

Tidewater Region (North Carolina and Virginia) Annual Report for 2019

Membership reporting to the CAMWS Tidewater vice presidents was down for the second consecutive year. Both states are home to a large number of colleges and universities with classics programs. This year, however, no state report was submitted from Virginia, whose VP is abroad on a sabbatical, and very little information was reported from North Carolina. I do not think, however, that this is reflective of a decline of classics-related activities in these states, where such activity has regularly been robust. I believe, rather, that the lack of reporting reflects more the busyness of the states' educators, including their vice presidents.

Highlights from Wake Forest University include a new hire, two promotions, a joint teaching award, a vibrant talk series, numerous student recipients of NLE and NGE prizes, an Ancient Olympics on campus, student publication and presentations, and alums receiving distinction inside and outside the discipline.

Davidson College has just secured a new tenure-track hire, Annie Truetzel, and continues to host the Central Carolinas Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America. Davidson's Prof. Jeanne Neumann received the 2017-2018 CAMWS Award for Excellence in College Teaching.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro had much to report, including the retirement of Dr. Hugh Parker and the addition of new faculty members Drs. Robyn Le Blanc and Rebecca Muich. Award recipients at UNC-G in 2018 include Dr. Joanne Murphy (the Thomas Undergraduate Research Mentor Award and a Mellon Foundation grant) and Dr. David Wharton (a Faculty First grant). Especially notable is the activity of their Classical Society which organized and ran a Classics Symposium, with 19 papers presented by students from 8 different universities. Their Classics Day this year included new events: the "sacrifice" of a baby cow, a Roman marriage ceremony, a Roman hairdressing booth, a spooky stories booth, and an opportunity to "inscribe" a tombstone. Furthermore, several of their majors also presented papers at conferences elsewhere this year, including Jessie Miller, who won the Best Undergraduate Poster Award at the AIA in January.

The practice by the state vice presidents in gathering information has been generally to send queries to CAMWS members and college/university department chairs, and then to follow up on these queries by email, Facebook, and other means. Even this, however, has not produced an amount of feedback sufficient to provide an accurate impression of the state of classics in the region. Even more vigorous emailing or mining of department websites might provide a little more anecdotal data, but the current system is dependent wholly on the willingness of very busy teachers and program chairs to take the time to reflect on the past year and to submit this information. It seems that some other approach is warranted, and I plan to discuss the matter with the state VPs for next year's report.

Respectfully submitted,
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