

**Department of Classics
Monmouth College
Annual Report
1991-92**

The Department of Classics once again undertakes to summarize and analyze its activities during the waning academic year.

The Academic Program.

The 1991-92 academic year was, all in all, a good one for the Department of Classics. Enrollments were satisfactory, the quality of student work was high and departmental activities interesting.

The one-credit courses introduced experimentally last year were continued in 1991-92. In the fall CLAS250 The Ancient Olympics was taught to 16 students. The primary goal of this course was to have the students learn enough about the ancient Greek Olympics that they could reenact the games at Monmouth College. These games were held in the Glennie Gymnasium on Wednesday night, November 6, 1992. Several student groups, including fraternities and sororities, sent teams to the competitions, which included the ancient stade, discus, javelin, and chariot racing.

A second one-credit course (CLAS251 Rappin' and Homer) was taught in the spring semester. In this course, the links between the oral literature of ancient Greece and the literatures of other cultures, including African, Indian and Afro-American. Enrollment in this course was 8 and student response was encouraging.

In the spring the Monmouth College faculty made the one-credit Classics course a regular part of the curriculum this year as a component of CLAS240 Ancient Societies and the department plans to offer these courses in the future on a regular basis.

Enrollment in CLAS210 Ancient Literature continues to grow. Last year the course was taught to 18 students with the theme of "Love and Marriage." This year the theme of "Inspiration" attracted 24 students. "Classical Gods and Heroes" had an enrollment of 32 (down 2 from last year). Remarkably, "The Ancient Family" had an enrollment of 44 (compared to 26 the last time it was taught in 1988-89). Physical plant is currently the main factor in determining the size of Classics courses. The Capron Classics Room can handle a maximum of 30 students. "The Ancient Family" course had to be moved this fall to the Art Lecture Room in McMichael Academic Hall. Next fall's "Sport and Recreation" course is already at 42 and has been moved to HT.

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While larger numbers of students can be handled in these classes, there are limitations due to extensive use of audio-visual materials, especially slides, in all Classics courses.

Classics Enrollments
1984-1992

	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88*	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92
LATIN								
101	14	12	3	9	7	8	9	12
102	8	7	2		8	5	6	6
201#	3	5	3	2	10	11	13	13
435		2						
GREEK								
101	4	2	2			4	2	
212	2	2				1	2	
250			3				1	2
CLASSICS/TRIAD								
WE	11	16	10		17	14	16	14
MY	21	23	17		23	24	34	32
LIT		6**	8		8	14**	18	22
GKH		10			23	29		25
RNH	23		41		28		34	
FAM			11	9	26			44
SPO					20	30		
OLY							21	16
AFR							27	
RAP								8
IS						1	3	1
SUM	86	85	100	53*	147	141	187	195

Includes LATN201 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
- RAP = Rappin and Homer
- IS = Independent Study
- SUM = Summary

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As the preceding chart shows, total enrollments in the Classics Department were higher in 1991-92 than they have been since at least 1984. The department is gratified with these enrollments and accepts them as an indication that it is fulfilling its mission of bringing the Classics to as many Monmouth College students as possible.

Since 1984 the Department has worked to develop a program which serves all Monmouth College students, not just Classics majors. Currently there are no more than three or four declared Classics or Latin majors on campus. There are a few more Classics or Latin minors, although statistics are not readily available. The enrollment in advanced Latin courses should also be noted. While large numbers of students are not studying Latin, the college should be pleased that for the past five years there have been more than 10 "enrollments" in advanced Latin courses at Monmouth.

All this needs to be seen in a larger perspective. Even an institution like the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana is not producing large numbers of Classics majors and, in many ways, the Classics Program here has more impact on students and on the campus at-large than does Illinois' large research-based department. The key to the success of the Monmouth program, however, is the "mix" of courses and of students. The Classics program works because it serves both language students and non-language students, both Classics majors and non-Classics majors, the serious student and the student who only wants to take one Classics course. Too many Classics Departments in the United States and abroad serve only professionally-oriented students. A small handful, including Howard University, where Tom Sienkewicz taught for nine years before coming to Monmouth, have no majors and are only "serve" departments. Neither extreme is ideal or even completely successful. The aim of the Monmouth College's program is a middle ground between the two extremes. The department was, in fact, pleased to learn that Augustana College recently introduced the Triad course model into its own Classics curriculum this year.

