

Department of Classics  
Monmouth College  
Annual Report  
1990-91

**The Academic Program.**

The transition to semesters offered the department an opportunity to change the Classics program in several ways in order to increase enrollments and make Classics studies available to a larger number of students. One modification was the introduction of one-credit Classics (in-translation) courses. CLAS250 The Ancient Olympics, offered pass/fail for one credit, generated a respectable enrollment of 21 students. This course appeared to work very well. Student reaction was favorable. The vast majority not only encouraged offering this course again, but also suggested teaching it for grade instead of pass/fail. This advice will be followed when the course is taught again in 1991-92.

The one-credit course was successful enough that next year the department plans to introduce a second course (CLAS250 Rappin' and Homer) and foresees the possibility of other courses if there is continued student need and interest.

A second important curricular change in 90-91 was revision of the Ancient Literary Genres course. For several years the department had been concerned about low enrollments in a course which should have been a mainstay of the Classics curriculum. There was some question that the genre orientation of the course was not attractive to enough students. Consequently, as part of the semester changes, the department retitled this course Ancient Literature and expanded the genre emphasis to include a thematic one. This year the course, taught as Ancient Literature: Love and Marriage, generated the largest enrollment for CLAS210 since the course was introduced in 1985. Encouraged by this increase, the department plans to continue the thematic emphasis. The theme for the course in 1991-92 is Ancient Literature: Enthusiasm.

Enrollments in other departmental courses are also encouraging. Elementary Latin and Word Elements have continued to attract approximately the same number of students for several years. Especially rewarding, however, is a dramatic increase in the number of students enrolled in advanced Latin courses (LATN250 et al.) in the past three years. As noted in earlier annual reports, this increase is, in part, a direct result of the possibility of enrolling in flexible credit courses. While many students who are willing to take Latin simply cannot fit an additional three-credit course into their schedules, some can easily find room for one or two credits.

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Another pleasant surprise was the enrollment in CLAS230 Classical Gods and Heroes (old Classical Mythology). For many years this course had been taught in the Thought and Belief rubric and thus had a restricted enrollment. As part of the semester change, the course was reoriented to the Beauty and Meaning (Appreciation) area with a special emphasis on the influence of classical mythology on modern literature and art. The large enrollments amply justify this course modification.

Also worthy of note is a new course, Africa and Blacks in Antiquity, introduced under CLAS240 Ancient Societies. This course had an enrollment of 27 students and generated a lot of student interest. The instructor (Tom Sienkewicz) found this course particularly challenging since it represented a new teaching area. This course will probably be taught once every three years as the Ancient Societies course assumes the following sequence of themes:

90-91	Africa and Blacks in Antiquity
91-92	The Ancient Family
92-93	Sport and Recreation in the Ancient World
93-94	Africa and Blacks in Antiquity
ETC.	

Since 1984 the department has devoted its energies to introducing courses in translation and increasing departmental enrollments rather than producing Classics majors. The following table illustrates that enrollments in Classics courses have more than doubled between 1984 and 1991. (It should be noted, however, that the size of the Capron Classics Room makes it unlikely that Classics enrollments will increase substantially in the future. The 1990-91 figures probably represent a realistic plateau.)

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Classics Enrollments  
1984-1991

	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88*	88-89	89-90	90-91
<b>LATIN</b>							
101	14	12	3	9	7	8	9
102	8	7	2		8	5	6
250#	3	5	3	2	10	11	13
435		2					
<b>GREEK</b>							
101	4	2	2			4	2
212	2	2				1	2
250			3				1
<b>CLASSICS/TRIAD</b>							
WE	11	16	10		17	14	16
MY	21	23	17		23	24	34
LIT		6**	8		8	14**	18
GKH		10		23		29	
RNH	23		41		28		34
FAM			11	9	26		
SPO					20	30	
OLY							21
AFR							27
IS						1	3
SUM	86	85	100	53*	147	141	187

# Includes CLAS250 and all other advanced Latin courses. Numbers reflect enrollments in several different classes.

\* Tom Sienkewicz on leave and sabbatical for two terms. Some data lacking.

