



RES CLASSICAE

VOLUME XLV ISSUE 1
FALL 2013

WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY

It is a pleasure to welcome old faces to new positions in the ANCS department. We extend a hearty welcome to UMBC alumnus and soon-to-be Johns Hopkins PhD, Timothy Phin, who will join the department as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Spring of 2014. Congratulations also to Dr. Michael Lane, who is Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2013 – 2014 academic year. We are happy to welcome Brent Gilbert to the department. Brent is a PhD candidate at The Catholic University of America who is writing his dissertation on Gregory of Nyssa's *de Hominis Opificio*. Brent spent 2011 – 2012 as an associate member of the American School in Athens Greece on a Fulbright fellowship. We also welcome Erin Guinn-Villareal, who is teaching ANCS 200, Ancient Near East/Israel. Erin is a PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins University studying the Hebrew Bible. Her research focuses on penitential prayers from ancient Israel and Mesopotamia.

If you have news you would like to report to the UMBC Ancient Studies community, please email Dr. Rosenbloom (dsrose@umbc.edu).

ANCIENT STUDIES COUNCIL

Sarah Brohawn

The Ancient Studies Council is going where no student has gone before ... Study Forum. We are making more efforts to connect with members of UMBC's community to enjoy the many subjects our department has to offer. Recently, we have formed a Study Forum that enables the students in all Ancient Studies classes to get together in an organized fashion and study to their heart's content. The Forum meets



every Wednesday from 4 pm – 6 pm in Fine Arts 450 until the end of the semester.

The Council is excited to present "*Hands-on History: Discover the Spiro Collection with Ancient Studies' Student Researchers.*" Dr. Marie Spiro will be making an appearance to see the work our peers have done with her donated collection of artifacts from around the world.

We also continue to have Theatrical Thursdays once a month, fundraisers, and co-sponsorship with other UMBC student organization events. The Ancient Studies Council is continuing to live long and prosper, and we hope you continue on this journey.

ANCIENT STUDIES WEEK FALL 2013

OCTOBER 21, NOON, FA 450

"EXCAVATING IN ENGLAND, ROMANIA, AND BULGARIA"
ANCS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS REPORT ON SUMMER
EXCAVATIONS

OCTOBER 22, 11 AM - 3 PM, COMMONS

**"HANDS-ON HISTORY: DISCOVER THE SPIRO COLLECTION
WITH ANCIENT STUDIES' STUDENT RESEARCHERS"**

OCTOBER 23, NOON, FA 215

**"MONEY AND THE EVOLUTION OF CULTURE IN CLASSICAL
ATHENS"**

DR. DAVID ROSENBLOOM, ANCIENT STUDIES

OCTOBER 23, 4PM, LIBRARY GALLERY

**"HOW TO STAGE A BLOODBATH: THEATRICALITY AND
ARTIFICIALITY AT THE ROMAN ARENA"**

DR. GARRETT FAGAN, PROF. OF ANCIENT HISTORY,
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

THIS EVENT IS PART OF THE HUMANITIES FORUM LECTURE
SERIES.

CO-SPONSORS: DRESHER CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES, THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, HISTORY,
THEATRE, OFFICE OF SUMMER AND WINTER PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 24, 7PM-10PM, SHERMAN HALL, LECTURE HALL IV

"GLADIATOR"

ANCS MAJORS MOVIE NIGHT, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION BY
ANCS FACULTY MEMBER

OCTOBER 25, 12:30, THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM

"EGYPT'S MYSTERIOUS BOOK OF THE FAYUM"

RETURNS UMBC 3:00

SIGN UP AND RESERVE YOUR PLACE WITH DOMONIQUE PITTS IN
FA 452 BY OCT. 23 \$5.00

OCTOBER 27, 2PM, PAHB

"EURYDICE"

THEATRE DEPARTMENT

TEACHING OEDIPUS

Dillon Disalvo

I must begin my thoughts with a nod to all of the professors in the Ancient Studies Department. As I have found out while teaching at a local private school, lecturing on the ancient world is no small feat. Keeping the attention of teenagers is a challenge. However, the interesting part is I am not even teaching an ancient history course.

