

UGA Classics

CLASSICS AT GEORGIA

CLASSICS.UGA.EDU

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Full semester marks the beginning of a new academic year, but with Classics courses taught all year round, on campus and abroad, students enjoy a seamless experience in beginning a major or minor degree or graduating in any semester. However long the journey, we value every student. **Preparing you for what comes next** is a priority of our faculty. We are proud of our alums and current students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees many of whose achievements are featured in this newsletter.

There is much to celebrate in this year's newsletter. Our faculty is growing! We are grateful to Dean Stenport for authorizing a search in Classical Ethics with a start date of Fall 2026. Our new colleague will advance the department's ability to extend the humanities into STEM focused areas such as applied ethics and AI. Classics and STEM integration is a priority of the department (see Dr. Christian Langer's spotlight article), including the inclusion of authors whose texts are foundational in STEM disciplines, such as medicine and biological sciences, in the beginning Greek and Latin language sequence.

Classics is also taking the *lead in creating an Applied Humanities Certificate* as part of Franklin College of Arts and Sciences planning grant award from the Teagle Foundation's *Cornerstone: Learning for Living Initiative*. Pilot classes of the certificate's two gateway courses *FCID1000/H Introduction to the Humanities* and *FCID1001/H Ethics and the Human Experience* will be offered in Spring 2026.

Classics study abroad programs continue to engage students from across campus with experiential learning opportunities across Europe (Greece, Italy, Croatia, France, England and Scotland). The programs hit significant milestones in 2025 and 2026: the 55th year of *UGA in Rome*, one of UGA's foundational study abroad programs with UGA in Cortona; the 19th year of *UGA Croatia: Heritage Conservation and Archaeology*; and the 10th year of *UGA Europe: Unearthing the Past*.

Alums of the UGA in Rome program know of Elena Bianchelli's long and devoted service to the program. Following a two-year pause due to Covid, Elena generously came out of retirement and



helped me to steer the program into the future. After 4 years, Elena is retiring from the program and Dr. Andres Matlock assumes the responsibilities of Director.

News from Africa: On loan to the University of Georgia since 1990, 11,795 Roman era artifacts from the Roman circus and the Yasmina necropolis in ancient Carthage were returned to Tunisia in April 2025.

Thank you all, as always, for your generous support of our programs and inspiring students. Your support directly impacts our graduate and undergraduate students and ensures the continued vitality of UGA Classics on campus and abroad.

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

– Mario



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UGA IN ROME

2025 turned out to be quite a historic year for UGA in Rome. We already knew it was going to be a Jubilee year, with all that it means for the city: the pomp, the crowds of pilgrims and onlookers, and the freshly restored monuments. Then, after the death of Pope Francis just weeks before we were set to depart, the election of Pope Leo added another level of excitement for many of our students, who were especially keen to see the first American pope. But, for the history of UGA in Rome, the most significant event of the year was the retirement of Director Elena Bianchelli.

Elena served the program in many capacities over the course of nearly 40 years, including 11 years as the director. For me, she has been a wonderful guide, thoughtful traveling companion, and dear friend. I know that every student who traveled with her over her long tenure remembers her fondly and appreciates the legacy she leaves behind: her dedication, kindness, and unfailing recommendations for the best *gelaterie* in Rome. We held the final group meal of this summer's program in her honor, and I hope that many of those reading this newsletter will join us in celebrating and congratulating Elena. ■



Current UGA in Rome Director Andres Matlock and Former UGA in Rome Director Elena Bianchelli at Castello Orsini-Odescalchi in Bracciano.



My name is Kate McGehee, and I am a third-year English major in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. This past summer, I participated in the UGA in Rome program, and months later, I can still say it was one of the most rewarding experiences during my time at UGA.

This unique four-week program gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in a new culture while exploring the historical

connections between ancient and modern Rome. The city itself became our classroom as we spent each day visiting iconic landmarks from the Trevi Fountain to the Colosseum.

The program also provided plenty of free time for me and my classmates to embark on our own adventures, whether that be trying out different Italian restaurants and browsing local shops, or strolling through ancient parks and even attending an Ed Sheeran concert in Rome's Olympic Stadium!

Above all else, however, my study abroad experience in Rome has brought me lifelong friendships with other UGA students who continue to shape my college experience back in Athens, GA. ■

Riley Wilder
on the left
'27, Psychology

Kate McGehee
on the right
'27, English

For a month, I woke up next to the Colosseum, a wonder of the ancient world and our modern metro stop. This summer, I was lucky enough to go on the UGA in Rome program with Dr. Matlock and Dr. Bianchelli.

As we experienced the Eternal City, our professors encouraged us to consider the layers of history shaped over thousands of years. I went expecting the ancient world but found myself enthralled by everything between now and then.

We learned about Renaissance palazzi and Grand Tour collections and modern rediscoveries. Our professors taught us to

critically examine the context of creation but also the contexts of preservation that allow us to see slices of the ancient world today. Though any trip to Rome would certainly contain great wonder, there was so very much to gain from the brilliant professors and peers I was able to learn from.

