Notes from the Chair
by Mark Schiefsky

As the 2017–18 academic year draws to a close, I am delighted to report that the study of Classics continues to thrive at Harvard. Our concentrator numbers remain strong (thanks in no small measure to the efforts of our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Naomi Weiss), and last fall we welcomed a sizable new cohort of graduate students into our various PhD programs. As always, the calendar was packed with invited lectures, workshops, and conferences on all manner of topics connected with the ancient Greco-Roman world. The last academic event of the year, a discussion of democracies ancient and modern with Paul Cartledge of the University of Cambridge, took place just two days ago. It was a highlight of the year and a demonstration of the continuing relevance of Classics to the modern world. I invite you to read much more about all the department’s activities in the pages that follow.

Let me first acknowledge the contributions of several colleagues who will soon be moving on to new opportunities. This year the department was fortunate to have the services of two outstanding Lecturers, Nathan Pilkington and Julia Scarborough, in the fields of ancient history and Latin literature, respectively. They made crucial contributions to our curriculum in a year in which a large number of faculty were away on sabbatical leave, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors. In a transition of a different kind, Richard Tarrant, Pope Professor of Latin Language and Literature, is retiring at the end of 2017–18 after some thirty-five years on the faculty. We look forward to his continued presence in the broader Classics community, and in particular to a conference in his honor that will be held this fall, featuring many of his former students and colleagues from around the world. For the moment, we thank him for his tireless contributions to the study of Latin literature and to the department, as a researcher, teacher, and colleague over more than three decades.

Now to the graduates. Our ten seniors have spent four years immersing themselves in the intricacies of Greek and Latin verbs and the mysteries of ancient Greek and Roman culture. The diversity of their thesis topics is matched only by the range of their future plans, proving that a Classics degree is ideal preparation for all walks of life. We also have six candidates for the PhD, who have dedicated themselves (for a bit more than four years!) to furthering our understanding of the ancient Greeks and Romans, whose struggles, compromises, failings, and triumphs are more relevant than ever to contemporary life. To all those who are moving on in 2018: you take with you the good wishes and gratitude of the entire department, and we hope you will come back and visit us often in Boylston Hall. Valete!

Finally, on a personal note, this is my last time writing these “Notes,” after seven years in what can sometimes be a rather hot seat. I have been honored to serve the department as Chair. But it is time to pass the baton, and I am delighted that Kathleen Coleman is willing to take on the challenge of leading the department in the next phase of its history. Looking ahead, I am more optimistic than ever about the future of Harvard Classics, as long as we continue to look beyond the confines of Boylston Hall to engage vigorously not only with other departments, programs, and fields, but also with the world beyond the academy.
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"In silvis Academia surgit: Latin Learning in Seventeenth-Century New England"  
Advisor: Ann Blair (History); Asst. Advisor: Massimo Cè (G5)

Matthew DeShaw  
"Consuetudinis magna vis est: Change, Continuity, and Creating Community in Republican Morgantina, 211 – ca. 35 BCE"  
Advisor: Emma Dench; Asst Advisor: Anthony Shannon (G7)

Thomas Dumbach  
"Initium Turbandi Omnia a Femina Ortum Est: Gendered Transgression in Livy and Tacitus"  
Advisor: Richard Thomas; Asst. Advisor: Christopher Cochran (G3)

Phoebe Lakin  
"Garden Paths: Text, Context, and Intertext in Columella’s De Cultu Hortorum"  
Advisor: Richard Thomas; Asst. Advisor: James Taylor (G5)

Victor Mezacapa  
"On the Most Famous Book You’ve Never Heard Of, Or, The Life and Times of Cicero’s De Officiis"  
Advisor: Mark Schiefsky; Asst. Advisor: Marco Romani Mistretta (G6)

Jiha Min  
"Are You Mad or Are You Bad? The Pathology of Evil in Ciceronian Invective"  
Advisor: Emma Dench; Asst. Advisor: James Zainaldin (G4)

Gregory Scalise  
"Can I Hit My Computer? Actions Towards Objects in Virtue Ethics"  
Advisors: Mark Schiefsky and Jacob Rosen (Philosophy)

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**Seniors’ Future Plans**

**THEODORE DELWICHE** plans to continue his study of early modern European Latin education through participation in a history research master’s program at the University of Groningen, with the great generosity of the Corey and Booth Fellowships.

**MATTHEW DESHAW** will be working as an Area Manager for Amazon in Goudsbloem, PA.

**THOMAS DUMBACH** has accepted a place in Oxford’s MSt program (or “programme,” as he’ll have to start writing) in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature, thanks to the generous support of the Corey Fellowship.

**SEAN FAHEY** will be staying in Boston, working at AEW Capital Management, a real estate investment management services group.

**PHOEBE LAKIN** will pursue an MPhil in Classics at the University of Cambridge next year, thanks to the generous support of the Corey Fellowship.

**JAKE LEVENE** will be working for a New York-based real estate development firm called The Related Companies.

**VICTOR MEZACA** will return home to Cleveland after graduation to work for three years as a Business Analyst with McKinsey & Company.

**JIIA MIN** will be working as a Corporate Paralegal in New York City come June.

**GREGORY SCALISE** will be pursuing an MFA in poetry at Johns Hopkins University.

**CHARLES WEBB** will be working at the Folger Library and Dumbarton Oaks on a Humanities Fellowship.

**Senior Reflections**

I cannot imagine a better department to have been a part of during my four years at Harvard. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to interact with and learn from my brilliant peers and professors and TFs in the Classics, from four-person seminars to a week-long trip in Sicily. I would like to extend a special thank you to Professor Dench for serving as not only my thesis advisor but also life mentor and guide, to Professor Coleman and Professor Weiss for advising me through my undergraduate academics and beyond, to James Zainaldin for serving as my assistant thesis advisor, and to Teresa for welcoming me into the Department. I am extremely fortunate to have the Classics Department as a home away from home at Harvard, and I am excited to tackle the next opportunity beyond college with the same passion and enthusiasm that I found through my time with the Department.