\*\* Enrollments represent 2 courses offered in different terms.

WE = Word Elements

MY = Mythology (STB until 1990-91)

LIT = Ancient Literary Genres and Ancient Literature

GKH = Greek History

RNH = Roman History

FAM = Ancient Family

SPO = Sport and Recreation

OLY = Ancient Olympics

AFR = Africa and Blacks in Antiquity

IS = Independent Study

SUM = Summary



### Some Curricular Concerns

While the recent enrollment history in Classics is encouraging and while the department, in general, has weathered well the transition from terms to semesters, there are still several lingering problems. One of these is the department's inability to participate in the Freshman Seminar program under current conditions. Departments with two or more F.T.E. can readily adjust schedules to teach this course. The Classics Dept., although willing, simply cannot do so. There are several reasons why this is not an ideal situation. 1.) Participation of a Classicist enhances the Freshman Seminar program. 2.) As Dean William Julian noted in his Bulletin dated May 11, 1990 "Freshman Seminar is one of the best available vehicles for introducing students to [a] department and its program." 3.) Student advising is tied to Freshman Seminar. Unless the college develops alternative methods of allocating freshmen to advisors, Tom Sienkewicz may have only one or two advisees by 1992-1993.

A second problem was the fact that Tom Sienkewicz found it impossible to schedule a sabbatical in 1991-92 because of the college's inability to provide a part-time replacement to teach Elementary Latin in the semester he was gone. It should be noted that this difficulty did not exist under the term system, which allowed the possibility of teaching Latin 101 and Latin 102 in the two terms that the Classicist was not on sabbatical.

The department also remains very concerned about the future of Greek language courses at the college. The change to the semester system combined with a reduction of personnel in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies places the elementary Greek language program in jeopardy. For many years Greek has been taught as an overload by the Classicist, or, more recently, by Bill Amy. While enrollments in this area have remained low for the past decade, the department has simply not had the ability to devote more time and energy to Greek. Yet these courses are important for Classics, Philosophy and Religious Studies students and it is difficult to imagine a truly liberal arts college without Greek language courses. The fact that Monmouth offers Greek is one way that it can be grouped with schools like Knox, Cornell and Grinnell (which offer Greek) instead of schools like McMurray, Eureka, Central and even Illinois Wesleyan (which do not). Even a liberal arts colleges of Monmouth size can maintain a good Greek program and one in which students are eager to enroll. The college's heritage as a church-related school makes it imperative to continue the teaching of Biblical Greek on the Monmouth College campus. In order to do this, the college must anticipate the need for two additional courses (GREK101/102) which would be taught annually. Once students take these courses, the department can satisfy their

other curricular needs in the Triad course sequence WITH NO ADDITIONAL STAFFING NEEDS.

For the past seven years the department has concentrated upon developing an attractive program of courses in translation for students who can read neither Latin nor Greek. Now the department and the college must look to the elementary Latin and Greek courses and consider ways to increase student enrollments in these areas. The establishment of the Capron chair in Classics was seen by the many contributors as a means to preserve the teaching of Latin and Greek language courses on this campus. It would be most unfortunate if the department were compelled to eliminate popular courses in translation like Sport and Recreation in the Ancient World in order to teach Greek language. This is the choice the department faces as early as 1992-93 unless the college aids the department in finding a reasonable solution to this quandary.

While it is clear that the college is not presently psychologically and financially prepared to listen, from the department's perspective, the only solution to the Freshman Seminar, the sabbatical and Greek problems is the addition of a 1/2 F.T.E. in the department in order to add GREK101/102 and two sections of Freshman Seminar (one taught by Tom Sienkewicz and the other taught by the second Classicist. The presence on the faculty of an additional person who could teach Latin and Greek, would make it unnecessary to hire a sabbatical replacement.

