Notes from the Chair, by John Duffy

Since the last issue of Nota Bene we have been saddened and disturbed by the loss of two cherished members of our community. Zeph Stewart, at eighty-six, had long been a leading figure in the profession and he became in a real sense the spiritual father of the Department; he was always ready to share his wisdom and was a regular guest at the monthly student/faculty lunches, where nothing delighted him more than to initiate a friendly chat with undergraduate concentrators. He is missed in person, but his guiding spirit will remain a real presence among us. At twenty-eight, Isaac Meyers had reached the halfway point in his graduate career when he was cruelly snatched from our midst. Over the few short years in which, sometimes beaming, often pensive, he glided gently around Boylston Hall, Isaac won the respect and admiration of all. Both the immediate outpouring of grief at the time of his death, and the later rich and dignified service of words and music in thanksgiving for his life, are testimony to the lasting impression he made. You will read more about these two gentlemen inside, and in the near future, thanks to the talents of the caring and indefatigable Lenore Parker, there will be a separate memorial issue for each. In spite of these recent setbacks the Department has forged ahead. We are blessed with a remarkable group of staff (led by the incomparable Teresa Wu), students, and faculty, who have pulled together cohesively and creatively to bring us through a difficult period. Appropriately, this issue opens with our younger members, the graduating seniors, sharing their thoughts and aspirations for the future. We congratulate them on their many honors and accomplishments. We are equally proud of the placement success of the departing graduate students. We thank Nino Luraghi and Betsey Robinson for major contributions to our programs during their years as valued colleagues. We are also grateful to Nancy Worman for a most positive year of visiting with us.

As this issue was about to go to press, we learned with sadness that Michael Hendy, the husband of Meg Alexiou (professor emerita of Modern Greek Studies) and former associate of the Department, passed away suddenly on May 13. Michael (1942-2008) was an eminent numismatist and economic historian of Byzantium. Over the years he had a long and productive association with Dumbarton Oaks.

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Alyssa Connolly
Wallace Forman

Mark Jackson
Sarah Kenney
Jeremy Lin

Tobias McDougal
Emily Pickering
Mary Ellen Stebbins

Anna Swenson
Katherine Van Schaik
Clem Wood
TO THE CLASS OF 2008!

Senior Honors Theses

Anna Bonnell-Freidin: Claims to Power: Virtus in Valerius Maximus' Facta et Dicta Memorabilia

Alyssa Connolly: A Bacchanalia for Every Occasion: Ancient and Modern Receptions of the Bacchanalian Affair of 186 BCE

Jeremy Lin: Studies in Attic-Ionic Relative Chronology

Emily Pickering: Know your Place: The Construction of Gender in Sophocles’ Three Theban Plays

Anna Swenson: Naturalism and Authority in Pliny the Elder’s Writings on Medicine

Katherine Van Schaik: The Multiplication of Meaning: The Identification and Characterization of the San Callisto Banquet Images

Clem Wood: Horatius de Amicitia: Maecenas and the Discourse of Friendship in the Poetry of Horace

Prizes and Fellowships

Louis Curtis Prize (Latin): Katherine Van Schaik

Department Prizes:
Anna Bonnell-Freidin
Alyssa Connolly
Emily Pickering
Anna Swenson

Hoopes Prizes:
Anna Bonnell-Freidin
Katherine Van Schaik
Clem Wood

William King Richardson Scholarship (Greek and Latin):
Clem Wood

Thesis Prizes:
Pease (Latin):
Anna Bonnell-Freidin
Clem Wood

Smyth (Greek):
Jeremy Lin

Vermeule (Classical Archaeology):
Katherine Van Schaik

Future Plans

Anna Bonnell-Freidin will be pursuing an MPhil in Classics at Cambridge University.

Alyssa Connolly will be teaching secondary Social Studies in New Orleans for the next two years through Teach for America.

Wallace Forman will be exploring future options after graduation.

Mark Jackson will spend the summer in Italy with friends. Next year he will work at a political consulting firm in Texas and eventually plans to attend law school.

Sarah Kenney hopes to work for National Dance Institute, a not-for-profit arts education organization founded in 1976 by Jacques d’Amboise.

Jeremy Lin will spend next year at the Freie Universität in Berlin, where he will be doing a project on Alcman’s dialect and (hopefully) preparing for graduate school, likely in linguistics.

Toby McDougal plans to travel and relax this summer, first on tour with the Harvard Glee Club, then on his own and with friends, before returning to Boston to pursue his studies of jazz piano and vocal performance.