Phoebe Lakin ’18

I think about a few courses that remain special for me, too. Sophomore year in particular deepened my love for Classics. That fall, I had my second class with Richard Thomas—on the Eclogues and Georgics—and understood how fun and rewarding it could be just to talk about texts: their beauty, their richness, their references and reverence. I always had been and remain a lover of textual analysis, and I am indebted to Professor Thomas for helping me center it within my studies then as well as again this past year when he advised my thesis. Ille mi par esse deo videtur.

I am similarly indebted to Professor Weiss, whose Greek civilization class introduced me to many of the questions I continue to probe. She showed me that modern questions of politics and identity, especially the role of literature and art in both, are equally relevant to ancient history. I am by no means a Hellenist, but contemplating how the Greeks portrayed gender, foreignness, and power dramatically influenced my approach to Latin literature going forward. Finally, to Chris Cochran, I wish and expect the very best. I’m not sure he realizes that he kept me sane at times, but I couldn’t have made it through this past year without his guidance.

I’ll always think fondly of the time I’ve spent with my peers and instructors, in the classroom and beyond. The second floor of Boylston feels in many ways like a home for me, and I’ll miss the nights when I was the last one to leave Smith, turning out the lights before I wandered down to the back doors of Widener. Thank you to a department whose members have been so brilliant and challenging, so thoroughly welcoming and generous to me. It is indeed difficult to say goodbye, but I know that things are in excellent hands here.

Thomas Dumbach ’18

I will miss these lunches. I will miss all my fellow undergrads, the graduate students, the lecturers and professors. I will miss the tight ship that Teresa and Alyson run year after year with such great grace. Immeasurable thanks to the patience, instruction, and opportunity afforded to me by this department. I hope to be able to do justice to all of it in the years to come.

Theodore Delwiche ’18
New Graduate Students

Xiaoxiao Chen was born and grew up in Beijing, China, where she received her BA in Philosophy from Peking University. It is also at Peking that she got exposed to Platonic dialogues and developed an interest in Plato’s psychology. Since then she has been interested in exploring how the ancients understand their inner self, including the application of medical analogy, the Neoplatonic notion of the internal and external cosmos, and the animal metaphor of both the tripartite soul and the soul as a whole, both bitten and biting.

Rebecca Deitsch graduated summa cum laude from the University of Dallas in 2017 with a double major in Greek and Latin Classical Philology and a concentration in Spanish. Her senior thesis on the reception of Athenian tragedy in Latin epic was entitled “Resolver of Strife and Mother of War: Jocasta in Euripides and Statius.” At Harvard she will continue studying the evolution of myth in epic and tragedy, with an emphasis on women’s agency, and she plans to broaden her scope to include Near Eastern mythological traditions and material culture. She is also fascinated by linguistics and modern languages, especially Polish and Russian, and during her time at Harvard she hopes to explore Slavic reception of Classics.

Sarah Eisen received her BA in Archaeology and Classical Studies from Dickinson College in 2015 and her MA in Art History and Archaeology from Columbia University in 2017. Her MA thesis, entitled “When you look me in the eyes... Abduction, Seduction, and the Power of the Gaze in Ancient Greek Vase Painting,” explores the iconography, variations, and exhor-tative value of mythological erotic pursuit and abduction scenes in late Archaic and Classical Greek vase painting. She is now a doctoral candidate in Classical Archaeology here at Harvard. Her research interests include Greek vase painting and ceramic workshops, the iconography and interplay of mythology and ritual, and the relationship between image, object, and text. She has participated in archaeological excavations in Winchester, England; Mycenae, Greece; and, most recently, Columbia University’s Onchestos excavation project in Boeotia, Greece. She is also particularly interested in the collaboration between academic institutions and museums, and has worked at several museums, including the American Museum of Natural History (NYC) and the Archaeological Museum of Mycenae (Greece), and she has been a docent at the Onassis Cultural Center New York.

Nate Herter grew up in Ellington, Connecticut, a sleepy farming community with more cows than people. He completed a BA in Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies with Honors at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, along with a senior thesis on Apuleius’ Metamorphoses, in 2014. In 2016 he completed an MA in Comparative Literature, also at UConn, with concentrations in Homeric epic, Vergil, and psychoanalytic theory. After taking a year off to teach high school Latin and special education, he has returned to academia to begin a PhD in Classical Philology here at Harvard. Nate’s main academic interests include theoretical approaches to the Classics, Homeric epic, and the ancient novel; as an educator, he is a strong proponent of active, comprehensible-input pedagogy. Outside of Classics he enjoys cooking, video games, reading and writing poetry, and music (especially David Bowie).

Alexander Vega was born in Boston and grew up in southern California and in the Philadelphia area. He received a BA in Classics and Mathematics from Amherst College, where he wrote a senior thesis on Cicero’s Academic Skepticism. He is excited to study the intriguing and profound ideas of classical philosophers at Harvard. He is particularly interested in pursuing research on Plato and Cicero, and he would be curious to consider how his research in classical philosophy could be informed by ideas from his prior studies in mathematics and philosophy of law. In his free time, he enjoys running and creative writing.

Jorge Alejandro Wong II Medina completed a BA in Classics and Linguistics at The University of Texas at Austin and an MA in Greek at the University of California, Berkeley. He works primarily on Greek epic and historical linguistics. His life quest is to produce crystal clear ice and to make tortellini in the manner of soup dumplings.
Noteworthy

