NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

By Kathleen Coleman

Commencement represents the culmination of years of hard work on the part of our graduating seniors and doctoral candidates, and of their teachers and mentors. In accordance with the dictates of COVID-19, we celebrate all this dedication remotely, but we do so in the confident expectation that we shall celebrate properly in the months to come. Thanks to the combined efforts of Alyson Lynch and Lisa Clark, this Commencement issue of Nota Bene will still reach you, albeit via e-mail rather than in hard copy at the annual Shrimpfest in the Faculty Club. I hope that seeing the smiling faces and considerable achievements of our graduates in the following pages will lift your spirits and swell your hearts.

By now, at the beginning of the tenth week of the pandemic-induced lockdown, “Zoom” with a capital Z has become a verb; we are all expert at putting up a blue hand to insert a comment or a query; our capacity for multi-tasking has been tested by the necessity to follow a discussion and simultaneously type a message on the “chat” function; and we are still here, taking refuge more gratefully than ever in the study of the Greco-Roman past. Scholars are by definition somewhat introverted, retreating from human company to the life of the mind, but since the middle of March we have all discovered how gregarious is the human animal—and how fragile the social contract that enables us to enjoy our common humanity.

We do not yet know what long-term opportunities will be available for some of our graduating seniors and PhDs, although we are confident that their training in Classics has made them versatile, analytical, articulate, and quick-thinking, exactly the qualities that will be at a premium as our battered world is rebuilt. In the meantime, spring is in full bloom and we look forward to respite from Zooming and to the recuperation afforded by a bountiful summer. To everyone who has worked so hard to keep the Department going this year, most especially Teresa, Alyson, and our two departing Lecturers, Greg Mellen and Michael Konieczny, thank you, take time to recover, and step out with resolve as society hesitantly opens up again in the months to come.
SENIOR HONORS THESES

Sasha Barish  
“Insulting Slaves in Latin”  
Advisors: Kathleen Coleman and Jay Jasanoﬀ  
Asst. Advisor: Nadav Asraf (G5)

Lydia Cawley  
“The Peace of Women: An Arabic Adaptation of Aristophanes”  
Advisors: Richard Thomas and Annette Lienau  
Asst. Advisor: Justin Miller (G4)

Christopher Colby  
“Voicing Tragedy: A Realization of Ancient Greek Music”  
Advisors: Alexander Rehding and Naomi Weiss  
Asst. Advisor: Hannelore Segers

Julie Effron  
“Nubem Eripiam: Exploring the Narrative Manipulation of Virgil, Aeneas, and Augustus”  
Advisors: Richard Thomas and Gregory Mellen  
Asst. Advisor: Miriam Kamil (G5)

Caroline Engelmayer  
“aliquis est ex me pius?: Seneca’s Phoenissae and Its Early Modern Reception”  
Advisors: Richard Tarrant and Leah Whittington  
Asst. Advisor: Paul Johnston (G4)

Samantha Hand  
“Making Meaning in the Cults of Vesta and Flora Under Augustus: A Literary, Historical, and Anthropological Analysis”  
Advisors: Kathleen Coleman  
Asst. Advisor: Christopher Cochran (G5)

Micah Johnson-Levy  
“Theseus and the Amazons: Images of the Ideal and the Other in the Context of the Greco-Persian Wars”  
Advisor: David Elmler  
Asst. Advisor: Paul Johnston (G4)

Sheridan Marsh  
“‘Antinous, Superstar’ – The Cult of Antinous in Greece and Asia Minor”  
Advisor: Emma Dench  
Asst. Advisor: Supratik Baralay (G4)

Samuel Puopolo  
“In the Wake of Theseus: Intertextuality and Reception in the Lament of Catullus’ Ariadne”  
Advisor: Richard Thomas  
Asst. Advisor: Hannelore Segers (G4)

Alejandro Quintana  
“Local Migration in the Arsinoite Nome of Egypt during the Early Principate”  
Advisors: Giovanni Bazzana and Paul Kosmin  
Asst. Advisor: James Zainaldin (G6)

Ben Roy  
“The Cretan Hero: Intertextuality, Identity, and Resistance in Pervelakis’ To A toy”  
Advisor: Richard Thomas  
Asst. Advisor: Sergios Paschalis

Ellis Yeo  
“Love’s Grief Work: Reading Ancient Greece in the AIDS Elegies of Paul Monette and James Merrill”  
Advisors: Leah Whittington and Richard Tarrant  
Asst. Advisor: Jorge Wong (G3)

