

# CLASSICS at CC

Department Newsletter  
May, 2024

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Compiled by Eileen Broderick, Administrative Assistant





# A Note from our Chair

May, 2024

It has been a busy and exciting year in the department, which sees eight Classics and two Classics History Politics majors graduating, alongside ten Ancient World minors and one minor each in Classics and Mediterranean Studies.

In addition to gathering to see our majors present their theses in both December and April, CC's chapter of Eta Sigma Phi (the national Classics honors society) and our CLCAC Dannu Hütwohl (language tutor and events coordinator) helped organize a robust series of events throughout the year. These began with an academic roundtable on the Multicultural Mediterranean, where Visiting Assistant Professor Paul Salay discussed his research as an underwater archaeologist. There was also our annual Greek and Latin poetry recitation contest, which included one student donning a sheet with eye holes to deliver lines from Vergil's Aeneid as Hector's ghost in the underworld and Owen belting out the traditional Cretan rizitiko Πότε θά κάμει ξαστεριά.

Colorado Springs offered the chance for two outings to see plays: Sophocles' Antigone at UCCS and Sarah Ruhl's Eurydice at CC; each play's director stuck around afterwards to discuss the production with students. The department also hosted two talks: Artist Sabrina Piersol (Classics and Studio Art '17) visited Marcia's Myth and Meaning class to talk about how the fragmentary nature of Sappho's surviving poetry influenced the evolution of her distinctive environmental paintings, before giving a campus talk about her career as an artist and arts educator. In spring, Naomi Campa from the University of Texas at Austin delivered an engrossing lecture on how Athenian citizens often defined their freedom by contrasting the scope it granted for meaningful public and private action with the more limited rights of metics (resident aliens).

Finally, our department completed an external review, part of which involved surveying majors and minors who had graduated since the last review in 2013 about their time at CC. Thank you sincerely to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. It was a tremendous inspiration to hear from so many of you about how studying Classics with us has remained a meaningful part of your lives after college: haec olim meminisse iuvabit, indeed!

-Richard

# Congratulations to our 2023 Winter Graduates & 2024 Spring Graduates!



Bryn Aprill



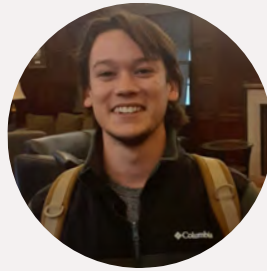
Jeb Brown



Brandon Cervantes



Psalm Delaney



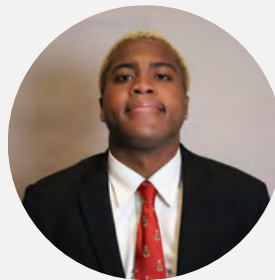
Eric Johnson



August Knox



Alex Spiezio



Nate Vincent



Katherine Granberry  
CHP



Kate Wang  
CHP

**Congratulations to our  
'23-'24 Graduating Minors:**

**Olivia Garg - Mediterranean Studies**

**Laura Hinck - Ancient World**

**Pumehana Holmes - Ancient World**

**Adelaide Kennedy - Ancient World**

**Sasha Lindau - Ancient World**

**Samantha Lorca - Ancient World**

**Red Mayhew - Ancient World**

**Owen Mulqueen - Ancient World**

**Wade Noelke - Ancient World**

**Manar Othman - Classics**

**Marilyn Tokarek - Ancient World**

**Ian Widmann - Ancient World**

## **Parting Thoughts from some seniors:**

### **Psalm Delaney**

In July, 2024, I will begin the Master of Arts in Teaching - Dyslexia Specialist Program at Colorado College. In this graduate program I will become a certified academic language therapist (CALT) while earning my Colorado state secondary teaching license. My favorite class in the Classics major was certainly my Latin for Beginners course with Professor Thakur. This class was the launchpad for my passion for classical studies and the catalyst for a career in education. As a Classics student, I have had the invaluable opportunity to study both Latin and Greek in the classroom and embark on immersive educational travels to Israel as a student archaeologist and to Italy to study Greek & Roman Art.

