

Blegen Bulletin

A publication for the alumni and friends of the Department of Classics

Editor: Carol Hershenson

The Cincinnati Room in Loring Hall

Bedroom named for the University of Cincinnati in the renovated Student Center at the ASCSA

The Friends of the University of Cincinnati have named a bedroom in the Student Center at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. More than 50 donors contributed to the fundraising effort, which was spearheaded by Professors Jack L. Davis and Kathleen M. Lynch. Davis is a past Director of ASCSA and Lynch is currently Vice-Chair of the Managing Committee.

UC and ASCSA have a long relationship. UC became a cooperating institution of ASCSA in 1923, under the leadership of UC Classics chair William Semple, and began their first excavation the following year at Nemea, directed by Carl W. Blegen, then assistant director of ASCSA. From that beginning, UC has conducted many excavations and archaeological projects under the auspices of ASCSA, perhaps most famously at the Mycenaean palace at Pylos (1939, 1952-71, and 1990-present) and the prehistoric town of Ayia Irini, Kea (1960-89).

Personnel have flowed freely between ASCSA and UC — mostly from Cincinnati to Athens, as UC alumni have spent some part of their careers at the School; for example, two directors of ASCSA were UC Classics alumni: John L. “Jack” Caskey (PhD ’39 and ASCSA director 1949-59), and Davis (PhD ’77 and ASCSA director 2007-12).

Innumerable UC students have gone to Athens as Regular and/or Associate Members of ASCSA, and many of them, to judge from



Carl Blegen. Athens, March 1929.

Photograph by Francis Henry Bacon

the large number of donors to the Cincinnati room, remember their time in Athens fondly. Davis and Lynch expressed that sentiment eloquently in the announcement of the Cincinnati Room: “For many of us, our time at the American School was a highlight and life-changing... The University of Cincinnati Room is a thank you to the School from all of us.”

No few, however, have gone in the opposite direction. Blegen had been a student

(1910-11), fellow (1911-12), secretary (1913-20), assistant director (1920-26), and acting director (1926-27) at ASCSA before becoming professor of archaeology at UC (1927-57); he returned to Athens for a second brief period as its first director when ASCSA reopened after WWII and the civil war in Greece (1948-49) before returning again to Cincinnati as head of UC Classics (1950-57). Caskey likewise returned to Cincinnati after his directorship at ASCSA to succeed his former thesis advisor, Blegen, as professor of archaeology and head of the department (1959-73). Blegen also recruited to Cincinnati Peter Topping, librarian of the Gennadius Library, as professor of history and modern Greek studies; Eva Catafygiotu Topping, a scholar of the Orthodox church, to teach Modern Greek; and Eugenia Foster, an assistant librarian at ASCSA, as curator of the UC modern Greek collection.

The Cincinnati Room is part of a \$9.4 million capital campaign for the expansion and complete renovation of Loring Hall, the Annex, and the West House into a Student Center at ASCSA. The renovation will preserve the exteriors of the buildings, but bring all facilities and infrastructure up to modern safety codes, add a second floor to the Annex, increase the accommodations from 41 to 54, give each bedroom a private bathroom, and add elevators, a new kitchen, a fitness room, Wi-Fi accessibility, and air conditioning.

UC Classics Welcomes New Faculty

Caitlin Hines

Caitlin Hines joined UC Classics in autumn 2020 with a PhD (2018) from the University of Toronto.

Hines's dissertation, "Ovid's *Visceral Reactions: Reproduction, Domestic Violence, and Civil War*," explored the semantic shift in the use of the Latin word "viscera" by the poet Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid) in the



early first century CE. Previously a morally neutral term for internal organs, Ovid employs the word as a "metaphor for wombs and children, ... specifically in contexts of domestic violence and civic discord." In his later exilic poetry, Ovid used the word as a metaphor for his own poems, associating the act of creating poetry with the dangers of sexual reproduction. The metaphoric use of this word inaugurated by Ovid continued to echo through literature during the later Julio-Claudian and Flavian dynasties, revealing both "what is Augustan about Ovid, and what is Ovidian about the poet's literary successors."

From the focused lens of changes in the use of the single word "viscera," Hines's current research expands the perspective to broader views of the politicization of reproduction and the "shockingly violent" language about women's bodies during the Augustan period; it explores language as a fluid phenomenon that changes in response to political changes. The Ovidian connections in vocabulary between reproduction, violence, and civil discord are the opposite of Augustan associations between fertility and peace. Augustan reproductive politics and their poetic inversion by Ovid intersect in obvious ways with modern hyper-focus on women's bodies and on the "reaching arm of the government" over control of reproductive decisions. Hines described her research into the use and meaning of metaphors by means of a metaphor: looking through a grain of sand to explore the shore.

Hines was drawn into Classics as an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill when she enrolled in a first year seminar on ancient epic and a course on women in antiquity, the latter cross-listed in Classics and Women's Studies. Hines remains interested in cross-platform courses like the latter that have the potential to spark student insights through intersectional education.

