

Classics Newsletter 2019

linguae tamquam ignis...



The Dead Among the Living: Classics at Lee University

2019 has already marked itself as a good year to be living with the dead: in fact, it may turn out that dead languages, dead philosophers, dead poets, and their dead cultures are not quite so dead as often presumed—at least not in Cleveland, Tennessee. This first year of the second century of our university's existence has been a record year for Lee: at no point in its past have there been so many Classics students on campus; nor have there been so many students remaining on campus to study Greek and Latin over the summer.

While most classicists travel during the summer months, over a dozen brave and ambitious students have stayed at Lee to pursue the study of Greek and Latin, whether at the beginning or advanced levels. Others have been travelling: either on a medieval pilgrimage route in Spain (see pg. 2) or on graduate school pilgrimages within the US. The interest of a wide variety of students in the classical and medieval worlds is strong, the energy is high, and the minds are focused.

The current crop of Classics majors are the result of a rare cross-fertilization of seriousness and dedication, on the one hand, and laughter, pranks, and humor, on the other. It is difficult to find a more intellectually and relationally interwoven (or as Augustine would write, *intermixta*) community of students. As products of that community, two of our own students have received highly competitive research scholarships (Hannah Holley and Kait Morrison; see pg. 2). Furthermore, in spite of often quite long distances – from Boulder, Colorado to Chengdu, China and from Toronto, Canada to Istanbul, Turkey – former students have found ways to return to their old haunts at Lee or at least stay in touch (see pg. 3). They have gone down a wide variety of paths: from teaching to graduate studies, from museum work to ministry, and from business management to parenting. While some of these alumni and alumnae are more in the limelight, others remind us that it may be the little things that have the largest impact. Lee's Classics program is small (but growing) – its repercussions are widely felt.

Hiking the Camino

This summer Dr. Wielfaert intrepidly hiked with 19 students over 170 miles on the Camino de Santiago, a medieval pilgrimage route that continues to attract the faithful, the curious, and the energetic to this day. Our students' pilgrimage included special visits to Pamplona, Burgos, Leon, and Santiago. The trip was taken in conjunction with two upper level Humanities courses ("Medieval Spain" and "Pilgrimage in the Modern World").

Dr. Wielfaert reported: "The trip drew in students from a variety of majors, interests, and backgrounds and brought them together around a task so profoundly basic as waking up and walking. Walking across Galicia, with its rolling hills, picturesque villages, ruined castles, and Romanesque parish churches is a treat for anyone who wants to be immersed in a beautiful landscape."



As was especially true of this year's group, the study of the medieval world and the ongoing experiential engagement with it are not limited to students of a particular course of study. It will remain a source of fascination with a strong magnetism for all who seek a truly liberal arts education and a broadening of their horizons. "But," as Dr. Wielfaert notes, "it's a special treat for a medievalist."

Student Scholars

Two of our students have received exciting opportunities to pursue their own scholarship. First, Hannah Holley received a competitive Ledford Scholarship from the Appalachian College Association, which provides funding for her Latin translation project. This project is tackling the treatises

of a fourth-century Church father named Lucifer of Cagliari, who was infamous for his prickly personality, polarizing tendencies, and even what might seem to be a death-wish martyr complex. His five treatises openly attacked the Roman emperor Constantius II for being soft on "Arian" heretics. One of them is entitled somewhat cheekily, "On Not Hanging Out with Heretics," while another is entitled "That I Ought to Die for Christ." In spite of his abrasive storm of words against the emperor, he was never executed but only left in exile in the eastern half of the Empire where he spent his days trying to stir up trouble. Because there is no English translation of these texts, Hannah is working directly with the critical edition published in the CSEL series (Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum) unaided by any sources of help except her own keen intellect and superb knowledge of Latin. She will present her translation work at a conference in September.

Our second student to receive a research scholarship is Kait Morrison, who was recently awarded a coveted McNair Scholarship (which she will hold throughout the duration of her undergraduate studies). The McNair grant invests in students who show particularly high potential to pursue graduate studies and future work in academia. Kait's research focuses on Hypatia of Alexandria, a woman who stands as one of the greatest pagan intellectuals of Late Antiquity. She was tragically lynched by a group of Christian thugs in AD 415. As a philosopher who fostered peaceful dialogue between Christians and pagans in her school and yet as a thinker whose writings have nearly all been lost, her life and horrific death raise a number of questions about philosophy, gender, religion and violence in late Roman Alexandria. Kait is currently engaged in tracing out not only the ancient narratives of her death but also the ways in which she became a multivalent symbol in the modern period as mathematician, free thinker, witch or sex symbol (and even an academic journal of feminist philosophy is named after her). Kait's research will produce several papers, including a thesis-sized paper and a grad school writing sample.

