

CLASSICAL STUDIES AT WESLEYAN



JUNO'S PEACOCK

Or The Eyes Have It

Newsletter of the Department of Classical Studies

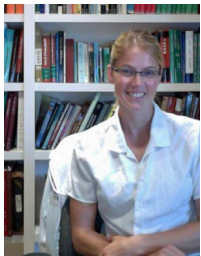
Academic Year 2017-2018

When Argus, the hundred-eyed guard animal (and also the name of Wesleyan's student newspaper) was killed by Hermes (Jupiter's hit-man, and the name of Wesleyan's alternative campus paper), some part of him survived death. His eyes were saved by Juno and set in the tail of her peacock.

Argus, you lie low; the light you had in so many eyes is extinguished,
And your hundred points of light are now all dark.
But Juno saved the eyes, and set them in the feathers of her peacock:
She filled its tail with jewels as bright as stars.
(Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 1,720-23)

FACULTY NEWS

KATHLEEN BIRNEY. This past year has been an exciting and productive year both in the classroom and out, with number of new developments in my research with Wesleyan students, both in archaeological fieldwork and in the lab, as part of the OpenARCHEM organic residue analysis project.



The OpenARCHEM lab, which I've co-founded with Andrew Koh of MIT, works to analyze the organic residue signatures remaining in ancient artifacts to identify what they once contained - wine, oil, perfumes, medicines, beer! However it is not a siloed scientific project, but one which integrates the chemical data we get with archaeological information about the artifacts sampled and the sites they come from, ecological data which helps us to identify microclimates in which certain plants can grow, and textual data from ancient authors which give insights

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into medical and other recipes, and describe these ancient ecological landscapes. Wesleyan students worked on all aspects of the project last year – some mapping plants, others reading Greek, Latin and Hebrew texts, and still others working in the lab to better understand how organic products degrade. (See research Teams at <https://openarchem.wordpress.com/research-teams-at-openarchem/>). The chemistry research was an initiative undertaken as part of the

Kate Birney continued

Integrated Lab, CHEM 375. The Wesleyan students involved in the OpenARCHEM project have presented scientific posters on this work, and a few are writing up their discoveries for “micro publication” in the OpenARCHEM online journal, Full Spectrum. Koh and I also published our first joint article “Organic Compounds and Cultural Continuity”, a study of perfumes dedicated in warrior tomb in East Crete, in the Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

I’ve also continued my research on the port city of Ashkelon during the Hellenistic period, in two new publications. The first, “Phoenician Bathing in the Hellenistic East” (BASOR 2017) is the first study of Phoenician bathing as a part of a guest reception practice, and offers an archaeological model for identifying such “bathing suites” on the basis of spatial analysis and commonalities in decoration. A more recent article “An Astynomos at Ascalon” explores Greek textual evidence for the role of the *astynomos* – the official who oversaw urban planning in Hellenistic cities – and the archaeological evidence which supports the existence of such an official at Ashkelon. My book manuscript (From Ashkelon to Ascalon) is also complete and is in the queue for image editing and publication through Eisenbrauns.

This fall I taught Single Combat in the Ancient World and the “Off with its Pedestal!” seminar on Greek vases, which included some interactive workshops with Wesleyan Potters, and in the spring taught Archaeology of the Bronze Age Mediterranean and the introduction to Ancient Greek – always a tremendous pleasure! Teaching and research continued hand-in-hand as ten students joined me for research and excavation at the Mycenaean site of Kastrouli in Phokis, Greece. Together we uncovered the first LHIIIC architecture ever seen at the site – including a “Cyclopean wall” - indicative of the site’s importance as a Mycenaean center. This is the only major site known in Phokis, and could well be the stronghold of the heroes Schedius and Epistrophus mentioned in the Iliad, who sent 40 ships to Troy!

This year I’m on leave at MIT, studying archaeological science with the generous support of a Mellon Foundation New Directions grant. I look forward to being on the other side of the lectern for a change!

CHRISTOPHER PARSLLOW. I had the privilege



of participating in two major projects this year that related directly to my work on the early excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum and the discoveries made in those early years. In December I was asked to write about Karl

Weber’s famous plan of the tunnels at Herculaneum that had revealed the buried Villa dei Papiri for a catalog accompanying an exhibit at the MAX museum in Chiasso, Switzerland. The exhibit, entitled *Ercolano e Pompeii: Visioni di Una Scoperta* (“Herculaneum and Pompeii: Visions of a Discovery”), featured documents, plans, engravings, photographs, and works of art from the earliest excavations through the early 1900s and was a joint venture of the MAX museum and the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Naples. Weber was originally from Switzerland and all of his work is in archives in Naples, so when I pointed out to the curator that this collaboration with Naples might allow her to bring most of Weber’s plans together for the first time in public and the first time in his native Switzerland, she happily expanded the scope of Weber’s contributions to the exhibit as well as my own participation in it. I had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremonies of the exhibit not only in Chiasso in February, but also its second opening at the museum in Naples in June. By coincidence, I was asked at the same time to write about the eighteenth century excavations of the Villa dei Papiri, supervised by Weber, for a forthcoming exhibit that will coincide with the celebrations of the latest renovations to the Getty Villa in Malibu, scheduled for June, 2019. For this I wrote not only a chapter on the excavations and a catalog entry on Weber’s plan of the Villa dei Papiri, I also contributed a catalog entry on the so-called “Orologio di Prosciutto,” the portable sundial in the shape of a prosciutto, recovered in the Villa, which I have been researching now for a couple of years and hope to finish up in the near future.

