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The Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology

Established in 2007, Willamette University’s Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (CASA) is home to a cross-disciplinary concentration of experts in archaeology and the ancient world that is unprecedented for small Liberal Arts colleges, and rare even for major research universities. At Willamette, more than twenty faculty members from over a dozen different disciplines combine their expertise and interests to form a program of rich collaboration, critical exploration, and interdisciplinary scholarship that seeks to bring together those within Willamette University and the Willamette Valley who share an interest in ancient studies and archaeology. The Center organizes and promotes public lectures and events with national and international speakers, funds museum exhibitions, hosts scholarly conferences, and supports faculty and student research. All of the Center’s programming is planned with a view to providing both enriching professional development opportunities for faculty and high-impact educational experiences for students, i.e., programming that draws both students and faculty from various departments and disciplines together into engaged learning communities within and beyond the classroom.

Student Programs

A variety of programs at the Center are directed toward engaging and supporting students in their studies of archaeology and the ancient world, broadly defined.

Student Archaeological Field School Grants

The Center has established an annual program of Student Field School Grants to encourage and enable undergraduate participation in archaeological field schools, excavation or survey projects at home or abroad by providing funding (between $2,500 and $3,000) toward the cost of tuition, travel to and from the site, and living expenses on the site. Such summer projects provide remarkable hands-on, active learning, in the company of graduate students, teams of faculty experts, and local workers, often in an international and multi-lingual setting. Typically, students are on site for three to six weeks of intense work. This learning experience is definitely a high-impact and multi-dimensional one, but also a prohibitively expensive one for many students who would also lose summer income by participating in such a program. The Center’s unique grants (2-3 are available per year) have so far allowed five Willamette students to participate in archaeological projects in Belize (1), Italy (3) and Japan (1). This summer three additional students will be attending field schools in Belize, Romania and Syria.

Spring 2010 Recipients

Jessa Fowler ’11 (Archaeology major)
Tell Qarqur Archaeological Field School, Syria
Awarded $3000.00
Andrew Korzun '11 (Archaeology major)
Carpathian Ancient Resource and Technology Project, Piatra Tomii, Romania
Awarded $3000.00

Patrick Leary '11 (Archaeology major)
Maya Archaeology at Minanha, Belize
Awarded $3000.00

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

Two CASA-funded students, Sarah Whitney Pryce and Paige Morton (Spring 2009 recipients of the CASA Field School Grant) worked in Italy and were joined by seven other students from Willamette at the Sangro Valley Project (www.sangro.org/). This program represented a joint research project and field school of Oberlin, Oxford, and Willamette. Prof. Scott Pike, an archaeological geologist and Chair of Willamette’s Department of Environmental and Earth Sciences, was part of the international research team. The Center also supported the work of Prof. Pike and all the Willamette students who studied with him at the site by providing the annual institutional project fee ($5,000).

Unfortunately, this project has now come to an end, but Prof. Pike and other CASA faculty members are actively pursuing new research opportunities, particularly establishing a Willamette University Archaeology Field School program for undergraduate students at the Ness of Brodgar in Orkney, Scotland, at the “Heart of Neolithic Orkney” UNESCO World Heritage Site. Excavations at this site are redefining our understanding of the Neolithic world, and this site was listed as one of the top 15 “most significant discoveries of 2009” by the *Archaeology Magazine*. Prof. Pike will continue exploring this possibility when he visits the site with Nick Card (director of excavations) during this summer. The establishment of a field school in Orkney in partnership with the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (www.orca.uhi.ac.uk/about) represents an amazing opportunity with enormous potential for faculty and students.

ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM AT WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

CASA faculty members (Professors Pike, Nicgorski, and McCreery) have already been successful in starting an interdisciplinary Archaeology Program (http://www.willamette.edu/cla/arch/index.php) at Willamette University (established February 24, 2009). It is the first such program to offer a major and minor in Archaeology at a highly ranked liberal arts college in the west. The addition of this Archaeology major/minor program provides a distinctive curricular option for students, unique in the Pacific Northwest, and indeed, in the entire west (there are no other programs in archaeology at top tier liberal arts colleges west of Minnesota or Iowa). Already there are twelve students majoring in archaeology at
Willamette. This unique major/minor program, as well as the very rare Student Field School Grants, have attracted much attention from current and prospective students and parents as well.

