

# CLASSICS at CC

2023 Department Newsletter

May, 2023

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# A Note from our Chair

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With the shadow that the pandemic cast over life on campus having largely receded, Classics has had a busy and exciting year of in-person activities. It has been wonderful to see our students, faculty and friends from other departments coalesce once again as a face-to-face community. The result in Cossitt Hall has been a palpable sense of excitement about studying the ancient world that I hope many readers remember from their own time at CC and continue to treasure.

In fall we welcomed Peter Hunt of CU Boulder, who gave a talk on the lives of fugitive slaves in Greece and Rome. A group of majors, minors and faculty drove up together to Denver University to see a wonderful production of Sophocles' *Antigone* in November, while closing out the semester was our annual Latin and Greek recitation competition.

Spring began with Marcia Dobson giving a talk on her recently published book to a rapt audience. This was followed in March with an Antiracism roundtable celebrating the thirty-fifth anniversary of Martin Bernal's controversial *Black Athena*, an occasion for reflecting on the move towards less Eurocentric views of Classics that Bernal helped occasion.

This last event was co-organized by the college's chapter of the Classics honor society Eta Sigma Phi, which Sanjaya Thakur has helped reanimate and now holds regular meetings and an annual induction of new members, continuing a tradition begun at CC in 1926. Sanjaya himself was on sabbatical after receiving promotion to full professor. Thank you to the many alumni and students who wrote letters of support for his file last year!

The department also played host to the spring meeting of the Colorado Classics Association, a statewide organization for Latin teachers at all levels. Closing out the year, graduating senior Caeleigh O'Connor, winner of this year's Hartwell Prize in Classics and a double major in Theatre, staged her own translation of Euripides' *Bacchae* in the Cossitt Amphitheater.

Meanwhile, as you will see in the following pages, beautifully designed by our academic administrative assistant, Eileen Broderick, our faculty and students have been extremely active and there is an impressive list of achievements for us to celebrate, not least the graduation of three majors and four minors. *Gaudeamus igitur!*

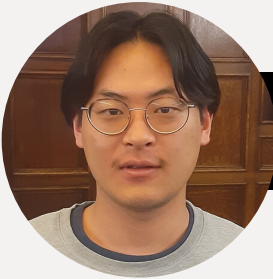
-Richard

# **Congratulations to our 2022 Winter Graduates & 2023 Spring Graduates!**

**Caeleigh O'Connor**



**Harrison Tong**



**Kevin Wang**



## **Our '23 Minors:**

**John Byers (Ancient World)**

**Nick Connolly (Ancient World)**

**Pat Mahoney (Ancient World)**

**Natalie Slade (Classics)**

# Faculty Updates



Sanjaya Thakur, Judson Bemis Professor of the Humanities;  
Associate Professor

This year I have been on sabbatical after receiving my promotion to full professor. Thanks to all the students and alumni/ae who wrote in support. I appreciate it greatly. This academic year I have been living in Greece, where I was awarded the Elizabeth A. Whitehead Distinguished Scholar position at the American School of Classical Studies, Athens--one of the oldest overseas academic research centers. It's been an amazing year. In the fall, I traveled extensively throughout the country with the "regular program" comprised of about a dozen graduate students in Classics and Archaeology, as we visited just about every archaeological site there is to see. The fall semester included four lengthy trips, where we moved from city to city each day, seeing as many sites as we could, often joined by archaeologists who excavate there. We started in northeastern Greece, on the island of Samothrace and during our first trip worked our way west to the city of Thessaloniki and the Macedonia tombs at Pella. For the second trip, we headed to western Greece, as far north as Ioannina and Dodona (with its magnificent sanctuary to Zeus) and to the Peloponnese and cities like Pylos and Olympia. Our

third trip took us to Crete for an extensive tour of the island, beginning in Heraklion and the palace of Minos at Knossos. I hadn't been to Crete in nearly 20 years, and it was fantastic to return and see the sites in the unusually warm late fall. The fourth trip centered around Boeotia, with the major cities visited including Thebes and Delphi. One of my other responsibilities was to coordinate a graduate seminar, and to no shock to many of you, I selected ancient Greek sport (a course I have taught multiple times at CC). Students and I read ancient sources in the original Greek, looked at a lot of inscriptions, visited a lot of museums to see athletic-related objects, and had a good time doing it. However there was way too much material to cover in the limited sessions we had! During the winter semester I have been focusing on my own research, writing up a piece on athletics in Homer's Odyssey. This was also the topic of a large public lecture that I delivered that is available on [YouTube](#) for those interested (yep).