### Course Features

As usual, the department continues to seek opportunities for guest lectures in various courses. John Ketterer spoke to the Word Elements class on the origin of the names of chemicals in the periodic table. On another occasion Bernice Fox spoke to the same class about euphemisms and other linguistic features. Anne Sienkewicz lectured to the Classical Gods and Heroes class on mythological themes in Racine's Phèdre. Jackie Urban introduced the same class to Monteverdi's opera The Return of Ulysses and discussed mythological themes in this work. Tom Sienkewicz gave a series of lectures to Bill Urban's Roman History class on the Age of Apuleius and The Golden Ass.

Astronomy was incorporated into both the mythology and word elements course this year. Raj Ambrose provided an evening opportunity for mythology students to view the mythological constellations and to see the moons of Jupiter through the college telescope. In return Tom Sienkewicz provided a lecture on the classical nomenclature of astronomy to a joint meeting of the Word Elements and Astronomy classes.

Student oral reports continue to be a prominent and successful course feature and students were asked to chose by ballot the best presentation. Modest prizes were awarded to the winners.

This year the department experimented with course writing assignments. Previously the emphasis had been on essays and opinion papers. Now students are encouraged to try their hands at creative writing or even artistic creations. As a result, the department received some remarkably good work from students. One drawing, entitled "A Japanese Penelope", now hangs in the Capron Classics Room. A collection of student papers and artwork was also collected by students in the Classical Gods and Heroes course and published as a book entitled Tales from Olympus.

Once again the department sponsored the Monmouth College Olympics organized by the Ancient Olympics class. Once again the Olympics were very well attended by a large number of students not enrolled in the course and the department is very pleased that they have become an annual event at the college.

In the fall the department offered a field trip to the Quincy Museum to see a special exhibit on Egyptian art. This trip, co-sponsored with C.A.B., was well attended by students enrolled in the Africa and Blacks in Antiquity course. A second trip arranged by the department was to Knox College to attend a performance of Plautus' Menaechmi. This trip was attended by students in Western Civilization and in Ancient Literature. Field trips of these types

are time-consuming for both students and faculty but the educational rewards are appreciated by everyone.

### Classics Students

In 1990-91 the department graduated two Classics majors, Kimberly Haley and Stacy Stoyanoff. Kim plans a career in public administration and Stacy has been accepted in the masters program in Classics at the University of Illinois. The career plans of these two students illustrate the kind of mix the department hopes to encourage: an occasional professional Classicist combined with students pursuing a variety of alternative, liberal-arts careers.

Stacy's accomplishments are particularly noteworthy. A biology major who came late to Classics, Stacy has worked hard in his last two years at Monmouth to develop proficiency in both the Latin and Greek languages. His unique combination of biological and classical interests are evident in the paper, entitled "Euripides and the Bacchae: The Entropy of Being," which he was invited to read at the annual national convention of Eta Sigma Phi, the national Classics honorary society, at Florida State University in Tallahassee in March, 1991. Stacy was also the winner of the 1991 Harold J. Ralston Classics Writing Contest. His entry was an original play, The Asculeipius, modeled on the style of Euripides.

Further illustration of the diverse interests of Monmouth Classics students can be seen in the class of 1990. Sylvia Zethmayr, a Classics major, is pursuing a masters degree in history at Illinois State University and plans a career in museum curatorship. Ed Malters, a Classics minor, continues his work as a medical student at the University of Chicago.

Another student worthy of mention is Kelly Ewalt, a freshman Latin minor who plans to obtain second teaching certification in Latin and to teach in high school. Kelly came to Monmouth with excellent Latin skills, enrolled immediately in advanced classes, and won the Classics Dept. prize at Honors Convocation in May.



### **Eta Sigma Phi.**

The following students were inducted this year into Gamma Omicron Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics Honor Society: Richard Smith; Anne W. Sienkewicz; Jennifer Eiserman; Kelly Ewalt; Melissa Brewer; Victoria Adeleye; and Arthur Bernstein. In addition the chapter welcomed William O. Amy as an honorary member. Stacy Stoyanoff did a fine job as prytanis of the chapter and orchestrated several successful fund raisers.