Hines joined Brant Russel from the College Conservatory of Music in coordinating the streaming of *Antigone in Ferguson* by the Theater of War in October, extending past collaborations between UC Classics, CCM, and Theater of War to present ancient dramas with contemporary resonance. Sophocles' *Antigone*, with its themes of civil disobedience and disjunction between law and morality, dovetails with Hines's interest in political messaging in poetry and has a history of use as a vehicle for political commentary; *Antigone in Ferguson* had been developed in Ferguson, Missouri as a live performance with local actors, but the pandemic-necessitated virtual performance, of which the University of Cincinnati was a co-sponsor, allowed the play to reach a much wider audience.

Hines moved to Cincinnati in July 2020, during the shut-down for the pandemic; her first year at UC was therefore not a typical new faculty experience. She is looking forward to "a second first year" as a faculty member of UC Classics, which she described as a "dream job".

Calloway Scott

Calloway Scott came to UC Classics in 2019 with a PhD from New York University two years earlier. His current research explores ancient health and its opposite as biological, social, and political phenomena, informed by medical history and medical anthropology; his sources include technical treatises, material culture, and Classical Greek healing cults.



Scott traces his interest in the history of medicine to "sort of an accident." In his first year of grad school he happened to have two seminars: one on Greek hero cults and another on Thucydides. In the first he chose a site report on Epidauros, based on an interest in Sophocles who had famously housed the sacred serpent of Asklepios when that cult was introduced into Athens in 420/19 BCE; in the second, he was working on Thucydides' account of the plague that struck Athens in 430 BCE, and was drawn into the historian's relationship with contemporary medical texts, which introduced him to the study of the Hippocratic Corpus. The simultaneous study of the archaeology and history of the Asklepios cult and of the intellectual tradition of Hippocratic medicine united his longstanding interests in classics and science. The apparently conflicting medical and cultic responses to disease enjoyed a floruit in Greece at roughly the same time in the latter half of the 5th century BCE, although each may have originated earlier. Medical anthropology and the sociology of medicine suggested an explanation for why these two seemingly opposed yet widely popular forms of healing could have flourished synchronically in ancient Greece. Those methodological frameworks help describe health seeking behaviors; the ways people make sense of health and illness; and ways in which science itself is not a "neutrally" descriptive enterprise but always bound up in the messy worlds of its practitioners. His subsequent research has continued to explore the ways that science, as a system for organizing knowledge in ways useful to people, is always enmeshed with the society formed by those people and with the values and expectations of that society.

The contemporary relevance of Scott's research into the anthropology and sociology of medicine has become clear during the past year and a half. In April he spoke on "Health and Disease in Ancient Greek Thought" at a Zoom webinar hosted by the NYU Center for Ancient Studies titled *Pandemics: In Antiquity and Beyond*. Scott demonstrated that episodes of epidemic disease are "already entangled in the social and political, both as they are experienced first-hand, and as they are received and reconfigured and repurposed to meet specific needs of specific peoples in specific contexts." He compared medical responses to the plague in Athens in 430 BCE as related by conflicting literary traditions with the religious response to the (fictive) plague that sets the plot in motion at the beginning of the *Iliad*, which was ended by a communal performance of a hymn to Apollo, a Paian. He noted that while the Greek Hippocratic corpus of medical writings viewed health as an individual matter of balancing elements such as wet and dry, heat and cold, the Paian emphasized a social perspective on the health of the body politic that was "more capacious, more outward-facing, more sensitive to the embodied interdependencies on which human flourishing depends".

UC Classics archaeologists and research honored

The groundbreaking research of Jack L. Davis (PhD 1977 and Carl W. Blegen Professor of Greek Archaeology) and Sharon R. Stocker (PhD 2010 and Senior Research Associate) at Pylos, a site first excavated and published by Carl W. Blegen before and after World War II, continues to reveal new surprises and to garner new honors.

Their most spectacular discovery, the unrobbed early Mycenaean grave of the Griffin Warrior that Stocker and Davis excavated in 2015, has itself been lauded in several “top ten” lists. The January/February 2021 issue of *Archaeology* magazine, the popular publication of the Archaeological Institute of

America, named it one of the top ten archaeological discoveries of the past decade (<https://www.archaeology.org/issues/406-2101/features/9262-top-10-discoveries-of-the-decade>). *Current World Archaeology* (9.4-100 (2020) had previously selected it as one of the ten “most exciting discoveries about our shared past” that the magazine has published in its first 100 issues (<https://www.world-archaeology.com/features/rewriting-the-past/>).

Stocker and Davis were honored by the President of Greece, Katerina Sakellariopoulou, with medals of the Commander of the Order of the Phoenix in April 2021. President Sakellariopoulou cited Davis and Stocker’s excavation of the Griffin Warrior Grave and their excavations and archaeological research in general as contributions to Greek archeology and to the promotion of Greek culture internationally. In this award, Stocker and Davis follow in the footsteps of UC Classics luminaries; in 1957 King Paul bestowed a rank described in contemporary news stories as “Knight Commander” of the Royal Order of the Phoenix on William T. Semple, first chair of the department, and Blegen had been given the Order of the Redeemer in 1919 for his service on behalf of refugees.

