



NOTA BENE



Vol. 16 No. 2

NEWS FROM THE HARVARD DEPARTMENT OF THE CLASSICS

Commencement 2011

Notes from the Chair

by John Duffy

The end of another busy academic year finds the Department a little weather-beaten, but proud of its successes, and united in spirit to confront the staffing challenges that have piled up at an alarming rate in the last two years. As things stand, we are in need of new faculty members in the areas of Latin, Greek, Ancient Philosophy, and Byzantine Greek will soon be added to the list. The summer is almost upon us and we are still waiting to hear from the administration about search authorizations for next year. Closing the gaps in the Department’s faculty roster will be the major focus of our efforts for the foreseeable future. On the positive side we can rejoice that Paul Kosmin will begin his professional career with us in the Fall, as Assistant Professor of Greek History.

Brad Inwood (U. of Toronto) ushered in the Spring with a lively and excellent set of four Jackson Lectures on the topic of “Ethics after Aristotle.” It is anticipated that these will be published as a book, in the near future, by Harvard University Press. The Class of 2011, numbering a robust seventeen students, happily includes the first three graduates of the recently installed concentration track in Classical Civilizations. It was also a record-breaking year for senior theses, with thirteen submitted. One of them, by Raquel Begleiter, was deservedly awarded a Hoopes prize, though the tally should have been higher, as there were three other outstanding nominees from the Department.

Gisela Striker, after many years of fostering the study of Ancient Philosophy at Harvard, most recently as the Walter C. Klein Professor, has begun her retirement. Her contributions to the departments of Philosophy and the Classics were fittingly celebrated at a special colloquium on “Ancient Logic, Epistemology, and Ethics” held on May 6–7.

Finally, signing off after four years as Chair of the Department, I wish to put the following on record: my immense pride at having been entrusted with leading a truly outstanding community of colleagues, staff, and students; heartfelt gratitude to the series of devoted Directors of Undergraduate and Graduate studies who are the lynchpins of our academic programs; and, as ever, unbounded admiration for the superb work of Teresa Wu, Alyson Lynch, and Ivy Livingston, without whose expertise and common sense in all matters practical it would have been impossible for me to keep one foot correctly in front of the other.

Contents

Class of 2011.....2	Department Events.....6
Senior Reflections.....4	Salvete.....9
News and Awards.....5	Valete.....10

Senior Concentrators

Future Plans

Benjamin Bayley hopes to spend the next year at a New England prep school, teaching Latin and coaching rowing, while he waits to attend the Naval Officers Candidate School, where he will be commissioned as either an Intelligence Officer or a Naval Flight Officer.

Raquel Begleiter will spend next year at Oxford completing an MST in Classics on the Knox Fellowship. Afterward, she plans to apply to PhD programs in Classics, although she may sneak in one year off from academia before diving back in.

Patrick Brennan will be writing and editing for the *National Review* in New York as the William F. Buckley Fellow. He will be making liberal use of Classical allusions.

Charlie Bridge is moving to New York to work for Tower Research, a job which may bring him back to Cambridge from time to time. In a few years, he hopes to attend graduate school.

Jordan Bryant, having received the 2011-12 Stowe-Harvard Fellowship, will spend the next year in Buckinghamshire, England teaching and proctoring at the well-known Stowe School. After this, she hopes to head off for a year to Russia in order to teach English in Vladimir, utilizing the teaching experience gained at Stowe and her love for all things Slavic! Finally, she plans to come back to the States to engage in post-graduate studies, hopefully a JD/PhD in Slavic studies.

Signe Conway will be working in finance in New York. She hopes to maybe return to Classics after her two-year stint is through!

Felice Ford plans to go wherever her passions take her, be it medicine, philology, or burlesque. More likely than not, it will be a combination of the three—and she’s perfectly happy with that.

Ann Forman will be working for The Advisory Board Company in Washington, D.C. After that, she intends to find out if a Classics degree really does give you an advantage in medical school.

Brian Hill hopes to pursue an MPhil in the Classics at Trinity College Dublin, and eventually work toward a PhD to one day become a teacher or professor of the Classics.

Iya Megre will attend Yale Law School in the fall.

