

Tidewater Region (North Carolina and Virginia) Annual Report for 2017

North Carolina and Virginia both boasted a good amount of activity related to classics, at least on the part of those institutions reporting this year. There were some signs of growth, though perhaps qualified in the case of the NC university system. And the familiar STEM-oriented focus of these times continues to test the vigilance of classicists.

The North Carolina Classical Association continues to meet twice per year, and last year formally approved the state's Seal of Biliteracy <<http://sealofbiliteracy.org>>. NC's Wake Forest University looks forward to hosting the fall meeting of the Southern Section of CAMWS in October. Undergraduate research is finding support in both states, with the University of Mary Washington hosting an annual undergraduate symposium, and NC institutions reporting undergraduate presentations at regional and national conferences. In the area of outreach, VA's Randolph Macon College staged Seneca's *Thyestes*, attended by students from area high schools, and the entirely student-run Classics Day at UNC-Greensboro involved over 400 NC students and teachers. UNC-Greensboro and Davidson College both report experiences for students abroad. The former has two ongoing programs, one in Greece and another in Rome. The latter received funds from the Bacca Foundation to support a "Greeks and Persians" tour by sixteen students and six faculty on the Greek mainland.

Individual successes were celebrated as well. Mary Pendergraft of Wake Forest University received the SCS 2017 Award for Excellence in Teaching and looks forward to serving as the next president of the American Classical League. Davidson's Jeanne Neumann saw the publication of her latest textbook, *Roma Aeterna: A College Companion*.

Two reports, both from North Carolina, actually speak of growth. UNC-Greensboro was granted a new tenure-track line, filled in 2017, bringing them up to eight fulltime faculty. And more students in North Carolina now have access to ancient Greek courses at all levels, thanks to a collaboration between East Carolina University and North Carolina State University, which are making those courses available through distance learning to all sixteen of the North Carolina system's campuses. While this last report celebrates access, it might also reflect declining Greek enrollments statewide, and at worst might even preclude the future offering of ancient Greek on some of those other NC campuses.

Two reports, both from Virginia, concern a focus on STEM disciplines to the expense of the humanities. Virginia Wesleyan University reports concern for the state of the Humanities on campus, with a reduction on the horizon to the number of General Studies courses required of undergraduates. At the state level, a sobering bill passed the VA house that would allow computer coding classes to fulfill the high school foreign language requirements.

Reporting to the CAMWS vice presidents was down this year, to a fraction of those reporting last year. Both states are home to a large number of colleges and universities with classics programs. 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.

This regional vice president suspects that incentives of some sort, be they money from CAMWS in return for reporting (carrot) or, at the risk of appearing coercive, a listing of activities by all regional institutions, posted online and sent to all deans and principals (carrot and goad), might prove more productive in the end. Perhaps an email query that points to such an enterprise would elicit greater response.

Respectfully submitted,

Keyne Cheshire (Regional VP)
Davidson College, NC

Annual Report on Classics in North Carolina for academic year 2017–2018

Summary

The report below is derived from contributions by faculty at the state's colleges and universities in response to a general query about goings-on in Classics across North Carolina. This year's report was assembled in the same (not-particularly-effective) way as last year's. As I had hoped this year's would be, next year's query will include a more personalized appeal to small departments in high schools and colleges as well as a targeted appeal to administrative assistants at Classics departments in the larger colleges and universities.

Respectfully Submitted,
T. H. M. Gellar-Goad
North Carolina VP for CAMWS
Wake Forest University
thmgg@wfu.edu
March, 2015

East Carolina University

ECU concluded an online Greek collaborative agreement with NCSU that will make all levels (from beginning to upper level) of ancient Greek available to students in the UNC system by videoconference. Many of the levels will also be available by podcast to asynchronous students. Courses are open to students outside NC at a reasonable rate, if they apply to one of the 16 campuses as Distance Ed students.

