A phrase thrown about these days, ‘May you live in interesting times,’ runs in my head as I write this. COVID-19, a reawakening of the need for social justice, and a pivotal election year consume the headlines and our lives. Far from esoteric topics of discussion or things happening elsewhere, the news of 2020 have been very much a matter of shared experiences, impacting our daily lives in one way or another.

The spring semester was certainly memorable. After our successful ‘Classical Charleston’ on historiography, we departed for Spring Break under the cloud of the coronavirus, to 'return' in a ‘distance mode’ of teaching and learning. Campus closed, socially distancing was the rule, in-person contact was available via teleconferencing, graduation postponed until fall. It has certainly been a couple of months.

In so many ways, the events of the spring overshadow the exciting happening of the fall for the Department. We enjoyed the arrival of Dr. Blanche McCune to the Classics family. We made strides in development by starting a new scholarship opportunity for incoming freshman. During the fall and indeed through the spring COVID season, faculty and students were engaged in the classroom and in research endeavors.

As we look to the fall, more changes await. The faculty are busy planning for an academic year that will be further impacted by COVID-19. In addition, as of July 1, the Department will be under new management as I step down as chair, to be replaced by Dr. Andrew Alwine. I look forward to my return to the ranks of the faculty, renewing my research endeavors and Directing the Center for Historical Landscapes, and Dr. Alwine’s leadership.

Since my third year at the college in 2005, I have been in and out of program administration (mostly in), either as Director of Archaeology or Chair of Classics. The time has been immensely rewarding as I’ve seen the Department grow and develop.

I am immensely proud to be a member of a team of faculty and staff who are committed to see the study of the ancient Mediterranean as an engaging, multi-dimensional, and fascinating field, worthy of study by everyone, and committed to making sure that the gates to this study are left wide open for anyone. ‘Classics for all’ is a mantra uttered often these days – while this is the case, there needs to be the knowledge that it has not been well put into practice in the past. I am extremely pleased to be with colleagues who not only believe this study has value to everyone but also work to see that the aspirational statement is made real.

I am also immensely fortunate to have seen students move through the halls of Randolph and then out into the world as alumni, impacting the fields of business, law, government, and education as CEOs, lawyers, librarians, managers, artists, teachers, and professionals. As I have been reviewing the career paths of our graduates, Classics offers not a single path to success. Rather, it appears to empower one to be successful in the path chosen.

For now, I am looking forward to contributing to the Department, College, broader disciplines of Classics and Archaeology, and society writ large via my research, teaching, and writing. The years of administration have taught me that the increasing complexities and interconnectedness of our world require a perspective best gained via multidisciplinary approaches that are exemplified by our discipline when we do it well. To the extent that I can shed light on these interconnections and help others to do the same, I will consider it time well spent.

– J.M.L. Newhard
Events and Activities

Classical Charleston
The Department was proud to present the 9th annual 'Classical Charleston' lectures on March 9-10 on the College of Charleston campus. The theme for this year was 'Translatio: Carrying Ideas Across Cultures,' and featured invited scholars known for their work in the craft of translation – whether it be of Tacitus (Dr. Damon), Greek tragedy (Dr. Cohen), or the craft of bringing modern perspectives upon the ancient (Professor Parry) or the immediate act of bringing meaning from one culture into another via person-to-person communication (Dr. Rodriguez Sabater).

- “Translating Empire: Caesar and Tacitus” - Dr. Cynthia Damon, University of Pennsylvania
- “Practical Translation: Ancient Practices for a Modern Audience” - Dr. Amy Cohen, Randolph College
- “True Translations and ‘Versions’: Greek Tragedy and Contemporary Audiences” - Dr. Evan Parry, College of Charleston
- “Global connections: cross-cultural encounters and transfer” - Dr. Silvia Rodriguez Sabater, College of Charleston

The event was supported by the generosity of the family of Theodore Guérard and other benefactors of the Theodore Guérard Fund, which assists the Department in bringing in renowned scholars to speak about topics that touch upon the discipline of Classics.