Graduate Student News

• In May of 2018, Chris Cochran (G3) completed his Special Examinations on Herodotus, Petronius, and the Ancient Novel.
• In May of 2018, Julia Judge (G3) completed her Special Examinations on Greek Sanctuaries in the Roman Period; Christian Interactions with Pagan Art, Architecture, and Sacred Spaces in Late Antiquity; and Romanization.
• In May of 2018, Keating McKeon (G6) completed his prospectus entitled “No Going Back: Attic Tragedy and the Autocritical Return.”
• In May of 2018, Suzanne Paszkowsk (G3) completed her Special Examinations on Plato, Cicero, and Ancient Greek Music.
• In October of 2017, Anne Remillard (G4) completed her Special Examinations on Euripides, Lucretius, and Greek Religion.
• In January of 2018, Alexandra Schultz (G4) completed her prospectus entitled “Imagined Histories: Helenistic Libraries and the Idea of Greece.”
• In September of 2017, James Taylor (G5) completed his prospectus entitled “Changing Places: Geological Change and the Shaping of Landscapes in Classical Thought and Imagination.”
• In February of 2018, James Zainaldin (G4) completed his prospectus entitled “Philosophy, Rhetoric, Science: The Formation of Specialized Knowledge at Rome, 100 BCE–200 CE.”
• During the previous academic year (2016–2017), Anthony (Tony) Shannon was a Gastwissen-schafter (guest Researcher) affiliated with the Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Andreas Grüner. In the winter of 2017, Tony was also in residence as the Jacci Graduate Student Scholar at the German Archaeological Institute’s Commission for Epigraphy and Ancient History in Munich.
• In March of 2018, Alexandra Schultz (G4) and James Zainaldin (G4) co-organized the Harvard Graduate Student Conference, “Local and Global: the Literary Landscape and the Politics of Place in the Hellenistic World.”

Fellowships and Other Awards

Graduate Student Awards

• The Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Composition in Greek was awarded to Greg Mellen (G7).
• The Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Composition in Latin was awarded to Alexander Schwennicke (G2).
• Eliza Gettell (G5) and James Zainaldin (G4) each received a Merit/Graduate Society Term-time Research Fellowship from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences for the 2018–19 academic year. This fellowship allows students to take a semester off from teaching to focus on their research.
• Michael Konieczny (G6) received a GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2018–19.
• Charles P. Segal Student Travel and Research Fellowships were awarded to the following graduate students: Rebecca Deitsch (G1), Sarah Eisen (G1), Nathaniel Herter (G1), Miriam Kamil (G3), Suzanne Paszkowski (G3), Alexander Schwennicke (G2), and Anthony Shannon (G7).
• Keating McKeon (G7) had several of his photographs exhibited in April 2018 at the Harvard Student Art Collective’s annual show under the heading of “familiar space subtle strange.”

Undergraduate Awards

• The Bowdoin Prize for Greek translation was awarded to Alejandro Quintana (’20).
• The Bowdoin Prize for Latin translation was awarded to Ned Sanger (’19).
• The George Emerson Lowell Scholarship Prize for the best performance in an examination on Latin was awarded to Caroline Engelmayer (’20) and Ned Sanger (’19).
• The John Osborne Sargent Prize for English translation of an ode of Horace was awarded to Victor Mexacapa (’18).
• The David Taggart Clark Prize for the Undergraduate Latin Commencement Oration was awarded to Phoebe Lakin (’18).
• The John H. Finley Jr. Fund for the Greek Classics for summer travel was awarded to Benjamin Roy (’19).

Department News

Fellowships were awarded to the following undergraduate students: Jennifer Lowell (’19), Sheridan Marsh (’20), and Ned Sanger (’19).

Teaching Awards

• The Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching is awarded by the Bok Center to outstanding teaching fellows, teaching assistants, and course assistants. Recipients from Classics for the Spring and Fall Semesters of 2017 follow (G-year listed is for the academic year 2017–2018).
  - Nadav Araf (G3): Greek 1
  - Massimo C (G5): Latin 112b
  - Christopher Cochran (G3): Latin 2x
  - Stephen Hughes (G5): Latin 1, Latin 1x, Latin 3
  - Julia Judge (G3): Cls-Stdy 97a
  - Miriam Kamil (G3): Cultr&Blf 22
  - Keating McKeon (G6): Cls-Stdy 141, Cultr&Blf 35, Latin 4x
  - Rebecca Miller (TA): Latin 1
  - Sergios Paschalis (TA): Greek 3
  - Suzanne Paszkowski (G3): Latin 112a, Latin 3
  - Marco Romani Mistretta (G6): Cls-Stdy 97b, Greek K
  - Alexandra Schultz (G4): Cls-Stdy 152, Greek 10
  - Ariane Schwartz (TA): Latin 2, Latin 108
  - Stephen Shennan (G3): Latin 1
  - James Townshend (G9): Latin H, Latin 10
  - James Zainaldin (G4): Greek 112b, Latin 2
• The Harvard Certificate of Teaching Excellence goes to outstanding lecturers, College Fellows, and Preceptors. Recipients from Classics for the Spring and Fall Semesters of 2017 follow.
  - Carmen Arnold-Biuchi: ClasArch 183
  - Brigitte Libby: Cls-Stdy 141, Cultr&Blf 35
  - Julia Scarborough: Latin 112a
  - Yvona Trnka-Amrhein: Greek 104
  - Julian Yolles: MedLatin 106

Faculty News

• Starting in July of 2018, Professor Emma Dench will take on the role of Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, following a year as Interim Dean.
• Departmental Officers: For the academic year 2018–19, the departmental officers will be as follows:
  - Chair: Professor Kathleen Coleman
  - Director of Graduate Studies: Professor Jeremy Rau
  - Director of Undergraduate Studies: Professor David Elmer

In spring 2018, Professor David Elmer delivered the annual Helen North Lecture at Swarthmore College.

In 2018, Dr. Ivy Livingston received a grant from the Barajas Dean’s Innovation Fund for Digital Arts and Humanities and a Foreign Language Advisory Group Curricular Innovation Grant for “Hedera: A Personalized Vocabulary Database and Readability Gauge.”

In 2017, Professor Gregory Nagy was elected a Corresponding Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In 2017, the Panteion University of Social and Political Science conferred an honorary degree on Professor Panagiotis Roilos.

Professor Naomi Weiss has received a Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship for 2018–19. She will be a Beaufort Visiting Fellow at the University, College of Cambridge.