This award follows the Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement bestowed upon Davis by the Archaeological Institute of America at the 2020 AIA-SCS meetings in Washington, D.C. The AIA announcement of this award placed Davis “at the forefront of ‘second-wave’ archaeological survey in the Mediterranean” and lauded the use of “new technologies and sciences, such as early GIS, GPS, and geophysics” in his fieldwork; it also cited his prolific archaeological



Sharon Stocker (left), President Katerina Sakellariopoulou (center), Jack Davis (2nd right), with fellow archaeological honoree Charles Williams and Lena Mendoni, Minister of Culture and Sports

publications. Davis is the third professor from UC Classics to receive the AIA Gold Medal; Blegen was the first recipient of that award in 1965, and John “Jack” Caskey (PhD 1939) was honored in 1980.

Davis and Stocker were also invited to deliver the Michael Ventris Memorial Lecture hosted by the Institute of Classical Studies in London in May 2021. In “Tales from Nestor’s Crypt” they reviewed their recently discovered additions to the cemeteries around Pylos. Davis discussed their current understanding of the grave of the Griffin Warrior and its history, and outlined their plan of publication, as a series of comprehensive studies of particular classes of objects when ready.

Stocker presented the latest findings

from the two new tholoi (VI and VII) they have been excavating since 2016, located on the same ridge northeast of the Palace on which Blegen had excavated Tholos IV half a century earlier.

In spring semester 2019, Davis united the superficially disparate strands of his wide-ranging archaeological career in the 105th series of six Sather lectures, which he was invited to deliver at the University of California Berkeley. His diverse methodologies (intensive surface survey, which he helped introduce in the Mediterranean, as well as excavation), periods of expertise (from prehistoric through Ottoman), and areas of the study in the Aegean (from Kea in the Cyclades to Albania) all relate to enduring interests in cultural change over the *longue durée* and across landscapes. His lectures spiraled in from these broad chronological and topographic perspectives to focus on the recent research around Pylos that he and/or Stocker have led in a series of projects: investigation of the early Mycenaean palace in the course of preparing to replace the modern roof over the remains; reorganization of the storerooms of Blegen’s campaigns; mining of the archives of Blegen’s excavations; excavation of the Griffin Warrior grave; reinvestigation of the cemeteries around the settlement; and excavation, now nearly complete, of the two recently discovered tholos tombs. In this honor, Davis’s career mirrors that of Blegen, the namesake of his professorship, who delivered half the Sather lectures in spring of 1942, when John D. Beazley, the originally scheduled speaker, was unable to travel from Britain because of the dangers of World War II. Publication of Davis’s Sather lectures, titled *A Greek State in Formation*, is anticipated from University of California Press (Berkeley) in 2022.

Outreach 2.0

Under the title “Outreach 2.0” and the leadership of Kathleen Lynch, UC Classics’ award-winning Outreach program embraced remote teaching in AY 2020–2021, offering presentations either as a virtual, real time visit or as a pre-recorded lecture tailored to the time and subject specifications of the requestor.

STEM friendly topics on medicine and astronomy were also added to the choices in order to open doors to new classrooms. An OLLI class was offered again, this time remotely, aggregating presentations by different speakers under the title “Life in Ancient Greece and Rome.”

The total number of presentations was understandably down — slightly more than half of the most active years, in which there had approximately 120 presentations. Requestors were nevertheless grateful and enthusiastic about the remote presentations; post-visit evaluation forms included expressions like “Thanks so much for offering this invaluable and inspiring education opportunity to our Latin students!”

UC Classics’ Outreach program began in 2008–2009. Presentations are free to requestors and can be accessed at <https://classics.uc.edu/departments/classics/outreach>. In 2018, it was awarded the Society for Classical Studies’ Outreach Prize for bringing classical antiquity “to an audience other than classics scholars or students in their courses.”

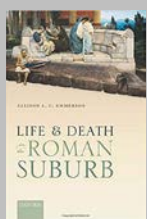
On the Bookshelf

Recent books from UC Classics faculty, alumni and affiliates



Jack L. Davis 2022. *A Greek State in Formation*. Berkeley: University of California Press. From a retrospective of his broad archaeological interests, long-term change across extensive landscapes, Davis progressively narrows his focus to his recent research at Pylos with **Sharon R. Stocker** on the grave of the Griffin Warrior, two newly discovered tholoi, and their implications for the process of Late Bronze Age Greek state formation during the early Mycenaean period.

Steven J. R. Ellis 2018. *The Roman Retail Revolution: the Socio-Economic World of the Taberna*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Ellis examines Roman urbanization and the lives of the sub-elite through a history of 'fast food' tabernae, using data from the recent UC Classics excavations at Pompeii that he led as well as a survey of the retail landscapes in over a hundred Roman cities.



Allison L. C. Emmerson (PhD '13) 2020. *Life and Death in the Roman Suburb*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Emmerson provides insights into Roman cities and ancient attitudes towards death and the dead in the creation of new types of neighborhoods in the suburbs of Roman cities that housed both the living and the dead.

David Hernandez (PhD '10) and Richard Hodges 2020. *Butrint 7. Beyond Butrint: Kalivo, Mursi, Çuka e Aitoit, Daiporit and the Vrina Plain. Surveys and Excavations in the Pavllas River Valley, Albania, 1928-2015*. Butrint Archaeological Monographs 7, Oxford and Philadelphia: Oxbow Books. Hernandez, Hodges and 22 other contributors, including **Sarah Lima** (MA '07), publish earlier archaeological explorations as well as their own research in the Pavllas River Valley in Albania and conclude with a diachronic analysis of Butrint, its hinterlands, and its place in the wider Mediterranean world.



