

H-SC CLASSICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2024

**Senior Patrick Duffy graduates with
a Double Major in Economics and Latin!
Congratulations, Patrick! 🎉🎉**

Daniel Nivens Awarded the David C. Wilson Greek Prize at Final Convocation

Congratulations 🎉🎉 to **Daniel Nivens** (Major in Government and Philosophy; Minor in Classical Studies), who was awarded the prestigious David C. Wilson Greek Prize as the top H-SC Greek student this year. Daniel was awarded \$400, as well as a copy of Rachel Hall Sternberg's 2021 book *The Ancient Greek Roots of Human Rights*, at the college's Convocation ceremony on April 25 (see right). Daniel will also graduate with First Honor among the Hampden-Sydney College class of 2024. We wish Daniel the best as he heads off next year to Harvard Law School!



Dr. Hay presents the David C. Wilson Prize to Daniel Nivens at Final Convocation

The Classical Certamen (Quiz Bowl) Draws Enthusiastic Crowd

Congratulations 🎉🎉 to the winners: 1st place, **Travis Tatum** (\$300); 2nd place, **Daniel Nivens** (\$200); and 3rd place, **Owen Kahn** (\$100)



Certamen competitors focus on the next question

On April 24, twenty-two students competed in a fun, energetic quest for glory in the Classical Certamen (a Classics-themed quiz bowl), a newly reinvigorated tradition popular in years past. This year's theme was "Our Classical Legacy" and posed questions about Greco-Roman culture and its modern reception, touching on every academic discipline across our curriculum as well as on popular

culture. Examples: (1) this college's football team mascot is named after the loser of a famous mythological war; (2) The middle name of *Star Trek*'s Captain Kirk is identical to this Roman emperor; and (3) Christopher Marlowe called hers the "face that launched a thousand ships." (See below for answers!) By the end of the evening, everyone came to see how deeply the legacy of classical culture has permeated modern life even in unexpected nooks and crannies, a true testament to the virtues of a good liberal arts education! All attendees won a hearty amount of pizza, soft drinks, and jubilation!



Dr. Siegel poses a Certamen question (photo grabbed from Hampden-Sydney College's Facebook page)

Answers: (1) USC, (2) Tiberius, and (3) Helen.

Eta Sigma Phi Initiation and Banquet



Some of the newly initiated: *Brooks Taylor, Daniel Nivens, Drake Wellborn, Graeme Ebert, Conor Kilfeather*

Congratulations 🎉🎉 to the eight newest members of Hampden-Sydney's Beta Theta chapter of the national Classics honor society, Eta Sigma Phi! They are **Josh Campbell, Graeme Ebert, Conor Kilfeather, Ansen Lackner, Matt Miscikowski, Zach Mowbray, Daniel Nivens, Brooks Taylor,** and **Drake Wellborn.** New members added their signatures to our chapter's membership book that dates back to 1942!

The initiation ceremony for new members on April 18 was followed by a banquet of Italian cuisine in the Board Room Lounge in Pannill Commons, also attended by some established members of the chapter. Our own **Dr. Paul Hay** delivered a keynote address entitled "Trees in Latin Pastoral Poetry," based on previous scholarship he has published in collaboration with a certified botanist.



Banquet attendees, from left to right: *Matthew Miscikowski, Dr. Janice Siegel, Alex Green, George Jackson, Ansen Lackner, Thomas Overton, Tim O'Connell, Dr. Paul Hay, and Josh Campbell*

Classics Club 2.0!



Stanley Johnson and Landon May man the Classics Club table at the January '24 Club Fair held in Brown Student Center.

Thanks to the hard work and vision of freshmen **Stanley Johnson** and **Landon May**, the Classics Club has been successfully re-established as a Student Club. This Spring, its members enjoyed engaging with Classics in a variety of ways, including attending a lecture hosted by the University of Virginia Classics Department and founding a reading group that met regularly (this semester's book of choice was Euripides' *Medea*). The Club co-sponsored this year's Classical Certamen with the Classics Department (see above).

Congratulations 🎉🎉 to Dr. Paul Hay, new tenure-track member of the Classics Department!

