PAST SIENKEWICZ LECTURES

2017 **Victor M. Martinez** . . . . . "The Decline and Falls of the Roman Material Economy or How to Trash Talk Rome"

2018 **Nathan Elkins** . . . . . ."The Significance of Images in the Reign of Nerva"

2019 **Steven L. Tuck** . . . . . "Where Did the Pompeians Go?"

2020 **Mont Allen** . . . . . ."Dicing with Death: Games, Contests, and the World of Play on Roman Sarcophagi"

2021 **Jodi Magness** . . . . . ."Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth"

2022 **Sinclair Bell**. . . . . ."'Race,' Racism and Representation in Roman Art: Aethiopians in the Visual Arts of the Roman World"

2023 **Allison Emmerson** . . . . . ."Excavating Hidden Lives in Roman Pompeii"

2024 **Pedar Foss** . . . . . ."Solving the Mystery of Vesuvius: When Exactly Did It Destroy Pompeii?

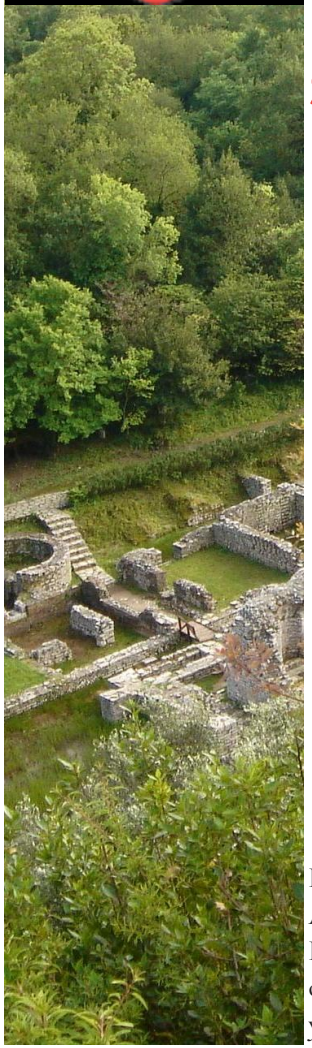
2025 **Jeremy Hartnett** . . . . . "The Wine was Never Lacking": A Roman Life and Death on the Margins



THE THOMAS J. AND ANNE W. SIENKEWICZ Lecture on Roman Archaeology was established by an anonymous donor in 2017 to support the annual archaeological lecture series sponsored by the Monmouth College Department of Classics and the Western Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. Tom Sienkewicz was Minnie Billings Capron Chair of Classics at Monmouth College from 1985 until 2017. During his career he taught a wide range of classics courses, many with strong archaeological features, including Classical Mythology, the Ancient Family, and Africa in the Ancient World. In 1984 he founded the Western Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, which, since its inception, has hosted hundreds of archaeological lectures at Monmouth. His wife, Anne, has been a loyal supporter of archaeology and over the years has hosted countless speakers.

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SIENKEWICZ LECTURE
ON ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY



TENTH ANNUAL
SIENKEWICZ LECTURE ON ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

DR. DAVID R. HERNANDEZ,

PROFESSOR OF CLASSICAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Slavery and Manumission in Greco-Roman Buthrotum (Butrint, Albania): Recent Archaeological Discoveries from the Sanctuary of Zeus Soter

OCT 28, 2026
7:30 PM

MONMOUTH COLLEGE DAHL CHAPEL

Dr. David R. Hernandez, the Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Notre Dame, is an archaeologist who specializes in the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean. For more than twenty years, Hernandez has been the Principal Investigator of the Roman Forum Excavations (RFE) Project at the UNESCO



World Heritage Site of Butrint in southern Albania, where his team examines an archaeological sequence spanning more than 3,000 years. With the support of the National Endowment of the Humanities, Hernandez also directs archaeological research at Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome, examining the Mausoleum of Hadrian and its afterlife. His research explores topics of Greek and Roman urbanism, topography, colonization, imperialism, epigraphy, and excavation methods, as well as the historical archaeology of the Late Mediaeval and Early Modern periods. Hernandez serves on the editorial board of the American Journal of Archaeology and is a member of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He received his PhD and MA in Classical Archaeology from the University of Cincinnati and BA in Physics from the University of California at Berkeley.)

Slavery and Manumission in Greco-Roman Buthrotum (Butrint, Albania): Recent Archaeological Discoveries from the Sanctuary of Zeus Soter

Archaeological excavations at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint, ancient Buthrotum, in Albania have brought to light the Roman forum (town square), built between 27 and 7 BC, under the patronage of Rome's first emperor, Augustus. Situated on the northwestern shores of ancient Greece (Achaia), Buthrotum was a seaport described by Rome's great poet Vergil as a "little Troy." This talk examines the recent archaeological discovery of the Sanctuary of Zeus Soter (Zeus the "Savior"), which features a unique shrine with an internal natural spring and ritual basin. Three new Greek manumission inscriptions were found, dating between 163 and 130 BC, that were originally displayed in the sanctuary where the emancipation ceremonies took place. The discussion includes an analysis of the manumission texts, which furnish remarkable evidence for the institution of ancient slavery in the Greek world. The excavations have also unearthed Latin inscriptions that show a different perspective of ancient slavery under the Roman Empire. Some of the greatest benefactors and most influential members of the Roman colony were freedmen (freed slaves) with ties to powerful Roman families. Two are identified as Augustales, priests of the emperor, linked to the emergence of the imperial cult in Roman Greece.

THE MONMOUTH COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND THE

WESTERN ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

PRESENT THE
TENTH ANNUAL

SIENKEWICZ LECTURE ON ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026
CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND BUSINESS
PATTEE AUDITORIUM

Community Welcome.....Dr. Robert Holschuh Simmons
Professor of
Classics
Minnie Billings Capron Chair of Classical Languages
Chair of the School of Humanities and Civic Engagement

Introduction of Speaker .....Mr. Logan Serpette '27 Classics
and Computer Science Major
Eta Sigma Phi Member
President of the Classics Club

Sienkewicz Lecture.....Dr. David R. Hernandez
Eli J. and Helen Shaheen Associate Professor of Classics
Director of the Roman Forum Excavations Project at Butrint
University of Notre Dame