

COLORADO CLASSICS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE FALL MEETING, 10/09/2021  
Respectfully submitted by Pierre D. Habel, CCA Secretary ([pdhabel@gmail.com](mailto:pdhabel@gmail.com))

Hosted on Zoom by Cherry Creek High School

9:30-10:00 Conversation and reconnection took place prior to the formal convening of the meeting

10:00-10:20 CCA business meeting:

- Introductions of Officers and Meeting Attendees:  
Jackie Elliott (CU Boulder, CCA Co-President), Amy Sommer Rosevear (Cherry Creek High School, CCA Co-President), Amanda Sherpe (Mullen High School, CCA Treasurer), Pierre Habel (D'Evelyn Jr. Sr. High School, CCA Secretary), Richard Buxton (Colorado College, CCA Communications Director), Zach Herz (CU Boulder), Mary Zang (Smoky Hill), Elizabeth Bowman (D'Evelyn Jr. Sr. High School), Sanjaya Thakur (Colorado College), Helen Vickery (Boulder High School), Ian Oliver (Regis University), Isabel Koster, (CU Boulder, SCS Legate for Colorado), James Tranchetti (The Classical Academy), Serena S. Witzke (Wesleyan University, Visiting Speaker), Reina Callier (CU Boulder, CAMWS Vice President for Colorado), Kimberly Clouser (Liberty Common High School), Carole Newlands (CU Boulder), Lynn LiCalsi (Fairview High School), Andrew Carroll (Mercy High School)
- CCA Directories- Jackie thanked Barbara Hill, Richard Buxton and Pierre Habel for the time and work given to updating the CCA's directories of Latin or Classics programs and of educators, both of which are now available on the CCA website (<https://sites.coloradocollege.edu/cca/>).
- Colorado Classics Day (CCD) - thanks to the organizers, esp. Zach Herz, and attendees; follow-up- Brief notice was made of the challenges to holding an appealing and successful CCD in an online format. Anyone with feedback or suggestions for the event (in any past iteration or in the future) is encouraged to be in touch with Zach ([zachary.herz@colorado.edu](mailto:zachary.herz@colorado.edu)) and/or Jackie ([jackie.elliott@colorado.edu](mailto:jackie.elliott@colorado.edu)). Current thinking is to put a pause on CCD for the near future, pending re-assessment of the needs and capabilities of students, educators, and event organizers in the post-pandemic era. The organizers intend to send out a brief Google Form survey to the CCA membership at large to assess how best to map out the future of CCD.
- Colorado Junior Classical League (JCL) Update- Jackie relayed information from Tim Smith of Loveland Classical, JCL Co-Chair, regarding difficulties with the JCL website and other challenges faced by JCL during the pandemic. The website has mysteriously vanished; Tim requests assistance from anyone who might be able to help. JCL is also currently short of both student officers and teacher co-chairs. It is unclear whether a convention can responsibly be planned for the current academic year, but those interested in re-building JCL to strength in the post-pandemic era should be in touch with Tim directly ([tsmith@loveland.classical.org](mailto:tsmith@loveland.classical.org)).
- Tim Smith is also a representative of SALVI and is working on re-starting Latin immersion programs in Colorado post-Covid. He will be in touch via the mailing list once he has firm news.

- CCA Officers' Terms- All officers except post-secondary co-President are in the second and final year of their terms. Jackie earnestly invites members to consider nominating themselves or (with their consent) others as candidates for office. Inquiries and nominations may be made to Jackie ([jackie.elliott@colorado.edu](mailto:jackie.elliott@colorado.edu)) or Amy ([arosevear@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:arosevear@cherrycreekschools.org)). An official call for nominations will go out in the spring.
- Minutes of the April, 2021 Meeting- A motion to approve the draft minutes was made by Jackie and seconded by Amanda. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present with two abstentions from members absent at the relevant meeting.
- Teacher of the Year Award ); deadline is Jan. 1, and pre-collegiate teachers are heartily encouraged to nominate a colleague whose contributions and service, both over time and during the present difficulties in education, stand out. Nomination materials may be found on the CCA website (<https://sites.coloradocollege.edu/cca/cca-teacher-of-the-year-award/>).
- Amanda gave a reminder about dues and the value of membership and shared the tools registrants can use to join. Register using the CCA website (<https://sites.coloradocollege.edu/cca/membership-and-mailing-list/>) and paying dues by check, Paypal, or Venmo.
- CCA Constitution Revisions- Jackie thanked the members of the subcommittee (Zach, Richard, Pierre) who had worked on bringing the constitution up to date. She then briefly spotlighted the rationale(s) for the proposed changes, which had been circulated well in advance of the meeting. Zach made the motion to ratify the constitution with the changes proposed, and James seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by all members present.

10:20-11:30 Visiting Speaker: [Serena Witzke](#), **“Everything you like is bad: concrete strategies for confronting, interrogating and teaching violence and oppression in our texts”**.

Amy introduced Dr. Witzke, citing their work together on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the American Classical League.

Rather than advocating for the censorship, removal, or cancellation of troubling texts (i.e. everything in Classics), Dr. Witzke suggested concrete strategies for confronting the troubling aspects of our texts head-on, with a variety of questions for instructors to put to themselves and students to analyze oppressions, violence, sexual assault, enslavement, injustice, imperialism, classism, misogyny, and more, with sensitivity, from Intro Latin to large lecture classes. Her presentation included sample ways of interrogating Ørberg's *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata* and the Medusa episode in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. She offered some “trauma-informed” approaches to incorporate while teaching troubling material. Dr. Witzke asserted the value and importance of access to Classics and classical texts as an opportunity for students and educators to question, respond to, and interpret problematic behaviors and beliefs which continue to exist in a variety of forms in the contemporary world.

At 11:05 Dr. Witzke concluded her presentation and invited comment and discussion, especially inviting participants to share and reflect on their experiences with problematic

texts in their own classrooms. Many participants eagerly did so, and discussion expanded to include how these strategies might be incorporated in Classics courses which focus on history, how Classical texts themselves offer numerous perspectives on problematic issues, and how the differing settings in which educators work may require differing approaches to questioning texts. Numerous participants expressed their appreciation for the time with Dr. Witzke, citing the value of her proposed student-centered questioning techniques, language, and discussion strategies which avoid the Scylla of glossing over problematic content and the Charybdis of today's politicized attitudes towards concepts such as Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality.

11:30 a.m. Adjournment after announcements regarding:

- Announcement of the April, 2022 Meeting- The spring meeting will be held 10:00-11:30 a.m. on April 30th. Dr. Reina Callier will take the lead in carrying forward consideration of how to teach texts which contain challenging or problematic material. The meeting will be held on the CU Boulder campus if possible; if it remains inadvisable to meet in person on account of the pandemic, the meeting will be held on Zoom.
- Happy Hour for Educators- Amy will host a Zoom happy hour on Monday, November 1, from 5 to 6 p.m., with the intention of gathering the community, and especially those new (or newish) to the secondary level in Colorado, to connect, discuss shared concerns, and build supportive relationships. An email with additional details and the Zoom link will soon be sent.