

UGA Classics

CLASSICS AT GEORGIA

CLASSICS.UGA.EDU

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As we welcome new leadership in the Dean's office with the appointment of Dr. Anna Stenport as Dean of Franklin College, this issue of the Newsletter focuses on new initiatives in Classics, by faculty and students, to innovate and broaden our curriculum and to increase external grant funding opportunities to prepare students for what comes next.

We are excited to initiate a search for a new Assistant Professor in Data Analytics and Pedagogy as part of the Presidential cluster hire in Leveraging Data Science and AI to Advance Teaching and Learning. The recent renovation of the Timothy N. Gantz Digital Classroom will expand teaching and learning opportunities in AI and Data Analytics pedagogy.

UGA Classics leads the U.S. and Canada in faculty-led Classics department study abroad programs. We are now adding to the number of students who experience experiential learning abroad. The department assumed the administration of the Croatia: Heritage Conservation and Archaeology study abroad program and it will continue under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Jordan Pickett. The program aligns with the Department's mission and focus on the history of the (built) environment. We are excited to add Venice at the trip's conclusion, providing students with an opportunity to study Croatia's modern history and to increase potential grants focused on heritage conservation of one of Europe's most iconic and environmentally threatened cities.

The UGA in Rome program welcomed Dr. Andres Matlock as Program Faculty. I was able to experience first-hand his effective leadership that will continue to inspire students when he assumes the role of Director for Summer 2026. I am grateful to Elena Bianchelli for assisting me in preparing him in this role. Current students, alumni, and parents will notice a change in the name of the UGA Classics in Rome Alumni Facebook group to UGA in Rome. The name change will make the group more inclusive and increase opportunities for greater dialogue across participating years. The change will also allow us to showcase student success activities and experiences. The former UGA Classics in Rome Facebook page is now UGA Classics Abroad and will feature posts and conversations about all three of the department's study abroad programs - follow us abroad, today!



On campus, facility improvements aimed at Graduate Student success include refurbishment of the Classics Tutoring Center and allocation of the TA offices, in recognition that our MA students teaching their own sections of introductory Latin and Classical Culture courses have their own students to mentor. Our focus on student success has placed us at the very top of MLA rankings nation-wide for the instruction of Elementary Latin. Our numbers are growing. We welcome our new AB and MA Classics and Double Dawgs students, and Classical Culture and Classics and Comparative Cultures minors.

We are proud of our alums and current students many of whose achievements are featured in this newsletter. We congratulate Alicia Stallings on her appointment as the Professor of Poetry at Oxford University and look forward to welcoming her on campus in March to open the 2024 UGA Humanities Festival. Read more about Student Success on our UGA website.

Thank you all, as always, for your generous support of our programs, on campus and abroad. Your contributions support our students and ensure the vitality of Classics at UGA. In pursuit of advancing student success, I am pleased to announce the new UGA Classics Advancement Advisory Board co-chaired by Professor Emeritus Dr. Rick LaFleur and Alumnus Frank Sinkwich. Look for up-coming opportunities to support our students!

UGA Classics – three centuries of
focusing on student success and counting,

- Mario



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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



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UGA in Rome

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

We have many important news to share about UGA in Rome Summer 2023. First of all, we welcomed our new faculty member, Dr. Andres Matlock, who in knowledge, ability, and charisma, proved to be a wonderful choice for our program. He led the group of 20 students along with Dr. Bianchelli, our director, and Dr. Mario Erasmo who generously joined us for two and a half weeks after leading his *Europe: Unearthing the Past* program in May.

The other big news was the return to Greece. Our older alumni remember that between 1970 and 1987, when the program was 9 weeks long, we used to spend two weeks in Athens and Greece, and that was always a very meaningful part of the experience. Rising costs, along with the diminished value of the dollar, eventually forced the difficult decision of cutting the Greek section of the program, but this year we decided to bring it back in the form of 4 days in Athens based on Dr. Erasmo's Athens itinerary for the Europe program.

Needless to say, it was a success! We started in Athens, and of course everybody loved the city and its art. When there, we were treated to a special tour of the Greek Agora led by the Director of the Agora Excavations, Dr. John Papadopoulos, and a presentation on the restoration and the colors of the Parthenon by Dr. Lena Aggelakopoulou, Head of the Technical Office for the Acropolis Monuments' Surface Conservation, right on the Acropolis. We then moved to Rome, to our new hotel near the Colosseum. From there, in addition to Rome, we visited Tarquinia and Cerveteri, Campania with Pompeii and Paestum, Hadrian's Villa and Villa d'Este, and finally Pienza and Florence. Those of you we follow us on the FaceBook UGA in Rome Alumni group will have seen daily updates with photos of beautiful sites and happy students. Everyone had a great experience and wonderful things to say about it.

