



THE SIXTH ANNUAL
JAMES M. MAY
LECTURE IN CLASSICS

St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota

Click [here](#) for link to live stream.

JAMES M. MAY

Jim May retired in 2017 after teaching at St. Olaf for 40 years. He was Provost and Dean of the College (2002-11) and Kenneth O. Bjork Distinguished Professor (2014-17).

May graduated from Kent State University with a B.S. in Latin Education and English; he went on to earn a Ph.D. in Classical Philology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of many articles on classical rhetoric and Latin pedagogy, and of several books: *Trials of Character: The Eloquence of Ciceronian Ethos*, an annotated translation (co-authored with Jakob Wisse) of Cicero's *On the Ideal Orator*, *A Cicero Reader*, *38 Latin Stories*, and *46 Stories in Classical Greek* (the last two co-authored with Anne Groton). In addition, he edited *Brill's Companion to Cicero: Oratory and Rhetoric*. His most recent book, *How to Win an Argument: An Ancient Guide to the Art of Persuasion* (Princeton, 2016), has been translated into nine languages!

Former President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South and the Classical Association of Minnesota, May held two NEH Fellowships and directed two NEH Summer Seminars for School Teachers. He served the American Philological Association in a number of capacities, including on the Board of Directors, as Vice President for Education, and as Vice President for Professional Matters. He won the APA's Award for Excellence in the Teaching of the Classics in 1986 and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award in 1991. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Eta Sigma Phi, the national Classics honor society, in 2019.

May has visited Greece 37 times and rowed on the crew of the trireme *Olympias*. He restores antique trucks, cars, and tractors, competes in handball, and grows grapes to make his own wine. He has built houses, harpsichords, a tortoise-shell lyre, and a bouzouki. He enjoys performing Gregorian chant, singing with his wife Donna in the chamber choir that she directs, and cavorting with their two sons, Joe (+ Bethany) and Mike (+ Sheila), and four grandchildren, Augustus (7), Beckett (5), Charlotte (4), and Ivy (2), who all live nearby.

STEVE REECE

The Sixth Annual James M. May Lecture in Classics, entitled "The Power of Personal Names: From Homer to the New Testament," will be delivered by Steve Reece, Professor of Classics at St. Olaf College, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 11, 2023, in Viking Theater, Buntrock Commons.

Steve Reece grew up in Niigata in northern Japan. He earned a B.A. and M.A. in Classics at the University of Hawaii and a Ph.D. in Classics at the University of California, Los Angeles. After teaching at Texas A&M and Vanderbilt University (Mellon Fellow), he joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1994.

In Homeric studies Reece is best known for his two books, *The Stranger's Welcome: Oral Theory and the Aesthetics of the Homeric Hospitality Scene* (Michigan, 1993) and *Homer's Winged Words: Junctural Metanalysis in Homer in the Light of Oral-Formulaic Theory* (Brill, 2009), for which he received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. More recently, he has published two books in New Testament studies, *Paul's Large Letters: Paul's Autographic Subscription in the Light of Ancient Epistolary Conventions* (T&T Clark, 2016) and *The Formal Education of the Author of Luke-Acts* (T&T Clark, 2022). He has conducted research at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (Lord Fellowship), the American Academy in Rome (Fulbright Fellowship), the Center for Studies in Oral Tradition at the University of Missouri (NEH Fellowship), and the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C.

At St. Olaf Reece has served as Boldt Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities, faculty representative to the Board of Regents, and Chair of the Classics Department. He has participated in archaeological excavations at Tel Megiddo in Israel and climbed a dozen active volcanoes. He describes himself as "a hopeful fisherman, a wannabee basketball player, and an indolent bike-rider." He looks forward to becoming a crossing guard at Greenvale Elementary School after he retires this summer. He and his wife Rhonda, former Minister of Music at Bethel Lutheran Church, have a daughter Hannah, a son Taylor (+ Kayli), and two grandchildren, Ellie (5) and Teddy (2), whom they love to visit in Sioux Falls, S.D.

“Reece’s Pieces” Alumni Symposium

Saturday, March 11, 2023, Viking Theater, Buntrock Commons

Panel 1 (Classical Studies)

1:30-2:45 p.m.



Dr. Andrea F. Gatzke '05 (Classics & History major)

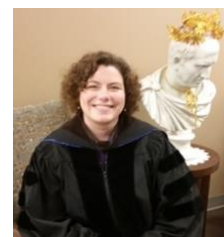
Ph.D. in History & Classics, Pennsylvania State University; now Associate Professor of Ancient Mediterranean History, State University of New York, New Paltz, NY

Title: “Herodotus, Persia, and the Late Hellenistic Period”

Dr. Hilary J. Boussein '09 (Classics & Philosophy major)

M.A., Ph.D. in Classics, University of Virginia; former Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics, St. Olaf College; at University of Oxford in 2022-23

Title: ““You Don't Seem Like an Athlete’: Contests, Suffering, and Ring Composition in Homer's *Odyssey*”



Mr. Collin J. Moat '13 (Classics & History major)

M.A. in Classical Philology, University of Arizona; Ph.D. student in Classics, University of California, Los Angeles; at American School of Classical Studies at Athens in 2022-23

Title: “Stranger in the Doorway: The Significance of Thresholds in the *Odyssey*'s Hospitality Scenes”

Panel 2 (Theological Studies)

2:45-4:00 p.m.



Dr. Jon S. Bruss '89 (Classics major)

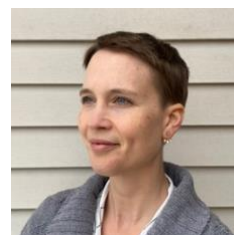
M.Div., Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary; M.A., Ph.D. in Classics, University of Minnesota; former Assistant Professor of Classics, St. Olaf College; now Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN

Title: “Homerus Leucoriensis: Homer in Reformation Wittenberg”

Dr. Julia Kelto Lillis '04 (Ancient Studies, Greek, & Music major)

M.Div., Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D. in Religion, Duke University; now Assistant Professor of Early Church History, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY

Title: “Historicizing Gender, Bodies, Virginity: The Unexpected Questions Greeklings Can Pursue”



Dr. Kristofer Phan Coffman '13 (Religion major)

M.Div., Luther Seminary; Ph.D. in Classical & Near Eastern Religions & Cultures, University of Minnesota; now Assistant Professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Title: “Please Don’t Eat Your Guests: Biblical Hospitality in Light of an Ancient Mediterranean Motif”