### **Alex Spiezio**

My experience as a Classics major has been amazing, but taking the Art of Greece and Rome block in Italy was definitely my favorite class. It was so rewarding and engaging to be in Italy, able to experience the places and artifacts we discussed as part of the course material.

I started studying Latin and ancient history in high school so when I got to CC I wanted to minor in Classics. The enthusiasm, knowledge, and support of the department from the very beginning of my experience at CC made me quickly decide on the major rather than just the minor. I'm so glad I made that decision because completing my thesis was my most valuable experience and I had so much fun writing the paper.

### **Nate Vincent**

I chose to study Classics because I have always been fascinated by ancient languages and cultures. There's something captivating about Latin and Greek that drew me in from the start. I love diving into ancient texts and uncovering the stories of civilizations long gone. Plus, interacting with the faculty in the Classics department was the icing on the cake. They're so passionate about what they teach, and being surrounded by like-minded peers made learning even more enjoyable. My favorite class was Greek and Roman Art with Richard and Sanjaya in Italy last summer.

# Faculty Updates



Sanjaya Thakur, Judson Bemis Professor of the Humanities; Professor

It's been great returning to the department after being on sabbatical last year. I got to teach some of my favorite courses and enjoyed them all (Intro Latin, Roman History, Roman Sport, and Gender and Sexuality). I presented at two conferences, in Chicago and St. Louis, and still managed several international trips! This summer, after the regular Italy summer course, I plan to come back to the USA and work on preparing several articles for publication, some on Ovid and others on ancient sport. Plenty to keep me busy! And I'm looking forward to 2024-25 when I'll be teaching two blocks in Greece: Intro Ancient Greek and a course on Minoan and Mycenaean Archaeology with Geology Prof. Henry Fricke. As always, I'd love to connect with alums on social media (Facebook and LinkedIn), during my travels, or reach out if you are ever in Colorado Springs.

Dannu Hütwohl, Classical Languages & Cultural Activities Coordinator (CLCAC)

While continuing to work on his book projects, Dannu spent his second and last year at CC working on passion projects with his friends and colleagues: He organized and presented at the event Multicultural Mediterranean: Navigating the Diversity of the Middle Sea with Paul, and he explored the fascinating and often surprising world of Spanish linguistics with Richard. Dannu was overwhelmed with joy to help his students find their own muse for the Classics Recitation event, as well as support the seniors as they completed their theses. He has also thoroughly enjoyed reading Plato and studying the shocking era of Nero with his adjunct groups of incredible students. Although Dannu looks forward to returning home to his horse and his herds in New Mexico, CC and the unique people he has had the immense fortune to get to know here will always have a special place in his heart.



# Faculty Updates



Richard Fernando Buxton, Associate Professor, Chair

This has been a wonderful year for teaching fun and stimulating material. A few highlights: The year began with an FYP (first-year writing seminar) organized around reading and debating Plato's vision of love in the Symposium. This was a text that had a huge impact on me during my own first semester of college. In winter, I taught an upper-level Latin course on Pliny the Younger's letters with a small and dedicated group. By the end, we were left wondering whether what amazed us more was the author's beautiful Latin and the kaleidoscopic view of contemporary Rome that his letters afford, or his absolutely shameless self-promotion and obsession with his own fame!

Currently, I am piloting a new course on ancient warfare and have taken the students for a pair of visits to the Fitness Center in order to use free weights to simulate what it would have been like to wield the various items of weaponry and armor as a hoplite or legionary. Eileen, our Administrative Assistant, snapped some wonderful photos that are included in the back.



