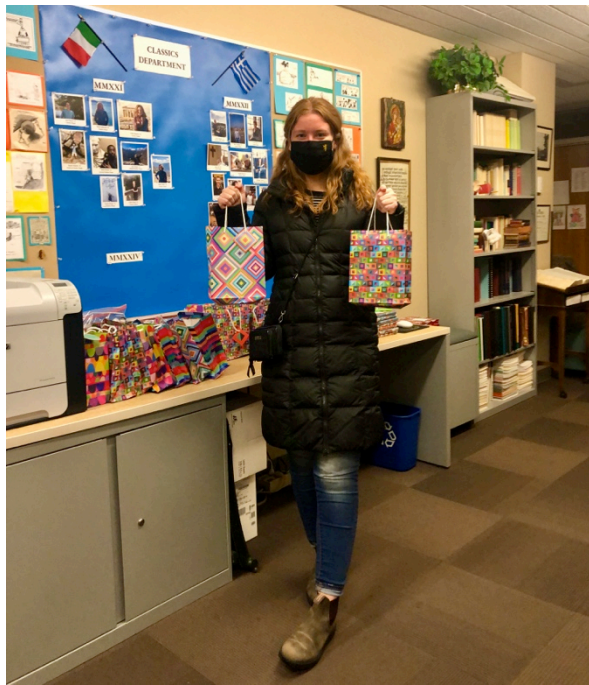
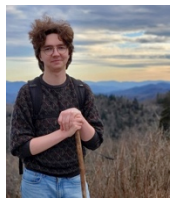


Classics Newsletter – St. Olaf College December, 2020

In a year like no other, our Classics Newsletter comes several months later than usual, as a holiday greeting. Since last March the pandemic has made it impossible for our students to study abroad, go on field trips, attend conferences, or even just socialize at a picnic! To reward them for coping so bravely with COVID-19, we decided to use Annual Fund donations to purchase all the textbooks for students who will be taking intermediate or advanced Latin and Greek next spring. In the photo below, Chloe Hanstra '21 gleefully claims her gift-wrapped books from the Classics Dept. suite.



Ten of our majors (2 Classics, 5 Ancient Studies, 3 Medieval Studies) graduated in 2020. Among them, Wynn Martin (in photo), who earned distinction with his paper on “Feud and Reconciliation in Old Norse Mythology in a Medieval Icelandic Context,” is now a graduate student in Medieval Studies at the U. of Toronto, JuliAnne Rach in Classics and History at the U. of Arizona, and Clara Gambill in Archaeology at Cardiff University in Wales.



Back in the fall of 2019, before the world changed, the school-year was off to a great start, with our first-ever Greek vs. Latin kickball game (less dangerous than softball), a guest lecture by Charles Bressman '79 on “Origins of the Last Will and Testament in Ancient Greece and Rome,” a Classics Festival attended by 350

MN high-school Latin students and their teachers, our weekly Classics Conversation Table (including a talk by Latin teacher Jim Kluth '95), and Olympic battles waged on Old Main field (shorter hoplites in the photo are Robert and Henry, stalwart sons of Kathryn Steed).



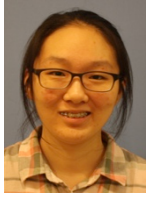
MMXIX ended traditionally with Latin, Greek, and German Christmas caroling. Then MMXX began. 30 Oles enjoyed a month with Kyle Helms in Italy, just before the coronavirus tragically swept through that country. In early March we initiated 25 students into Eta Sigma Phi in a ceremony held in the Art Barn (chapter officers Kara Anderson, Clara Gambill, JuliAnne Rach, and Julia Walter are pictured below).



We then took 40 students by bus to the Guthrie Theater for the opening (also, as it turned out, closing) night of *The Bacchae* by SITI Company. Our vintage Classics couch, with new “spice bouquet” fabric, was delivered by Garner’s Upholstery (see photo) a week later, just before the campus shut down and all the teaching became remote.



Although we had to cancel our annual Groomis contests, our students did compete in the national Maureen Dallas Watkins sight translation contests in February, 2020. Classics major Vania Liang '22 won both 1st prize in Intermediate Classical Greek and 2nd prize in Koine Greek. The 2020 Alec Award (donated by Jeremiah Harrelson '99 in memory of Alec Johnson '97) for a senior who “has a gentle and humble heart and is dedicated to serving others” was won by Ella Gruel '20, Classics and Psychology major.



She is now a graduate student at Nazareth College (Rochester, NY), pursuing a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology with specialization in deafness.



The 4th Annual James M. May Lecture in Classics, “Contesting Muses,” had to be postponed, but we are delighted that our speaker Prof. John Miller (University of Virginia) has agreed to give his talk via Zoom on Thur., March 18, at 7:00 p.m. CDT. The event will be streamed live and archived. Plan to attend and participate in the Q&A!



This past fall the Classics Conversation Table continued on Monday evenings in a virtual format. Guest speakers included Greg Randall '96, reflecting on what you can do with a Latin major (answer: become a financial advisor and a poet). Every other week was devoted to a student/faculty reading group organized by Kyle Helms. We had lively discussions of Denise McCoskey's *Race: Antiquity and its Legacy*. 24 copies of the book were purchased with a \$400 grant from St. Olaf.



In fall, 2019 we teamed up with the Art Dept. to co-sponsor a Medieval Studies guest lecture, “The Golden Spaces of the Uta Codex,” by Eliza Garrison (Middlebury College). This year Classics and Religion collaborated with St. Olaf's Lutheran Center on its Fall Symposium, which featured Kristofer Coffman '13 (our former Greek Lab tutor) speaking to students about “Finding Your Vocation.”



The highlights of 2020 were three new Classics babies! Ivy Athena May (parents Joseph & Bethany) was born on April 30 (pictured at her baptism). Wallace Joseph Helms (parents Kyle & Caitlin) was born on May 9 (pictured with his sisters Hattie and Phoebe).



Theodore Henry Reece (parents Taylor & Kayli Reece) was born on Sept. 4 (photo of Teddy with Grandpa).

Steve Reece looks forward to completing his monograph *The Classical Education of the Author of Luke-Acts* during his sabbatical in 2021-22. Michelle Domondon '00 will help him edit his 400-page manuscript!



Anne Groton spent her entire sabbatical last spring transforming the CAMWS meeting into a Zoom conference. She is relieved no longer to be President! Kyle Helms is busy revising an article about Pompeii's Saffaitic Graffiti and

designing a course for which the department has won an Innovation Award. Hilary Bouxsein '09 (split 50/50 with



Great Con) and Kathryn Steed are both with us again this year. Hilary has published an article on “Counterfactual Conditions in Homeric Character Speech.” Kathryn teaches just in the fall; her new course on Sports and Recreation in the Ancient World was full of exercise science majors!



Classical Studies in Greece has been rescheduled for January, 2022. We pray that it will not be long before our students can study abroad again and all of us can return to teaching the way it was meant to be. Here's to a happier 2021! *Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit.*