Emily Pickering will take a year off and work at a law firm in Philadelphia and hopefully go to law school the following year.

Mary Ellen Stebbins will be attending the Boston University School of Theatre, getting her MFA in Lighting Design in their three-year program.

Anna Swenson will begin work toward an MD/MPH at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. She does not know what kind of doctor she wants to be but would like to do clinical research with public health applications.

Katherine Van Schaik will work on an excavation in the Roman Forum this summer. Next year she’ll pursue an MA in Classical Art and Archaeology at the University of London on a Knox Fellowship, after which she will begin an MD-PhD program at Harvard Medical School.

Clem Wood will be at New College, Oxford, on a Harlech Scholarship, to read for an MSt in Greek and Latin literature. He plans to tackle Thucydides and Tacitus and study Latin textual criticism.
It was the picture of eager young scholarship. On a Friday in spring, while some students lounged in the sunny Yard, a dozen undergraduates stood in Boylston Hall hunched over a cardboard box full of books, eyes ablaze. A former concentrator was giving away her old texts. “Ooh, the Amores OCT!” “Look at this Sallust Teubner!” “I’ll trade you Catullus for Cicero’s Letters.” It could have been a scene out of the admissions catalogue, but it was just another afternoon in the Classics Department.

In these days, such genuine excitement for an academic subject seems exceptional. In the Classics Department, it is the rule. My professors have run out of lecture for a moment to adduce a quotation from Cicero or Thucydides (on the rare occasions they did not know it by heart), my teaching fellows have pored over commentaries to help me come to grips with a Livian period, and my classmates and I have put Aristophanes on stage and spoken Latin on the Palatine.

But the Department is much more than a place of study, and some of the same students who cooed over the treasure trove of used books moved the box later that day to make way for the weekly Happy Hour. I have been so spoiled by the sense of community in the Department that I was hardly surprised to run into three other Harvard classicists at a performance of Strauss’ Der Rosenkavalier in Berlin this summer or to find myself (rooting for the wrong side) at a Red Sox-Yankees game with Teresa Wu. I am glad to leave Harvard with those memories sharing space with Virgil and Horace in my head.

Anna Bonnell-Freidin ’08

The Department — with a capital D. It’s a title that no other department (lower case) in the University can really claim, a title accompanied by a kind of auctoritas that no other department possesses. Here are people who think speaking in Latin is exciting, involve professors in their Classical Club plays, and, most importantly, recognize and appreciate the significance of their academic pursuits.

The study of the ancient world requires a certain combination of passion, determination, humility, and imagination, and when I entered the second floor of Boylston Hall in the fall of 2004, I knew I had finally found a place where I could surround myself with people who felt the same way. It might be a cliché, but if so, perhaps it’s because the sentiment is true: my heart belongs to Classics, the discipline that’s older, more influential, and more timeless than just about anything else in the Western world. Words cannot express my appreciation for the faculty of the Department who recognize this fact and encourage their students in the pursuit of classical studies.

The paths of my college experience which are marked by my strongest friendships, best memories, deepest intellectual experiences, and most inspiring mentors all lead to the second floor of Boylston. I feel truly privileged and very grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of the warm community and academic tradition that characterize the Department.

Katherine Van Schaik ’08

A Franciscan monk who taught my seventh-grade history class introduced me to the Classics. Piero, as we called him, first taught me about Greek tragedy and assigned “Medea” to me. While I was appalled that Medea would kill her children, I was also very struck by an immediacy and closeness I felt to the emotional world of Euripides’ characters. It was thrilling to feel such a connection to a playwright of an era so distant from my own.

In Piero’s class I decided that I had to study Classics and learn as much as I could to bring me closer to the classical world. His colorful and elusive picture of Greece and Rome sent me on what may be a life-quest to learn more about the ancient past.

At Harvard, I was finally able to immerse myself in Classics and discover a community of people driven to this field by the same wonder and zeal. I have found some of my closest friends in the Department as well as my greatest mentors, who have reinforced and deepened my commitment to Classics. Here I received my foundation in philology, history, and archaeology, and was given the freedom to develop my (perhaps idiosyncratic) interests in Valerius Maximus, virtus, and codes of conduct — interests I will continue to develop in my graduate work at Cambridge next year.

I have continued to experience the earlier thrill of Piero’s lectures on a nearly daily basis since I came to roost on the second floor of Boylston, and I am grateful to everyone who has patiently guided and supported me and allowed me to give back to this wonderful community of classicists.