**STUDENT INTERNSHIP IN MUSEOLOGY AT THE HALLIE FORD MUSEUM OF ART**

A second program for students pioneered by CASA is the annual Student Internship in Museology at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art (HFMA). Museology is an important methodology for those interested in archaeology and ancient studies and for many others as well. This eight-week internship is offered every summer to one Willamette University junior, senior, or recent graduate who has not yet entered graduate school. The internship provides students (especially those with an interest in museum careers) with a unique, hands-on introduction to the curatorial, educational, operational, and preparatory structure of a small university art museum. The internship also involves students in original research on a specific object(s) in the museum’s collection with the guidance of a faculty advisor. It is the only paid internship currently available at the HFMA. The student stipend is $2,500, and there is also a $500 stipend for the faculty advisor.

**SUMMER 2009 STUDENT INTERNSHIP IN MUSEOLOGY AT HFMA**

*Transportation of a Native American Collection: A Look into Museum Policies and Practice*

Student Intern: Holly Steere ’09 (History major; Art History minor)
Sponsor/Faculty Advisor: Professor Rebecca Dobkins, Anthropology

Ms. Steere researched the Native American lithics collection held by Willamette University since the 1940s. The collection, now housed in the Hallie Ford Museum, was amassed primarily by Major Oliver McCleary (1888-1989), and includes a wide range of tools, personal adornments, sculptures, and vessels from the Columbia River region. Her research, in collaboration with Prof. Rebecca Dobkins and Collections Curator Jonathan Bucci resulted in an exhibition of a selection of the objects in the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Gallery, in anticipation of that gallery’s reinstallation in 2010. In addition, Ms. Steere’s archival and library research provided invaluable new information about McCleary and several of the items in the collection.

This internship was not awarded during the spring of 2010
The Carl S. Knopf Award for the Best Student Paper on the Ancient World

Other CASA programs that are intended to enhance student engagement include the Carl S. Knopf Award for the Best Student Paper on the Ancient World. This award is the first to be created in this area of the curriculum and it is bestowed annually on the Willamette undergraduate student who has written the best term paper (i.e., not a senior thesis) dealing directly with the ancient world or with the reception of ancient cultures worldwide in later time periods. The award carries a monetary prize in the amount of $500.

Spring 2010 Recipient
Alicia Maggard '10 (Classical Studies and History Major)
Running on Imperial Time: Augustus and the "Fasti Praenestini"

Conferences and Symposia

Oregon Undergraduate Conference in Classics

The Center provides funding for the annual Oregon Undergraduate Conference in Classics (http://www.willamette.edu/cla/classics/conference/index.php), which is organized by faculty in the Department of Classical Studies. The conference was initiated by Prof. Mary Bachvarova in 2006 with the assistance of an internal Hewlett Grant. When those funds were expended, CASA began providing the necessary funds for this event to continue. The conference is envisioned as an opportunity for talented undergraduates from various colleges and universities in Oregon to present their work (e.g., a BA thesis or outstanding seminar paper) in a 20-minute presentation to an audience consisting of other undergraduates and their faculty mentors. Papers are welcome in any area of classical studies, including language and literature, history, philosophy, and material culture. This year’s conference took place on Saturday April 17, 2010, and featured student presenters from 5 different departments in Oregon and Washington state and drew 31 registered attendees, including 7 faculty from Willamette University, Portland State University, Reed College, the University of Oregon, Western Oregon University, Western Washington University and the wider Salem community. This conference provides a singular, and much needed, opportunity for both students and faculty in classical studies throughout the region to meet and share their work in an expanded learning community, while putting the spotlight on Willamette’s fine programs related to classics, archaeology, and ancient studies.