SENIOR CONCENTRATORS

Sasha Barish  
Lydia Cawley  
Christopher Gregory Colby  
Julie Effron  
Caroline Engelmayer  
Samantha Hand  
Alexander Hively  
Micah Marie Johnson-Levy  
Sheridan Marsh  
Samuel Ezra Puopolo  
Ben Roy  
Alejandro Quintana  
Liam Warner  
Ellis Jaewon Yeo
THESIS PRIZES

Ancient History Prize for a thesis on Ancient History
Alejandro Quintana

Smyth Thesis Prize for a thesis on Greek
Lydia Cawley

Pease Thesis Prize for a thesis on Latin
Sasha Barish

Hoopes Prize for an outstanding undergraduate thesis
Christopher Colby, Caroline Engelmayer, Alejandro Quintana

Captain Jonathan Fay Prize for an outstanding and imaginative undergraduate thesis
Alejandro Quintana

SENIOR PRIZES

Arthur Dehonine Corey Fellowship for graduate study
Christopher Colby, Sheridan Marsh, Liam Warner

Louis Curtis Prize for excellence in Latin
Caroline Engelmayer

William King Richardson Scholarship for distinction in both Greek and Latin
Alejandro Quintana

Department Prizes for academic achievement and contributions to the Classics community
Julie Effron, Samantha Hand, Micah Johnson-Levy, Sheridan Marsh, Sam Puopolo, Ben Roy

SENIORS’ FUTURE PLANS

Sasha Barish does not have immediate plans yet. Stay tuned!

Lydia Cawley will pursue an MPhil in Classics at Jesus College, Cambridge with the generous support of the Lionel Pearson Fellowship awarded by the Society for Classical Studies. At Cambridge she will continue researching the reception of classical sources by 20th- and 21st-century Arabic writers. She also plans to travel to Paris to research this milieu of Arab expatriate artists with the support of the Booth Fellowship.

Christopher (Topher) Colby plans to travel abroad to the United Kingdom to continue studies in Classics at Jesus College, Oxford through the support of the Corey Fellowship and a Hoopes Prize.

Julie Effron will be working at Blackstone in New York City as an analyst in the Real Estate Acquisitions group.

Caroline Engelmayer will pursue an MPhil at the University of Cambridge as a Harvard-Cambridge Scholar.

Samantha Hand has been awarded a position to teach social studies at a Catholic middle school in Phoenix, AZ through the University of Notre Dame’s ACE Teaching Fellowship. She will be granted a Master of Education degree from Notre Dame upon completion of her fellowship in 2022.

Alex Hively has started a music software company based on the principles of inclusive capitalism and sustainable business. His bigger mission is to devise a methodology for corporate structure, goals, and governance that can lay the framework for a new type of corporation, recognized by the SEC and IRS. He plans to be the first federally regulated inclusive-sustainable corporation.

Micah Johnson-Levy has no concrete plans at the moment, but she is planning on pursuing a career in arts administration with a specific focus on community outreach and education.

Sheridan Marsh plans to attend the University of Oxford for an MSt in Classical Archaeology.

Samuel Ezra Puopolo will start as a strategy analyst with Accenture this September; however, he plans to use the summer to relax, watch movies, and read by the beach.

Alejandro Quintana will pursue a Ph.D in Classics and History at Yale University this coming fall.

Ben Roy will be moving to Washington, D.C., beginning this summer, where he will be interning with the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library as an editor for translation submissions of Greek and Latin texts. He is also one of the 2020–2021 Dumbarton Oaks Humanities Fellows, and looks forward to working on projects with them and the Smithsonian Folkways Record Label for the next academic year.

Liam Warner is hoping to be allowed by the academic and civil powers to pursue a master’s in Classics abroad.

Ellis Jaewon Yeo will serve as a fellow for the Washington AIDS Partnership in D.C. As part of the Health Corps team, she will continue working with people living with HIV at health care and community-based service providers.
Lydia Cawley

I am so glad we got to share a few sentimental reminiscences, good-hearted giggles, and (premature) tearful goodbyes in the Boylston 2nd floor lounge on that fateful day in March, Friday the 13th, before the Ides set in. I regret being torn away from my Classics family a couple of months earlier than I had expected, but I want to offer my deepest thanks to the people who made me feel at home these past four years:

To Alyson and Teresa, who always ensured I'd have gluten-free pizza and goodies at our events, and offered their support at every undergraduate juncture.

To Alex, Eliza, Julia, Sarah, Nate, Paul, Justin, Philip, and Chris, the wonderful graduate students who held my hand through Greek, guided me through my first proper research papers, and advised me on navigating the minefield that is “postgrad.”