For the first time in several years the chapter was represented at the national convention. In March Stacy Stoyanoff, Victoria Adeleye and Tom Sienkewicz all traveled to Florida State University where the chapter's bid to host the 1992 convention was accepted.

### **Campus Activities**

The department was very pleased this year to receive as a gift the academic robe of Dr. Herbert Telford, who taught Greek at Monmouth between 1928 and 1949. The robe was a gift of Dr. Gordon and Dr. Phyllisee Jackson. A student of Dr. Telford, Dr. Gordon Jackson had used the robe for many years.

Dr. Jackson's gift found immediate and significant use at the college, when Bernice L. Fox, Professor Emerita of Classics, wore the robe as she received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Monmouth College at Commencement, 1991.

Commencement was the happy culmination of a series of activities for Bernice Fox and the Department of Classics during the academic year 1991-1992. Most significant was the publication in February of Tela Charlottae, Bernice Fox's Latin translation of E.B. White's Charlotte's Web. This translation was used as a course text by Monmouth College Latin students this spring. It also became the centerpiece of a multilingual reading from Charlotte's Web during the 1991 Foreign Language Week, sponsored by the Departments of Classics and Modern Foreign Languages. This event was a "Reader's Theatre" presentation of "Escape", chapter three, of Charlotte's Web in which Monmouth College students and faculty accompanied a reading of the entire chapter in English with selected translations from twelve foreign languages including Latin, Spanish, Italian, German and Japanese. The reading was followed by a discussion about the joys and sorrows of translation led by Dr. Craig Watson, Associate Professor of English. There was



also a display in the Hewes Library exhibiting foreign language editions of E.B. White's Charlotte's Web. Several of these books were from Mr. White's personal collection and were on loan from the Rare Books Collection of Cornell University Library. Others were borrowed from HarperCollins Publishers and from libraries throughout the United States.

Other events during Foreign Language Week included the joining of all 8 A.M. elementary language classes (i.e., students studying French, German, Latin and Spanish) for an exercise in derivation and vocabulary comparison. This was the second year in a row that such an event has occurred. It was so successful that it will probably become an annual part of Foreign Language Week activities.

In September the Classics Department co-sponsored a convocation by Dr. Richard Lederer, a nationally known columnist and author. Dr. Lederer gave a presentation entitled "Language" and visited several classes, including the Elementary Latin class.

The departmental bulletin board in Wallace Hall continued to attract attention this year with its Classics Challenges posted on a regular basis. Publication of the questions and winners in the Oracle was a worthwhile addition to the activity.

The 1990-91 Fox Lecturer was Dr. Raymond Den Adel, professor of Classics at Rockford College, who gave a presentation entitled "Hadrian, Emperor and Builder." The lecture was well attended by students, faculty and members of the general public.

### The Classics Writing Contests

Once again the Harold J. Ralston Contest offered a prize of \$100.00 for the best writing on any topic related to Classical antiquity. The winner was Stacy Stoyanoff, '91, with his Asculeipius. As usual the entries in the contest were good quality and it was difficult for the judges to make a decision. The department also acknowledges its gratitude to Mrs. Faith Ralston who has faithfully supported this contest financially for a number of years.

The topic for the Sixth Annual Bernice L. Fox Essay contest, open to any high school student in the United States, was the addition of a new deity to the classical pantheon. "If the ancient Greeks and Romans were living today, what additional god or goddess would they have?" Contestants were asked to give these new deities appropriate personalities, attributes, epithets, functions and myths. References to the traditional Greco-Roman gods and goddesses were expected. Entries were submitted by 515 students from 79 high schools in 17 states (the largest number of entries and competing schools in the history of the contest). Every entrant received a certificate of participation from the college.