Future Planning

The Center plans to organize periodic Symposia on Controversial Issues in Ancient Studies, the first of which took place in April 2009 on the topic of “Epic,
Biography, and the Gospels: The Controversy about the Genre of the Early Christian Gospels.” Lastly, the Center is scheduled to host the 101st annual conference of the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest (http://www.historyforkids.org/CAPN/capn.htm) in spring of 2012. The Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest is a non-profit academic organization whose purpose is to support and promote the study of classical languages and civilization in the Pacific Northwest. Current members come from both the US (Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, California, Colorado, and several other states) and Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario). Willamette faculty served as CAPN presidents in 1920, 1932, and 1947, but this will be the first time in the long history of this organization that Willamette University will host this two-day meeting in which scholars from the region will present papers on their current research. It is another great opportunity to showcase Willamette’s fine, but relatively new programs related to classics, archaeology, and ancient studies.

**FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS**

CASA also offers up to five Faculty Fellowships per year, which directly support and encourage active scholarship and continuing professional development. Through this program CASA affirms that research, enhancement of teaching, and other forms of continuing professional development are essential for sustaining the vitality of the university’s curricula in classical studies, promoting its academic reputation, and contributing to the body of knowledge in disciplines, professions, and interdisciplinary fields of study devoted to ancient studies. The program provides funding (up to $4,000) for projects selected through a competitive review process. In particular, the CASA program supports Research and Scholarship Projects (e.g., new research initiatives, scholarly publication, and artistic activity), Professional Development Projects (e.g., to allow faculty to expand competence within their current specialization or to obtain training in a new area or field), and Teaching Improvement Projects (e.g., new course development or dev-elopment and improvement of teaching approaches, techniques, and methods). So far, CASA has granted 13 such fellowships to faculty in archaeology, art history, classics, earth and environmental sciences, history, politics, religious studies, and studio art.

**SPRING 2010 RECIPIENTS**

*The Forum of Trajan in the Fourth Century*
Professor Robert Chenault
Departments of Classical Studies and History

This fellowship represents a summer research and writing project designed to produce a scholarly article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal on the Forum of Trajan in the Fourth Century as it relates to late Roman political, cultural, and urban history.

Awarded $4,000.00
**The Roman Muse: The Emergence of a Collective Identity in Italian Art between the 18th and 19th Century and the Cultural Phenomenon of the 'Renaissance Revival'**
Professor Ricardo De Mambro Santos  
Department of Art History

This fellowship will be an investigation of the ancient and modern works of art gathered by Count Alessandro Maggiori (1764-1832) to understand the process of redefinition of concepts such as "Classical" and "Renaissance" as critical categories in the 18th Century and the emergence of a collective artistic identity known as the "Italian" tradition, having Rome as its multi-layered point of convergence.

Awarded $4,000.00

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**Australian Aboriginal Art Exhibition**
Professor Rebecca Dobkins  
Department of Anthropology

This project will involve travel to Australia where Prof. Dobkins will examine collections of Australian aboriginal art in Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney, Australia, with the aim of curating an exhibition to be hosted by the Hallie Ford Museum of Art.

Awarded $4,000.00

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**The Surface Relationships Inherent in Stone of Ancient Neolithic Scotland**
Professor James Thompson  
Art Department

This research project in Scotland will explore the spatial and surface relationships of stone objects, structures and sites from Ancient Scotland and will result in the production of an entirely new, comprehensive body of paintings (and hopefully an accompanying catalogue) for a scheduled upcoming exhibition in 2013.

Awarded $4,000.00
EXHIBITION FUND FOR ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL ART AT THE HALLIE FORD MUSEUM OF ART

An especially unique CASA program is the Exhibition Fund for Ancient and Medieval Art at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. This fund provides up to $4,000 per year in support of exhibitions of ancient and medieval art (or related historical art) at the museum. Artworks from these time periods are rare in the Salem area, and indeed in the entire Pacific Northwest, so any exhibition that brings to the museum a really fine Roman portrait, an exquisite Chinese bronze vessel, or a brilliant French Gothic illuminated manuscript would provide a unique first-hand experience of a cultural masterpiece of high aesthetic quality and historical significance. University students, faculty and staff, local schoolchildren, as well as the general public benefit from these enriching displays. Such objects, carefully chosen for their multifarious links to the university’s curriculum, displayed in the quiet and distinctive galleries of the university’s art museum, and accompanied by abundant explanatory materials and related programming, also encourage careful and critical viewing habits. So far, CASA has funded two such exhibitions at the HFMA: an exhibit of ancient and medieval lamps in the spring of 2009 (curated by Prof. Ann M. Nicgorski), and an exhibit of mosaics from Roman Syria in the fall of 2009 (curated by museum director John Olbrantz). This coming spring of 2011 there will be an exhibition entitled Glory of Kings: Ethiopian Christian Art from Oregon Collections (to be curated by Prof. Ann M. Nicgorski). These exhibits engage students through specific class tours and assignments as well as through related public programming (lectures, gallery talks, etc.).