MICHAEL ROBERTS, emeritus. My first year of retirement has passed off not in total indolence but in what I like to think of as *otium cum dignitate*. I continue with my research: in January I gave a paper at the University of Strasbourg on the Christian Latin biblical poet Sedulius, "Narrative and Exegesis in Sedulius' *Carmen Paschale*," which



will shortly be published, and have begun my next translation project, of another biblical poem, this time on the Old Testament, the *Spiritual History of Avitus*. Otherwise I have kept busy with editorial work for the *Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library*, of which I am a board member, and with service as an external examiner on Ph.D. committees in the UK (Reading) and Canada (Toronto). Currently I'm working on a paper to be presented next January in Wuppertal, Germany. The year generally has been one of transition—it's a little strange at first—but I have appreciated having the discretionary time to do a few things I could not do before, such as catch up on novels or read Greek and Latin texts not directly related to my scholarship. I miss, of course, the contact with students and colleagues, but I still live close by and my spectral presence continues to haunt the corridors of the department.

ANDREW SZEGEDY-MASZAK.



One of the highlights of this past year was a class I taught in the Spring term: CCIV 330, "Classical Studies Today: Writing for a General Audience." The course was offered as a "Calderwood Seminar"; the program is administered from Wellesley, and its purpose is to have liberal arts majors write about their area of specialization for a broader, non-specialist audience. The heart of the class is intense collaboration among the students, who take turns writing compact essays – op-eds, podcast intros, reviews – and editing each other's work. It was a great experience. The quality of the writing and the discussions was as high as I've ever seen.

I also had the pleasure of seeing the whole cohort of veterans, whom I had mentored since their arrival at Wesleyan, successfully finish up and graduate, one of them as a CCIV major! They were

the first group of vets to attend Wesleyan under the aegis of the Posse Foundation, and I'm about to start over with Posse 5, who will be coming here as freshmen in just a few weeks.

In terms of scholarship, I wrote an essay about a remarkable early photographer, Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey. Working between 1842-1844, he made what are the oldest surviving photographs of the Classical ruins in Rome and Athens. The essay will appear in a catalogue published by the Metropolitan Museum in New York to accompany a show of his daguerreotypes that will open in January, 2019. I hope we can arrange a field trip / reunion there.

EIRENE VISVARDI. Both teaching and a number of opportunities and occasions made for a rewarding year. For my seminar on *Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Greece*, we always bring the ancient materials we examine to bear on contemporary discussions



about gender norms and expectations. One of the highlights last Fall was a visit to our seminar by David Vine of American University who has written on American bases across the world. Having examined the laws and practices of prostitution in antiquity for delineating citizen rights, we discussed Vine's writing on similar practices around American bases abroad and constructions of masculinity and identity in this context. The students had the opportunity to ask Vine himself about his methodology, experience, and conclusions, and found the comparison between ancient and modern realities particularly revealing. As far as languages go, it was a year of work on poetry with small groups of incredibly talented and dedicated students. We read and researched Euripides' *Bacchae* in the Fall and the *Odyssey* in the Spring. For the latter, we had the opportunity to use the first translation of the *Odyssey* by a woman, Emily Wilson, which opened up an array of new and exciting questions about our engagement with Homer.

In the Spring I also taught my lecture course on Greek tragedy and its modern reception with special focus on questions of social justice. One of the pleasures of the course was that numerous students opted for highly demanding final projects such as research papers on the appeal of the violence of ancient tragedy, poetry that retells the myth of Phaedra, an adaptation of Euripides' *Bacchae* to dramatize the Jim Jones cult in Jonestown, and a short film that juxtaposed scenes from Sophocles' *Antigone* and

Eirene Visvardi continued:

Brecht's *Antigone*, enacted and filmed by students. We also took the opportunity to organize a Classical Studies trip to see Aristophanes' *Frogs* produced in the original at Barnard College. During the same semester, I taught my Greek tragedy course as a seminar at the Cheshire Correctional facility through CPE (Center for Prior Education). This was an immensely powerful experience. My students at Cheshire brought a unique perspective to the questions of revenge, law, and social justice in ancient and modern democracies and their legal systems. There are multiple levels to reflect on and process, in terms of both the questions one can ask through the Greek plays and pedagogy that I anticipate will inform my teaching as a whole.