Owen Cramer, Professor,  
Moses Clement Gile Professor of Classics

Owen is thinking about Homer, still. First run-through of Lattimore's Iliad was in the late 1950s, first all in Greek in the early 1960s, now it's the era of war in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan. And a changed literary culture: 18 year olds now don't know poetry by Wordsworth, Kipling or Dickinson, or Pete Seeger, Bessie Smith and Carter Family songs – but they can sing along to Taylor Swift. Homer is poetic and heroic performance, so what students wanted to perform in the Fall 2023 Homer course was interesting: only one actually chose Homer, and when they chose

Plath and other edgy 20th century work it was apt to be on friends' recommendation rather than long-loved personal resources. Heroism has also changed since the mid-20th century. Owen recently regaled a group of his codger friends (some younger) after dinner with an account of the great war for colonial control of North America, 1756-63, and the heroisms of British Gen. Wolfe at Quebec in 1759 and Lord Granville in 1763, and the question is whether there's any analogue now for Wolfe's extensive quotation from Gray's "Elegy" and the way Benjamin West could portray him as a kind of Christ-figure, dying confidently in the steady gaze of a stalwart (fictional) Iroquois warrior. Or for a high government official, dying himself but rousing himself to his diplomatic duty by reciting, in Greek, Sarpedon's (fictional) exhortation to his noble cousin Glaucus at a tactically significant moment in the Trojan War. When it's not Homer, Owen is active in neighborhood affairs (Middle Shooks Run) and with his children and grandchildren: a long trip to Florida to see the winter birds and on to Pennsylvania to see extended, multicultural family, shorter trips—including one on Amtrak, Owen's preferred mode of transport—to California and in Colorado for holidays and soccer games.

# Faculty Updates

Paul Salay, Visiting Assistant Professor

This year I have had the pleasure of designing and teaching several new courses on various themes. In a course on the environmental history of the ancient Mediterranean we were able to explore a range of issues related to human interactivity with the environment, as well as debunking the notion that human impact on the environment is a recent phenomenon limited to the modern world. We were also able to take advantage of resources around Colorado College, with visits to the American Numismatic Association to examine their collection of ancient coins as part of a course on the ancient economy, and to the Fine Arts Center to see their storerooms and discuss issues of repatriation with Sara Hodge, the Head of Collections, as part of a course on cultural heritage management. I was thrilled to teach an introduction to maritime archaeology. I was able to bring my own experience as a maritime archaeologist into the classroom and we were lucky to be visited by my colleague Carlos de Juan, who discussed the results of his ongoing project to rescue the remains of the 7th c. BCE Mazarrón 2 shipwreck in Murcia (Spain).

I recently completed an article on the Bou Ferrer shipwreck, a large Imperial Roman wreck of the mid-1st c. CE, and I have continued ongoing work on a larger project utilizing Geographic Informations Systems (GIS) software to understand the development of different regional shipbuilding traditions in the ancient Mediterranean. This summer my focus is on completing an article on the development of early coinage in the Greek world and another on the presence of concepts of race and “proto-racism” in the Greek literature of the Archaic Period (8th c. BCE – 6th c. BCE). Next year, it looks like I will be returning to Spain to work on my book that explores the role of maritime trade in the development of early Greek democracy with the generous help of a post-doctoral research fellowship from the University of Barcelona, and I hope to return to excavating underwater on a couple of projects after a hiatus.



Marcia Dobson, Professor

Students still flock to Marcia’s many popular courses and we all feel so lucky to continue to enjoy her warmth and wisdom as she wraps up her 48th year at Colorado College!

Marcia and her husband, John Riker, continue to teach their course "Contemporary Psychoanalysis" in Chicago and were thrilled to finally be back in the Newberry Library after many years. They attended the International Association for Psychoanalytic Self Psychology Conference in Chicago last October. Marcia participated in a “Meet the Authors” session and was a panel discussant as well.

