

**22  
-23**



DEPARTMENT OF

# **CLASSICS NEWSLETTER**

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

# Greetings from the Chair



I write this in late June 2023. Commencement celebrations for the class of '23 and festive retirement parties for professors Robert Wallace, Reginald Gibbons, and Richard Kraut are behind us. Current students are doing internships, studying abroad, and other exciting things. Faculty are in full research and professional development mode. Some are gearing up to participate in our formal study abroad program in Athens starting in July. Staff are wrapping up the business side of our year's work and getting ready to expertly support our upcoming endeavors. Preparations for next year's events and special projects are underway. Are we busy in the summer? Yes!

Reflecting on the just-concluded 2022-23 academic year, I am delighted to say that our department is thriving. We appointed three new faculty members who will start in Fall 2023. Student interest in our introductory-level classics courses on Mythology and Greek and Roman culture once again exceeded our enrollment maximums (we are working to expand our capacity). Our advanced courses on various topics in translation and our Latin and

Greek programs attracted a strong cohort of majors and minors as well as specialists in other fields who are all drawn to the brilliance of our sources and excellence of our faculty. The directors of both Latin and Greek instruction were again named to the Associated Student Government's Faculty Honor Roll.

Our graduating majors and minors did great work. This was on display at our annual Expo in May, at which a selection of students gave presentations on projects they completed as part of their coursework and honors theses.

Our majors and minors in the class of '23 have been phenomenally successful securing places in highly competitive graduate programs both in our field (classics, archaeology) and in other fields (medicine, physics) as well as in gaining employment in industry (tech).

The Classics Graduate Cluster supported research needs of graduate students and built community among doctoral students across disciplines whose work involves study of Greek or Roman antiquity. We arranged student workshops, events with visiting scholars and a group theater outing to see "The Gospel at Colonus" in Chicago. The alumni continue to excel in their current posts. We heard this directly from two alumni who visited to present their work.

In 2023-24, we plan to offer undergraduates new opportunities to engage with the digital humanities by expanding their role in our

[Classicizing Chicago Project](#) and will continue to support a robust calendar of in-person projects organized by our Undergraduate Advisory Board (CUAB), Graduate Teaching Assistants, and faculty.

I salute my colleagues and students for sustaining a congenial, inclusive, and supportive environment in which all can pursue their interests, gain knowledge that enriches their lives, and contribute to the production of research that advances the field.

S. Sara Monoson  
Chair and Professor of Classics  
Professor of Political Science



Classicizing Chicago Project



## New Faculty



Nick Winters  
Assistant Professor of Classics



Germán Campos-Muñoz  
Associate Professor of Instruction  
in Classics



Abbe Walker  
Assistant Professor of Instruction  
in Classics



Claudia Yau  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

We will welcome three new faculty colleagues in Fall 2023. [Assistant Professor Nick Winters](#) is a specialist on ancient science and technology. He spent the 2022-23 year as a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow in residence at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. In 2023-24, he will introduce new courses on ancient medicine and ancient astronomy into our curriculum. [Associate Professor of Instruction Germán Campos-Muñoz](#) is a specialist on world literature and classical receptions. He will be introducing courses on classics in South America and Luso-Hispanic cultural contexts as well as classics and global cinema. [Assistant Professor of Instruction Abbe Walker](#) is a specialist in Latin and Greek pedagogy as well as ancient religion and late antiquity. She will be joining our expert team of language instructors and teach a course on ancient magic this year.

In addition to our latest hires, we also welcome affiliate faculty Claudia Yau who will start in the Philosophy department in Fall 2023. She specializes in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, with a focus on ancient epistemology, ethics, and politics.



# 2022-23 EVENTS

## VISITING SPEAKERS & SPECIAL EVENTS



9.23.2022  
**Fall Quarter Department Social**



2.17.2023  
**New Directions in Aristotle Scholarship: Literary Style and Reception**  
Edith Hall  
Durham University



10.14.2022  
**The Technical Relationships of Humans with their Environment and the Greek Physis: Neither Nature nor Gaia**  
Claude Calame  
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris



2.22.2023  
**Class Struggle in Catullan Rome: Jack Lindsay's *Brief Light: a Novel of Catullus* (1939)**  
Henry Stead  
University of St. Andrews



10.21.2022  
**Philosophy, Happiness, and Liberation: Protreptic in Plato and Vātsyāyana**  
Blaze Marpet  
Northwestern University  
Organized by Global Antiquities



