

CLASSICAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER Fall 2026



WILLIAM
& MARY

CHARTERED 1693

We're off to the races – another academic year full of events and classes is upon us. Follow the links to learn more about what we've been up to in Classical Studies.

~ Professor Molly Swetnam-Burland, Department Chair

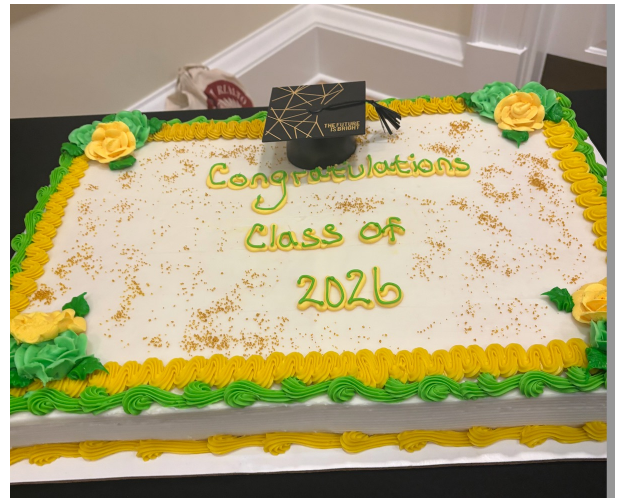


Save the date!

Homecoming
Brunch
October 24,
10-12
Boswell 340

Cheers to the Class of 2026!

We awarded a record number of degrees in 2026 – 19 BAs in Classical Studies. Wow! We also granted one post-baccalaureate certificate. Each student pursued an independent research project as part of the COLL 400 Capstone or by writing an honors thesis. Read about the 2026 Capstone Colloquium [here](#) and graduation [here](#).



above: Jessica Colvin and Keara Dean. *right:* Professor Swetnam-Burland and Phoebe Kirsh. *below:* the 2026 Capstone Colloquium class.



Welcome Professor Kovalchuk!

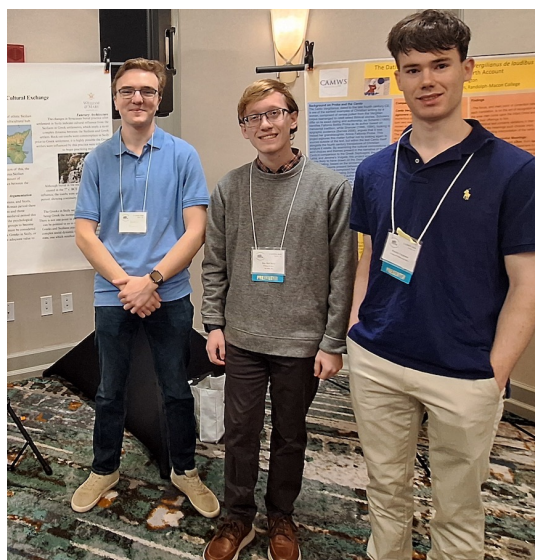
Welcome to Maria Kovalchuk, our newest faculty member. Maria has a PhD from Penn, and teaches classes in Greek, Latin, and literature in translation. Read more about her [here](#), and about her interests beyond the classroom. She is a cook and athlete, too!



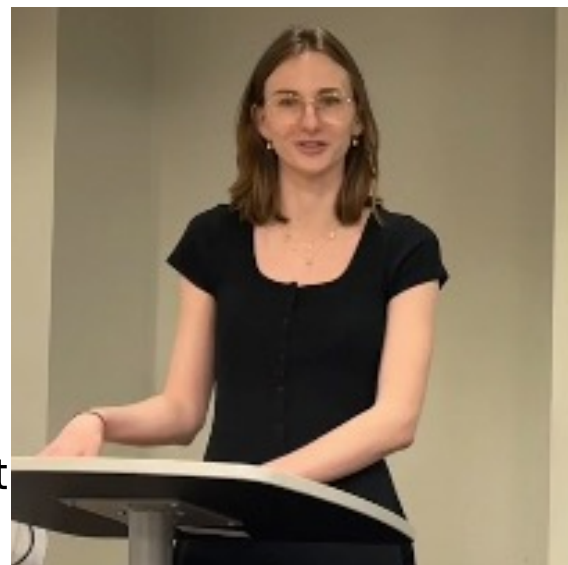
Support Classical Studies!
<https://go.wm.edu/5R1pfz>

The Liber Memorialis Project in action!

The members of the [Liber Memorialis Project](#) were busy in Spring 2026. We finalized our translation of the text, recorded podcasts, presented our work at an academic conference, and were featured by Swem Library's Digital Humanities interest group.



Pictured, left: Hollis Martin, Patrick Carpenter, and Ben McClarty at CAMWS. right: post-bacc Madeline Baird at Swem.



Summer Adventures 2026



Naxos Quarry Project

Professor Paga took three W&M students (Maya Parfitt, Phoebe Kirsh, and Paige Martin) into the field to work with an international team exploring the quarry site, the temple of Demeter at Sangri, and the impact of the ancient stone trade on the local landscape over time. See about the project [here](#), and read specific stories about [Maya](#) and [Paige's](#) experiences on site.



“The Ancient City” Course: Rome and Pompeii

We take students to Europe for intensive [study abroad courses](#) every year. This year, Prof Panoussi took the students to Rome and Pompeii. One of the perks of these trips is that students get to interview experts and get access to sites not available to the general public. *Summer 2027 is Athens – so if you are a student, it isn't too late to start planning!*

Career Profile: Sam McVane ('11)

After his time at W&M, Sam McVane earned a PhD at Columbia University, writing about Seneca. Today, he designs AP Latin tests and does other work for the College Board – maybe you have even taken one of the tests he wrote! He writes, “my experience with the ancient world fundamentally shaped and continues to shape how I understand, experience, and interact with the world at every level.” Read more [here](#).



Congratulations to Professor SB!

Prof SB was honored with the Jennifer and Devin Murphy award, which is given annually by the Dean of Arts & Sciences to faculty in recognition of their support for student research. Dean Raitt [commended](#) Prof SB for her skills as a mentor, and for the innovative design and implementation of the Liber Memorialis Project.



Prof SB at the Arts & Sciences Award Ceremony, May 5, 2026

We also gather news from our alumni/ae on our website. Send news to jrholm@wm.edu

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