From the Chair

It has been a goal of ours for many years to begin a departmental newsletter, by which we can summarize the goings-on and accomplishments of our community. As with any good beginning, we’ll start the newsletter in media res, celebrating the events of 2018. I’m sure we’ll miss something, which we’ll catch in future editions.

In reviewing this inaugural issue, I am struck by the good things that are happening in and around the Department, whether it be the accomplishments of our faculty and alumni, the life-changing experiences of our students, or our shared experiences in and out of the classroom. It’s a good place to be, and I look forward to future issues.

This is my 15th year at the College. In those years, we’ve re-emerged as a Department solely focused upon the ancient Mediterranean world, contributed heavily to the formation and development of Archaeology and Women’s and Gender Studies. We have participated in building laboratory infrastructure, broadened our curricular offerings, and spent a lot of time working with students to hone their craft in research, writing, and expression.

We speak of Classics as a place where we hold to an idea of tradition and innovation. Given that Latin and ancient Greek have been a presence at this institution since, well…its institution, it is fitting that we have a strong program in the basic tenets of the discipline of Classics – to have strengths in the study of classical literature, history, and material studies. It is fitting that we explore the ways in which all of this information can be combined to explore the complexities of these sophisticated human systems.

It is also fitting and essential that we think beyond the precepts of our own training and ways of thinking. It is essential that we look to the needs of our society and think how we – as scholars, students, and former students – may improve our world. For me, Classics is more relevant to the world as it was when I first cracked open Homer in that rural Missouri library. The world is highly integrated and systemic, yet still prone to extremely singular ties between human agents. Studying classical civilization helps us to understand these dynamics, but also provides us with the capacity to engage problems at a high level of sophistication. The interdisciplinary nature of Classics pushes us to interrogate information and to seek perspectives from others. In this, we lose the capacity to think in silos. We shed the arrogance of our own preconceptions. We strive to understand the perspectives of others, and in this, we reach beyond ourselves.

In this Issue:

Events:
- SC High School Students Visit Campus
- Honoring the Vests

Classical Charleston:
- Sappho comes to Charleston
- Classics Diversifies

Study Abroad:
- Students and Faculty Explore Greece

Student News:
- Congratulations to our Graduates!

Spotlight:
- Davis and Dorey Do Athens

Faculty News:
- Alwine Tenured
- Johnson Becomes Dean
- Faculty Publish

Alumni News:
- Recent PhDs, Business Executives, and other cool stuff

Development Corner
- It’s not Just Money

In Memoriam:
- Dr. Timothy Carmichael
Events

Classics Day 2018. In early November, over 100 high school students from across South Carolina descended upon the College of Charleston camps for the second annual 'Classics Day.' The event, held in conjunction with the fall meeting of the South Carolina Junior Classical League, provided an opportunity for students to hear talks from classics faculty from CoC, the University of South Carolina – Columbia, and Furman University.

Classics Day is one of the Department’s premier fall events, and one of the ways in which the Department is reaching out to the wider classics community in the state.

The success of the first two years has led to increased collaboration among classics departments in the state. To broaden our reach of the secondary school programs, the third annual Classics Day will be held in fall 2019 in the Upstate on the campus of Furman University.

Some alumni may remember well the previous version of Classics Day, organized by Associate Professor Emeritus Frank Morris, which ran up to his retirement in the late 2000s. We are proud to see this event re-invigorated, and indeed expanded to a statewide event.

Honoring the Vests. In October, the College honored Edward Vest and the late Lucia Johnson-Vest for their extensive contributions to the Classics at the College. Inducted into the Bishop Robert Smith Society in 2016, Dr. Vest traveled to the College this fall to receive personally the thanks of the College and the Department, surrounded by current recipients of the Johnson-Vest Scholarship.

Edward and Lucia started the fund in honor of Lucia’s parents, Irene and George Johnson, who instilled in their children a love of Greek and Roman culture.
Classical Charleston

Beginning in 2012, Department of Classics has joined the Theodore Guérard Lecture Series to host "Classical Charleston," an annual lecture series. Focused upon a yearly theme, the lecture series brings leading voices in Classics and related fields to campus.

