

SALVETE!

Holding fragments of history



Christine Roughan, Christine Bannan, Gloria McMahon, J.D. Power, Neil Curran, Caroline Furey, Mark Hogan, Chris Won, and Megan Whitacre (all class of 2014) stand atop the Athenian Acropolis. (Photo courtesy of Christine Bannan '14)

By Christine Bannan '14

Studying abroad in Athens this fall gave me the chance to engage with Classics in ways I never have before. I enrolled in the College Year in Athens' optional three-week conservation workshop, where we shattered tourist vases that resembled ancient pottery. To simulate how artifacts are often found in archaeological excavations, we removed pieces from our pile of sherds and reconstructed our vases from the remaining fragments. We filled in the holes with plaster, sanded them down, and learned how to paint the plaster a shade close enough to the original to create unity in the object, but not too close so as to deceive the eye into thinking the reconstruction is ancient. Interacting with the material as conservators do helped me more fully understand the process an

object goes through from the time it is found at an archaeological dig until it is ready to be displayed in a museum.

I also benefited from on-site classes and interactive assignments. One day my professor for "Aegean Prehistory: The Rise & Fall of the Bronze Age Cultures" took the class to the British School at Athens to see their small teaching collection. She handed out gloves and instructed us to pick an object to draw and write a paper on. I chose two fragments from frescoes found at Mycenae. While at first sight they were not as interesting as the other artifacts, they allowed me more room to explore. I determined where the pigments came from, compared the fragments to reconstructions of scenes at other Mycenaean frescoes, and hypothesized about their meaning

Greetings from the Classics Department at Holy Cross

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM FENWICK 4

*Annum faustum vobis
precamur!*

In this issue of *Salvete!* we feature one student's reflections on her experiences in Athens this past fall (beginning here on Page 1), as well as stories about the continued successes of the Manuscripts, Inscriptions, and Documents Club, both on Fenwick 4 and at a recent conference at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. (Page 2).

Also included in this issue is a piece on the late Holy Cross president Fr. John Brooks' nurturing of the Classics Department (Pages 3-4), along with updates on the Women's and Gender Studies Program's move to Fenwick 4, HC's nascent undergraduate Classics journal *Parnassus*, and the student society Eta Sigma Phi (Page 4).

Page 6 includes news from several of the department's alumni/ae. Please send along more updates to Tim Joseph '98 at tjoseph@holycross.edu

in the burial and domestic contexts they were found in.

Living in Athens not only enriched my studies while I was there, but it also directly impacted my future research plans. At Holy Cross in the Spring 2012 semester I started working on a project through the Manuscripts, Inscriptions, and Documents club to study the Athenian Tribute Lists, and I was able to see these inscriptions, on enormous stelae, up close at the Epigraphical Museum in Athens. It was

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The Manuscripts, Inscriptions, and Documents Club Expands and Diversifies

By Matthew Angiolillo '13

The Manuscripts, Inscriptions, and Documents Club (MID) has grown considerably this year and has added a variety of new projects and members, as it moves towards being a model for interdisciplinary undergraduate research.

This growth can be witnessed each Friday afternoon, as the club's activities spread across Fenwick 4. At the club's organizational meeting in September, thirty-seven students and three faculty members came out to express their interest and find out more about the opportunities for investigation. This increase in interest has allowed MID to broaden its study of Homeric manuscripts, with three teams working on different projects. One group is studying *Iliad* 8 in the Venetus A, Venetus B, and Escorial Upsilon 1.1 manuscripts, with other teams studying the later books of the *Iliad* in the Venetus A,

and editing a normalized edition of the Venetus A.

The works of the 3rd-century B.C.E. Syracusean scientist Archimedes are also being examined, as students are exploring both a Greek palimpsest and a Latin manuscript holding Archimedes' investigations of spherical and cylindrical geometry. Greek epigraphy has also found its way into the club's repertoire. Aided by Holy Cross classmates studying abroad in Athens, who have sent back high quality photography (see story and pictures on Pages 1 and 5), members are busily editing the images of the Athenian Tribute Lists. These inscriptions record the taxes collected by Athens for protection against the Persians. In addition, Latin manuscripts are being analyzed, with students investigating the *Chronicles of St. Jerome*.