Anna Bonnell-Freidin ’08

I was the picture of eager young scholarship. On a Friday in spring, while some students lounged in the sunny Yard, a dozen undergraduates stood in Boylston Hall hunched over a cardboard box full of books, eyes ablaze. A former concentrator was giving away her old texts. “Ooh, the Amores OCT!” “Look at this Sallust!” “I’ll trade you Catullus for Cicero’s Letters.” It could have been a scene out of the admissions catalogue, but it was just another afternoon in the Classics Department.

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Clem Wood ’08
Undergraduate Awards
The John Osborne Sargent Prize for a Latin Translation went to Clem Wood ('08). The George Emerson Lowell Scholarship Prize for Latin went to Andrew Rist ('09). Six undergraduates were awarded Segal Travel and Research Fellowships for this summer: Alexander Brown ('10), Vincent Chiappini ('09), Leo Keliher ('10), Sarah Kenney ('08), Veronica Kovens-Mattasy ('10), and Mary Anne Marks ('10). A Center for Hellenic Studies Summer Internship Fellowship went to Paul Mumma ('09).

Graduate News
• Emily Allen (G5) had her Prospectus approved in November 2007 on “The Poetics of Pain: Images of Suffering in Archaic and Classical Greek Culture.”
• Tim Barnes (G5) had his Prospectus approved in April on “Studies on the Text and Language of Sappho and Alcaeus.”
• David Camden (G3) passed his Special Exams in May on “Aristophanes, Virgil, and Presocratic Philosophy.”
• Emily Gangemi Campbell (G7) had her Prospectus approved in November 2007 on “Iconographies of Zeus in Imperial Western Asia Minor.”
• Rob Cioffi (G2) passed his General Exams in May.
• Sarah Insley (G3) passed her Special Exams in May on “Byzantine Satire, and Late Greek and Early Byzantine Philosophy.”
• Andrew Johnston (G2) passed his General Exams in May.
• Paul Kosmin (G3) passed his Special Exams in May on “Archaic and Classical Ionia, Imperial Cult, and the Seleucid Empire.” He also received a Merit Award for spring 2009.
• Isabel Köster (G3) passed her General Exams in January.
• Isaac Meyers (G4) passed his Special Exams in January on “Fragmente der griechischen Historiker, Cicero, and Translation and Bilingualism.” (See page 11.)
• Dreya Mihalow (G5) was awarded a Norton Fellowship to attend the American School of Classical Studies in Athens during 2008-09.
• Peter O’Connell (G4) passed his Special Exams in June 2007 on “Thucydidies, Apuleius, and Alexandrian Scholarship.”
• Christopher Parrott (G4) passed his Special Exams in January on “Greek Bucolic, Status, and Latin Palaeography and Textual Criticism.”
• Ryan Samuels (G2) passed his General Exams in May.
• Ariane Schwartz (G3) passed her General Exams in May.
• Richard Short (G6) had his Prospectus approved in October 2007 on “Religion in Cicero.”
• Justin Stover (G3) passed his Special Exams in May on “Juvenal and Roman Satire; Bernardus Silvestris and Twelfth-Century Platonism; and Palaeography and Textual Criticism.”
• Jarrett Welsh (G5) had his Prospectus approved in June 2007 on “Cultural Negotiations and the Fabula Togata.”
• Dissertation Completion Fellowships were awarded to Emily Allen, Masa Culumovic, Nikolaos Poulopoulos, Richard Short, and Jarrett Welsh.
• Segal Travel and Research Fellowships were awarded to David Camden, Tiziana D’Angelo, Elizabeth Engerhardt, Sarah Insley, Andrew Johnston, Paul Kosmin, Duncan MacRae, Ariane Schwartz, and Yvona Trnka-Amrhein.

HSCP 104 Due Out
Salvet omnes! Socii huius ordinis Harvardiani: Gaudete! Vincimus!

Haec, ut ferunt, erant dicta a milite Graeco Pheidippide, cum e campo Marathonensi Athenas fere milia vigintiquinque cucurisset ut victoriam Graecam victosque Persas nun-tiaret. Hodie nos, condiscipuli, in urbe cursus Marathonensis Bostoniensis, brevi tempore calcem quattuor annos prospectam transibimus. Gaudete! Vincimus!


Gratias scilicet maximas agamus nunc coquis Harvardianis quippe qui nobis pane et frumento qualicumque ad currendum cursum providerint.