Although most of us love what we study enough to do it without accolades or scholarships, it is pleasantly rewarding to see two such likable and deserving students receive credit for their work.

Faculty News

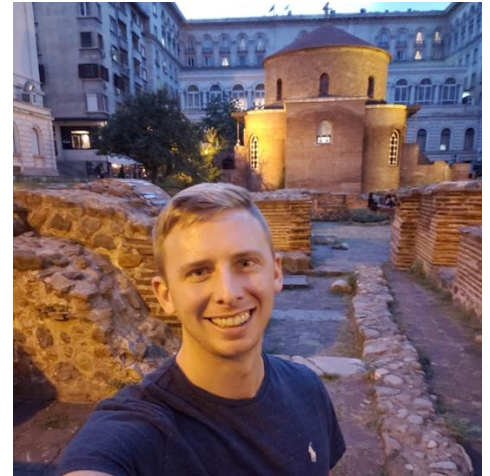
Charlotte Moy (Ph. D. in History, Northwestern University) joined our faculty in a part-time capacity to teach the Rise of Europe course and an advanced Latin course on the Life of Frodobert. She, her husband (new math professor Richard Moy), and their daughter spent the summer in Venice where she pursued archival research for her current book project on the education of women in late Renaissance Italy. She will be taking a maternity leave this fall to care for her second child (forthcoming). Justin Arnwine ('13, now a doctoral candidate in Medieval Studies, University of Toronto) returned to Cleveland this summer to teach summer Latin and Foundations of Western Culture. He was joined by his wife, Kristiana and new daughter, Elaina. This is now the fourth summer that we have had the exceptionally rich opportunity of having our Latin courses taught by medievalists from the University of Toronto (which houses one of the top medieval studies programs in the world).

Jared Wielfaert ran 4 marathons, one 50k, and one 50-mile run named the "Silver Rush 50" ultramarathon, which now qualifies him to enter the Leadville 100 (a non-stop grueling 100-mile run at very high altitudes – at 10,152 ft, Leadville, Colorado is the highest incorporated city in the US). He feels that Latin has given him the stamina to overcome such daunting challenges. In addition to marathons and hiking on the Camino (see above, pg. 2), he taught a Herculean number of classes to cover the absent Dr. Johnson who had a sabbatical leave.

Aaron Johnson commenced his sabbatical with a plenary address at the North American Patristics Society annual meeting in Chicago; utilized a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study at Vanderbilt University; then followed that up with extended research time at Yale University (thanks to funding from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation and the Appalachian College Association). At Yale he gave a talk, met with graduate students, and continued work on his translation of the Greek text of Cyril of Alexandria's *Against the Emperor Julian* (for Cambridge University Press, with his co-translator Matthew Crawford) and a monograph entitled *Philosophy and Tradition in Cyril of Alexandria's Contra Julianum*. In August, he will go to Oxford University, where he has organized a special workshop

on Cyril of Alexandria, which includes an international line-up of speakers from Australia, Germany, France, and the US. In November, he will give an invited lecture at the Sorbonne in Paris on Eusebius and Greek philosophy.

Kevin Lawrence ('13) at the Rotunda Church within the Roman bath complex of Serdica.