Faculty Books

• Naomi Weiss—The Music of Tragedy: Performance and Imagination in Euripidean Theater (UC Press, 2018)
• Julian Yolles and Jessica Weiss—Medieval Latin Lives of Muhammad (HUP, 2018)
Harvard Summer School and the Finley Fellowship by Joseph Valente ('19)

It is not every day one has the opportunity to see a production of Euripides’ *Alcestis* in perhaps the most famous Greek theatre in the world, the Theatre of Epidaurus. And yet this kind of truly breathtaking experience was an almost daily occurrence during the Harvard Summer School Program in Greece—every day we took in myriad sites spanning all eras of Greek history. From the Athenian acropolis to the manor houses of revolutionaries in Spetses, my fellow students and I had the unparalleled experience of studying Greek history and culture experientially, with site tours from world-renowned experts such as Harvard Classics’ own Professor Nagy and Professor Dench.

One of the most exciting aspects of the program was having the chance to learn side by side with Greek students. Listening to their perspectives, both on modern Greek politics and on the impact of the Classical world on Greece, was always fascinating. And it was not only the people, but also the location that made this experience so educational. Taking classes in a city like Thessaloniki was remarkable—one merely had to walk one block to see the tangible impact of the cross-cultural contact that we had discussed in class. Seeing the remains of a Roman palace, Byzantine cathedrals, and Ottoman mosques overlapping and developing from one another was an experience truly unique to a city such as Thessaloniki, and truly reinforced our class discussions and readings.

My time in Greece not only was an opportunity to see the remnants of the ancient world, but it also provided a chance to see how the study of the Classics can be useful in the modern world. During the last week of the program, we had the unique opportunity of participating in a panel discussion with the US Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt. His remarks focused in large part on how crucial it is to understand the impact of Greece’s cultural capital and the role of Greek history in shaping the modern Greek state. This opportunity to study in Greece, interact with Greek students, and learn so much about the country’s history and culture inspired me to return this coming summer, where I will seek to utilize this knowledge working for the United States Department of State at the Embassy in Athens. My summer in Greece was truly the experience of a lifetime and I am intensely grateful to the Finley Fellowship and the Harvard Classics Department for this wonderful experience.

Cicero at Houghton Library by Victor Mezacapa ('18)

Segal Grant enabled me to travel much more locally—just across the yard, in fact—than across the world, where it has taken many other students, but to a place well worth visiting and that every Harvard student ought to know: Houghton Library, which houses almost all of Harvard’s rare books and special collections. (Even in other libraries: the Houghton staff, for instance, not the Widener staff, keeps up Harry Elkins Widener’s books in the heart of Widener Library.) Using the funds to make possible an early return to Cambridge in August, I began to examine some of Houghton’s most prized editions of Cicero’s *De Officiis*, the beginning phase of the larger undertaking of characterizing all the library’s nearly one-hundred editions of the book for a thesis chapter on the reception of Cicero’s treatise through the ages.

Working with the Houghton staff is a pleasure as well as a privilege, especially for someone like me, who had worked in the stacks at the library before transitioning to the role of researcher in the reading room. With the help of the librarians, I was able to find a few interesting copies of the book, and uncover no mean collection of Cicero and even of the *De Officiis* in the library. Besides having editions of Cicero’s *Opera* owned by great Americans from Thomas Holfis to Edith Wharton (many of which contain the *De Officiis*), the library also owns copies of the individual treatise written or printed in five centuries (not including our own; the latest edition comes from London in 1821, one copy of which came to Houghton via the Roosevelt Memorial Association from the library of Robert B. Roosevelt, T.R.’s uncle and a Congressman from New York, whose signature the little pocket-sized hardback bears) and in eight languages: Latin, French, English, Dutch, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Perhaps the most interesting edition sets the commentary of Desiderius Erasmus, the great humanist and Catholic priest, alongside that of Philip Melanchthon, the Lutheran reformer, and includes commentary from at least five great Renaissance men, as well as a critical essay at the back by Célio Calcagnini, the polymath’s polymath. (What has the Harvard University Press published recently to match that?!) Perhaps most fun to discover, however, were the many copies and editions with Harvard connections. One of the first that I found was a fifteenth-century Italian humanist manuscript given to Harvard by Charles Sumner (AB 1830; LLD ’33); another, an incunabulum given by Charles Franklin Durand (AB 1871; LLB ’91) in 1908, the latest edition comes from London in 1821, one copy of which came to Houghton via the Roosevelt Memorial Association from the library of Robert B. Roosevelt, T.R.’s uncle and a Congressman from New York, whose signature the little pocket-sized hardback bears) and in eight languages: Latin, French, English, Dutch, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

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I was shocked by the amount of small instances of harassment I experienced while in Italy. The most uncomfortable incident happened when I was strolling through the Campo de’ Fiori in Rome one afternoon, eating a gelato, and one of the restaurant greeters grabbed and held my wrist and taunted me in Italian (to the effect of, “Can I have a lick?”). I realize that this is nowhere near as grave as the sexual violence that others have experienced, and I am certainly not a victim looking for pity. Nonetheless, I think that this is worth sharing because, though my trip to Italy was overall very positive, I saw and learned a lot, and I’m very grateful for the experience.

But of course asking strangers for help is not an obvious thing to do, especially (?!) when one is a single woman traveling in a country where the language spoken is not your own. Indeed, sometimes my requests for help with a word turned into slightly uncomfortable exchanges if I “mistakenly” asked a man who thought it would be nice to admire my hair/smile/beauty in general, and/or invite me for a drink or to a party... Oops. Perhaps I’m more aware of it as I grow older and when I am traveling, and certainly everyone has become more attuned to sexual harassment over the past year with the widely publicized MeToo movement, but much to my delight, each person whom I asked for help understanding a word or phrase I was struggling with in, first, Jhumpa Lahi- ri’s In altre parole, and then, Elena Ferrante’s L’amica geniale, responded gladly, not with an English translation but an explanation in Italian—fantastico! Extra Italian practice just by asking a simple question to a fellow passenger on a train or ferry! For someone who has spent an extraordinary amount of time looking words up in dictionaries (okay, I’m addressing Classicists, so we all have), it was so nice to be able to do this that it surprised me to read in Lahiri’s book about her own practice of carrying around a pocket Italian dictionary to look up words, even when she was living in Italy.

