

KENNETH “BENJI” HESS

EDUCATION

Washington and Lee University

BA with Honors in Classics and Minors in Art History and Archaeology *Phi Beta Kappa and Summa cum Laude* 3.99

Spring '23

DIKEMES College Year in Athens 4.00

Fall '20

University of Oxford, New College *1st Class Evaluation* 3.95

Winter and Spring '21

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies 3.60

Fall '21

W&L x Karl Franzens Universität 4.00

Spring '23

DIKEMES College Year in Athens

Spring '24

Post-Bacc in Classics with German 4.00

HONORS AND AWARDS

United States Teaching Assistantship • Fulbright Austria x BMB

Spring '24; Renewed Spring '25

In collaboration with the Austrian Ministry of Education, appointed to three English-teaching positions in Styria.

English Teaching Assistantship • Fulbright Germany

Declined Spring '24

DIKEMES College Year in Athens Post-Baccalaureate Fellowship

Spring '19

Full-time, fully funded year of studies in Classical languages and archaeology with teaching assistantships throughout six field-study excursions.

Johnson Scholar of Leadership and Integrity • Washington & Lee University

Spring '19

Four-year merit scholarship that includes full tuition, room and board, as well as a summer research stipend of \$7,000.

JH Hamilton Prize in Ancient Greek • Washington & Lee University

Spring '22

As the department's top-performing student, awarded in my third year of studies for coursework in the Pre-Socratics and Plato.

MJ Mason Prize in Latin • Washington & Lee University

Spring '23

As one of three top-performing students, awarded upon my graduation for coursework in Vergil, Livy, and Cicero.

National Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholar • US Department of State

Summer '17

Fully funded, six-week experience at Northwest University (西北大学) in Xi'an, China for the study of language and cultural heritage.

Coca-Cola Scholar

Spring '19

\$20,000 awarded for community engagement, academic potential, and extracurricular involvement.

ODAC Academic All-Conference Honors • W&L Men's Track & Field

Spring '20

NCAA D-III program recently inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. *No return post peak pandemic.*

Inductions: Omikron Delta Kappa; Eta Sigma Phi; Phi Eta Sigma

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PUBLICATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS:

Liber Consolationis et Consilii Digital Edition • Medieval Latin Research Assistant under *Dr. Melissa Vise*

Summer '23

Offered translation assistance and textual commentary on Albertano da Brescia's landmark work; assisted in the development of an interactive, online edition written in XML and TEI compliant.

Epigraphic Database Rome • Pompeian Graffiti Contributor under *Dr. Rebecca Benefiel*

Winter '22

Produced three critical editions of the 'comic-strip' graffiti on the walls of Pompeii's Tavern of Salvius VI.14.36.

EDR183621; EDR184112; EDR184240

Mudd Journal of Ethics • Editor in Chief under *Drs. Karla Murdock and Omar Quiñonez*

Winter '23; '22; '21

Sought and edited 30+ papers from undergraduate students around the world; reviewed references to ancient Greek scholarship during the publication process; arranged the on-campus experience for visiting speakers.

PRESENTATIONS AND PERFORMANCES:

"Cuncta Fluunt: The Flux Doctrine from Heraclitus to Frost" • Virginia Governor's Latin Academy

Summer '26

"Survey of Ancient Art" • VMFA x Virginia Governor's Latin Academy

Summer '26

Praxagora in Aristophanes' *Ecclesiazusae* (*Original Adapted Translation*) • Ismene Hall, Athens GR.

Spring '24

"From Kouroi to Koons: A New Approach to the Ancient Canon" • DIKEMES College Year in Athens Student Conference

Spring '24

"Classical Reception: Faust, of Marlowe and Goethe" • Agecroft Theatre x Virginia Governor's Latin Academy

Summer '23

"Roman Cursive and Campaign Graffiti" • Virginia Governor's Latin Academy

Summer '23

"Textual Interplay in Albertano da Brescia's *Liber Consolatio et Consilii*" • W&L Summer Research Symposium

Summer '23

"Three Approaches to the Roman *Cinaedus*: On the Page, In the- and Inside the Flesh" • W&L SOAN Capstone Symposium

Spring '23

"Archaeological Explorations of 18th c. Scotch-Irish Leisure in Backcountry Virginia" • W&L Spring Term Symposium

Spring '22

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pädagogische Hochschule Steiermark: American Culture and English Language (*Fulbright Austria x BMB*)

Fall '25

BG/BRG Leoben x HLW Leoben: American Culture and English Language (*Fulbright Austria x BMB*)

Fall '24

Virginia Governor’s Latin Academy • Instructor of Latin, Ancient Greek, and Reception Studies

Fall ’25

Introduction to Modern and Ancient Greek

Appalachian Arcadia (*Greek and Latin Pastoral Poetry in Dialogue with the American Folk Tradition*)

Italian Film and Roman Satire

DIKEMES College Year in Athens • Field Study Teaching Assistant

Fall ’23

Ancient Greek Sport and Religion (*Delphi and Olympia*) under Drs. Rosa Vasilaki, John Karavas, and Amy PlacasThe Shaping of Identities (*Northern and Central Greece*) under Drs. Demetrios Kritsotakis and Jeff BanksMyth, Nature, and the City in Ancient and Medieval Greece (*Peloponnese*) under Drs. Nina Papathanasapoulou and Nikos TsivikisExceptional Spaces, Exceptional Times (*Crete*) under Drs. John Karavas and Amy PlacasRevealing Secrets — Spiritual Routes of the Present and the Past (*Peloponnese*) under Drs. Athena Hadji and Despina Iosif**Washington and Lee Harte Center for Teaching and Learning • Ancient and Modern Language Tutor**

Fall ’22

Gained familiarity with a variety of textbook series as a course assistant for all levels of Latin, ancient Greek, and Italian courses. Provided fellow students with translation assistance, paradigm practice, and literature recommendations.