In terms of scholarship, I submitted my chapter on "Communities of Production and Consumption" which will appear in a volume edited by Emily Wilson and titled *A Cultural History of Tragedy*. The volume will come out by Bloomsbury. I also completed a review of S. Liebert's book *Tragic Pleasure from Homer to Plato*, which will appear in 2019 in the *American Journal of Philology*. Last, in January 2018 I was invited to present my book at the Institute for the Study of Religion in Krakow, Poland. My talk was titled *Dangerous Acts? Collective Passions and Decision-Making in Athenian Democracy*.

SERENA WITZKE. 2018 has been an



exciting year for me teaching at Wesleyan. In the Spring my First Year Seminar: Beware the Ides, Beware the Hemlock embarked on a journey into the past, playing out scenarios from the crisis in democracy in ancient Athens, to the death of Alexander and what to do with his empire, to Catiline's conspiracy and the assassination

of Caesar in ancient Rome. This experiential learning course taught students aspects of ancient history, philosophy, and literature, as well as important skills such as public speaking, debate, negotiation, and community-building. My advanced Latin students were introduced to the raucous and vulgar world of Petronius, capped with an end-of-the-year Roman *cena* (dinner party). This semester my Classical Allusions in Film students are learning to find new meaning in ancient texts through weekly pairings with modern film, such as *The Aeneid* and *Logan* (2017), *Lysistrata* and *Chi-Raq* (2015), and Catullus' poems and *500 Days of Summer* (2009). Introductory Latin enrollments are up from last year, and students are learning grammar contextualized through literature and anecdotes about Roman culture.

In 2017 I published an article, "I Knew I Had a Brother! Fraternity and Identity in Plautus' *Menaechmi* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*," in *Oscar Wilde and the Classics* (Oxford). Soon in print will be "Gender and Sexuality in Plautus," (*Blackwell Companion to Plautus*) and "Ethics in Roman New Comedy," (*A Cultural History of Comedy, Antiquity*). I delivered a public lecture at Trinity College in March entitled, "A Woman or a Womb? Reproductive Legislation from Ancient Rome to Dystopian Future." I also participated in Connecticut Latin Day in April, offering workshops on Roman Curse Tablets, and I hope to be involved again next year. Finally, I offered a pedagogy salon for Wesleyan Faculty called, "Creating Your Own Reacting to the Past Games" in which we played out the short scenario The Bacchanalia Affair in an experiential learning game designed to teach faculty how to design single-session Reacting to the Past games.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017

Classical Civilization: Katharine Barnes, Margot Metz, and Ryan Poulter

Classics: Jackson Barnett, Tatum Leclair, and Brandon McGlone

ACADEMIC PRIZES

Ingraham Prize for excellence in Greek: Catherine Kiall
Spinney Prize for excellence in essay: Katie Barnes
Sherman Prize for excellence in classics: Jackson Barnett

End of the Year Celebration May 3, 2018

Classical Studies majors came together with faculty to celebrate the end of another successful year.

Major's Thesis Presentations:

Jackson Barnett: *From Democracy in Name to Democracy in Practice? Contextualizing the Transition to Oligarchy of 411 BCE in Athens.*

Katie Barnes: *The Not So Wild Country East of Dikte: A multivariate Analysis of Late Bronze Age East Cretan Tomb Assemblages.*



Caroline Diemer: *“Our Warp Bloodred, Our Weft Corseblue”*: An Exploration of Use and Mythology of the Warp Weighted Loom in Norse Greenland and Ancient Greece.

Brendan McGlone: *Meetings with a Remarkable Manuscript: A Study of a Late Medieval Collection of Latin Sermons.*



Maggie Rothberg ('20) and Caroline Diemer ('18)



Ryan Poulter, a CCIV major, is part of the first cohort of posse veteran scholars to graduate from Wesleyan University. Before arriving at Wesleyan, members of the Class of 2018 Posse Veteran Scholars were members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, and several served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Andrew Szegedy-Maszak is the faculty mentor for the Class of 2018 posse. “I’ve often said that the Posse initiative is one of the best things Wesleyan has done, and I still believe that,” he said. “Being the mentor for the first cohort has been at various times rewarding, challenging, frustrating, infuriating, and joyful, but never dull.” In 2013, Wesleyan made a commitment to dramatically increase the number of veterans it enrolls by entering into a new partnership with The Possee Foundation, Inc.

The following students submitted essays to *Metis*, the Wesleyan Undergraduate Journal of Classical Studies, Volume 7 (2017-2018):

Section 1: Traditional scholarly writing, typically intended for an audience with a background in Classics.

Adrianna Perez: The Pursuit of Honor and the 'Heroic Ideal' in Euripides' *Medea*.

Margot Metz: Plato's Kallipolis -- Not to be Confused with Plato's Opinions.

Caroline Diemer: Women's Agency in Ancient Greece.

Robbie Webster: The Correlations between Military Experiences and Political Clout in Athens.

Maggie Rothberg: Sex, Gender, and the Economy in Aristophanes' *Ecclesiazusae*.

Section 2: Writing for a modern audience -- these submissions were written in Professor Andy Szegedy Maszak's class, "Classical Studies Today: Writing for a General Audience."

Ryan Poulter: Review of Lecture at Wesleyan by Professor Johanna Hanink.