The winner of a \$100 cash award was Andrew Brooks Reid of Naperville Central School in Naperville, Illinois. His teacher was Ms. Mary Fran Ferdinandt in the Communication Arts Department. Mr. Reid created a god of Yuppies in an paper entitled "Deities of Decadence." Honorable mentions (listed alphabetically by school) were awarded to: Justin Galambos of Aledo High School in Aledo, Illinois; Ed Ignacio, MaryAnn Jacobsen and Elizabeth West of Victor J. Andrew High School in Tinley Park, Illinois; Anne Marie Hisker of Castilleja High School in Palo Alto, California; Joe Bovi and Nikole Rockwell Guilford High School in Rockford, Illinois; Jennifer Devlin and Melissa Goldman of Lawrence High School in Lawrence, Kansas; Theresa Filip of Lyons Township High School in Western Springs, Illinois; Terrence Dunn and Bill Miekina of Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois; Timothy Sever of Nazareth Academy in La Grange Park, Illinois; David Czerwinski, Krystin Wells and Megan Wood of Oak Park & River Forest High School in Oak Park, Illinois; Krista Mantsch of St. Charles High School in St. Charles, Illinois; Tricia Warren of Seton High School in Cincinnati, Ohio; Karrie Bontrager and Alicia Collins of Sheridan High School in Thornville, Ohio; Paul Friebus of South Vigo High School in Terre Haute, Indiana. Shawn DeHart of Stoneham High School in Stoneham, Massachusetts; Timothy Till of Westfield High School in Houston, Texas; Michelle Benoit of University City High School in University City, Missouri; and Heather Rowe of Warren High School in Gurnee, Illinois.

The department is very pleased with the success of the Fox Contest, but notes that, if interest in the contest continues to increase, significant help may have to be sought from other areas of the college to process entries, prepare certificates and judge papers. This year the department was helped by several "volunteers", Bernice Fox, Eileen Loya, Alice Martin, John Ketterer and Jeremy McNamara, without whom this contest could not have taken place.

#### **The Western Illinois Society of AIA.**

The Western Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America remains a special interest of the department. With a faithful group of paid members supporting the society financially, a larger group of individuals, including students, faculty, and the general public, attend these programs. Most of the funds for these lectures comes from the society and many of the local speakers agree to give their presentations for little or no fee. This year the department developed an arrangement with Augustana College, Knox College and Western Illinois University so that the costs and sponsorship of speakers sent by the national society could be rotated among the four local institutions. These archaeological programs cost Monmouth College little or no money but provide the college with a variety of academic presentations by outstanding local and national scholars. At the same time the college receives favorable visibility off-campus.

The following programs were sponsored by the archaeological organization. On September 13, 1990, Mr. Okasha Eldaly of Cairo, Egypt, gave a presentation entitled "Daily Life in Ancient Egypt". As the United States faced a confrontation with Iraq in the Persian Gulf, Professor Andrew M. T. Moore of Yale University gave a timely presentation entitled "To Euphrates and beyond: Searching for the first farmers in the Near East" on October 11, 1990, at Augustana College. The popularity of archaeology lecturers is suggested by the fact that Professor Nicholas Toth of Indiana University, whom the society brought to Monmouth as a speaker in 1989-90, was invited by the Public Affairs Committee to return to Monmouth College this year to give a Wednesday convocation on October 17, 1990. The title of this presentation was "The Ascent of Humankind". Taking advantage of Dr. Toth's presence on campus, the AIA chapter sponsored an evening presentation entitled "The Dawn of Human Imagery" in which Dr. Toth discussed prehistoric cave paintings in France. On November 12, 1990, Professor Thomas Watkins of Western Illinois University spoke to both an AIA audience and to students enrolled in Africa and Blacks in Antiquity on "Urbanization in Roman North Africa: Civilians and Soldiers". On February 4, 1991,