Sara Mills will begin her (attempted) transition into adulthood immediately by working at the Emergency Medicine Network of MGH for six months, before moving to the Eternal City to work as an assistant English teacher at a *liceo scientifico*. Medical school is on the horizon after that, but she thinks that’s enough planning for now.

Nicholas Nehamas will be a proctor at the Harvard Summer School this July and August. He is thinking about applying to graduate schools in Classics.

William Newell will be moving out to Oklahoma City to train with the U.S. National Rowing team, trying to make the Olympics in 2012.

Andrew Parchman will be an analyst at UBS Investment Bank in Chicago next year.

Kyle Ralston will spend this summer working as an intern on the Oral History Project at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC before departing in the fall for Oxford, where he will spend a year pursuing his MST in Greek and/or Roman History. He then intends to return to the U.S. and apply for further graduate study in philology.

Michael Wang will be living and working in the Boston area, with his sights set on moving to the West Coast in the near future.

Senior Honors Theses

Benjamin Bayley: “Reading Between the Lines: The Interaction of Text and Space in Roman Epigraphy,” advised by Kathleen Coleman

Raquel Begleiter: “Who Wishes to Speak? Freedom of Speech and Classes of Speakers in Classical Athens,” advised by Albert Henrichs

Patrick Brennan: “*Quid stemmata faciunt?* The Changing Roles of the Roman Nobility from the Late Republic to the Principate,” advised by Kathleen Coleman

Charlie Bridge: “*Ars Admirabilis:* Transcendent and Transgressive Artists in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*,” advised by Richard Tarrant

Jordan Bryant: “Russia’s Appian Way: How the Classics Shaped Imperial Identity from Peter I to Alexander I,” advised by Emma Dench and Michael Flier

Signe Conway: “When Opposites Attract: Reading Plato’s *Symposium* as an Instruction in the Power of Paradox,” advised by Mark Schiefsky

Felice Ford: “Euripides’ *Bakkhai:* a New Translation in Verse and Prose,” advised by Albert Henrichs

Ann Forman: “Deviant Diners: An Examination of Guests and Hosts in Roman Literature,” advised by Richard Tarrant

Iya Megre: “Sealed With a Kiss: Mediated Communication in Chariton’s *Callirhoe*,” advised by David Elmer

Sara Mills: “For Better, for Worse: Marriage and Citizenship as Compensating Mechanisms in Roman Society,” advised by Kathleen Coleman

Nicholas Nehamas: “*Μανία Μουσῶν*,” advised by Mark Schiefsky

William Newell: “Visual Power: The Colosseum as a Political Tool in Rome,” advised by Kathleen Coleman

Kyle Ralston: “Inventing the Roman City,” advised by Emma Dench



Prizes and Fellowships

Arthur Deloraine Corey Fellowship: Brian Hill and Kyle Ralston

Department Prizes:

Raquel Begleiter, Jordan Bryant, Ann Forman, Sara Mills

Hoopers Prizes: Raquel Begleiter

Louis Curtis Prize (Latin): Kyle Ralston

William King Richardson Scholarship (Greek and Latin): Iya Megre

Pease Thesis Prize (Latin): Charlie Bridge

Smyth Thesis Prize (Greek): Signe Conway, Felice Ford, Nicholas Nehamas



Benjamin Bailey



Raquel Begleiter



Patrick Brennan



Charlie Bridge



Jordan Bryant



Signe Conway



Felice Ford



Ann Forman



Brian Hill



Iya Megre



Sara Mills



Nicholas Nehamas



William Newell



Andrew Parchman



Kyle Ralston



Michael Wang

Winifred Garett
(not pictured)

Senior Reflections

I recently undertook a personal archaeological project and dug up my statement for college. To quote 17-year-old Raquel, “Part of me hates that most people think Latin is just a boring dead language; part of me is selfishly happy that not everyone gets it.” Aside from being slightly mortified to discover the expression “super cool” elsewhere in the essay, I am struck by how familiar the voice is. I still wonder why everyone isn’t beating down the door of Boylston to study Classics. Here exist those vague and hard to articulate qualities that colleges boast of offering, but often fail to deliver, such as the intriguing “intellectual curiosity,” and the cherished but elusive “real” sense of community. These are things that we students on some level knew we wanted, but did not recognize until we encountered them.