Finnian Day: Julius Caesar Biography.

Emma Graham: Role Playing in Ancient Rome: The Assassination of Caesar.

Catherine Kiall: How Do We Recharge the Energy of Democracy.

Robbie Webster: A Biography of Classicist Josiah Ober.

Jackson Barnett: Violence in Ovid, trigger warnings, and the persistence of creepy men on Grindr.

Tatum Leclair: An Introduction for a podcast about the *Iliad*.

Margot Metz: A Script for an Audio Museum Guide: The Portland Vase.

Ben Sarraille: Lincoln and Pericles.

MAJORS' COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Majors' Committee organized several group activities for the Classical Studies majors and interested students. The movie screening of *Gladiator*, hosted by CCIV 153 *Single Combat in the Ancient World*, took place in November 2017.

The Committee participated in the WesFest Open House. They also designed a sweatshirt advertising the Classical Studies department.



T-Shirt Quilt donated to the Classical Studies Department by Debbie Sierpinski, Administrative Assistant (25) years. T-shirts and sweat shirts designed by Classics and CCIV majors.



Classical Studies faculty and students visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art (November, 2017) in conjunction with Roman Archaeology. There was also a bus trip to Columbia University's performance of Aristophanes' *Frogs*, in ancient Greek, for the Greek drama and advanced Greek classes; and a bus trip in the spring for the Bronze Age Archaeology course. All three were well and enthusiastically attended.

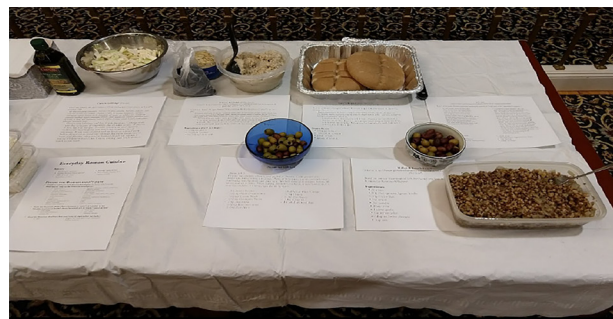


The Classical Studies Department would like to thank Jackson Barnett for a great job working for the department this year! Jackson Barnett ('18) and Debbie Sierpinski (Administrative Assistant) standing in front of the painting donated by Maria Ma ('17) to the Classical Studies Department depicting the pivotal sparagmos scene from Euripides' *Bacchae*.

Classical Studies Holiday Celebration (December 2017)



Students and Faculty
enjoying ancient Roman
cuisine



STUDY ABROAD

SQUIRE FUND RECIPIENTS

The department makes small grants from the Squire Fund to students which help cover part of the cost of study abroad or of classics-related projects, of summer language courses, and of programs such as those offered by the American School in Athens. This year the following students received grants:

Summer Study at NYU: Maggie Rothberg

Summer Excavations at Kastrouli: Alyssa Aldo, Levi Baruch, Yu Qin, Ana Rodriguez-Santory, Andrew Rogers, and Jesse Winfrey

McGlone '18 to Study, Teach Latin in Rome with Paideia Fellowship

Wesleyan University newsletter. Article by Olivia Drake, March 30, 2018.

Brendan McGlone '18 who is on track to graduate in May with a triple major in Classics, Medieval Studies and the College of Letters, will continue his post-Wesleyan education in Rome as a Paideia Institute for Humanistic Study Fellow. The Paideia Institute is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting the study and appreciation of the classical humanities, with a focus on Latin and Ancient Greek languages and literature. Paideia Fellows are selected on the basis of academic merit, personality, and potential as a future teacher of classics. Fellows teach American high school students Latin, and lead them on classics-themed tours around Rome and the Mediterranean. In addition, fellows work on independent research published in the blog "Loci in Locis." For his senior thesis at Wesleyan, McGlone is decoding and translating a late medieval manuscript collection of sermons housed in Wesleyan's Special Collections & Archives. "I hope to be able to continue with the type of research I am doing for my thesis, looking at the manuscript collections held in the Vatican Libraries or elsewhere in the city," he said. "I also hope to use the year to figure out my future plans--perhaps grad school, perhaps teaching, perhaps something totally different." McGlone's love for Latin originated in high school and was fostered at Wesleyan. He's also a practicing Catholic and found studying Latin has broadened and deepened

his religious understanding and experiences. "I took a few classes with Professors Andy Szegedy-Maszak and Michael Roberts, two of the best teachers and scholars I've encountered at Wes," McGlone said. The summer after his sophomore year, McGlone participated in the Paideia Institute's flagship program "Living Latin in Rome"--six weeks of intense study and around Rome. "The Institute has a very different approach to language: instead of treating it as a puzzle, where you memorize lots of forms and try to piece the words you see together based on their forms, we use it like a language, by reading, speaking, and writing it," McGlone explained. At Wesleyan, McGlone is captain of the ultimate frisbee team Throw Culture, and an accomplished bagpiper. But his main interest is keeping Latin alive. Although the Latin language died off as a spoken language in the 5th or 6th century AD, it morphed into Italian, French, Spanish, and other Romance languages. "This is why I would say it is not a dead language," he said. "It has been in continuous use in some form or another for nearly 3,000 years. People are still speaking it."