2.24.2023  
**Secret Signs and Hidden Gods: Magic and Philosophy in the Later Roman Empire**  
Renaud Gagné  
University of Cambridge



11.8.2022  
**Euripides' Trojan Women: A Tragic Parthenon**  
Pascale Brillet-Dubois  
Université Lumière Lyon 2



3.3.2023  
**Pliny's *Natural History*: "A Culture of Technical Innovation"?**  
Richard Saller  
Stanford University



11.18.2022  
**Capillary Networks in a Contact Zone: Upper Indus Rock Inscriptions and Petroglyphs**  
Jason Neelis  
Wilfred Laurier University  
Organized by Global Antiquities



3.10.2023  
**Empire and the Limits of Exploitation: Wealth and Power between Imperial Centre and Provincial City in the Roman World**  
Arjan Zuiderhoek  
Ghent University, Belgium  
Organized by Global Antiquities



12.1.2022  
**Is Race a Theme in Vergil's *Aeneid*?**  
Joseph Farrell  
University of Pennsylvania



4.15.2023  
**Teaching Antiquities Symposium**  
Organized by Ryan Platte and Francesca Tataranni  
[Check out our website for more information](#)



1.6.2023  
**Byzantine Influence on Old Rus': A Reassessment**  
Sergey Ivanov  
British Academy Fellow;  
Northwestern University Visiting Scholar  
Organized by Global Antiquities



4.21.2023  
**From the Ashes? Transformations of Italian Cities during Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages**  
Andrea Augenti  
University of Bologna  
Organized by Global Antiquities



5.5.2023  
**On the Relation between Xenophanes' Hexametric and Elegiac Poetry**  
 Glenn Most  
 University of Chicago



5.26.2023  
**Student Workshop: "Virgil in the Cane Fields" and Book History**  
 Erika Valdivieso  
 Yale University



5.12.2023  
**Your House is Her House: Agamemnon in Augmented Reality**  
 Elizabeth Hunter  
 Washington University, Saint Louis  
 Organized by the Classics Cluster



6.1.2023  
**2023 Annual Classics Expo and Awards Ceremony**



5.24.2023  
**Erasing Dido**  
 Erika Valdivieso  
 Yale University



6.12.2023  
**2023 Graduation Celebration**



Professors Patrice Rankine (University of Chicago), Sara Monoson, Henry Stead (University of St. Andrews), and Edith Hall (Durham University) during Professor Hall's visit to Northwestern in Winter 2023.



2023 Classics graduates Jordan Vaughn, Grace DeAngelis, Haley Mailender, and Garrett Louie at the Fall Quarter Department Social.



Discussion after Professor Glenn Most's (University of Chicago) talk "On the Relation between Xenophanes' Hexametric and Elegiac Poetry".



# Undergraduate Student Awards & Honors

## Frank N. & Lee L. Corbin Prize

Outstanding senior attending graduate or professional school

Garrett Louie

“ Although my career aspirations lie in physics, my time as a Classics major has been extremely enjoyable and rewarding. My classes have taught me a variety of knowledge and skills (some valuable for scientists too!) and I’ll cherish the relationships that I’ve built with both my fellow students and the incredible professors in the department.

”



## 2023 Joseph Clyde Murley Prize

Excellence in First-Year Latin

Katherine Novakovich

Excellence in Greek and Latin

Garrett Louie

Excellence in Second-Year Latin

Emmeline Murphy

Undergraduate Achievement by a Classics Major

Isabelle Carrillo

Excellence in First-Year Greek

Isabel Tolman-Bronski

Undergraduate Achievement by a Classics Minor

Lauren Kelley

Excellence in Second-Year Greek

Maggie McKenna

Undergraduate Research in Classical Literature and Culture

Riley Parker

## Organization and Department Awards

The Classical Association of the Middle West and South Award

Chloe Chow

Outstanding Performance by a Graduate Teaching Assistant

Kyle Jones

## 2023 Senior Honors Theses

Ace Chisholm, "*Nullus enim Locus Sine Genio*: The Scope of the *Genius Loci* Serpent in the Roman Empire" (supervised by Professor Terpstra)

Grace DeAngelis, "*Luna regit menses*: Pregnancy and the Lunar Calendar in Ovid's *Fasti*" (supervised by Professor Tataranni)

Greta Lunder, "Ancestral Acquisition: Antique Imports in Early Iron Age Tiryns and Lefkandi" (supervised by Professor Gunter)



2023 Classics Graduation party

## Classics on campus



Images from the Lovers and Madmen's production of *Antigone*. Co-sponsored by the Department of Classics. Photos by Melanie Ahn.