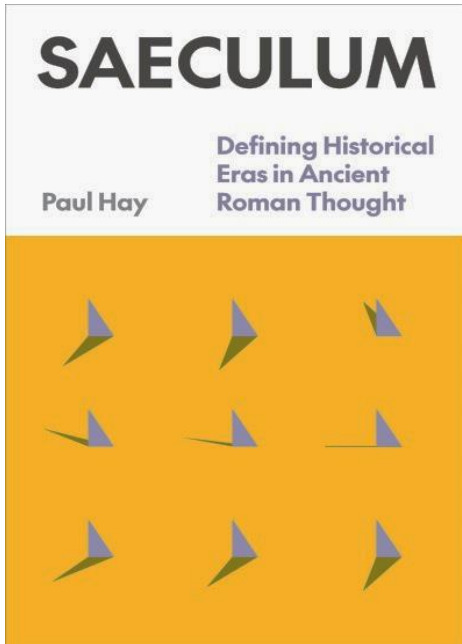


Dr. Paul Hay

The Classics Department is delighted to announce that our national search to fill an open tenure-track position has resulted in the hiring of Dr. Paul Hay! While Professor Hay has been a full-time member of the Department for three years, beginning July 1 he will bear the new title of Assistant Professor of Classics. Dr. Hay received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas (Austin) and came to us in 2021 after teaching for four years at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. At Hampden-Sydney College, he has taught a wide range of Greek and Latin language courses, Classics courses, and Western Culture. Dr. Hay has also already expanded our course offerings with new and interesting

ancient history and culture courses of his own design, including The Golden Age of Athens, Jews and Christians in Greece and Rome, and this Fall 2024's Pre-Modern Experiences of Nature (CLAS 185, TR 2-3:20pm). He is a prolific scholar with an impressive publishing record, capped by the publication in August 2023 of his first monograph, *Saeculum: Defining Historical Thought Eras in Ancient Roman Thought*, with The University of Texas Press. We are excited to be able to keep Dr. Hay at H-SC and we look forward to his contributions to the department in the years ahead!

Some Reviews of Dr. Hay's monograph



“The importance of the topic, the scope, and the richness of the argument add up to an exciting book in which Paul Hay articulates a novel perspective on a Roman idea of time: time divided into 'ages.' In *Saeculum*, Hay offers convincing interpretations of evidence and fascinating combinations of ancient materials—archaeological, literary, and documentary—under the sign of 'saecularity'.” ~ Duncan MacRae, author of *Legible Religion: Books, Gods and Rituals in Roman Culture*

“There is much more in the book that cannot be covered in this review . . . It is well written with a clear argument that temporal periodisation mattered to the Romans in the first century BCE, prefiguring the ‘Augustan Age’ (on which there is much discussion) . . . The book is worth reading to open your mind to the concept of the Romans taking action with a view to a future that would last beyond their own lifetime.” *The Classical Review*

“Squarely and happily situated between history and literature, this book unpacks our assumptions about the all too handy labels for periods of time that circumscribe intellectual history. By exploring the concept of periodization as practiced by Roman authors, Paul Hay forces a reconsideration of temporality in the literature and politics of the turbulent first century BCE. The results of this study are far-reaching and not to be ignored. Embedded in the saecular discourse that Hay identifies are tropes whose familiarity deliberately obscures the claims to power at their core.” ~ Victoria Emma Pagán, author of *Conspiracy Theory in Latin Literature*

“*Saeculum* offers an innovative and valuable study of an important aspect of Roman conceptualizations of time. It focuses a new level of attention on a specific discursive phenomenon, namely, the origins and development of Roman ideas of historical periodization during the first century BCE. The individual case studies and specific textual material surveyed exhibit remarkable variety and range, and the underlying question is central for our understanding of the intellectual and cultural history of the late republic and the early Augustan period.” ~ Jared Hudson, author of *The Rhetoric of Roman Transportation: Vehicles in Latin Literature*

Spring/Summer '24 Professional Activity by Classics Faculty

Dr. Hay made two presentations at Classics conferences this spring, at the state and national level. In January, he delivered a paper titled "Fenestella and the Temporal Rhetoric of Tiberian Literature" at the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. This paper examined the surviving fragments of the early imperial Roman historiographer Fenestella, and it argued that Fenestella's antiquarian interests should be interpreted alongside broader intellectual trends under Tiberius regarding the rhetoric of time and the periodization of history. Fenestella is often overlooked among the Roman writers of the early Empire, despite being widely read in antiquity. In this paper Dr. Hay demonstrated how Fenestella represents a new temporal consciousness among Roman writers, and how his historiographic writing (alongside Tiberian peers such as Velleius Paterculus, Nicolaus of Damascus, and Seneca the Elder) exemplifies an innovative temporal rhetoric borne out of earlier developments in Roman intellectual culture. He hopes to prepare this paper for publication in the near future.