To Professor Elmer, Professor Dench, Professor Nagy, Professor Weiss, and Professor Love, who made me feel welcome in lectures, discussions, and office hours, taught me so very much, and modeled the sort of classicist I hope to become.

To Professor Thomas, who advised my thesis, talked Bob Dylan and politics, never crossed a picket line, always cheered me on, and shepherded us budding Dylanologists through several campus upheavals, from fall 2016 up through the finish line this spring.

To my fellow seniors, for commiserating over tough exams and making me laugh, for helping me through impromptu thesis photoshoots, celebrating every success, and for being the best support system.

You all have enriched and truly made my undergraduate experience, and for that I am immensely grateful.

Christopher Colby

Still on campus until the bitter end, my international roommates and I have spent some special and fortunate evenings in the Yard aimlessly walking around and talking about the memories we hold for each of the buildings around us. I always look at Boylston Hall and reminisce on the six consecutive semesters I had of courses on the second floor, and of all the time spent opening up interests and inspirations that I always wanted to find.

I was so scared to start Greek at Harvard that I never even committed to buying the textbook! Carlo Vessella can fondly remember me bunking over a phone-screen PDF for two introductory semesters, and skipping the third just to become Alex Schultz’s Greek 10 class expert in “counting lines” to prepare which passage would be mine to translate at sight (preparation did improve eventually, I promise!).

I will always be thankful for the time I spent here with the Classics Department, and my heartfelt thanks go out to my advisors, from Kathleen Coleman, who first helped me enroll as a Classics concentrator after transferring from Dartmouth, to my treasured thesis advisors, Naomi Weiss and Alexander Rehding; David Elmer, who taught me my favorite seminar courses and gave me the courage to apply for grad studies; and all of the wonderful peers, invaluable Classics Department staff, and lounge puppies that made four years at Harvard an incredible experience. I will miss it all so much!

Samantha Hand

When I first arrived at Harvard, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, I was nearly positive that I was going to study government. I never imagined that I would end up studying a field I had never heard of and writing a thesis about poetry in a language I did not know before college, but I am so glad that I did.

There were many highlights to my undergraduate experience. I remember my sophomore spring, which I spent at the Trinity College Rome Campus, very fondly. There is nothing quite like reading Ovid’s Ars Amatoria only a block away from the Circus Maximus in between shifts at the Roman Houses on the Caelian Hill, where I was an intern. I will never forget the days I spent—and the many response papers I wrote—during the summer of 2018 at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Nafplio, with a cappuccino freddo always in my hand. And who could forget the 2019 spring break trip to Sicily with Classical Studies 112?

But this department gave me so much more than amazing trips and a great place to study (shout out to Smyth). It proved to me that I belonged at Harvard and that I can do anything I set my mind to, no matter how unfamiliar or challenging it might seem at first. I learned so much in these four years, both academically and personally, and I will hold these lessons in my mind and heart forever.

I have so many people to thank. First and foremost, thank you to Professor Coleman, who welcomed me into this department with open arms when I was a nervous freshman and has guided me ever since. Thanks also to Professor Thomas, who was the best freshman advisor I could have asked for; to all of my professors and TIs, especially those who taught me Latin, who showed me that it is never too late to learn something new; to Teresa and Alyson, for keeping us all above water; and to my fellow concentrators, who kept me sane and kept me laughing, no matter the circumstances. You are all incomparable.

Sheridan Marsh

The Department of the Classics has been my home at Harvard since I was a freshman. I still remember my first day in the department lounge—I was so nervous that I was shaking and I sat tensely on one of the couches. One of the seniors that year was also there, having an animated conversation with Ivy Livingston, someone I knew in the department. Alyson’s dog, Beth, came out to say hello, and she was a very welcoming and comforting sight. As I went into my first class, The Roman Villa with Prof. Stähli, I remember the senior noticing I was a freshman and giving me all kinds of advice and calming words for my first day of class. The welcome I received in the department that day is characteristic of this department, where everyone (faculty, grad students, our wonderful administrators, and fellow concentrators) knew my name and greeted me with a smile. I cannot imagine how lost I would have been at such a huge school without having a place in the Classics Department. I would really like to extend my most heartfelt thanks to everyone in the department who made this experience memorable and educational.

I would especially like to thank Alyson Lynch, Teresa Wu, Prof. Adrian Stähli, and Dean Emma Dench for being mentors to me from the very beginning. I would also like to thank all the graduate students who taught me or were in classes with me for being such great role models and kind friends. I am very sad that my time in the department was cut short, but I cannot wait to come back one day and truly express my gratitude in person, since these words will not nearly suffice to show just how important this department was to me.

