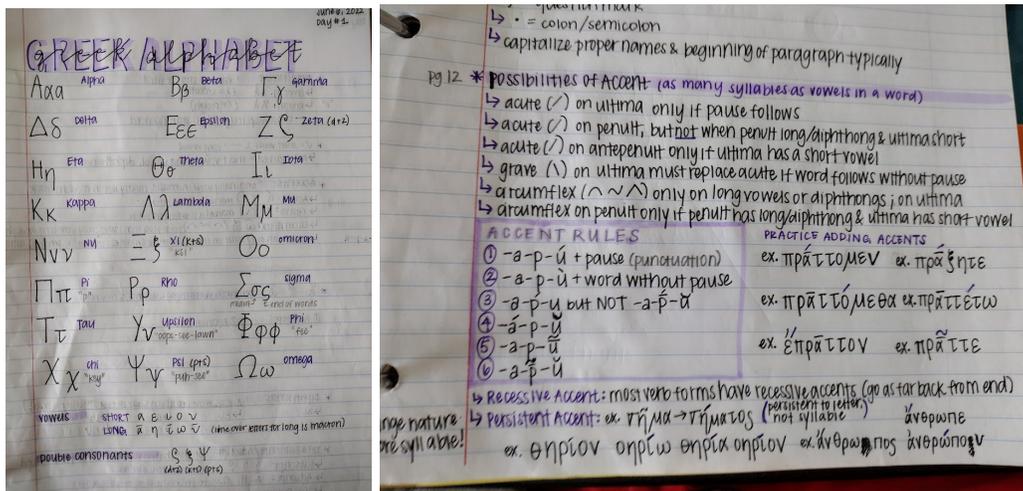


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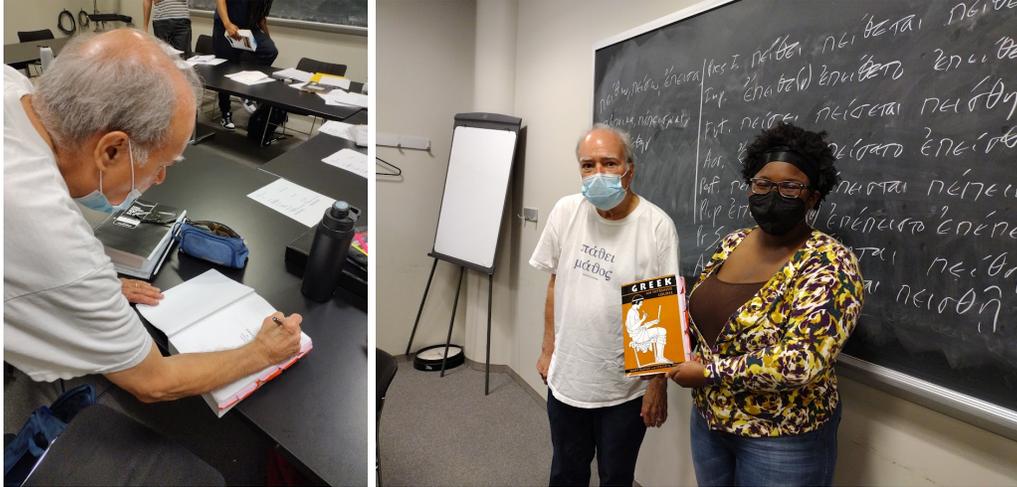
Society for Classical Studies' Frank M. Snowden Jr. Undergraduate Scholarship Report

I spent this summer in Manhattan attending ancient Attic Greek courses at the CUNY Latin/Greek Institute. I was enrolled in the Basic Program in Greek. By the first day of the program, we had learned and memorized the Greek alphabet and the phonetic sounds. By the second day, I began simple compositions in ancient Greek. By the second week's end, I could read sentences aloud in ancient Greek. And by the end of the first month, I was able to sight read sections of Homer's *Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, as well as read and analyze portions of Plato's Socratic dialogue *Gorgias*.



Pictures of my notes from the first week of classes. As the course progressed, I began taking fewer and fewer notes until I took no notes at all, fully immersing myself in the rigorous classroom environment.

The most challenging aspect of my intensive language study was absorbing, memorizing, and learning the extinct language quickly. This was especially difficult because, unlike some of my other classmates, I had not previously been able to learn ancient Greek. In class, we were encouraged not to take notes in order to maximize our participation in the total immersion experience. Most days, I studied Greek for over 12 hours. I would wake up and ride the subway to class, memorizing the morphology and syntax of vocabulary words such as στρατηγός (“general”) and τιμάω (“to honor”). We spent hours doing rote memorization of rules regarding accents, conjugations, and declensions. We had weekly examinations and daily quizzes to track our progress toward complete mastery of the language. For the first twenty lectures of the course, we completed a chapter each day of the *Greek: An Intensive Course* textbook by Hardy Hansen and Gerald Quinn. One of the most amazing parts of this experience was being instructed by Hardy Hansen himself! He even signed my textbook before the course ended.



Professor Hardy Hansen and I posing for a photo with my signed *Greek: An Intensive Course* textbook after practicing conjugating the word πείθω (“to persuade/convince”) before a weekly examination.

Experiencing such intensive, immersive language study at the Latin/Greek Institute will prove to be quite useful to me as I continue my research project as a Bouchet Fellow. My studies this summer opened a multitude of new resources and texts that I can begin to work through in the original Greek, which will enhance my research on the perceptions of health and cosmetics in the ancient Mediterranean. With a working knowledge of both Latin and Greek, I can now read works by authors that feature brief vignettes about the effects of women wearing cosmetics on personhood, identity, and others, as well as texts that chronicle sickness in antiquity. This year, I plan on reading sections of the Hippocratic Corpus, Xenophon’s *Οικονομικός* (“Economics/Household Management”), Homer’s *Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, and Thucydides’ *Histories of the Peloponnesian War* with my Bouchet research advisor.

These plans would not have been possible without funding from the Society for Classical Studies’ Frank M. Snowden Jr. Undergraduate Scholarship. Without financial support from the Society for Classical Studies, I would not have been able to afford the tuition for the Latin/Greek Institute or been able to support the costs associated with living in New York City without a supplemental income. I am very thankful for the generous support of donors who have lightened the financial burdens associated with my summer program by choosing to make an investment in my education, allowing me to focus on learning a language I’ve wanted to study my entire life.