## Study Abroad

Twenty Northwestern undergraduates completed a credit-bearing summer study abroad program based in Athens on the topic “Ancient Culture and Modern City” under the direction of Professor Ryan Platte. Courses were led by Northwestern professors and Greek academics. The students included majors in fields such as Neuroscience, Engineering, Biology, and String Performance as well as various humanities disciplines. They all enjoyed a robust academic program enhanced by cultural activities as diverse as archaeological site visits, urban walks to see graffiti art, and an orchestral performance in an ancient open air theater.



Students discussing trial procedure and the prosecution of Socrates with Professor Monoson in the ancient agora of Athens.

## The Graduate Classics Cluster

The Graduate Classics Cluster brings together a lively group of graduate students and faculty interested in Greco-Roman antiquity and its reception across time. Programming in the 2022-23 academic year included a range of events and activities designed to promote intellectual conversations and to foster a sense of community among participants, including social gatherings, a grant/fellowship writing workshop, and an outing to see *The Gospel at Colonus*—an adaptation of Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus*—at the Court Theatre. Cluster members also participated in a thought-provoking discussion of Plato's *Symposium* led by Professor Richard Kraut, and attended talks by and interacted socially with such distinguished scholars as Pascale Brillet-Dubois, Joseph Farrell, Renaud Gagné, Edith Hall, Elizabeth Hunter, Glenn Most, Richard Saller, Henry Stead, and Erika Valdivieso. Those events fostered a vibrant academic community, nurturing a deeper understanding and appreciation for classics among Cluster members.



Classics Cluster students and faculty at the performance *The Gospel At Colonus*.



# Faculty News

## Ann Gunter

*Professor of Art History, Classics,  
and in the Humanities*

In Fall 2022, Ann Gunter taught *Exhibiting Antiquity: The Culture and Politics of Display*, for which students could study exhibitions first-hand in Chicago-area museums. She also advised two honors theses, for students in Classics and History. Greta Lunder, a thesis advisee who majored in Classics and Anthropology, was accepted to a graduate program in Aegean archaeology at the University of Oxford and plans to pursue a Ph.D. subsequently. Gunter also reviewed book manuscripts for university presses and continued serving on the editorial board of the Harrassowitz Verlag series *Classica et Orientalia* and the advisory board of the international Melammu Project. She invited and hosted this year's James Lecturer in Assyrian Civilization and Culture, Dr. Yağmur Heffron, an archaeologist and ancient historian at University College London, followed by a workshop on Middle Bronze Age Anatolian history and archaeology attended by local and international colleagues.



Ann Gunter with James Lecture Workshop participants

## Marianne Hopman

*Associate Professor of Classics*

After stepping down from her role as Department Chair in August 2022, Marianne Hopman spent the 2022-23 academic year working on her ongoing monograph on the fifth-century BCE tragedy, *Prometheus Bound*, as well as related projects. She wrote chapters on violence, embodiment, and politics in the play; gave a talk (in French) on "Prometheus as spectacle" at the University of Montreal; and workshopped a chapter entitled "Emplotting Cosmography," forthcoming in a volume on *Cosmographies of Greece, Rome, and the Classical Tradition*, edited by R. Gagné and A. Kachuck. In her capacity as Director of the Graduate Classics Cluster, she organized a series of well-attended events and lectures, culminating with an outing to see *The Gospel at Colonus* at the Court Theatre in June 2023.



## Ryan Platte

*Professor of Instruction of Classics*

Ryan Platte continued serving as the Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Greek Instruction, while teaching this year's first year Greek sequence as well as a large course on classical mythology. He also helped to organize a major event on Teaching Antiquity, through the Global Antiquities group, which saw faculty from numerous institutions gather at Northwestern to share emerging pedagogical techniques for teaching the ancient world to today's students. Finally, Platte also serves as director of the Classics Summer Study Abroad Program in Athens and, after successfully launching the program last year, he took a second group of undergraduates to study in Athens in June, where they took courses on Greek archaeology as well as the legacy of ancient Greece in the modern Greek state.





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## Francesca Tataranni

*Professor of Instruction of Classics*

Antiquity Symposium—which was hosted by the Global Antiquities group in the Spring 2023—and was invited to lecture on the City Beautiful Movement to the new class of walking tour docents at the Chicago Architecture Center. In Fall 2022, Tataranni was elected to the Northwestern Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll for the tenth time.