From ascending Athens' Akropolis on our first morning to visiting Rome's Trevi on our last, this program was truly inspiring, and I cannot more highly recommend it. ■

Eli Peacock
'25 Classics
currently first year MA in Classics





Students visiting Pag Island.

CROATIA

HERITAGE CONSERVATION
AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Twenty students from the University of Georgia spent three weeks exploring Croatia and Venice this last Maymester. Led by Profs. Jordan Pickett and Cari Goetcheus, students from a wide range of majors—Biology, Engineering, Business, History and Pre-Law, as well as the professors' home departments of Classics and Historic Preservation—traveled from Zagreb to the Adriatic. Working our way up the Adriatic coast, from Split to Zadar and Pula, we concluded with several days in Venice (which controlled Croatia's littoral for the better part of seven centuries, until 1797).

Throughout these weeks, a vast spectrum of history and landscapes confronted our students: traveling, and learning to look and study architecture and landscapes carefully in situ, while reading and discussing, is a transformative experience. As professors, this is why we are thrilled to do the job: we can see the difference travel makes in students' curiosity and engagement with the world around them. And the world is especially complex throughout the Adriatic, with deeply layered urban histories and landscapes. For instance, throughout our journey together, we visited modern cities known for their wealth of Roman archaeology, such as Split, where the emperor Diocletian's Palace is remarkably well-preserved and became the nucleus of the medieval and

modern town, as well as abandoned sites like the marvelously huge Roman-Byzantine city of Salona, and incredible cultural landscapes like the lunar island of Pag, where we toured a two-thousand-year-old olive grove and a famous cheese factory! Many students ate their first whole (grilled) fish in Dalmatia, and truffles were enjoyed in Istria, too. Another highlight for students was taking a ferry to the island of Brijuni, where Yugoslav dictator Josep Broz Tito had his summer villa: Tito followed the Romans there, as more than half a dozen ancient villas have been excavated on Brijuni in recent decades. For faculty, perhaps, another highlight was going to the Biennale in Venice as soon as we arrived in town: we walked with students there, to the other end of the Rialto and more than a mile from our hotel, and students had to navigate to find their own way home afterwards!

The University of Georgia has been sending students to Croatia for nearly nineteen years, for a tapestry of transformative experiences, and we look forward to more years ahead! ■

EUROPE

UNEARTHING THE PAST

For Maymester 2025, students studied the ancient and modern sites in Greece, Italy, France, England, and Scotland that are important for the culture and reception of Classical antiquity: the

Parthenon Sculptures; the urban legacy of ancient Roman cities; the influence of landscape gardens and art in various periods: the Renaissance; Neoclassicism and Romanticism. The program will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2026. ■

Strolling through the Roman city in Florence, Italy.



UGA CARTHAGE EXCAVATIONS

Erika Hermanowicz

From 1992 until approximately 1998, Dr. Naomi J. Norman ran the UGA archaeological field school at the Yasmina Necropolis, a Roman cemetery in ancient Carthage, a city which is located on the Mediterranean coast of modern-day Tunisia. It was a new and previously unknown site that had been accidentally revealed by bulldozer work several months before. I was fortunate enough to have been one of the students enrolled in Dr. Norman's field school in 1992, and so I can say with authority that no one was

prepared for how extraordinary that first summer at the Yasmina site would turn out to be.

We excavated exquisite funerary monuments, marble inscriptions, and even a marble statue (see Naomi J. Norman and Anne E. Haeckl, "The Yasmina Necropolis at Carthage, 1992" in

Journal of Roman Archaeology 6 [1993]: 238-50). The entire excavation campaign lasted several seasons, and each year revealed more burials and more artifacts. The Tunisian government gave permission to Dr. Norman to bring many of the small finds back to Athens, GA, on temporary loan, for preservation, study, and publication.



The image of a charioteer for a seal ring.

On 20 April of 2025, all 11,795 artifacts were returned to the government and people of Tunisia, flown in to Tunis and personally received by Mr. Tarek Baccouche, Director-General of the National Heritage Institute. Their return was made possible by coordination among Dr. Anna Stenport, Dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, UGA's Laboratory of Archaeology (under the direction of Dr. Amanda Roberts Thompson), and the Department of Classics under the leadership of Dr. Mario Erasmo. The Laboratory of Archaeology spent two full years rehousing and recording the collection, and then preparing it for repatriation.

The Classics Department is grateful to all those across the UGA community who assisted in repatriating these many beautiful and historically important finds. ■



Magnificent Roman handle now back in Carthage.