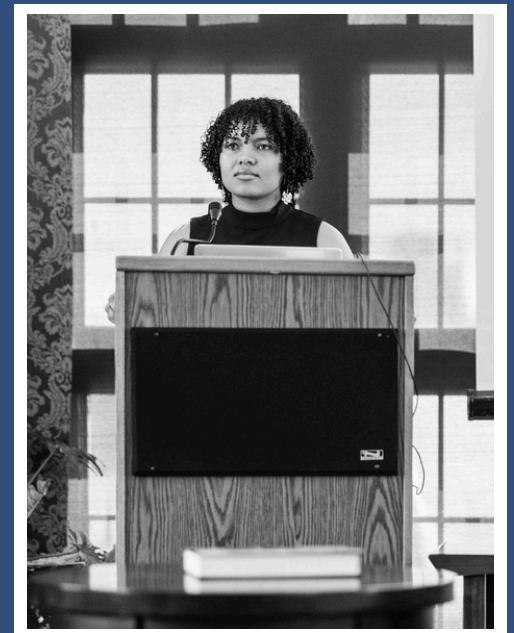
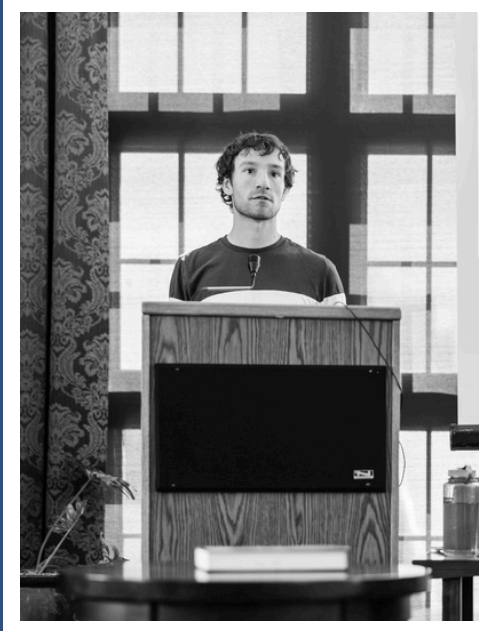
After a very busy stretch teaching her full course load and publishing a long-awaited book last year, Marcia is looking forward to taking a much-deserved sabbatical for the first half of the 2024-2025 academic year.

# Senior Thesis Presentations

Nate discussed his thesis, "How to Train a Greek Athlete." *(right)*



August discussed his thesis, "When the Romans Lose: Examining One of Caesar's Greatest Defeats." *(left)*



Psalm discussed her thesis, "Wisdom, Fate, and Agency in the Pursuit of Home." *(above)*



Our spring 2024 seniors pose for a group photo before sharing their thesis presentations. *(above)*

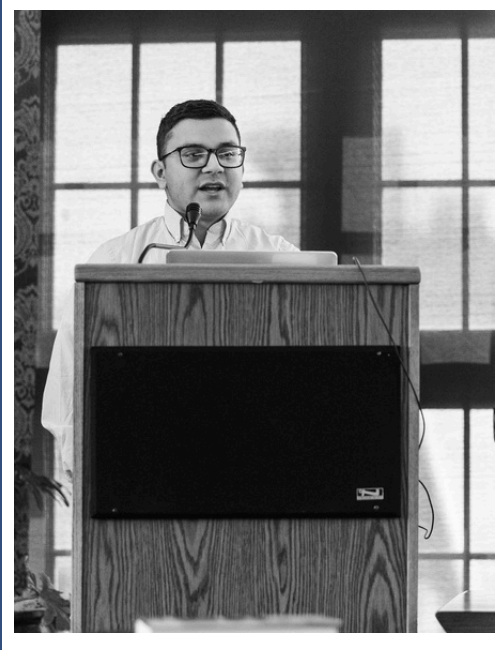


# Senior Thesis Presentations

Jeb discussed his thesis, a screenplay adaptation of Sallust, "The Catalina Conspiracy." (*right*)



Brandon discussed his thesis, "Varro's Regularity: How Patterns Can Be Used To Compare Language." (*left*)



In December, Bryn discussed her thesis, "The Other Penelope: Analyzing Ambiguity in Ovid's *Heroides*." (*above*)

Alex discussed her thesis, "The Pursuit of an Indefinite Identity: Framing Our Conversations About and Understanding of Cleopatra VII." (*above*)



# Student & Alumni News

## Psalm Delaney

Psalm was awarded the Stewart Teacher Training Award by CAMWS (The Classical Association of the Middle West and South), which provides financial assistance to those who wish to obtain certification to teach Latin at the primary through the secondary level. Psalm was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa for her scholastic distinction. Huge congratulations to Psalm for these achievements!