Samuel Puopolo

Time is an ocean, but it ends at the shore, and it seems to me that I have very nearly washed up. It’s hard to believe that I won’t be returning to Boylston as an undergraduate ever again. For the first time in ten years, I won’t be taking any Classics courses, and for the first time in twenty years, I won’t even be in school. Twenty years of schooling and they put you on the day shift. The world outside Classics is scary: people out there don’t think fun facts about PIE roots or Virgilian window references or epigraphy found in Tunisia two thousand years later are as nifty as we do. Achilles never had to worry about self-actualization or whether he was doing what made him happy. But me, I may be temporary like Achilles, but I can’t just fight physical enemies to get meaning, I have to live within myself too.

As I fight the Dardanians within and without in the new world I am entering, a memory calls after me like a rolling train. A place which welcomed me with open arms when I was a scared first year student, a place where I met friends for life, a place where I read texts for all time. Though my undergraduate years have disappeared in the mist like Brigadoon, my heart will always find warmth and personal fulfillment or whether he was doing what made him happy. But me, I may be temporary like Achilles, but I can’t just fight physical enemies to get meaning, I have to live within myself too.

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Graduate Student News

In December 2019 Supratik Baralay (G4) completed his prospectus entitled “Imperialism and Autonomy in Arsacid Asia.”

In May 2020 Rebecca Deitsch (G3) completed her Special Exams on Euripides, Status, and Myth in Material Culture.

In May 2020 Sarah Eisen (G3) completed her Special Exams on Aristotle, Augustine, and Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy of Law.

In May 2020 Alexander Vega (G3) completed his Special Exams on Homer, Sallust, and Social History.


The following students have been awarded Summer School Tuition Fellowships: Greta Galeotti (G1), Vivian Jin (G1), Paul Johnston (G4), Davide Napoli (G2), Hannelore Segers (G4), Jorge Wong (G3), James Zainaldin (G6), and Louis Zweig (G2).

Sarah Eisen (G3) and Rebecca Deitsch (G3) have each been awarded a GSAS Summer Predissertation Fellowship. This year, the fellowship consists of a tuition waiver for language study at the Harvard Summer School and $1,000 for dissertation-related research.

Rebecca Deitsch (G3) won a Gold Medal in the American Council of Teachers of Russian National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest (Category A, Level 4).

Paul Johnston (G4) received the Michael Jameson Fellowship to study at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He will accordingly spend the 2021-22 academic year in Greece!

Miriam Kamil (G5) was nominated for the Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates.

Keating McKeon (G7) had photographs featured in the Harvard Student Art Collective’s December exhibition (“History of Psychodelics at Harvard”). He also had a photo from his series Fabrications on display at the Smith Campus Center for the 2019-20 academic year. (See below)

Two graduate students have earned recognition in the competition for this year’s John J. Winkler Memorial Prize. The prize is offered annually by the John J. Winkler Memorial Trust in memory of the great classical scholar John J. (“Jack”) Winkler. Alexandra Schultz (G6) won the graduate Winkler Prize for her essay “A Sister’s Song: Female Agency and Community in Sappho’s Brothers Poem.” Paul Johnston (G4) was awarded an Honorable Mention for his essay “Charmides and the (homo)erotic-aesthetic life: Plato, Wilde and Cavafy.” For a third winner from Harvard, see the undergraduate prize section!

Hannelore Segers (G4) has been awarded a two-year Tyler Fellowship from Dumbarton Oaks.

Undergraduate Awards

The Bowdoin Prize for Greek translation has been awarded to both Molly Goldberg (22) and Liam Warner (20).

The Bowdoin Prize for Latin translation has been awarded to Caroline Engelmayer (20).

Student News

In April 2020 the edition and commentary, Gargilius Martialis: The Agricultural Fragments, by James Zainaldin (G6) was published by Cambridge University Press in the series Cambridge Classical Texts and Commentaries.

In April 2020 the hard work of the Editor-in-Chief Serena Shah (21) and the members of the Editorial Board, Hayden Davis (21), Zelin Liu (22), Fiona McFerrin-Clancy (23), Abigail Miller (22), and Esther Um (21).

Read the latest issue and find information about submitting content for the hard work of the Editor-in-Chief Serena Shah (21), and the members of the Editorial Board, Hayden Davis (21), Zelin Liu (22), Fiona McFerrin-Clancy (23), Abigail Miller (22), and Esther Um (21).

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Sarah Eisen (G3) and Rebecca Deitsch (G3) have each been awarded a GSAS Summer Predissertation Fellowship. This year, the fellowship consists of a tuition waiver for language study at the Harvard Summer School and $1,000 for dissertation-related research.

