

ALL THESE COURSES AND MORE WILL BE OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS IN FALL 2026!

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



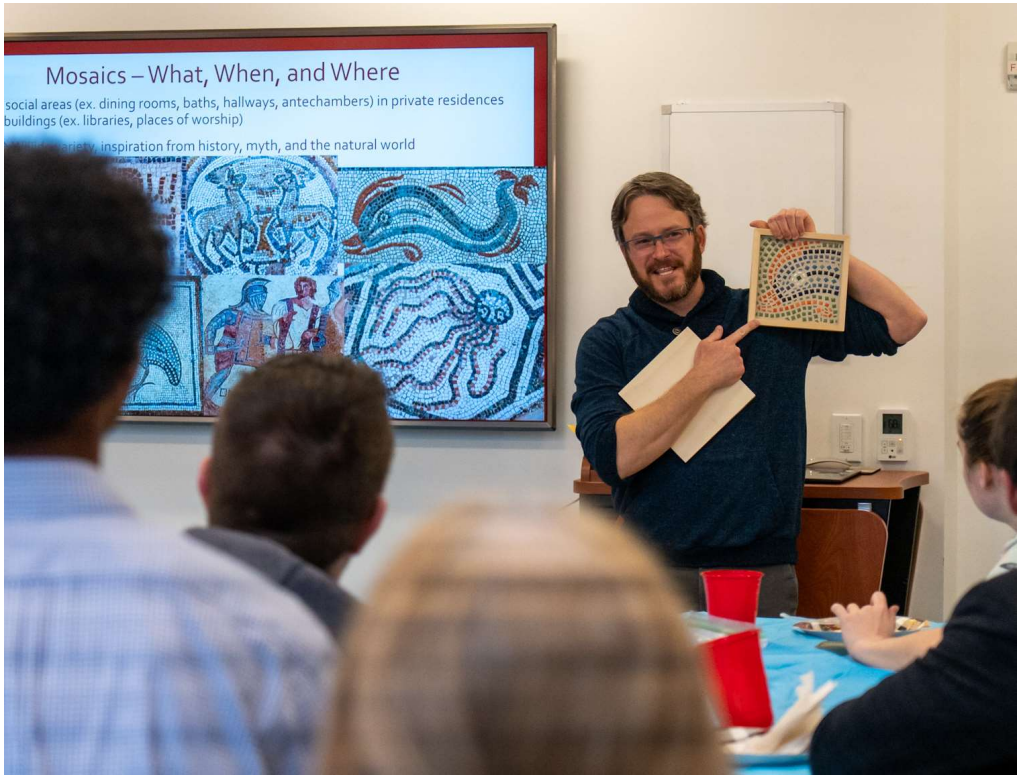
In this issue…



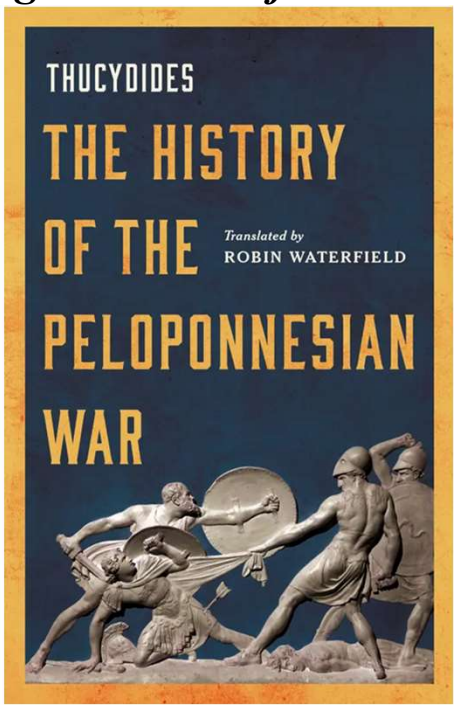
Dr. Schueller Leads Ancient Mosaic Workshop

On Wednesday, March 4, H-SC Classics and HR hosted an overflowing room of students, faculty, staff, and community members in Brinkley 102 for a second rendition of last semester's popular mosaic-making workshop. While enjoying a pizza and Fishin' Pig barbecue dinner, event attendees first learned about senior Marc Moroz' work with Dr. Paul Hay on a commentary for a work of the ancient Greek author Lucian before hearing a bit about ancient Roman mosaics from Dr. Matthew Schueller (**below**). Attendees then turned to making their own mosaics based on an even wider range of ancient Roman designs than last time (wolves, Chi Rhos, ivy leaves, oh my!).