CLASSICS STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Shawn Ireland

Lyndon House Arts Center Choice Award Winner

Paris Series

Artist Shawn Ireland's Paris series takes as its inspiration the interiors and "moments of pause" expressed in the still life vignettes of Fantin-Latour, Manet, Derain and Matisse. These painters were proponents of the poetic realism movement beginning in nineteenth century Paris. The movement presented everyday objects with an emotive theatricality achieved through dramatic lighting and expressive brushwork, which Ireland incorporates. Additionally, his still lifes exhibit contrasting tensions derived from awkward perspective and flatness, characteristic of self taught, so called "primitive", artists Henri Rousseau and Horace Pippin. The series prominently features Ireland's ceramics as integral elements of the paintings' composition that invite viewers to contemplate the multi-sensory experiences of nostalgia.

Each year, the Arts Center's exhibitions team selects an artist from the annual Juried Exhibition whose work demonstrates strong promise and is worthy of wider recognition and invites them to have a solo show. ■



CLASSICS FACULTY AND EMERITAE/I FACULTY

Faculty

Christine Albright

This semester, Christine Albright is teaching a Latin class on Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and, for the first time, a Classical Culture seminar on *katabaseis* (trips to the underworld). Students are reading Greek and Latin authors such as Homer, Aristophanes, and Vergil and also later works such as Dante's *Inferno* and Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*. The semester will end with an examination of R.F. Kuang's new novel *Katabasis*. Oliver will turn 15 this year!

Mario Erasmo

Mario Erasmo continues to explore the theatricality of death in his research: *The Spectacular Dead: Staging Death in Classical Antiquity* is now in production (Bloomsbury, 2026) and he gave a lecture, "Is a Corpse Art?" at UGA in Cortona. He is currently the Principal Investigator for Franklin College of the Teagle Foundation's *Cornerstone: Learning for Living Initiative*.

Erika Hermanowicz

I gave two papers this year, one in March for the Late Roman Seminar at Oxford University, and the second in July at the Leeds International Medieval Congress, where I had a lovely afternoon tea with Elizabeth Lavender (we knew her at Georgia as Elizabeth Ridgeway). And a big congratulations to her as she just defended her dissertation, and she now has a Ph.D. from Yale University! **Hooray for Elizabeth!!!** And one more thing. A book I have been working on (more like on and off) since the summer of 2016 was published this year. Neil McLynn (*Corpus Christi*, Oxford University) and I published *The Conference of Carthage in 411* (Translated Texts for Historians 90). I have become very interested in gardening. This year, our yard was filled with honeybees, hummingbirds, bumblebees, and butterflies, and the winged pageantry was pure joy.

Jared Klein

Since the last Classics Department Newsletter, Jared Klein has been active in research and mentoring of students. On the research side, he either wrote, revised and had accepted, or published a trio of long articles as part of his ongoing project on the comparative syntax of the oldest first millennium translations from the Greek New Testament. These include a study of the irrealis in Old Church Slavic (*Indo-European Linguistics*, Dec. 2024), a follow-up study of the Old Church Slavic conditional (*Indogermanische Forschungen* to appear December 2026), and a study of adversative conjunction in Classical Armenian in which he presented a model for adversative conjunction more comprehensive than any that has been offered so far. As this report is being written, this article is about to be sent off for publication.

In addition, Dr. Klein published a book review in *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* and read page proofs of his study, *Stylistic Repetition in the Rigveda. Intrastanzaic Repetition* to be published in the monograph series of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in either late 2025 or 2026.

On the mentoring side, Dr. Klein shepherded through Amanda Tipton and Artin Nasirpour to admission to Ph.D. candidacy in Linguistics.

On a cruise from French Polynesia to Hawaii to San Diego, Dr. Klein took advantage of ten at-sea days to read (and ultimately produce an 8000-word report) on a handbook of ancient Indo-European grammars prior to its publication by Cambridge University Press. As he sat out on the deck near the swimming pool with his red pencil, he attracted a great deal of attention, including a query from one of the travelers as to whether he was a professional proof reader (answer: No, but it amounts to the same thing.)

Christian Langer

My exciting first year at UGA was very busy. I taught courses on Egyptian history, Classical mythology and ancient economic history, while developing new courses that will be implemented successively over the coming semesters.

The year also had me present my work at several venues: I first had the honor to deliver my first ever keynote at a conference in Bucharest, Romania; then gave an invited talk at Emory University and spoke at the Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) in San Francisco in spring, before presenting in San Diego and at the largest German-speaking Egyptology conference in Berlin, Germany, over what turned out to be a busy summer.

The conferences in San Diego and Berlin followed a research trip to the United Kingdom, where I visited the study collection of the UCL Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and the National Trust's estate at Kingston Lacy, Dorset to work on yet unpublished Egyptian objects; the summer break produced materials for three future articles. Those will join the publications that came out over the course of this academic year: two articles with the *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* and *Middle East Critique*, and two chapters with Amsterdam University Press and the Cumulus Association, with other pieces submitted.

In addition, to facilitate a knowledge transfer in the realm of Digital Humanities and Ancient Studies, I managed to land a Willson Center Short-Term Visiting Fellowship to bring in my colleague Dr. Franziska Naether from Germany for Fall 2025.



Dr. Langer studying an object in the UCL Petrie Museum.