Primo anno, athletae positi in carceribus eramus timidi, sed illa Domna nota, iudex severissima calcis Annenbergensis, semper curavit ut haberemus numeros proprios. Trepidamus eramus, et quis profecto est e nostro toto numero, qui tunc non eadem dixerit, quae praeclarus marathoniista Fedor Rhyzov: “Non respicio quis post me sit, tantum figo oculum in viro prae me currente et insequi conor.” Sic interdum vita Harvardiana vis est cursus directus ad calcem. Nos, currentes cursum qui videbatur Marathonensis apud Universitatem Harvardianam, interdum nobis ipsi relictur. Tamen insequi certavimus, quamquam ventres vertebantur et pectora perturba—nonne apud discipulos Cantabrigienses, res cursui Marathonensi simillima est—Clamor Primigenius!


Itaque, marathoniistae, iterum dico, “Gaudete! Vincimus!” Hodie, descendentes e Campo, properantes novos cursus incipere, omnes speramus, nos, ut Pheidippidem, vitam ita acturos ut cursum nobis propositum magna cum fiducia et animo curramus, studia et gaudia feramus. Atque iam, appropinquantes calcem, manibus sublatis, ridemus, atque gratias maximas agimus quod hoc cursum iam vincimus, quodque tam bene instructi sumus ad cursus vitae clariores nobis currendos.

Katherine Van Schaik ’08
VALETE AMICI!

After long deliberation, Nino Luraghi has decided to accept an appointment in the Department of Classics of Princeton University starting in the fall of 2008. The temptation to join the largest concentration of ancient historians this side of the Ocean was simply too strong. He takes this occasion to extend his heartfelt thanks to all the splendid students and colleagues who have made his years at Harvard so fruitful and pleasant. A special thank-you goes to Lenore and Teresa, the spirit of the Department, whose daily contribution to making it run smoothly and whose humanity will never be praised enough. Finally, he hopes that the moderate spatial distance will not prove a hindrance to maintaining close contacts with the many beloved friends he leaves behind.

Betsey Robinson has accepted a new position as Associate Professor of Art History at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tennessee), where she will continue to focus on the architecture, art, and archaeology of the Greek and Roman worlds. Though sorry to be leaving behind dear colleagues and students at Harvard, she will continue to work with several students in Classical Archaeology and History of Art and Architecture, and she looks forward to helping to establish a new PhD program in Art History at Vanderbilt, to begin in the fall of 2010. This year has been a busy one. Her manuscript, “Histories of Peirene: A Corinthian Fountain in Three Millennia,” was accepted for publication by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and she has launched two new projects. The first is an investigation of the visual and performing arts, sports, and culture in the Panhellenic sanctuaries of Greece, entitled “Contesting Supremacy: The Art and Culture of Sacred Games in Hellenistic and Imperial Greece.” The second is an archaeological study of the Sacred Spring at Corinth, which (though it might sound like just another Corinthian source) is actually a multipurpose sanctuary whose stratigraphy holds crucial evidence for understanding the topography, urban planning, and local cults of this most important Dorian Greek center.
I entered the Department of the Classics almost six years ago as an aspiring Horatian (lyricist) and leave it an aspiring Horatian (satirist). My “conversion” to satire is certainly no reflection of the wonderful years I have spent here, and I am loath to leave so many lovely friends and colleagues behind. Nevertheless, since leave I must, I have at least found a destination about which I am equally excited: I am moving (back) to New York, where I will take up a one-year position at Hofstra University as Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature. *Longae finis chartaeque viaeque …*

Jennifer Ferriss

I like to think that I have come full circle from the “new student” Polaroid snapped in my first week at Harvard, with my arm draped over our bust of Marcus Aurelius, to my dissertation on representations of statues in Imperial literature. I have particularly appreciated the friendships I made while at Harvard. For the next two years, I will be taking a brief hiatus from Classics departments as I move on to a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis in the Modeling Interdisciplinary Inquiry Program. I look forward to teaching seminars on the theorized body and Rome as a figment of the Western imagination.

Melissa Haynes

My first day as a graduate student in the Department of Classics was September 11, 2001. A few minutes after the planes struck the World Trade Center my five fellow G-1s and I began our two-hour diagnostic language exams and, as the catastrophe unfolded, we sat together in a classroom in Boylston translating Ovid and Demosthenes. I suppose this could have been an unfortunate symbol of the disconnect between the academy and the outside world, but in fact, studying the Classics felt particularly relevant in the aftermath of the attacks. Mostly what I recall about my time as a graduate student is feeling lucky to be here. I met some of my best friends in the Department and I had the privilege of surrounding myself with colleagues and faculty members who were not only brilliant scholars but also people of exemplary character who have served as my role models both personally and professionally. This fall I will begin as an assistant professor at Texas A&M University. During my time at Harvard I felt I was leading a charmed life. My marriage two years ago and my new job simply confirm that belief.