Julie Hruby (PhD '06) and Debra Trusty, eds. 2017. *From Cooking Vessels to Cultural Practices in the Late Bronze Age Aegean*. Oxford and Philadelphia: Oxbow Books. A dozen essays in this edited volume illuminate the cultures, cuisines, and social systems at sites of varied size and region in the Late Bronze Age Aegean through study of the often-neglected cooking vessels.

Philip Kiernan (MA '04) 2020. *Roman Cult Images: The Lives and Worship of Idols, from the Iron Age to Late Antiquity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Kiernan applies an object biography approach to Roman cult images, exploring their creation, setting in temples, use in worship, and eventual disuse and discard, finding evidence for their power at each stage of their lives.



Nikos Akamatis, **Alexandros Vouvoulis**, **Alexandros Laftsidis**, (PhD '18) and **Nektarios Poulakakis**, eds. 2019. *Τῶ διδασκάλῳ*. Τιμητικός τόμος για τον καθηγητή Ιωάννη Ακαμάτη. Thessaloniki: Epitopi Ekdotis. Laftsidis and his co-editors present a festschrift of three dozen essays on Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman art and archaeology to professor Ioannis Akamatis.

C. Brian Rose, **Kathleen Lynch**, and **Getzel Cohen**, eds. 2019. *Troy Excavation Project Final Reports: West Sanctuary I*. Studia Troica Monographien 10, Bonn: Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH. Lynch and her co-authors (Carolyn Aslan, Archaic; Lynch, Classical; and Mark Lawall, amphorae of both eras) publish the the West Sanctuary at Troy, first excavated by UC Classics led by Carl W. Blegen in the 1930s.



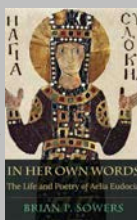
Daniel Markovich 2021. *Promoting a New Kind of Education: Greek and Roman Philosophical Protreptic*. International Studies in the History of Rhetoric 16, Leiden and Boston: Koninklijke Brill NV. Markovich discusses more than 20 authors and texts to show how they articulate philosophy as a discipline and set its ultimate goals. He demonstrates that by presenting philosophy as a form of education, these philosophical protreptics offer thoughts that still inform our current educational debates.

Lyvia Morgan 2020. *Keos, Results of Excavations Conducted by the University of Cincinnati under the Auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens XI. Wall Paintings and Social Context: The Northeast Bastion at Ayia Irini*. Philadelphia: INSTAP Academic Press. Morgan presents a detailed examination and analysis of the wallpaintings from the Northeast Bastion at Ayia Irini, Kea, especially the frieze of miniature scenes, accompanied by lavish color illustrations and reconstructions of the scenes.



Joanne M. A. Murphy (PhD '03), ed. 2020. *Death in Late Bronze Age Greece: Variations on a Theme*. New York: Oxford University Press. The fourteen essays in this edited volume challenge monolithic views of Late Bronze Age Greek culture by highlighting both the variety and similarities among burial practices in different communities diachronically within that world.

Brian P. Sowers (PhD '08) 2020. *In Her Own Words: The Life and Poetry of Aelia Eudocia*. Washington, D.C.: Center for Hellenic Studies. Sowers offers the first monographic study of one of the most extensively preserved yet underappreciated ancient female poets, Eudocia, in the context of her 5th c. CE literary, social, and religious contexts.



most recent books are on Tacitus and the Imperial Greek paradoxographer Phlegon of Tralles.

Kathryn Gutzwiller has been elected to a four-year term (2021-25) as Vice President for Publications and Research of the Society for Classical Studies; this office oversees TAPA, the American office of *L'Année Philologique*, the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae fellowship and committee, the Goodwin Award, and numerous other projects.

Faculty News in Brief

UC Classics welcomes new Associate Professors **Danielle Kellogg** and **Kelly Shannon-Henderson** from Brooklyn College and the University of Alabama. Kellogg's areas of study are the history, epigraphy, and demography of the Athenian countryside and Greek political and constitutional history. The focus of Shannon-Henderson's research is Greek and Latin prose literature of the 1st and 2nd centuries CE; her

A Gift of Papyri

In 2019, UC Classics received a gift of four papyri from Professor Curtis Runnels (Boston University), who had bought them in 2013 from a bookseller in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who said he had acquired them “some years earlier” from the widow of a former professor who had retired to Santa Fe from a university “back east;” a date “not long after World War II, perhaps the 1950s or 1960s” was conjectured for their acquisition by the professor. The largest of the papyri was in a glass frame, and the other three in mylar packets.