Andres Matlock

In addition to the exciting summer in Rome (I encourage you to read the students' reflections included elsewhere), I had an eventful and productive year. I taught another of my newly designed courses for the first time, on "Classical Myth in Performance", which examines the transformation of mythic storytelling through theater, opera, dance, sport, and film. I presented research at conferences in Rome, Philadelphia, and Bodega Bay, CA. And I made significant progress on my book, *Coincidences of Mind and Text in Cicero and Freud*, about which I look forward to sharing more news soon. To top it all off, my wife and I are expecting our first child, due to be born at the end of October.

John Nicholson

John Nicholson has had a good year teaching a nice variety of courses. In addition to his usual sections of Classical Mythology every semester, and sections of second and third semester Latin, he has recently enjoyed teaching upper-level Latin courses on Roman Epistles, and Latin Prose Composition.

Jordan Pickett

Dr Pickett has had another busy year. Besides submitting chapters and field reports concerned with radiocarbon dating of historical mortars from Sardis, the history of Roman and Byzantine law concerning forestry, and the history of the Via Egnatia, the Roman road connecting the Adriatic with Constantinople. Otherwise, it has been an especially busy year for travel, as he prefers.

After taking another group of twenty UGA students abroad with our Department's Croatia and Venice Maymester for Heritage Conservation and Archaeology, Jordan spent several further weeks in Turkey for fieldwork. This time included the use of a chainsaw, and a motorcycle, though not simultaneously. In Fall of 2025, Dr Pickett was an invited participant at two events in China: the first, at Shanghai's Fudan University, was an international

conference concerning the relations between Iran and China in the first millennium BC. The second, at Dunhuang, a very famous site in Western China at the edge of the Han Empire and the beginning of the Silk Road, was an invited talk for which Dr



Dr Pickett outside the famous manuscripts cave at the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Gansu province.

Pickett discussed the transmission of Roman bath technology (namely, the hypocaust) through Sasanian and Abbasid territory into Central Asia, before it appeared at Tangchaodun in Xinjiang province in the later ninth century.

Here at Georgia, in October 2025 Dr Pickett also delivered a talk that gave updates on his collaborative work with Dr Mattia Pistone from Geology concerning the Roman-period eruptions of the volcano Chimborazo in Ecuador. For the year ahead, Dr Pickett has several more engagements including at UCLA, and various publications moving through the pipeline related to Sardis, infrastructure, and environmental history.

Mariah Smith

I'm in my second year as Undergraduate Coordinator and I enjoy reconnecting with students when they come for advising. Teaching highlights from the past year include reading Book 1 of Livy with my Spring Gateway Latin class and watching my students transform the story of two groups of bellicose triplets in delightful ways for the Creative Translation project. All the projects were highly inventive, but standouts were a stop-motion animation of the passage, a screenplay (read out by members of the class), and the battle transformed into Magic the Gathering style card game.

Likewise, my Roman Culture Honors students produced amazing creative research projects, like the comparison of Quintilian's ideals about early education with modern parental concerns and a game about getting clean water into a Roman city!

Benjamin Wolkow

Dr. Benjamin M. Wolkow continues to teach a variety of courses in Greek language and literature, although he did have the rare treat to cover Roman poets in a summer course on Classical Epic Poetry. He also expanded his repertoire by teaching a German for reading knowledge class this past Maymester.

In addition to these pedagogical adventures, Dr. Wolkow serves as faculty advisor for the local chapter of Eta Sigma Phi and recently finished his last term as Chair of the Subcommittee of the CAMWS Greek Exam. Last spring, he was invited by the Franklin Residential College to give a talk that addressed some of the promises and pitfalls of applying Natural Language Processing to the textual analysis of Plato's dialogues. ■

Faculty Emeritae/i

Nancy Felson

I had an eventful summer, with three grand trips. In May, my partner Richard and I traveled to Venice to attend the Biennale 2025 for Architecture. My son Alex Felson, who teaches at U. of Melbourne, had a marvelous exhibit in it, "Song of the Cricket," an ecological experiment aiming to recover, propagate, and re-introduce into the lagoon of Venice a rare species of cricket. His sister, Sabrina and wife Janine joined us for five days.

Then in July, Richard's son took us on a 9-day Safari to Tanzania. What an experience! I fell for the giraffes and lions and elephants. My first trip to Africa. Perhaps not the last! Our third trip was to Ithaki, Greece, for a conference on "Homer and Drama." The topic fascinated me, and I couldn't resist, so I wrote a paper on tragic arrivals in several Greek tragedies—how Aeschylus and Sophocles use Homeric arrival patterns and transform them for the stage. It felt good to be in an academic setting on Odysseus & Penelope's Island in the Aegean among many colleagues and friends.