We are now in full recruiting mode and we have already received many applications. Like last year, we expect to be full

I had a wonderful first trip with UGA in Rome. Our group of 19 fantastic students joined us from fields of study ranging from biomedical sciences and geology to entertainment & media (see Savannah and Luke's submissions!), and, of course, classics. As the program instructor, I aim to give students with such a wide range of perspectives and skillsets an opportunity to ground whatever their interests are in the tangible history of Rome—not only the monuments and physical infrastructure of the 3000-year-old city, but its artistic traditions, religions, food-ways, and lifestyles. To see our students, whatever their educational or personal goals,



well before the deadline. If you know anybody who is eager to come, please recommend that they apply as soon as possible. All of our traditional trips, along with Athens and Florence, will remain in the schedule.

A number of students were granted scholarships from the Edward and Jenny Best, Tom Poss, Linda Piper, and David Thompson scholarships, and from the UGA in Rome fund. We remain grateful to all of you who generously support our scholarship program, that allows students to offset the considerable costs of studying abroad.

This was year 54 for UGA in Rome. We are looking forward to many more years of great learning experiences and wonderful memories. ■ - Elena Bianchelli, Director of UGA in Rome

spending a month living and grappling with this complex history is very rewarding. While the program will always be a training ground for young classicists, it is this diversity of experience that is our real resource—and the reason to keep going back to Rome every year.

Our director, Dr. Bianchelli, and department chair, Dr. Erasmo, have been essential in helping UGA in Rome thrive even over the last few difficult years, and it was a real treat for me, personally, to spend so much time traveling with them both. Their combined knowledge of the city is truly impressive,

and, needless to say, we enjoyed many delicious meals together. I'm already looking forward to touching down again in Greece in 2024! ■ - Andres Matlock, Program Faculty

CROATIA 2023



The 2023 Maymester in Croatia cohort, posing for a group photo at ruins of a late fourth century cemetery basilica outside the Roman-Byzantine provincial capital of Salona.

Beginning this fall, UGA's twenty-year old Croatia Study Abroad program has a new home in Franklin College with the Department of Classics, under the direction of Prof. Jordan Pickett. Still in collaboration with faculty from Historic Preservation, with whom we offer a Double Dawg AB/MA, the Croatia Study Abroad program takes students from Croatia's capital at Zagreb to the coast, where they encounter a number of sites important for the Roman and Late Antique archaeology of the Adriatic. In particular, students explore Diocletian's Palace at Split, the nearby provincial capital of Salona (the birthplace of Early Christian Archaeology), the Byzantine capital of Zadar, the still-bustling port city of Pula with its famous amphitheater and Temple of Augustus, and the famous Euphrasian basilica at Poreč.

These are all fascinating sites which—despite their longstanding popularity among European tourists going back to Robert Adam's *Ruins at Spalatro* (published in 1764) or Stuart and Revett's fourth volume of *The Antiquities of Athens* which included remains from Pula (published 1816)—remain little known to many Americans. Important for our students of historic preservation, all of these ancient cities, with the exception of Salona, are still occupied today, raising questions of how thousands of years of settlement and architecture have been incorporated and preserved (or not) within modern cities.

This coming year, we are delighted to add Venice to our program: students will spend four days exploring the Basilica of San Marco and important early modern collections of Roman antiquities at the Museo Nazionale, the Biblioteca Marciana, and Palazzo Grimani. ■



CLASSICS FACULTY AND EMERITAE/I FACULTY

Faculty

Christine Albright

Christine Albright spent the summer teaching a seminar on Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and enjoying all the produce from the backyard vegetable garden. She and Dr. Platter visited the American Classical Society's annual Institute in St. Louis in July to promote the Department's Summer Institute. It was very, very hot, but they both had a great time seeing colleagues and many of the Department's alumni. She is currently teaching the Gateway class on Vergil's *Aeneid* and a class on Ancient Sexuality as well as the Latin Teaching Methods course. Oliver started middle school this year and is learning, among other things, to cook.

Mario Erasmo

Mario Erasmo (ed.), *A Cultural History of Death: Antiquity* (Bloomsbury, 2024), will be published January, 2024 as part of a six-volume series. Leading international scholars examine death, the afterlife, and commemoration from multidisciplinary perspectives.



Erika Hermanowicz

I spent a good chunk of December 2022 at Oxford University working with my co-author on the Conference of 411. Oxford was everything one could hope for in December: dark by mid-afternoon, cold, an outdoor Christmas market I walked through every day going to and from Corpus Christi, and even a few days of snowfall. With 411 wrapping up, I can now turn back to my projects on St. Stephen and ecclesiastical book catalogues in Roman North Africa. I am teaching a new graduate seminar in Latin martyrdom literature (fall semester of 2023), and will be back at Oxford in August of 2024 to give a paper at the Oxford Patristics Conference on women's property rights in Roman Africa.

