

XIII TUCRC Program

Department of Classics

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Strong Hall

Cumberland Avenue and 16th Street

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, TN



The Thirteenth Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Classics Research Conference is sponsored by the Classics Enrichment Fund of the Department of Classics, with generous co-sponsorship by Bettye Beaumont, the University of Tennessee College of Arts and Sciences, UTK Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, the Denbo Center for Humanities and the Arts, and the Departments of Africana Studies, English, History, Political Science, Religious Studies, and World Languages and Cultures.

Student Organizing Committee: Landon Bryan, Desirae Cordell, Henry Greene, Cynthia Hazelton, Natalie Newsome, Ethan Peebles, Makenzie Pentz, Drew Piper, Alexis Poulos. Faculty Sponsor: Jessica Westerhold. Humanities Shared Services Staff: Jessica Black, Megan Cottrell, Mitchell Harper.

8:30-9:00 am: Check-In and Registration

Strong Hall 106

9:00-9:15 am: Welcome Address

Strong Hall B1

Beauvais Lyons, Divisional Dean for Arts and Humanities and Chancellor's Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

9:15-10:15 am: Beaumont Keynote Lecture

Strong Hall B1

Small but Mighty: Terracottas in Corinthian Ritual Practice

Dr. Theodora B. Kopestonsky, Wabash College

10:15-10:30 am: Morning Break

Strong Hall 106

10:30 am-12:00 pm: Session 1

Panel 1A. Archaeology and Material Culture

Strong Hall 101

Faculty presiders: Dr. Stephen Collins-Elliott and Dr. Aleydis Van de Moortel, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. Reconstructing the Mycenaean Warrior Ethos: Exploring the Displays of Power of the Mycenaean Elite through Chariot Iconography

Avery Schollenberger, Indiana University, Bloomington

2. Medusa and Menstruation: Iconography of Gorgons as Fertility Goddesses at Poggio Civitate

Juliette Auslander, Mount Holyoke College

3. Exploring the Correlation Between Death and the Erotic in the Etruscan world

Daniel Augustus Szabo, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

4. Roman Medical Pluralism of Central Italy: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach

Leslie Monhollen, University of Cincinnati

Panel 1B. Religion

Strong Hall 103

Faculty presider: Dr. Charles Kuper, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. Identifying Religion in Mycenaean Feasts from the Archaeological Record

Luke Pajor, Indiana University, Bloomington

2. The Theological and Poetic Context of Gregory Nazianzen's *Poemata Arcana*

Ethan Peebles, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

3. Language of Witness: Theophanic Description in the Christian Bible

Maxwell Owen Underwood, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Panel 1C. Greek Literature

Strong Hall B1

Faculty presider: Dr. Sam Blankenship, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. Power in the Blood: Exploring the Womb of the Hero's Mother in Greek Myth

Evan Shannon, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2. Victim, Venerated, Veteran: Odysseus and the Legacy of Combat

Madeleine Shroades, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

3. Satire or Sex Manual?: The Writings of Philaenis Through a Satirical Lens

Nina Patel, Binghamton University

12:10-1:10 pm: Lunch Break

Strong Hall 106

12:20-1:10 pm: Optional Professionalization Workshop

Strong Hall 101

Panel Q&A: Classics as a Career and Beyond with Dr. Stephen Collins-Elliott and Dr. Nikola Golubović

1:15-2:45 pm: Session 2

Panel 2A. Politics & Power

Strong Hall 101

Faculty presider: Dr. Dylan Bloy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. The Migration of the Sibyl: The Reasonings for the Relocation of the Sibylline Books

Jamie Gross, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

2. Everyone's Weapon: The Political Usage of Rumors in Late Republican Rome

Shannon Dinniman, James Madison University

3. He Divideth the Sea: Charting Byzantine Cultural Change in the Wake of the Rise of Arab Sea Power, 655—802 CE

Jericho Hendershot, Harvard College

Panel 2B. Latin Prose

Strong Hall 103

Faculty presider: Dr. Nikola Golubović, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. Putting Epicureanism Out to Pasture: Decoding Animal Imagery in *De Amicitia*

Madeline Howard, Baylor University

2. A Statistical Exploration of Tacitus and his Relationship to Livy

Vedul Palavajjhala, Washington University, St. Louis

3. Performing Pliny: Epistolarity and the Relationship Between Pliny the Younger and His Household

Elsa Kulatunga, Mount Holyoke College

Panel 2C. Reception

Strong Hall B1

Faculty presider: Dr. Lorenzo del Monte, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. A Plague on Humanity: Moral and Social Decay from Ancient to Contemporary Representations of Epidemic Forces

Gabby Puckett, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2. Black Classicism and the Black Freedom Struggle: A Close Reading of Anna Julia Cooper's *A Voice from the South*.

Zaria Kelly, Carleton College

3. *Quanto Viro*: Ubbo Emmius' Latin Letters, Antiquity, and Activism

Celia Jansen, University of Cincinnati

2:45-3:00 pm: Afternoon Break

Strong Hall 106

3:00-4:45 pm: Session 3

Panel 3A. Women

Strong Hall 101

Faculty presider: Dr. Reema Habib, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. Φάρμακον's Manipulation of Reality Through Food

Helen Banta, Carleton College

2. The Womb as a Vessel: An Exploration of Ancient Greek Gynecological Language and Meaning

Penelope Lutz, Hollins University

3. Poet Versus Persona: Ovid's Thinly Veiled Condemnation of Sexual Violence

Jamie Jenkins, Sewanee: The University of the South

4. Life Beyond Marriage: Analyzing Societal Standards for Widows in the Roman World

Leah Hearne, Hollins University

Panel 3B. Latin Poetry

Strong Hall 103

Faculty presider: Dr. Salvador Bartera, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

1. Public Discourse and Myth in Catullus

Samir Mansouri, Vanderbilt University

2. Reimagining Women's Literary Agency in Augustan Rome

Makenzie Pentz, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

3. Interpreting *Servitium Amoris*

Hunter DeBlackmere, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

4. The Relationship between Cosmos, Knowledge, and Action in Seneca's *Thyestes* and the Pseudo-Senecan *Octavia*

Trisha Nandakumar, University of Wisconsin, Madison

4:50-5:30 pm: Closing Remarks and Reception

Strong Hall 106

Dr. Jessica Westerhold, University of Tennessee, Knoxville