I also have been able to travel to several archaeological museums in Germany where various museum Directors kindly have allowed me to access collections in storage. There I was photographing images of objects related to ancient Greek athletics that will be part of my future CC classes. I also was able to travel to Jordan for the first time, visiting the amazing sites of Petra and Wadi Rum.

As the semester draws to a close here, I'll soon be off to Italy to teach my CC summer course with Professor Buxton and once again lead the Classical Summer School for graduate students at the American Academy, Rome. I'm looking forward to being back in Colorado Springs next year to teach a full suite of courses for the department.

Owen Cramer, Professor,  
Moses Clement Gile Professor of Classics

Colorado College and the Department of Classics are still fortunate to enjoy the wisdom and company of Owen Cramer who is wrapping up his 58th year here at CC. Alumni stop in to Cossitt eagerly hoping to find him here and are always so pleased when they find out he is still teaching. We all draw on his vast institutional knowledge at faculty meetings and other campus fora, and we enjoy Owen's rich stories about students, faculty, and events from CC's past.

Owen has enjoyed several trips with family and visits from grandchildren this past year.

We all look forward to working with him again this coming year. Stop in to say hello if you are in the area!



# Faculty Updates



Richard Fernando Buxton, Associate Professor, Chair

What a wonderful way to come back from Sabbatical, taking over as chair in the fall and finishing the year by being invited to give the Baccalaureate address. A particular highlight was Peter Hunt's talk on the lives of fugitive slaves in Greece and Rome from September. Peter teaches at CU Boulder and wrote the phenomenal textbook that I use in my course on ancient slavery. It was wonderful having him sit in on that class and then give a masterful lecture for the wider CC community, especially since we had initially planned to do this in April 2020 before the pandemic intervened. In spring my article "Hoplites and Oligarchy: a Marked Association in Classical Greece" was published in the journal *Phoenix* after a long but constructive period of development. A few months before, I had the pleasure of delivering a Spanish-language version of the piece at the National Academy of Sciences at Buenos Aires as part of the conference Sokratikoi lógoi, Platonikoí lógoi, which marked my first visit to Argentina—despite being a devoted reader of Borges and Julio Cortázar! This project represents my first foray into military history in the run up to introducing a new course on that topic next spring. I also had the chance to catch up with Classics alumni all along the front range: Sabrina Piersol and Tessa Greer at Homecoming for their fifth-year reunion, Robbie Adler and Finlay Roberts (Colorado Springs), and Stephen Sigman and Kate Gustilo (Denver). Kate was in my first-ever class at CC back in 2014! But most meaningful of all was receiving a Dean of the Faculty Teaching Award in February after a string of terrific blocks with some truly outstanding students.

Dannu Hütwohl, Cultural Program Coordinator (CPC)

Dannu has thoroughly enjoyed his time with the Classics department and the warm welcome he has received. He has been vigorously working on a co-authored book titled *The Transit of Venus*, which is now under review with a major academic press. A monograph based on his dissertation titled "The Birth of Sacrifice" is also under review with De Gruyter. He hopes to complete both projects within the next academic year here at CC. Besides his two book projects, Dannu has published two articles this year. One is co-authored with his best friend and entitled "Hermes, Prometheus, and Deucalion: Sacrifice and Mediterranean Myth Networks," which appeared in the latest issue of *ASDIWAL. Revue genevoise d'anthropologie et d'histoire des religions*. His other article, entitled "A Defense of Blood-Price in Pindar fr. 133," is due to appear in *Symbolae Osloenses* in the coming months. Besides his research pursuits, Dannu has also enjoyed diving into the world of Classical literature with CC students. He has especially enjoyed reading Ovid, Cicero, Euripides, Homer, and Plato with them and has delighted in their brilliant insights. He also enjoys conversations with his colleagues, discussing archaeology with Stephanie and myth and ritual with Marcia, practicing Spanish with Richard, and invoking the Muse with Owen. One of his proudest achievements this year has been creating and organizing exciting new events for the department. Highlights were a poetry recitation with professors and students, a book presentation event to celebrate Marcia's new book, and the Antiracism event co-sponsored with Eta Sigma Phi entitled "From Black Athena to Black Achilles." Dannu looks forward to another exciting and productive year!.



