

## Students Entertained at Screening of *Gladiator II*



The HSC student body was cordially invited to a screening of *Gladiator II* at the Sunchase Cinema 8 on December 12 for a finals week study break event. Free tickets and concessions were provided to all students courtesy of the classics department. Attendees enjoyed director Ridley Scott's cinematic return to ancient Rome, 24 years after his original *Gladiator* film starring Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix. Amid much action in the Colosseum and even more in the imperial palaces, Paul Mescal and Denzel Washington gave our audience an entertaining display. Students wishing to learn more about the gladiatorial arena (and the actual careers of the emperors Geta, Caracalla, and Macrinus) are warmly encouraged to enroll in the Roman history courses that the classics dept. will offer in the near future!

**Above:** HSC film attendees.  
**Right:** *Gladiator II* poster.



## HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS '24 - '25 WINTER NEWSLETTER

### “Lessons From Bees” Creates Buzz Among Students and Faculty from Classics and Biology Departments



The classics department teamed up with the biology department to deliver “Lessons From Bees in Ancient Literature and Modern Apiculture” on November 14, a lunchtime lecture featuring Dr. Hay and Dr. Scott Starr of the biology department. Dr. Hay discussed comments on bees by ancient authors such as Aristotle and Vergil, and Dr. Starr showed where these authors got things right and wrong about the behavior of bee colonies. Dr. Starr also showed off the activities of the HSC Beekeeping Club and distributed samples of honey taken from the college's own apiary. Students and faculty in attendance saw firsthand how the interdisciplinary nature of classical studies allows bridges to be built between widely differing subjects. We hope to collaborate further with our colleagues in Pauley in the future!

**Above:** Dr. Starr discusses modern apiculture.  
**Right:** Raw unfiltered honey from HSC hives!



# Highlights From Dr. Siegel's Summer 2024 Research Travels

'In July I traveled to Cardiff, Wales and gave a 40-minute multi-media presentation entitled "The Wizard of Oz: A Modern Argonautica for Children of All Ages, Revisited" at this summer's Celtic Classics Conference. One discovery I shared about this comparison of MGM's 1939 blockbuster film and the famous tale of Jason and the Golden Fleece is that L. Frank Baum's book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900) is much more mythic than the fantasy film it inspired. The Hollywood screenplay ignored multiple chapters of the book that are positively brimming with *mythos* – that quality that allows characters and themes to transcend the limits of human experience in order to teach us What It Means To Be Human. In a course I am teaching next fall, "Mythic Elements in Television and Film," we will explore the value of such "mythic" elements so crucial to classical mythology as they appear in tv and films in the genres of science-fiction, fantasy, and horror.'