Francesca Tataranni enjoyed a productive year of teaching, advising, and administrative work in her new role as Associate Chair of the department. In addition to serving on several faculty search committees and as an honors thesis adviser, Tataranni co-organized the Teaching



Francesca Tataranni researching at Sulzer Regional Library.

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## Taco Terpstra

*Associate Professor of Classics*

or shortly after. All center on comparative history, a methodology in which he is increasingly interested. In Winter and Spring quarters he offered two courses which he has not taught in several years, the first on the ancient economy, the second on the archaeology of Roman Campania. He was surprised to find how challenging but also rewarding it was to get back into the course material. However, he was not surprised to find that Classics students produced sterling work, something that also held true for his other two courses.

Taco Terpstra made good progress on a book manuscript he is currently writing on the role of the Roman empire in western economic history. In December and March, he enjoyed brief research trips to Rome and Naples. In addition to the book project, he is finishing three articles, to appear in 2023



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## Jennifer Weintritt

*Assistant Professor of Classics*

Valdivieso (Yale University) to speak on Vergil's reception in South America. Reading the same text with different students and emphases all year long while working on her book project was delightful. As for research, Weintritt held a successful manuscript workshop with senior colleagues from University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago, and University of Urbana-Champaign in November. She also presented her work, freshly updated from the workshop, at the Society for Classical Studies in New Orleans. Her article "More Useful and More Trustworthy: The Reception of the Greek Epic Cycle in Scholia to Homer, Pindar and Euripides" is set to appear in the *American Journal of Philology* in Summer 2023.

The highlight of Jennifer Weintritt's teaching this year was reading the entire *Aeneid* not once, but twice with her advanced Latin class and first year seminar. The poem also made a brief appearance in her third course, *Women of the Trojan War: Ancient and Modern Adaptations*. The fun with the *Aeneid* carried right on through to the end of the Spring quarter, with a visit from Professor Erika



# Faculty Emeritus

## Robert Wallace

*Professor of Classics*

Robert Wallace's final year as Professor of Classics was excellent: the Fall teaching only Thucydides, on whom he is finishing a book; the Winter teaching only Herodotus, in Greek, to five exceptional seniors and graduate students; the Spring Quarter preparing the transition to emeritus status, when he will finish books on Thucydides as moralist, Sophokles in Athenian history, Plato as a writer (his true genius).

**A toast to Bob Wallace who becomes Emeritus Professor of Classics after 32 years as faculty in our Department.**



The department surprises Wallace in his last class on Thucydides.



Wallace replaces Vergil in the painting *Virgil Reading the Aeneid to Augustus, Octavia, and Livia*. Pulling from the Department archives, this image was made by a student and used in a past Classics calendar.

## Reginald Gibbons

*Frances Hooper Professor of Arts and Humanities, Department of English*

The Department of Classics warmly congratulates our affiliated colleague Reginald Gibbons who will become Emeritus Professor of English in Fall 2023.





## Richard Kraut

*Charles and Emma Morrison Professor  
in the Humanities*

The Department of Classics wishes Richard Kraut all the best as he becomes Emeritus Professor of Philosophy in Fall 2023.



## Visiting Professors



Photo of Professor  
Anna Darden.



Professor Sergey Ivanov.  
Photo by Seeger Gray.

The Department of Classics wishes Visiting Professors Anna Darden and Sergey Ivanov well as they head off to their next appointments. Darden will join faculty at the Birmingham Southern College as Visiting Professor of Classics. Ivanov will spend 2023-24 as an Academic Year Fellow in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks. Their time and expertise were greatly appreciated by the department and university. You can learn more about both by visiting these links for [Darden](#) and [Ivanov](#).

## Alumni



### Mary Carp, B.A. 2011

Mary Carp is a Director of Security Operations at Avery Dennison. Since graduating from the Classics Department, she earned a Master of Science, worked in IT at Northwestern, and started her career at Avery Dennison in 2018. She was attracted to working in IT as there is constant technological innovation leading to many opportunities to learn and grow.

### Elizabeth Hunter, Ph.D. 2018

Elizabeth Hunter, Assistant Professor of Drama at Washington University in St. Louis, presented her latest book project to the Department and Classics Cluster in May 2023. The project, "In the Story: Space and Spectatorship from Theatron to Augmented Reality," takes inspiration from her graduate student work on *Bitter Wind*, an adaptation of the Agamemnon mythos, created for Microsoft's HoloLens augmented reality headset.



# Thank you, Donors!

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