I am currently the theater director and acting teacher at Seton Keough High School in Baltimore. When I was asked to teach an acting course, I struggled with how to focus a year-long class on that subject. The students had barely any foundation in theater to warrant making the class entirely focused on technique. Therefore, I decided it was best to incorporate a literary component, so they could be exposed to different plays and playwrights. Since I am in love with chronological order, I began our year with a unit on Greco-Roman theater.

Goodness, did I get a class full of dropped jaws, wide eyes, and students mouthing “are you serious?” on syllabus day. Apparently, Theater II: Acting was supposed to be an easy “A.” How dare I ask for them to write one to two pages explaining the historical context of a monologue! If only my papers could be so simple.

After they finished wiping away their tears, I dragged them to the doorstep of Sophocles. I knew I wanted



them to read the Theban plays if nothing else. So we began with *Oedipus Rex*. It took some time for the students to get past the fact that Oedipus was father and brother to his children as well husband and son to his mother. Then I had to convince them that Rome had no bearing on the story and was not even geographically close to Thebes or Athens. But finally, we got to some real discussion of the characters, and began to delve into the history of Greek drama.

Once the class had gotten into reading Sophocles, we began the acting component of the course. We are studying the presentational style of performance, which in essence is putting oneself in a character’s shoes. It involves being able to connect on a personal level and using one’s own experiences to act the life of a character on stage. This technique is interesting to study while reading ancient works of drama. What is seemingly so distant and unreal is suddenly brought very close to home.

This means when my students perform, they will not simply be regurgitating lines. They will have studied their role and put time into seeing how alike they are to their characters on a fundamental level. Human emotion and experience are things that we share with those who came before us. As students of ancient studies, we can look at someone like Caesar as the dictator who was assassinated in 44 BC, or we can see him as a man who knew love, ambition, friendship, and betrayal. We will never know what being the most powerful man in the Roman Republic felt like, but we all have knowledge of those human qualities. And I hope that as we read and perform from these works of antiquity, the students will connect to the people of the past on that human level.

A SUMMER OF CULT PRACTICE AND DRACULA

Erin Edwards



What does a cult have to do with Dracula? Thanks to the Ancient Studies department study abroad scholarship, I was able to find out when I traveled to Alba Iulia, Romania this summer. The excavation project, known as the Apulum Mithraeum III Project, is run by Dr. Matthew McCarty, Princeton University, Dr. Mariana Egri, University of Cluj, with the help of Dr. Gabriel Rustoiu, Director of the National Museum of Alba Iulia. Our team was comprised mostly of undergraduate, graduate students, and two Ph.D candidates. During Roman conquest of the second century AD, Alba Iulia was known as Apulum, home to the Legio XIII Gemina. A forum was built during the Roman period that was later the foundation for a Habsburg Hungarian fortress in the 18th century that still stands today. Located just

outside of the fortress, in the backyard of a local family's property, a Roman mithraeum was discovered in a rescue excavation in 2008; we are currently excavating here.

A mithraeum is a cultic temple devoted to the Roman god Mithras. Mystery rituals and a feast would have occurred here several times a year. Sacrifices were made to Mithras; but only men were allowed to participate in cult activity at the mithraeum. Our team excavated two fragmented inscriptions from inside a room of the mithraeum, as well as a sacrificial box-shaped structure in which burnt remnants were found. On Sundays, when we were not excavating, our team would take field trips around Romania; we went to the National Museum of Alba Iulia to look at the collection of Mithraic inscriptions and reliefs; we traveled to Roșia Montană and climbed hundreds of feet underground in a gold mine occupied by the Romans around 116 AD with original wooden beams still well preserved. We also went to Sarmisegetuza, where we toured the partially excavated Roman capital of the territory originally Dacia, and we went to Sighisoara, the birthplace of Vlad III, also known as Dracula. I was able to see first-hand the relationship between the Apulum mithraeum and the greater Roman occupied territory of Dacia. I hope to go back to Alba Iulia this coming summer with the Apulum Project so that I can develop my own research and assist in teaching students archaeological method.