This aim, however, means that the department and the college must always work to maintain large enrollments in some courses in order to balance lower enrollments in others. Enrollment in elementary Latin language courses at the college could probably be higher, even twice the present enrollment, if advisors would encourage more students to take Latin to fulfill their foreign language requirement. Very few freshmen, in fact, register for elementary Latin. The 1991-92 pool of elementary Latin students was not unusual in the fact that three of the 12 originally enrolled in Latin 101 were graduating seniors. Only one was a Classics major. Two were Classics minors. Word Elements (CLAS224)

is another course which could have larger enrollments with more systematic advising. Here again, few freshmen enroll, despite the fact that the course is proven to be an excellent preparation for college studies.

On the other hand, the department remains concerned about the language program. Elementary Greek was not taught this year and will not be taught in 1992-93 either. While enrollments in this language have not been large in recent history, it is essential that the well-rounded and diversified Classics program described above teach elementary Greek occasionally. The fact that this language will be of interest to philosophy and theology students as well as Classics students is further justification for its presence in the curriculum. The department plans to teach Greek again in 1993-94 and urges the college (if anyone reads this report except the departmental chair) to consider ways to encourage students to study this language.

It also must be emphasized that the existence of a small, but viable, major program in Classics is an essential part of the departmental mission. Without the presence of an occasional "serious" Classics student, the courses would lose a lot of their lifeblood (as can be evidenced by comparing Monmouth Classics courses to those at institutions without a Classics major). Classics majors are the leaven which challenge both the instructor and other students to go the extra mile.

Visiting Fulbright

The department was especially fortunate in January to welcome as a Visiting Fulbright Scholar Dr. Gabriel Adeleye of the University of Maiguduri in Nigeria. While Gabriel will teach no "pure" Classics course during his year-old sojourn at Monmouth, his courses, including "History of Africa to 1000 A.D.", are filled with a Classical perspective which will be of great value to our students. He has also been eager to visit classes and give presentations to the college community.

Course Features

Once again, the department used 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. So did Gabriel Adeleye, who talked with the class about Classics and the English language in Nigeria. Jackie Urban gave a presentation to Classical Gods and Heroes to Monteverdi's opera *The Return of Ulysses* in the

fall semester, and in the spring she discussed Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* with the Ancient Literature: Enthusiasm class. Visiting alumni also met with the Word Elements class in March in order to discuss how Classics continued to be part of their lives after graduation.

Gabriel Adeleye gave a series of lectures to Bill Urban's Greek History class on the Age of Alexander the Great. Celebration of Scots Day unfortunately kept Tom Sienkewicz from lecturing to Raj Ambrose's Astronomy class on the classical nomenclature of astronomy; however, he did have an opportunity to talk with Sue Holm's "Golden Age of Spanish Literature" class on the influence of Latin poetry on Spanish literature.

Student response to these guest lectures is consistently positive. The visitors break the monotony of the course and expose students to extra expertise.

In the fall the department co-sponsored with CAB a field trip to the Art Institute in Chicago where Tom Sienkewicz led students around to view artwork with themes from Classical mythology. A second trip arranged by the department and CAB in the spring was to the Oriental Institute in Chicago to view the special Nubian exhibit.

During spring break Tom Sienkewicz led a small group of students to Rome. One student on this trip was earning college credit in connection with an independent study project. The other students participated out of general interest. The success of this trip has persuaded the department to offer similar travel opportunities in the future.

One special class activity might be mentioned. In The Ancient Family class Tom Sienkewicz offered students a hands-on opportunity to make "squeezes". "Squeezes" are casts of stone inscriptions which Classical epigraphists have used for centuries to preserve and record ancient inscriptions. As a participant in an NEH summer seminar at the American Academy in Rome last summer, Tom Sienkewicz learned how to make squeezes. Since the class was studying ancient tombstone inscriptions, it seemed appropriate to have the class work with squeezes and a number of students make some excellent squeezes of tombstones in the Pioneer Cemetery down the street from campus—an event which even made the local newspaper.

Classics Students

While the department graduated no majors in 1992, there were at least six Classics minors among the graduating seniors, including Melissa Brewer, Jon Acheson, Joseph Dietz, Neil Currie, John Carroll and Susan Bolan. Susan, in fact, was the first non-Latin student awarded the Classics Department prize at Honors Convocation. All of these students took a wide variety of Classics courses during their four years at Monmouth and the department was very pleased to serve them.