# New Promotional Poster Appears in Econ Dept

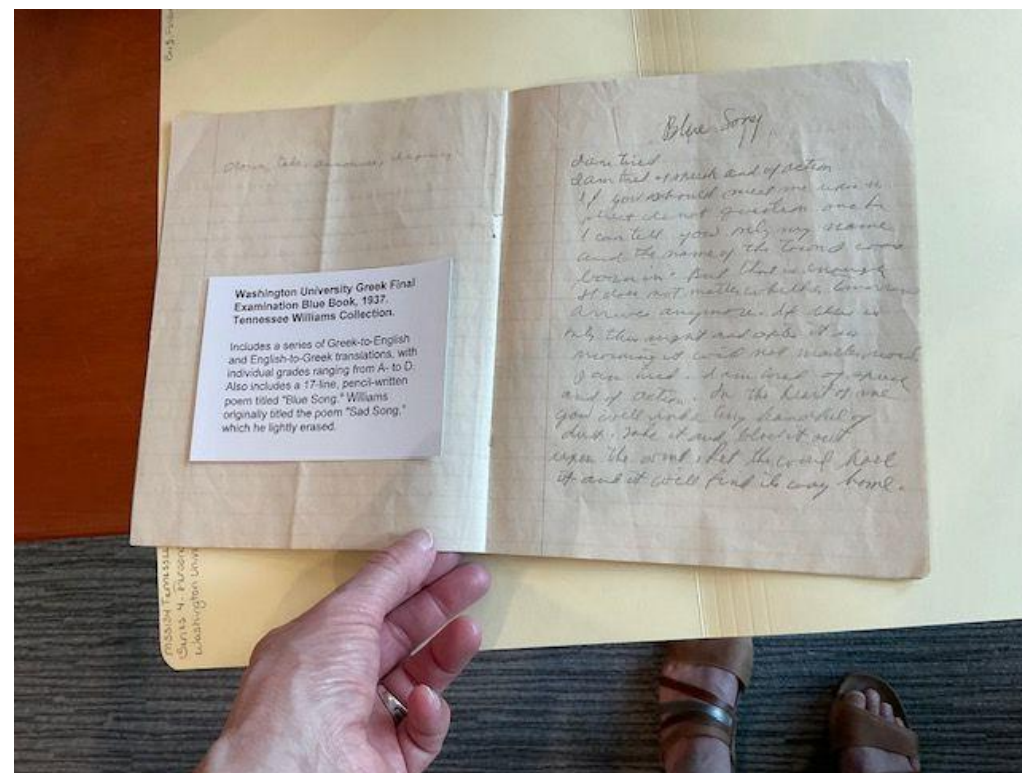
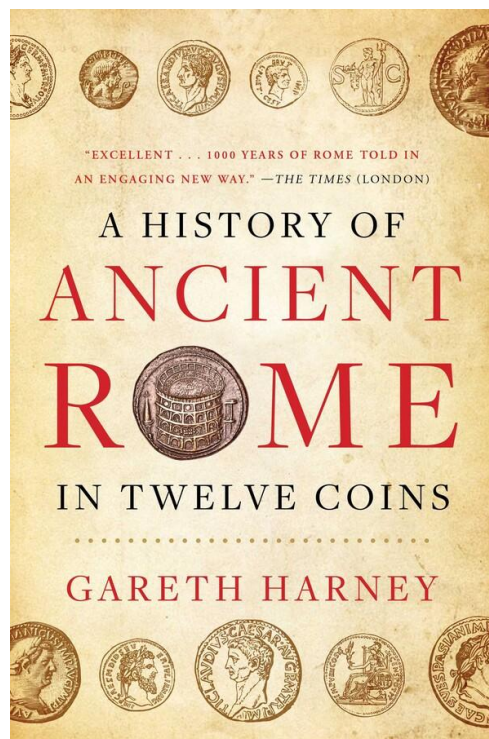
On October 22, this poster promoting the study of classics to business students appeared in the hallway of the economics department in Morton. The poster shows some of the many successful CEOs and entrepreneurs who majored in classics in college. (Thank you to our colleagues in the economics department for letting us hang this up on the wall!)

**Do You Mean BUSINESS?**

- Jack Emmert** [Purdue '91: video game designer, co-founder and CEO of Cryptic Studios, CEO of Daybreak Game Company]
- Chaim Bloom** [Yale '04: Director of Baseball Operations for the Tampa Bay Rays 2011-18, Chief Baseball Officer for the Boston Red Sox 2019-23]
- Nathaniel Fisk** [Dartmouth '99: CEO of Endgame Inc., U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy]
- Brian Fitzpatrick** [UCLA '92: co-founder and CEO of hospitality booking app Took, formerly at Google and Apple]
- Stephanie Horbeczewski** [Trinity College '09: founder of StyleHaul]
- Alexa Hupchick** [Harvard '06: co-founder of Paperism Post]
- Jim Mann** [Colgate '73: CEO of Lotus Software, chairman of Thermo Fisher Scientific]
- Tim O'Reilly** [Harvard '75: tech advocate and founder of O'Reilly Media, popularized the terms "Web 2.0" and "open-source"]
- Charles Geschke** [Xavier '82: co-founder of Adobe Inc., co-creator of PDF document format]
- Amanda Watlington** [Purdue '03: CEO of City Square Consulting]
- Macon Brock** [Randolph-Macon '84: co-founder and former CEO of Dollar Tree]
- Luke Nolin** [Nebraska '10: CEO and founder of Archimedes Digital]
- Eric DeCosta** [Colby '03: EVP and GM of the Baltimore Ravens]
- Martha Lane Fox** [Oxford '81: tech advocate and co-founder of Last Minute, sits on boards of Chanel and WeTransfer]

**Then Major in CLASSICS!**  
All these CEOs and entrepreneurs were classics majors in college...a degree in classics is a strong foundation for the start of your career in the business world!