# Faculty Updates



Stephanie Kimmey, Visiting Assistant Professor

My second year at CC was concentrated around teaching six fun-filled classes. Last summer, I was accompanied by Bryn Aprill on my summer field research. Funded by a CC faculty-student collaborative grant, Bryn was able to spend a month in Nemea working on a basilica conservation project, while also conducting research on a corpus of Greek figurines from a Bronze Age cemetery. You can read more about Bryn's research on page 9.

For my own research, I organized and presented at the joint AIA-SCS annual meetings on preliminary results of the study of the materials from excavations at Aidonia. This year the meetings returned to New Orleans, in-person. It was great being able to see colleagues again after several COVID Zoom-meetings.

In February, my contribution to the edited volume, *Going Against the Flow. Wells, cisterns and water in Ancient Greece*, was published. "The Nemean wells. Water management and sanctuary deposition" was the first publication of some of my dissertation material. The chapter focuses on the wells as discrete units within their larger sanctuary context to examine their construction, location and use, and eventual abandonment. Most recently, I also took on a new role at Rhea Classical Reviews (<https://www.rheaclassicalreviews.com>), moving onto the Executive Board to assist with editorial responsibilities.

Finally, I want to also take this time to say thank you and goodbye to the CC community, students, staff, and faculty. These two years have pushed my pedagogical creativity. I'll be taking what I learned at CC to Weber State University in the fall where I will begin my position as an Assistant Professor of Art History.

Marcia Dobson, Professor

Marcia's new book, *Metamorphoses of Psyche in Psychoanalysis and Ancient Greek Thought: From Mourning to Creativity* was released in December of 2022 by Routledge. We so enjoyed celebrating her accomplishment and hearing her speak about this deeply personal project.

Marcia and her husband, John Riker, continue to teach their popular course "Contemporary Psychoanalysis" in Chicago each year after a brief hiatus due to Covid. They also continue to enjoy the company of their beautiful shelties while surrounded by the glorious setting of the Garden of the Gods behind their home.

Marcia is wrapping up her 47th year at CC. We feel so grateful to continue to learn from and work with her.



# Photos from Sanjaya's year in Greece

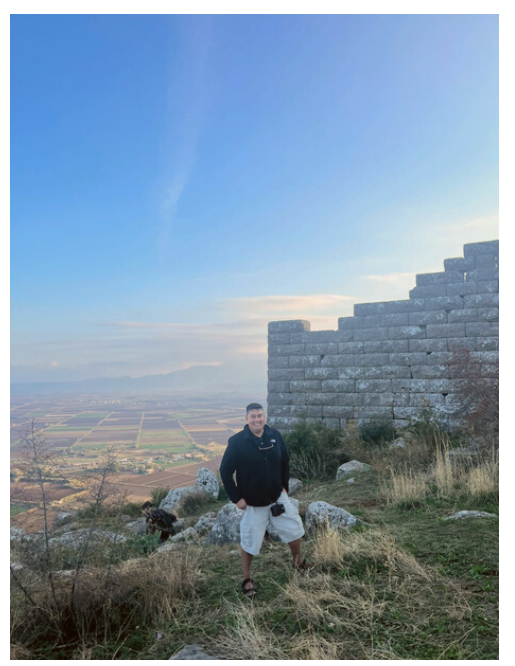
## Isthmia, right

Sanjaya talks to a group about an athletic victor's epitaph.



## Olympia, left

## Orchomenos, right



## Meteora, left

# Senior Thesis Presentations



**Kaiqing (Kevin) Wang, left, presents his senior thesis, "Cicero's Roman Cultural Hegemony in *Pro Archia Poeta*"**

**Hongdao (Harrison) Tong, right, presents his senior thesis, "Romanization and Localization in Military Communities in Roman Britain, 43 C.E. to 212 C.E."**



**Caeleigh O'Connor, left, staged a production of *The Bacchae*, which she translated from the Greek original.**



# Annual Recitation Event

Always a great time watching our students & faculty recite Greek and Latin passages!