Getting Dirty in Kastrouli

by Andrew Rogers ('21)

One year ago, when I was getting ready for my first year at Wesleyan, I was pretty sure I was going to major in Molecular Biology. I was studying enzymes and mitochondria, and making plans for the summer to work in a lab. Then, in my second semester, thanks to the nature of liberal arts, I found myself taking a class in archaeometry, which mixes some of the science I had been studying with archaeology, a field I had been interested in since elementary school. That class added archaeology as a major to my track. Then, when I heard that there was going to be an excavation that summer with a focus on archaeometry, I knew I had to go.

Kastrouli is a Mycenaean site about six miles southeast of Delphi, at the feet of Mt. Parnassus. Its location makes it a contender for the location of the palatial site that controlled the ancient region of Phokis. A quick survey via Google Earth reveals a large circular fortification wall enclosing a settlement on a hill, including a few chamber tombs. Teams from the University of the Aegean had been excavating the site since 2016, and this summer, 25 students from Wesleyan and Brandeis University excavated with them.

A few of us joined our professors (Professor K. Birney from Wesleyan and Professor A. Koh from Brandeis) in Athens the day before the dig started, to tour the Acropolis and the National Museum. Athens is a fantastic city, full of incredible museums and unbelievable food. The ancient ruins, often surrounded by grassy parks, offer a respite from the metropolitan hustle and bustle. The Acropolis was breath-taking, and the National Museum got us excited for what we might find in the coming three weeks. That afternoon, a bus took us to Desfina, a small town 10 minutes from Kastrouli, where we would be living with host families. Desfina was a very quiet and very picturesque town, surrounded by mountains and filled with beautiful churches.

Digging started the next day. After a trek up the hill, we started clearing brush and setting up unit boundaries. The section we would be excavating contained a large wall dividing what seemed to be the street and a few houses. By the end of the first day of digging, we had started our trenches, and even found our first pottery sherds. Upon return to Desfina, we had lunch in one of the town's restaurants, and after a siesta, had a lecture, followed by dinner and an early bed. We were exhausted, but beyond excited for the next three weeks.

Each day went about the same as the first, but as we dug further and further, the finds became more frequent and more interesting. A few vessels found in their entirety offered a chance for some of us to try our hand at reconstruction. Large ash deposits, possibly from structural timbers, and pieces of burnt roof clay indicated that the site may have been destroyed by fire. A large stone probably used for grinding wheat and two steatite spindle whorls were a few other exciting finds.

On the weekends, we went on field trips to local archaeological sites, including Delphi (which was absolutely incredible), and to the beach, where we got to swim in the same body of water that Odysseus sailed. We wrapped up the dig season with two days of cleaning sherds, pottery reading (laying out all of the sherds and looking for patterns), and filing them away for future research.

Although it was only three weeks, Kastrouli was one of the most memorable experiences of my life, and I will surely be going on more digs in the future.



Desfina



One of our dirt piles at the end of the season

Kastrouli

by Ana Rodriguez Santory
(Visiting student, The University of Puerto Rico)

On my participation in the archeological field school, these are the facts. The Kastrouli Archeological Field School was organized in collaboration with the University of the Aegean, Brandeis University, and Wesleyan. It ran from July 9th to the 28th, near a little town named Desfina, to the south of Delphi. The professional excavation team included experts in field archeology, ceramics, digital modeling and aerial photogrammetry, GIS survey and mapping, and various archeological sciences. Among those experts were Director Ioannis Liritzis and Dr. Thanos Sideris (University of the Aegean), Dr. Andrew Koh (Brandeis), and Dr. Kate Birney (Wesleyan). As students, we participated in ongoing excavation and research projects at the site involving finds recovered during the current and previous seasons, familiarizing ourselves with preservation work, osteological analysis of the entombed, and drone flying. All the while, we were hosted in the homes of the villagers whose history we were lovingly rescuing from the earth. This is a fact, too: the Kastrouli Archeological Fieldschool changed my life.

In truth, it all began with a Hurricane named Maria. It tore through the middle of Puerto Rico, blowing lots of us up and away into the air. In the fall, I was immensely lucky to be welcomed into Wesleyan, landing squarely into two of Professor Birney's classes: Ancient Greek 101 and Art and Archeology of the Mediterranean Bronze Age. "You poor thing," was the first thing she said when she noticed. But when I shyly asked if I was eligible to apply for the

summer's dig, she didn't hesitate to encourage me. So I did. Months later, while boarding the plane at San Juan, I still couldn't believe I'd been chosen. Any second, I was going to wake up and be eight years old again, frowning at an old abandoned book in the school library trying to spell "Mycenaean." Instead, when I woke up, Greece was waiting for me — strangely familiar with its searing heat, turquoise waters, friendly people, simple vowels, economic crisis, strong coffee, warm hospitality, late nights, and winding graffitied streets.

