

COLORADO CLASSICS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE 2024 SPRING MEETING
4/27/2024, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
University of Colorado, Boulder Eaton Humanities, 125

Respectfully submitted by Pierre D. Habel, CCA Secretary (pdhabel@gmail.com)

After informal socializing over coffee and bagels, the business meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

Business Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and introductions
CCA co-presidents Carole Newlands (CU Boulder) and Elizabeth Bowman (D'Evelyn Jr./Sr. High School) graciously welcomed attendees. Present were Kirk Ambrose (CU Boulder), Barbara Hill (CU Boulder, retired), Richard Buxton (CCA Communications Director; Colorado College), Amy Rosevear (Cherry Creek High School), Amanda Sherpe (CCA Treasurer, Mullen High School), Helen Vickery (Boulder High School), Tim Smith (Loveland Classical Schools), Jackie Elliott (CU Boulder), Elise Ramsey (CU Boulder), Denise Wu (CU Boulder), Emma Halverson, (CU Boulder), Tanner Frick (CU Boulder), Kate Newell (Ascent Classical Academy), Isabel Köster (CAMWS and SCS liaison; CU Boulder), Pierre Habel (CCA Secretary; D'Evelyn Jr./Sr. High, retired)
- II. Approval of minutes of September 2023 meeting
Elizabeth called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2023 meeting which had been circulated via the CCA email list and on the CCA website. Jackie moved to accept the minutes as written. Richard seconded. Seven members present at that meeting voted to approve the motion. No members opposed the motion. Three members abstained from the vote, due to absence from the September meeting. Several of those present are not voting members of the CCA and so did not vote.
- III. Update from Latin program advocacy video project
Pierre briefly discussed the CCA's K-12 Working Group's decision and progress towards creating a video for distribution in the fall to stimulate awareness of and interest in Latin as a language option in K-12 schools. Eight educators (including two at post-secondary institutions) collaborated to determine objectives for the video and set parameters to meet them. The group successfully applied for a grant from CAMWS's Committee for the Promotion of Latin and Greek to underwrite the costs of production and editing. Filming is in progress, with significant contributions in hand from four contributors. Amy indicated the urgency of getting the remaining footage shot and cataloged so that editing can proceed and lead to a finished product in time for teachers to engage in fall outreach to students, parents, and school and district personnel. Jackie conveyed appreciation and support for the work of the group members and excitement to see the finished product put to use.

- IV. Call for theme ideas or other projects, 2024-25
Pierre proposed sessions on the beneficial uses and potential pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence technology, whether in research or pedagogy. Carole suggested a session that revolved around the K-12 Working Group's film project. Helen proposed addressing the CU School of Education's announced decision to end programs for certification and degrees in Latin. Discussion ensued on the precipitous timing of that decision. Isabel clarified that this applies to all World Languages except Spanish. Barbara mentioned that the difficulty of finding placements for student teachers in Latin and other languages may have played a factor in the decision. Questions arose about the criteria for such placements, and Amanda indicated that she had hosted a student teacher last year. Elizabeth, Amanda, and Kate mentioned that the Alternative Licensure pathway still existed for those seeking certification. Pierre indicated the likely need to review and possibly update CCA's [Guide to K-12 Employment and Licensure in Colorado](#). Jackie and Kirk spoke of the potential for CU Classics faculty to advocate with the School of Education to undo their decision.
- V. Special presentation
Barbara rose to speak of the recent announcement of the [American Classical League's Merita Award](#) to Amy. The award will be formally presented to Amy at this summer's Meeting of the ACL in Tucson, AZ. Barbara cited Amy's sustained excellence in teaching and in service throughout her career teaching at Cherry Creek High School. Amy's skill and dedication have previously been recognized by CAMWS (an *Ovatio* in 2015), CCA (Teacher of the Year in 2020), and SCS (Excellence in Pre-Collegiate Teaching in 2020). Barbara has cited Amy's service in her school, in her district, in CCA, with the National Latin Exam and the College Board's AP Latin program, as well as years of contributions to the ACL. These include attending 17 annual meetings, giving six presentations, and serving on the ACL's Board of Governors. All present gave applause and congratulations to Amy. Jackie thanked Barbara for her presentation and for her crucial role in nominating Amy for the award. Amy thanked Barbara and spoke to all of the value of maintaining the mentor-mentee relationships, encouraging attendees to cultivate opportunities to act now as one, now as the other.
- VI. Officer elections
Pierre stated that he had received nominations for one candidate each for the several open positions. Pierre thanked the nominees for their willingness to serve CCA and invited members to consider their willingness to be nominated for future elections. He invited the members present to cast ballots. Jackie and Elizabeth repeated that new members were welcome, including to stand for office, at any time, and that dues were optional for student members. Ballots were distributed. After the agenda item below, Pierre announced that the ballots cast, including those cast online and by mail, unanimously approved the election of the following officers for their two-year terms beginning June 1, 2024:
- K-12 co-President: Helen Vickery (Boulder High School)
 - Vice President: Jackie Elliott (CU Boulder)
 - Treasurer: Amanda Sherpe (Mullen High School)
 - Secretary: Elizabeth Bowman (D'Evelyn Jr./Sr. High School)
 - Communications Director: Pierre Habel (retired)