Gender violence in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli

In July and August of 2017, a Segal Travel and Research Award allowed me to go to Oakland, California, where I completed an MA in Italian Studies with Middlebury College. In this last summer of coursework, I took three seminars in Middlebury’s Italian School. The first seminar was dedicated to the Italian novel in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and was taught by Gino Tellini, Professor Emeritus of Italian Literature at the University of Florence. For this course my research focused on the language of the novels written by Italo Svevo. Svevo is now considered one of Italy’s most important modernist writers, but he had a weak command of Italian, since he lived in Trieste, where the main spoken language was the local dialect and he was educated in German (Trieste at the time was the main port of the Austro-Hungarian Empire). I explored the interference of Triestine and German on Svevo’s Italian and his awkward handling of register, marked by highly literary language plucked from his reading alongside phrases that sound like intermediate-student translations. It was exciting to hone my philological skills on a new author, especially one who presents the odd problem of a canonical figure with a shaky command of the language in which he wrote. As I wrote my seminar paper I kept thinking of Pollio’s quip about Livy’s Patavinitas.

The second seminar was dedicated to the life and works of Giuseppe Verdi and was taught by Cosimo Colazzo, Professor of Composition at the Conservatorio di Torino. I’m by no means an opera fanatic, but it was thrilling to study Verdi in depth, especially for the analogies he presents for the study of Greek tragedy. We examined his dramatic art, his formal innovations, his relationship to the politics of his time, and even such details as the way his melodic lines evolve (or avoid) the natural melodic inflections of speech—an issue central to the performance and interpretation of Euripides’ choral odes, for instance. During the summer, we had the chance to see Rigoletto at the San Francisco Opera, and I discovered that one of Verdi’s most intolerably schmaltzy and (now) cliché arias (La donna è mobile) acquires a deeply moving dramatic irony when staged correctly. I left the course with a greater appreciation for Italian opera and a reinvigorated desire to return to Greek tragedy with closer attention to issues of music, staging, and performance.

The third seminar was dedicated to Italian Dialectology and was taught by the instructor Emilio Ceruti. The course examined the history of the Italian dialects, the structures of several specific dialects, and the relationship between the dialects and standard Italian in modern Italy. My research focused on veneziano, the dialect of Venice and the surrounding mainland. In this area the dialect is still strongly present (over two-thirds of the population speaks mainly dialect at home) and it has a rich tradition of use in the theater and in lyric poetry. Studying the Italian dialects continually presents parallels that are “good to think with” when considering ancient Greek literature and sociology, especially for those, like me, who grew up safely sealed in the bubble of Standard English.

With these three courses, I completed my Italian MA. I am already starting to put the degree to use by working on scholarly translations and poetic translations for publication. I am extremely grateful to the Department for providing financial support for this opportunity, which has enriched my life and my scholarship.
In the summer of 2017, I spent a spectacular five weeks in Rome, where I studied Italian, visited museums, and explored local landmarks. My Italian tutor, Sabina Fusaro (recommended to me by the great Chris Cochran, G3), brought my Italian up from non-existent to conversational in a mere month. Living just outside the city center, I had plenty of opportunities to practice my language skills at the cafe and farmers’ market outside my apartment. I ordered many espressos and fresh vegetables in flawless English.

Over the summer, I came to know the commercial parts of Rome (bought some cute souvenirs!) and the quieter outskirts, meeting many friendly locals and fellow travelers along the way. In the city, I walked up and down the Tiber and tended in with tourists at the Colosseum and Forum Romanum. A bit further out, about a ten-minute walk from my Airbnb, was the Parco della Caffarella, which became one of my favorite haunts. There I spent many lovely hours wandering through sunburnt fields and past babbling streams. At its center, the park had its own spooky ruins and an active farm. I made good friends with the resident dogs; there was also a friendly horse and some very unfriendly sheep (have you ever been stared down by a sheep?).

Outside of my Italian lessons, I was free to wander around Rome’s harbor town, Ostia Antica, which was a fascinating place to explore. Particularly fun and useful was a day trip to Naples and Pompeii to wander through the ruins and wear out my companions with unrelenting enthusiasm at every turn. On a separate day trip I followed the Tiber out to the ruins of Rome’s harbor town, Ostia Antica, which was a fascinating way to pass an afternoon (Pompeii without the crowds!).

I got to see some of my favorite pieces in person: Bernini’s Apollo and Daphne and Rape of Persephone; Caravaggio’s Boy with a Basket of Fruit. I have since used some of my photos of these pieces while teaching! And seeing the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, despite the hectic crowd, was a truly unforgettable experience.

Meanwhile, back in Rome, I glimpsed some of the finest art of all time at the Villa Borghese and the Vatican Museum. I went to see the labyrinthine ruins of Ostia Antica and watched the sunset over the Tyrrhenian Sea at Ostia Lido. Another day trip brought me to Orvieto, with its stunning cathedral, underground ruins, aerial views, and cobbledstone roads.

This trip exposed me to parts of Italy I’d never before had the chance to explore. At the same time, the plentiful alone time allowed me to read and prepare for my Special Exams, along the way refining my interests in antiquity. The introduction to Italian has proven crucial for my studies this year, particularly those on textual transmission through the Medieval and Renaissance periods. It was a very enjoyable and productive trip and I’m grateful for the experience!
I was sitting on a train to Nantes, savoring the lingering taste of a terrible airport pain au chocolat and succumbing to exhaustion after my red-eye to Paris, when I found out that I was in the wrong seat. In the ensuing confusion, my intermediate level of French was not so much to blame as my beginner level of train layouts. Eventually the kind fellow sitting next to me helped sort out the confusion and the even kinder fellow whose seat I had purloined went off to find mine. I then spent the rest of the three hour train ride blundering through something resembling a conversation in French with my seatmate, who had the patience of a saint and wrote down for me all the words and phrases I didn’t understand. Confusion, kindness, and a lot of hand gestures. So began June in France

I planned as much as I could fit into daylight hours: tours book festival Tours book festival

Tours book festival

Chenonceau!

Chenonceau!