North Carolina Classical Association

The NC Classical Association (<http://ncclassical.blogspot.com>) offered a panel on Latin pedagogy at the fall meeting of the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina, and will meet again in Winston-Salem on March 17. At FLANC, we elected a new Vice President, Christy Tucker of Covenant Day Schools in Matthews NC. Together we are working on developing a new mailing list. I am compiling a list of university faculty, and she works with JCL and will send our announcements through that list.

Last spring we approved the Seal of Biliteracy at the suggestion of Mary Pendergraft, our liaison with ACL, who was also recognized with the SCS 2017 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

It's been an eventful year for the second-largest Classics program in UNC system! The big news is that we are growing once again. We received permission to hire a new tenure-track assistant professor – we're up to eight full-time faculty now! – and the position has been accepted by Dr. Robyn Le Blanc (PhD, UNC-CH 2016). Dr. Le Blanc specializes in the eastern Mediterranean, particularly mythological iconography and religion. In conjunction with our new hire we are engaging on an aggressive program of recruitment for our major and increasing awareness in the community about Classics and its benefits as a course of study.

Lots of good news about our students this past year! Two of our students were accepted to graduate programs starting in Fall 2017: Maddie Parrish to the PhD program in Classics at Indiana University, and Marissa Sarver to the MA program at the University of Iowa. Elijah Mears had an article titled “The Marriage of Cicero: Matrimonial Metaphor in the *Second Philippic*” published in *Paper & Publications: Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research*. Our students also presented at the annual meeting of CAMWS in 2017 (and will again in 2018!) and the University of Tennessee's Undergraduate Classics Conference.

The department once again hosted Classics Day in conjunction with the North Carolina Junior Classical League's Fall Forum on November 18. Over 400 students and teachers from around the state came to UNCG to enjoy a day of Certamen, oral Latin, military drills, performances of ancient comedies, and a number of interactive booths on various aspects of Greco-Roman culture. Classics Day is an entirely student-run event; a preview of the event was published in UNCG's Campus Weekly (<https://newsandfeatures.uncg.edu/classics-day-returns-to-campus/>). The UNCG Classical Society, our student organization, is also actively planning an undergraduate symposium for Fall 2018, and a call for papers will soon be sent to universities and colleges across the Carolinas and beyond.

Our two study-abroad programs continued to bring the ancient world to life for our students. Dr. Joanne Murphy once again took students to the island of Kea to continue the work of the Kea Archaeological Research Survey (KARS). This was the fifth consecutive summer that Dr. Murphy has brought students to Greece to learn survey and cataloguing methods. Dr. Murphy is always looking for eager and interested undergraduates for the program, even if they are from other universities. If you've got any interested students, please don't hesitate to have them contact her! Over in Italy, thirteen students led by Dr. Maura Heyn and Dr. Jonathan Zarecki took a month-long tour of Rome and the Bay of Naples with the UNCG in Rome program. Highlights included hiking Mt Vesuvius, visiting the Vatican Necropolis, and staying at the gorgeous Villa Vergiliana in Cuma. On both programs many miles were walked, much delicious local food was eaten, and memories for a lifetime were made.

Several of our faculty will be sharing their research overseas this year. Dr. Maura Heyn received a Guest Researcher Grant from Aarhus University, and will be spending two months in the summer of 2018 researching in Denmark. She'll be working on her co-authored manuscript project on female attributes in Palmyrene portraiture. Dr. Joanne Murphy will be presenting on her research on the tombs at Pylos at the 17th International Aegean Conference in Venice in April. Dr. Jonathan Zarecki will be presenting a paper on Cicero at the Colloquium on Ancient Leadership at the University of Crete in June.

Wake Forest University

The big news from Wake Forest this year is that Professor Mary Pendergraft has received the Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Classics at the College Level from the Society for Classical Studies and has been selected as the next President of the American Classical League. Wake Forest will be hosting the fall meeting of the Southern Section of CAMWS in October, and it's going to be a blast!

