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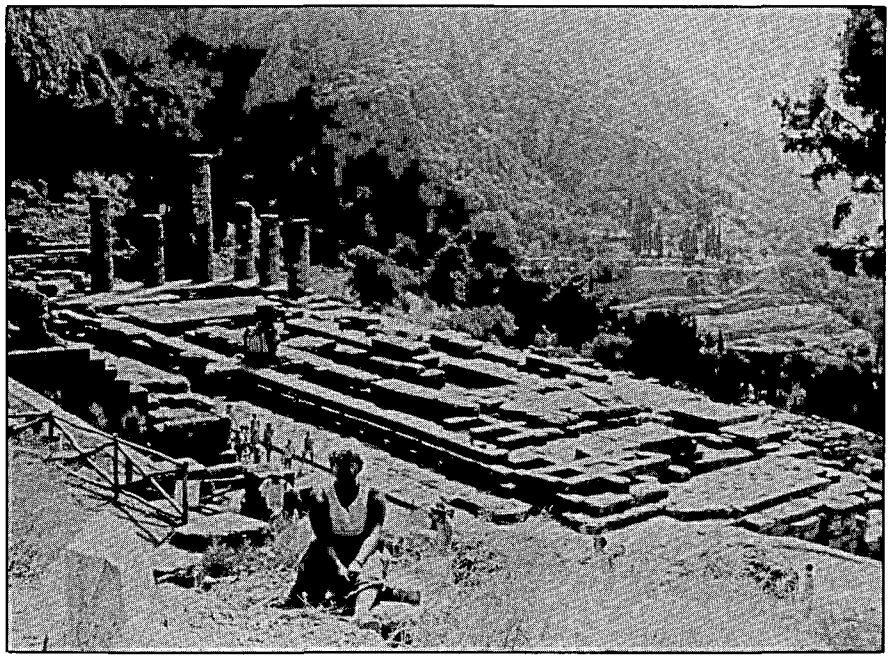

Susann Sowers at Delphi with the temple of Apollo in the background.

## Greece, 1986
by Susann Sowers

Armed with a new 35mm camera, several rolls of slide film, and my most comfortable tennis shoes, I began my journey to Greece in June on Friday, the thirteenth. Perhaps due to the auspices of the day on which I chose to depart, I encountered obstacles in my travel. After re-routing my path via Switzerland, however, I arrived at last in Athens, twelve hours behind schedule and somewhat ragged.

By Monday, I was thoroughly refreshed and ready to face the American School at 54 Odhos Souidias - a place to which few Greek taxis will go. As others arrived with comparable stories of diverted travel, I began to get the feeling that this would be an extremely interesting and congenial group with which to spend the summer. Our first task as Summer Session I, was following John Oakley (College of William & Mary) at breathtaking speed to the top of Lykavettos. Surviving this climb (many later learned of the Funicular which one can ride to the top!) was its own reward. The view from that peak is incredible. Nearly everything in the Athens region is visible at that vantage point, and topography was our lesson that evening. By dinner that night, our initiation was complete.

The weeks ahead brought many more climbs to various acropoleis, tumuli, and other topographical vantage points. Some of us will long remember the hike on Sphacteria, through the nettles, past signs boldly proclaiming "KYNDINOS"-DANGER!, finally reaching the summit where we listened to readings from Thucydides, while storm clouds began to gather. Often nature had her hand in helping to emphasize a particular site. At both the site of the Argive Heraion and Olympia, we witnessed spectacular displays by Thundering Zeus. I had to deliver my first site report during that latter display of fury, under the portico of the museum of Olympia as the rain came down in torrents.

To enter these sites and museums, each of us had the archaeologist's equivalent to the American Express Gold Card - a pass issued through the Greek government giving us free admission to museums and "archaeological places." We didn't leave school without them! On some occasions, we had additional permits which allowed us to enter areas closed to the average tourist. In this way, we were able to see firsthand the restorative work being done on the Erechtheion and the Parthenon and to prowl around in the "basement" of the Nike Temple. Phenomenal things are happening on the Acropolis not only in conservation work, but also in new discovery. The old marble dumps are yielding what must surely be considered miracles.