Yet the proud mountains cradling Desfina moved me with their abrupt and noble dipping in the water, just stone ending in a wave. I was touched by the resiliency of the people, like an echo of my own. And while I worked beside friends I'd grow to admire and care for deeply, slowly uncovering history with my own sore hands, it didn't seem so crazy to come from a small island an ocean away. Despite the Atlantic separating us and the languages in between, to have been able to be part of the excavation proved to me that I could have a hand in the happenings, instead of simply reading about them. As a Latin-American, I struggled to believe I could ever have a seat at the table on the other side of the world because it was unreachable. Now, I have a hunger. Maria might've blown me away, but I only have wings because of those who believed in me, like the Classics Department at Wesleyan University.

Thank you, for the world is a beautiful place from the mountain-top.

The 21-day "digging" trip- Kastrouli Program in Desfina, Greece

by Yu Qin (21)

Underneath soaring clouds and the blue blue sky, in the undulating green mountains, we drove into Desfina, a town not far from the Mediterranean Sea, south of the Greek peninsula, an hour and a half drive from Delphi, one of the ruins of Mycenaean civilization. A 21-day archaeological project by Wes, Brandeis, and the University of Aegean, we linger in world- renowned temples and museums and in unknown but extremely delicate and leisurely mountain towns, exploring the depth and loveliness of a human civilization's birthplace from both the global and local perspectives.

It's hard to say what an ideal lifestyle is. Everyone in this town enjoys a regular and leisurely day: children run around at 12 p.m., workers chat with beer and folk songs, diligent women clean the streets with water pipes at 7 a.m. I still remember the summer Prayer Festival on July 18, when the town gathered at the top of the hill and danced in circles with the priests in the church, lights and candles illuminating a very simple happiness. In this nation, hardship is always buried by optimism and idealism: the milky-white sculptures in the Delphi Archaeological Museum are all in exquisite hairstyles and graceful postures, not to mention the perfect image of Aphrodite or Apollo in ancient Greek mythology, the musical instruments of ancient Greece, lira and harp. Imagine how the Greeks climbed over the mountains to the ancient Apollo temple at an altitude of 2,000 meters and asked the gods about their future and the

fate of their country... You could know how firm they are to pursue their ideal life.

One day in the excavation, squatting in a half-man-high pit dug by a team, we watched the sky floating over a thick dark cloud, and suddenly it rained. Five minutes later, the dazzling sun came out of the clouds again and scorched our heads. It's very primitive here, and our archaeological work begins with the most primitive soil. It goes down and down, uncovering layers of ruins from the stone roads 100 years old to the ancient city walls thousand years old. Red pottery pieces sometimes suggest the tracks of the primitive people's lives. Archaeological work uses the simplest methods, from excavation to preservation. But it's also the most realistic way, like cleaning a whole piece of pottery with a small hand knife for three hours, cleaning an animal's bone with a toothbrush. The understanding of cultural relics depends entirely on human understanding of nature. The repairing of the patterns on pottery depends on the interpretation of the repairman, and the abstract patterns and the letters on the sculpture are interpreted by the man, too. These days, it's not some superb technique, it's the delicate or rough feel of rubbing clay with your hands, the amplitude of the hammer's vibrations on the rocks, and the sound - like popcorn popping out - when you lift the soil. We used our hands to feel and we it felt attentively.

The first food I will recall is "Karpouzi" - big, juicy watermelon with a round head. Hiding under an umbrella and enjoying a cool rest at 11:00 a.m., sitting on a bucket, gnawing watermelon, we enjoyed the sweet juice, and the happy smile on the dark and shiny faces of the local farmers, which are really in tune with the simplicity of their second-hand pickup trucks and the original tobacco! Souvlaki is dipped in yogurt cucumber sauce, with soft, crispy pita cakes, and a daily vegetable salad, topped with scented olive oil and a cheese and olives. The food is relatively simple, but also full of creativity, such as hollowed tomatoes and green peppers filled with steamed rice balls, sweet and sour taste; or homemade yogurt ice cream, with thick and textured sweet flavor. Delicious food always goes with lovely people. Every day, kids at the restaurant were holding the dishes. I remember there were twin sisters who always carefully and smilingly brought water and ran around the kitchen looking for salt and pepper for us. It was another cool evening, when the rain was about to pour down, and a group of idle old people gathered at the entrance of the restaurant, watching carelessly and rhythmically the backgammon, debating who would win the game. Also, one afternoon I had heatstroke and was sent to the pharmacy; the doctor amused me, soothed my heart with vivid gestures and

ice lemonade in Greek, which I did not understand but was still touched.

At the end of the project, the original grassland had been converted into square fields numbered A, B, C and divided into neat areas. Longitudinally, the layers of changes in soil color and rock distribution are present, and the distribution of unearthed cultural relics and stone walls reveals the location of primitive sacrifices, kitchens, and streets. A huge rock more than a meter long and a tiny but lined wall fragment provide valuable information for the next 10 years of historical tracing. It's hard to imagine how many lost civilizations are hidden in the mountains, and I can't help but daydream about the ancient stories of labor, trade, war, and prayer.