Alex Boleyn? (Château de Beauregard)

Alex Boleyn? (Château de Beauregard)

Tours book festival

Tours book festival

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On the Trail of Tigranes the Great: Travels in Armenia and Georgia

by Elizabeth Mitchell (G8)

For sixth-century BCE Greeks, the Caucasus lay at the ends of the earth, the destination of the Argo and the home-...

Looking over the border onto Ararat

“Mickey” Zardarian and Haik Gyulamiryan, who guided us expertly around the site and invited us back to their exca...

T-shirts from the Vernissage market in Yerevan

Retaining wall made of cars, Yavots Dzor

HEAVELY RECONSTRUCTED FIRST CENTURY CE TEMPLE AT GARNI

Extremely potent moonshine. Perhaps no coincidence that we found ourselves driving off-road through a field of flowers...
Exploring Sicily’s Material Past: Classical Studies 112
by the Classics Concentrators in the course, Professor Alex Walthall (visiting from UT Austin), and TF Eliza Gettel (G5)

Over Spring Break, students from CLS-STDY 112 Regional Study: Sicily, an advanced undergraduate seminar in the Department of the Classics, traveled to Sicily for a week-long journey across the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. Along the way, we encountered the material remains of the numerous cultural groups who once occupied Sicily, from the rock-cut chamber tombs of the indigenous Sicel culture to the lavish cathedrals of the Norman kings. Our trip began in Palermo, situated on the island’s north coast in the fertile Conca D’Oro, and ended at Syracuse, famed for its prominent Greek temples and theater. Along the way, students gave presentations focusing on historical and archaeological details of each major site. To best capture the excitement and spirit of discovery, here are some of the highlights of the trip, in the words of the students themselves.

We want to thank the Department for making this unforgettable experience possible and for allowing us to confirm, as D.H. Lawrence once wrote, that “anyone who has once known this land can never be quite free from the nostalgia for it.”

Days 1 and 2: Palermo
by Jennifer Lowell (’19)

In Palermo, I had the privilege of presenting on the Monreale Cathedral, which was built in 1072 CE by the Norman king William II. It was incredible to visit the Cappella Palatina, built by William’s grandfather Roger II, on the same day and compare the extraordinary mosaics that cover the walls and ceilings of both buildings. Together, these two cathedrals offer vivid testimony to the reception of Muslim and Byzantine culture and art in the monumental architecture of the Norman kings.

Day 3: Segesta and Motya
by Adrian Weickart (’19) and Julie Effron (’20)

At the archaeological site of Segesta, one gets a truly memorable glimpse of cultural interchange in ancient Sicily. Here, I (Adrian) presented on the unfinished Doric temple, constructed sometime in the fifth century BCE, prior to the start of the Athenians’ ultimately disastrous Sicilian Expedition. The temple, which is typically “Greek” in form, was built by the indigenous Elymian community at Segesta. Standing before the temple, one hears the eerie howl of the March winds that hasten over the hills from the Tyrrhenian Sea and through the temple’s unfluted columns before whipping across the lush vegetation of western Sicily’s green slopes. It is an experience for which neither this account nor any book, picture, movie, or classroom could prepare you.

Later that day, we took a small boat to the island of Motya, which lies just off the western coast of Sicily. There, I (Julie) presented on the Phoenician settlement founded around the end of the eighth and beginning of the seventh centuries BCE. The island was developed by the Carthaginians and served as a strategic trading post in the Mediterranean. Although a large portion of the city was destroyed during the attack of Dionysius I in 397 BCE, its remaining ruins provide insight into a colony that witnessed regular cultural and economic exchange between Phoenicians and Greeks.

Day 4: Selinunte and Agrigento
by Rufaro Jarati (’19)

Along the south coast, we visited two of the island’s largest ancient urban centers, the Greek cities of Selinunte and Akragas. Today, Selinunte is an expansive archaeological site, home to the island’s most impressive Greek temples, as well as a significant portion of the streets, shops, and fortifications of the ancient city. At Agrigento, we were given a special tour of the recently discovered Hellenistic theater by the archaeologist in charge of the excavations. It was incredible to see such a massive monument only now emerging to see the light of day!

Day 5 and 6: Piazza Armerina and Morgantina
by Sheridan Marsh (’20)

Our journey inland brought us to two remarkable sites in the middle of the island. First, we saw the Villa Casale, an expansive Roman villa of the fourth century CE, which boasts some of the most impressive mosaics of the ancient world. The vibrant colors and lively images, like that of a hunt scene filled with wild animals, really brought this ancient household to life! The next day, we visited Morgantina, the archaeological site where Professor Walthall directs excavations. There, we ate panini in the banquet room of a Hellenistic peristyle house and Professor Walthall led us on a walking tour around the site, sharing his knowledge of ancient Morgantina with us.

Days 7 and 8: Syracuse
by Joe Valente (’19) and Justin Walthier (‘19)

On the approach to our final destination on the trip, we stopped at the Euryalos fortress, which overlooks Syracuse and the Epanoloi plateau. From there, we had an excellent vantage point for understanding the amazing innovations in defense and military technology in Hellenistic Sicily. The Euryalos is a rare place where one can see the impact of mathematical theory on military practice, as Archimedes himself oversaw the city’s defenses in its final days. Once at Syracuse, we saw the Great Altar and Theater of Hieron, renowned for its size and emblematic of Hieron II’s competitive assertion of Hellenistic kingship in the era of Alexander’s Successor Kingdoms. The Altar is said to be large enough to host the sacrifice of 450 oxen at one time, though we didn’t test that ourselves!
The little village of La Turbie is located in the hills directly above Monaco, on the Via Julia Augusta, a Roman road extending through northwest Italy and the south of France, and has two claims to fame: it was the location of Grace Kelly’s fatal car crash in 1982, and two millennia earlier was the site chosen for an imposing monument, the Tropaeum Alpium, commemorating the emperor Augustus’ conquest of the Alpine tribes. Destroyed in the eighteenth century in the course of a war between France and Savoy, and looted for building materials in the years after, the Tropaeum Alpium was extensively, but only partially, rebuilt in the twentieth century with funding from Edward Tuck, an expatriate American. Further along the Via Julia Augusta was a city called Cemenelum, the capital of the Roman province of Alpes Maritimae, now a neighborhood of Nice called Cimiez, in the hills above the city proper. Today the remains of a bath complex and an amphitheater are preserved from antiquity.