There are several promising Latin students among the underclassmen. Kelly Ewalt, a sophomore Latin minor who plans to obtain second teaching certification in Latin and to teach in high school, won the first Eta Sigma Phi Prize for the study of Latin at Honors Convocation this spring. Lisa Bitar, a sophomore Math major, is interested in double certification in mathematics and Latin at the high school level. Both Kelly and Lisa promise to be excellent teachers someday.

The freshman class shows evidence that the department's outreach efforts to the high schools has begun to pay off. Katarzyna Barger came to Monmouth as a Biology major from Trinity High School in River Forest. As a Latin student at Trinity, Kathy heard Tom Sienkewicz lecture on the *Aeneid* and took six credits of Latin at Monmouth this year. Two other freshmen came to Monmouth, in large part, because they had once come to campus as high school students participating in the State Latin Tournament. Leonard Blackburn of Bogan High School in Chicago and Megan Long of Barrington High School have both offered interesting points of view in Classics courses this year.

Eta Sigma Phi.

The following students were inducted this year into Gamma Omicron Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics Honor Society: Lisa Bitar, Sarah Benson, Ryan Keilman, Katarzyna Barger, Leonard Blackburn, Megan Long, Allison Ritscher, and Nancy Nystrom. In addition the chapter welcomed Gabriel Adeleye as an honorary member. It was perhaps a unique event that Professor Adeleye was inducted into the chapter with the assistance of Victoria Adeleye, a junior at Monmouth College and a member of the chapter.

Melissa Brewer did a good job as prytanis of the chapter in a year when the chapter hosted the annual national convention. At the last national convention held in Monmouth in 1982, the Capron Classics chair was announced. This year there were no momentous announcements made at the convention and the weather cooperated

to make the weekend a pleasant one for the Sixty-Fourth National Convention of Eta Sigma Phi. On Friday, March 27, 1992, the convention began with a Panel Discussion entitled "Classics Beyond College?" In this discussion four Monmouth College alumni, Marcene Holverson, MC'84, Richard Koontz, MC'57, Lynn McGaan Knox, MC'61, and Edward Malter, MC'90 discussed how they have continued to use Classics in their lives after graduation. The department is grateful to the Kellie Esters and the Alumni Office for the support it received in organizing this event which was well-received by delegates.

Special events on Saturday, March 28, 1992, included Roman Chariot Races in the Glennie Gymnasium and a Formal Roman Banquet in the Highlander Room. Many banqueters came dressed in ancient Roman costume and Bernice Fox gave the Banquet Address entitled "The Spider Who Learned Latin".

At the business meeting on Sunday, March 29, 1992, Megan Long of Monmouth's Gamma Omicron Chapter was elected national Grammateus.

In honor of this convention, there was also a display in the Hewes Library exhibiting memorabilia from earlier days in the history of the Gamma Omicron Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi.

Also in honor of this convention the department published a short history of Eta Sigma Phi written by Brent Froberg, the Executive Secretary of the Society and edited by Tom Sienkewicz. This history was distributed to all delegates to the convention.

Campus Activities

A highlight of the year was the return to campus of Dr. Richard Lederer, a nationally known columnist and author, who gave both a college convocation on Shakespeare's use of English and then presented the Seventh Annual Bernice L. Fox Classics Lecture entitled "*Latina Non Mortua Est*".

The department was very pleased to co-sponsor with the Public Events Committee a fall performance of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, by Aquila Productions of Great Britain. Tom Sienkewicz incorporated this performance into the syllabus of two courses, Classical Gods and Heroes and The Ancient Family. It was an exciting experience for students to supplement their reading of this play with a live performance by professional actors.

In September Tom Sienkewicz was presented his first Monmouth College Convocation: "A Tale of Two Epics or What do Ithacas Mean". This address, a comparison of Homeric and West African

epics, was intended to complement Freshman Seminar reading of the West African epic *Sunjata*.

Tela Charlottae, Bernice Fox's Latin translation of E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* has continued in 1991-92 to be a source of special events for the department and for the college. In October Monmouth College foreign language faculty and students joined forces to offer a multilingual reading from *Charlotte's Web* for the annual meeting of the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL) in St. Charles, Illinois. Participating faculty included Tom Sienkewicz, Susan Holm, Roger Noël and Jackie Urban. This event, called "The Multi-Lingual Spider", was well received by members of the audience.

