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UPDATE ON THE STUDENT SOCIETY FOR ANCIENT STUDIES

The BYU Student Society for Ancient Studies is eager to sponsor this second issue of the journal. We feel that the first issue was warmly received at the student, faculty, and administrative levels and anxiously expect an even broader measure of circulation with this second issue. We are grateful to the authors who contributed to this edition of the journal for their diligence and willful cooperation, to those individuals who have displayed an incessant pledge of support for the journal, and to those who have provided manifold suggestions for the improvement of its content and overall format.

The Society held elections in the first week of April 2002 to appoint new officers for the 2002–2003 academic year. Candidates seeking a position prepared a one-page essay detailing the following: (1) academic biographical information, (2) areas of special interest in the ancient world, (3) title and content of any original papers written on topics relevant to the ancient world, (4) future academic objectives, (5) future career objectives, (6) level of participation shown for the Society’s professor lectures and student forums, (7) innovative ideas for the continual improvement of the Society’s operations for the coming year, and (8) specific Society office desired. The candidates’ essays were thoroughly read and re-read by the 2001–2002 Society officers. The official Society charter regulates that candidates seeking election are to be selected by means of a democratic vote involving all members of the Society. Since, at this time, the only official members of the Society are its officers, the voting process was discreetly yet lawfully carried out behind the locked doors of the Hugh Nibley Ancient Studies Library on the fifth floor of the HBLL.
We are thrilled about the number of fellow students who actively sought office in this year’s elections, for the number of candidates more than quadrupled in size in comparison to last year’s elections. We truly thank all who applied for a position and congratulate those individuals who were elected: Robert Hunt (President), Christopher Madill (Vice-President), David Staheli (Secretary), Carli Anderson (Treasurer), Elizabeth Siler (Historian), Andrew VanVleet (Website Coordinator), Olya Pustolyakova (Lecture/Forum Technical Coordinator), and Matthew Grey (General Publication Director). The technical responsibilities that once belonged to the Society Historian have been appropriately distributed to the newly created offices of Website Coordinator and Lecture/Forum Technical Coordinator. Thus, this upcoming year is the most critical yet in securing the function of the Society, for the majority of its officers are no longer a group of age-old friends majoring in Near Eastern Studies, but rather a fresh conglomeration of students with varying majors linked together by a shared passion for the ancient world.

We thank all those who contributed to the enormous success enjoyed by the Society during the 2001–2002 academic year. Attendance has soared at professor lectures, the purpose behind student forums has been concretely established, and generous donations have allowed the once fledgling idea of the journal to become an enduring reality. As always, we invite you to inform us of any proposals that would improve the service offered by the Society. Thank you again for a great inaugural year. We strive to set our aims high because we have confidence in the high level of support all of you most eagerly provide.

Davin B. Anderson
Society President

May 2002
Brigham Young University