FALL 2009 EXHIBITION

Ancient Mosaics: Selections from the Richard Brockway Collection
Curated by John Olbrantz
The Maribeth Collins Director, Hallie Ford Museum of Art

Awarded $4,000.00
LECTURES

The Center sponsors and co-sponsors numerous lectures and related events. CASA faculty have established a named lectureship for Prof. McGaughy, the *Lane C. McGaughy Lectureship in Ancient Studies*. This lectureship enables the Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology to pass on Prof. McGaughy’s inspiring tradition of distinctive scholarship and service by bringing a noted scholar to campus each year to deliver a major public lecture and to meet informally with students and faculty members. So far, the Center has organized two well-attended McGaughy lectures featuring noted art historian Thomas F. Mathews (2008) and the famous New Testament scholar Bart D. Ehrman (2009).

The Center also co-sponsors about a dozen lectures per year with the Hallie Ford Museum of Art and the Salem Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (http://www.willamette.edu/centers/casa/AIA/), which has been located at Willamette University since 1995.

The Archaeological Institute of America is a nonprofit group founded in 1879 and chartered by the United States Congress in 1906. Today, the AIA has nearly 200,000 members belonging to more than 100 societies in the United States, Canada, and overseas. This organization is unique because it counts among its members not only professional archaeologists, but also students and many others from all walks of life. Its National Lecture Program, now in its 114th year, features top scholars from North America and abroad that inform audiences about a wide range of current archaeological topics. Audiences at Willamette range between 80 and 150 people per AIA lecture, and include many faculty, staff, students, and local community members. This spring the Center began providing American Sign Language interpretation, and lectures are regularly attended by a group of students and faculty from the Oregon School for the Deaf.

**LECTURES FALL 2009–SPRING 2010**

*An Introduction to the Mosaic of the Greek East and Their Culture*

Dr. Christine Kondoleon
George and Margo Behrakis Curator of Greek and Roman Art,
Museum of Fine Arts in Boston
Thursday, October 1, 2009

*Co-sponsors: The Hallie Ford Museum of Art, the Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology, and the Salem Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.*
**Goddesses, Aristocrats and Politics of Sex in Early Etruscan Italy**

Dr. Anthony Tuck  
Department of Classics and Center for Etruscan Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Director of Excavations at Poggio Civitate (Murlo), Italy  
Thursday, October 15, 2009  

Co-sponsors: The Archaeological Institute of America, and the Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology.

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Dr. Bart D. Ehrman  
Chair, Department of Religious Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Thursday, October 29, 2009  

Co-sponsors: The Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology, the Westar Institute, and the Northwest House of Theological Studies.

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**Actors in the Audience: Non-dramatic Performances in the Roman Theater**

Dr. Diana Ng  
Andrew W. Melon Postdoctoral Fellow  
Classics Department, Northwestern University  
Thursday, November 12, 2009  

Co-sponsors: The Salem Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology.
Changing Perceptions - Recent Research and Excavation in the 'Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site'

Nick Card
Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology
Thursday, February 25, 2010

Co-sponsors: The Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology, the Art Department at Willamette University, and the Salem Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.

The Roman Mosaics of Tunisia (Kress Lecture)

Dr. Nejib ben Lazreg
Researcher with the Institut National du Patrimoine in Tunisia, Curator of the Salakta Archaeological Museum, the Lamta Museum, and the Roman sites in the Sahel region of Tunisia (Lepti Minus, Thapsus, and Sullecthum)
Thursday, March 4, 2010

Co-sponsors: The Archaeological Institute of America and the Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology.