During the 1992 Foreign Language Week, sponsored by the Departments of Classics and Modern Foreign Languages, there was another performance of "The Multilingual Spider". This time, instead of faculty and student readers, the emphasis was on readers using second languages. Even the reader of the English text was a non-native speaker: Celine Iaquina, from France. The group then took this performance "on the road" to Barrington High School, where they performed before several hundred high school students during their Foreign Language Week.

Once again during Foreign Language Week Latin students participated in "Joining the Strands: The Web of Language", a workshop on international vocabulary and word origins. This event brought together all the 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 third year in a row that such an event has occurred and it improves every year. Also during this week two Latin students, Melissa Brewer and Megan Long, participated in a special multilingual poetry reading session in Scotland Yard. Both students recited poems of Catullus in Latin and then offered their own translations of the poem.

The Classics Writing Contests

The eighth Harold J. Ralston Contest offered a prize of \$100.00 for the best writing on any topic related to Classical antiquity. The winner was Melissa Brewer '92, who had earlier won the 1989-90 contest. Melissa's entry was a dramatic scene based upon the myth of Perseus and Andromeda. Once again the department would like to acknowledge gratitude to Mrs. Faith Ralston who has faithfully supported this contest financially for a number of years.

The topic for the eighth Annual Bernice L. Fox Writing contest, open to any high school student, was the addition of the creation of a modern metamorphosis myth. "This tale should retell a traditional metamorphosis story in a modern setting or create a new metamorphosis appropriate to the modern world." 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. The contest became international this year as entries were submitted by 480 students from 68 high schools in 25 states, as well as Canada and Great Britain. Every entrant receives a certificate of participation from the college.

The winner of a \$100 cash award was Kimberley Munger of The Madeira School in McLean, Virginia. Her teacher's name is Mrs. Heimbach. Ms. Munger created a myth entitled "The Sky is Dying!" about the ozone problem. Honorable mentions (listed alphabetically by school) were awarded to: David Allton of Alton High School in Alton, Illinois; Stephanie D'Angelo of Victor J. Andrew in Chicago, Illinois; Joshua Breindel of the Moses Brown School in Greenbelt, Maryland; Amy Harkenreader of Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, Connecticut; Lauren E. Knopf and John Liau of Glasgow High School in Newark, Delaware; Stephen Carter Rossman of Houston High School in Germantown, Tennessee; Kendra Dale of the Madeira School in McLean, Virginia; Christopher Brian Dudley, Joel Lee and James Wysock of Monacan High School in Richmond, Virginia; Kevin Schramm of Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio; Lindsay McOmbler of New Trier High School, in Winnetka, Illinois; Brian J. Egan of Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham, Massachusetts; Matthew Colvin of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland; Eric Punkay of St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, Illinois; Christopher Terrio of St. Joseph by-the-Sea in Staten Island, New York; KrisAnne E. Weiss of St. Paul Central High School in St. Paul, Minnesota; Olivia Li and Sarah Ternoway of The Study in Montreal, Quebec; Brian Martin of Walpole High School in Penelope, California; Rebecca Black of Westover High School in Albany, Georgia; and Karen Fincutter of Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, Illinois.

This contest has begun to receive national attention. The contest was announced throughout the year in several national newsletters for high school Latin teachers and the Spring 1992 issue of the *ACL Newsletter*, published by the American Classical League, not only announced the winner but included a copy of the winning entry.

The department acknowledges the help of several "volunteers", Bernice Fox, Eileen Loya, and Alice Martin without whose help this contest simply could not have taken place. Thanks must also be expressed to the Monmouth College Admissions Office, which also supported this contest in tangible ways.

The Western Illinois Society of AIA.

The Western Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America had another active year. In order to celebrate Illinois Archaeology Week, on Monday, September 23, 1991, the society sponsored a lecture by Dr. Judith Franke, Director, Dickson Mounds Museum. Dr. Franke's lecture was entitled "Archaeology of the Near East and the Mid West--a Comparison".