FELLS POINT MARITIME MUSEUM INTERNSHIP

Dimitri Jordan

Over the summer, Sierra Benson-Brown, Heather Burtch, and Dimitri Jordan interned at the Fells Point Maritime Museum and Visitor Center in Baltimore, helping to study and recreate the lives of historic members of the Fells Point community, such as Robert Long, an 18th-century merchant, the Dashielle Family, who lived in Fells Point from the late 18th through the 19th centuries, and Lambert Wickes, a Captain in the Continental Navy during the American Revolutionary War.

Much of the work revolved around helping to run and maintain the Maritime Museum and Visitor Center: cleaning the museum exhibits, working in the gift shop, taking inventory, and replenishing supplies. Dressed in period clothing of the late 18th century, Sierra Benson-Brown, pictured here with Heather Burtch, was also in charge of giving tours through the Robert Long House, the oldest standing historical residence in Baltimore.



Preservation and record keeping was another large part of the internship. Tasks included creating book enclosures to house books from the 19th and early 20th century, as well as organizing and storing photographs in protective archival sleeves. Written documents ranging from handwritten notes, typed letters, bills, and other household objects were sorted and pieced together to begin to create an accurate representation of the Dashielle family.

Highlights of the internship included archaeological fieldwork at a 1790s wooden structure in Fells Point that had been the home of ship yard workers and their families, as well as African American ship caulkers. The latter lived there in the 1840s. Work as a ship caulker was skilled work and was one of the few professions open to African Americans in Baltimore before the Civil War. The group also meet with a delegation from Turkmenistan that sought to increase tourism in their country by investigating notable tourist sites in the US.

KUDOS!

To **Daniel Mackey**, **Denise Riviera**, and **Jessica Gordon** for being awarded scholarships to travel to Greece with the ANCS Department during Spring Break 2014.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2013 MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY 12-1 IN FA 450

OCTOBER 16: BAKE SALE

OCTOBER 21 – 25: ANCIENT STUDIES WEEK

October 22: Hands-on History: Discover the Spiro Collection with Ancient Studies' Student Researchers.

*October 24: Theatrical Thursday: *Gladiator**

November 9: Trip to the Franklin Institute to see the opening of the exhibit, "One day in Pompeii."

November 13: Bake sale

November 14: Dr. Barry Gittlen, "Inscriptions from Ancient Israel."

*November 21: Theatrical Thursday: *Troy**

*December 5: Theatrical Thursday: *TBD**

WINTER—SPRING 2014 COURSE SCHEDULE

Winter 2014			
ANCS 210	Classical Mythology	MTuWTh 9 am – 12:10 pm	Jake Shilling
ANCS 301	Travel Study 2014: Greece	TBA	David Rosenbloom Michael Lane
ARCH 120	World Archaeology	MTuWTh 6 pm – 9:10 pm	Esther Read
Spring 2014			
ANCS 202	Roman World	MW 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Tim Phin
ANCS 210	Classical Mythology	Hybrid Tu 10 am – 11:15 am	Tim Phin
ANCS 220	Judaism: Jesus & Hillel	MW 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Erin Villareal
ANCS 370	Rediscovery of Antiquity	TuTh 7:10 pm – 8:25 pm	Richard Mason
ARCH 200	Greek Archaeology & Art	MW 1 pm – 2:15 pm	Michael Lane
ARCH 201	Roman Archaeology & Art	TuTh 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Michael Lane
ARCH 220	Egyptian Archaeology	TuTh 1 pm – 2:15 pm	Richard Mason
ARCH 350/1	Museum Studies	MW 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Esther Read
ARCH 350/2	Environmental Archaeology	MWF 9 am – 9:50 am	Michael Lane
ARCH 350/3	GIS for Archaeologist	F 2 pm – 2:50 pm	Wes Bittner
GREK 102	Elementary Greek II	MTuWF 10 am – 10:50 am	David Rosenbloom
GREK 361	Greek Oratory: Lysias	MWF 2 pm – 2:50 pm	David Rosenbloom
LATN 102/1	Elementary Latin II	MTuWTh 9 am – 9:50 am	Tim Phin
LATN 102/2	Elementary Latin II	MTuWTh 11 am – 11:50 am	Bob Rivkin
LATN 331	Ovid	MWF 11 am – 11:50 am	Brent Gilbert
HIST 453	Greek History	TuTh 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm	Richard Mason