Jared Klein

Since the last edition of *The Classics Newsletter*, Jared Klein has published two articles (on Gothic and Classical Armenian), delivered papers on Old Church Slavic and Classical Armenian at meetings of the East and West-Coast Indo-European Conferences (Chapel Hill and UCLA, respectively), and co-edited (with Artūras Ratkus of the University of Vilnius) and had accepted a volume entitled *Studies in Gothic*, which will be published by Oxford University Press in the spring of 2024. This volume, which includes a significant article by Dr. Klein, consists of cutting-edge studies by a dozen of today's leading scholars of Gothic.

In addition, Professor Klein has authored two book reviews and had another appear in print. He is currently working on three papers in the area of Indo-European discourse structure based primarily on the text of the Greek New Testament and on that of the five Indo-European first millennium CE versions based on it (Gothic, the Latin Vulgate, Classical Armenian, Old Church Slavic, and Old English). Dr. Klein also oversaw two Classics M.A. theses and taught a new course on the Indo-European noun.

Andres Matlock

While writing my first book—a revision of my dissertation, "Time and Experience in Cicero's Ethical Dialogues"—I have been busy with other projects. I am presenting some of my work on Roman agricultural writing as a document of ecological, social, and aesthetic theory in two upcoming appearances: a conference on Slavery and Technology in the Greco-Roman Worlds (at UC Davis) and the American Comparative Literature Association annual conference. I also have two new publications which will be available soon: an article on Cicero and Lucretius' depictions of agriculture in a special issue of the journal *Ciceroniana Online* and a chapter on the mythological figure of Niobe in Platonic and Stoic thought in a volume published by Oregon State University Press, *Niobes: Antiquity/Modernity/Critical Theory*. My teaching, as always, is an important source of inspiration. I've had a great time working with our Latin students on Roman letter-writing this semester—and I'm looking forward to teaching a new course on "Solitude in Ancient Rome" for the first time in the spring!

John Nicholson

This year marks John Nicholson's twenty-fifth anniversary on the UGA Classics faculty. By coincidence his schedule this year looked much like the first one he had back in 1998 teaching sections of beginning Latin, the "Gateway" course on Vergil, and an upper-level course on Catullus. This Spring he also enjoyed teaching a class on Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae* followed in the Summer by a companion course in which he escorted the his students through all four of Cicero's Catilinarian Orations. And having taught Classics 1020 virtually every semester since the millenium he reckons he must have instructed nearly 4,000 Mythology students by now.

Peter O'Connell

In 2022-2023, I taught the Greek prose survey course and served on committees for three fascinating MA theses. I gave papers in Athens, Greece, in Salt Lake City (CAMWS), and at the University of Crete (by Zoom), and I sent off a book chapter about Demosthenes' household. I've continued to work on financial information in oratory and inscriptions, and I've started to think seriously about the aesthetics of oratory and of Athenian law. My first year as head of the Department of Communication Studies went by quickly – there is a steep learning curve and a lot to do. It is always a great relief to be in a Greek or Latin classroom! I'm looking forward to a busy and fun 2023-2024.

Jordan Pickett

Prof. Pickett had another busy year. Besides teaching courses on Roman culture and Mediterranean archaeology, he also led a seminar CLAS 4/6190 concerned with Climate Change and Catastrophes in Antiquity, a topic at the core of his recent research, including publications with Cambridge University Press and University of Colorado Press, and invited lectures at Oxford University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Dumbarton Oaks in Washington D.C. Over the summer, Dr. Pickett led UGA's Maymester Study Abroad in Croatia program, which took 23 students from Zagreb to the Adriatic coasts of Istria and Dalmatia, to study famous modern cities with ancient histories that included Split, Salona, Zadar, and Pula. After study abroad concluded, Dr. Pickett returned to fieldwork at Sardis in Western Turkey, where he is co-PI for investigation of Byzantine fortifications, as part of the larger Harvard-Cornell project ongoing at Sardis since 1958. This year, work included



The Byzantine fortifications on the acropolis at Sardis

laser scanning of the acropolis in collaboration with Zilan Özcan and his team from Sema Proje at Ankara: this work will be used to create a 3D model of the acropolis of such high resolution that we will be able to see individual chisel-marks on blocks, and will aid in the creation of illustrations for new research and forthcoming publications. After Sardis, Dr Pickett spent another week driving around southwestern Turkey in the company of paleoclimatologist Matthew Jacobson (Uppsala) looking at caves that might provide new speleothem/stalagmite climate proxies. Dr. Pickett is on leave for AY2023-2024 as a Willson Center Research Fellow.