On Sunday, September 15th, an exhibit entitled "Secrets from an Ancient Sea: Marine Archaeology at Caesarea Maritima, Israel" was opened in the Everett Art Gallery of Monmouth College. This exhibit was brought to the college through the joint sponsorship of the AIA and the Monmouth College Public Events Committee. On Wednesday, October 9, 1991 the excavator of the Caesarea Maritima dig, Dr. Robert Hohlfelder of the University of Colorado, gave a college convocation entitled "Secrets from the Ancient Sea" and on Friday the 10th he gave a complementary lecture entitled "The Wonders of Caesarea Maritima" at Western Illinois University for the annual meeting of the Illinois Classical Conference. On Monday, November 18, 1991, Dr. T. Patrick Culbert of the University of Arizona gave a presentation entitled "Changing Views of Classic Maya Society" to a standing-room crowd in the Wells Theatre. On Thursday, January 30, 1992, Mr. Steve Hamaker of the White Cloud Gift Shop in Monmouth gave a presentation entitled "On Collecting New World Artifacts: A Hands-On Experience" and on Wednesday, April 8, 1992, Dr. Douglas Spitz of Monmouth College spoke on "Indian Temples as Cultural Phenomena".

Other AIA events took place off the Monmouth College campus. On Tuesday, February 11, 1992 several Monmouth members traveled to Rock Island to hear Dr. Florence Friedman of the Rhode Island School of Design speak on "The Underground Panels of King Djoser at the Step Pyramid Complex" at Augustana College. And on Tuesday, March 10, 1992, Dr. Charles Hoffman of Northern Arizona University, spoke at Knox College. The title of his presentation

was "Will the Real San Salvadore Please Stand Up" in honor of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing in America.

Off-Campus Outreach

In addition to the annual Fox Classics Writing Contest mentioned above, the department co-sponsored with the Department of History at Western Illinois University the annual meeting of the Illinois Classical Conference. The department also arranged to bring several Monmouth College students to Barrington High School to perform "The Multilingual Spider". In addition, Tom Sienkewicz gave presentations on Roman gladiators to two high school groups, at York High School in Elmhurst and at Bloomington High School.

For the second year Monmouth's chapter of Eta Sigma Phi awarded silver medals of achievement to Monmouth High School students who were invited to participate in the State Latin Tournament. Recognized by the chapter were Kate Lemon, Mikey Scalf, Miriam Hasanalli and Marie Sienkewicz.

At the annual meeting of ICC, held at Western Illinois University in Macomb on October 11-13, 1992, Tom Sienkewicz served as book exhibit chair. He also participated in a panel discussion on teaching the topic of women in antiquity. He also continued to assist the Illinois Classical Conference in surveying the status of Latin in elementary, junior high and high schools throughout the state.

In June, 1992 Tom Sienkewicz will travel to Trenton State College in New Jersey to serve as a reader for the Latin Advanced Placement Exam. This will provide the department with valuable first-hand experience with a program vital to the teaching of Latin at the college level. It could also serve as a recruiting tool with students who will know that the Classics faculty at Monmouth is abreast of current developments in the field.

Foxfestschrift

The department would like to acknowledge a very special event which took place at the end of this academic year: the publication of *Foxfestschrift*, a collection of writings in honor of Bernice Fox's 80th birthday. This project saw the co-operation of several Monmouth College faculty, alumni and friends of Bernice Fox to produce 21 pieces of original writings and scholarly pieces on a variety of topics, including language, English literature, pedagogy and the Classical heritage. Edited by Tom Sienkewicz, this volume shows that even a small school

like Monmouth College claims people who are worthy of recognition and able to produce work of this type. The college sometimes needs to look what it can do instead of what it cannot and to celebrate what it can do well. It is hoped that this book celebrates the accomplishments not only of Bernice Fox but also of Monmouth College.

Acknowledgements

There are many individuals who help make a program like this one function successfully. Some of them have been acknowledged above. There are many loyal alumni, like Ms. Sarah Black, who remember and support the department and the college. Other individuals, like Mr. Keith Capron, are pillars of moral and substantial support to the Department of Classics.

Looking Ahead.

The next academic year promises changes as Tom Sienkewicz goes on leave of absence to serve as Visiting Director of the ACM Florence in the Arts Programs. He is confident, however, that he leaves the department in good hands. His replacement, Ms. Deborah Davies, promises to bring new energy and a different perspective to the program.

The department would like to reiterate its plea, however, that the college consider ways to make more use of several important parts of the Classics curriculum, namely Elementary Latin, Word Elements, and, to a lesser extent, Elementary Greek. These courses are valuable and will be taught. A college which values the liberal arts should take more advantage of them.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Sienkewicz
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