To put it simply, this Department is a treasure hiding in plain sight. It may be overlooked by many, but it is shared generously with anyone who shows an interest. It took me a little while to figure out that you only have to ask, and what you need will likely materialize. You want a meeting to talk about writing a thesis or applying to graduate school? Done. And with pizza too! Maybe you’d like individual attention? It’s yours for the taking. I have contacted nearly every professor and graduate student in this Department at least once for help or advice, and I can’t count the times I have dropped by to consult Ivy, Teresa, and Alyson. The fun, frivolous, and absurd is known to happen here too; we have been “rickrolled” in Greek class, and studied “Will it Blend?” videos in tutorial. I was also nearly elected for a position without knowing I was on the ballot! I see you, Charlie Bridge and Brian Hill . . .

Although I have grown accustomed to the Faculty Club lunches, the happy hours, and the warm fuzziness I feel each time I approach the second floor of Boylston, I realize our experience in Classics is not standard at Harvard, and I am not selfishly happy about that. I am endlessly grateful for what I have learned and the professors, graduate students, and fellow concentrators who have taught me. I admit I have mixed feelings about graduation. *Odi et amo*. But, as I have learned here, there’s no sense in trying to avoid your fate. Be well, and let’s keep in touch!

by Raquel Begleiter

After four years, nineteen classes, sixteen essays, one senior thesis, and more verses of Homer than I could ever recall, my undergraduate career in the Harvard Classics Department is over! As I prepare to graduate college, only a Greek word can describe my feelings: *nostalgia*. When we began the *Odyssey* in “Greek Heroes” freshman year, Prof. Nagy explained to the class that the word was a compound from *nostos* (homecoming) and *algos* (suffering)—a longing for home. And from the very beginning, the Classics Department has been a wonderful home to me: warm, welcoming, and inspiring. So here is a well-deserved thank you to the Department’s faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduates. Your passion and the wide variety of your interests allowed me a perspective on the ancient, medieval, and modern worlds that embraced history, literature, art, and philosophy: a total immersion in the culture and exactly what I had hoped for as a nervous freshman walking into my very first Greek class. I am sad to be leaving but excited for what comes next . . . *Valete!*

by Nicholas Nehamas

News and Awards

Graduate Student Conference Appearances and Publications

- **Vladimir Bošković** (G3) gave a presentation at the WSSA conference in Reno, NE in April, entitled “The Slavic Afterlife of the Cretan Sacrifice of Abraham.” It was awarded a prize for the best graduate student paper of the Slavic section.
- **David Camden** (G6) gave a paper at CUNY in May entitled “What the Doctor Should Know and What He Can Do Without: The Development of Medical Curricula in Fifth and Fourth Century Greece” as part of the conference “*Spes et ratio studiorum: Education in the Classical World.*” He also wrote the entry on “Astrology” for the forthcoming *Virgil Encyclopedia*.
- **Elizabeth Engelhardt** (G6) gave a paper in November entitled “Matricide and the Rhetoric of Childbirth in the *Electras* of Sophocles and Euripides” at the UCLA graduate student conference “That’s What She Said: The Construction and Expression of Women’s Voices in Antiquity,” and next month she will be giving a paper on the representation of childbirth in Euripides’ *Electra* at Corhali.
- **Andrew Johnston** (G5) delivered his paper, “The Roads at the Latin City of Gabii,” in March at Brown University’s conference: entitled “The Archaeology of Italy: The State of the Field 2011.” At the APA in January, he presented “Remembering the Roman Conquest of India.”
- **Tom Keeline** (G2) wrote several articles to be included in the forthcoming *Virgil Encyclopedia*, and a few entries for the *TLL*. His article, “*Vir in uoluentis lexicis satis diligens: A.E. Housman and the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae,*” was published in the *Housman Society Journal* 36 (2010) 64-76. Finally, he presented a paper at the CANE Annual Meeting in March: “Verse and Characterization in Petronius.”
- **Andriya Mihalow** (G7) and **Christopher Parrott** (G7) won Graduate Dissertation Completion Fellowships for 2011-12.
- **Sarah Rous** (G3) presented her paper, “The Map of Agrippa: Selective Scale on a Monumental Scale” in March, at a conference at the University of Michigan, “Archaeology at Multiple Scales,” sponsored by the Collaborative Archaeology Workgroup. She presented a second paper at the CAMWS Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI, in April: “The Hunt Frieze of Tomb II at Vergina: A New Spatial and Iconographic Interpretation.”
- **Ariane Schwartz** (G6) presented her paper, “Reading Lucian’s *Syria* at the Dawn of the Reformation: The ‘Dangerous’ East and Christianity,” at the Renaissance Society of America meeting in Montreal, Canada, in March. In January, she also presented her paper, “Reading Horace *Epistles* 1 in the Late Sixteenth Century,” at the meeting of the American Philological Association in San Antonio, TX, and at the Harvard-Princeton Graduate Conference in Early Modern History in Princeton, NJ.
- **Julian Yolles** (G2) presented his paper, “Seeing is believing: *ekphrasis*, mythology, and Christian correction in the *Eupolemius*,” at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Vagantes Medieval Graduate Student Conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

