

**Classics Newsletter – St. Olaf College
July, 2021**

Summer greetings from St. Olaf, where vaccinations are working their magic and campus life is recovering its former hustle and bustle. Since December, when we mailed out a delayed 2020 newsletter, the Class of 2021 has “commenced” in a ceremony that was able to be held outdoors on a lovely Saturday afternoon. We are happy that the Class of 2020 will have the chance for a similar experience on Saturday, August 14.



Seniors Libby Barth, Emma Bunde, Chloe Hanstra, Kara Anderson, and Julia Walter pose in their regalia on the porch of Steensland Hall.

This year’s graduates deserve credit for having done so well and stayed so cheerful throughout the pandemic. Of our ten senior majors (6 Classics, 3 Ancient Studies, 1 Medieval Studies), two will begin Classics M.A. programs in the fall: Emma Bunde at Wash. U. in St. Louis and Alex Kiprof (in photo) at U. of Arizona. After two years with Teach for America in Mississippi, Jo Spellman ’19



will begin the Classical Languages M.A. program at the U. of Georgia.



We’ve decided to have a 50th reunion for Delta Chi, St. Olaf’s chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics honor society (founded May 10, 1971), on campus on Sat., Oct. 23. If enough people want to come, we can reserve a block of rooms in a local hotel. There will be no charge for registration or lunch. All events will take place in Tomson Hall. We’ll record the talks for the benefit of those who can’t be there in person.

Here’s the tentative program: 9-10 a.m.: registration; chatting; 10 a.m.: welcome; 10:15-11, 11:15-noon: vocational paths (2 panel sessions, each with alumni speaking about their lives/careers); noon-1 p.m.: lunch; more chatting; 1:15-2 p.m.: faculty/student presentation (“Classics at St. Olaf, Then and Now”); 2-3 p.m.: raffle (Classics books, buttons, and other memorabilia), closing remarks, optional campus tours, more chatting.

If you’re interested in being one of our panel speakers, please let us know (groton@stolaf.edu) by August 15. We may be able to help with travel expenses.

Speaking of Eta Sigma Phi, seven students and faculty member Kathryn Steed were initiated into Delta Chi on the Ides of March. The photo shows Eli Moore ’24, son of James Moore ’86, signing the roll book during the ceremony. Several students participated in the national convention, hosted virtually by Truman State U. on the weekend of Apr. 16-18. We hope to send a contingent to next year’s convention at U. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



After the success of our Classics Book Club last fall, Olivia Simonson ’23 (see photo) took the initiative to organize a reading group for the spring. It focused on Helen Morales’ *Antigone Rising: The Subversive Power of the Ancient Myths* (Bold Type Books, 2020).



We were delighted that Prof. Morales could join us virtually for the last session, zooming in from UC-Santa Barbara. Speakers at the Classics Conversation Table during interim and spring included JuliAnne Rach ’20, Devin Ames ’19, Shawn Stafford ’96, Jason James ’95, Michelle Domondon ’00, and Elizabeth Beerman ’07. The Alec Award was presented to seniors Kara Anderson and Julia Walter by Jeremiah Harrelson ’99 and family.



On Mar. 18 Prof. John F. Miller (U. of Virginia) attended a Latin class, met with our majors, and delivered the postponed Fourth Annual James M. May Lecture in Classics, “Contesting Muses.” If you missed his excellent talk and the Q&A that followed, you should treat yourself to watching the archived stream on the St. Olaf website.

After a one-year hiatus our “Groomis” (= Groton & Loomis) Greek and Latin translation contests returned. Winners were announced at the Bacchanalia, which, sadly, had to be held in a classroom instead of at a professor’s home. Three of the students received special Groomis awards to support Classics-related projects, and each senior member of



Delta Chi received a small gift: a book or a Classics sticker! The faculty had fun cording the seniors and performing A. E. Housman’s “Fragment of a Greek Tragedy.” In the photos Hilary Bouxsein cords Rachel Wyffels (wearing the 2019-20

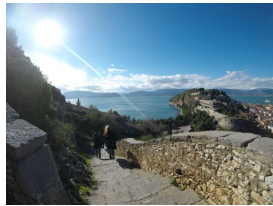


Classics t-shirt), Kyle Helms claps for Alex Davies, and Anne Groton (Chorus member) points at Steve Reece, who is dressed as a cow for his debut in the role of Io. Three years have passed without a



St. Olaf Latin/Greek play, but something theatrical is already brewing in the mind of the department chair!

30 students, chosen from a pool of 85 (!) applicants, are ready to fly to Greece with Anne Groton and mentee Kyle Helms in January. The go/no go decision will be made in September. Because no travel abroad has been possible, we found ourselves with unspent earnings and were able to award not only our two full scholarships (one funded by Ken and Kathy Loomis, the other by Greg Randall and Toni Wilkes) but also grants of \$300 to \$2,000, based on financial need, to 15 other students. Thank you, donors! (That’s the town of Nauplion in the photo.)



The Reeces recently moved a few blocks north into a stylish house, where Steve will enjoy spending his sabbatical in 2021-22. Hilary Bouxsein will fill in for him; we’ll be glad to have her totally in Classics and not split between us and Great Con. Kathryn Steed has kindly agreed to come back and teach for us in the fall and interim. Kyle Helms will tackle two new courses, “Classics & Race” in the fall and, in the spring, a first-year seminar using role-immersion games: “Reacting to the Past: Ancient Greece and Imperial China.”

Faculty photos: Jim and Donna May plan to visit Rome and then go on a pilgrimage in France in September.



Joe with Beckett & Ivy; Jim; Mike with Charlotte & Augustus



Rhonda & Steve with Taylor, Kayli, Ellie, & Teddy in Sioux Falls



Caitlin & Kyle with Hattie, Phoebe, Wallace, & Cherry Blossom

There’s no more space, so you can just imagine what the rest of us look like! We’re in the midst of “visioning” about the department, prompted by a new general education curriculum (OLE Core) and by the prospect of two faculty retirements (*mirabile dictu*) in the next decade. Hope to see you at our 50th reunion!