Charles Platter

Charles Platter was greatly encouraged that numerous graduate students from the first Covid class defended their theses successfully. He is finishing up a commentary on the first book of Plato's *Republic* and is planning a new book on Aristophanes. He and Dr. Albright are delighted that son Oliver is now a Clarke Middle School Owl and is playing baseball in the Athens Challenger League. His oldest daughter Clara continues her work as an editor at New York University Press, dividing her time between Brooklyn and Tivoli, NY. Youngest daughter Louise, also a former CMS Owl, is now a Medicare specialist at the Athens Council on Aging and will marry Nick Bonelli of Athens May, 2024.

Mariah Smith

I have enjoyed continuing to teach a variety of Latin courses and culture courses this past year. In Latin, I had great fun reading the stories of early Rome in Gateway Latin with Book 1 of Livy and about poorly behaved animals in Intermediate Latin with Phaedrus's Fables. The Phaedrus is a labor of love, since after searching in vain for the perfect Intermediate Latin poetic text, I decided to make my own. I am hoping that the next time I have a bit of free time, I will be able to start on making a prose text to go along with it! I also had the great delight of delving into the world of reception with the new-to-me class of Intro to Classical Americas and reading some new takes on the old texts. This year I also started a term as a faculty member of the SCS Graduate Student Committee.

Benjamin M. Wolkow

Dr. Benjamin M. Wolkow continues to teach a variety of courses in Greek language and literature, including Greek Culture, Classical Mythology, Medical Terminology, and ancient Greek at all levels. In February, he was invited to deliver a lecture on the figure of Orpheus in Greek and Roman art and literature at the Franklin Residential College's "Talk and Tea". He is the faculty advisor for what is assuredly the most engaged and energetic local chapter of Eta Sigma Phi in all the land and is currently serving his second term as Chair of the Subcommittee of the CAMWS College Greek Exam. Dr. Wolkow relaxes by learning about, and programming in, uncommon computer languages. ■



Faculty Emeritae/i

Nancy Felson

Nancy Felson, long retired and living in Dobbs Ferry, NY to be near at least one of her kids and set of grandkids, plans to visit Athens and UGA again in March for Alicia Stallings lecture. She met with Alicia last July in Athens, Greece. They are working on a collaborative performance piece based on the Hymn to Apollo.



Nancy gave a paper, “Odysseus as mentor in the *Odyssey*,” at a Conference in Patras honoring a Greek Colleague. It is now an online publication at the CHS website. (She’d given an earlier version of that paper at the University of Sydney in 2022.). Nancy published two other papers this year, one on the figure of the nurse Eurycleia in the *Odyssey*, the other in *Odyssey* Book 21. A second edition of her Book, *Regarding Penelope*, will appear in the spring. Nancy, at 80, is slowing down a little but still enjoying good health and relishing family and friends, including her colleagues at UGA.

Rick LaFleur

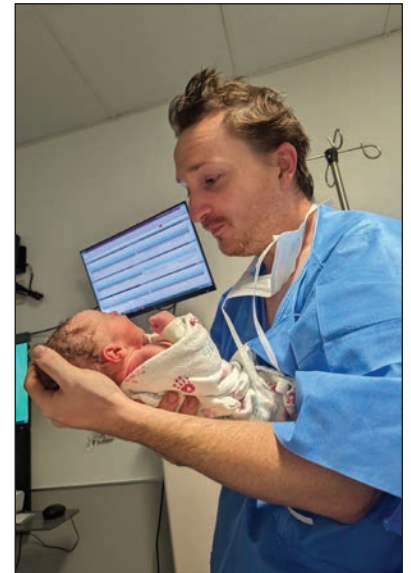
RICK LaFLEUR and his wife ALICE TIPTON LaFLEUR continue to enjoy retirement, CARPING each and every DIEM along with their French bulldog Ipsa and the bobtailed



manx kitten Augustus (Gus-Gus) that adopted them this August. Alice remains ever youthful, joyfully tending her flower and vegetable gardens, reading dozens of books every year, and writing her memoir. Rick more or less successfully applies the lessons of Stoicism, learned over his 67 years of studying Latin and Classics, in dealing with the predicaments of politics and prostate cancer (which he and Alice fully expect his 6 weeks of radiation treatments this fall will cure). He stays busy with his tutorials in beginning Latin, Ovid, Vergil, and Juvenal—teaching students across the U.S. and in Europe aged 17 to 70-something—and with the two series of newspaper columns he has authored over the past decade, “The Secret Lives of Words” (a collection of several dozen of these essays, with 250 color illustrations, remains available on Amazon) and “When I Was 12 or So,” nostalgia pieces on growing up in the 1950s. His Facebook group, “Latin in the Real World,” a spinoff of an activity in his UGA classes, now approaches 5,000 members from around the world.

