

Philomathes

A Journal of Undergraduate Research in Classics

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Editorial Statement

The study of Classics will never be irrelevant. The Greeks and Romans are our cultural and intellectual ancestors and nothing can alter that. Those who dedicate their lives to the study of our ancestors undertake a noble task, the most noble, I may say, because they do not stand to make great strides in terms of material success, but rather they sacrifice their time for the achievement of a greater good. Anyone who makes the enormous effort to acquire a professional knowledge of the languages, literatures, histories, archaeologies etc. of ancient Greece and Rome has made a commitment to self-sacrifice for the sake of advancing the state of knowledge concerning our ancestors. The better we understand them, the better we understand ourselves.

When I was an undergraduate and was encountering much of classical literature for the first time, I had many ideas that I wanted to discuss with others. There was no forum for broad discussion, and so we few undergraduate Classics majors talked among ourselves. Nowadays there are multiple, local undergraduate conferences throughout the world, where students do have the opportunity to put their ideas in front of a group of their peers and of professional scholars in order to obtain the sort of feedback necessary for scholarly development. Such conferences offer excellent exposure for these up and coming scholars, but the audience at those conferences is still limited. *Philomathes* is designed to take undergraduate research to an even higher level by offering a worldwide audience for the ideas of young scholars.

Austin Peay State University has consistently supported and promoted the study of Classics, and I am proud to say that they have also supported the effort to begin the publication of this journal. My sincere thanks go out to all those in the administration, the President, Dr. Alisa White, the Provost, Dr. Rex Gandy, and the Chair of the Department of Languages and Literature, Dr. David Guest for their support in this endeavor. Special thanks are due to Mr. Charles Booth in the Office of Public Relations who has helped with formatting, and to several people in the Information Technology Department who assisted in setting up the space for the journal on the Austin Peay web-site. Thanks are also due to the editors of this first volume, Dr. Steve Kershner, Assistant Professor of Classics, Mrs. Mary Winters, Instructor in Classics, and Ms. Elyssa Parks, a former Classics major at APSU who is pursuing a Masters in Library Science. Certainly the greatest thanks are due to the authors who took a chance and a bold step and chose to put their ideas before the scholarly community in this forum. You are to be applauded for your dedication to the discipline of Classics, and for your demonstration of your love of the field. I am grateful to all.

Timothy F. Winters, Ph.D.
Editor
Austin Peay State University

Letter from the Chair of the Department of Languages and Literature

To the authors and editors,

While I can take no credit for the work you have done in producing this first issue of *Philomathes*, I do take great pride in your achievement. To engage in research and present the results of that research in a public forum is at the very heart of this project we call the Humanities. And like most (or perhaps all?) modern intellectual endeavors, that project is rooted in the cultures and traditions of ancient Greece and Rome. The most important questions we ask ourselves were first asked there and our ongoing attempts to answer those questions lead us back there. What is the best way to live? What allows for meaningful thought? What do we owe one another? Why are things the way they are? When we grapple with these questions we join a tradition of inquiry that is both timely and timeless, three thousand years old and brand new. I congratulate you and welcome you to the fray. And, on behalf of Austin Peay State University, I thank you for making us look good.

David Guest, Chair
Department of Languages and Literature

Letter from the President of Austin Peay State University

Dear Scholars,

Congratulations on publishing the first edition of *Philomathes*, a journal of undergraduate research in Classics. I appreciate this new forum for students to share their research. Undergraduate students gain a lot by conducting research, and they will benefit from having their research made available for wide distribution. The name of this journal is also special. *Philomathes* means “love of learning,” and I am convinced that it is that love that drives people to study Classics. Your work will enrich an important field, and I applaud Austin Peay Classics faculty and students for producing this publication.

Sincerely,

Alisa White
President

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