

Boston University Arts & Sciences:
Classical Studies

Classical Studies Newsletter

TO OUR WONDERFUL ALUMNI...

Fall 2023



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Message From the Chair

Dear friends, colleagues, and alums,

It is my pleasure to write this Chair's message for our newly revived Classical Studies newsletter, under the helm of our administrative team of Nancy Geourntas (department administrator) and Joseph Knapik (senior program coordinator). We plan to use this newsletter as a way to keep in touch with you all, so that you can all stay connected to the world of Classical Studies at BU. If there are particular themes or events you would like to see covered in this newsletter, please let us know!

Here in the department it is an exciting time of new arrivals. This Fall we have welcomed a new assistant professor of Latin literature, Rebecca Moorman, who is currently teaching an advanced Latin class on Apuleius. Due to our growing Ancient Greek and Latin language classes, we have also created the new position of Director of our Ancient Language Program, and have welcomed Laurie Hutcheson in that role. Laurie teaches language classes, mentors graduate student teachers, and also leads our new spoken Greek and Latin clubs. We also have two fantastic visiting lecturers with us this semester: Clinton Kinkade, who is teaching Latin, and Christopher Ell, teaching the Age of Pericles.

We are already busy preparing for our Spring semester. Alongside such beloved courses as Roman Comedy, Modern Greek Language and Culture, Roman History, and Greek Drama, we will be running a new class: 'Classics in Popular Culture' (CL 249), taught by BU professor (and alum!) V. Sophie Klein. From films to comics to video games, the Greek and Roman worlds are alive and well in contemporary popular culture. This course, which Prof. Klein has developed in collaboration with our Undergraduate Classics Association, will explore all of this and more!

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find pictures and information from some of the events we run regularly throughout the year. We are always eager for alumni to come back to BU and engage with these events, so please consider joining us for a lecture, conference, or performance! Please let us know if you want your email to be added to an email list for regular updates or follow us on our social media pages on Facebook ('Classical Studies at Boston University') and Instagram.

Wishing you all the best for a happy Fall,

James Uden
Professor and Department Chair



Announcements

Back by Popular Demand!!

The Summer Study in Greece Program

The department would like to announce that the Summer Study in Greece program will officially be resuming this year! This program is sponsored by The BU Philhellenes and has three primary goals:

1. To promote the appreciation of Greek culture and its continuous history from antiquity to the present day through cultural events at Boston University. Such events will encourage links between Boston University students and faculty, the Greek community of Boston, and the Boston community at large.
2. To promote Summer Study in Greece that will permit students to learn the Greek language and experience Greek culture.
3. To promote scholarships for the study of Modern Greek at Boston University.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to support our Summer Study in Greece Program for our students, please make your check payable to "Trustees of Boston University" and write "BUPh, #9300010861" in the memo line. Please send the check to:

Department of Classical Studies, c/o Nancy Geourntas, Department Administrator
Boston University, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA, 02215 .

All donations will be gratefully acknowledged.





Departmental Updates

Lecturer Laurie Glenn Hutcheson

I'm settling into my new role as language coordinator for Ancient Greek and Latin. So far, I'm enjoying teaching beginning Latin and Greek this year, and also—at the other end of the language curriculum—Greek Prose Composition! This past summer I returned to Rome to read Latin among the ruins, and also got to visit the Italian family I lived with when I studied abroad in college. I was happy to find I can still speak Italian, though I occasionally slip in a Latin word by mistake.

Dr. Brandon Jones

Dr. Brandon Jones completed his first full year in his new role as Managing Editor of *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics* to which he also recently contributed an essay on Cy Twombly and the MFA's special exhibition featuring his work. Brandon encourages those who want to subscribe, submit, or send ideas to the journal to be in touch (jonesbf@bu.edu).

Associate Professor Leah Kronenberg

Over the past few semesters, I have enjoyed teaching Latin courses on the little-read authors collected in Book 3 of the Tibullus manuscripts (including the only surviving female poet from the Roman world, Sulpicia), Virgil's *Eclogues*, and Cicero's *Philippics*; graduate courses on Catullus and the *Literary Culture of the 50s BCE* and *Latin Survey I*; and HUB courses on *Sexuality in Ancient Greece and Rome* and *the World of Rome*. I will miss teaching in 2024 but am also excited to have time to finish a book project on sexual allegory and poetics in Catullus thanks to generous funding from the BU Center for the Humanities. The highlight of my year was beating Professor Scully in our annual Greece vs. Rome debate and proving once and for all that Rome is better than Greece.

