

# 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. "Remember, No Matter What You Learn in School, Cleopatra Was Black." Black Classicism and the Black Freedom Struggle in the Past and Present**

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