In 2018, the 7th annual Classical Charleston focused upon the poet Sappho. Day one consisted of a lecture by Sappho scholar Daine Rayor, and culminated on day two with recent compositions composed by Graham Lynch, Michael Morey, and Paul Sánchez (performed by Paul and Kayleen Sánchez) that set the poet’s lines to music.

Classical Charleston 2019 will be held on February 28 and March 1 on the College of Charleston campus (Alumni Hall in the School of Education and Health and Human Performance). The theme for the 8th annual Classical Charleston will be 'Diversifying Classics'. Day one discusses the ways in which Classics opens a window into a diverse and multicultural world, and how this diversity allows for a variety of methodological approaches and applications for cross-comparative cultural study. On the second day, discussion turns to the structural elements within the discipline and society that have historically constrained these approaches, followed by a wider discussion on how to move constructively the discipline (and the perception of the discipline) forward into a redefinition of Classics for the 21st century.

Check the Department’s website or Facebook page for further announcements or details as they are made available.

Study Abroad

In summer 2018, Drs. Alwine and Flores led a group of College of Charleston students into an exploration of Greece. Many programs introduce students to the glory of Perikles’ Athens and the awesomeness of Agamemnon’s Mycenae. The students of the College of Charleston saw that, and more. Specifically, they were exposed to treasures rarely seen – northwestern Greece. From the Necromanteion of Acheron to the oracle of Zeus at Dodona, College of Charleston students experienced parts of Greece that are well off the beaten path.

Student News

Peer Education
Classics students hold to a high level of service, judging by the numbers involved in peer education.

Since 2016, the Department has been piloting a supplemental instruction (SI) program for first semester language students. Popular among the natural and mathematical sciences, the SI program at CofC is one of the few implemented for language instruction.
Beyond SI, three additional students routinely serve as tutors for our intermediate/advanced language students.

**Ancient Glass Laboratory**
The Department of Classics is the only undergraduate institution in the country that has laboratory space dedicated to the study of ancient glass. Managed by Dr. Allison Sterrett-Krause since 2016, the facility trains on average a dozen students each year in the intricacies of artifact analysis and documentation.

**High-impact experiences**
In addition to the experiences in peer education and team-based research in the glass laboratory, students engage in fieldwork and independent research. In 2018:

- **Allison Davis** participated in the Palace of Nestor Excavations in Messenia, Greece.
- **Jordan DiGregorio** completed an independent study on "Plotinus and Neoplatonism" under the direction of Jennifer Gerrish.
- **Carolyn Dorey** participated in the excavations at the Athenian Agora.
- **Paige Freeman** participated in the excavations at Vulci, Italy.
- **Sophie Naughton** completed a Bachelor’s Essay entitled "Reason and Madness in Plato’s Dialogues" under the supervision of Sam Flores.
- **Kaarin Pidge** and **Marie McMenamin** participated in the excavations at Stobi in the Republic of Northern Macedonia.

**2018 Graduates**
**Congratulations to the 2018 graduates!**

**Classics Majors**
- Kathryn Cannon, BA Classics
- Jordan DiGregorio, AB Classics, AB Religious Studies
- Jonathan Graham, AB Classics
- Sophie Naughton, AB Classics

**AB Degree Recipients**
- John-Michael Baldy, AB Computer Science
- Katie Buckler, AB Philosophy
- Monica Connelly, AB Biology
- Elyana Crowder, AB Astrophysics and Math, AB Physics
- James Ford, AB Marine Biology
- Edwin Hille, AB Spanish

**Classics Minors**
- William Bailey-Hamiel, BA History

**Claire Pfeiffer**, BA Classics
**Kayla Souders**, BA Secondary Education, Classics
**Ehren Wilder**, AB Classics, AB History

**Kelly Jackson**, AB Sociology
**Brittany McCarver**, AB History
**Austen Parker**, AB Business Administration
**Audrey Pauling**, AB Anthropology
**Brook Thomas**, AB English
**Colby Williamson**, AB Biology