As always, the Department has tremendous support by institutional partners, and the event was co-sponsored by the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs, Department of History, The Department of Hispanic Studies, the Department of Theatre and Dance, the Classics Club, and Eta Sigma Phi.

ACL comes to CofC…eventually
The College of Charleston was selected as the site for the 73rd Annual Institute of the American Classical League (ACL), to be held from June 25-27, 2020. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACL had to cancel the in-person Institute, moving this year’s event to an online format. We look forward to hosting the ACL in Charleston in 2022.

The ACL is the largest professional national organizations in classics, with a specific focus upon foreign language pedagogy. Anticipated attendance will bring between 300 and 400 educators from K-12 and higher education to the College’s campus. We are extremely excited to serve as host, and very appreciative of the support provided by the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs, the Offices of the Registrar, Campus Housing, and the Provost. We hope to see many of our alumni who have took the career plunge into classics and education!

ClassiCasting
In fall 2019 under the leadership of Dr. Michael Overholt, Teaching/Learning/Technology Liaison for the School of LCWA and adjunct instructor of Classics, the Department launched a series of podcasts. ‘ClassiCasts’ feature alumni, students, and faculty of the Department and their perspectives on the field of Classics and how its study has impacted their professional and personal lives. The podcasts are freely available at the Classics website (http://classics.cofc.edu/events-and-news/classicasts.php):

Audio Podcasts:
- Episode 1 (October 20, 2019): Dr. James Newhard, Professor and Chair of Classics
- Episode 2 (December 9, 2019): Ryan Colley, CEO of Colley Intelligence
- Episode 3 (January 17, 2020): Spencer Williams, JD
- Episode 4 (February 24, 2020): Dr. Allison Sterrett-Krause, Assistant Professor of Classics
- Episode 5 (May 6, 2020): Jules Riddle and MC Manning

Video Episodes:
- November 15, 2019: CofC Student Perspective: Chandler Spearman
- December 14, 2019: CofC Student Perspective: Colin Shields
Faculty News

Welcome! Dr. McCune!
In fall 2019, the Department welcomed Dr. Blanche McCune as our newest member of faculty. Dr. McCune holds an interest in Latin pedagogy and was hired with the intent to bring leadership to our Latin program and to enhance our engagement with the primary, middle, and high school systems in South Carolina, and indeed the greater southeast. The College boasts one of the largest undergraduate Latin programs in the country, and her expertise and energy in these areas will be especially welcome over the years.

Dr. McCune received her PhD in Classics in 2014 from the University of Virginia. Since then, she has been an instructor of Latin at Baylor University where she taught for several years all levels of the Latin and Classics curriculum.

She joins the Classics family with her own family. Her husband, Adam, holds a PhD in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and taught in Baylor’s Honors College before their move to Charleston, where he now uses his digital humanities and research skills as a software developer and data quality analyst for Trade Data Monitor. Blanche and Adam arrived with their toddler, James, in August and were joined in October by the birth of their second son, Henry. We are happy to welcome them all to the Department!

When she’s not researching, teaching, or reading Latin picture books to her boys, Dr. McCune has been enjoying observing the flora and fauna of the Lowcountry while seeking out new walking trails and often spends a large part of her weekend experimenting in the kitchen with new cuisines and recipes.

Transitions – Welcoming Dr. Alwine as Chair of Classics
As of July 1, Dr. Andrew Alwine will assume the role of Chair of the Department of Classics. Dr. Alwine received his PhD from the University of Florida in 2010 and has been at the College of Charleston since 2012. He was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2018.