This past March, a second revised edition of *Regarding Penelope* appeared, with two new chapters ("Thirty Years Later" and a revised "From Character to Poetics"). I also finished a chapter on book 21 of the *Odyssey* for a collection edited by Joel Christenson, to be published by Oxford University Press. Now I'm working on the Ithaki paper. I've slowed down a bit and hate what's going on in politics. But all in all, it's been a good year. All four of the kids (now in their fifties) are doing well and the eight grandkids are as well. I miss Athens, GA and the department, and hope to visit soon.

Rick LaFleur

RICK LaFLEUR and his dear wife ALICE TIPTON LaFLEUR continue to enjoy their busy retired lives. Alice remains very active with gardening and published her memoir this year, *Always Alice After All*—artfully crafted, beautifully illustrated (so says Rick!). Rick is still publishing monthly newspaper columns in his two series, "The Secret Lives of Words" and "When I Was 12 or So," and administering his Facebook group, Latin in the Real World, with more than 5,300 members around the world. His online tutorials, enrolling students ages 16 to 70—something across the U.S., and in Europe and South Africa, have been expanded to include a guided reading on Cicero's *De Senectute* (more apt than ever, as Rick turned 80 this past September), in addition to the courses he's taught for many years on introductory Latin, Ovid, Vergil, and Juvenal. His and Alice's lives are vastly enriched by their 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and the imperial bobtail manx Augustus.



Sarah Spence

Sadie McGregor visiting her grandparents Sallie Spence and Jim McGregor in Lake Placid this summer. ■



CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY and STEM

At UGA Classics, we have developed a series of new courses that aim to bridge Mediterranean Antiquity with STEM approaches and, by extension, computer science in the wider sense. These courses merge the ancient and the digital, represented by data science and interactive media.

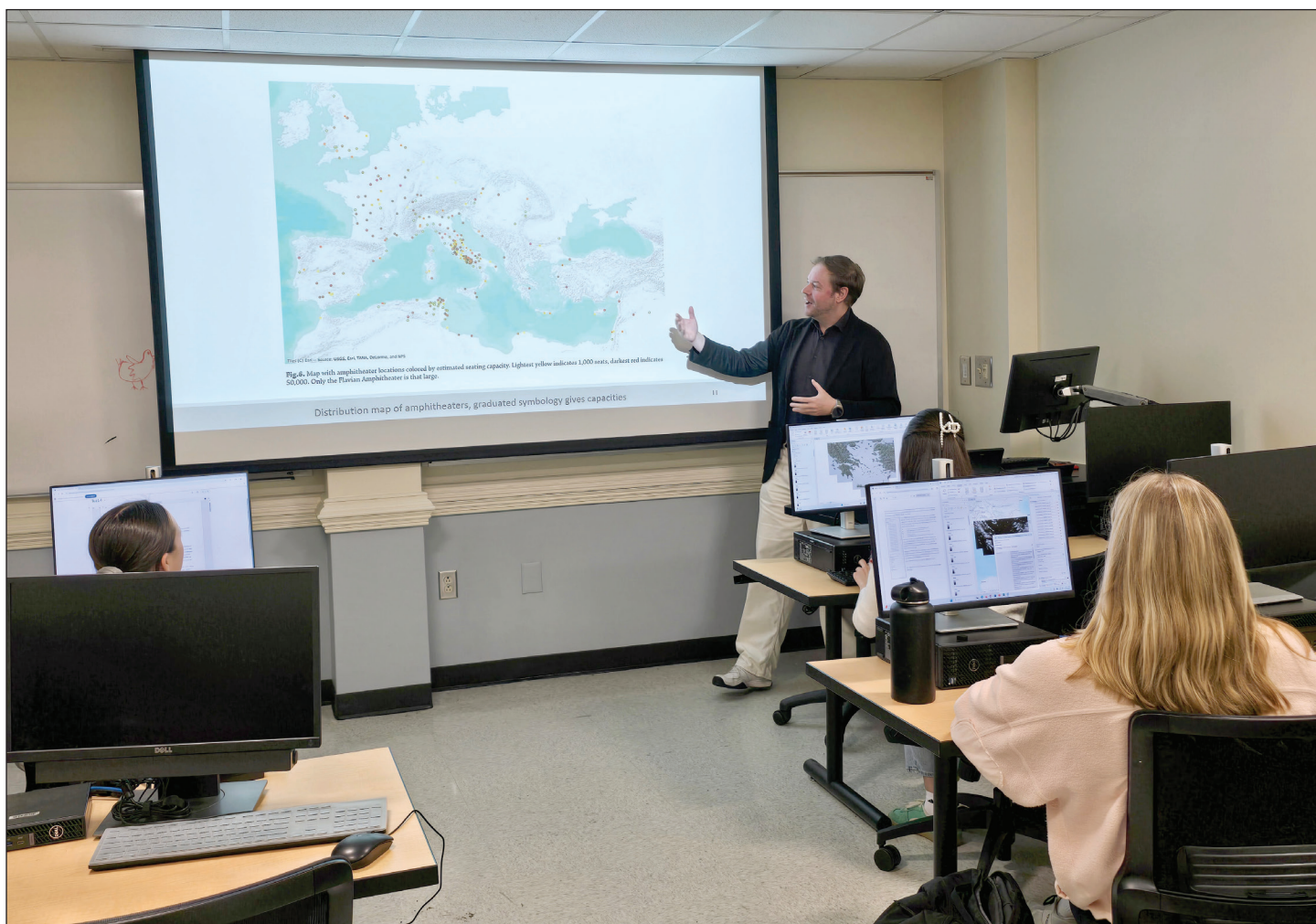
In *Data Analytics Pedagogy for Classics*, running for the first time in Fall 2025, students gain hands-on experience with data analysis and visualization in the form of Geographic Information Systems, corpus linguistics and network analysis. Using AI to assist statistical analysis, students also enhance their AI literacy. Students learn to apply these tools to classical or wider ancient history problems, from recognizing and extracting data in primary source material to camera-ready visualizations to communicate their results and tell stories. The course equips students with practical digital skills to conduct data-driven and interdisciplinary research in the humanities.