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The Bowdoin Prize for Latin translation has been awarded to Caroline Engelmayer (20).
The John Osborne Sargent Prize for English translation of an ode of Horace has been awarded to both Archie Hall (21, Social Studies) and Benjamin LaFond (22). (See the winning submissions on page 121.)

The David Taggart Clark Prize for the Undergraduate Latin Commemoration Oration has been awarded to Caroline Engelnhauer (20).

Charles P. Segal Student Travel and Research Fellowships have been awarded to Joseph Barisian (21) and Zelin Liu (22).

The John H. Finley Jr. Fellowship for the Greek Classics has been awarded to Muhua Yang (21).

Lydia Cauley (20) has been awarded the Pearson Fellowship by the Society for Classical Studies to pursue an MA in Classics next year at Jesus College, Cambridge, where she will continue the interest that she has developed in 20th- and 21st-century Arabic receptions of classical texts, under the guidance of faculty in both Classics and Middle Eastern Studies. She has also been awarded the Alex G. Booth Fellowship for research in Paris and the Newbold Rhineland-er Landon Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded without application to a student interested in classical thought and provides generous support for future pursuits.

Caroline Engelnhauer (20) has been awarded a Harvard-Cambridge Scholarship to pursue an MA in Greek at Emmanuel College next year. She is also a recipient of the Sophia Freund Prize, which is awarded annually to the student in the senior class of Harvard College who is graduating summa cum laude with the highest grade point average.

One undergraduate student has earned recognition in the competition for this year’s John I. Winkler Memorial Prize (for details, see graduate awards section): Ellis Yeo (20) has won the undergraduate Winkler Prize for her essay, “Love’s Grief Work: Reading Ancient Greece in the AIDS Elegies of James Merrill.”

Ben Roy (20), is one of two seniors in the College to be awarded the Alison Memorial Scholarship, for demonstrating thoughtful leadership and improving the quality of life in their Houses (in Ben’s case, Kirkland).

The following Classics Concentrators were nominated to Phi Beta Kappa this academic year: Lydia Cauley (20) and Alejandro Quintana (20).

TF and TA Teaching Awards

The Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching is awarded by the Bok Center to outstanding Teaching Fellows and Teaching Assistants. Recipients from Classics for the Spring and Fall Semesters of 2019 follow (G-year listed is for the academic year 2019–20):

Nadav Araaf (G5): Latin 10. Introduction to Latin Literature
Supratik Baralay (G4): Culture & Belief 35. Classical Mythology
Christopher Cochrain (G5): Greek 10. Introduction to Ancient Greek Literature
Sarah Eisen (G3): Classical Studies 152. Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Greece

Stephen Hughes (G5): Greek K. Advanced Greek Prose Composition
Julia Judge (G5): Classical Studies 112. Regional Study. Sicily
Miriam Kanria (G5): Classics 98. Tutorial-Junior Year; General Education 1074. The Ancient Greek Hero
Justin Miller (G4): Greek 3. Introductory Ancient Greek 3
Sergios Paschalis (TA): Latin Ax. Latin Review and Reading
Suzanne Paszkowski (G5): Culture & Belief 35. Classical Mythology; Greek 115. Homer: The Odyssey
Allison Resnick (G4): Latin 10. Introduction to Latin Literature
Alexandra Schultz (G6): Latin 112a. History of Latin Literature 1
Alexander Schwennicke (G4): Greek 2. Introductory Ancient Greek 2
Hannelore Seger (G4): General Education 1131. Lost Latin 1x. Accelerated Introductory Latin 1; Latin 3. Introductory Latin 3
Anthony Shannon (G4): Culture & Belief 35. Classical Mythology; US in the World 34. The Civil War from Nat Turner to Birth of a Nation
Stephen Sherman (G5): Classical Studies 97A. Introduction to the Ancient Greek World Culture & Belief 35. Classical Mythology; General Education 1131. Loss
Felipe Soza (G4): Classical Studies 97B. Introduction to the Ancient Roman World; Culture & Belief 35. Classical Mythology
Alexander Vega (G3): Latin 1. Introductory Latin

In July 2019 Dr. Carmen Arnold-Biucchi retired as Damarco Curator of Ancient Coins in the Harvard Art Museums. The Harvard Gazette honored her with an in-depth profile describing her influential work.

Professor Kathleen Coleman has been awarded the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award by the Graduate Student Council. GSAS students nominate celebrated faculty for this distinguished award.

Professor David Elmer has been appointed the eleventh Eliot Professor of Greek Literature, in succession to Professor Albert Henrich.