**Claire Eagle**, BA History
**Spotlight: Davis and Dorey Do Athens**

In 2017, the college granted affiliate status to College Year in Athens, one of the oldest semester/year-long study abroad programs in Greece. AB classics majors Allison Davis and Carolyn Dorey attended CYA for the full 2017-18 academic year. In addition to the full suite of classes in classical languages, history, and archaeology that included on-site investigations of nearly all of the major historical sites in the country, the duo took advantage of the research experiences that the opportunity provide. Both interned at the Athenian Agora Excavations, and Carolyn supplemented that experience by volunteering at the Wiener Laboratory for Archaeological Science at the American School of Classical Studies, assisting in the study of the faunal remains from the Phaleron Cemetery. Both continued their experiences into the summer: Carolyn excavated in the Athenian Agora, while Allison was the sole undergraduate selected to work at the Palace of Nestor Excavations.

Currently, Colin Shields represents CofC at College Year in Athens, and additional students wait in the wings. As much as we take pride in Classics at CofC, nothing compares with taking a course in Greek sculpture when the classroom is the National Archaeological and Akropolis Museums. Nothing replaces wisdom gained from experiencing life from a different perspective than your native culture.

**Faculty News**

The faculty continue to impact the field of Classics and the broader community.

**Andrew Alwine** was tenured and promoted to associate professor in spring 2018. During Dr. Newhard’s sabbatical in the spring, he served as program coordinator for the Classics major programs and the minors in Greek, Classics, and Latin. In August, he and Megan welcomed the newest member of their family – Anne Clare.

**Sam Flores** continued reforms to the ancient Greek curriculum, submitting two article drafts and a book review. He also welcomed a new member of his family – Cassie (Cassandra), a vivacious hound puppy.

**Jennifer Gerrish** successfully completed her mid-tenure review in spring 2018. In addition, she continued work on her monograph, *Sallust’s Histories and Triumviral Historiography*, which was submitted to Routledge in December.

**Tim Johnson** was appointed Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs in fall 2018, after serving as interim dean since January 2017.

**James Newhard** was on sabbatical in spring 2018, returning in July to assume the role as chair. While out, he moved the monograph on the Aykavt Archaeological Project out the door. The book is being printed, with availability anticipated in January 2019. He also contributed to workshops having to do with undergraduate...
research and the state of GIS education within archaeology at the annual meetings for the Society for American Archaeology (Washington, DC) and European Association for Archaeology (Barcelona).

Allison Sterrett-Krause successfully completed her mid-tenure review. In addition, she initiated the Department’s first foray into online language education, piloting an online section of first semester Latin. She also continued her ongoing direction of the College’s ancient glass laboratory, and traveled to Istanbul to present her research on Pompeian social systems at the International Association of the History of Glass Conference.

Faculty Publications, 2018


Alumni News

If you have news to report, feel free to contact the chair (newhardj@cofc.edu) or departmental administrator, Fedelia Rivers (chapmanf@cofc.edu). We are always happy to hear from alumni!

In addition, keep tabs on the department via Facebook.

Individuals are listed by year of graduation:

Jessica McQuatters (’83 AB Classics) is Latin instructor at Palmetto Scholars Academy, North Charleston, SC.

Helen Pratt-Thomas (’96 AB Classics) is Senior Vice President and Senior Wealth Commercial Banker for South State Bank.

Brenda Oxford (’03 BA Classics; ’05 MEd, College of Charleston) is an instructor in the Department of History, Humanities, and Languages at Trident Technical College.

Jennifer (Dowd) Zeilman (’04 BA Classics; MA History, University College London) is the Chief Operating Officer for BackBay Communications in Boston, MA.

Dr. Newhard on the Avkat Archaeological Project in 2008, circa 5:30 am, BC (before coffee).
Thomas Bullington ('05 AB Classics; PhD English, Univ. of Mississippi) is a lecturer at Mercer University.

Theresa Wagner ('06 AB History; '11 MLIS, Univ. of South Carolina-Columbia) is a reference librarian at the main branch of the Charleston County Public Library.

Jonathan Coker ('07 BA Classics) is pursuing a PhD in educational psychology at the University of South Florida.

Amanda Davis ('08 BA Classics; '15 PhD Egyptology, Brown; '17 MEd Lesley University) is an ESL instructor for the Medford Lesley Schools, Medford, MA.