Annual Report from VA for CAMWS

Erika Damer

University of Richmond

Greetings from Richmond Virginia!

Fascinating lectures are taking place in classics departments around the state, including at Virginia Wesleyan with a lecture on "The Roman Banquet and the Passover Seder Ritual," and two talks by CAMWS's own Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Sienkewicz, at William & Mary, University of Virginia, Washington & Lee, and the University of Richmond. In Spring 2017, Randolph Macon staged a performance of Seneca's *Thyestes*, attended by students from St. Steven's and St. Agnes high school.

The next generation of Classicists in undergraduate departments around Virginia have been presenting their research at the Virginia Undergraduate Symposium in Classics held at the University of Mary Washington in Nov 2017. Here's the link: <http://www.vursic.com/program.html> This is the fourth annual symposium, an event that continues to grow. This year the keynote speaker was Dr. John Camp on "Recent Excavations at the Athenian Agora," and students from Mary Washington, Randolph Macon College, and University of Richmond presented. In previous years, students from William & Mary have also participated, and keynote speakers have been Drs. Vassiliki Panoussi of William & Mary, John Miller of University of Virginia, and Andrew and Judy Harrington Becker of Virginia Tech.

The Classical Association of Virginia continues to thrive, with a successful September meeting at University of Virginia. More information is available on their website: <http://www.cavclassics.org/>.

In local news, there is an exciting exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, *the Horse in Ancient Greek Art*. Here's a brief description from the VMFA:

The Horse in Ancient Greek Art features Greek vases, sculpture, and coins from the 8th through the 4th centuries BC drawn from private collections, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Tampa Museum of Art, and other museum collections. The exhibition and accompanying publication explore the significance of the horse in ancient Greek culture, and imagery of the horse in ancient myth, war, sport, and competition. From some of the earliest examples of the horse in Greek art, to stunning examples of black and red-figure vases, the objects on view illustrate ancient equestrian life.

The Horse in Ancient Greek Art is co-curated by Dr. Peter J. Schertz, VMFA Jack and Mary Ann Frable Curator of Ancient Art and Nicole Stribling, Curator of Permanent Collections, National Sporting Library & Museum.

This exhibit is free, and it is terrifically curated. I highly recommend it for those able to travel to Richmond between February 18 - July 8, 2018.

Additionally, there is a troubling bill making its way through Virginia, with thanks to April Spratley of Smithfield High School for bringing this to CAMWS' attention. This bill proposes allowing computer coding to fulfill high school foreign language requirements, and has already passed the Virginia house.

Finally, I'll conclude by sharing this response from Ben Haller, at Virginia Wesleyan University.

In response to your invitation to share our recent successes and threats/challenges, we would offer the following:

VWU's Classics Department is small but active. We have one full-time faculty member, and currently are extremely fortunate to have one highly talented archaeologist working for us as an adjunct.

In addition to recently being granted a VDOE teaching endorsement in Latin, we have an active Classics Department Lecture Series. I attach posters from our recent speakers and symposia to this email (see below). We've been fortunate to host some of the best and brightest in the field on our campus in recent years.

On the topic of challenges, VWU is currently undergoing the sorts of growing pains currently being experienced by many small Liberal Arts schools: a (generally positive) increased emphasis on STEM disciplines, prompting fears of threats to the Humanities on campus.

At the same time, we are reforming our General Studies program.

While we have not yet made a final determination as to many of the details of what our new program will look like, the most current draft reduces somewhat the number of General Studies courses required of students, and effectively removes one breadth course from the Humanities (under our current Frames of Reference GS plan, students can obtain the General Studies letters of H, A, V, or T from our division; under the new system, we have two breadth courses for our division in place of these four). For disciplines at the heart of the Humanities like Classics, which has extremely good enrollments in large General Studies courses, but a small core of majors on our two major programs (Latin and Classical Studies), this new plan causes some concern.