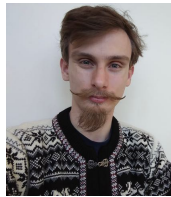


Classics Newsletter – St. Olaf College
July, 2022

Yes, the pandemic did force us to change our routines, and yes, it did make us weary of masks and computer screens, but no, it did not prevent 2021-22 from being a great year for Classics at St. Olaf—beginning with a surprise TV appearance by Prof. Hilary Boussein! She put up a valiant fight against the reigning champion.



We had a bumper crop of senior majors (17), second only to the record high of 18 in 2006-07. Besides four Classics majors and six Latin majors, we had four Ancient Studies majors, two Medieval Studies majors, and one double major in Greek and Ancient Studies. Among them, Christian (Alec) Wolfgram has been accepted into the Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies at William & Mary. After graduating in 2019 as a biology major, he returned this year to complete a much more practical major: Latin!

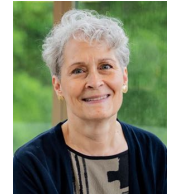


Emily Knuths earned distinction in Classics with her paper “An Unlikely Story: Examining the Storytelling Elements as Persuasive Tools in Plato’s Political Philosophy.” Both Ryan Sasse (“A Beginner’s Guide to Old Nubian”) and Matt Vinton (“*Deos Fieri*: A Study of Boethius’ *Consolatio Philosophiae* III.10.22–25”) earned distinction in Ancient Studies. Madeline Everett, shown visiting the Seven Sisters Cliffs in the U.K., earned distinction in Medieval Studies (“Guinevere and Margaret: A Study of the Paston Letters and *Le Morte Darthur*”). Katie Johnson earned distinction in Religion with her Ancient Studies paper “Queen of the Jews,” examining Jesus’ gender identity in the Gospel of John. Congratulations to all of our Class of 2022 graduates!

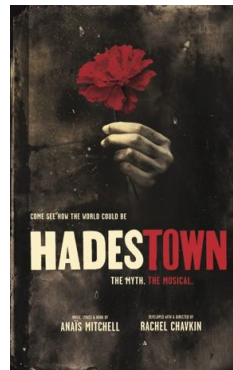


Seniors wearing their honor cords (left to right): Matt Vinton, Ryan Sasse, Laura Shea, Dylan Boorsma Bergerud, Jean Zerwas, Ellie Rabe, Brigitte Rein, Alexander Famous, Emily Knuths, Evan Aho, Abbey McFarland, Anson Martin.

Our Eta Sigma Phi 50th reunion in Tomson Hall on Sat., Oct. 23 went off without a hitch—except that we forgot to take photos! Many thanks to Leslie Moore ’77 (pictured at right), St. Olaf VP for Human Resources, for welcoming the group, and to our panelists (Ann Sturtz Viksnins ’84, Lisa Paulson Bauch ’88, Randall Bergman ’97, Jenny Brown Baer ’01, Jennifer Easler ’10, Dylan Walker ’18, Jo Spellman ’19, and Alex Cavender ’19), who spoke so



passionately about their vocational paths. The Classics faculty had fun with their presentation on “Classics at St. Olaf, Then and Now” and enjoyed raffling off a tableful of books at the end of the day.



In March we were allowed to go on a field trip for the first time in two years! Fifty masked students and faculty traveled by bus to see the amazing musical

Hadestown performed at the Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis. The trip took place shortly after our Eta Sigma Phi initiation, held on the renovated 6th floor of Holland Hall. We welcomed 15 student members and one honorary one (Kurt Anderson, retired soccer coach and Biblical Greek enthusiast; see photo). At our weekly Classics Conversation Table, guest speakers included two Carleton College Classics professors, Florencia Foxley and Jordan Rogers, and Jeremiah Harrelson ’99, donor of the annual award in memory of Alec Johnson ’97; this year’s winner was Emily Knuths, prytanis of Delta Chi.





On St. Patrick's Day we had the delight of hosting Dr. Joy Connolly (President, American Council of Learned Societies, former Classics professor at NYU), who delivered the Fifth Annual James M. May Lecture in Classics, "Imagining Communities

in and with 'The Classical World', in Viking Theater; you can still watch the archived stream on the St. Olaf website. For next year's May Lecture, on Sat., March 11, we are planning something unique: the "guest" speaker will be none other than Prof. Steve Reece, and his talk will be the keynote address for a one-day "Reece-earch Symposium" (+ free lunch) in his honor as he prepares to retire. Six alumni have agreed to serve as panelists (aka "Reece's Pieces"). To encourage you to attend, we will list their names: Panel #1 (Classical Studies): Andrea Gatzke '05, Hilary Bouxsein '09, Collin Moat '13; Panel #2 (Theological Studies): Jon Bruss '89, Julie Kelto Lillis '04, Kris Coffman '13. The event will also be streamed live. There may even be door prizes!



On the curricular front, Kyle Helms had good luck with his new course "Classics & Race" and his new first-year seminar, "Reacting to the Past: Ancient Greece & Imperial China." He looks forward to testing a new role-playing game, The Crisis of Catiline, in "The World of the Ancient Romans" this fall. We will be sad to say goodbye to Hilary Bouxsein (she will spend next year at Oxford with her partner Coulter George) but happy to have Steve Reece back for his last year of teaching. In the spring we'll be joined again by Kathryn Steed, who will offer "Sports & Recreation in the Ancient World" with a Latin component. As the photo of Kathryn, Jesse, and their sons Robert and Henry proves, the giant driftwood in Washington State (Puget Sound) is no myth!



We hope to take students to Greece in January, 2023, after being forced by covid to cancel the course two years in a row. (The photo shows Anne Groton at a Classics meeting in Winston-Salem, NC, obviously not in Greece!) Demand for the interim abroad remains high: this spring we had 78 applicants. We were able to give tuition discounts to 15 of the 30 accepted students, plus full scholarships (funded by Ken and Kathy Loomis and by Greg Randall and Toni Wilkes) to three of them.



We could also afford, among other awards, five grants to defray the cost of the archaeological internship at Antiochia ad Cragum this summer. Thank you, donors!



Jim and Donna May did make it to Greece (in April) with their adult travel tour. Here you see them riding donkeys to the ancient acropolis of Lindos on Rhodes.



Steve and Rhonda Reece went with their daughter Hannah to Mesa Verde, CO (in May) to look for petroglyphs and hike in the Rockies. But here they are at home on their deck, with grandkids Ellie and Teddy.



Kyle Helms flew to the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles on July 4 to study ancient Latin inscriptions, then headed the opposite direction, to Massachusetts. Here he and Caitlin, with the help of their daughters Hattie and Phoebe, introduce their son Wallace to Cape Cod Bay. Keep cool, everyone! Please stay in touch!