Sarah Spence

Sallie Spence’s book, *The Return of Proserpina*, was published by Princeton Univ. Press in January. She was named Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America at their annual meeting and continues to work on medieval and classical projects. But closest to her heart is the birth of granddaughter Sadie Rhys McGregor (shown here with dad Ned) born September 23, 2023! ■

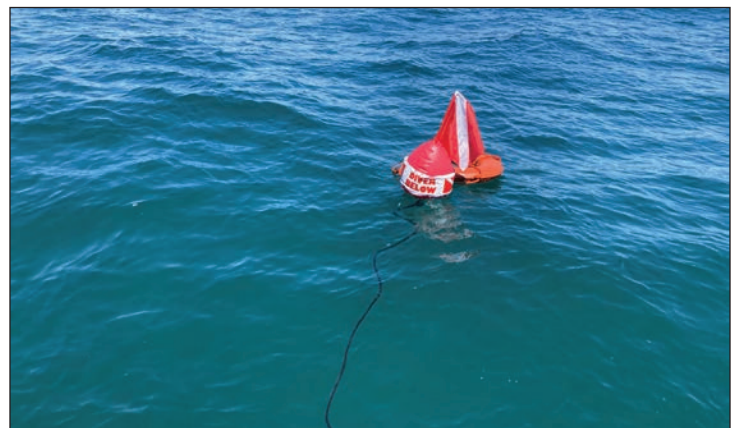
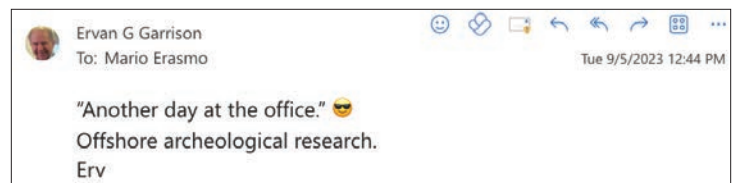


CLASSICS AFFILIATED FACULTY

Mark Abbe

Prof. Abbe enjoyed a great year of teaching graduate and undergraduate Greek and Roman art and archaeology. His research was featured in the exhibition *Chroma: Ancient Sculpture in Color* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where he also delivered a paper at the associated symposium. In the summer (having completed his term as Chair of Art History), he co-directed *The Aphrodite-al’Uzza Conservation Collaborative*, an international workshop at the American Center of Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan, focused on two marble sculptures of the goddess recently excavated at Petra; later in the (unusually warm) summer he had the pleasure to returning to pandemic-delayed research at the sculpture-rich excavations at Aphrodisias, Turkey. Among other publications, he co-authored the book *Imperial Colors: The Roman Portrait Busts of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna* in the Eskenazi Museum of Art (Bloomington, Indiana).

Ervan Garrison



CLASSICS STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Shawn Ireland

*Program Coordinator,
Europe: Unearthing the Past*

My sculptural pottery continues to change most significantly from travel experiences and an ongoing fascination with art of the past. For over thirty years I've been inspired by eclectic art forms from the east and west but primarily Africa. I'm most excited when all these influences merge and change to become something that feels rooted in the past but also newly surprising to me.

Working with the Maymester Europe: Unearthing the Past Program has brought me to focus on pottery of the Classical world made by Greek, Etruscan and Roman cultures. My new-found interest in the exaggerated handles, pedestal bases and monumentality of form I find in surviving ceremonial and funerary wares has moved my sculptural zoomorphic pots in those directions.

I have a deep respect for earth materials that make up the clay and glazes I mix by hand and an equally deep reverence for ancient art created from similar raw materials. The cultural ideals of the Classical world were firmly connected to nature and the earth. To me, the pottery that endures holds an intriguing balance of earth energy and human ingenuity. This power captivates me and encourages me to keep connected to the natural world through my clay work.



There are many ways to experience antiquity virtually and digitally from home but it's travel that feeds me. I draw incessantly on program excursions and museum visits, gathering new ideas to bring to life in the studio. I'm expressly more moved to creativity by a visceral interaction with Classical art. ■

Shawn Ireland www.shawnirelandpottery.com

ALICIA STALLINGS

Alumna AE Stallings appointed the Oxford Professor of Poetry

Congratulations to A E Stallings who has been appointed the Oxford Professor of Poetry. In her statement, submitted as part of her application, A E Stallings said, "as Oxford Professor of Poetry I would speak not only on anglophone poets, living and dead, but on translation, Classical poetry, and modern Greek poetry...I would keep an open door to discuss student work, would run workshops with members of the Oxford community, visit schools, arrange translation seminars, and host readings from American, foreign-language, and refugee poets."

A E Stallings studied Classics at the University of Georgia followed by a MSt in Latin Literature at Oxford University (Lady Margaret Hall). Her poetry collections include *Archaic Smile* (1999), winner of the Richard Wilbur Award, *Hapax* (2006), *Olives* (2012), and *Like* (2018), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.