Alongside these new projects in Classics, perhaps the most refreshing and bold new

contingent in the MID is a team of students working with Prof. James Kee of the English Department on a manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. They represent the first of hopefully many members from other academic departments.

The fall semester was also the first time the MID was a fully recognized Registered Student Organization and thus able to expand its operation by purchases through the Holy Cross Student Government. Licenses for additional software for project leaders were bought, and the Club has also revised its constitution to allow faculty and, hopefully soon, alumni/ae membership. For the second semester there is a planned trip to the Houghton Library for rare books at Harvard University, and members are also heading to the Digital Premodernist Seminar series at Tufts University in February.



Tom Arralde '13, Matt Angiolillo '13, Sean Bonawitz (Furman University '15), Nik Churik '15, Melissa Browne '12, and Stephanie Lindeborg '13 at the CHS in Washington (Photo by Prof. Neel Smith).

MID members travel (and e-travel) to conference in D.C.

By Thomas Arralde '13

On Thursday, November 29, four Holy Cross Classics majors flew to Washington, DC, for the weekend to speak at the Center for Hellenic Studies for an Undergraduate Research Symposium. Matthew Angiolillo '13, Thomas Arralde '13, Nikolas Churik '15, and Stephanie Lindeborg '13, all active members of the Homer Multitext project at Holy

Cross, were invited by the Center to present on findings from their research. At the conference, which was also attended by Professor Neel Smith, they met up with Holy Cross alumna Melissa Browne '12 and Sean Bonawitz, a current student at Furman University.

The Homer Multitext panel was the last event of the two-day symposium, and, although there

were fears that the audience would be wearied from an overdose of Classical scholarship, the excitement in the presentation room was palpable.

Stephanie and Melissa began with the first section of the panel on the production and binding of pages in various

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John Brooks, S.J., Friend of the Classics

By Tim Joseph '98

The presidency of Fr. John Brooks, S.J., who died on July 2, 2012, at the age of 88, was historic. During his twenty-four years as president of Holy Cross (1970-1994), Fr. Brooks oversaw the College's transformation to coeducation, worked to diversify the student body through the recruitment of minority students, and guided the institution into financial stability -- to note three of his most significant and enduring accomplishments.

Fr. Brooks' legacy in the Classics Department is also great. The advanced degrees that he held were in philosophy, geophysics, and theology. But Fr. Brooks always kept a special eye on Fenwick 4, and took a series of measures to ensure the continued prosperity of Classics at Holy Cross.

Fr. Brooks' love for the Classics went back to his days as a student at the Boston Latin School in the 1930s and early 1940s. "He often told the story of how his father would march him into the office of his teacher or even that of the headmaster and then lecture John about the importance of studying his Greek and Latin," remembers Fr. Ed Vodoklys, S.J. '72, Senior Lecturer in Classics, who lived in the Jesuit Community with Fr. Brooks for twenty years. "Those early days impressed on John the importance of learning those subjects as a form of mental discipline, as well learning about the roots of our intellectual history."

Fr. Brooks would go on to take more courses in the

Classics as a student at Holy Cross, where he graduated with a major in physics in 1949. One of his professors was Fr. Henry Bean, S.J., who taught in the Classics and English departments from 1932 to 1943, and then from 1946 until his death in 1968.

A few years after Fr. Bean's death, Fr. Brooks, in the early years of his presidency, honored his old teacher by instituting the Henry Bean, S.J., Scholarship, the full-tuition scholarship that has been awarded to two incoming Classics majors every year since the fall of 1973. This move came at a time

when many secondary schools were deemphasizing the study of Latin and Greek, and when fewer and fewer students were majoring in Classics at Holy Cross. The institution of the Bean Scholarship thus stood as a response to this trend, a way of reasserting the importance of Classics in a liberal arts education.

