



Notre Dame Institute *for*
ADVANCED STUDY

“Programs offered by the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study are vital for knowledge, and more importantly, understanding of how history is not just one sphere of study, but many spheres that can be related to each other.”

– Brittany Proffitt '15 Classics



“Studying the cultural interaction of Rome and Egypt after the Roman conquest can help us better understand just how closely societies interacted across the Mediterranean. In the popular imagination Rome and Egypt are vastly different, and represent the “western” and “eastern” divide of the ancient world....[At] seminars such as these, students at Notre Dame...learn the level of interdependency that existed between cultures of the ancient world, and how these influences have continued to this day.”

– Felicia Moralez, Ph.D. Candidate in History



Notre Dame Institute *for*
ADVANCED STUDY

“I found it very helpful to trace how certain forms of visual culture—such as obelisks—could be claimed by cultures across time and space far removed from their origins. Dr. Davies’ presentation had me consider how cultural forms claiming a particular heritage persist, even as future societies add their own meaning.”

– Felicia Moralez



“For a Classics major like me, the talk supplemented my current classwork and individual research, while also providing a different perspective from that of most textbooks. The presentation gave us the opportunity to draw on our Classical studies in order to interpret archaeological evidence, which was both invigorating and enjoyable. I came to Classics to uncover the mysteries of the ancient world, and this talk previewed the joys, challenges, and experiences that are to come.”

– Tom Hite '16 Classics

“Before I attended the lecture “Roman Egypt, Egypt in Rome: The Appropriation of Ancient Art” presented by Professor Vanessa Davies, I had never even thought to consider how monumental works such as Egyptian obelisks could be appropriated by the Romans, and later (surprisingly) the Christians. I knew that the obelisks in question existed in Rome, I had seen them with my own eyes, but somehow the uniqueness of these monumental structures never really sank in. The lecture provided me not just with a useful presentation about the various obelisks of Rome and their inscriptions, but the variety of students invited to attend also helped to broaden my horizons. Never before had I been given the opportunity to sit down with a group of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, including Classics and Art History, to debate a topic. What’s more, even though as an undergraduate sophomore I was perhaps one of the youngest students there, I felt that my opinion and knowledge was considered to be just as valid as the second-year graduate student seated next to me. The wonderful thing about NDIAS is that it recognizes ability regardless of education level or major, and takes that creativity and drive and introduces it into an environment where it is able to learn and reason in a completely new and exciting way. It is a rare gift indeed to be given the chance to learn from those who approach the same subject from a completely different angle, and I feel that this consideration of multiple perspectives is one of the most important things a student of Notre Dame can learn at Our Lady’s University. I am very grateful for having been given the opportunity to participate in an NDIAS lecture, and I would hope that this wonderful institute is able to continue and expand upon its mission to foster interdisciplinary thought.”

– Brittany Proffitt