## Dr. Hay Publishes Review of New Classics Book



‘After Cardiff, I spent a week in London working at The Combined Library of the Institute of Classical Studies and the Hellenic and Roman Societies. Upon my return, I drove out to St. Louis to visit the Special Collections Library at my alma mater, Washington University, in order to wrap up a research project exploring the influence of Tennessee Williams’ classical education on his writings. I made a lot of fun discoveries, but what I really wanted to see was the Greek final exam that TW wrote while he was a student at Wash. U in 1937 (found in a second-hand bookshop in New Orleans in 2004). And I was not disappointed! The day before that exam, TW had written in his journal that he would “undoubtedly flunk” it. But not all of the answers he provided earned low marks! Yet his despair led him to express feelings most students can relate to during finals week: he scribbled a poem on the last page of his blue book that he entitled “Blue Song.” It begins: “I am tired...” [see picture of Dr. Siegel holding the blue book in question: yes, they let me hold it!].’

In the most recent issue of the *Las Vegas Review of Books* (an online review publication), Dr. Hay has published a review of *A History of Ancient Rome in Twelve Coins* by Gareth Harney. Harney, a historian and coin collector, has written a full history of ancient Rome, from “foundation” to “fall,” that focuses primarily on Rome’s numismatic depictions of major figures and events. Along the way, Harney describes the process of minting coins in antiquity as well as the perils of coin debasement that plagued the Roman economy during the worst years of the Roman Empire. In addition to coins, the book also devotes much attention to gladiators, the details of the assassination of Julius Caesar, and the Stoic philosophy of the emperor Marcus Aurelius. Dr. Hay hopes to incorporate numismatic evidence more robustly in his Roman history classes, and in the future the classics department may even offer a course on ancient numismatics (with the opportunity for students to observe the ancient Greek and Roman coins donated to the college in 1962 and recently exhibited in the lobby of Bortz Library).

Dr. Hay’s book review can be accessed by scanning the QR code above with your electronic device!

# Field Reports from Our Classes in the Fall Semester

**CLAS 185: Pre-Modern Experiences of Nature:** Dr. Hay's ancient nature students read ancient accounts of volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and (scariest of all!) consumption of ice cubes, while also analyzing modern reports on air pollution and deforestation in ancient Europe and the Americas.

**CLAS 202: Classical Mythology:** Dr. Siegel's mythology students explored the nature of the interactions between gods and humans and how their beliefs influenced their culture, and how and why motifs from classical mythology persist in the art, literature, and popular culture of today.

**CLAS 203: Greek Literature in Translation:** Dr. Siegel's Greek lit students read seminal works (including Hesiod's *Theogony*, *Homeric Hymns*, Homer's *Odyssey*, and Euripides' *Hecuba*) and considered their enduring relevance.

**GREK 102: Elementary Greek:** Dr. Hay's rookie Hellenists tackled the rest of their introductory grammar and vocabulary before diving into the unabridged text of Xenophon's *Apology*.

**LATN 101: Elementary Latin:** Dr. Siegel's introductory Latin students gloried in the details of Latin grammar and syntax in preparation for reading some of the best stuff on earth in the original Latin.

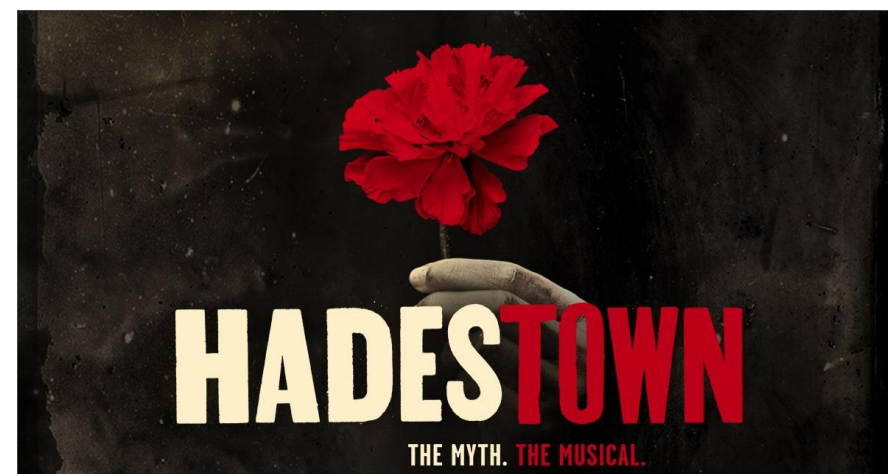
**LATN 201: Intermediate Latin:** Dr. Hay's third-semester Latinists marched around ancient Gaul (divided into three parts, you know) with the text of Caesar's *Bellum Gallicum*.