The Agora, too, is an exciting place, producing new material often; in fact, a new discovery occurred during the time we were there. Professor Shear, the director of the excavations, guided two excellent tours of the Agora structures and artifacts. Others introduced us to the School's ongoing Agora Amphora project and the conser-

vation lab housed within the Stoa of Attalos.

Approximately half of the session was spent travelling to sites outside of Athens, and we had three extended trips: a Peloponnesos trip (ten days), a Crete trip (five days), and a Northern-Central trip (ten days). Each resulted in its own set of unique memories, consisting of the hours spent on the bus, a variety of hotel accommodations, the struggle to convey our desires to the waiters at local tavernas, and the frenzied, last-minute finishing touches for our site reports.

When I received the preliminary schedule two months before arriving in Greece and saw that Crete was on it, I was thrilled. I had yearned to see the palace of Minos at Knossos ever since I first read about Sir Arthur Evans when I was nine or ten years old. Dreams can come true, I now realize, as I think back on walking through the halls of the domestic quarters and the Grand Staircase or sitting on the benches along the walls of the Throne Room. The Cretan landscape is striking as well. Rugged mountains jut up from lush, fertile valleys where all types of fruit and olive trees grow, separated by the many vineyards. The temperature in early July can be less than pleasant, to put it mildly, but the aura of Crete overrides any unpleasant weather.

In contrast, the trip through Northern-Central Greece brought slightly cooler temperatures, especially at night and up in the mountains. Here we were exposed to more Turkish influences and to the Byzantine period of Greek life; Alexander the Great reigned supreme. Having missed the opportunity to view the "Search for Alexander" exhibit when it was near my home, I rejoiced to see, in Thessaloniki, all of that splendor set off in its own special room in the museum. The lavish beauty and abundance of gold objects retrieved from the royal tombs of Macedonia, captivated us all. Few people can actually see the tombs from which these objects came, and we were not the lucky few. We did see some other Macedonian tombs, however, the most notable being the Lyson and Kallikles tomb. This is a barrel-vaulted tomb, and entry was gained by removing a large stone or two from the top. This was one time when we all began to feel a bit like Indiana Jones in "Raiders" as we climbed, one by one, down the ladder, into an underground chamber. What we saw, once inside, overwhelmed any small fears lurking in us. The colors of the painting in that tomb are as bright as if recently done, and the work is highly skilled, with shadowing and dimension.

On this same trip, I presented my second (and last) site report, the Temple and Oracle of Apollo at Delphi. Ascending the slopes of Parnassos early in the morning to beat the tourist crowd, we approached that once hallowed shrine and eagerly climbed over ropes under the watchful eyes of the guard. Delphi jealously guards her secrets, though, and we left understanding only barely more than we did when we came.

Two more day trips - Thebes and Aigina - and twice around the sites of Athens proper again rounded out our session. Over? Yes, but the memories linger. Anyone who has the chance to spend a summer such as this should grab it with both hands. I consider myself fortunate. I was accepted to the 1985 session, but had to turn the School down because I did not receive the Eta Sigma Phi scholarship that year. I was encouraged to reapply for 1986, and the result is all that I have mentioned above. In my case, the old saying, "Try, try again," proved invaluable. I must thank everyone involved with the Eta Sigma Phi scholarships: I appreciate the wonderful experiences your generosity afforded me. Keep up the good work!

(Editor's note: Susann Sowers, a graduate of Mary Washington College, Beta Nu Chapter, has taught Latin in the public schools in Berryville, Virginia, and is enrolled this fall as a Semple Fellow in the graduate school of the University of Cincinnati where she is continuing her studies in Classics and in Greek archaeology.)