Since coming to the College, Dr. Alwine had distinguished himself via his work as an educator, scholar, and member of the Academy. His courses in ancient Greek history and ancient Greek are popular choices among the students, and many alumni recall his demanding presence in the classroom. As a scholar, Dr. Alwine has a research interest in ancient Greek history with a focus on the development of political institutions, a topic which is exemplified by his most recent book (*Enmity and Feuding in Classical Athens*, 2015), his current book project on the concept of ancient democracy, and numerous articles and presentations. Beyond the subject of ancient political institutions, his teaching and research interests are moving towards investigating the development of republican/democratic systems in medieval/early modern Europe and their relation to classical antecedents. Dr. Alwine has already spent time in service to the institution and discipline, most notably as the Vice President for South Carolina for the Classical Association for the Middle West and South (CAMWS) from 2017-2019. He now serves as the CAMWS Regional Vice President for the Southeast, coordinating efforts to promote classics in the states of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Student News

Ancient Glass Laboratory
The College of Charleston is fortunate to house the only undergraduate-focused facility centered upon the study of ancient glass, led by Dr. Allison Sterrett-Krause. This spring (prior to the COVID outbreak), Dr. Sterrett-Krause led a team of 7 students in the analysis of glass artifacts from the Late Roman/Byzantine site of Bir el-Kenisia (Tunisia) as a version of our new course (CLAS 420) instituted to epitomize one of the strengths of the College of Charleston – placing research opportunities firmly in the sphere of the undergraduate experience.

Caesar Gets a Revisit
The *Bellum Gallicum* by Julius Caesar is often viewed as well-trodden territory, which would be a mistake. Dr. Jennifer Gerrish is currently in the process of delivering a new translation and commentary of the 5th and 6th books, which detail some of the more harrowing times for everyone’s favorite power monger. This spring, Dr. Gerrish involved the advanced Latin students as part of the research process by
having them critique her commentary of Book 5 and to write their own exegeses of selections from Book 6. The final work, scheduled to be submitted in 2021, will be a further testimony to the integrated research and teaching practices of our faculty.

**Individualized Student Research**

Students completed the following year-long Bachelor’s Essays:

- Chandler Spearman. "Ancient Fisheries, Fishing, and Fish Products" under the supervision of Allison Sterrett-Krause.

**Congratulations to the winter 2019 and spring 2020 graduates!**

**Classics Majors**

- **Amee Barron**, AB Classics
- **Michael Gleason**, AB Classics
- **Lyasia Harris**, BA Classics
- **Liliya Korchevskaya**, AB Classics
- **Trey Matkowsky**, AB Classics
- **Nicole Osborn**, AB Classics and Archaeology
- **Colin Shields**, AB Classics and Archaeology
- **Chandler Spearman**, AB Classics, Archaeology, and Marine Biology
- **Robert Svendsen**, AB Classics and Archaeology

**AB Degree Recipients**

- **Martina Abbriano**, AB Education, Spanish Emphasis
- **Anam Abid**, AB Public Health
- **Aidab Calvert**, AB History (Latin Minor)
- **Evans Hollingsworth**, AB Communications (Classics Minor)
- **Kaitlynn Stephens**, AB Anthropology
- **Aidan Leahy**, AB Marine Biology

**Classics Minors**

- **Mary Reagan Dyson**, BS Hospitality and Tourism Management
- **Noah Veon**, BA Philosophy