Postdoctoral Fellow Tori Lee

I had a great first year as part of the Classical Studies department and the Society of Fellows! I presented papers on my current book research at the conference Profs. Uden and Varhelyi organized this past spring, "Experiencing Insecurity: Pain, Trauma and Suffering in the Roman Empire," and at [Res Diff 4](#) on my work with various affinity groups throughout Classics. I also had the opportunity to travel to Coimbra, Portugal this July for the [14th Celtic Conference in Classics](#), where I gave a paper on the reception of Classics in the internet aesthetic Dark Academia and sampled Port wines with Prof. Moorman. In the spring, I taught *Women in Antiquity*, and I look forward to teaching a graduate seminar on *Latin Pastoral* this coming year!

Departmental Updates Continued

Assistant Professor Rebecca Moorman

Rebecca Moorman was delighted to join the department this July and has already been enjoying many enlightening conversations with BU's wonderful students! Her summer was spent relocating to Boston and traveling to conferences. In early July, she visited Coimbra, Portugal to give a paper on Persius' Satires at the Celtic Conference in Classics; in August, she went to Leiden, Netherlands to attend a conference on Economic Epistemologies in the Graeco-Roman world, where she gave a paper on bad poetry in the Satyricon. This year, she's looking forward to turning both of these papers into articles and continuing work on her first book, which explores the aesthetic and philosophical potential of disgust in Latin literature.



Rebecca Moorman (L) & Tori Lee (R)

Professor Stephanie Nelson

This last spring and fall has been both wonderful and a bit sad: sad because I have been away from BU and the department, but wonderful in that I have had a chance to travel not only to my pet foreign land, Ireland, but also to Crete (where my study of Modern Greek with Prof Polychroniou came in very handy!) and Japan. My time in Crete was just to experience the island, where I had been only once before, while in Japan I was delivering a paper on narrative time in Sophocles, Aristophanes and Ovid's use of the Tereus myth -- and of course just experiencing Japan. At the moment I am teaching in my own alma mater, St John's College in Annapolis (where Ancient Greek is required!) and enjoying it immensely -- but also very much looking forward to being back in the department in January.



Departmental Updates Continued

Professor Loren J. Samons II

Last fall Professor Samons returned to full-time teaching in the department after several years of splitting his time between Boston University and The American College of Greece in Athens (ACG). While he continues to consult for ACG, he is also teaching 160 students in Greek civilization (CL101) and Greek history (CL321) this semester, a personal record for number of students in one term. When asked what it was like to have so many students at the same time, Samons responded "It means I have to use more volume when I'm ranting. I really want to make sure the students in the back rows can fully grasp just how absurd the Athenian calendar systems were. Overall, I enjoy it." Now in his 31st year at B.U., Professor Samons will teach in the Core Curriculum again this spring as well as offering Warfare in Antiquity, which many students have called "Samons' loudest course." He continues to co-host the weekly radio program "The Historians" on WNTN 1550 and to work on a book on the rise of Athens and Perikles' rival Kimon. Nevertheless, he admits to having been side-tracked for a couple of years on the issue of Athens' relatively minor role in Homeric poetry and what he calls "pathetic" scholarly attempts to explain this fact. Having moved to a mountain top in far northwestern Massachusetts a few years ago, Professor Samons also spends considerable time trying to defend his property from encroaching foliage and unusually aggressive chipmunks.

Professor Stephen Scully

This past year marked a return to a life of a full-time faculty member, with four courses, including for the first time in years an advanced Latin class. I called my course "Catiline and his Friends" and, inspired by it, this past summer I searched out the battlegrounds near Pistoria (25 miles north of Florence) where Catiline and his army of 4 thousand strong all died. Also, last summer, I returned to the Iliad, finishing two papers and starting a third. It's good to be back.