## NUNTIUS

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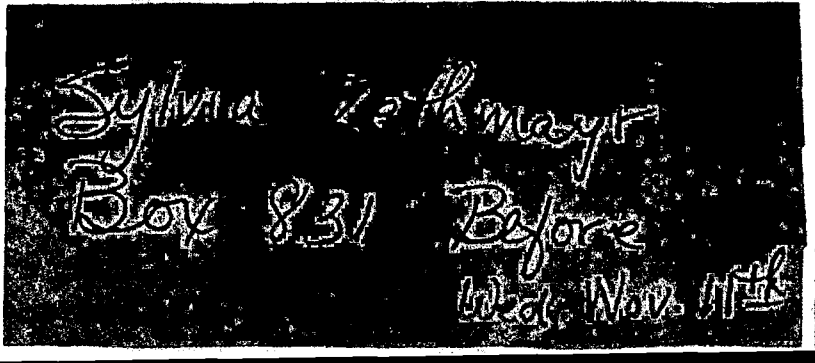

## Rome, 1986
by Mary Rossini

Rome was my city for six wonderful weeks this past summer. While America boasted the first centennial of their fair Liberty Lady, I was able to study and enjoy statues twenty times her age. My initial purpose in attending the Summer Session was "to collect slides, posters, and other memorabilia which would enhance the teaching and learning of the Latin language." I never envisioned all the other benefits and joys which also would come my way this summer. I sharpened my knowledge or Roman history, became familiar with both the ancient and modern city of Rome, visited hard-to-reach ancient sites outside of Rome, and finally developed friendships with people who also share my love of the classics. For me, truly "all roads lead to Rome."

Under the guidance of Professors Gerhard Koeppel and Tom McGinn, our six-week session was detailed and complete. Our chronological studies began with the Etruscan Civilization and finished with Early Christian Rome. The learning situation was ideal. After detailed morning lectures, we were able to apply the newly acquired knowledge and make our own deductions. How rewarding to study that the Etruscan artists made a conscious effort to present stylized elements of the human body and then to see this philosophy reflected in the "Tomb of the Married Couple." Or how rewarding to learn that the Roman emperors capitalized on the transcendent quality of vaulted spaces and then to experience this same powerful, uplifting feeling upon entering the Pantheon. Or how rewarding to discover that the living conditions of the common Roman citizens were often cramped and unsafe and then to visit the various insulae in Ostia and Pompeii.

My most memorable days were those on which I felt a special connection with the past. On those days, I believe that I was moved exactly in the same way as a common Roman citizen was 2,000 years ago. At that moment, I felt a special bond with all human beings who have proceeded me. I will not forget the feeling of leaving a sunny wheatfield in Tarquinia and descending into a dark, cool, Etruscan tomb, brightly lit by pastoral scenes. I had similar feelings at the Temple of Juno Unxor at Terracina where we studied the procedure and ritual of the inauguration of a new temple. The wind was blowing; the sea was bright blue; and I could see for miles. It is understandable how a Roman citizen could have a religious experience at this temple. I spent our short break in Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Capri. Here I developed a sense of how a Roman town operated on a daily basis. The well-preserved baths, theatres, temples, bakeries, insulae, and villas helped to recreate this image. Even though I studied in detail the paintings from the House of the Mysteries, I was unprepared for the actual "meeting." The vibrant colors and sensitive details were powerful and left me speechless. The town of Ostia was also an equal learning experience for me. There I was especially touched by the Jewish Synagogue and the well-preserved mosaics.

I learned, during my free time, by visiting ancient sites and museums (excluded by our tight schedule), by viewing famous monuments and churches built after the 4th century, and by familiarizing myself with Rome. Equally enjoyable was to be among the Italian people: to drink their wines, to taste their foods, to listen to their music, and even to make some friends.