NEWS FROM THE SHERWINS: GREECE 2013

Rosalie and Walt Sherwin



Ancient Theater on Delos

Rosalie and Walt Sherwin traveled to Athens, Mykonos and Santorini in July. Although many-time visitors to Greece, it was their first visit to the New Acropolis Museum. (“Not in my lifetime will the Greeks get back the Elgin Marbles.” – W.S.). The often-visited Archaeological Museum was within walking distance of their hotel. They continued to be amazed by the “Antikythera Mechanism” on prominent display in a section of its own. They find it almost impossible to believe that this device functioned as an ancient computer.

Santorini was as beautiful as advertised, if somewhat crowded on days when the cruise ships disgorged their thousands of passengers for a four-hour shopping frenzy. But the wonderful ruins of Akrotiri are relatively tourist-free. The amazing site is completely covered and can be viewed easily from ramps quite comfortably.

The highlight of their trip was a visit to the sacred island of Delos, reached by ferry from the nearby island of Mykonos. Here is Walt’s description:

“If only I had been with an Ancient Studies study/travel group! I am certain I would have been accompanied if not trampled by students on my climb to the top of Mount Kynthos, the highest point on the island of Delos. After an extensive tour of the birthplace of Apollo with its fabulous ruins (Avenue of Lions, Theater, House of Dionysos, Sanctuary of Apollo ...), I was anxious to see for myself if indeed Poseidon had placed Delos in the center of the Cyclades. (Students of myth know that Poseidon fixed Delos permanently with chains to provide a refuge for Leto, pregnant by Zeus, to give birth to Apollo and Artemis. Hera had decreed that Leto not give birth in any land ‘under the sun.’ Until then Delos was a wandering island, covered by Poseidon’s waves and not ‘under the sun.’) Yes, it was hot (be sure to take water), and no, there was no shade (be sure to take more water), but to my dismay only one person from the entire ferry-load of travelers from Mykonos made the climb. After an arduous twenty-minute effort, the two of us reached the summit. I personally can report that Poseidon placed Delos well, indeed, at the center of the circle of islands. The view is majestic but still it is difficult to reconcile the current image of this desolate little island, where no one is permitted to remain overnight, with that of Delos in Roman times, a major trading center, with a population of 30,000.”

ALUMNI IN BRIEF

Peter Andes (ANCS, History, Philosophy BA 2012) is now working part time as Beth Well’s (Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Affairs) assistant and as assistant to the executive committee of Chapter 22 BC of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (of which he is a member, along with Phi Beta Kappa). Peter will start his MA in philosophy and social policy at George Washington University later this month. It is a two-year program he will do at night. He aspires to a PhD and also possibly to a career in higher education administration.

Christina Ross is a Development Intern at Port Discovery Children’s Museum.

Jonathan Kerr is an Urban Ranger at Baltimore National Heritage Area.

Ryan Szimanski is a Museum Technician at Historic Ships in Baltimore.

Emma Marston is an Administrative Assistant in the Communications Department, at Elgin Community College.

Katie Palupa is a Linguistics and Cognitive Science Master Degree Candidate at University of Delaware.

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