Professor Emeritus William Ziobro '66, who taught in the department from 1969 to 2011, remembers well Fr. Brooks' hand in the establishment of the scholarship. "The Bean Scholarship was Father Brooks' brainchild," recalls Ziobro. "And the real key factor, at a time when the College was hard strapped for cash and all scholarships were being tightened, is that he made these scholarships full-tuition and 'independent' of need -- unheard of at that time. He simply wanted to attract the very best students in Classics to the College from a nationwide base, and he hoped that several students would also come along in their wake.

"His vision was spot on, since the number of students attracted to the Classics Department increased dramatically and instantly," continues Ziobro. "As chair of the department [from 1980 to 1990], I felt that I was running a marketing agency, as we scoured the nation for talented classicists. The number of majors by 1990 was over 100, with 500 students per semester taking courses in the Classics. The number of valedictorians in the early years who were Bean Scholars was also impressive."

Fr. Brooks' concern for maintaining a strong corps of Classics majors was accompanied by an interest in keeping the department's faculty strong. In the



*Above: courtesy of the 1981 Purple Patcher.
Below: courtesy of Holy Cross Magazine.*



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PLURA NOVA

- Beginning in the Fall 2012 semester, the Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) Program is being hosted in the Classics Department, under the aegis of the program's director, Professor Nancy Andrews. Classics courses being cross-listed in WGST include Professor Andrews' "Women in Classical Mythology" (offered in the fall and spring) and Professor Aaron Seider's "Ancient Manhood Contested" (offered in the fall). For more information on the program, visit: <http://academics.holycross.edu/women-genderstudies>

- The editors of *Parnassus*, Holy Cross's new undergraduate Classics journal, will produce the inaugural issue at the end of the spring semester. Anne Salloom '14, the editor-in-chief of *Parnassus*, writes: "The journal will provide students with a way to share their work from their courses, research, and other projects with a wider audience. The journal will also focus on accessibility, and all accepted submissions will have to be understandable to a wider audience. It is our hope that this journal will allow students to share their passion for Classics and to make the field seem more accessible to others in the community." The journal will be available in print and online.

- Stephanie Lindeborg '13, President of the Holy Cross chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national honorary collegiate society for students of Latin and Greek, writes: "Turnout has been good this semester, with significant interest from the freshmen and new majors. Induction in the spring should be a festive event. Alexander Simrell '16 was elected to the freshman officer position, Tribune of the Plebs. Next semester, the chapter hopes to organize a group field trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts." With the help of Ms. Toni Methe, Eta Sigma Phi will also host high school students from around New England on Classics Day, which will take place this year on Thursday, April 4. For more information on Classics Day, please contact Toni at tmethe@holycross.edu.

Brooks & the Classics (From Page 3)

early 1990s he oversaw the establishment of the Jeremiah W. O'Connor, Jr., '63 Chair in the Classics. This position, one of the very first endowed chairs at the College, has been held by Professor Thomas Martin since its institution in 1992.

Around this same time Fr. Brooks was also pivotal in seeing to it that the American

Massachusetts, recalls Fr. Brooks' promotion of a Classical education while serving on St. Sebastian's Board of Trustees. "I remember Fr. Brooks always reminding me to 'push the Classics,' by which he meant that the Classics needed to be promoted in a traditional, rigorous secondary school program," says Nerbonne. "

"Father Brooks was the driving force to keep Classics as a flagship department at the College." -- Prof. Emeritus William Ziobro '66

Philological Association (APA), the preeminent North American scholarly organization devoted to the study of the Classics, be housed at Holy Cross, which was the case from 1990 to 1997. "Fr. Brooks saw the advantage of placing the College's name on every piece of paper that went to APA members across the nation and the world," recalls Ziobro, who served as the APA's Executive Director during this period. "He was extremely proud of Holy Cross housing the APA, and without his intervention and support it would not have happened. The APA fittingly made him a lifetime honorary member."