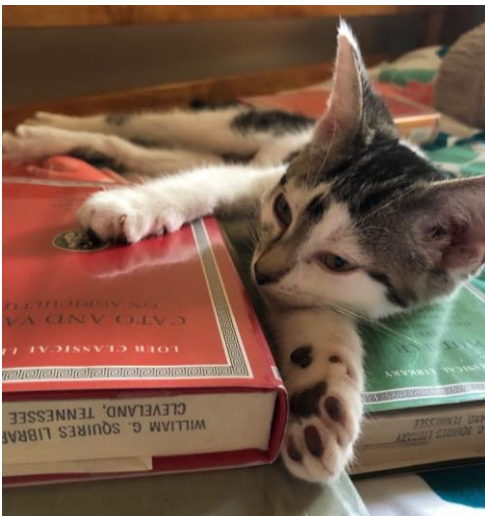
Current and Past Students

Our students and alumnae/-i are flourishing. Ashley Walker (senior, Classics/English double-major) had a recent article accepted for publication in the Sigma Tau Delta Review (a journal of the national English honors society): "‘It Drives Me Crazy’: Childhood and Madness in *The Catcher in the Rye*" (which is a revised version of a talk she gave at this year's Sims Colloquium). Not only does this mark Ashley's third publication in that journal (her second paper being "Fitzgerald's American Epic: Echoes of Homer in *Gatsby*," which was published last year), but it was selected to be the recipient of the journal's critical essay award. Two of our top classicists graduated this year: Nicole Tripp (who intends to apply to graduate schools this coming fall) and Katherine Anderson (who may be moving to Michigan and for whom graduate studies are a high possibility, though not in the immediate future!). Wes Lemke ('17) received his MA in Classics from University of Colorado (Boulder) and was invited to stay on for the Ph.D., but has decided to dedicate himself to working with dogs. Emily Stephens ('18) has just completed her first year of study at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary.

A number of βρέφεια/parvula have sprouted up in the last year: Casey Smith (née Hogue), who has been teaching for us the last two years, will be taking a

maternity hiatus to teach her new baby (Luke Aaron) Greek and Latin before he starts school; Katelyn Waller (née Parent, '14) is raising her daughter Anavah in Israel, where she has been residing the last three years; Justin Arnwine ('13) brought his wife and new daughter Elaina back to Cleveland to teach Latin this summer, before returning to Toronto.

Others are giving birth to new courses of study: for instance Parker Haratine ('16) is moving with his wife (Nicole, née DeBoer, '15) and their son, Oliver, to Florida to commence doctoral work in medieval philosophy at University of South Florida); others are continuing careers as teachers (such as Jakeh West, '14, in Chengdu, China or Ben Taylor, '16, in San Antonio, TX). Bret Rogers ('13) continues to play guitar in the heavy metal band, Relentless Flood; Kevin Lawrence ('13) enjoys traveling for his tech company (including a visit to the classical sites of Serdica in modern Sofia; see photo pg. 3); Bethany Wilson (née Westcott, '17) was recently promoted to a senior position in the mentoring sector of her corporation and has firmly attested that a degree in the Humanities is a much better preparation than a business degree for corporate climbing! Sam Rumschlag ('15) works as an archaeologist for the Wisconsin Historical Society; his wife, Erin Rumschlag (née Beims, '14) has continued to teach, but will be taking a leave with the upcoming arrival of a new baby Rumschlag. Jodie Augustine (née Rice, '15) continues to work on Boethius in the doctoral program in Greek and Latin at Catholic University of America even while becoming a new mother to Symeon.



Cats can appreciate the Classics too, especially if it's "Cat-o."

News Updates?

If you have any updates about life that you would like to pass on to us, please send an email to ajohnson@leeuniversity.edu

What's New at the Library?

Libraries have always been the universe for Classicists. In such sanctuaries of letters, we discover the world is larger and more complex than we ever thought (we also might begin to get cobwebs in our hair and wheeze at the dust that has settled on long-forgotten volumes, an experience of deep meaning for many of us). Lee's library continues to be pushed to acquire books of great variety for our continued edification. These are just a few highlights of the numerous books flooding into the Lee library that deal with various aspects of the classical world:

Alexander Jones, *A Portable Cosmos: Revealing the Antikythera Device* (2017): In 1901 an ancient shipwreck was discovered off the coast of the Greek island of Antikythera; in the wreckage was a corroded device containing dozens of gears that has been the subject of ongoing analysis and is now proven to have been a sort of astronomical analogue computer.

Franco Montanari, et al. (editors), *The Brill Dictionary of Ancient Greek* (2015): This is the latest attempt to overcome some of the deficiencies (from a student's perspective) of the standard Greek lexicon by Liddell and Scott (revised by Jones). But does it surpass the LSJ?

Jas Elsner, Jesús Hernández Lobato (editors), *The Poetics of Late Latin Literature* (2017): A collection of essays displaying some of the most recent and exciting developments in the study of Latin literature in Late Antiquity from a carefully-cultivated literary approach.

Andre Laks, Glenn Most (translators/editors), *Early Greek Philosophy* (2016): The much-awaited and now indispensable bilingual (Greek-English) collection of the Pre-Socratic philosophers and Sophists in the Loeb Classical Library Series.