The forthcoming *Ancient Empires: A Gaming Approach* (Spring 2026) combines active, experiential and experimental learning in exploring the multifaceted topic of ancient empires, their evolution and management. Supplemented by lectures, students

will use grand-strategy video games to investigate empire-building and management mechanisms and motivations across the ancient Mediterranean. They will explore the interlocking areas of governance, diplomacy, military strategy and resource management while comparing virtual models of history with historical realities. Not only will students get a sense of the differences between regions and periods, but they will also get a sense how much historical (or humanities) work goes into developing video games that are grounded in human history. In this sense, the course also touches upon game design.

Together, these courses foster a new generation of Classicists versed in both ancient worlds and modern technologies, while spearheading the use of video games as a teaching resource in historical disciplines.

In addition to that, the generous support of the Willson Center for Humanities enabled us to host Dr. Franziska Naether from the Saxonian Academy of Sciences as a Short-Term Visiting Fellow in the Fall semester. Her guest lecture "Eternal Voices: How Digital Humanities are Reshaping Ancient Studies" and her workshop "Research Data Management and Data Management Plans for Ancient Studies" highlight the intersection of Mediterranean Antiquity and STEM via their confluence in Digital Humanities, enriching UGA's endeavors with perspectives from Continental Europe. ■



Connie Jiang

MA Classics,
Greek and Latin

We live in a time in which more and more often, people are questioning why there are humans doing the work that a machine can do. We should not see our ready acceptance of internet learning and artificial intelligence as the fine substitution for the human hand, or as mere correlation with accounts of isolation and ennui and loneliness. Our human work—Aristotelean *energeia*—is quickly escaping and becoming estranged from us. As a graduate student of UGA Classics writing a thesis on *paideia*, I am constantly thinking about education, both contemporary and ancient. This, then, necessarily involves musing over the ways we consciously and subconsciously absorb (or don't absorb) information, whether it comes from a text, a place of archaeological interest, the land, or the very habits of our livelihood.

As the Teaching Assistant for the 2025 Croatia Maymester courses in archaeology and historic preservation, I was reminded once more how physical places play a large role in how we interact with the world, and thus how we are shaped by our experiences. This is especially true when you take a course that involves a homework assignment reading about ancient ruins and you get to touch the walls of that very ruin the next day, and when you take a course that asks you to think about how city planning accounts for water drainage with swales in the very city you are walking in. The lessons of the course are more real and live—it reminds us that we cannot just understand everything through degrees of separation, whether through screens or through text.

But when you are in a place so unfamiliar to how you are habituated to acting and thinking about the world, you are also challenged to think about who you are, your preconceived notions of cultural and social mores, and how you relate to others in a way that no text nor teacher can truly "teach", for the realisation is necessarily internal. There is no syllabus or tutor for such things. Even the student most staunchly averse to classroom learning can discover something about himself in the world of beings, and the most textually enthusiastic student can see their beloved texts come to life *and* realise something about themselves beyond the books—how one sees the psychology behind architecture affect our movements, how one gut-responds to an unfamiliar European kiss-on-the-cheek hello, how one gains self-consciousness that they are a tourist in someone else's home. No Zoom lesson nor ChatGPT search can escape these changes in one's internality that is not teleologically bound.

Over the weeks of the programme, I've seen these subtle shifts in thinking take place in some of the students. That is all a paedagogue can hope for—that the seeds sown capture water, take root, and duly sprout.



Ethan Watson

MA Classics, Latin

This summer, I spent two months in Europe partaking in a variety of projects that enriched both my academic and professional development. I began the summer as the TA for the UGA in Rome study abroad program travelling across Greece and Italy. As an undergraduate, I was fortunate enough to have lived in Rome and became deeply familiar with the culture and history of the eternal city. Returning to Rome as a TA allowed me to pass these experiences onto the undergraduates on the trip, both inside and outside of the classroom. Witnessing them embrace the wonder, challenges, and discoveries of Greece and Italy while growing academically, culturally, and personally was a gratifying experience.