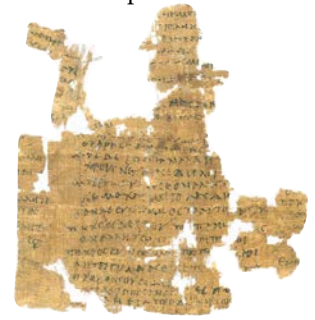
Peter van Minnen published the largest of the fragments in 2016, “A New Palmomantic Text,” *Archiv für Papyrusforschung* 62.1: 57-66. Parts of three columns of Greek text are preserved. It is part of a palmomantic handbook attributed to the name Melampus; since the handbook was dedicated to a Ptolemy, it is ostensibly from the Ptolemaic period, although all datable surviving fragments of this work are from the 3rd-4th centuries CE. Van Minnen described the hand that wrote UC’s fragment as unstable and difficult to date, but he thought it was earlier than any of the other 11 fragments from the work. Palmomancy, derived from the Greek “παλμός” (palmos), “pulse” or “twitch”, was a prophetic

interpretation of spontaneous twitches of different parts of the body; palmistry, in contrast, is derived from the Latin “palma”. Although the orthography is difficult, lines 14-17 of the middle column, which are almost completely preserved, give a representative sample of this text:

μὺς δεξιῆς ἐὰν ἀλλητ[ε] τ[ο]ὺς ἐκ-
χθροὺς νεικῆσε δηλοῖ vacat
μὺς εὐώνυμος ἐὰν ἀλλητ[ε] λύπας

καὶ μάχας μεγάλας δηλοῖ vacat
The right (thumb?) muscle, if it twitches,
indicates that one will overcome one’s
enemies.

The left (thumb?) muscle, if it twitches,
indicates great pains and struggles.



The other papyri donated at the same time are all smaller than this fragment and have not yet been studied closely. One dates to the Ptolemaic period, one is a later Roman Greek document, and one a late Greek document reused for a Coptic document on the other side — a chronologically varied collection, suitable for use in teaching, as the story told about their acquisition by the bookseller indicates, and as they can be used in UC Classics graduate seminars.

Pandemic Year Abroad

The months between the international spread of COVID-19 (roughly February/March 2020) and the widespread availability of effective vaccines against the virus (still in process at this writing in many parts of the world) have disrupted almost everyone’s lives. Two UC Classics PhD candidates, Alice Crowe and Valia Tsikritea, both prehistoric archaeology students who spent those months in Greece, answered the call to share some of their impressions from this year of the pandemic.

Tsikritea was a Regular Member at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens in AY 2019-20. They were on the trip to Crete in March as news of the growing pandemic spread; she describes it as “quite dystopic,” because the Members’ access to news was sporadic, only during their short bus rides between their hikes in remote places. On the third day of the planned eight-day trip, archaeological sites and museums closed, so the itinerary was replanned around visits to archaeological sites without fences and tickets; the next day, restaurants and cafes were shut down so they were forced to return to Athens on the overnight ferry. Although the ferry was not terribly crowded, Tsikritea reports that “looking back to it gives me chills,” since it predated mask mandates and other subsequently standard measures to reduce contagion. In Athens, they were greeted in the yard by the Director of ASCSA, Professor Jennifer Neils, because they were not allowed in the Blegen Library building. They were given hand sanitizers and masks, since hygiene products were already sold out, and the non-Greek students left Athens within five days after their return; Tsikritea stayed in Athens, and described the first lockdown as unproductive for her work.

A second attempt to complete the Crete trip in November 2020, with Associate Members and the Regular cohort of the previous year, was also aborted in its second day, when a renewed lockdown in Greece was announced. Tsikritea stayed in Crete, hoping she would be able to begin to study material for her dissertation “An Archaeology of Cult at Juktas, Crete: Early Iron Age Pottery and Figurines from the ‘Tomb of Zeus,’” but the lockdown, initially scheduled for two weeks, was successively extended until May. Later in that period, Neils generously hosted Tsikritea in the Director’s house, which gave her access to the ASCSA Blegen Library; because of the severe restrictions, the library was the only place she could go, so this research period was productive but intense. Tsikritea completed and defended her dissertation proposal and

gave an ASCSA Tea Talk, live-streamed, in March on her preliminary research. She writes, “While this was not the original order of research I had planned, all in all, I was extremely lucky still to have been able to make some progress.”

Crowe, who had stayed on in Greece after her Regular Membership at ASCSA in AY 2018-19, was already in Crete when the lockdowns began; she had planned to analyze artifacts at the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum for her dissertation, “Beyond the Walls of the Labyrinth: A Site-wide Perspective on Final Palatial and Postpalatial Knossos,” but the museum closed. Under the restrictions of the lockdown, Crowe was largely obliged to remain in her apartment in Heraklion, where she read and wrote.

Pedestrian travel was permitted within the Heraklion region that includes Knossos, however, so at least once a week Crowe set out on foot to a site or region of interest. Some of her trips were objective-driven (e.g. to find particular buildings relevant to her dissertation), but like the storied archaeological walks by John Pendlebury in Crete or by Eugene Vanderpool through the Attic countryside in the mid-20th century, Crowe designed others to build up her topographic vocabulary and wander unfamiliar landscapes, exploring remains outside the Minoan period she studies, from Greco-Roman tombs and quarries to Byzantine churches and Venetian aqueducts. Later in the spring, with cases subsiding and temperatures spiking, residents she passed generously welcomed her for a drink, a break from the heat, and entertaining conversations that provided a chance to work on her Cretan accent.