Departmental Updates Continued

Professor Carl Ruck

As fulfillment of my Gaia Project proposal submitted in 2014, the Greek village of Elefsina (ancient Eleusis, site of the Mystery religion practiced there for two millennia) has been declared a Capital of European Culture for the present year, with celebrations ('How to Change Your Mind') organized by Brian Muraresku (author of *The Immortality Key: The Secret History of the Religion with No Name*, St. Martin's Press, 2020). Muraresku's book revitalizes the argument presented in my 1978 *The Road to Eleusis: Unveiling the Secret of the Mysteries* (written in collaboration with the banker and amateur ethnomycologist R. Gordon Wasson and the Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann, the discoverer of LSD). The Gaia Project proposed making the site of the ancient Mysteries the modern center for Environmental Studies, to renegotiate our contract with Mother Earth to evolve sustainable modes of human existence on a planet otherwise destined for conditions inhospitable to the continuance of living organisms. The event is simultaneously the announcement of the Wasson Foundation for the furtherance of studies of the role of entheogens in the history of mankind and its evolving future.

Professor James Uden

This year I'm entering my last year as department chair, and I look forward to returning soon to full-time teaching and research. In the meantime, though, I have been continuing work on a number of projects: a book on the human body in Latin epic (tentatively titled *Heroic Vulnerability*), articles and book chapters on the *Aeneid*, and a newer project on Seneca the Elder. A major highlight of my research time over the past year was an international conference co-organized with Zsuzsa Varhelyi, entitled 'Experiencing Insecurity: Pain, Trauma, and Suffering in the Roman Empire'. Despite the downbeat title, this was a truly energizing event, with a fabulous keynote speaker by Erica Caple James, medical anthropologist at MIT. Another highlight from the past summer was some days spent with my wonderful colleague Stephanie Nelson in Kobe, Japan. Sometimes you find classicists in the least expected places!

Past Lectures

2022-2023

Last academic year was jam packed with guest lecturers. Let us take a look at them here:

New Approaches to Classics Series

Generously funded by the Boston University Center for the Humanities.



Kristina Chew
Rutgers University
Translating Catullus and Catullus
Translating



Timothy Clark
Boston University
From Roman Geopolitics to American Law: How Classics Can Illuminate Historical Experiences and Structures of Racism and Othering



Laurie Hutcheson
Boston University
Penelope's {A}typical Thinking



Jenny Clay
University of Virginia
Last Tango in Ogygia: Gods and Men in Odyssey 5

Black Classicism Lectures

Sponsored in part by Boston University Core Curriculum and the African American Studies Program



Rosa Andújar (King's College)
Dionysus in the Caribbean: Appropriating Ancient Greek Theatre in the American "Mediterranean" Sea



Dominic Machado (College of the Holy Cross)
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Classics: A Model For A More Just Field?

Past Lectures Continued

Careers After Classics: Public Health



Claire Brown, MPH

Assistant Director of Student Support Services
Rutgers School of Public Health



Matthew Russel, MD, MSC

Clinical Director, Geriatrics Massachusetts
General Hospital

Conferences & Symposiums

Last year we had a total of two conferences and a literary symposium.

Inspiring Greek Women Writers and the Importance of Their Translation

This year the department was happy to hold a literary symposium featuring the work of Amanda Michalopoulou and Kallia Papadaki, in a celebration of the importance of women writers to contemporary cultural life in Greece. Speakers included those mentioned above as well as Vilemini Sosoni *Assistant Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting at the Ionian University*, Karen Emmerich, *Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Princeton University*, and our very own Kelly Polychroniou (Master Lecturer of Modern Greek).

Experiencing Insecurity: Pain, Trauma, and Suffering in the Roman Empire

Another welcomed addition to the department's roster of conferences was our Experiencing Insecurity Conference. This conference was held over the course of two days and included a long list of lectures including a keynote from Dr. Erica Caple James *Associate Professor of Anthropology at MIT*. A very special thanks goes to Professor Zsuzsanna Varhelyi for organizing this amazing conference.

2023 Graduate Student Conference: Comedy On & Off Stage

The topic of this years Graduate Conference was *Comedy On & Off Stage*. We had an amazing turn out at the conference and we would like to thank everyone that attended. We would also like to thank our speakers for your submissions and your wonderful presentations. And of course we would like to recognize the amazing work done by our graduate students who organized this years conference, Damon Hatheway, Colin Lacey, Will Lewis, Ilse van Rooyen, and Joe Watkins.