Demand for more mosaic-making fun remains high, so stay tuned for a return of the Classics Department's mosaic-making workshop in the academic year to come!



Dr. Hay Reviews New Thucydides Translation for *Las Vegas Review of Books*



Above: Scan the QR code to read Dr. Hay's complete review.

Dr. Hay's review of the 2025 translation of Thucydides' *The History of the Peloponnesian War* by Robin Waterfield was published in the *Las Vegas Review of Books* this winter. Dr. Hay emphasized the importance of reading Thucydides for understanding the modern world, writing that "anyone living in a wobbly democracy or observing the actions of international adversaries can find something of value in his account of the war ravaging the Aegean world during this moment in antiquity." Dr. Hay appreciated how accessible Waterfield's translation was for modern readers (and in fact he used it in his WCUL 101 course this spring). He encourages anyone interested to take a look at it, praising Waterfield for producing such a timely volume. He concludes by writing that "Thucydides the thinker stands out in high definition, and this translation will help to bring those ideas to a new generation of readers."

Field Reports From Our Classrooms During the Spring Semester

CLAS 285: Greek & Roman Sport and Theater: Dr. Schueller's students learned about athletics, chariot racing, dramatic performances, and gladiatorial games that took place across the ancient Mediterranean.

CLAS 210: The Height of the Roman Empire: Dr. Hay's class has been examining literary and archaeological evidence to learn what life was like under some good (Trajan?) and bad (Caligula?) emperors.

CLAS 211: Greek & Roman Epic Literature: Dr. Siegel's students traced the development of ancient epic lit across time and space with deep dives into Homer, Apollonius' *Argonautica*, and Virgil's *Aeneid*.

GCUL 103: Dr. Siegel's class studied two other epics, *Gilgamesh* and *Sundiata* (an epic of old Mali), and performed two comparative studies: Confucius/Socrates and the Han Dynasty of China/Roman Empire.

GREK 101: Introductory Greek I: Dr. Hay's rookie Hellenists can tell you about the aorist tense, the iota subscript, and the dative of means!

GREK 201/303: The Greek New Testament: Dr. Schueller's intermediate/advanced Greek students had a blast with the Gospel of Matthew, Galatians, and 1 Corinthians in their original *koine* Greek.

LATN 102: Introductory Latin II: Dr. Siegel's Latinists completed their study of basic grammar and are ready for unadapted Latin texts.

LATN 202/305: Latin Poetry: Dr. Schueller's intermediate/advanced Latin students explored the poetry of Catullus, ranging from political invective to love letters; elegies of Tibullus also featured in the course.

WCUL 101: Dr. Hay's class examined cultural values through texts ranging from Sophocles' *Philoctetes* to Dante's *Inferno* and more.

(See front cover images) With the help of Dr. Michael Wolyniak, Dr. Schueller used Meta headsets formerly purchased for H-SC Biology through a Bortz Award to lead his **CLAS 285: Greek & Roman Sport and Theater** students on VR "visits" to ancient public entertainment venues across the Mediterranean. Students in the course were able to experience personally and up-close several of the temple or palace courtyards, stadiums, theaters, and amphitheaters they discussed in class. In the process, they gained a fuller impression of how individuals' and crowds' different experiences in these spaces shaped the public messaging of sports like Greek athletics and Roman chariot racing.

More From the Mosaic Workshop



Above: Our attendees listen to instructions on proper mosaic form.
Below: One participant carefully places tiles in a cool design.



Classical Certamen Trivia Contest

On April 14th, classics students vied for glory (and were cheered on by fellow aficionados) as they tested their general knowledge of classical history, literature, material culture and the reception of all things classical in our modern world in a Kahoot!-style quiz bowl. Contestants vied for cash prizes by answering multiple-choice trivia questions as quickly as they could. Students demonstrated their aptitude with everything from ancient statues to pop culture references to the names and places of classical antiquity. (Do YOU know which ancient mythological hero shares a name with Taylor Swift's future brother-in-law?) Chicken wings, pimento cheese dip, and soft drinks were provided for the contestants and audience members on the fourth floor of Bortz. The classics department revived this contest in 2022 and has staged this contest every other year since then.

Below: Contestants and spectators are amused by a humorously worded question before buzzing in with the answer. (L-R) Bruce Gudmundsson, Harlow Thompson, Wesley Krause.





Above: Latin Prize winner Ansen Lackner, alongside Dr. Siegel.

Ansen Lackner was the winner of the 2026 Leila B. Thompson Eta Sigma Phi Prize in Latin. The Leila B. Thompson Latin Prize was established in 1991 by Hampden-Sydney's Beta Theta chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national Classics Honor Society, to honor Leila B. Thompson for her work to advance the study of the classics and especially the work of Eta Sigma Phi, of which she was an honorary member.

