Hello from snowy Bloomington!

With winter approaching we are thinking back to the summer when Classical Studies students take their study of the ancient Greeks and Romans on the road supported by generous fellowships. They travel for research, study, and archaeological fieldwork, expanding their horizons literally and academically, and they return inspired to deepen their study of the Greeks and Romans.

We hope you enjoy these arm-chair travels! If you are traveling, too, we wish you the wonder and inspiration that our students found. And when your travels bring you to Bloomington we would love to welcome you to the department--please contact us at xxx@iu.edu.

**Research Travel**

Undergraduate Henry Zitsow and second year Ph.D. student Kristóf Szabó created self-guided trips that contributed to their studies back in Bloomington.

Zitsow traveled to Greece where he visited 18 museums and over 50 archaeological sites and monuments in just two weeks, from Athens to Sparta, Crete to Olympia. He especially valued discovering the human dimensions of Greece's legacy such as stone loops in the agora for tethering animals and temple basins for weighing grain. His trip was "transformative," inspiring him to study archaeology and to investigate the links between decoration and function in classical architecture.

Szabó travelled to Hungary in preparation for doctoral research on the Roman. He gained deep experience with museum collections and archaeological sites from the early Roman empire to late antiquity, especially in Szombathely, Pécs, and Sopron, where excellent museums presented a great variety of Roman artifacts. Szabó's trip gave him a new perspective on material culture and how essential it is to historical research.

especially in Szombathely, Pécs, and Sopron, which were strikingly self-aware of their Roman heritage, and possessed a great variety of Roman artifacts.

**Study Programs**

Ph.D. candidate Gwen Gibbons and third year Ph.D. student Alec Smitten participated in academic programs that advanced their doctoral research.

Gibbons attended the Classical Summer School at the American Academy in Rome, studying art and archaeology at over 150 sites, monuments, and museums. A highlight of the program was exploring the underwater ruins of an ancient villa by snorkeling! This "once in a lifetime experience" will enrich her dissertation which focuses on Roman history and politics.

Smitten traveled to Athens for the Gennadius Library's Medieval Greek program where he both developed language skills and visited archaeological sites across Greece. At Corinth he recalls visiting a Byzantine complex so well preserved that he could make out a board game inscribed on one of the stones. Learning medieval Greek will enrich Smitten's research focuses on the ancient Greek grammarians with a new chapter on Byzantine grammarians.

Gibbons, Smitten, Szabó, and Zitsow were all supported the Norman T. Pratt Traveling Fellowship.

**Archaeological Fieldwork**

Undergraduates Lucas Tanner, Renae Dishman BA XXX, and Avery Schollenberger B.A. ‘25, participated in archaeological fieldwork that equipped them with skills for careers as Classical archeologists.

Tanner traveled abroad for the first time to join the Gabii Project field school near Rome. On this first foray into archaeology, he learned about excavating and about the site of Gabii. He expanded his knowledge of Roman culture—ancient and modern—with visits to museums and archaeological sites in Rome. Inspired by this summer, he plans to return as a field intern in 2026.

Dishman was a trench supervisor at the Lechaion Harbor and Settlement Land Project, near Corinth, Greece where she excavated a room where dye was produced. As an instructor in the field school she not only taught the basics of archaeological excavation but also organized a trip for students to see a performance of Sophocles’ Antigone in Corinth’s ancient theatre. Dishman made time for her own research on ancient musical instruments, imagery, and performance spaces, visiting archaeological sites and museum visits. She is continuing that work as an M.A. student at the University of New Mexico.

Schollenberger participated for a second time in the excavations at Morgantina, near modern Aidone, Sicily. The site’s rich history offers a wide range of artefacts--metals, coins, and sculptures. Although his main interest is Bronze Age Greece, working at Morgantina has been valuable because it broadened his his understanding of the ancient world. Upon returning, Schollenberger began the Ph.D. program at the University of Cincinnati.

Dishman and Schollenberger were supported by the Edward A. Schrader Archaeology Fellowship.