Harrington Waddell Elementary: Roman Culture and Latin Language (*After-school Club*)

Spring ’20

Lylburn Downing Middle School: English as a Second Language for Speakers of Ukrainian

Fall ’20

Write Away • Poetry and Prose Composition Instructor

Summer ’20

Developed personalized curricula for poetry and prose composition courses based on high- and middle-school students’ interests for weekly one-on-one instruction. Utilized a broad corpus of international literature, cinema, and visual art as inspiration and comparanda.

WORK EXPERIENCE**Fulbright Austria • Regional Advisor for Styria**

Spring ’25

Guiding 30+ English teaching assistants in their professional development, residence permit applications, and transition to life in Austria.

ASCSA Blegen Library • Cataloguing Assistant

Spring ’23

Assisted in the ordering of periodicals and the arrangement of monographs.

BSA Archives • Research Assistant

Fall ’23

Catalogued and transcribed epistles of former academy directors in anticipation of the celebrations for the Fitch’s 50th year of operation.

Virginia Governor’s Latin Academy • Lead Resident Assistant

Summer ’23

Oversaw the on-campus experience of 42 Virginian high-schoolers for their live-in, three-week, immersive Latin programming. RA ’22.

Duolingo (*contracted through The Paideia Institute*) • Curriculum Design Intern

Summer ’22

Created sample sentences and refined the vocabulary corpus for the language learning software’s Latin course.

Chiron Editions (*contracted through The Paideia Institute*) • Curriculum Design Intern

Summer ’22

Transcribed documents from the 17th — 19th c. *Ad Usum Delphini* textbook series for the creation of new collegiate-level learning materials.**Virginia Junior Classical League • State Convention Collegiate Ambassador**

Spring ’22

Represented Washington and Lee University, advising students in their pursuit of a Classics education at a Virginian university.

Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies • Social Media Ambassador

Fall ’21

Managed the Facebook account for The Centro, taking the lead on the “Centrista of the Week” series.

Smithsonian and Newberry Transcription Centers • Project Contributor

Winter ’21

Transcribed twenty 20th c. epistles and maps while gaining experience in paleography and the American manuscript tradition.

Oxford Intercollegiate Christian Union • Regent’s Park x New College Ancient Text Reference

Winter ’21

Utilized and distributed commentaries on Christian literature within student-led discussion groups.

Quizlet UK • Education Advisor Programme Organizer

Winter ’21

Gathered, reconciled, and organized study materials for Classics tutorials between Oxford colleges for the online study platform.

DIKEMES College Year in Athens • Social Media Ambassador

Fall ’20

Interviewed fellows classmates, wrote on student experiences for the blog, and photographed travels for Instagram during field-study excursions.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAINING**IN THE LAB:****BSA Fitch Laboratory — Bone and Seed Room under Drs. Carlotta Gardner and Niki Papaconstantinou**

Spring ’24

Organized the botanical collection to assist research in the Bioarchaeology Unit; preliminarily assessed, sorted, labeled, and photographed remains of LBII human cremations.

ASCSA Wiener Laboratory under Drs. Demetrios Michailidis and Demetrios Filioglou

Fall ’23

Scanned and modeled vulture and wolf bones for the publication of a digital, open-access osteological collection of comparative anatomies; washed and preliminarily sorted both burnt and intact animal bones from LBII sites around Attica.

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AAR Norton-Van Buren Collection *under Dr. Valentina Follo*

Fall '21

Reconciled the card and photograph catalogues with the present artifacts, making preparations for online publication; primarily engaged with Etrusco-Corinthian and Bucchero objects.

IN THE FIELD:

ASCSA Athenian Agora Excavations *under Dr. John Camp*

Summer '22

Unearthed, washed, and identified pottery fired from Mycenaean to Byzantine times.

Liberty Hall Excavations *under Dr. Don Gaylord*

Spring '22

Explored the dynamics of the Scotch-Irish and Black populations in Virginia's Great Valley. *Lexington, VA*

Strawbery Banke GIS Field School *under Dr. Alex Martin*

Summer '21

Produced interactive visualizations of the free and enslaved Black populations in New England. *Portsmouth, NH*

IN THE CLASSROOM:

Archaeological Photography and Photogrammetry *under Hüseyin Öztürk MA, Small Cycladic Islands Project*

Spring '24

Area, small- and large-object modeling by hand and with drone with Agisoft Metashape; photography on-site and in-studio.

Archaeological Illustration *under Dr. Giannis Nakas, Center for Hellenic Studies*

Spring '24

Ceramics, lithics, and architectural features inked digitally and by hand, on-site and in-studio.

Latin Paleography and Epigraphy *under Dr. Demetrios Kritsotakis, OSU Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies*

Fall '23

Coursework in Uncial, Beneventan, Carolingian, and Gothic scripts.