

**Department of Classics
Monmouth College
Annual Report
1992-93**

The Department of Classics once again undertakes to summarize its activities during the 1992-1993 academic year.

The Academic Program

In the spring, the Monmouth College faculty approved a change in the Mythology course, the focus of which will change from year to year. This will allow students to repeat the course as needed and wanted.

**Classics Enrollments
1993**

	92-93
LATIN	
101	7 (10)
102	7
201*	8 (10)
GREEK	
101	
212*	2
CLASSICS/TRIAD	
WE	15 (16)
MY	24 (27)
LIT	11
GRH	
RNH	
FAM	
SPO	33 (34)
OLY	10
AFR	
RAP	
IS*	3

* Enrollments represent 2 courses offered in different terms

Enrollments represent end of term figures; figures in parentheses are from beg of term.

As the preceding charts show, total enrollments in the Classics Department were less than in the previous year. This is probably due to the campus-wide knowledge that Thomas Sienkewicz was on leave during the entire academic year, resulting in reduced student awareness and perhaps fewer faculty recommendations for Classics courses.

Visiting Fulbright

The department continued to host Dr. Gabriel Adeleye for the fall semester as a Visiting Fulbright Scholar. He taught several courses and offered a Monmouth College Convocation lecture on 22 September 1992, which compared the *Sundiata*, an African oral epic, and the *Odyssey*. His particular perspective enlivened several courses and his presence will be missed.

Course Features

Once again, the department used guest lectures in various courses. Irene Herold, of the library staff, lectured in the Word Elements course three times. The first lecture acquainted the students with the library and its resources, the second considered dictionaries in general and the Oxford English Dictionary in particular, and the third discussed etymology and the library resources on this topic. She also lectured in the Mythology course once about the modern adaptations and uses of classical myths. Jackie Urban lectured in the Ancient Literature course once, about operatic adaptations of the *Odyssey*.

In addition, various movies were viewed as an integral part of several courses. In the fall, the students in Ancient Literature watched "The Natural" and contrasted the movie with the adventures of Odysseus. In addition they viewed excerpts from operas as part of Jackie Urban's lecture. In the spring, the Word Elements class viewed "Speaking in Tongues," a PBS documentary about regional dialects within the USA. In addition, the Classical Gods and Heroes class viewed "Clash of the Titans" and "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen." They wrote a paper analyzing the mythic elements of the latter movie, and were tested on the mythological mistakes in the former. The spring advanced Latin class also watched "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" in conjunction with their translation of Plautus' *Amphitryon*.

Deb Davies lectured once in Raj Ambrose's Astronomy class on the classical nomenclature of astronomy and twice in Bill Urban's Roman History class, once on Roman comedy (which included an extra credit showing of the film "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum") and on Catullus.

Classics Students

The department was particularly fortunate in its increase in majors this year. Chrissie Meinert, the only Classics major who continued from 1991-92, left school for personal reasons in the fall semester and is unlikely to return soon. Leonard Bernstein also left campus for personal reasons and is also unlikely to return. Also leaving campus, upon graduation, were Victoria Adeleye, Arthur Bernstein, and Althea Flowers. These losses were offset by the return of Lisa Bitar and by three new majors: Allison Ritscher, Gina Tillman, and Tim Norris.

Kelly Ewalt continues to be a leader among the Classics students, as do Kathy Barger, Brad Foley, Gina Tillman, and Allison Ritscher. Kelly was awarded the second annual Eta Sigma Phi prize in Latin, and Victoria Adeleye was awarded the Classics Department prize at the Honors convocation.

Gina Tillman, a first year student from Pekin High School in Pekin, Illinois was particularly active for a first year student. She took Latin 101, 102, Ancient Literature, Classical Gods and Heroes, Roman History, and participated in a 2 credit independent study in the spring. She was inducted into Eta Sigma Phi, and was elected to a newly created position, Activities Chair, this spring. She is currently a declared major in English and plans to double-major in Classics and English. While the plans of first year students are always subject to change, she is currently considering attending graduate school in English.

Eta Sigma Phi

The following students were inducted this year into the Gamma Omicron Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi: Erin Maillet, Gina Tillman, Nicole Kuhar, and Kristi Millar. Also inducted as an honorary member was the faculty advisor, Deb Davies. (Max Simmons, Tim Norris, and Tod Freitag are all eligible for induction next fall. Tod was eligible this year, but declined the invitation for a variety of reasons.)

Victoria Adeleye did an excellent job as prytanis of the chapter. She had creative ideas for fund-raising and provided a consistent source of

leadership. Kelly Ewalt was particularly helpful in the cookie sale fund raisers.

Two students, Victoria Adeleye and Gina Tillman, attended the Eta Sigma Phi convention in Austin, Texas along with the faculty advisor, Deb Davies. The students placed third in the classics trivia contest, and donated the book received as a prize to the Monmouth College library.

Fund-raising activities were especially successful this year. The students sold cookies during fall finals and Valentine's Day, and held two raffles for t-shirts and dinners-for-two at Cerar's.

Campus Activities

The department enjoyed the performance of Euripides' *Ajax*, presented by Aquilia Productions of Great Britain. The students taking the Ancient Literature course especially enjoyed viewing a play they read in class.

In January, Deb Davies presented "Odysseus and the Phaeacians: Truth or Consequences" at a Monmouth College Convocation. The talk focused on the interactions between Arete, queen of the Phaeacians, and Odysseus and showed how this relationship prepares Odysseus for his return to Ithaca.

The students, as part of the Olympics course, again facilitated the Monmouth College Olympics. This year, the contest was run during "Greek Week" in the spring, which encouraged participation by various fraternities, sororities, and two "independent" teams. In addition, this year saw the first co-ed team, "Chocolate and Spice."

