Workshops

FIRST WORKSHOP SESSION: 10:00–10:45AM

“An Empire of the Mind: The Egypt of Ptolemy I” (Dr. Jennifer Gerrish, College of Charleston) While his predecessor Alexander subdued the world with his army, Ptolemy I of Egypt “conquered” his own kingdom in new ways. Dr. Gerrish will show how Ptolemy used religion, literature, and science to build a new cultural capital and an empire that lasted three hundred years.

“Strangers and Foreigners in Ancient Greece” (Dr. Samuel Flores, College of Charleston): The differences between who was “Greek” and who was “not Greek” (or “barbarian,” to use the Greek term) influenced how ethnicity and identity were understood in the Ancient Greek world. In this lecture, Dr. Flores will outline the concepts of “stranger” and “foreigner” in Ancient Greece from Homer to the age of Alexander the Great. The talk will examine how these concepts evolved in conjunction with and affected Greek religion, politics, and international relations.

“What You Do with a Classics Major” (Dr. James Newhard, College of Charleston) Studying the civilizations of Greece and Rome is not only crazy fun, but is actually something that can lead to an exciting career in…well…a lot of things. In this talk, we will explore what the study of Classics is like in college, and how this can translate into a wide array of career paths.

“Roman Glass: Archaeology and History” (Dr. Allison Sterrett-Krause, College of Charleston) In this hands-on workshop, you’ll have an opportunity to study fragmentary Roman glass excavated from sites around the ancient city of Carthage. Glass has been made and used in the Mediterranean for millennia, but in the Roman period technological advances led to new uses for glass, including windows and items for everyday use like cups. Come learn about how glass was used in antiquity. You can also practice your archaeological skills: using the fragmentary glass objects to make guesses about how people used these objects in their daily lives.
SECOND WORKSHOP SESSION: 11:00–11:45AM

“Classics around Charleston” (Dr. Aaron Palmore, College of Charleston): You don’t have to go to Italy or Greece to experience Classics in the wild! Join Dr. Palmore on a short walking tour around the campus area as we explore the storied relationship between Charleston and Classics. We’ll try our hand at some Latin inscriptions, identify some Neoclassical architecture, and maybe even stroll by the site of Basil Gildersleeve’s childhood home.

“Alexander the Great and the Explosion of Greek Culture” (Dr. Andrew Alwine, College of Charleston) In just over a decade (334–323 B.C.), Alexander III of Macedon overran the entire Persian Empire, which, at the time, controlled about 10% of the planet’s landmass and was the largest empire in the world. This conquest dramatically altered the flow of history, spreading Greek culture throughout the world and converting the Greek language from a grab-bag of local dialects spoken by an array of feuding city-states into the lingua franca of the known world (“koine” – “common” Greek). This explains why, for instance, the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, written four hundred years later at the height of the Roman Empire, were all composed in Greek. Dr. Alwine will survey Alexander’s conquests and their impact on the Greek and Roman worlds.

THIRD WORKSHOP SESSION: 1:30–2:15PM

“The Gothic Invasions and the End of the Roman Empire” (Dr. Jason Osborne, University of South Carolina-Columbia): Dr. Osborne will be discussing the Gothic invasions of the Roman Empire during the 4th and 5th centuries A.D. and will introduce students to some of the notable people and events from that era such as Alaric the Goth, Attila the Hun, and the Sack of Rome in 410. In particular he will focus on the disintegration of the Roman Empire in the west and its replacement with a system of Germanic kingdoms that laid the foundation for the development of the medieval world.

“The Indo-European Roots of the Classical Languages” (Dr. Eunice Kim, Furman University): This workshop will explore how Greek and Latin, as well as many other well-known modern languages, are related to each other and form part of the Indo-European (IE) language family. Participants will learn some of the essential principles of comparative and historical linguistics, and will practice applying the comparative method to reconstruct IE roots. No prior knowledge of Greek or Latin is required.

“Ancient and Digital Mapping” (Dr. Chiara Palladino, Furman University): This workshop will introduce the most important aspects of premodern knowledge of the world, how the ancient concept of visual mapping differs from ours, and how all this can be addressed within “Digital Classics”, i.e. with modern techniques of digital annotation, information retrieval and GIS applications. We will work with maps in Latin and in translation. No previous knowledge of Latin is required.