At the end of the project we came again to the heart of Greece, Athens, where the crowds and the sun-baked galleries of the Parthenon Temple made the ancient civilizations exposed to the eyes of the modern world. The countless archaeological artifacts in the Athens Archaeological Museum suddenly became very intimate. It was like the touch of yesterday's pottery, so familiar. But when thinking of countless pottery and endless mountains, we were shocked again by the broad and far-reaching civilization. In an era of digitization and internationalization, fortunately, there are still vast swathes of green mountains and countless treasures hidden deeply, and I wonder how the cultures exchanged thousands of years ago are still shining today and inspiring more and more far-reaching thinking and cultural collisions...

Summer Language Study by Maggie Rothberg ('20)

I attended the basic Greek program at the CUNY Latin/Greek Institute in New York City. The first two weeks constituted a review of the material I had learned in Professor Birney's GRK 101. Then, we completed the remainder of the curriculum in Hansen & Quinn and moved onto reading full texts. I had the opportunity to read Plato's *Ion* in full, substantial excerpts of the *Medea*, and the first several chapters of Thucydides' *History*. For ten weeks, I did approximately 14 hours of Greek a day. It was really fun in a perverse sort of way. I met some wonderful people, and I even got to have a drink with Hardy Hansen himself, while wearing a laurel wreath. Thanks to the Squire Fund for enabling this experience!

CLASSICAL STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

Fall 2017

David Vine, American University, “What Are We Getting Out of This? U.S. Empire and the Military Overseas under Trump”, November 9, 2018 (co-sponsored with the Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life and the Anthropology Department)

Zacharoula Petraki, University of Crete, “Hideous Bodies, Deified Heroes in Sophocles and Plato,” November 14, 2018

Spring 2018

Johanna Hanink, Brown University, “Fake Olds” History and Alternative Facts in Classical Athens,” March 8, 2018

Ian Roy, Brandeis University, “Emerging Technology Applications & Workflows in Archaeology,” March 28, 2018 (co-sponsored with the Archaeology Program)

After the lectures and a reception, the speaker and a group of faculty and students got together for dinner and informational conversation at a restaurant in Middletown.

CLASSICAL STUDIES SPRING 2018 LECTURE SERIES

JOHANNA HANINK
BROWN UNIVERSITY

**“Fake Olds”
History and Alternative Facts
in Classical Athens**

In Plato's *Republic*, Socrates outlines how the leaders of his ideal city will promulgate a “Noble Lie”—a fictional account of the state and its origins that will encourage the citizens' devotion to the state and to each other. Yet this idea was no real innovation. This lecture will introduce the term ‘fake lore’ considering the Athenians' remarkable openness to ‘alternative facts’ when it came to their own history—their penchant, in other words, for ‘fake olds’. It will consider a number of ancient instances from different genres and will also draw parallels with contemporary American controversies about political misrepresentations of (historical) truth.

Thursday, March 8, 2018

4:30 PM

113 Downey House

Wesleyan University



ALUMNAE/ALUMNI NEWS

Kate Gilhuly ('86) (article from The Wellesley News, <http://thewellesleynews.com/>). Kate Gilhuly pursues her interest in literature through research in Classics. Armed since childhood with an insatiable love for literature, Professor Kate Gilhuly of the classics department dreamt of writing her own book one day. Gilhuly's mother, an English teacher at the time played a significant role in fostering her love for knowledge and literature. "As a little kid, I always dreamed of writing a book and spent a lot of time, when my brothers were shunning me, writing various stories and philosophical musings in my room," Gilhuly said. This love of literature heavily informed her decision as she searched for a field of study. She eventually chose to concentrate in classics at Wesleyan University for her undergraduate degree. "When we were kids, my mother read Homer, Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* to us, and a friend of ours had illustrated The Homeric Hymn to Demeter. That was a beautiful book," Gilhuly said. "So when I started studying the classics, it felt like a return to my literary beginning. I loved the idea of going to the source, and Greek literature especially seemed so raw and beautiful to me." When it came time to find a job, Gilhuly's father encouraged her to go into business, but again, she chose literature and decided to work at a rare book collection called Newberry Library Center in Chicago. "I made zero money but was interacting with academics and helped in the production of a journal, *Renaissance Drama*, she said. After working for the Newberry Library Center, Gilhuly spent some time editing the Yellow Pages in San Francisco, but her passion for literature drew her back to graduate school at University of California, Berkeley where she wrote her dissertation on courtesans in Greek literature. "I was torn between getting an MFA in writing fiction or returning to classics. I had this gnawing sense that I hadn't really mastered Greek, so I applied to Berkeley and got in there," she said. "Interesting, smart people were just teeming all around Berkeley. It was nerd heaven." Gilhuly enjoys classics research because it allows her to collaborate with people from different disciplines, making her research more applicable to those outside of the field. "I really value having an aspect of my work that allows me to reach out to people in other fields and learn from them and share my work too," Gilhuly said. "A few years ago, I was a fellow at Radcliffe [College], and it was really exciting to be a part of a diverse group of academics. That experience inspired me to try to make my work interesting and accessible to people outside of classics," she explained. Gilhuly