**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:

- **Julia Hernandez** ('05 AB Classics) is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies at Washington and Lee University.
- **Teresa Wagner** ('06 AB History) is a Reference Librarian for the Charleston County Public Library.
- **William Bebee** ('07 AB Classics) is the Director of E-Commerce for the Palmetto State Armory.
- **Laura Grantham** ('10 AB Classics and Archaeology) is a GIS Analyst for the City of Palm Bay, FL.
- **Janet Gilbert** ('11 BA Classics) received an MS in Sustainable Management from DePaul University.
- **Alicia Jameson** ('11 AB History and BA Classics) began the MA program in underwater archaeology at Alexandria University (Egypt).
- **Melissa Huber** ('11 AB Classics and Math) is an Assistant Professor of Classics and History at Providence College.
- **Charles Curtis** ('12 BA Classics and Biology) is a training officer for the Aspen Fire Department.
- **Kathleen Medley (néé Tuttle)** ('15 AB Classics) graduated with a MAT from Indiana University at Bloomington. She now teaches at Herron High School in Indianapolis.
- **Sarah Cohen** ('17 BA Classics and Art History) began the PhD program in Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University.
- **Hanna Edwards** ('17 AB Classics and History) was accepted to the Interdepartmental Program in Greek and Roman History at the University of Michigan where she will pursue the PhD.
- **Allie Davis** ('19 AB Classics and AB Archaeology) began the MA program in Classics at Tulane University.
- **Amee Barron** ('19 AB Classics) is a Latin instructor at Coastal Christian Preparatory School in Mt. Pleasant, SC.
Carolyn Dorey ('19 AB Classics and AB Archaeology and History) began the MA program in Classics at Tulane University.

Gwen Gibbons ('19 AB Classics) began the PhD program in Classics at Indiana University at Bloomington.

Jennifer Curtis ('19 BA Classics, AB History) began the MA program in Public History at the College of Charleston.

Kiley Dempsey ('19 AB Classics) is a regional marketer for Creative Co-Op, Inc.

Minna Heaton ('19 AB Classics and Art History) began the MA program in Art History at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

Development Corner

New Scholarship Opportunity!
As part of the Department’s development plan, we placed an emphasis upon developing the future leaders of our society. Part of that plan included measures to reflect the diverse nature of South Carolina, the United States, and the ancient civilizations that we study. One of the goals was the establishment of a scholarship for incoming students with a preference given to minority applicants. Though a generous anonymous donation, the ‘First Year Classics Scholarship’ was given life this winter, in conjunction with the 250th year celebration of the College of Charleston. The initial gift will provide enough funds to offer the scholarship for a limited number of years. Our goal is to raise an additional $50,000 within the next 18 months which will create the endowment necessary for the scholarship to run as a permanent opportunity for our students.

If you are interested in contributing to this initiative, feel free to contact the LCWA development officer, Jenny Fowler (FowlerJ@cofc.edu), visit the CofC Foundation’s website (https://giving.cofc.edu/ways-to-give/), or contact Dr. Alwine (alwineat@cofc.edu).

Mentoring, Networking, and Advocacy
One of the initiatives that I’ve been working on as chair has been building a dataset to answer the age-old question – ‘What do you do with a Classics degree?’ Our alumni are answering loud and clear that a person can do a lot and do it well. The variety of industries represented are wide and varied as well as the types of jobs and positions. Within the ranks of the CofC Classics family is a great strength in the variety of paths taken. Because of our alumni, our field is strengthened for the question that often elicits the response of ‘anything?’ "\__(ツ)_/\" Nope. Not on our watch. We know what our alumni are capable of, and it is awesome.

Another situation I see is that students (and even alumni) will ask, ‘How do I go into X? How do I get started? Who can help me explore this path?’ These are questions that call for experience. Experience that I as a classical archaeologist (or my faculty colleagues) cannot usually provide – as much as we would like.

This is where alumni and friends are irreplaceable resources. The strongest programs, strongest institutions are not built solely by incredible faculty; they are built because of a strong base of alumni and friends that provide exemplars for students to follow, mentoring opportunities for internships and advice, and networks and guidance for finding opportunities for those starting their careers or transitioning into a new phase. The strength of a department, institution, and discipline is built upon its capacity to support the success of its people. That support, paradoxically, comes from its people. If we want a strong program, strong discipline, and for people to stop asking the silly question of ‘what are you going to do with that major?’ the solution resides in our ability to help one another become the best we can be.

So, let us know how you’re doing. If there is something you think we could do or do better, let us know. The network gets stronger as more nodes are added and the more often it is used. We look forward to hearing from you, continuing to help you on your journey, and helping you to help others on theirs.