Fall 2023 Lectures

This Fall we had a wonderful line up of lecturers visit the department.

New Approaches to Classics Series



PROF. VICTORIA PAGÁN
University of Florida
Sallust and the Open Society



PROF. KATHERINE LU HSU
College of the Holy Cross
Meet Me Outside:
Mythological Courage and
Cowardice Beyond the
Hero



PROF. NIEK JANSSEN
Amherst College
Making Fit: Parody and
Decorum in Greco-Roman
Literature

Learn more at <https://www.bu.edu/classics/news-events/new-approaches/>

Black Classicism- Moving Forward



PROF. SONIA SABNIS
Reed College
W.E.B. Du Bois and The
Citationality of Ancient
Greece & Rome

Learn more at <https://www.bu.edu/classics/news-events/black-classicism-lectures/>

Past Events

GOREFEST 2022





Class Performances: Ancient Greek & Latin Skits

At the end of these past semesters we held performances where some of our undergraduates performed skits in Latin and Ancient Greek. Here are some of those highlights!

Fall 2022 Performances





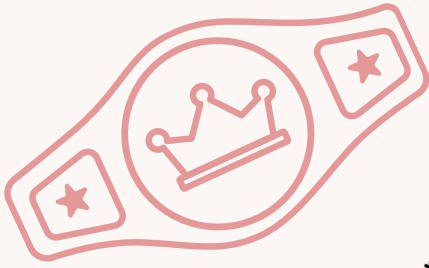
Spring 2023 Performances



Spring Ancient Comedy Production 2023: Plautus' Rudens or The Rope!



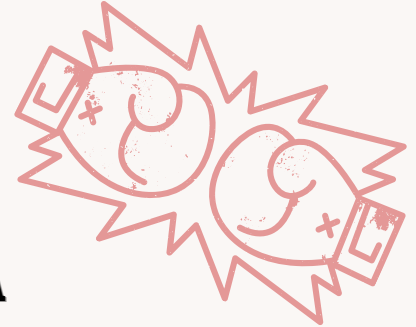
GREECE VS ROME DEBATE 2023



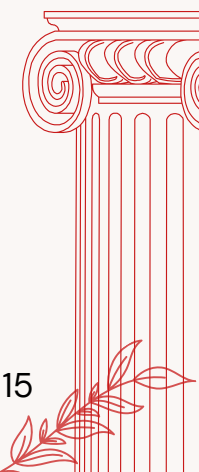
**WINNER:
ROME**

18 TO 13*

***1 SICILY & 1 MAGNA GRAECIA**



Convocation 2023





2022-2023 Awards & Recognition

Undergraduate Student Awards

Departmental Awards

Meyer Reinhold Prize: *Sophia Igarashi*

Ann Vasaly Prize for Excellence in Classics: *Brian Ko*

Fragoudakis Memorial Award: *Georgia Karantenislis & Luke Kennedy*

College of Arts and Sciences Award

College Prize: *Zowie Rico*

BU Center for Humanities Award Winners

The Dean Elsbeth Melville Latin Prize: *Kit Huong Li*

The John Oddy Memorial Award:

- *Vivian Dai*
- *Mairead Downes*
- *Aarohi Goel*

The Alice M. Brennan Humanities Award: *John Griffin*

Graduate Student Awards

Departmental Awards

Excellence in Classics Teaching: *Joseph Watkins*

Graduate School Awards

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award: *Ilse Van Rooyen*

BU Center for Humanities Award Winners

Clarimond Mansfield Award: *Alicia Matz*

Edwin S. and Ruth M. White Prize: *Maya Chakravorty*

External Awards

American School of Classical Studies in Athens

Ostwald Martin Fellowship: *James Aglio*

National Endowment for the Humanities

Distinguished Professor of the Humanities: *Zsuzsa Várhelyi*

Fall 2023 Events

GOREFEST 2023




Fall 2023 Events Continued

Class Events

Join us for a screening of

THE FROGS

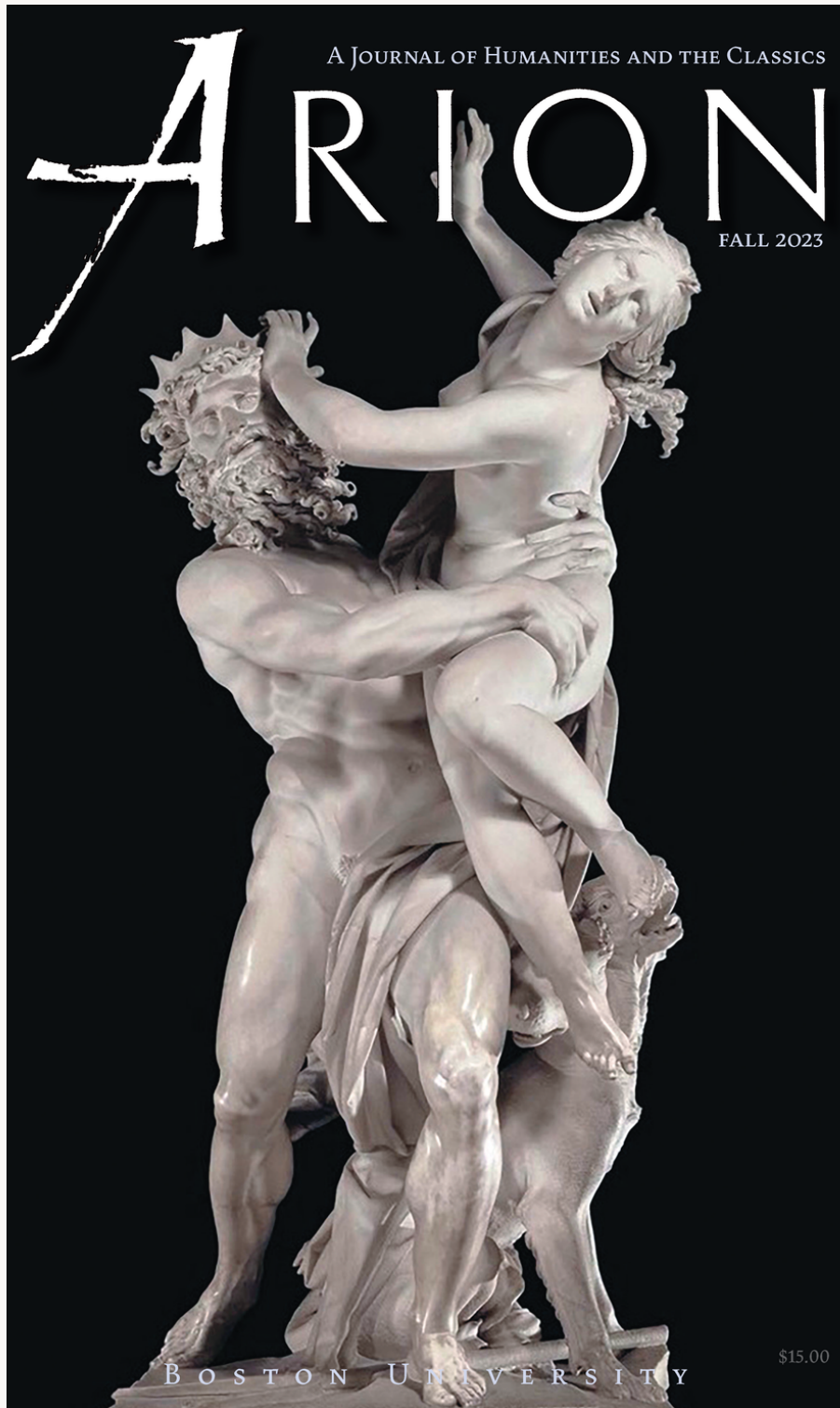


A full-length film in Ancient Greek (with English subtitles)
based on Aristophanes' *Frogs*, Euripides' *Alcestis*,
Plato's *Symposium*, and *The Battle of Frogs and Mice*.

Wednesday, November 29th, 5-7pm
Screening in: PHO 206

Refreshments will be provided

Publications



Issue 31.2 Fall 2023 of Arion is Here!
Go to www.bu.edu/arion/ to subscribe!

Publications Continued

KATHRYN A. BARD

INTRODUCCIÓN A LA
ARQUEOLOGÍA
DEL ANTIGUO
EGIPTO




NUU

Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt
by Professor Kathryn Bard
recently translated to Spanish