Of course, the French Riviera is now much better known for reasons other than its classical heritage: its art museums and associations with some of the great figures of twentieth-century art, architecture, and literature, including Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Jean Cocteau, Le Corbusier, and Katherine Mansfield; its glamorous seaside towns and cities which attract the yachts of rich and famous, especially to summertime events like the Cannes Film Festival and the Monaco Grand Prix; and its charming hilltop villages with spectacular views out to the sea.

Thanks to the generosity of the Segal Fund, I was lucky enough to spend three weeks last summer in this part of the world. Based in Nice, my mornings were occupied by French lessons, and in the afternoons I was able to take trains and buses all around the region and to practice my French in the real world.

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On March 24, 2018, the Classics Club held the 9th Annual Harvard Certamen. Over four hundred students from schools across the country traveled to Harvard to compete. Twenty-four schools were represented this year, completely filling registration capacity for the second consecutive year. These students—predominantly from high school, though some middle-schoolers joined as well—answered trivia questions that tested knowledge of Roman and Greek history, culture, and language proficiency. Students impressed moderators and peers alike with near simultaneous translations, mastery of tricky grammatical concepts, and quick recall of even the most obscure myths. The keynote address that began the event was kindly given by Professor Richard Thomas, speaking on his new book Why Bob Dylan Matters and the classical connections modern musicians and poets like Dylan draw on. Students and faculty members alike loved Professor Thomas’ lecture, with many commenting that such modern connections make the study of the Classics much more exciting for young students.

Following the address, everyone made their way to some thirty classrooms in Sever Hall and took up buzzers to begin the three preliminary rounds. Every team competed against two different teams during each round. The end of these rounds signaled the beginning of lunch and a well-earned break for all the competitors. Organizers calculated scores during the break and teams returned after lunch to find out whether they had made the semifinals. Nine teams at each level moved on. The top three teams at each level were determined and then advanced to the final rounds in Sever Hall, in front of an eager and lively audience.

Competition in the final rounds was intense, but when all was said and done, the victors were Boston Latin School, Brookfield Academy, and Boston Latin School at the Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced levels, respectively. The Classics Club congratulates all the students who participated and extends a warm thanks to all of the volunteers, without whose help the Certamen could not have taken place. In particular, the club is grateful to Professor Richard Thomas, Professor Naomi Weiss (club faculty adviser), Teresa Wu, and Alyson Lynch. The 10th Annual Certamen is on schedule for the end of March 2019, and the Club looks forward to welcoming everyone back to Harvard at that time!

For questions and a list of schools participating, see the Classics Club website: http://harvardclassicsclub.weebly.com/.
Eliza Gettel (G5)  

Paul Johnston (GE)  
"Rethinking Medea and the Deus ex Machina." Forthcoming in Classical Philology.  

Julia Judge (1S)  

Keating McFlynn (G4)  
"Reports of My Death…: Aesch. Ag. 926-7 and the Tragic Soundscape." Paper presented as part of the CorHaLi Conference at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Nafplio, Greece, June 2017.  

Gregory McEwen (G7)  
"Clarifying Force: Persuasive Style in Isocrates and Demosthenes." Guest lecture at the Department of Classics, University of Vermont, Burlington, MA. March 2018.  

Alexandra Schults (G4)  

Alexander Schwennicker (G6)  

Anthony Shannon (G7)  
"Local Memory and Urban Development: A View from the Roman Maghreb." Paper delivered at the Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany, February 2017.  
"Displaying Local Memory in the Cities of the Roman Maghreb." Paper delivered at the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Kommission für Altere Geschichte und Epigraphik, Munich, Germany, March 2017.  
"Sultes and their Scribiles: Negotiating Global and Local Memory in Roman Lepcis Magna." Paper delivered at the Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC) 2018, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, April 2018.  

Katherine van Schaik (G7)  
"Coping with Clinical Uncertainty: Disease Classification Systems from the Graeco-Roman World." Paper delivered at the MD PhD Grand Rounds, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, April 2018.  
"Dirty Words and Dusty Bones: Rebranding Retrospective Diagnosis." Paper delivered at the Workshop on Retrospective Diagnosis and the Health of Past Populations, Laval University, Quebec City, Canada, January 2018.  
"Towards a New(ish) Taxonomy of Disease." Paper delivered at the Disease and the Ancient World Symposium, Queen’s University, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom, September 2017.  
VALETE!

Charles Bartlett
As I think back on my six years at Harvard, I can scarcely believe my good fortune. Since walking into Boylston Hall, I have met with an astonishing number of professional opportunities that have led to challenging and rewarding work, and introduced me to people whom I will never forget. I am truly grateful that I could study questions beyond the traditional purview of the Classics, and what successes I’ve had are due in very large part to the individuals who encouraged this explorative approach. I have amassed more debts to mentors and friends than I could hope to outline here, but I take comfort in the knowledge that the strength of these relationships will afford years to repay old debts and to run up new ones. During this academic year I have been a postdoctoral fellow in the History Department at Duke University, and I will hold another postdoctoral position in the same department next year. As I embark on these and other edifying endeavors, I’m sure that I will have no trouble finding reasons to keep coming back to Boylston Hall.

Gregory Mellen
Seven years is a long time; seven years of one’s twenties is also a very intense time. I leave with less hair on my head than when I came, but a lot more Greek and Latin and projects and plans inside of it, and many grateful memories of lessons learned, conversations shared, and experiences tackled together with so many wonderful friends, colleagues, and teachers. It is hard to imagine a richer or more stimulating place than the Department of the Classics. The future may be uncertain, but I am deeply thankful that I spent part of my life among such great scholars and such good people—I look forward to hearing about all your ongoing projects and seeing you all soon!