Teaching Awards

- **David Elmer** was one of two junior faculty members at the University to receive the Roslyn Abramson Award; this recognition is given each year to assistant or associate professors for excellence in undergraduate teaching.
- Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching goes to outstanding teaching fellows, teaching assistants, and course assistants. Recipients from Classics for fall 2010 follow.
 - **Daniel Bertoni** (G3)
 - **Vladimir Bošković** (G3)
 - **David Camden** (G6)
 - **Robert Cioffi** (G5)
 - **Lauren Curtis** (G4)—two awards
 - **Saskia Dirkse** (G3)—two awards
 - **Andrew Johnston** (G5)
 - **Sarah Rous** (G3)
 - **Ryan Samuels** (G5)
- The Harvard University Certificate of Teaching Excellence goes to outstanding lecturers and preceptors. Recipients from Classics for Fall 2010 are below.
 - **Carmen Arnold Biucchi** (Damarete Curator of Ancient Coins)
 - **Sean Jensen** (College Fellow)
 - **Vassiliki Rapti** (Preceptor in Modern Greek)

Fellowships and Other Awards

- **Tiziana D’Angelo** (G4) was awarded a Harvard Merit Fellowship.
- **Tom Keeline** (G2) won the Bowdoin Prize for Greek Prose Composition, and he shared the Prize for Latin Composition with **Julia Scarborough** (G3).
- **Sarah Lannom** (G2) completed the Boston Marathon in 3:00:46. She was the 107th female finisher, and 92nd in her division.
- **Sarah Rous** (G3) completed a half marathon on May 22nd, in Norwalk, Wisconsin. She finished third in her age group with a time of 2:11:35. She also participated in the Sheriff Sprint Triathlon in Ludlow, MA on May 1st, and finished second in her age group in 1:00:34.
- Segal Travel and Research Fellowships were awarded to the following graduate students: **Tiziana D’Angelo** (G4), **Rebecca Katz** (G2), **Tom Keeline** (G2), **Amy Koenig** (G1), **Elizabeth Mitchell** (G1), **Monica Park** (G1), **Sergios Paschalis** (G3), **Sarah Rous** (G3), **Julia Scarborough** (G3).
- Segal Travel and Research Fellowships were also awarded to the following undergraduate students: **Anjali Itzkowitz** (’13), **Alison Rittershaus** (’12), **Michael Velchik** (’12).

Faculty Appointment

- **Panagiotis Roilos** was awarded the named chair of George Seferis Professor of Modern Greek Studies and of Comparative Literature.

Certamen

by Christopher Londa ('13)

On Saturday, April 2nd, 2011, the Harvard Classical Club hosted the annual Harvard Certamen in Sever Hall. Certamen is a classically themed quiz bowl-style game played by four-person teams. Top Latin students from high schools across the United States traveled to Harvard to participate in the event. In total, in three divisions of play (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced), sixty-six teams competed. Nine different U.S. states were represented. The event began when Professor Richard Tarrant delivered opening remarks to a standing-room-only auditorium. Participating Certamen teams played three preliminary rounds and a semi-final to determine the top three teams in each division. These top teams then

competed in the final round for ultimate glory, and the right to add "Harvard Certamen Champion" to their résumés. The winning teams from Georgia (Northview High School—Novice Division) and Massachusetts (Advanced Math and Science Academy—Intermediate Division; Lunenburg High School—Advanced Division) received plaques and hearty congratulations. Additionally, the most valuable player of each division's final received a specially inscribed Loeb Classical Library edition. The books were donated to the event by the Classics Department. The organizers of Harvard Certamen would like to thank Professor Tarrant, Teresa Wu, Alyson Lynch, and all of the volunteers who contributed to the success of the event.