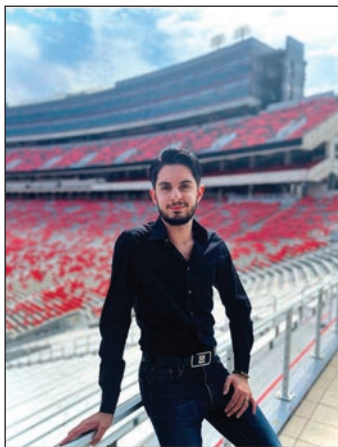
She has also published verse translations, including Lucretius's *The Nature of Things*, Hesiod's *Works and Days*, and an illustrated *The Battle Between the Frogs and the Mice*.

UGA Classics and the Willson Center will welcome Alicia to campus in March 2024 during the Festival of the Humanities. ■

Mohammed Al Eethawi

*Biomedical Physiology
and Biology*

Mohammed Al Eethawi is a third-year student at the University of Georgia. He is pursuing two degrees in Biology and Biomedical Physiology, with a minor in Classics. His long-term goal is to attend medical school because his lifelong passion has always been medicine. Unlike other students with a passion for medicine, Mohammed has a unique view of the field. He believes in the past as much as he believes in the future. He stated that “without the colors of the past, the future is an incomplete portrait.” Consequently, with the help of the Classics department, he was able to travel to the past and learn about the early years of medicine.



During the spring 2023 semester, Mohammed worked closely with Dr. Mario Erasmo on his very first research paper, titled *Claudius Galen: The Great Roman Physician and Anatomist*. His research focused on medicine during antiquity times, which he explored through Galen’s work. Through this research, Mohammed learned one major concept regarding medicine during that time – that the purpose of medicine was not to help those in need. Rather, it was the “prestige” of aristocratic males, and it was practiced showing off the male’s social status and advanced education. Through this journey, Mohammed learned that antiquity medicine was merely a show, and every physician, including Galen, tried their best to display their remarkable discoveries.

Mohammed was astonished by finding the true purpose of medicine in its early years. His interest went beyond the antiquity period, and he wanted to discover the purpose of medicine throughout the centuries. Over last summer, he independently worked on another research paper titled *The Time in Between: The Western Dark Age and The Eastern Golden Age*. Although the time he studied was much closer to modern times, he still did not find the modern purpose of medicine in the physicians’ work. Mohammed viewed this time as a reconsecration era of medicine, because while Europeans were fading in the darkness, the Muslims were bringing a new light to medicine knowledge. He believes that without the Muslims’ high interest in education and medicine, Europe would not have seen the light of education again, which led to the Renaissance Era.

Currently, Mohammed is working on a CURO research with Dr. Erika Hermanowicz, and he is studying the works of medicine during the Renaissance Era, specifically the works of Andreas Vesalius, title *The Coding of Andreas Vesalius*. He has yet to discover the true purpose of medicine during this period. He is hoping to publish this paper after its completion and take it with him to the University of Oxford next spring to work closely with scholars to research his final destination, modern medicine.

Luke Bullard

*Entertainment &
Media Studies, '24*

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to study abroad in Italy with the UGA Classics in Rome program! This experience was truly unique and contained some of the most memorable moments of my life. One of my all time favorite experiences on the trip was the excursion to the Etruscan tombs in the Italian countryside. The scenery, coupled with the fascinating opportunity to explore ancient Etruscan tombs was truly unique and memorable.



Each tomb told a different story, helping shed light on mysteries of the past. That day I learned so much about an entire civilization I had only heard the name of until this program. This experience, with the added seafood in the nearby port town made for a beautiful and enriching day that I will cherish in memory forever.

Savannah Chruszcz

Geology & History, '26

I was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to participate in the UGA Classics in Rome study abroad program this past summer, which was an absolutely amazing experience.

I loved the ruins and churches and gardens and museums—all of it, really—though wandering through Florence and Cerveteri were probably at the top of my list. The catacombs (of Priscilla and Saint Sebastian) were awesome, too. Needless to say, the food was something else; beyond simply the pasta and Mediterranean dishes one would expect, however, I also had a wonderful time shopping at farmers markets, eating delicious cherries, strawberries, and mangoes—they tasted wonderful, too.

One of my favorite parts, though—maybe more of a takeaway—was just being able to talk with people: locals, guides, and other



tourists, both from America and from all over the world. I loved every minute of the trip, but I value those interactions very much. This is an amazing program, I encourage anyone thinking of applying to certainly do so, and I hope, for myself, that I may return someday soon.

Allisa Diekman

M.A. Classical Languages with a concentration in Greek and Latin, 2021

Greetings from a proud alumna of the UGA Classics MA program! After completing my degree, I moved to Brooklyn, New York to teach history. The strong foundation I gained during my time in the program has been invaluable to my current role as a high school IB History teacher. Having the opportunity to teach Latin to undergraduates was an experience that equipped me with strong pedagogical skills and helped foster my love of teaching.