Nostalgia and Pride
The Collection of Alessandro Maggiori: European Drawings from Renaissance to Neoclassicism

Dr. Ricardo de Mambro Santos
Department of Art and Art History, Willamette University
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Co-sponsors: The Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology and the Hallie Ford Museum of Art
The Reunion of Body and Soul

Dr. Lanny Bell
Brown University
Thursday, April 15, 2010

Co-sponsors: The Salem Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology.

Legacies of Stone:
African Stone Sculptures

Bill Dewey
Associate Professor of Art History
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Thursday, April 22, 2010


Westar Institute and Polebridge Press

Another related and very significant research-related initiative of CASA is our new, and official, affiliation with the Westar Institute (http://www.westarinstitute.org/) and Polebridge Press (http://www.jesusseminar.org/Polebridge/polebridge.html), both of which moved to Willamette University from Santa Rosa, California, this past July (2009). The move was coordinated by Lane McGaughy, Director (2007-2009) of the Center for Ancient Studies and Archaeology at Willamette University, and co-founder of both the Westar Institute and Polebridge Press. The Jesus Seminar on Christian origins is now chaired by Dr. Steve Patterson, who will join the WU faculty in September 2010 as the new Atkinson Professor of Religious and Ethical Studies.
Westar Institute

Westar Institute was established by the late New Testament scholar Robert Funk in 1986 as an advocate for religious literacy. The academic study of religion has been part of the curricula of colleges and universities since the seventeenth century, but the results of scholarship in this field have not been widely disseminated to the general public. The result is a large chasm between the academic study of religion and popular piety. Westar has two aims: to support the production of new knowledge in the field of religious studies and to disseminate the results of high scholarship on religion to the interested public. Westar believes that religious literacy is essential for understanding cultural and global conflicts and for enabling educated people to evaluate critically the competing claims of sectarian religious groups. Westar sponsors two national conferences a year (October and March) that offer workshops for the public and seminars for scholars. In addition, results of the work of Westar seminars are publicized in a bi-monthly magazine called The Fourth R and through weekend workshops around the country called Jesus Seminar on the Road programs.

The Jesus Seminar

The main research project of the Westar Institute is called the Jesus Seminar. In 1985 Robert W. Funk, a leading New Testament scholar, invited about fifty scholars to embark on a new quest for the historical Jesus. The project was divided into five-year phases, with a publishing deadline for each phase:


The work of the Jesus Seminar has succeeded in recovering the authentic words and deeds of the figure of Jesus behind the Gospels. It has separated the pre-Easter Jesus from the post-Easter Christ of Christian faith. As a result of this project, the historical Jesus has been placed on the larger cultural agenda through a flood of books, television documentaries, and films during the past two decades.
Polebridge Press was founded in 1981 by Robert W. Funk (University of Montana), Charlene Matejovsky (University of Montana), Lane McGaughy (Willamette University), and Karen King (Harvard Divinity School). Its publishing profile is twofold: to produce new reference works for biblical scholars and to publish monographs that disseminate the results of high scholarship on the Bible and other religious topics for the educated public. Polebridge Press and Westar Institute are linked by a common mission and business plan: Westar scholars produce books and journals for Polebridge to publish; the income from the sale of Polebridge books is then used to defray the costs of Westar seminars. Larry Alexander, retired Vice President and Publisher of John Wiley & Sons, agreed to become the new Publisher for Polebridge Press in September 2009.

A significant goal of our affiliation with Polebridge is the gradual development of Polebridge into an expanded academic press, which will continue to publish significant critical scholarship on the historical Jesus, but also other academic books by noted authors including Willamette authors. Dr. Lane C. McGaughy (George H. Atkinson Professor of Religious and Ethical Studies emeritus, former director of CASA, and a founding member of the Westar Institute as well as the Jesus Seminar) was instrumental in bringing about this promising partnership. Now as an official Senior Research Fellow of CASA, he is continuing to oversee the transitions at Westar and Polebridge, while working to further develop our collaboration.