The Department of Classics would like to extend a hearty congratulations to all the graduating seniors who have worked closely with us as majors, minors, and Eta Sigma Phi inductees:

Josh Campbell
Henry Jones
Ansen Lackner
Matt Miscikowski
Marc Moroz
Tim O'Connell

Greek and Latin Awards Announced at Final Convocation; Kudos to Graduating Seniors



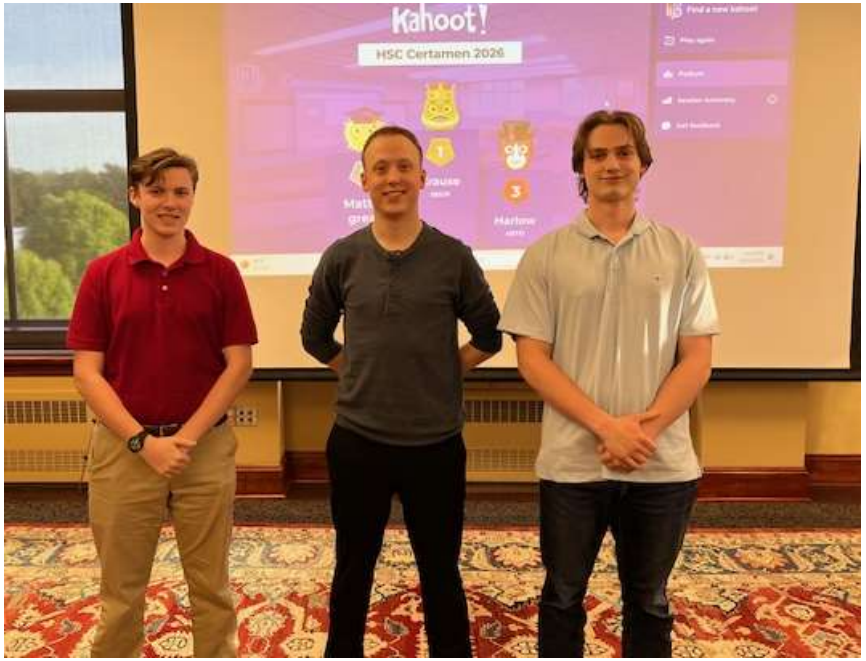
Above: Steven Goudes-Shaw, Greek Prize winner, with Dr. Schueller.

The Department of Classics is pleased to announce the winners of this year's prizes for our top Greek and Latin students, which were awarded at the college's Final Convocation ceremony on April 23. Each student won a generous cash prize as well as a book specially chosen for their personal interests and experiences in the department. The department is proud of all the hard work and dedication our students demonstrated throughout the entire school year.

Steven Goudes-Shaw was the winner of the 2026 David C. Wilson Greek Prize. The Greek Prize is named for David Cooper Wilson, who pursued a distinguished career at Hampden-Sydney College as Professor of Greek from 1923 to 1957 and Dean of the College from 1939 to 1954.



Above: Dr. Siegel introduces another challenging question.
Below: Congratulations to the winners: first place, Wesley Krause ($100); second place, Harlow Thompson ($50); and third place, Rowan Warren ($25).



Eta Sigma Phi Chapter Inducts New Members



Above: Dr. Siegel; chapter *grammateus* Tim O'Connell; Charlie Pearson; Rowan Warren; Kadin McCallum; chapter *hyparchos* Matt Miscikowski.

This semester, six new members (plus one honorary member) were inducted into our chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the national honors society for the study of classics. **Steven Goudes-Shaw**, **Wesley Krause**, **Kadin McCallum**, **Charlie Pearson**, **Rowan Warren**, and **Michael Williamson** became the newest members of our chapter, and signed their names in a membership book that dates back to the origin of the college's chapter in 1942. **Dr. Schueller** was also inducted into the chapter as an honorary member for his contributions to the department's promotion of classical studies at the college.

The initiation and induction ceremonies concluded with our traditional honorary banquet for new inductees and officers of the chapter. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal of Italian cuisine, and the dinner was followed by a stimulating lecture from Dr. Samuel Mead of H-SC's own Department of Government and Foreign Affairs. Congratulations to our new members!



Above: Dr. Hay; Wesley Krause; Steven Goudes-Shaw; Michael Williamson; honorary member Dr. Schueller.

Below: Dr. Mead delivers a delightful post-meal lecture about Plato to our banquet attendees.