# Student News

## Psalm Delaney

Psalm was awarded the 2022 H. R. Butts Scholarship for Fieldwork in Classical Archaeology from Eta Sigma Phi, the national Classics honor society. The award, along with funding from the Classics department Hartwell Fund, helped finance her travel and participation in the 2022 Caesarea Excavations team in Israel last summer. Psalm is a Classics and Education double major and plans to become a secondary school Latin teacher. She said of her time in Israel, "This was an invaluable opportunity that I will be able to share with my future classrooms to forge new paths of inquiry, innovation, and excellence for all students through Classical studies."



## Emilia Wright

Emilia was accepted with full funding to two prestigious and competitive summer programs in Classics at Harvard University for this upcoming summer. Emilia was awarded a grant from the Harvard Classics Scholars-in-Training Summer Program to live on the Harvard University campus and study Ancient Greek. She will also work one-on-one with a Harvard faculty member for 10 weeks on an independent research program. We are so proud of her for taking the initiative to seek out and pursue these opportunities.



## Bryn Aprill

Bryn spent the summer of 2022 as a participant in the Nemea Center for Classical Archaeology's field school at the Sanctuary of Zeus at Nemea in the Greek Peloponnese. Bryn assisted in the project's current mission to conserve the 5th/6th century CE early Christian basilica. While the sanctuary is well known as the site of a major panhellenic festival with athletic competitions in the Classical Greek world (from the 6th to 3rd centuries BCE), the valley became the center of an early Christian community as the Greek world transitioned from a polytheistic to monotheistic society. As part of that religious transition, the community built a basilica in the pagan sanctuary. Most of the basilica was excavated nearly 100 years ago, and, as it has been exposed to the elements, many of the remains have begun to deteriorate. Bryn's work was an integral part of the conservation project. During her time in Greece, she also visited several other sites, like Mycenae, Olympia, and Athens.

Bryn's participation was supported by a CC Faculty-Student Collaborative Grant, which allowed her to also work on an individual research project over the summer, both in and out of Greece. That project focused on the deposition of terracotta figurines at a nearby cemetery. By comparing these with other figurines in nearby Corinth, Bryn was able to place the figurines into a larger production context. She presented these results in a poster at the 2023 Colorado Student Undergraduate Research Forum.



## Caeleigh O'Connor

The Department's Hartwell Scholarship fund helps support student research projects and travel, as well as our annual department prize winner, noted for excellence in their thesis and their contributions to the department. The winner of the 2023 Hartwell Prize is Caeleigh O'Connor. Caeleigh is a double major in Classics and Theatre. Her senior thesis project was a translation from Greek of Euripides' play *The Bacchae*, which she staged and directed in our own Cossitt amphitheater. She worked tirelessly on this production and we were so impressed and proud of both her vision and commitment to excellence. What a treat it was to see her work "come to life!"



# Alumni Updates

## Ian O'Shaughnessy '20

We were so pleased to hear from Ian earlier this winter about what he has been up to since graduating from CC as a Classics-History-Politics major in 2020.

*"I'm currently living in Austin, TX. I moved here after graduating from CC to teach at a classical charter school during COVID. After the 2020/2021 school year, I spent four months traveling in North Africa, then moved back to Austin to work for Captain Experiences, a startup that helps people book fishing trips.*

*Classics keeps popping up. When I was teaching, I included Aristotle in my biology lessons, and explained a lot of Greek and Latin roots to curious students. I also re-read the Odyssey with other teachers as part of a faculty discussion group, and had some things to say about Odysseus' being described [as] "polytropos." Last week, I finished The Sacred Band by James Romm, about Thebes and the Sparto-Theban wars."*



## Aviva Palmer '85

We were thrilled to see Classics alumna Avivah Polmer honored last week when the Just World Award winners were announced. Avivah won the Mike Edmonds Igniting Students' Potential Award for her tireless work with and on behalf of students with dyslexia in the Colorado Springs community over the past 30 years. Her recent project, Words Ink, aims to partner with local schools and organizations to work one-on-one with students who have reading deficits and to provide these services for free. What an incredible resource for the students in our community!

## 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 and 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 (right) to make a donation from your phone.

