeology* on an archaic graffito of a building identified as a Hekatompedon, which he found in the Attic countryside. This supports the hypothesis that the Hekatompedon was a temple and not an open space. This article was picked up widely in the Greek press and by the British *Independent*.

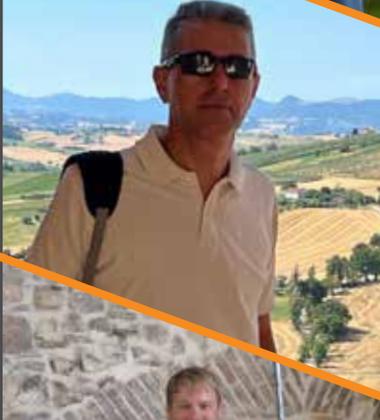
FACULTY NOTES



JUSTIN ARFT is continuing work on his second book project, tentatively titled *Humanizing the Hero: Transgression, Normativity, and Homer's Audience*, and he has recently given talks at the University of Missouri, University of Bristol, and the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS) on topics related to this project. He also has a contract with Oxford University Press for his forthcoming chapter on *Odyssey* book 7 for the *Oxford Critical Guide to Homer* series.



CHARLES KUPER is beyond thrilled to join the Department of Classics! He works on Latin and Greek literature from late antiquity through the Middle Ages. The Christian cult of the saints is one of his central interests. This has been a busy research year. He published a book chapter on the satirical biography of Theodoulos the Stylite (Svenska Forskningsinstitutet i Istanbul, 2024) and a short article on the Roman monk Evagrius (Brill, 2024). In September, he submitted his book *The Menologion of Basil II* to Harvard University Press; this includes the first critical edition, commentary, and translation of a luxurious Byzantine calendar of the saints. Most recently, he was a postdoctoral fellow at La Sapienza Università di Roma, where he worked on the manuscript tradition of the Latin grammarian Priscian.



SALVADOR BARTERA published a book review in *Gnomon* and an article (his first in Italian!) on Tacitus in the Renaissance. He also published, with Jessica Westerhold, an article on Latin pedagogy in *Classical Outlook*. He was honored to receive a Denbo Center for Humanities and the Arts fellowship for 2024-2025 and the Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society. Both awards will be used to work on his book project on Stefonio's *Flavia*, a Latin play that he is editing and translating. On this topic, he gave a paper at the Warburg Institute in London in May. In November, he attended the Tennessee World Language Teaching Association (TWLTA) meeting, where he delivered the keynote address at the Tennessee Classical Association luncheon.



DYLAN BLOY is excited to add the upper level Greek archaeology course to his portfolio this year. This summer he oversaw what may well be the final season of excavation at a Roman villa site in Vacone, Italy, where his team excavated the last four rooms of the domestic core of the villa, replete with colorful mosaics. They proved that the villa's peristyle garden contained a meter-deep pool in its latest phase, and found a sequence of early Imperial alterations to the Republican bath. He and his co-directors are hard at work on a final publication volume summarizing their 11 seasons of field work at the site. In addition to publishing two articles about work at the villa, he also gave a talk about Vacone to the National Junior Classical League convention held in Knoxville last summer.



REEMA HABIB has attained the rank of teaching associate professor and has accepted a role as the department's Latin program and Latin Placement Exam coordinator. She continues to research ancient magic, while also developing an experiential pedagogy paper for the CAMWS annual meeting in 2025. She is excited to offer a Roman Britain study abroad trip with Tristan Barnes during the May mini-term, and to further develop her outreach efforts within the local school system. Beyond the classroom, Reema is particularly excited to work with the department's Access and Engagement Committee on its second annual Ancient Games Night this year, and to introduce a new hands-on activity about mummification at the McClung Museum's annual Can You Dig It event.

We send warm congratulations to the following alumni:

HOUSTON BOYD ('24) has been accepted to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's graduate program in classics.

ALANNA HEATHERLY ('19), a PhD candidate at the University of Michigan, was accepted into the 2024 Classical Summer School of the American Academy in Rome with full funding.

Magistra **SUSAN NEAS HANKINS** ('86) is planning to retire at the end of this school year, her 37th with the Latin program at Greeneville High School.

Magistra **JULIE HOLT** ('00) of Powell High School was awarded a Rudolph Masciantonio grant from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South.

Magistra **LIZZI KERSEY** ('07) won the Coffin Fellowship from the National Society for Classical Studies and the Golden Anchor Award for Outstanding Teaching at Farragut High School.

Magistra **CHLOE LOVELACE** ('15), who joined the Metropolitan Museum in New York as an intern in 2015, is now a collections specialist in ancient Near Eastern art. She is currently assisting with the renovation of the Met's Near Eastern galleries.