Monica Park
These years as part of the Harvard community have been intellectually and personally formative. I’ve been incredibly fortunate to count such gifted mentors, teachers, and peers as friends—not all debts can be fully repaid. As I say my goodbyes, I remember especially fondly and gratefully the many conversations included but also ranged far beyond Classics; from these, I’ve learned so much. What I have learned here has also helped to prepare me for the next phase—an assistant professorship in the Program of Classical and Mediterranean Studies at Vanderbilt. Thank you to all, and if you find yourself in Nashville in the near future, please drop me a line!

PHD RECIPIENTS

Marco Romani Mistretta
There is so much life behind that deceptively simple triplet of letters, PhD. There are days and nights of learning, teaching, and writing. There is an inspiring community of friends and colleagues. There are some of the coldest winters that a Mediterranean-bred wanderer could possibly (fail to) imagine. Much to my own astonishment, there is also a now complete dissertation on the idea of invention and discovery in Greco-Roman antiquity. After graduating, I will be moving to New York City to start working at the Paideia Institute, where my duties will include managing a nationwide outreach program as well as taking part in the administration of student trips to (you guessed it) the Mediterranean. Leaving with advance nostalgia for my time at Harvard Classics and those who made it an unforgettable journey, I will remain immensely grateful to the Department for uncountable years to come.

David Ungvary
Asked to reflect on my seven years as a member of Harvard Classics, I can think only of the people with whom I shared them. I am deeply grateful to my colleagues, who gave sellessly of themselves as loyal comrades; to my teachers and mentors, from whose brilliant guidance I consistently profited; and to Teresa and Alyson, who made the going smooth with their support. I will miss this community very much. Happily, there is much to look forward to. This fall I am off to the Hudson Valley where I will take up a position as Assistant Professor of Classics at Bard College. I hope to make return visits often and soon.

Katherine van Schaik
I’ve always loved the terms Doktorvater and Doktormutter, especially in the context of Classics, because they capture the supportive, formative, and enduring power of our teachers. The field is beautifully sensitive to the ongoing dialogue between teacher and student, even and especially when that dialogue happens between someone who lived 2,000 years ago, and students sitting around a table on the second floor of Boylston Hall. Thank you to my Doktormutter and Doktorvater in the Department, and to all the members of our Boylston family, who have encouraged me to contribute to this dialogue and taught me how to do so. Your commitment, brilliance, and warmth are the model to which I will always aspire. Happily, I won’t be far away: I’ll be a resident in diagnostic radiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center here in Boston, continuing to ponder medical decision making in contexts ancient and modern as I work to turn the dissertation into a book.
Phoebe Lakin ’18

Experientia Transfigurativa

Praeses Faust praestantissima, decani dignissimi, professores probissimi, familiae fidissimae, discipuli doctissimi: salvete omnes. Magno mihi honor est apud vos Tercentenario in Theatro haec verba facere, ut promotionem resque gestas cohortis anni bimillenesii decimi octavi Universitatis Harvardiae concelebremus. De libro quodam vobis hodie loquor, de libro qui multos nostrum admodum adolescentes fascinavit, de libro egregio cuius scriptor, abhinc annos decem, hoc ipso die, hoc eodem in theatro orationem habuit. Loquor profecto de Harrio illo Pottero.


Multa et mira praeterea didicimus. Discipuli Porciverrucenses se magics in artibus—incantationibus et devotionibus—excitati sunt. Nos autem capita complexa disciplinis artium liberalium et scientiarum—litteris, physica, politica, biologia. Artem quasi magicam quoque didicimus, quo genere magiae utuntur et discipuli et professores Porciverrucenses. Haec est scilicet Transfiguratio, ars aliquid in alium mutandis. Propeactis freti recentibus, magicis liberalium et scientiarum—litteris, physica, politica, biologia. We have also learned magic at Harvard, a kind of magic practiced by the students and professors at Hogwarts. This is Transfiguration, the art of turning one thing into something else. Relying on our newfound knowledge, as if upon magic wands, we can transform cells into tissues and translate English into Python, speaking to snakes, as did Harry himself. We have even transfigured Harvard during our time as students here, through our passion for asking difficult questions and our hard work. Sometimes Harvard has also changed of its own accord, like the Shifting Staircases at Hogwarts: hail and farewell, Greenhouse Café!

Maxime miranda est transfiguratio quae nos affectit. Mutatae sunt formae non solum corporum nostrum sed etiam animorum. Aquilones nos corroboraverunt. Propter vitam scho- lasticam, mores a pristino statu iam differunt: tempus Temporimutatoribus usum simus, quo caruimus, recipere possimus. Verbis tandem, non villatis, sententias nostras commutaverunt. Etiam quasi magicam quoque didicimus, quo genere magiae utuntur et discipuli et professores Porciverrucenses. Haec est scilicet Transfiguratio, ars aliquid in alium mutandis. Propeactis freti recentibus, magicis liberalium et scientiarum—litteris, physica, politica, biologia. We have also learned magic at Harvard, a kind of magic practiced by the students and professors at Hogwarts. This is Transfiguration, the art of turning one thing into something else. Relying on our newfound knowledge, as if upon magic wands, we can transform cells into tissues and translate English into Python, speaking to snakes, as did Harry himself. We have even transfigured Harvard during our time as students here, through our passion for asking difficult questions and our hard work. Sometimes Harvard has also changed of its own accord, like the Shifting Staircases at Hogwarts: hail and farewell, Greenhouse Café!

Phoebe Lakin ’18

A Transfigurative Experience

Preeminent President Faust, distinguished deans, peerless professors, faithful families, and sagacious students: greetings to you all. I am honored to address you in Tercentenary Theater, and at last we have transformed into alumni. Whatever house the Sorting Hat assigned to us on Housing Day, whatever animals we sport on our robes—lions, fish, or boars—this University has been, and will be, our home. Wherever we go next, by broomstick or by automobile, the gates of the Yard will always be open for us. As the author herself once said, “Hogwarts will always be there to welcome you home.” Now farewell, my classmates, and let us go and work our magic!

Phoebe Lakin ’18
CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Please email any news or announcements to

classics@fas.harvard.edu

or mail them to

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PDF files of previous issues are available on the department website:

http://classics.fas.harvard.edu/