always thought she would end up teaching at a liberal arts college, so she returned to the northeast and began teaching at Wellesley College in 2004. "I wanted to teach at a school where students had an experience like I did and where I could have a more substantial relationship with fewer students," she said. "I feel really invested in their long-term success. I think Wellesley provides people with an exceptional environment in which to find their voices." Following her interest in interdisciplinary research, Gilhuly teamed up with theatre studies to teach a class called "Performing Ancient Drama," which culminated in a production of "Lysistrata" in the Ruth Nagel Jones Theater. She values her time teaching students Greek from the introductory level and watching them grow. "It is so cool to see students start at the beginning learning the alphabet and get to the point where they can deeply engage with something as complex and sophisticated as Sophocles in his original language," she said. Gilhuly's curiosity about the role of place in the history of sexuality caused her to delve into her current research. She especially wondered why society named lesbians after an island in the Aegean Sea and wanted to understand more about the word's literary roots. "The sexualization of place was invented on the comic stage, and calling something 'lesbian' was originally a joke to make fun of Euripides' mash-up musical style, where he incorporated exotic sounds from the east in his tragedies," she explained. According to Gilhuly, studying literature in the classics is significant because you can think beyond your current place and time about ideas that have always existed. "One thing that really fascinates me about ancient literature is that it is like looking at language in a petri dish," she said. "It gives you a chance to consider how words carry meaning through time and space even when the world they refer to has completely vanished.

John McLucas ('74) is in his 34th year as professor of Italian and Latin at Towson University in Baltimore. He is currently President of the TU AAUP and Faculty Association. He is a founding member of the Baltimore Cenacolo, an interdisciplinary consortium of Italian Renaissance scholars at local institutions who have come together every semester for eight years to present work in progress. In September 2017, he published his first novel, "Dialogues on the Beach" (BrickHouse Books, Baltimore -- available also on Amazon and Barnes & Noble). Some of the characters and conversations may remind certain readers of Wesleyan in the early 1970s.

Jeffrey Cellars ('75). After 28 years as a member of the U.S. diplomatic corps, specializing in European and Middle East policy, Jeff retired in November, 2017 and moved to Vermont. Bethanne, his wife of 40 years, continues to work for the State Department.

Caroline Harte (Richardson) ('03) is now back in San Antonio working as the Development Director for the San Antonio ISD Foundation. She was most proud when her five-year old daughter recently thought to bring "Cattus Petasatus" to her Dr. Seuss Day at school as it is her favorite Dr. Seuss book.

Eric Weiskott ('09) teaches medieval English literature at Boston College, where he was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. He has one book out: *English Alliterative Verse: Poetic Tradition and Literary History* (Cambridge, 2016). He lives in Brookline, MA with his wife Sofia Warner (Wesleyan '09, like me).

Beth Alexion ('16) says that she really enjoyed keeping up with classics and reading the articles that Andy Szegedy-Maszak and Eirene Visvardi post on the Facebook page. She says: "My mom is looking for Emily Wilson's new translation of the *Odyssey* to send me as a Christmas gift (after reading it herself), and I'm very excited to receive it. Still one of my favorite surprise moments from my Peace Corps service was when I asked my class of grade 11 students if they knew anyone with a disability, and one shy but talented student, Tekle, raised her hand and said, "Homer." I live and teach in a rural town smaller in population and geographical size than Wes where the English level is very low, and and yet, somehow, this student knew who Homer was and that he was a blind poet! It was a pleasantly shocking moment." Beth is in the process of applying to graduate programs with the hopes of continuing her study of transitional justice.

We have had a great response from alumni for the past issues so keep the news coming, to dsierpinski@wesleyan.edu. Please let us know what else you would like to see in *Juno's Peacock*. If you have recently been published, we would love to hear from you with news of your work. Thank you to all of you who sent in information for this issue.

COMMENCEMENT/REUNION, MAY 2018



WESCLASSICS

Juno's Peacock is on-line and can be accessed through the Classical Studies home page. Information is also available on faculty, current course offerings and requirements for the Classics and Classical Civilization major, summer programs and study abroad. There are also links to other Wes pages, and to our resources for Archaeology, Medieval Studies, and Classical Studies on our homepage, which has been named a "Recommended Website" by the History Channel. The address is <http://www.wesleyan.edu/classics/>; if you lose this info you can just go to www.wesleyan.edu and poke around. Also look for the home page for the Archaeology Program at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/archprog/>. All of the Wes faculty and staff are accessible by email as well: for most, the address is the first initial plus last name (with no spaces), followed by @wesleyan.edu; this holds for kbirney (Kate Birney), cparslow (Christopher Parslow), evisvardi (Eirene Visvardi), switzke (Serena Witzke) and dsierpinski (Deborah Sierpinski). The exception to the rule is aszegedymasz (Andrew Szegedy-Maszak).