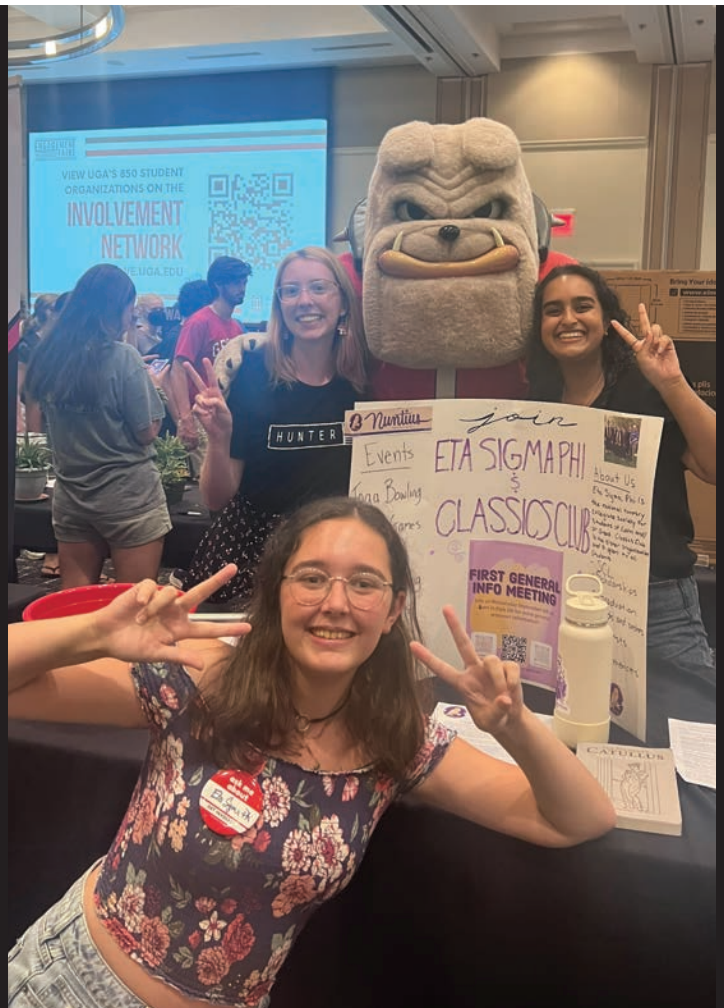
Now, as I inspire the next generation of history enthusiasts, I find myself drawing on the knowledge, critical thinking, and passion for the Classical world that this program instilled in me. I am truly grateful for the education and support I received here, and I look forward to continuing to share my love for Classics with my students. ■



ETA SIGMA PHI NEWS

Eta Sigma Phi and its sister organization, Classics Club, have had a great start to the 2023–2024 year with our appearance at the Club Fair and our first two meetings of the semester. We have had a record year with 13 Eta Sigma Phi initiates and 20 new Classics Club members! We also had a successful book sale at the start of the semester. For our first official meeting we brought back a regular favorite by watching “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” and held a contest for which member could come up with the most unique popcorn topping. In the future, We are looking forward to hosting the Eleusinian Mysteries and our annual Undergraduate Research Conference!

The Classics Department Undergraduate research Conference, held in conjunction with Eta Sigma Phi, occurs every spring and allows Classics students from around the country to present research they have done and has been enjoyed by students and faculty from within and outside of the department. We are incredibly excited for another successful conference and wish to see more people in attendance this year! Please look forward to what Eta Sigma Phi and Classics Club has in store this year! ■



CLASSICS ALUMNAE/I NEWS

Ari Anderson

Class of 2019

I graduated from UGA in 2019. I arrived in Athens my freshman year with broad plans of attending law school after graduation, but lacked any specific direction of the path I would take to get there. I settled on political science as my major and began the process of choosing my classes for the fall, which led me to enrolling in a Classics elective taught by Dr. John Nicholson. What I did not know at the time was that this course would awaken an academic curiosity that I had not yet experienced. I finished that semester feeling inspired and craved the opportunity to take more courses in the Classics Department. I continued taking courses with Dr. Erika Hermanowicz, whose teaching challenged me to reevaluate what it means to think critically and communicate those thoughts with intention. Thanks to these courses, I developed as both a student and a person, having gained skills necessary to succeed moving forward and relationships with mentors that supported me along the way. I moved on to graduate from the University of Virginia School of Law and now work as an attorney at a law firm in New York, where even today that challenge to think critically and communicate with intention resonates as I confront the issues of the day. To put it shortly, I would not be where I am or who I am today without the dedicated professors in the Classics department at UGA.