Pictured (from left):
Michael Velchik ('12),
a participant,
Chris Londa ('13),
and Arthur Kaynor ('12)
(photo by Emily Chang)

Oedipus Rex, Spring 2011

by Felice Ford ('11)

Oedipus Rex came about as the most recent in a long tradition of Classical Club translations and productions on campus. We aim to alternate Latin and Greek works, and try to put on a full-scale production every spring. This year, we found a fantastic, classically-minded director named Meryl Federman who graciously took on a bulk of the production process. In spite of our rehearsal location in the distant Quad, the production was a fantastic success, thanks to a stellar cast and faculty participation. We had a full audience most nights, and the show received great reviews.

As always, this was thoroughly a group effort. Under the leadership of Arthur Kaynor ('12) and Felice Ford ('11), seven undergraduates in the Department collaborated via email during the month of January to complete an accurate and readable translation of the original text. The director helped to produce a final draft, which the cast members refined in the rehearsal process. We hoped Sophocles would have approved of our trans-

lation, and that we wouldn't alienate our modern audience. It was difficult competing for performance space and casting for a production scheduled for the week before spring break, but, following some intense labor pains, the play ultimately came together. The Classical Club aimed to be as involved in the actual production process as it could, from advising to set-building, despite other commitments, such as thesis-writing or sophomore seminars. Even those who were too busy to be involved through most of the process came together for a tremendous turn-out from the Department at performances.

Every year, the spring translation and production brings together our undergraduates and the Department as a whole, along with others on campus from the Harvard Radcliffe Drama Club and elsewhere, for the purpose of putting on something original, classical, and beautiful. This year, the Fates and Muses favored us, and we look forward to continuing this tradition next year!

THE HARVARD CLASSICAL CLUB PRESENTS



A NEW TRANSLATION OF
**OEDIPUS
REX**

MARCH 4—12
ON THE CABOT JCR STAGE
RADCLIFFE QUADRANGLE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DIRECTED BY
MERYL FEDERMAN
PRODUCED BY
WENDY CHEN, FELICE FORD
& ARTHUR KAYNOR
POSTER DESIGN BY
NATHANIEL KOVEN

TO RESERVE FREE TICKETS EMAIL
OEDIPUSTIX@GMAIL.COM

FRI MARCH 4, 8PM	FRI MARCH 11, 8PM
SAT MARCH 5, 8PM	SAT MARCH 12, 2PM
SUN MARCH 6, 7PM	SAT MARCH 12, 8PM

Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library

by Jan Ziolkowski



The Loeb Classical Library, which has reached the venerable age of one hundred years but which is a very spry centenarian, has had for a decade a sister series in the I Tatti Renaissance Library. Now it has another sibling as well, since the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library (DOML) saw its first three volumes appear in the fall season of 2010 and an additional four in the spring of 2011. As you can judge from the accompanying image, the seven books in the first year of the series create a powerful effect in both bulk and beauty. They have bronzed gold dust jackets, Byzantine purple cloth covers, and ribbons (a different color for each language—you will have to inspect one for yourself to find out what the spectrum is!). All three series are published by Harvard University Press, which has outdone itself in production quality.

DOML is named after the research library and collection in Washington, D.C. that is under the aegis of Harvard University. Dumbarton Oaks exists for many reasons, foremost of which is to further Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and Garden and Landscape studies. DOML presents original Byzantine Greek, Medieval Latin, and Old English texts with facing-page translations designed to make texts from medieval and Byzantine cultures available to scholars and general readers. The volumes are meant to provide

reliable texts and accessible translations of both familiar classics of the medieval canon and lesser-known works.

