

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME APPOINTS GENEVIEVE GESSERT ITS
CLASSICAL SUMMER SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR 2013-2016**



GENEVIEVE GESSERT

NEW YORK, 1 May 2013—Dr. Genevieve Gessert has been appointed to a three-year term as the Director of the Classical Summer School of the American Academy in Rome starting in 2013. She will succeed Dr. Susann Lusnia, Director of the Classical Summer School for the years 2011-2013.

Dr. Gessert received her BA from the University of California at Berkeley in Classical Languages, and a PhD from Yale University in Classical Archaeology, where she wrote a dissertation on urban identity in the forum of Ostia. Her research has focused on the archaeology of Ostia, on which she is co-authoring a book with Margaret Laird (FAAR '99), *Ostia Antica: Handbook to the Ancient City and Its Scholarship*. She has also written on Roman funerary rituals and on the role of women and children in Roman religion. More recently, Dr. Gessert has written on the appropriation of Roman rituals and architecture in Fascist Italy. Since 2003 she has also led excavations in Ostia at the Domus del Tempio Rotondo, for which she won a Loeb Classical Foundation Grant.

Dr. Gessert has extensive experience teaching the texts and monuments of Rome and its environs. She has taught courses on Roman archaeology, Classical Religion, Roman History, Women In the Ancient World, and Rome and Hollywood. She has spent this year as Associate Professor at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, where she has been teaching Latin and teaching the famed “City” course on Roman topography. Gessert also has a long association with the Academy: as a Fulbright fellow she attended and lead Walks and Talks, participated in the Janiculum Mills excavations, and attended a Spring trip to Tunisia. With her students at ICCS, she helped mount an exhibit on Roman religion that opened at the Academy in December to great fanfare.

Andrew W. Mellon Professor Kim Bowes said of Gessert’s appointment, “The Academy is pleased and honored to have Dr. Gessert as the next director of the School. She brings experience and vibrancy to the role. We look forward to her plans for expanding the School’s constituency to groups underrepresented in classical studies, and to expanding its intellectual agenda.”

The Classical Summer School of the American Academy in Rome was established in 1923 for high school teachers and graduate students of Latin, ancient history and the classics, but its audience has become more varied over the years, including college teachers and those working in related fields. It is designed to provide participants with a well-founded understanding of the growth and development of the ancient city of Rome and its immediate environs from the earliest times to the age of Constantine through a careful study of material remains and literary sources. For information on the upcoming 2013 program, please visit <http://aarome.org/apply/summer-programs>

The American Academy in Rome

The American Academy in Rome supports innovative artists, writers, and scholars living and working together in a dynamic international community.

Established in 1894 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the American Academy in Rome is a leading center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Situated on the Janiculum, the highest hill within the walls of Rome, the Academy today remains a private institution supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the memberships of colleges, universities, and arts and cultural organizations as well as by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to approximately thirty individuals working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern; modern Italian studies; architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation; literature; musical composition; and visual arts. The annual application deadline is 1 November. The Academy community also includes a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, as well as Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. For more information please visit: www.aarome.org