Fr. Brooks' strong advocacy of the study of the Classics extended beyond his service as president of Holy Cross. Michael Nerbonne '82, Assistant Headmaster, Dean of Studies, and Classics teacher at St. Sebastian's School in Needham,

think that he understood that students and parents would see the benefits of studying the Classics if we were clear in our articulation of those benefits. He often said that St. Sebastian's had to provide a very challenging and rigorous program of studies, because anything less than that would ill serve the Church. Fr. Brooks saw the Classics as the cornerstone and hallmark of such a program."

Fr. Brooks felt just as strongly about the place of the Classics at Holy Cross -- and acted accordingly. Ziobro has captured this fact succinctly: "Father Brooks was the driving force to keep Classics as a flagship department at the College."

For more on Fr. Brooks' legacy, see the obituary in Holy Cross Magazine at <http://news.holycross.edu/blog/2012/07/03/in-memoriam-rev-john-e-brooks-s-j-1923-2012/>

Cont. from Page 1: Holding Fragments of History

a bit surreal the first time I saw Stele 1 and recognized the same letters I had stared at on a computer screen only a few weeks before back at Holy Cross. I was also granted permission to go into the back rooms of the museum and photograph other inscriptions related to tribute that were not on display. The experience of seeing these inscriptions in person has made me even more enthusiastic to study them when I return to Holy Cross.

The mystery and possibility that fragments contain hold a certain allure for me. In my conservation workshop, fresco paper, and Athenian Tribute List research, I have had to study fragments to understand how they fit into the bigger picture. Studying in Athens and seeing -- sometimes even holding -- antiquities has deepened my engagement with Classics. And these experiences are just a few examples of what the nine of us from Holy Cross learned in Athens this semester.

For more on the experiences of the Class of 2014 in Athens (and beyond), visit Megan Whitacre's blog at <http://mpwhit14.me.holycross.edu/>

Above right: Christine Roughan '14 and Megan Whitcare '14 take pictures of a stele in the Epigraphical Museum in Athens (Photo courtesy of Megan Whitcare '14).

Right: Neil Curran, Chris Won, Christine Roughan, Christine Bannan, Gloria McMahon, and J.D. Power (all class of 2014) at Mt. Olympus (Photo courtesy of Christine Bannan '14).



Cont. from Page 2: MID club reports on findings at national conference

Homeric manuscripts, with special reference to quire divisions in three unpublished manuscripts. Nikolas and Sean followed with a presentation on how the text and commentary were organized and laid out on the pages of the manuscripts, especially the Venetus A manuscript. The audience found Nikolas' and Sean's discussion of "ding-bat" scholia -- marginal comments in the manuscripts marked by especially odd symbols -- particularly interesting, and a lively question-and-answer period followed.

Rebecca Musgrave '14 and Brian Clark '15 were Skyped in from

the St. Isidore of Seville Research Lab on Fenwick 4 to continue presenting on the layout of Homeric manuscripts, this time focusing on the Upsilon 1.1 manuscript. It was only fitting that a project in the Digital Humanities brought in its experts via video chat. The success of this section of the panel audibly impressed members of the audience, and allowed other members of the panel to breathe more easily, since there were concerns that technological difficulties would occur. Matthew and Thomas finished the panel with a treatment of how scholia were edited, with special focus on the

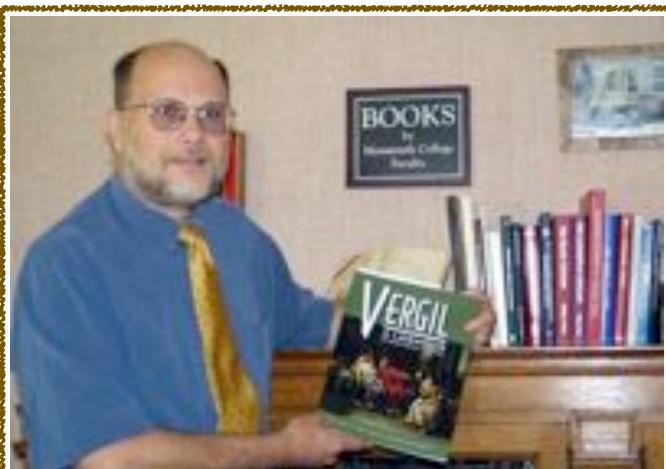
working methods of the Venetus A scholiast.