## Hadestown Musical Wows Students on Durham Trip

On December 1, the Classics Department (with the generous support of the Dean of Faculty's office) took ten students to the Durham Performing Arts Center (during Thanksgiving Break!) to see the award-winning musical *Hadestown*. The musical adapts the love stories of Orpheus and Eurydice and of Hades and Persephone, two foundational classical myths, presenting them with a modern twist. This was the only east coast-scheduled performance by its Broadway touring company. The musical's powerful themes and great performances delighted our attendees!

**Above:** Students enjoy a meal in a fancy Greek restaurant with Dr. Siegel. Clockwise from left: Rhett Hartley, Rowan Warren, Charlie Pearson, Charlie Seaman, Thad Cobb, Dr. Siegel, Kadin McCallum, Joe Carbone, Matt Walker, Sean Panchmatia. Missing: Zachary Schwab



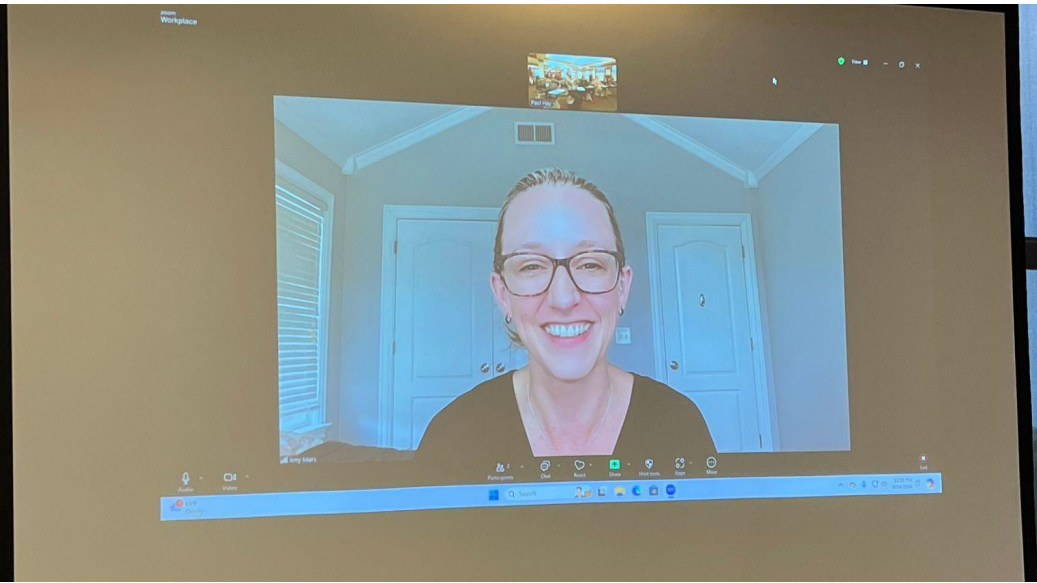
Think about Gilgamesh's movements geographically in Tablets IX, X, and XI of the *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

In the box below, draw a map of the various places Gilgamesh goes to in today's reading. At each particular location, note the people or monsters that Gilgamesh encounters there. Track Gilgamesh's movements from one place to the next. Consider: What kind of journey is Gilgamesh on? What does your map reveal about the meaning of this journey?



**WCUL 101: Beginning to 1500:** Dr. Hay's students debated cultural values in a range of texts, from *Genesis* to Dante, and assessed the transformations of characters like Achilles and Gilgamesh; students even mapped out Gilgamesh's journey (work seen here by Steven Goudes).

## Eta Sigma Phi Holds Welcome-Back Pizza Party



On September 24, HSC's own Beta Theta chapter of Eta Sigma Phi (the national honor society for classics) threw a welcome-back "Eat-a Pizza Pie" get-together for all active members of Eta Sigma Phi. In addition to pizza, drinks, and socializing with fellow students and faculty, the event included a guest Zoom lecture by Dr. Amy Mars of Wake Forest University about her current research project on Homeric poetry.

