

Judith Lamb

Undergraduate Research Awards Submission Essay

*Art as Propaganda in Ancient Greece: The Feeding of the Greek Soldier's Ego*

One of the most rewarding decisions I have made upon returning to school was enrolling in Professor Salowey's Myth and Ancient Art class. Aside from being one of the most information saturated classes I have ever taken, this class also enlightened me to the world of academic research. Salowey, along with several Wyndham Robertson librarians, guided our class through the process of finding accurate information that has opened the curtains to a surprisingly fascinating world of researching ancient writings. Professor Salowey let the students choose which artifacts to write about and research, this helped in baiting my interest in the subject material even further since I became personally enthusiastic about the topic I was researching, the myths surrounding the Amazons.

I have to admit, this fall being my first semester back in an academic setting after a seventeen-year hiatus, I had no plan in how to perform this research. The guiding force was complete fascination in the subject matter, the hunt for information came naturally out of interest. Upon learning how to use the reference books as a foundation the chase was on for more clues to my questions. The challenges of finding out the who, why, when, where, and how of certain ancient sources lead me to the hundreds of translations, in dozens of languages, that scholars throughout history have poured over. Balancing the scales of research with modern day history books and ancient texts requires a lot of highlighted sticky notes and re-reading, which is very time consuming. Ultimately, time was the biggest hurdle in this paper. I eventually had to cut myself off from gathering information and write based on what I had at that time.

This paper was born out of an idea that started with a previous paper, I found that I could not stop myself from expanding on the subject. When I got approval from Salowey on my paper in grade form I was delighted that an assignment that required so much effort could be so satisfying to actually create. When Professor Salowey asked me to consider submitting this paper for this award I felt a major sense of accomplishment that I had no idea I could achieve just a few months ago. I am thankful to have this opportunity here at Hollins and will continue polishing my research skills over the next two years, who knows what it may lead to in the future.