VII. Other announcements

Amy announced that Smoky Hill High School's Latin program in Cherry Creek School District will be phased out, with no new Latin 1 classes next year. CCSD gives local administrators significant control over budgeting and course offerings, and this unwelcome news follows a similar decision at Eaglecrest High School last year. This leaves Amy's program at Cherry Creek High School as the last Latin program in her district.

At 10:39 the business meeting ended and we eagerly listened to the talk by our guest presenter.

Talk by [Dr. Kirk Ambrose](#), CU-Boulder Professor of Art and Art History: "Looking at Laocoön"

Carole introduced Kirk as a valued member of CU's faculty whose connection to the Classics Department has been of great value to its students and faculty alike. Kirk is also a Founding Director of CU's Center for Teaching and Learning. Kirk has a vast expertise in Medieval Art, and is equally conversant with the development and practice of the academic discipline of Art History from its earliest moments to the present.

This background, as well as Kirk's major published work on *The Marvellous and the Monstrous in the Sculpture of 12th Century Europe*, made for a rich and nuanced discussion of the Laocoön sculpture, which certainly calls the viewer to marvel at the monstrosity which the Trojan priest and his sons undergo. Kirk's presentation focused on how aesthetes, authors, academics, and artists have drawn inspiration or built interpretations of it since its discovery in 1506. His survey included scholars and thinkers from multiple centuries (Johann Joachim Winkelmann and Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, 18th; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 19th; Aby Warburg, 20th) as each elicited significances from the piece in support of their diverse philosophical, artistic or cultural doctrines. It also covered imitative visual artistic works of the 16th (by Baccio Bandinelli) and 20th centuries (by Eva Hesse), as well as the musically poetic regendering of Laocoön in R.E.M.'s "Laughing," allowing attendees to assess the diverse mimetic motives of the artists. Kirk also displayed William Blake's transmogrification, which combines a visual, poetic, and cultural reframing of the sculpture bearing, almost as a [new title for the work](#):

7" [Jehovah] & his two Sons Satan & Adam as they were copied from the Cherubim
of Solomons Temple by three Rhodians & applied to Natural Fact, or History of Ilium
Art Degraded Imagination Denied War Governed the Nations

Kirk admirably fulfilled his intent to provide educators with an intellectual and cultural armature with which to involve students in a centuries-long conversation with this singularly complex sculpture.

The meeting ended at 11:30 a.m. with expressions of deep appreciation to Kirk for his rich presentation and engagement with attendee's questions, and gratitude to Carole and Elizabeth for organizing and hosting the successful appreciation. Finally, Carole expressed her appreciation for Elizabeth's dedication and skilled collaboration as co-President, and expressed anticipation of similarly successful collaboration with Helen and the other electees.