Classics at Harvard has been involved deeply in DOML. A former Classics major, Swift Edgar '07, worked three years at Dumbarton Oaks as the series took shape and prepared several volumes of the Vulgate Bible (with the Douay Rheims translation en face). (Anna Bonnell-Freidin and Clem Wood, '08, both had stints at Dumbarton Oaks too, but working on other projects.) Michael Sullivan, who earned his Harvard PhD in Classics, will be joining the team in the coming year. Several students in the Department, undergraduates as well as graduates, have served as interns to help with the effort or have otherwise pitched in: In the past Julian Yolles assisted, and this summer Christopher Husch and Christopher Londa will both come to Washington as DOML interns. Jan Ziolkowski, Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Medieval Latin and director of Dumbarton Oaks, who founded the series and serves as general editor, is constantly on the lookout for good prospects, especially students who have taken Latin prose composition or otherwise proven their mettle in the fine points of Latinity. Eventually there may be opportunities too for Hellenists to participate in this medieval Loeb.

<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/doml/>

Salvete

Adrian Staehli

Professor of Classical Archaeology

I began studying Classical Archaeology initially at the University of Bern in Switzerland, but soon my growing enthusiasm for ancient sculpture took me to the Freie Universität Berlin, where I received my MA in 1988 with a thesis about Greek portraits from the former Farnese collection. Berlin, at this time probably one of the most vibrant and intellectually stimulating European cities, had a sustained impact on my research approaches and interests, resulting in a dissertation on sculpture and the discourse of sexuality in the Hellenistic period, which I submitted as my PhD thesis to the Freie Universität in 1996. At this time, I had already returned to Switzerland and had been teaching, since 1992, at the University of Zürich and, from 2002 to 2008, at Basel University. In 2003, I received from Zürich University my *Venia Legendi* (the prerequisite to be appointed professor) with my Habilitation thesis about the meaning of nakedness in archaic and classical Greek art. Aside from my inter-

est in Greek sculpture and, more recently, in Greek vase painting and iconography, in recent years I have extended my research and teaching activities to other areas, focusing for example on the reception of ancient art, on the history of collections, or on what I call the “visual epistemology of archaeology,” i.e. the role of visual media in creating and transmitting archaeological knowledge. My most recent work includes a book (as co-editor) about antiquity in cinema, and an exhibition on the impact of the discovery of Pompeii, which I prepared in collaboration with students of Basel University—an experience I highly appreciated and intend to repeat. At Harvard, I will follow this path, but also develop new fields of activity contributing to the already lively scholarly discussions in the Department. I am very delighted to be part of a challenging community of outstanding scholars and look forward to the forthcoming years of teaching and doing research in the Department of the Classics.



Valete



Sarah Insley

A few weeks ago, as I was burning the last of my midnight oil reserve on preparing my dissertation for submission, I realized what a great pleasure it is, at the end of a long and laborious (and alternatively, rewarding and tedious) project, to write formal acknowledgements of all those who supported me throughout the years. Likewise, now that I and several of my friends and peers are gearing up to celebrate Commencement, I am full of such gratitude for my experiences here at Harvard, and especially for the Department of the Classics: for the wonderful faculty, who have encouraged and helped to shape my work over the years; for my peers in the program, many of whom have become dear friends; and for the crucial, constant support I have received that has allowed me to finish my PhD. After two years away from Cambridge (one in the idyllic setting of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC; and one bouncing between Turkey and northern Virginia), I am thrilled to be returning to Harvard next year in a new capacity, as a College Fellow in Byzantine Language and Literature. While daunted at the prospect of keeping the home-fires burning in John Duffy's absence (as everyone knows, his shoes are much too big to fill), I am very excited to be continuing my research and teaching in the Department. In short, thank you all for everything—and see you next year!

Throughout my time at Harvard, my teachers and friends in the Department of the Classics have taught me, encouraged me and made me feel at home. I am grateful to all of them. I have especially enjoyed getting to know the concentrators during my two years as Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies. I am excited to be going to Stanford as a Mellon Fellow, but I will miss everyone on the second floor of Boylston and look forward to seeing all of you again soon.