After the UGA in Rome trip concluded, I remained in Rome for an additional two weeks working on the Palatine East Pottery Project (PEPP)

at the American Academy in Rome. The project aims to catalogue and publish more than twenty metric tons of pottery excavated from the Palatine Hill during the 1990s. I had the privilege



of working with the PEPP team for three years, and this season marked the conclusion of almost thirty years of research. Continuing my research with the project provided invaluable hands-on experience with ancient material—an opportunity that is difficult to come by in the classroom.



When my time with PEPP was finished, I travelled north of Rome to the town of Sassoferrato to take part in the inaugural excavation season of the Sentinum City Archaeological Research Project (SCARP). SCARP is an American led archaeological project excavating the Roman town of Sentinum, located in Italy's Marche region. While past excavations have focused on the public infrastructure of the city,

SCARP's goal is to explore the commercial and domestic life of the city to gain a better understanding of the site's daily life and urban layout. Participating in SCARP allowed me to apply knowledge about archaeological methods and Roman culture learned at UGA and relate it to experience in the field. I am grateful and mindful of the fact that this summer would not have been possible had it not been for the opportunities and funding provided to me by the UGA Classics Department. ■

CLASSICS ALUMNAE/I NEWS

Shaughn Casey

MA in Latin, '09

Shaughn continues to serve as a chaplain in the United States Air Force. In the summer of 2024, he received orders to the United States Air Force Academy, where he leads a team of 20 officers, enlisted, and civilians as the Deputy Wing Chaplain in the Cadet Chapel. Recently, the Air Force selected him to attend a year of graduate school at Air Command & Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, which he'll begin in the summer of 2026. After that, only the Fates know. His greatest joy, however, remains parenting three girls with his wife, Meredith: Samantha (11), Jocelyn, (9), and Eleanor (5). All three love Greek & Roman Mythology, but require more persuasion about History.

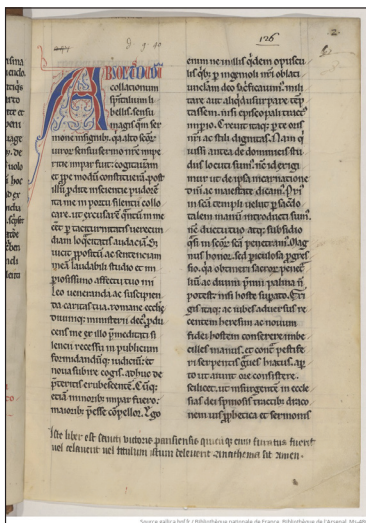
Ben Elliott

MA in Latin, '24

We are delighted to share the wonderful news from Ben Elliott (MA Latin, 2024) that his new translation of John Cassian's *On the Incarnation* has been accepted for publication by Paulist Press into the well regarded series, Ancient Christian Writers, and will be released in the coming year.

Ben began his work on Cassian as a student at UGA. Having set his sights on a new translation, it soon became clear that the underlying Latin text was also in need of improvement. This began a journey of learning and discovery that has culminated in Ben completing an entirely new Latin critical edition through a full re-appraisal of the manuscripts, many of which being examined for the first time, as well as a collection of medieval appropriations of Cassian by Alcuin which were discovered by Ben in his research. Ben then also received a fellowship from the LECTIO Institute at KU Leuven and Brepols Publishers to travel to Belgium in the spring to complete the final details of his new edition [watch for it in the Alexander Room!].

Ben continues to reside nearby in NE Atlanta with his family, and is currently assembling the first ever critical edition of *The Seven Books Against Felix* by Alcuin of York, which will hopefully be complete in 2026. He continues to enjoy poetry and ice hockey, but these days spends most of his time sitting by the phone, waiting to get the call to return to Athens and pick up a course as an adjunct in the department. Congratulations, Ben!



MS-486 manuscript, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal.
Source: gallica.bnf.fr

Jill Jennings

B.A. Classics, '69; MA Classics, '75

Jill Jennings, a retired teacher and journalist passed away on October 15, 2025. Jill was the author of three full-length poetry books: *The Poetry Alarm Clock*, (2008); *Dead Man's Flower* (2012); and *Pineapple Wine: Poems of Maui* (2018). She had her work published in *The Atlanta Review*, *Oberon Poetry Magazine*, and *Calamaro*. Originally from Georgia, she lived with her husband, Paul Cheng, in Fort Myers, Florida.

Jill graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in 1975.

Kira Jones

B.A. Classics and B.A. Classical Languages-Latin '08

I graduated in 2008. I received a doctorate in art history from Emory in 2018 and now work as a historical consultant for print and media projects (I did the Latin for *Conjuring 3*, *WandaVision*, and *Red Notice* and have worked on various historical fiction and research projects still in development), and teach Classics at Agnes Scott. My current research is on the use of antiquity in modern media and recent publications include a chapter on Eurydice in *Supergiant's Hades* (Women in Ancient Video Games), *Assassin's Creed* in museums (*Assassin's Creed in the Classroom*), *Athena* parallels in *Destiny 2* (*The Psychgeist of Destiny*, which I also spoke on at PAX East 2025), and *Southern Gothic* in *Destiny 2* (*Games That Haunt Us*, forthcoming). It's slightly out of date but most of my activities are posted on my website at www.flaviansophist.com.