Professor Lawrence Conrad of the Archaeological Research Lab at Western Illinois University, gave a presentation on "Middle Mississippian Socio-Political Organization" designed to show some cultural overlap between Old and New World prehistoric cultures. On February 18, 1991, Professor Charles Speel, Professor Emeritus of Religion at Monmouth College, anticipated the Crimson Masque production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat with a lecture entitled "The Age of Joseph". The Sixth Bernice L. Fox Classics Lecture, entitled "Hadrian: Emperor and Builder" and presented by Professor Raymond Den Adel of Rockford College on April 3, 1991, was also co-sponsored by the AIA chapter. On April 8, 1991, Professor Pamela Gaber of the University of Arizona at Tuscon gave a presentation at Western Illinois University on Ancient Cypriot sculpture and her excavations at Idalion, Cyprus. Finally, on April 22, 1991, several Monmouth faculty and students traveled to Knox College to hear Professor Robert Salzer of Beloit College give a talk entitled "Digging for a Legend: The Gottschall Project". Several students left this presentation eager to participate in an archaeological dig, perhaps at Gottschall in Wisconsin.

#### Off-Campus Outreach

In addition to the annual Fox Classics Writing Contest, this year the department was able to offer other special opportunities to high school Latin students throughout the state. In particular, the department was host to the Illinois State Latin Tournament, an annual event which visits four universities or colleges in the state on a rotating basis. Monmouth last hosted the Tournament in 1987. This year the college once again offered these students and their teachers a generous and memorable event. Besides complementary room and board the college provided participants with tickets to a play in the Wells Theatre, Roman Chariot Races and a special luncheon. Guest speaker at the luncheon was Bernice L. Fox, who gave a presentation entitled "The Spider Who Learned to Speak Latin." Also at this luncheon, Stacy Stoyanoff, as prytanis (president) of Monmouth's chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, awarded silver medals of achievement to Kate Lemon and Mikey Scalf, the Monmouth High School students who earned the highest grades in the district Latin exams taken in March. It is the intention of Eta Sigma Phi to make these awards annually.

Through events such as the Illinois Latin Tournament the Monmouth Classics Department has become well known and respected among high school Latin teachers. In October 1990 Tom Sienkewicz completed his term as President of the Illinois Classical Conference and will serve as President Emeritus until 1992. At the annual meeting of ICC, held at Loyola Academy in Wilmette on October 6-8, 1990, Tom Sienkewicz presided as president and also



chaired a discussion of elementary Latin textbooks. He also worked with other members of the Illinois Classical Conference to successfully nominate Mrs. LeaAnn Osburn, MC '92, Latin teacher at Barrington High School, for the Illinois Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to the teaching of foreign languages in the state. The department is currently assisting the Illinois Classical Conference in surveying the status of Latin in elementary, junior high and high schools throughout the state.

Tom Sienkewicz continued to speak at high schools throughout the state this year. These visits included Pekin High in November, Lincoln Elementary School (Monmouth) in December, York High School (Elmhurst) in January, and Notre Dame High School (Peoria) in May.

All these efforts in off-campus outreach are beginning to produce tangible, recruiting results in the Monmouth Admissions Office. Several Latin teachers in the state have begun actively to encourage their students to consider Monmouth. One of these students was known to have matriculated here in 1990; several more will do so this fall. An effective supplement to these departmental recruiting efforts would be one or more Classics scholarships offered to entering students on an annual basis. Such academic scholarships are already offered in other areas of the college, such as music and creative writing. Since high school Latin students traditionally rank high in their class and in standardized tests, it is in the college's interest to make determined efforts to bring more of these students to Monmouth. While few of these students would probably choose a major in Latin, many would probably elect to take some advanced Latin courses. In any case both the department and the college would benefit by the presence of such students in the classroom and on campus.

**Summary.**

While concerned about the future of the Greek language courses and participation in Freshman Seminar, the Department of Classics is generally pleased with the activities of 1990-91. Healthy enrollments coupled by a wide variety of campus activities have insured that the department fulfills its mission of bringing the study of the Greco-Roman world to all members of the college community and to people in western Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Sienkewicz  
Capron Professor of Classics