The greatest gratification of my summer studies has come since I returned to the classroom. I teach in two inner-city schools in neighborhoods where most of the children will never venture out. Sharing my slides and experiences has helped them become aware of opportunities that can come with an education. They are most responsive to the Latin language when I can relay the cultural facts which I have learned this summer. They especially enjoy hearing and seeing the places where the characters in our own textbook would have dwelt. I thank Eta Sigma Phi for the most generous scholarship. Its benefits are a thousand-fold.

(Editor's note: Mary Rossini is a graduate of Creighton University, Epsilon Nu Chapter, and teaches Latin at the junior high school level in Reading, Pennsylvania.)


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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND, 1986

Chapters and members contributed a total of $677.00 to the Endowment Fund in 1986. Eta Sigma Phi is grateful to all of those members whose contributions help to sustain our scholarship program. Life memberships (which include a lifetime subscription to the Nuntius) are available for a $50.00 contribution to the Endowment Fund. Contributions came this year from the following chapters and members.

Beta Kappa Chapter, The College of Notre Dame of Maryland

Beta Upsilon Chapter, Marshall University

Epsilon Nu Chapter, Creighton University

Epsilon Omicron Chapter, The University of Massachusetts

John Basilone, Beta Theta Chapter, Hampden-Sydney College

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Susan Hartt, Esq., Alpha Upsilon Chapter, The College of Wooster

Brian King, Delta Lambda Chapter, College of the Holy Cross

Denise Sickinger, Alpha Rho Chapter, Muhlenberg College

During 1986, Susan Hartt, Brian King, and Denise Sickinger all became life members of Eta Sigma Phi.

## James May wins APA Award for Excellent Teaching

Professor James May, a co-adviser of Delta Chi Chapter, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, won one of three awards given by the American Philological Association for excellence in teaching, 1986. Professor May has been a member of St. Olaf College's faculty in Classics since 1977, and he has played an important part in developing the Delta Chi Chapter whose members in recent years have won prizes in the annual translation contests and have won summer scholarships. In 1985, St. Olaf College was the host for our National Convention.

Cited for his hard work and dedication, Professor May has extended himself by offering frequent out-of-class review sessions, study materials, extra readings, independent studies, and personal advice. Students and faculty members alike know Dr. May's work on Cicero and have benefitted from his interest in choral music, an interest that led to his founding of the St. Olaf Schola Cantorum, a choral group devoted to singing Gregorian chants.

Our fraternity's strength comes from advisers who are dedicated teachers. Eta Sigma Phi congratulates Professor May on winning this great recognition of his teaching from the American Philological Association.

# RES GESTAE

### Alpha Nu Chapter
### Davidson College

The Alpha Nu chapter was reactivated on December 16, 1986, with the initiation of seventeen student members and four honorary faculty members. Without any chapter by-laws to serve as guidelines, the meetings of the school year were conducted in a manner dictated by the common wisdom used in conducting club meetings. With the first meeting being the initiation of said seventeen and four, we progressed to initiate (in all) ten new members in the course of the rest of the year's meetings. We expect to increase further in the future.

Officers were elected at the second meeting: John David Ramsey as President (Prytanis), William Bugg as Vice-President (Hyparchos), Craig Mattison as Corresponding Secretary (Epistolographos), Tim Brown as Recording Secretary (Grammateus), Catherine Bowman as Treasurer (Chrysophylax), and Aaron Levine as Sergeant-at-Arms (Pyloros). However, without by-laws, the progress of the chapter was minimal. Nevertheless, with the Classics Department at Davidson interviewing for a new professor to replace a departing member of the staff, we helped out by co-hosting a lecture opportunity for one of the candidates: Professor Carolyn Higby from Colby College who gave a lectue entitled, "Athenian Agora."

At the last meeting of the year in May, elections were held for officers for 1987-88. They are: Catherine Bowman, President; Tyler Smith, Vice-President; Craig Mattison, Recording Secretary; Tim Brown, Treasurer; Grier Stuart, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Aaron Levine, Corresponding Secretary.