In June 2021 Professor Gregory Nagy will step down as the Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies, to be succeeded by Professor Mark Schiefsky, who is currently the Associate Director. We are very proud of what Professor Nagy has achieved at the Center. Watch this space for our eulogy upon his transformation into a regular member of the faculty in a year’s time!

Professor Jeremy Rau has been awarded an ACLS Fellowship to support his forthcomingabbatical, which he will spend completing his project, “Linguistic Descent, Diversification, and Convergence. The History of the Ancient Greek Dialects, ca. 2000-600 BCE.”

Professor Naomi Weiss has received the honor of being named the Gardner Cowles Associate Professor of the Humanities by Claudine Gay, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. As announced by Professor Robin Kelley, Dean of the Division of Arts & Humanities, on May 18, Professor Jan Ziolkowski, Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Medieval Latin, will leave the directorship of Dumbarton Oaks, effective July 1, 2020. Dean Kelley’s assessment of Professor Ziolkowski’s achievements at Dumbarton Oaks follows (lightly edited):

“Since being appointed to the directorship of Dumbarton Oaks in 2007, Professor Ziolkowski has worked tirelessly to renew and enrich the programs, collections, and facilities of this hallowed research institution. His transformative achievements include the renovation and expansion of what is now called the Fellowship Building, the introduction of new residencies and internships for undergraduate and graduate students, the establishment of educational programs for students from the D.C. public schools, the expansion of on-line access to collections, and the initiation of a program of art installations in the garden. While director, Professor Ziolkowski also founded the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, a bilingual series that makes medieval and Byzantine texts available to the English-speaking world. Under his direction, Dumbarton Oaks has both strengthened its ties to the greater Harvard community and become more welcoming to the world at large. He will leave behind a stronger institution and a powerful legacy.”

The Department of the Classics is proud of what Professor Ziolkowski achieved at Dumbarton Oaks and is eager to welcome him back to the department after his forthcomingabbatical, which he will devote to his study of the reception of the medieval epic, Ælfric’s Waltharius (see spring issue 2020).

Bok Center Faculty Teaching Awards

The Harvard Certificate of Teaching Excellence goes to outstanding Lecturers, College Fellows, and Preceptors. Recipients from Classics for the Spring and Fall Semesters of 2019 follow:

Carmen Arnold-Biucchi: Classical Archaeology 183. Money and Coins in Ancient World
Calliope Dourou: Modern Greek Aa. Elementary Modern Greek
Susanne Ebbinghaus: Classical Studies 168. The Persian Empire
Brigitte Libby: Culture and Belief 35. Classical Mythology
Ivy Livingston: Latin 1. Introductory Latin 1; Latin 2. Introductory Latin 2
Gregory Mellen: Latin 122. Horace, Ode
Archie Hall ('21)

Meter: ottava rima

In vast Aegean snared, man turns to pray
For calm, as the cloud-covered moon stands black
Amid unglittering stars, unguided way.
For ease, hostile hosts in fierce attack
Still plead Thracian and Mede, they yearn one day
For the quiet comforts that now they lack.
My friend, not gems, no dye, nor even gold,
You’ll find no price where idle life is sold.
Riches or guardsmen can never dispel
The wretched worries that flock in the mind,
For life is short, my friend, what use is there
In sweating things or seeking warmer suns?
We run, but how can we escape ourselves?
Anxiety is everywhere at once.
It boards our ships and infiltrates our camps
More suddenly than frightened deer or wind,
So let your thoughts be happy while you can,
Forget what lies beyond, and laugh away
The bitter truth: that no good thing is pure.

Benjamin LaFond ('22)

Meter: iambic pentameter, tercets

They pray to God for rest, becalmed off Crete,
When passing thunderheads have blocked the moon
And stars become too dim to travel by.
The raging Balkans pray for rest from war.
The Ayatollah’s armies pray for rest
That diamond rings and dollar bills can’t buy.
His Secret Service and his salary
Don’t exorcise the president’s malaise;
It haunts his frescoed ceilings undeterred.
A lesser man lives well. His dinner plates,
Which were his mother’s once, make hunger fine.
His sleep is undisturbed by needless fear.
Since life is short, my friend, what use is there
In sweating things or seeking warmer suns?
We run, but how can we escape ourselves?
Anxiety is everywhere at once.
It boards our ships and infiltrates our camps
More suddenly than frightened deer or wind,
So let your thoughts be happy while you can,
Forget what lies beyond, and laugh away
The bitter truth: that no good thing is pure.