Rachel (Leschak) Hart ('09 AB Classics) completed the PhD in Classics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and was appointed Visiting Assistant Professor at Beloit College.

Anna Duvall ('10 AB Classics; '15 MA Historic Preservation, Cornell) is a historic preservation specialist for FEMA, currently assessing the effects of hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Spencer Williams ('11 AB Classics; '17 JD Georgetown) is a legal associate at Venable LLP in Washington, DC.

Vikki Bernotski ('12 AB Classics) is an academic advisor at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.


Laura Lewis ('14 BA Secondary Education, Classics) entered into the MA program in clinical counseling at the The Citadel.

Katherine Babb ('16 AB Classics) is marketing director for J&M Thomason Enterprises, LLC.

Sean Moorman ('16 AB Classics) entered into the PhD program in Classics at the University of Maryland – College Park.

Carleigh Hoy ('17 AB Classics) completed an MBA at the College of Charleston.

Eric Cardewll ('17 AB Classics) completed the post-baccalaureate program at the University of Pennsylvania, and entered the PhD program in Classics at the University of Kentucky.

Catherine Raines ('17 AB Secondary Education, Classics) began teaching Latin at Summerville High School, Summerville, SC.

Sophie Naughton ('18 AB Classics) entered into the MA Classics program at the University of Georgia.

Kayla Souders ('18 AB Secondary Education, Classics) began teaching Latin at Wando High School, Mount Pleasant, SC.

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**Development Corner**

Ugh. In many cases, this is where the department asks for ‘support’ – usually money.

I’m interested in development. Development means cultivating the broader community of students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the Department. This involves advocacy, mentoring, and lastly – monetary support.

**Advocacy** involves the promotion of classics in general and the Department in specific. In today’s world, the idea that a humanistic field such as classics is relevant is derided often – unless you speak to business leaders who call for people who can communicate effectively, see broad trends, analyze data critically, and adapt to changing conditions. That’s our jam. Specific to classics at CoFC, we are the 10th largest undergraduate program in the country. We provide a breadth and depth that rivals if not exceeds programs at elite, ivy-league institutions. Classics is thriving at CoFC.

**Mentoring.** As a department, we are proud of our students and alumni. Among their numbers, we may count educators, business leaders, lawyers, artists, mothers, fathers, and doctors; people who have sought advanced degrees and those who have directly entered the job market. Recognizing that the study of classics can lead to a productive life is a critical message to deliver to our current and prospective students. Assisting in the transition from student to citizen is an essential element. The extent to which the faculty and alumni assist in this endeavor determines the overall health of the whole.

**Financial Support.** Advocacy and mentoring are critical and often overlooked elements of development. Putting together a program that fully realizes the mission of Classics, however, does require funds at some point. Study abroad, encouraging diversity, developing nascent teachers, encouraging high-impact research – these initiatives come at a price. In 2017, the Department created a development plan to assist in prioritizing and realizing the broad goals of Classics for the 21st century. Financial support at any amount is always welcome. If you have questions about structuring a gift to support our mission, feel free to contact John King at the College of Charleston Foundation.

It is our desire – indeed our mission – to strengthen the CoFC Classics family and in doing so the discipline of classics and society as a whole. It takes more than money; it takes advocates and mentors. It takes a village to raise a child, and I look forward to strengthening our village, so that we together are able to prepare the next generation.

J. Newhard
In February 2018, the Department of Classics lost a friend and extended family member when Dr. Timothy Carmichael, Professor of History and husband to Dr. Noelle Zeiner-Carmichael, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer.

While not a member of the Department of Classics, as a spouse to Noelle, Tim was a regular presence on the third floor of Randolph Hall, with or without their children, Finn or Niamh, in tow. At Classical Charleston receptions, you’d more often than not find him at the table with the kids, debating the finer points as to whether the green beans were truly ‘yucky.’ For me, this will be the strongest memory – a person who would be the first to advocate for the least of us (his work on behalf of persecuted individuals seeking asylum was nationally recognized) and an accomplished scholar, yet one who could set that aside and be simply human.

Partner to Noelle, devoted to father to his children, and a positive presence at our events, Tim will be sorely missed. Requiescas in pace, amice.

– James Newhard