A night-time curfew was in place for much of the November to May lockdown, which, together with the short winter days, restricted the distances she could reach to about 13 or 14 miles roundtrip. She writes, “My return-trips back to Heraklion felt truly medieval, because the city is surrounded by Venetian-era walls, and it was not so hard to imagine the gates being barred if I arrived too late!”

These walks also inspired rumination on the practicalities of ancient travel. How far could one get in a day? How do seasonality and other climactic factors affect the trip? And, what are the implications for settlement patterns? Crowe, like Tsikritea, ended her reminiscence on a note of gratitude, concluding “Although I did not carry out my intended plan for the year, I am so thankful to have had a positive experience, and grateful to the department for the funding and support, and for their flexibility throughout the turbulent period.”

Poetry and Place

Many UC Classics students have enrolled in the “Regular Program” at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, a year alternating between travel to an ever-growing list of sites in Greece and residence in Athens to research those sites. Some have been struck by the local specificity of poetry in that landscape, from Homer through Byron to Seferis and beyond. Christopher Hayward, UC Classics PhD candidate and Regular Member 2017-18, became an active interlocutor in that poetry of place, composing a poem on each of the more than 300 sites visited during the year.

Hayward avers that he had never seriously written poetry before, and claims that “if I am a poet, the earth of Greece made me one” — a play on Byron’s claim that it was the air of that land that had made him a poet. Hayward’s poems record “the feelings of being in each of these places, in ways that would escape our collective tens of thousands of photographs or dry academic notes,” according to his introduction to their publication. Sylvian Fachard, A. W. Mellon Professor of Classical Studies (2017-20), who led the trips, wrote in the foreword that his initial reaction was that Hayward should have been writing those dry academic notes rather than poetry; he was won over to the project, as were Hayward’s cohort of Regular Members to whom, in an illustration of the bonds formed at the ASCSA, the book is dedicated.

The poems range as widely in subject and chronology as the sites visited, from the Neolithic to the 20th century CE. A unifying theme, which Hayward discovered partway through the project, is “the closeness and the indivisibility of the present and the past,” which Hayward urges readers to seek out in every land. In a poem set near to the hearts of UC Classics members, Hayward captures both the Homeric characterization of King Nestor, and the modern archaeological exploration of the palace at Pylos:

Palace of Nestor

Nestor, tell me once again
— I know you love to talk —
Tell me of pu-ro and a-phu-e
of wa-na-ka so bold,
and clever scheming e-ri-ta
who made your laws her own.
Tell me of the hearth and hall,
where your honor was paid its due,
and you poured your wine in the sea god’s name
as all Messenia clamored for your wisdom.
Tell me of feasting and tell me of war,
tell me of perfumes for kings in the east,
tell me of glass and glittering gold,
of an age of bronze and its iron fall.
Tell me of Blegen and tell me of Wace,
Tell me of Evans and their great debates;
Tell me of Ventris who defeated your locks,
and tell me of Kober who fashioned his picks.
Tell me of the man with the griffon crest,
and the bull’s-head staff and the holy rings
— how did he die, and why did he live?
But I see you’re tired — no more questions for now.
Only take care of my friends, who love your stories so well.

The poems are largely arranged according to the itineraries of the ASCSA trips, which are each preceded by a map demonstrating the rigors of the program. A few of their “collective tens of thousands of photographs” illustrate some of the sites as they were seen on those trips. The book, titled *Travellers in an Antique Land*, is available from <https://www.blurb.com/b/10267553-travellers-in-an-antique-land>.

Alumnus Profile: Tom Tsuchiya



**Tom Tsuchiya photographing Fiona and Kathleen Lynch.
Photograph by Stephen Matter.**

Tom Tsuchiya (BA '95) and his garden statue of Fiona, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden’s famous baby hippo (now four years old), paid a visit to Tsuchiya’s alma mater at UC Classics in July 2021, as part of the sculptor’s blog series “Fiona’s Travel Blog” (<https://fionamadeincincy.com/blog.html>). In each entry, Tsuchiya posts a photograph of the sculpture at a Cincinnati landmark along with an interview about the location — at a Graeter’s Ice Cream parlor preparing to taste a spoonful of the ice cream flavor named for her, Chunky Chunky Hippo; at the Cincinnati Observatory looking through one of the historic telescopes; at the Cincinnati Zoo itself with one of the cheetahs in the Cat Ambassador Program. At UC Classics, Tsuchiya and Fiona met with Kathleen Lynch, and the sculpture was photographed with the Athenian red figure kylix (ca. 460 BCE) from the Classics Study Collection.

The cast stone garden statue of Fiona at approximately her birth size, available from the Cincinnati Zoo, is a recent addition to Tsuchiya’s portfolio of locally significant sculptures. In June 2021, a statue by Tsuchiya and Gina Erardi of the late Marian Spencer (1920-2019), local civil rights activist, was dedicated in Smale Park. This was the first public sculpture of an historic female figure in Cincinnati. Spencer campaigned to integrate the UC prom while a student (BA '42 in English); as the first and so far only female president of the Cincinnati branch of the NAACP she brought many subsequent suits against segregation in schools and at Coney Island, and fought discrimination in voting and other rights. Among many civic positions, including Vice Mayor of Cincinnati, Spencer was a member of the University of Cincinnati’s Board of Trustees. Tsuchiya and Erardi’s statue depicts her in a circular composition holding the hand of a girl who holds a boy’s hand. The circle formed by the three figures is not complete — Spencer and the boy do not join hands — inviting the viewer to join the group.