Isabel Köster

As someone with a research interest in annoying the Greek and Roman gods—I came to graduate school with an honors thesis on resisting Eros and Aphrodite and am leaving with a dissertation on Roman temple robbery—my first thanks is due to the Department for never making me feel as though I was getting any practical experience in the subject. It has been a wonderful time here at Harvard, and I truly appreciate all the friendships that I have made and all the lessons learned (not least that the Department's mice proved that they were smart enough to get into Harvard, as a result, unleashing a veritable philology-machia). For the next academic year I am excited to be a Visiting Assistant Professor at Wabash College. Come visit if you find yourself in Indiana.



Peter O'Connell



Ariane Schwartz

After having spent all of my nearly 28 years as a city dweller, it is only fitting that I will finally be able to find out for myself why Horace, the subject of my dissertation, devoted so much time to one particular topic in his poetry: the tension between the city and the country. In September, I will move north to Hanover, NH to take up a visiting position as Lecturer in Classics at Dartmouth (*urbs in rure*). I will remember fondly these past six years at Harvard where, thanks to generous and venturesome advisors in both Classics and history, my solid philological training has helped me better understand both antiquity and its many afterlives. It will not be easy to leave behind so many friends in the Department who have made these years in graduate school extraordinarily rich and fulfilling, but I will, of course, have to follow Horace and return to city life in Boston and Cambridge often!



Justin Stover

Gisela Striker

**Walter C. Klein Professor of Philosophy
and of the Classics**

After a cheerful farewell-conference at Radcliffe that felt more like an academic family reunion, I have disappeared again to my European summer home. It's not because I have been fired that I look forward to "spending more time with my family"! But I will be back in the fall enjoying my status of permanent sabbatical or tenured graduate student

In the mean time, here is a picture to illustrate the mysterious future:



After six years in graduate school, in which I gained one dissertation, three children, and several grey hairs, I look forward to returning to the Department next year as a Harvard College Fellow—especially because that means I will not yet be parted from my colleagues and from the jovial companionship of Harry Elkins and his books.

Rota Fortunae Harvardiana

Praeses Faust; Decani Professoresque sapientissimi; familiae, amici, et hospites honoratissimi; et tandem condiscipuli carissimi...salvete omnes! Mihi voluptas magna atque honor altus est huius ceremoniae incipiendae in hoc theatro augusto Trecentensimo. Nec solum conventum ultimum classis nostrae, anni duomillensimi et undecimi, sed etiam conventum trecentensimum et sexagensimum huius universitatis hodie celebramus.

Hoc cum animadvertissem gaudebam, propter sensum singularem numeri trecenti et sexaginta. Ne mihi quidem, litterarum antiquarum discipulo, latere potest orbem omnem in partes trecentas et sexaginta esse divisum. Venit etiam in mentem orbis quidam praecipuus, qui vitas nostras hos quattuor annos rexit: Rota scilicet Fortunae Harvardiana. Temporibus antiquis, rota signum erat levis mobilisque naturae factorum—circuitus vel unus cladem felicissimis afferre atque miseros extollere potest.

Nos Harvardiani quoque mutationes fati permultas passi sumus. Statim in anno primo reperimus custodem mensae Annenbergianae, Domnam, vel beneficium magnum vel iram inexpiabilem offerre posse, velut fortuna volebat (iram certe, si tesserarum nostrarum obliiti eramus). Prope anni illius finem, circuitus alius Rotae Fortunae decrevit domum ad quam delegati eramus. Plurimi laetabantur, praesertim hi beatissimi qui in locum valde amoenum, Domum dico Dunsteriensem, sunt recepti.

Mox autem Rota Fortunae nos in ima desperationis saepe mersisse videbatur. Horae somno deditae numerique nostri in Chimica Organica inferius inferiusque ceciderunt. Universitas ipsa in malo rotae latere se invenit. Sicut mercatus corruerunt, ita corrui dotatio nostra, olim amplissima, et nova aetas severitatis aderat. Heu miserum indigne ientaculum calidum ademptum nobis! Haud aliter aleatores in spectaculo illo televisifico “Rota Fortunae” subito “Perditi” fiunt.