Horace

Odes 2.16

Otium diuos rogat in patenti
Prensus Aegaeo, simul atra nubes
Condidit lunam neque certa fulgent
Sidera nausis,
Otium bello furiosa Thrace,
Otium Medi pharetta decori,
Grosphi, non gemmis neque purpurae uenale neque auro.
Non enim gaza neque consularis
Subsumet lictor miseros tumulos
Mentis et curas laqueata circum
Tecta ulantis.
Unitur paruo bene, cui paternum
Splendet in mensa tenui salinum
Nec leuis somnos timor aut cupido
Sordidas aufer.
Quid breui fortes iaculamur aeuo multa?
Quid terras aliis calentis
Sole mutamus? patria quis exul
Se quoque fugit?
[Scandit aeratas uitiosa nauis
Cura nec turmas equitum relinquit,
Occior ceruis et agente nimbos
Occor Europ.]
Laetus in praesens animus quod ultra est
Oderit curare et amara lento
Temperet risu: nihil est ab omni
Parte beatum.
Abstulit clarum cita mors Achilles,
Longa Tithonum minuit senecus,
Et mihi forsan, tibi quod negarit,
Porriget hora.
Te greges centum Siculaeque circum-
Mangiant uaecae, tibi tollit hinnatum
Apta quadrigras equa, te bis Afro
Murice tintae
Uestiant lanae: mihi parua rura et
Spiritum Graiae temuam Carume
Parca non mendax dedit et malignum
Spernere uolgo.
GRADUATE STUDENTS’ CONFERENCE PAPERS & PUBLICATIONS

Nadav Asraf (G5)


Massimo Cé (G7)


Christopher Cochran (G5)


Eliza Gettel (G7)

“Koina as Nesting Public Spheres within the Roman Empire: Presented at the conference “Spaces of Roman Constitutionalism,” Helsinki, Finland, September 2019.

“Koina of the Peloponnesse within the Roman Empire—Presented at the conference “The Koina of Southern Greece: Coinages and History,” Université de Tours, June 2019.

“The Koina of the Greek Mainland, 1st to 3rd Century CE.” Presented at the Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik, Munich, Germany, October 2019.

Paul Johnston (G4)

“Rome between City and Empire: Spatial Politics in Aelian Aristides’ To Rome.” Presented at the conference “The Spatial Turn in Roman Studies,” jointly hosted by Durham University and the University of Auckland in Auckland, New Zealand, January 2020.


Miriam Kamil (G5)


“Whose Sappho?: How Subversive Receptions of Sappho Transformed the Academy.” Presented at the Boston University Classical Studies Graduate Student Conference “Agency through the Ancients: Reception as Empowerment,” Boston University, November 2019.

Astrid Khoo (G1)


“Praise and Insult: Initiating and Resolving Interpersonal Conflict in Martial’s Epigrams.” Presented at the conference “Conflict Resolution in Ancient and Modern Contexts II: Theory and Genre,” King’s College London, July 2019.


Keating McKeon (G8)

“Barbarians at the Gate: Herodotus, Bistun, and a Per- sian Punishment in Egypt.” American Journal of Philology, Forthcoming.


Justin Miller (G4)


Davide Napoli (G2)


Jorge Wong (G3)


Eliza Gettel

My years at Harvard have been the most intellectually rewarding and most enjoy- able time of my life. I owe my wonderful experiences at Harvard to the people who mentored and accom- panied me through graduate school: in the Depart- ment of the Classics, next door at Dudley House, at Harvard Art Museums, and on Lowell Street. We had some fabulous adventures along the way! I leave with very fond memories of chauvinistic students between Sicilian temples, learning Turkish idioms in an olive grove at Sardis, navig- ating Bulgarian bus systems between archaeological sites, squatting at Greek coins in the HAM basement, turning a living room into a circus tent for Halloween, welcoming incoming graduate students at orientation in Sanders The- ater, winning intramural rowing trophies on the Charles River, and filming a surprise Chinese reality show about dragon boating.

Meanwhile, the next set of adventures has already begun. I spent the fall semester on a research fellowship in Munich and graduated in November. In January, I moved to Penn- sylvania to join the Department of History at Villanova University as an assistant professor. COVID-19 unpredict- ably disrupted my first semester, as we moved to remote learning in March along with universities across the world. I will miss seeing you all in person at spring Commence- ment, and I hope our paths cross again very soon. Please reach out if you find yourself in the Philly area!

A note to my cohort: I am still the ancient historian of the group.