Tsuchiya’s sculptures of athletes may be his most famous; he is the sculptor of plaques in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and he created full-size statues at Great American Ball Park of Reds players from the Crosley Field era (Ted Kluszewski, Ernie Lombardi, Joe Nuxhall, and Frank Robinson) and the Big Red Machine (Joe Morgan, Johnny Bench, Pete Rose, and Tony Perez), posed in play; they convey the personal character of the subjects as well as their actions. Tsuchiya reports that his “childhood fascination with Greek art” led him to an interest in sculpting and to a BA in Classical Civilization with UC Classics, and his work continues to be inspired by ancient art.

Student Commendations

Publications

Brent F. Arehart, “Erectogenic Drugs in Greek Medicine,” *Pharmacy in History* 61.1-2 (2019), 15-25. https://www-jstor-org.proxy.libraries.uc.edu/stable/10.26506/pharmhist.61.1-2.0015?refreqid=excelsior%3A0294b09dd87e1921167687ab7a3a9e62#metadata_a_info_tab_contents

“A Note on Oribasius’ Molluscs (Syn. 1.6),” *Mnemosyne* 71.1 (2018), 177-181. https://brill-com.uc.idm.oclc.org/view/journals/mnem/71/1/article-p177_177.xml?rskey=D2bOcs&result=1

Alice Crowe “Old Things, New Contexts: Bronze Age Objects in Early Iron Age Burials at Knossos,” in *Μνήμη / Mneme. Past and Memory in the Aegean Bronze Age: Proceedings of the 17th International Aegean Conference, University of Udine, Department of Humanities and Cultural Heritage, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Department of Humanities, 17-21 April 2018*, eds. Borgna, Elisabetta, Ilaria Caloi, Filippo Maria Carinci, and Robert Laffineur. *Aegaeum* 43, Leuven - Liège: Peeters (2019), 481-486.

Duccio Guasti, “Cercidas fr. 1 Lom.: Between Hipponax and Diogenes,” *Wiener Studien* 132 (2019), 47-54.

“Hipponax’ Odyssey,” *Hermes* 147.2 (2019), 135-142. <https://elibrary-steiner-verlag-de.uc.idm.oclc.org/article/10.25162/hermes-2019-0013>

“Ἰ κόλλυβος ἐ ὑν σὸττομῦπλο δὲ χαλκοῦς?” *Tyche* 33 (2018), 75-77. https://tyche-journal.at/tyche/index.php/tyche/issue/view/35/Tyche%2033%20%282018%29_full%20pdf

“Nota critica a Fenice, fr. 1.3 D.3.” *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 219 (2021), 32-33.

“A Strange Epigram and the Date of Hegesander” *Trends in Classics* 11.2 (2019), 307-316. <https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/TCS/11/2/html>

“The Stylistic Function of Neologisms in Cercidas,” *Philologus* 163.1 (2019), 95-109. <https://www-degruyter-com.uc.idm.oclc.org/document/doi/10.1515/phil-2018-0010/html>

Luiza dos Santos Souza “Uma nova tradução para Ovídio, *Amores* 1.8: A new translation of Ovid’s *Amores* 1.8,” *Belas Infieis* 9.2 (2020), 129-137. <https://periodicos.unb.br/index.php/belasinfeis/article/view/27209/25730>

Positions and honors:

Congratulations to UC Classics graduates in AY 2020-21 **Casey Barnett**, **Connor Martin**, and **Erin Roche**!

Sarah Beal won the UC Graduate School’s Three Minute Thesis Competition with a presentation of her dissertation on 3rd century CE tablewares from the Athenian Agora, titled “From Symposium to Convivium: Social Life in Roman Athens.” Beal was also the Graduate School’s Doctoral recipient of the 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award, by whom she was nominated for the same prize from the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools, where she won an honorable mention.

Andrew Lund will be resident instructor at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome during AY 2021-22.

Congratulations to the winners of UC Classics 2021 Undergraduate prizes:

- **Ellie Kammerer**, Junior Greek and Latin translation
- **Jack Weseli**, Senior Latin translation
- **Elizabeth Love**, Senior Greek translation
- **John Curley**, Best paper in Classical Civilization
- **Casey Barnett**, Best capstone

100 Years of Classics

By Jeffrey L. Kramer

The Board of Directors for the University of Cincinnati passed a motion on April 5, 1921 resolving:

The Committee of Academic Affairs submitted and approved a recommendation of Dean [Frank W.] Chandler, approved by the president, that the title of Dr. [William T.] Semple be changed from Professor of Latin to Professor of Classics, and that he be made head of the conjoined departments of Greek and Latin in the College of Liberal Arts. On motion of Mr. Hilton the recommendation carried.

This resolution created the Department of Classics at the University of Cincinnati, which has just passed its centenary.