In April, **Dr. Hay** delivered a lecture titled "How the Romans Invented Periodization" at the Classical Association of Virginia's spring meeting hosted by Randolph-Macon College. This lecture summarized the arguments of his 2023 monograph for an audience of Virginia high school and college teachers of Classics.

At left, Dr. Hay fields questions from the audience after his CAV presentation

Dr. Hay has also been selected to participate in a pedagogy seminar on Ancient Medicine, Science, and Magic to be held at Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. in August. He hopes this seminar will further contribute to our department's efforts at updating our curriculum and offering exciting new courses in ancient culture!

In June, **Dr. Siegel** will participate in the Summer Research Faculty Spotlight program sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research, where she will talk about how her scholarly interest in the Reception of Classical Mythology has inspired her teaching and vice-versa ([check out footnote #1 in her latest publication](#)). In addition to Classical Mythology (to be offered FALL '24), the H-SC Classics Department offers a number of "Myth and Film" courses, including Screened Odysseys, The Mythic Hero in Film, and Mythic Elements in Television and Film.

Dr. Siegel has also been awarded a H-SC Summer Faculty Fellowship to support her research into the similarities between Apollonius' ancient Greek epic *Argonautica* (c. 250 B.C.E.), which tells the story of Jason and the Golden Fleece) and the iconic American film *The Wizard of Oz* (MGM, 1939). She will present her findings in July at the Celtic Classics Conference in Cardiff (Wales).

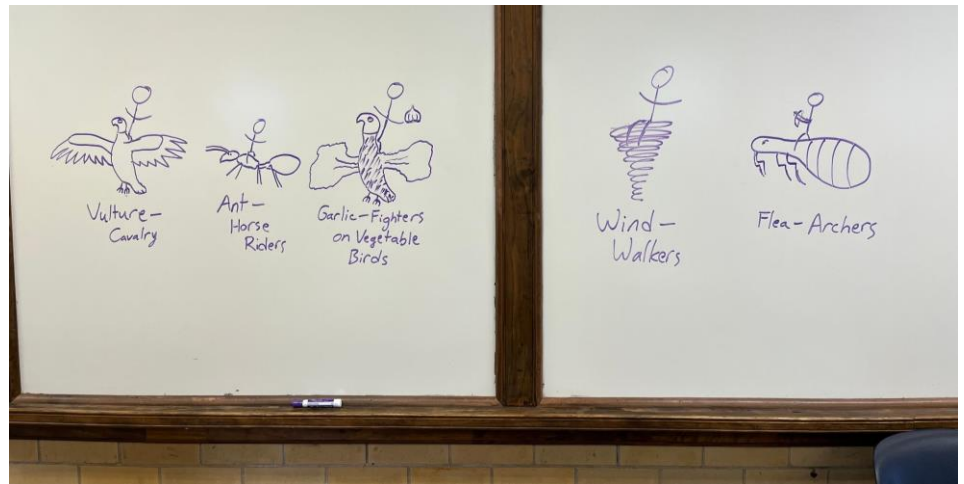
What Our Spring '24 Classes Got Up To

Dr. Hay's Greek 101 students mastered verbs in the present, future, imperfect, and aorist tenses, as well as pronouns in all three persons and nearly 300 vocabulary words. They will complete their introductory Greek studies in Greek 102 next fall. His Greek 201/301 students read through the entirety of

Part One of Lucian's *True History* in the original Greek,

following along as Lucian traveled to the moon, to an island made of cheese, into a giant whale's belly, and finally to the utopian Isles of the Blessed. Students in "Jews and Christians in Greece and Rome" (CLAS 285) class read works by a variety of Hellenistic Jewish authors, including three different Maccabees books in the Old Testament, and they had plenty to discuss about Roman interactions with Jews and Christians within the Empire as described by Philo, Josephus, the *Acts of the Apostles*, the Pauline epistles, and the *Passio Perpetuae*.

