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Update on the Student Society for Ancient Studies

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UPDATE ON THE STUDENT SOCIETY FOR ANCIENT STUDIES

Studia Antiqua is the academic journal sponsored by the Student Society for Ancient Studies at Brigham Young University. It is one of the highlights of the society and represents a culmination of hard work by BYU students at the end of each semester. Out of all the activities performed by the society, the journal represents the only material, tangible source of its hard work and activities. It also highlights students from many different majors and backgrounds whose love of the ancient world pull them together into a common forum.

After the summer break of 2002, the SSAS professor lecture series started with fervor as we hosted Brother Truman G. Madsen, emeritus professor of philosophy at BYU. Attendance approached 300 people despite an adventurous—and multi-speaker—beginning. Other speakers this semester such as Stephen Robinson, John Welch, Kent Brown, and David Grandy also enjoyed good attendance. Better attendance for both professor and student lectures was one of the society's goals for this year. Despite some rocky moments in the presidency, attendance was increased overall for both activities. We are confident that as news of our lectures spreads, attendance will continue to increase.

The new presidency proved itself most capable as it worked together as a team to overcome some difficulties in the beginning of the semester. As a presidency, we knew this was a pivotal year—for the society and the journal. Our fears were somewhat abated with the solid turnout for the lectures, but even more, the encouraging interest and submissions for the journal. What was once a dream of putting together a solid, respectable student journal has now turned into a reality. In addition to those who submitted papers, we have the hard work of Matthew Grey and his tireless team of editors to thank for this. My personal thanks goes to Robert

Ricks who, although graduated and busy with graduate applications and employment, has taken his own personal time to assist in raising the bar of this journal through his editing experience.

If I could characterize the society this last semester in one word it would be *persistence*. Thanks to the efforts of our historian, Elizabeth Siler, vice-president, David Staheli, and technical advisor, Olya Pustolyakova (now Olya Platt), the society survived a somewhat tumultuous semester and hosted many fine lectures. Thanks to the students and the journal's editorial staff, the society is sponsor to another journal. The persistence of these individuals put the society on firmer ground. The future looks bright as we begin another semester full of insightful professor lectures and excellent student forums.

We thank all those who donate their time to the journal and society. We especially thank those departments whose generous contributions help make this journal something we can all be proud of. The society continues to strive to improve in all aspects and sincerely invites comments for improvement and new ideas.

Robert D. Hunt
Society President

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Brigham Young University