The following question and answer session was lively. Harvard Professor of Greek Gregory Nagy, Director of the Center, even asserted that the panel would deserve the Nobel Prize for Classics, if such a thing existed. Professor Smith led his Multitext team to an incredible performance that will hopefully be remembered for years to come. The video and abstract of the presentations will be put up on the Sunoikisis website at: <http://wp.chs.harvard.edu/sunoikisis/media/>

ALUMNI/-AE UPDATES FROM AFIELD

Kenneth Kitchell '69, Professor of Classics at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and **Tom Sienkewicz '71**, Minnie Billings Capron Professor of Classics at Monmouth College, have been busy collaborating on Latin texts for the classroom. They co-edited the *Legamus* Reader series for Bolchazy-Carducci press, designed to make the transition from beginning Latin to authorial Latin easier.

Tom also co-authored the Vergil volume in the *Legamus* series and Ken the Catullus volume. Most recently (2011) they have published *Disce!*, an



Tom Sienkewicz with a copy of his *Legamus* reader for Vergil.
(Photo courtesy of Ken Kitchell)

introductory Latin textbook in two volumes with Pearson Publishing. *Disce!* is designed to be a cross between the "grammar first" approach of *Wheelock* and the reading method books such as *Ecce Romani*. It comes with extensive online support in the form of MyLatinLab. Here is a link to the Home page for *Disce!* <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/product?ISBN=0131585312>

Edward Brzytwa '99 serves the United States in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) in the Executive Office of the President. He just switched into a new role at USTR and is now developing and negotiating U.S. international trade policy in the context of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation). Ed writes that "no matter how far he travels for work or how many cultures he interacts with, his Classics background is always there, in particular the skill of analyzing language and context from multiple perspectives. But what launched him into the world of trade diplomacy was his study abroad semester in Athens in 1998."

Sara Flounders '01, Daniel Bluth '09, and Joseph Strzempek '09/10 are all teaching at the Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School. Sara, the Chair of the Latin Department, has been at Boys Latin since it opened in the fall of 2007, while Daniel is in his fourth year, and Joe his third. Daniel reports that they had thirteen students score above the national average on the National Latin Exam in 2012.

Alyssa Miller '08 graduated from the William and Mary Law School in 2011 and is now serving as a Navy JAG (member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps) in Naples, Italy. She works in the Criminal Defense Department. Alyssa writes from Naples: "During my time as a JAG, I also spend time doing prosecution, legal assistance for sailors, and staff judge advocate work (which means advising non-lawyer military leaders on the legality of their decisions). In my free time, I explore Europe and use my Classics background all the time. Sometimes that means boring my fellow travelers with talk of tufa, Magna Graecia, and why the Roman Republic was hands-down more awesome than the Roman Empire. A few times a week, I take my dog for a jog around Lake Avernus, which is a half mile from my house.

"Even more often, I use Classics in my legal work. Classics gave me a deep appreciation for rhetoric and linguistic precision. I will sit at my desk, writing a motion, and spend time thinking about the best possible sentence structure to grab the judge's attention. Sometimes I even ask myself: what would Cicero do? How would he write this motion? I am truly grateful for the Classics Department at Holy Cross. You all taught me some interesting tidbits about history, but, much more importantly, you taught me how to think. I will always thank you for that. I wish the same for current and future Classics students."

Katherine Schmieg '09 is in the second year of an M.A. Program in Classics at Boston College. From 2009 to 2011 Kate was a teaching fellow at the Nativity School in Worcester, where she taught a variety of subjects (Math, Spanish, Science, English, Drama, Music, Health, and Ancient History) to middle school students while also coaching flag football.

Please let us and your fellow alums know what you are up to by sending news to Tim Joseph '98 at tjoseph@holycross.edu.