Dr. Siegel's Latin 102 students completed their study of basic Latin grammar and are ready to dive into reading unadapted Latin texts in the Fall in Latin 201. Students in Latin 202 read and analyzed selected episodes from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in the original Latin, including Daphne and Apollo, Actaeon, Tiresias, and Orpheus and Eurydice. Students in Latin Literature in Translation (CLAS 204) learned to appreciate the distinctions between a variety of literary genres in both poetry and prose, the close connection between literary form and content, and how literature reflects the changing social and cultural trends of a society. Texts engaged included *The Eunuch*, a play by Terence; Cicero's *First Catilinarian* (speech against Catiline); lyric poetry and satire by Horace; selected elegiac poems by Propertius, Tibullus, and Sulpicia; Book 1 of Livy's prose *History of Rome*; Virgil's epic poem *The Aeneid*, and a diverse selection of Ovid's poetry. LATIN 302 was dedicated to a deeper dive into Livy's *History* (in Latin called *Ab Urbe Condita*), in the original Latin.



GREK 201 student **Marc Moroz** applied his artistic skills to illustrate the participants of a wacky battle on the moon described with a straight face by Lucian.

H-SC CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

FALL '24 COURSES

CLAS 185 – Pre-Modern Experiences of Nature – TR 2:00pm-3:20pm

Instructor: Dr. Paul Hay

We will discuss how various ancient cultures (from the Mediterranean world and beyond) addressed questions about "Nature" and its relationship with human civilization. We will also examine how the ancient environment affected human history, as well as how ancient humans affected environmental history. Course topics will include: geomythology; deforestation, mining, and ancient climate change; scientific and moral discourse about nature; plants and animals, and their relation to humanity; plagues and diseases; archaeology and archaeobotany. No background in ancient history or culture is required for students enrolled in this course. **Fulfills an elective requirement for any major/minor in Classics AND for the Environmental Studies minor.**

CLAS 202 – Classical Mythology – TR 10:00am-11:20am

Instructor: Dr. Janice Siegel

A comprehensive survey of Greco-Roman mythology, with the aim of providing the student with a working knowledge of a significant element in Western culture and its creative achievements. Readings and lectures cover both the content of the mythology and its linguistic, archaeological, and anthropological significance. **Fulfills an elective requirement for any major/minor in Classics AND for the new Core Culture in Context (non-US) requirement.**

CLAS 203 – Greek Literature in Translation – MWF 11:30am-12:20pm

Instructor: Dr. Janice Siegel

Reading and discussion of major works of classical Greek literature. Literary themes and techniques are considered as well as the influence of Greek writings on later literature. No knowledge of Greek is required. **Fulfills the College Core Literature requirement and counts toward any major/minor in Classics.**

GREK 102 – Elementary Greek – TBA

Instructor: Dr. Paul Hay

A foundation course in the vocabulary, forms, and grammar of classical Greek, preparing the student to read standard authors. Emphasis is given to the development of the student's command of English by comparative and contrastive exercises and to appreciation of Greek cultural values by close study of significant vocabulary. Prerequisite: GREK 101.

GREK 202 – Intermediate Greek – TBA

Instructor: Dr. Daniella Widdows

A continuing study of grammar and vocabulary is integrated with the reading and analysis of unadapted prose and verse. Prerequisites: Greek 101-102 and 201. **Fulfills the College Core Language requirement.**

LATN 101 – Elementary Latin – MWF 10:30am-11:20am

Instructor: Dr. Janice Siegel

This course is designed for students with no previous experience with Latin. The text is written for adults; the sentences and drill exercises in forms and syntax are based on classical authors. Considerable emphasis is placed on expanding the student's vocabulary and grasp of language structure. Prerequisite: none.

LATN 201 – Intermediate Latin – MWF 10:30am-11:20am

Instructor: Dr. Paul Hay

Reading and analysis of selections from Latin prose and verse, and a continuing study of grammar and vocabulary. Prerequisites for 201: Latin 101-102, or equivalent, or placement by the department. **Fulfills the College Core Language requirement.**