Massimo Cé

After seven unforgettable years spent living in varying proximity to the Charles River, I am thrilled to be moving to the banks of the Isar next month. In Munich I will be joining an interna- tional team of researchers at the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, the world’s most comprehensive dictionary of ancient Latin, as a postdoctoral fellow. In addition to the close-knit community of friends I am leaving behind in Cambridge, I will be missing the many lea usana that have become part of my near-daily routines, including Snyth Library’s iconic round table, the light-flooded courtyard of the Harvard Art Museums, and the Harvard Film Archive with its eclectic but always in- spired programming. Thank you to everyone who made my time at Harvard as pleasant as it was: I hope to visit often. Conversely, should you ever find yourselves in Germany’s “largest village,” do not hesitate to give me a holler.

Christopher Cochran

What a year! While I write this in my apartment three blocks from Harvard Yard, it feels strange to think that it has been two months since I last set foot in Boylston, and even stranger to think I may not go there again as a stu- dent. I will miss—in fact, I already miss—all of the teachers, colleagues, and students who made the last five years both productive and fun. But I won’t miss you all too much, since I’ll be moving just a few stops down the Red Line to take up a position as an Asis- tant Professor of Classics at UMass Boston! You had better bet I’ll be back for all the talks and workshops when the pandemic is over and having fun is allowed again! I cannot thank you all enough for the support and encouragement you have given me.

David Hansen

My time as a graduate student in the Classics De- partment was one of the most inspiring and enrich- ing in my life. I remember the courses on Byzantine language and literature,
Modern Greek language and literature, and Philosophy, our Classics Colloquium, and the Teaching Methods Course as the most brilliant and inspiring that I took at Boylston Hall. I’m incredibly grateful to all the faculty and colleagues who have helped me direct my enthusiasm for many subfields of Classics towards productive ends, especially my primary advisor and mentor, Professor Roilos, and my DGS and mentor, Professor Emma Dench. Many thanks also to my current DGS, Professor Rau, for his invaluable advice, and to Alyson and Teresa for their unparalleled support. Thanks to everyone who has made this period of my life one that I will always look back on with feelings of gratitude and joy.

Keating McKeon
Arriving at the end of the PhD, I am more convinced than ever that the Grateful Dead must have had doctoral studies in mind when they sang appreciatively—what a long, strange trip it’s been! I am immensely grateful to the teachers, colleagues, and friends who have guided me on this voyage, in its twists, turns, and many joyful moments. The Department of the Classics has offered me an incomparable setting for immersing myself in the worlds of Greece and Rome, as well as countless opportunities to pursue and develop a diverse range of additional interests, from the ancient Near East to film and photography. Even more significantly, the community of classicists at Harvard has fostered an environment in which I have embarked on rich intellectual exchanges and formed lifelong friendships. Since no undertaking can be assessed fully before its telos, I am thankful now for the occasion to take stock of this experience and its lasting rewards; if the next stage of my journey holds as much happiness as this period has provided, you might even call me olbios.

James Zainaldin
My time as a graduate student at Harvard has been immeasurably rich with experiences and learning. If, as I crossed Boylston’s threshold for the first time, you had asked me to predict whom I would meet, where I would go, and what I would do during my six years in the Department of the Classics, I would have failed the task utterly. Perhaps the greatest among the many gifts that the Department has given me since that moment was to enlarge and embolden my imagination. When I arrived, I had already fallen headfirst into ‘Plato’s honey head’ (to borrow a phrase from Melville), and I expected to learn a lot more Greek and Latin and to deepen my appreciation for Greco-Roman philosophy and literature. What I didn’t expect was that I would also become enamored of Roman agriculture, Chinese language and civilization, and the multifarious forms of the ancient ‘arts and sciences.’ The Department is a place where many paths cross, and I’ve been extraordinarily fortunate to walk some of them with teachers, mentors, friends, and colleagues here. As I contemplate life after graduate school, I know that I will always treasure my time here and carry with me an abiding sense of gratitude for everything the Department has given me. Thank you!

James Taylor
Even if I had a hundred tongues and as many mouths, leaving aside any physiological problems that I might have, I doubt that I’d be able do justice to the countless friendships, conversations, and ideas that have made the last seven years so rewarding. During that time Boylston Hall has truly felt like home, and living outside of Cambridge for the past year has impressed upon me how much I am going to miss the supportive and intellectually stimulating community of Harvard Classics. More than sadness, though, I feel gratitude for having had this time to develop as a scholar and a person in such excellent company. In the midst of the present uncertainty that is afflicting so many of us, I feel incredibly lucky to be joining Hamilton College in Clinton, New York this fall as a Visiting Assistant Professor. I hope to raise a glass to and with all of you in the not too distant future.