Beyond the Basics: Jason, Medea, and the Argonauts

Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Sponsored by, the Institute for the Humanities, Montclair State University

Program Schedule

9:00 am - 9:10 am  Opening remarks and introduction to the program  
Victoria Larson, Co-Director, Institute for the Humanities

9:10 am - 9:50 am  “Jason and the Argonauts: Archetypal Structure and Essential Themes”  
Approaching the myth of Jason, Medea, and the Argonauts through the methodologies of archetypal criticism provides an overarching view of its intricate symbolic structure, lends crucial insight into its essential themes, and opens up useful avenues for studying and teaching the myth. In this session, Dr. Gill uses archetypal theories from various disciplines to explore the fundamental narrative and symbolic structure of the Jason myth  
Speaker: Glen Gill, Assistant Professor, Department of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

9:50 am - 10:30 am  “Euripides' Medea: A Woman of Passion and Reason”  
Euripides' Medea not only provides students the opportunity to explore the myths surrounding Jason and Medea but also challenges them to explore the limits of human behavior. In this presentation, we will discuss strategies for teaching this play and review how Euripides used this script to explore contemporary issues in fifth-century Athenian society.  
Speaker: Mary English, Assoc. Professor, Department of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

10:30 am - 11:10 am  “The Ovidian Medea”  
Euripides' version of Medea so readily springs to mind that it is easy to overlook other ancient authors’ representations of her. However, in this lecture we will discuss the myth of Medea in Ovid's Metamorphoses and will consider, in particular, in what ways a gender studies approach can provide an illuminating and different perspective on this well-known figure.  
Speaker: Patricia Salzman, Assoc. Professor, Department of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

11:10 am - 11:50 am  Buffet Brunch  Cohen Lounge

11:50 am - 12:30 pm  “The Tangled Afterlives of the Myths of Jason and the Argonauts”  
The Argo’s voyage was a knot which joined the myth-threads of many characters in addition to Jason and Medea, such as Heracles, Hylas, Hypsipyle and the Lemnian Women, Peleus and Orpheus. We will discuss the myths of these characters and the surprising afterlives of some of them in later Classical and post-Classical Literature and art.  
Speaker: Jean Alvares, Chairperson, Department of Classics & General Humanities, MSU

Professional Development Credit Hours  
Teachers will receive 4 hours of professional development credit for this program. Letters of verification will be mailed to you, either by snail mail or e-mail, following the workshop.

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