Hoc tamen anno Rota in cursu secundo rursus volvitur, atque fortunae nostrae meliores factae sunt. Examinibus thesibusque perfectis, occupationibus (speremus!) inventis, et Yalensibus quater victis, advenimus ad tempus illud fortunatissimum—ver seniorum—et nunc hanc universitatem gratissimam deserere paramus. Iter rotundum in Rota Fortunae Harvardiana confecimus, et hodie ubi incepimus, iterum pervenimus, eodem studio eademque materia infinita quae in congregationem primam in hoc ipso theatro attulimus.

Ne praetereamus tamen dictum Appi Claudii Caeci: “Faber est suae quisque fortunae.” Etsi Fata impedimenta quaedam nobis coniecerunt, ea omnia superavimus adiutorio condiscipulorum familiarumque, doctrina professorum praeclarorum, et proprio labore constantiaque. Rota Fortunae per summa Fati imaque unumquemque nostrum ferre continuabit, sed semper recordamini commutationes quas in vita nos ipsi faciemus nostro labore, et studio, et incitatione esse decernendas. Progredimini igitur, collegae optimi, et efficite felicitatem vestram.

At nunc, amici, avete atque valetel!

Charlie Bridge

Harvardian Wheel of Fortune

President Faust; wisest Deans and Professors; family, friends, and most honored guests; and finally, dearest classmates...welcome, all! It is my great pleasure and high honor to begin the proceedings today in this venerable Tercentenary Theatre. Not only do we celebrate today the final gathering of our class, of the year 2011, but also the 360th Commencement of this university.

I was glad when I noticed this, because of the unique significance of the number 360. Not even I, a student of classical literature, could be unaware that a circle is divided into 360 parts. I have in mind a very special kind of circle, which has guided our four years here: the Harvardian Wheel of Fortune. In antiquity, the wheel was a symbol of the capricious and cyclical nature of the fates—a single spin could bring disaster upon the most fortunate and uplift the luckless.

As Harvardians, we too have endured the twists and turns of fate. We discovered rather quickly in our first year that Domna, the guardian of Annenberg Hall, could bestow either great kindness or implacable wrath, according to fortune's whim (certainly wrath, if we had forgotten our ID cards). Near the end of that year, another spin of the wheel of fortune determined the house to which we had been assigned. Most were elated, above all those blessed few who were welcomed into that most wonderful of places, Dunster House.

Soon, however, it often seemed that the Wheel of Fortune had plunged us into the depths of despair. Our nightly hours of sleep and our grades in Orgo plummeted lower than ever. Our fair university also found itself on the wrong side of the wheel. Just as the markets collapsed, so did our endowment, once so mighty, and a new age of austerity was at hand. Alas, poor hot breakfast, undeservingly wrenched away from us! In just the same way, contestants on the "Wheel of Fortune" game show suddenly become "bankrupt."

This year, however, the Wheel has continued to roll on its circular course, and our fortunes have taken a turn for the better once again. With exams and theses completed, jobs (hopefully) found, and the Yalies vanquished for a fourth time, we have reached that most fortunate of times—senior spring—and now prepare to leave this dear university. We have finished our cyclical journey on the Harvardian Wheel of Fortune, and we arrive today exactly where we began, with the same excitement and limitless potential that we brought to our first freshman gathering in this very location.

Let us not pass over, however, the axiom of Appius Claudius the Blind: "Each man is the artisan of his own fortune." While the fates have thrown some obstacles in our way, we have overcome them with the support of classmates and family, with the wise instruction of our peerless faculty, and with our own hard work and persistence. The Wheel of Fortune will continue to carry each one of us through the highs and lows of fate, but always remember that the changes we will make in the world will be determined by our hard work, our energy, and our passion. Go forth, noble classmates, and make your own good fortune.

And now, friends, goodbye and farewell!

Charlie Bridge

Nota Bene comes out twice a year, after the fall semester and at Commencement. Please email entries to alynch@fas.harvard.edu, or send them to

Alyson Lynch
Department of the Classics
204 Boylston Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138
fax: 617-496-6720

PDF files of all past and current issues are available on the Department website: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~classics>. If you do not have internet access and would like a computer print-out of the issue, please send your name and mailing address to the contact above.

Please “Like” our new Facebook page! We will post news items information about upcoming events during the academic year!