## Olivia Garg (Mediterranean Studies minor)

Olivia will be working after graduation as a Museum Assistant at the American Numismatic Association's Money Museum, where Finlay Roberts (Classics 2022) already works as a Museum Technician. Both began their association with the Money Museum as summer research assistants helping Richard catalog the association's Greek and Roman coins.

## Owen Mulqueen (Ancient World minor)

Owen has been accepted into the Masters in Archaeology program at University College, London. He will enroll there next fall. Owen has also been accepted to be part of the team excavating at Pella in northern Greece this summer. Pella was once home to kings Phillip II and his son Alexander the Great.

## Crystal Rosenthal (Classics 1999)

Crystal, who is pursuing a PhD in Art History at the University of Texas at Austin, was awarded a prestigious Arthur Ross Rome Prize to support a year of research in residence at the American Academy in Rome on her project "Agents on the Shore: Harbor Arches in Roman Port Cities."

## Sabrina Piersol (Classics/Studio Art 2017)

Sabrina is an L.A. & Aspen-based painter and museum educator. She is now the Youth & Family Program Manager at the Aspen Museum of Art in Aspen, Colorado. She has several upcoming solo exhibitions, including in Turin (Italy). We were so honored to have her speak to our students this past fall.

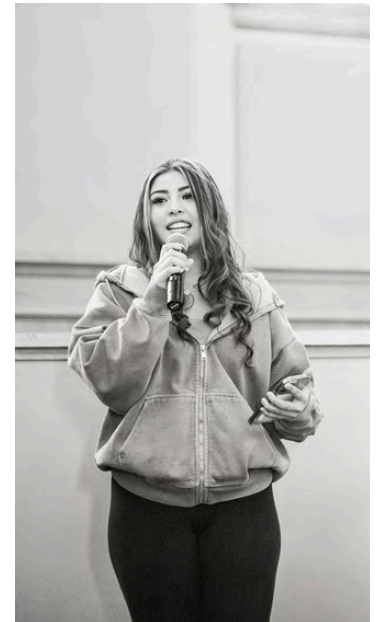
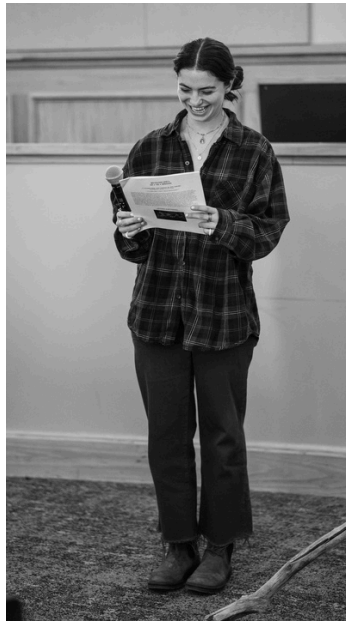


Sabrina Piersol ('17) talks to students and faculty about how her study of Classics influences her art.



Guest speaker Naomi Campa (UT Austin) lectures on Athenian democracy in March

# ANNUAL RECITATION EVENT, December 2023



# Photos from Richard's Warfare class and Dannu's Multicultural Mediterranean Event:



## Donations

If you would like to help support our students, donations can be made to the Classics general fund or the Hartwell fund; both fund research & related travel. For other funding opportunities (such as helping us build a study collection of archaeological material), please contact Richard Buxton directly. Likewise, to make a targeted donation for another specific purpose, please do not hesitate to reach out. We would like to thank all of our donors for their generous contributions; your gifts are very appreciated.

[Click here](#) to visit CC's gifting page. To indicate that you want your gift to go to the Classics Dept. be sure to click on 'other' and type 'Classics' in the text field. Alternatively, you can use the QR code to make a donation from your phone.