Aaron Levine,
Corresponding Secretary

### Epsilon Omicron Chapter
### The University of Massachusetts

This year, the Epsilon Omicron chapter of Eta Sigma Phi has been very productive. In the fall, we presented several seminars, featuring faculty members from the University as well as from other area colleges. In the fall, we also held our annual book sale, which was such a success that we shall be holding another on April 15 and 16. We especially appreciate Professor Gilbert Lawall's generous donation of books from his personal collection for the spring sale.

In December, we held our annual Christmas party, which was well attended by both faculty and students. We enjoyed a buffet and fellowship as well as a guitar performance by a local folk singer.

Our most recent project has been our Spring Happening. Later in April or in early May, we shall present "A Day in Hades," which will feature a costumed parade through the campus.

In May, we shall close out the year with our annual initiation ceremony and banquet. Last May, we initiated 48 members and elected new officers. At this year's initiation, we hope to initiate many more new members into our chapter.

Mary M. Roth
Tri-Secretary

## Medal Fund, Annual Report, 1986

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cash on hand, January 1, 1986** | $ 29.22 |
| **Receipts:** | |
| Sale of large silver (2) @ $24.75 | 49.50 |
| Sale of small silver (23) @ $7.50 | 172.50 |
| Sale of small bronze (3) @ $4.00 | 12.00 |
| Postage and handling | 6.00 |
| Interest | 7.09 |
| CD 180349, matured | 204.36 |
| CD 180241, matured | 842.62 |
| Total receipts | $1,294.07 |
| **Disbursements:** | |
| To Eta Sigma Phi Savings, loan repayment | $1,297.70 |
| Total disbursements | $1,297.70 |
| **Cash:** | |
| Cash on hand, December 31, 1986 | $ 25.59 |
| **Inventory:** | |
| 100 large silver medals @ $24.75 | $2,475.00 |
| 129 small silver medals @ $7.50 | 967.50 |
| 112 small bronze medals @$4.00 | 448.00 |
| Total value of medals | $3,890.50 |
| **Total Value (money and medals):** | $3,916.09 |


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## Winners, 1987

**Greek Translation, Advanced Level**

1. Mark Shelton, Epsilon Nu, Creighton University
2. Jason Lowell Norton, Delta Chi, St. Olaf College
3. Linda Chamberlain Jones, Beta Delta, University of Tennessee

**Greek Translation, Intermediate Level**

1. Frank Stratikis, Beta Delta, University of Tennessee
2. John Howard Reinschmidt, Delta Chi, St. Olaf College
3. (Tie) Susan C. Byerly, Psi, Vanderbilt University; David Alan Kirschbaum, Delta Upsilon, Valparaiso University

**Greek Translation, Intermediate Level, Koine**

1. Lisa Paulson, Delta Chi, St. Olaf College
2. Michael Peterson, Epsilon Pi, Concordia College

**Latin Translation, Advanced Level**

1. James Neal Long, Psi, Vanderbilt University
2. Susan C. Byerly, Psi, Vanderbilt University
3. (Tie) Frank Stratikis, Beta Delta, University of Tennessee
   David Alan Kirschbaum, Delta Upsilon, Valparaiso University

**Latin Translation, Intermediate Level**

1. Richard Charles Hermes, Beta Zeta, St. Louis University
2. Andrew Leahy, Delta Chi, St. Olaf College
3. Peter Budka, Epsilon Mu, Fordham University

**Latin Composition**

1. Andrew Leahy, Delta Chi, St. Olaf College
2. Patricia Kusek, Epsilon Nu, Creighton University
3. Edward Long, Psi, Vanderbilt University

## SCHOLARSHIPS:

For the American School of Classical Studies, Athens, Greece:
Amy Smalldon, Epsilon Iota Chapter, The University of Florida

For the American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy:
Juan Carlos Garcia, Epsilon Iota Chapter, The University of Florida