The “Classics” had existed at UC long before a department of that name; Latin and Greek, each a separate department, had been staples in the curriculum from 1873 when the University of Cincinnati first offered classes. The first faculty — all men — included notable UC figures, such as William O. Sproull, who advised the MA work of Emily F. Dyer, the first “Classics” graduate student in 1883. Another early figure was John M. Burnam; the donation of his library formed the nucleus of the now internationally-recognized John Miller Burnam Classics Library.

By 1920, the futures of both departments were in doubt. Burnam was on leave and in ill-health, and the professor of Greek had left UC. Into this vacuum stepped William T. Semple, hired in 1910, and he not only replaced Burnam but also oversaw the merger of the two departments into a new Department of Classics.

Semple moved aggressively to grow his new charge, hiring Rodney P. Robinson, Roy K. Hack, Allen B. West, and Carl W. Blegen by the fall of 1927. Semple’s second hire is often forgotten: Hilda M. Bittenweiser (eventually Crist), who had been a graduate student in 1921. She was hired in the fall of that year to teach Latin, which she taught along with Greek for more than two decades as the first permanent woman faculty member of the Department.

The core of the faculty now covered archaeology, history, and both Greek and Latin, and Semple, along with his wife Louise Taft Semple, sought to increase the reputation of the Department in numerous other ways. The Semples formed or joined local, national, and international organizations, and as early as 1924, they began to sponsor excavations on behalf of UC Classics. This early association with the American School of Classical Studies in Athens had led to the hiring of Blegen.

For over 30 years, UC Classics flourished under Semple’s headship; he retired in 1950, but both he and Louise remained keenly interested in the activities of the Department. Louise died in 1961 — Will followed the next year — and it was in her will that the gift to UC Classics was announced, which continues to support both the department and library. The largest benefaction to the University at the time, the fund was, in Louise’s own words:

solely for the purpose of promoting the study of the classics, such term to be interpreted in its broadest sense as the endeavor to make vital and constructive in the civilization of our country the spiritual, intellectual and esthetic inheritance we have received from the Greek and Roman civilizations.

As UC Classics embarks on its second century, the vision of the Semples — to have a Department of Classics that was second to none — and the actions that both took to achieve that goal, continue to resonate.

Keep in Touch!

Please help us update our alumni files and let your friends know what you have been up to. Visit www.artsci.uc.edu/alumni to share your news online. The information you provide will be used in future publications. You can also update your contact information, nominate a distinguished alum for recognition or make a gift to the department.

Alumni and Affiliate News

UC Classics is grateful to **Barbara Shailor** (PhD '75), Latin paleographer at Yale, for her generous donations in memory of **James Ruebel** (1945-2016; PhD '72) to support building up the resources of the Philology Room and to **Peter Rose**, Professor Emeritus from Miami University, for his gift of more than three hundred titles from his personal library for use in that research hub and seminar space.

Remembrance

Elizabeth Courtney "Betty" Banks (1930-2020; PhD '67) excavated with John L. "Jack" Caskey at Lerna in 1952-57, wrote her dissertation on the small finds from that site, and published two volumes on Lerna's EH III settlement and architecture and on the Neolithic settlement. She taught at the University of Kansas where she was active in women's rights and studies.

William Patrick "Bill" Donovan (1929-2021; PhD '61) excavated with Carl W. Blegen at Pylos in 1956-57 and was a coauthor of the volume on the cemeteries. He taught at Macalester College and he excavated and published Nichoria. He was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1971.

Positions

- **Simone Agrimonti** (PhD '21): Assistant Director of the American School of Classical Studies for AY 2021-22. Agrimonti is the first UC Classics affiliate since Carl W. Blegen (1920-26) to hold that position.
- **Catherine Baker** (PhD '18): Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities and Humanistic Studies at Bryn Mawr University.
- **Casey Barnett** (BA '21) has been admitted to the PhD program in Classics at the University of Illinois.

- **Mitchell Brown** (PhD '16): Assistant Professor at the College of William & Mary.
- **Christian Cloke** (PhD '16): Associate Director of Michelle Smith Collaboratory for Visual Culture, Art History and Archaeology at the University of Maryland College Park.
- **Flint Dibble** (PhD '17) and **Alexandros Laftisidis** (PhD '18): Marie-Sklodowska Curie Individual Fellowships at Cardiff University and the Université libre de Bruxelles.
- **Kyle Helms** (PhD '16): Assistant Professor at St. Olaf College.
- **Kathleen Kidder** (PhD '18): Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Houston.
- **Shannon LaFayette Hogue** (PhD '11): Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- **Benjamin Leonard** (MA '13): Senior Editor of Archaeology Magazine.
- **Sarah Lima** (MA '07): Project Director at the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition.
- **Connor Martin** (BA '21): Publishing Assistant at Cincinnati Book Publishing.
- **Christopher Motz** (PhD '21): Assistant Professor at Elon University.
- **Meg Sneeringer** (MA '11): Managing Editor of the American Journal of Archaeology.

Tenure

- **Allison Emmerson** (PhD '13): Tulane University.
- **Anne Feltovich** (PhD '11): Hamilton College.
- **Lynne Kvapil** (PhD '12): Butler University.

Promotions

- **Eleni Hasaki** (PhD '02): Professor at the University of Arizona.
- **Joanne M. A. Murphy** (PhD '03): Professor at the University of South