The Classics Writing Contests

The Ninth Harold J. Ralston Contest offered a prize of \$100.00 for the best writing on any topic related to Classical Antiquity. The winner was Krissie Jimroglou, a first year student. Her entry, based on an essay written for the Ancient Literature class in the fall, compared Aeneas and Robin Hood (in "Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves") as heroes.

The topic of the ninth annual Bernice L. Fox Writing contest, open to any high school student, was a discussion of "twelve tasks which might have been assigned to Hercules if he had been alive today." The contest continued to be international with 320 entries from 41 high schools in 10 states and Canada. Each entrant received a certificate of participation from the college.

The winner of the \$100 cash award was Tarayn Grizzard of Mount Saint Mary Academy, Little Rock, Arkansas. Her teacher's name is Ms.

Maureen Riley and her essay was entitled "Hercules and the Twelve Labors: The 90s Version." Honorable mentions were given to: Erin Lafferty of Aledo High School in Aledo, Illinois; Amy Gansell of Cumberland Valley High School, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; Molly Richardson of Guilford High School in Rockford, Illinois and Laura Pegram of Shiloh High School in Lithonia, Georgia.

The department would like to thank several readers: Bill Urban, who reduced the initial 320 to a more manageable 30, and Bernice L. Fox, Alice Martin, and Eileen Loya. This year all three final judges agreed unanimously on the winner, testifying to the quality of the essay. Thanks must also be given to the Monmouth College Admissions Office, which also gave tangible support to the contest.

The Western Illinois Society of AIA

In the absence of Tom Sienkewicz, this duty was ably undertaken by Bill Urban. During Illinois Archaeology Awareness Week (21-25 September 1992), Larry Conrad gave a talk entitled "Desoto and the Indians." In addition, there were public showings of the film "Black Robe." Larry Conrad spoke again in the spring on recording archaeological date and artifact identification. Two other talks were hosted by the Society: one in the fall at Western Illinois University, and one in the spring at Knox College. Both were attended by Monmouth College students, as well as faculty.

Acknowledgements

I would like to add a personal note of thanks to the college community at large, which helped to make my stay such an enjoyable one. Deserving of particular mention are Bill and Jackie Urban, Bernice L. Fox, and Irene and Chris Herold.

Looking Ahead

The department shows continued vigor in many ways. The renewed enthusiasm of the members of Eta Sigma Phi and the increase in majors is hopefully the start of a new upward trend in Classics.

Unfortunately, the retirement of William Amy increases the pressure on a one-person department. While the current fiscal position of the college makes the following suggestion highly unlikely, I would like to request that the college seriously consider expanding the department by at least one half-

time position within the next five years. This will relieve the burdens imposed on Tom Sienkewicz, as well as providing a variety of teaching styles and intellectual viewpoints for the students.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Rae Davies

Deborah Rae Davies
Visiting Instructor in Classics

**1993 Annual Report
Department of Classics
Monmouth College**

**submitted by
William Urban
Acting Chair**

The Academic Program

The holder of the Capron Chair of Classics, Dr. Thomas Sienkewicz, was Director of the Arts of Florence, and the Italian half of the Arts of London and Florence for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest for 1992-1993. In his absence, Dr. William Urban was Acting Chair of Classics. Dr. Deb Davies, took over the Classics and Latin courses and Sienkewicz's house and pets. She was a most satisfactory replacement, one of the best one year appointments Monmouth College has ever made.

The course offerings were those planned originally for Dr. Sienkewicz--Ancient Literature, Sport and Recreation, Directed Readings, Elementary Latin I and II, Word Elements, History of Rome, Classical Gods and Heroes. Enrollments were very satisfactory, especially considering the fact that the total college enrollment was very low this year. Since Dr. Davies plans to make a separate report on her teaching, I will not go further into that subject.

Roman History enrollment was 21, about normal. Having AV in the Hewes Library made it possible to assign more films than previously, including two full-length movies. The purchase of *I, Claudius* led to several students going beyond the two assigned programs to watching all fourteen episodes.

The presence of Dr. Gabriele Adeleye during the fall semester gave Classics unusual prominence and depth. A Fulbright professor, he taught western civilization and African history with a strong classical emphasis. He gave lectures at Monmouth and the University of Nebraska on classical themes.

Students

Two new majors were attracted this year--Allison Ritscher and Timothy Norris. Three students have indicated an interest in Greek for 93-94.

Activities

The convocation programs by Professors Adeleye and Davies were among the best attended of the year. The Fox Lecture by Professor Jeremy McNamara drew over seventy students, faculty, and friends. The four lectures were published as Volume 5 of the *Faculty Forum*, edited by the Acting Classics Chair.

Eta Sigma Phi was active in fund-raising and installations. In March Deb Davies and Jackie Urban took students to the national convention in Austin, TX. The students stayed with Urban's parents.

The Fox essay contest drew a large number of entries from as far away as Boston and Canada. Victoria Adeleye, under the direction of Prof. Davies, took care of the many mailings. The Acting Chair made an original cut of the 200+ entries down to 20, which were then read by Bernice Fox and Elaine Loya. The Acting Chair read the entries for the Ralston contest.

Prof. Davies represented the College at the Illinois Classical Conference and the conference at the University of Iowa.

There were guest lectures in several courses: Jacquelynn Urban spoke to the mythology class; Davies spoke on literature in the Roman history course. The Archeology Program drew very large numbers in the fall, especially the program on French-Indian relations in early Canada and the lecture by Larry Conrad of WIU. The department took a dozen students to Knox College and four or five to WIU for programs there. The spring program on Indian artifacts drew a smaller crowd. Student response to the programs on Philip's Tomb and Classical Themes in Art was particularly warm.