



## Salvétē, amici!

In the midst of some very surreal times with COVID-19, as we pour our efforts into delivering high-quality content to our students remotely, we are pleased to share our second annual edition of the departmental newsletter. May it be a welcome distraction for those of you who are engaged in social distancing, and please accept our best wishes for your continued good health.

The year 2019 was another busy one as we took students to Europe, put finishing touches on publications, travelled to conferences, celebrated (and mourned) the retirement of Dr. Hugh Parker, participated in the formulation of a new General Education program at UNCG, and continued to welcome students in our courses, from ancient Greek to Roman Daily Life. Read more about these developments below!

## Transitions in the Department

Much of our time in the fall was spent reading through applications and interviewing candidates to replace Hugh Parker. We decided to look specifically for a scholar who could round out our curriculum on the Greek side of things, as well as to teach ancient Greek, and we were very pleased with the quality of the applicants. The information about our new hire will be in the newsletter next year, but feel free to check our website ([classics.uncg.edu](https://classics.uncg.edu)) in August for updates! In the meantime, we have been lucky to have Dr. Elliott Piros (PhD, UCLA, 2019) teaching for us as a lecturer this year.



## Students embark on transformational trips

Our faculty directed several successful and transformational student trips to Italy, Greece, and Montenegro in 2019.

### UNCG in Rome

Jonathan Zarecki and Rebecca Muich took 15 students to Rome and the Bay of Naples for the fifth iteration of UNCG in Rome. The trip was a resounding success; new excursions this year included the site at Baiae (and a dedicated “beach” day!) on the Bay of Naples. Alumni of the Rome program will be happy to hear that the rest of the itinerary is much the same: Forum Fun Day is still happening, for example, as well as the supplementary excursions to the Protestant Cemetery, Fosse Ardeatine, and the night walk with gelato tastings.

### Kea Archaeological Project

The Kea Archaeological Research Project this summer, consisting of a team of international students and faculty led by Joanne Murphy, spent six weeks in Greece working on the finds from their 2012-2014 field work. They spent the first week of the project touring Athens, Corinth, Mycenae, and other major sites in Greece with a group of alumni from the College of Arts and Sciences.

This tour contextualized the research project in the larger debates of Greek culture by highlighting the changing patterns in landscape use and wealth distributions through time. After the tour, the real work began and the students worked for five weeks on Kea helping the specialists sort, number, measure, and describe thousands of pottery sherds. This analysis led to the three main discoveries of the season: clusters of Bronze Age sites, models of long-term occupation at the Hellenistic towers, and the changing origins of imports during the historic periods.

### Excavations at Doclea

Robyn Le Blanc inaugurated a new phase of excavations at Doclea, a Roman administrative city in Montenegro (ancient Dalmatia) with colleagues from Bulgaria and Montenegro. The excavation team and nineteen volunteers (including a recent graduate from UNCG) conducted excavations around the area of the main temple, possibly dedicated to Jupiter. Major finds in 2019 included completing the excavation of a mosaic surface for a house near the temple which was destroyed in the 4th or 5th century CE; excavators also reached the level of the earliest Roman activity in the area around the temple. Future plans are to continue to excavate in the area around the temple and to determine the extent and nature of the earliest sanctuary, dating to before the 3rd c. CE.



Dr. Robyn Le Blanc poses in Montenegro with a student.

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Our faculty and staff have also brought kleos to the department with their myriad activities.

- **David Wharton** gave a paper on "Prestige, Colour, and Colour Language in Imperial Rome" at the 66th Annual Entretiens sur l'Antiquité classique conference in Switzerland in September.
- **Maura Heyn** also gave a paper on Palmyrene funerary art at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in October.
- **Robyn Le Blanc** presented her research on coinage at VLAC (Visual Languages of Ancient Coins) conference at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, in November.
- **Joanne Murphy**, who presented her research on Pylos' relationship with Minoan Crete in Chania, Crete in November, also spearheaded the NC Humanities corridor and Transforming the Humanities initiative funded by Mellon that is now gaining national notice.
- **Rebecca Muich** co-taught a course on Africans in the Greco-Roman World with Dr. Omar Ali (Dean, Lloyd International Honors College).
- **Shannon Byers**, our administrative assistant and head wrangler, won the UNCG College of Arts and Sciences Staff Excellence Award in 2019.



## Student Accomplishments

Our students continue to impress us with their hard work, talent, and ingenuity. **The Classical Society** has been active promoting fellowship in the department and planning various classically themed activities. Derek Keyser and John Esposito both gave presentations on their research at the biweekly meetings in the fall.

Several of our majors also presented papers at conferences this year, at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and both the Honors and Undergraduate Research Symposia on campus. Jessie Bell was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Michael Bell and London Nance were awarded undergraduate research fellowships for projects on importing rites and ideologies under the direction of Joanne Murphy on Kea. Michael worked on symposia and London worked on the relationship between the location of new religious buildings and globalization at the city state of Karthaiia.

### Classics Day

Classics Day, on November 9, was also another huge success with 400 students from across the state in attendance. In addition to the ever-popular military drills and booths, we had several new events this year, including a dramatic rendition of the Laocoon scene from Virgil's Aeneid at the opening ceremonies and a popular new booth for painting dramatic masks.



## Stay in touch!

We invite you to keep up with departmental activities in the following ways:

- **Visit our website** (<https://classics.uncg.edu/>)
- **Like us on Facebook** (@UNCGClassicalStudies)
- **Follow us on Twitter** (@UNCGClassics)

Please keep us updated on what is happening in your lives and careers; we appreciate the opportunity to highlight your accomplishments on our website. Feel free to contact me directly ([mkheyn@uncg.edu](mailto:mkheyn@uncg.edu)).

Our annual alumni reunion, in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend at UNCG, has become one of the highlights of the year. We hope to see many of you at World of Beer in October 2020!



With best wishes,  
Dr. Maura Heyn  
Head, Department of Classical Studies