Jerry Mason

B.A. Latin, '78

I received my B.A. in Latin in 1978 and retired from the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office in 2018. I currently serve as a judge in the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County, and umpire amateur baseball when my schedule permits. My wife Karen and I live in Atlanta with our two cats, and are headed to New York in January for our annual visit to The Metropolitan Opera — I spent many an evening at Timothy Gantz's home during my time in Athens, watching and listening to opera.

Zachary McGar

MA Classical Studies, '08

My poem "The Chorus" was published in Vol. 99.3 of *The Classical Outlook* last year. That volume will be published as a book soon under the title *A Folded History: Poems and Mythologies*, edited by Philip Walsh and Rachel Hadas.

Nathan Moore

B.A. Classics, '23

Nathan is teaching European and American history at Calvary Day School in Savannah, GA. In October 2025, he presented a paper at CAAS entitled "Constantius II and King Ahab in the Writings of Lucifer of Cagliari."

Sarah Beth Nelson (née Mazzaferro)

B.A. Latin/English, '06

I graduated from UGA in 2006 as a Latin/English double major, and I studied abroad in Rome with the UGA Classics Department in Summer 2005. I'm currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where I teach library science. I research oral information practices. A couple of my articles published this year include "Holding a Brave Space: Lessons From Reality Storytelling" in *The International Journal of Information, Diversity, and Inclusion*; and "Researcher as Performer: Studying the Information Practices of a Community Through the Method of Performance Ethnography" in *Qualitative Research*. I also perform as a storyteller. My touring fringe show this year was entitled "Exile." I wove together the story of the exiled poet Ovid with the stories of exiled women he wrote about. From a review written by an attendee at the Indy Fringe: "There is never a dull moment as Sarah Beth carves out a place in your heart that is full of hope, leaving you with the feeling of being warmly at home" (Lisa Kincaide).

Robert Rutledge

MA Latin, '06

Robert Christian Rutledge continues to practice law in Rome, Georgia, home to a replica of the Lupa Capitolina! Robert primarily practices criminal defense along with some personal injury law at his solo firm. He has three kids, Giuseppe (17), Robert Antonio (15), and Vittoria (7).

Keep an ear out for his upcoming prog-rock album "Sonitu Beato" featuring his rendition of Horace's "Eheu Fugaces," which he composed long ago during his time at the Summer Institute. His *nom de plume* is Robert Christian. *Valete!*

Jo Spellman

MA Classical Languages, '23

Jo Spellman completed their MA at UGA in 2023, and is currently in their second year as a PhD student in the department of Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, also pursuing a doctoral minor with the department of Gender and Women's Studies.

The work on Roman Comedy they began at UGA is still a key part of their research. In the spring of 2024, they presented portions of their UGA thesis, "Battle Lines: Gender and Violence in Terence's *Hecyra*," at the 120th Annual Meeting of CAMWS, and are currently in the process of editing the project for publication. Expanding their dramatic interest to Greek Tragedy, they have undertaken a thesis project at the University of Wisconsin under the working title "Don't Call Me *Dolia*: Redefining *Dolos* in Aeschylus' *Oresteia*." This project looks at the ways in which trickery, specifically that named with the Greek word *dolos*, functions in Aeschylus' trilogy in comparison with the *Odyssey*.

They have not forgotten their love of comedy, however, and presented again at CAMWS in spring 2025, with a paper entitled "'Filth are my Politics, Filth is my Life': Dirt and Dirtiness in Plautus' *Poenulus*."

They are incredibly grateful to everyone in the Classics department at the University of Georgia, and feel that their time in the M.A. program prepared them exceptionally well for their PhD program. ■



ETA SIGMA PHI NEWS

Eta Sigma Phi, the on-campus Greek and Latin Honors society, celebrated the induction of four new members this semester. The society has fostered classical learning on campus through books sales, promoting Greek and Latin authors like Cicero, Homer, Euripides, etc. and other scholarly textbooks on ancient history, archeology, and art. We increased our visibility on campus by participating in Homecoming and designing a UGA Classics banner. Members of Eta Sigma Phi participated in the Homecoming parade by wearing togas and laurels, presenting a "UGA Classics" banner and partnering with the Senior Classical League.

Within the society, members have presented research powerpoints on our recent theme: Classics in the Classic City: Connecting Our Past and Present. Several students presented topics on their thoughts of modern adaptations of classical texts and myths and the application of ancient philosophies on the modern-day. Overall, Eta Sigma Phi strives to keep the



ancient traditions, values, and virtues alive in the modern day by encouraging members to share their scholarly work and creative ideas on campus. ■

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