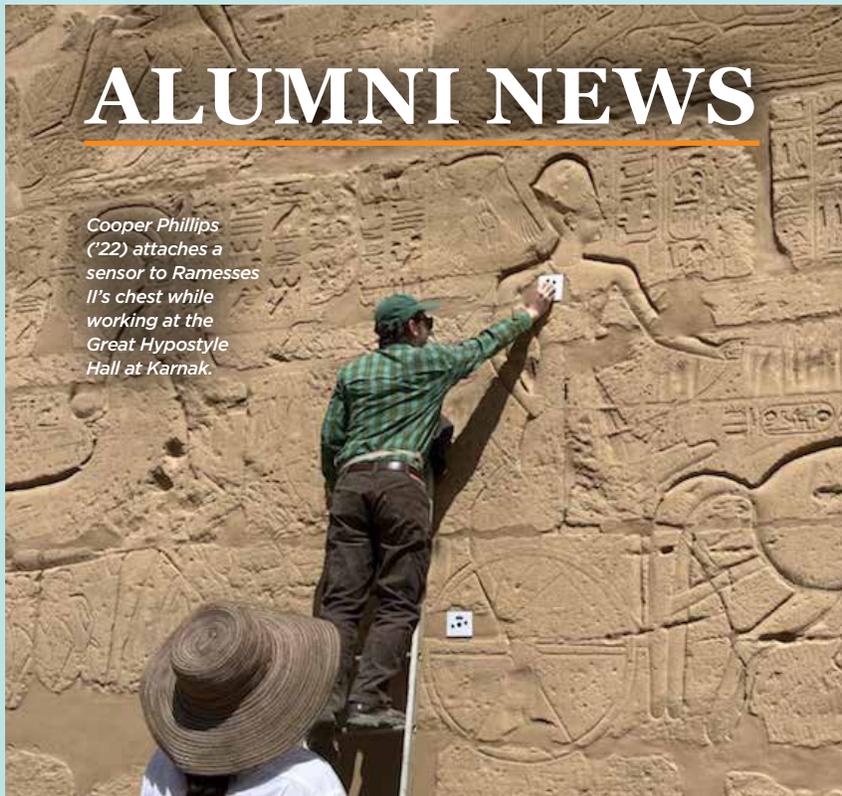
Magister **ANDREW MONTGOMERY** ('22) has started the master's program in Mediterranean archaeology at UT. He is writing his thesis on Minoan peak sanctuaries under the supervision of Tristan Barnes and Aleydis Van de Moortel.

Magister **COOPER PHILLIPS** ('22), a PhD student in Egyptology at the University of Memphis, has been helping to produce facsimiles of some Ramesses II's reliefs on the southern exterior wall at the Great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak. He also has his own project, creating 3D models of various scenes and reliefs with photogrammetric software. Currently he is producing a model of Ramesses' Hittite Peace Treaty from the walls of the Cour de la Cachette.



Alanna Heatherly engages in ancient and modern self-reflection at the 2024 summer school of the American Academy in Rome.

ALUMNI NEWS



Cooper Phillips ('22) attaches a sensor to Ramesses II's chest while working at the Great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak.

WALTER PRICE ('23), an MA student in Ancient Mediterranean Studies at the University of Missouri, Columbia, has started to teach undergraduate Latin. He also participated in his first professional conference, presenting his research at the 2023 meeting of the Southern Section of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South in Greensboro, North Carolina.

ADELLE ROSENDALE ('24) is pursuing a master's degree in education and a license to become a Latin high school teacher. She is currently interning with Magister **SANDY HUGHES** ('05) at Bearden High School.

ZOE SMITH ('22) has been accepted into the MA program of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago with partial funding. In addition to Mesopotamian and Anatolian archaeology, she is expanding her language arsenal by taking Hittite this fall and Turkish this spring.

Magistra **MARY WALTER** ('24) is teaching math and Latin at Pigeon Forge High School.

VICKI WEAVER ('92), chair of our Classics Advisory Council, has a new position as vice president for human resources at SouthEast Bank in Knoxville.

Finally, former Department Head Chris Craig was surprised in his cardio class to hear another participant reciting the *Aeneid* to himself. **BRADLEY GRINDSTAFF**, now a financial fraud investigator and accountant, memorized his Vergil for Craig in 1988 and has used it for calming perspective ever since. A great reunion!

classics.utk.edu

  FOLLOW US!

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admission without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status. PAN E01-1028-001-25 JOB 24-272



We are very grateful for the generosity of our friends and benefactors who have established a variety of funds to help our students and faculty in their work.

We hope that you will consider supporting us by donating to:

One of our student scholarship funds (**Athena Travel Fund, Classics *Poikilia* Fund, Christopher Craig and Ann Robinson-Craig Fund, Susan Martin Fund, Mediterranean Archaeology Fellowship, Moser Fund, Rapp Fund, Rutledge Memorial Fund**),

Our faculty support funds (**Classics Enrichment, Gesell Fund, Henbest Fund**), or

Our archaeological excavations (**Hesperides, Kavousi, Mitrou**).

Information on how to contribute to these and other classics funds is provided on the envelope enclosed in this newsletter. Our website, classics.utk.edu, likewise has a list of funds with online giving portals.

Maximas gratias vobis agimus!

**Support
Classics
Students
& Faculty**

**LEARN
MORE AND
DONATE
HERE!**



 CLASSICS

Fall 2024 Newsletter

CLASSICS