Joseph Evans

B.A. Classics, Culture and Latin 1998; JD May 2003

Since earning my Latin and Classics degrees in 1998, teaching Latin at Calhoun High School for two years, and coming back to Athens for a third degree (JD, 2003), I have been

- practicing law in Dalton, Georgia, for 20 years (effective October)
- playing guitar and recording with Little Country Giants and Pony Bradshaw
- serving on the Board of The Harris Arts Center in Calhoun, Georgia.

Bobby Guarnella

Class of 1971 MA 1975

Taught in Hart County, Georgia (my hometown), The Ransom-Everglades School in Coconut Grove, Florida, and retired from Gwinnett County after 18 years @ Brookwood HS. As a Charter Member of UGA's Studies Abroad Program in Rome (1970), I developed a life-long passion for travel, especially to Italy. My wife and I recently returned from another tour with adults: Milano, Lake Como, Le Cinque Terre, Bologna and Venezia. At nearly 75 years of age, I am winding my Group Leader activity down with one more tour - Exploring Italy, October 7-17, 2024. My travels have taken us to the British Isles, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and dozens of trips to Italy. This was all sparked by my 1970 Studies Abroad led by my Undergraduate Mentor, Dr. Edward E. Best. Along the way I acquired a fluency in Italian which I continue to put to good use.

Now, my bride and tour co-sponsor, Pam and I enjoy retirement: travel, reading, walking and my great passion: my vegetable garden. Together we have 10 grandchildren and are awaiting the imminent arrival of #11, another boy. I do keep in touch with some of my former classmates, colleagues and Student Teachers. I still encourage young students to take Latin (and if possible, Ancient Greek)... there is an abundance of benefit to Climbing Parnassos. *Ave atque vale*

Dr. Jim Lohmar

B.A. Latin 2006

Dr. Jim Lohmar (A.B. 2006) continues to teach Greek and Latin literature at the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC. He instructs at all levels of language and topic courses including the history of horror, ancient epic and tragedy, and Greek philosophy. He rides his bike assiduously and advises on the undergraduate Classics Club where needed.

Jerry Mason

B.A. Latin 1978

I am five years retired from the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office as a Senior Assistant District Attorney in the Appellate Division. My wife Karen and I still live in Atlanta. I have been an adjunct faculty member at the Emory University School of Law for the past decade or so, and enjoy riding my bike and serving as an amateur baseball umpire in my spare time. I still read Latin, too; I am currently working my way (slowly) through a collection of Pliny's letters.

Mark Miner

M.A. Classical Languages, Classics 2003

Mark Miner continues to work on digging an undersea Trans-Pacific railroad, connecting San Diego and Tokyo. The DIDASKALOS ONLINE project will make available four-language texts of Homer, Plato, and Aristophanes, with recordings in all languages. (Greek, Latin, Japanese, and English.)

Completed four-language editions include: the Phaedros and OPUS GENERIS, (five gender-poems from Cybele & Attis to Daphne & Apollo.)

After many years of performing heroic poetry, the challenge of giving voice to the jealous, lustful, hypocritical—and, occasionally, divinely-inspired—boy-lovers of the Phaedros is a lot of fun.



The first draft of the four-language Iliad, with Latin from Spondanus, will be completed by the end of 2023. For recreation, he supervises several model vineyards, to offer San Diego students a taste of the Classical life.

Stephen D. Mills

Summer 2018, LATN Non-Thesis

Anyway, I have landed on my feet somehow at Georgia Tech as a Visiting Lecturer. I am teaching English 1102 focused on the theme of technology in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and *World War Z*. As you can imagine, I am teaching generous helpings of theory (Foucault, postcolonialism), and the students are scary smart. They are keeping me on my toes.

I have recently submitted an essay on Erasmus for a print journal issue that collects essays from a small conference I attended in Geneva last summer. It is part of my proverbial “larger project,” my manuscript about physiognomy. I have also completed an MA in biblical languages at (don’t laugh) Liberty University. Some of the 100–page thesis I wrote for Liberty will become part of my new book, which is over 100k words now. I have a chapter on Dante in circulation, and I will soon be developing the final chapters on the French followers of Husserl and possibly on James Joyce.

Again, apologies for any of the problems I caused since I left. I sincerely hope your department is surviving and thriving in this upside down Orwellian world.

Stewart Tarvin

BA Latin 2005, MA Classical Languages 2011

Pace Academy Latin teachers Elizabeth Kann, Stewart Tarvin, and Michelle Yancich shared the JCLove at NJCL convention at Emory University in July. ■



GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ben Elliott

M.A. Classics, '24

Ben Elliott (MA, Classics, '24) was named as Interdisciplinary Fellow this year by the Lamar Dodd School of Art for his work which incorporates sculpture and neo-Latin verse. Alongside many other members of the UGA Classics community, Ben has also been active in his neighborhood, in this photo providing construction help during the 2023 MLK Service Weekend in Decatur. ■



Ben Elliott art.uga.edu/directory/ben-elliott



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