The event concluded with the election of officers for the chapter: *Prytanis* Graeme Ebert, *Hyparchos* Ansen Lackner, *Chrysothylax* George Jackson, and *Grammateus* Matthew Miscikowski.

Congratulations to all our new officers! We look forward to seeing our Eta Sigma Phi members again this spring at the initiation banquet.

**Above:** Dr. Mars delivers a scintillating ZOOM lecture.

**Right:** Matthew Miscikowski (L), George Jackson (C), and Graeme Ebert (R) listen closely to the talk.



### The Parthenon in its Context(s) with Professor Paul Hay

Thursday, October 10  
11:30-12:20  
Bortz 4th Floor

Free and open to the public • Sponsored by the Core Cultures Program

## Dr. Hay Delivers Parthenon Lecture to Students in Core Cultures Program For Fall Semester

A standing-room-only crowd in the fourth floor lecture area of Bortz was on hand for "The Parthenon in its Context(s)," a public lecture delivered by Dr. Hay on October 10 on behalf of the Core Cultures Program.

Dr. Hay described the Parthenon's various architectural features (its metopes, its pediments, its friezes, etc.) and situated the building on the Acropolis at Athens alongside other important Athenian landmarks. He also provided historical context for the funding and construction of the building, which contributed to its perception in antiquity as both a symbol of democratic populism and a monument to imperial exploitation. He finished by describing some of the ways that the Parthenon has been re-understood by later civilizations that have looked to ancient Greece as a source of meaning in their own contemporary worlds. "In all its contexts," concluded Dr. Hay, "this building serves to challenge us to find new ways to express the human spirit and the human will."

The presentation featured a slideshow of images that included photographs taken by Dr. Siegel during her visits to the Parthenon. Some of these photographs showed the damage that the Parthenon has suffered throughout history (such as from the ammunition of seventeenth-century Venetians fighting Turks on the Acropolis).

# WHAT DR. HAY DID ON HIS SUMMER 2024 VACATION



‘In late June, I gave a research paper at the Fifteenth Biennial Conference on Orality & Literacy in the Ancient World. The participants included scholars who are experts in Egyptian literature, the Bible, and Greek and Latin classics and represented eight different countries. (You can see me, back and far right, standing among them in the picture above.) I delivered a paper about the cognitive effects of the use of *zeugma* (a rhetorical device in which one verb governs two nouns, one of which works metaphorically; e.g., “Our spirits and our trembling limbs fell”) in the poetry of the Roman poet Grattius. The conference was held on the campus of Ohio Northern University in the quaint hamlet of Ada, OH. We hope that our conference papers appear in print soon.’

‘At the end of July, I participated in a pedagogy workshop (on Ancient Science, Medicine, and Magic) at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. I was among 20 professors from small liberal arts colleges like HSC who teach courses on the social history of the ancient world and wanted to learn more about how to bring ancient science into the classroom effectively. I found the workshop to be incredibly beneficial to my research and my teaching, and I was glad to have acquired a wealth of new notes and readings for my ancient nature course in the fall. I think our group did a great job of cultivating the collegial atmosphere that is characteristic of an ideal learning community, so it felt like a real success. (I am in the back row of the picture on the facing page.) I’m very grateful to have been nominated for this valuable professional-development opportunity!’



‘At the beginning of September, I traveled to Omaha for an international conference on Alexander the Great. I delivered a research paper on the historian Quintus Curtius (one of our few surviving ancient sources on Alexander’s life), which I hope to publish in the near future. The HSC classics department will offer a course on Alexander the Great in fall 2025, so this conference also helped me update and improve my pedagogy. There was even an experimental archaeology session, where we tested the weapons and tactics of Alexander’s ancient Macedonian army. I am in the yellow shirt in the picture below as we practiced marching and fighting with the ancient Macedonian battle pike known as the *sarissa*. (It was a little dangerous; we had to sign waivers.) The experience gave me a renewed appreciation for the toughness and intelligence of the average ancient soldier, although I promise that upon return from the Alexander conference, I felt no increased desire to try to take over the entire world.’