Justin Lake
It has already been almost a year since I left Harvard to join the Classics Department at Yale as an assistant professor. In my new home, I am blessed with wonderful colleagues and a dynamic group of students who make teaching a rewarding experience. I am deeply grateful to the Classics Department at Harvard not just for the training I received in the five years I spent there but, above all, for the support and encouragement that was given to me by everyone at every step of the way. Now that the summer is approaching, I look forward to revising my dissertation on Latin pseudepigrapha entitled “The Concept of the Fake: Some Case Studies from Latin Literature,” which I wrote under the direction of Richard Tarrant and with invaluable help from the other two members of my committee, Kathleen Coleman and Richard Thomas. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be a graduate student in the Department, and I wish everyone all the best.

Irene Peirano

I’ve been saying good-bye to this place for a long time already, making silent benedictions and valedictions while belatedly sorting and cataloguing the vast lists of things I will take away from this place, and of things I’ll leave behind. I can’t tell which is the greater. Surveying the former, I’m filled with gratitude — Gisela, to you above all — and, I would say, pride, but it feels so unearned, it’s more a sense of wonder, a slight incredulity at the extent of my good, dumb luck. As for the latter, I can’t bear, now, to put my feelings into words, except to say, very simply, it is a large part of myself I leave behind. My time here has meant more to me than I can say and I will miss it very much.

John Schafer

Nota Bene comes out twice a year, in fall and spring. Send typed copy to Lenore Parker, Nota Bene Editor, Department of the Classics, 204 Boylston Hall, Cambridge, MA 02138; fax: 617-496-6720; e-mail: lparker@fas.harvard.edu.
IN MEMORIAM: ZEPH STEWART

Distinguished American classicist Zeph Stewart, who was the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities Emeritus at Harvard University, passed away at his home in Watertown, Massachusetts, on December 1, 2007, at eighty-six years old.

Stewart was associated with Harvard for sixty years, beginning with his arrival as a graduate student in Classics in 1947. Over the course of his career he was at various times a Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows, master of Lowell House, professor of Greek and Latin, chairman of the Department of the Classics, trustee of the Loeb Classical Library, director of Harvard’s Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., and a trustee of the Episcopal chaplaincy at Harvard. In addition, he was president of both the American Philological Association and the Teachers of Classics in New England.

Born on January 1, 1921, in Jackson, Michigan, Stewart was the son of a prominent political family and younger brother of Potter Stewart, who became a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Like his brother before him, Zeph Stewart attended the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut; he was a member of the class of 1939. In later life, as was typical of him, he served as a trustee of the school and received the 1964 Alumni Award. After Hotchkiss, Stewart went on to Yale, where he graduated with highest honors in Classics in December 1942.

In January 1943, Stewart entered the Army, having been recruited for his

linguistic skills by Edwin O. Reischauer. He learned Japanese and did two stints of service, first working in the area of military intelligence. During these years (1943–47), spent initially in Washington, D.C., and then in London and Paris, he went from private to captain. He was recalled for active duty during the Korean War (1951–53) as part of a NATO delegation, working on diplomatic liaison, again in London and Paris.

In 1953, Stewart joined the faculty of Harvard’s Department of the Classics as assistant professor of Greek and Latin, and began to pursue his research and publishing work in Latin literature and manuscript studies. His early endeavors were centered on some of the major Latin authors, including Virgil, Horace, and Plautus, and he dealt also with palaeographical issues. He had a lifelong interest in Greek philosophy and religion, particularly the transition to Christianity. He edited several volumes in these areas, most notably the “Essays on Religion and the Ancient World of Arthur Darby Nock” (Oxford, 1972).

In each of the many appointments he held, Stewart set about to improve the intellectual, communal, and fiscal aspects of the institution in question. He did so because he cared about the field of Classics, about libraries, about teaching and research—and about the well-being of colleagues and students at all levels.

Jeffrey Henderson of Boston University, the present general editor of the Loeb Classical Library, fondly remembers Stewart as “teacher, mentor, and true friend for nearly forty years.” He recalls the crucial role his mentor played—as executive trustee of the Library for over a quarter of a century—in helping to develop a renewal plan in the 1970s to put the Loeb Library on a sound financial footing. “Indispensable,” according to Henderson, “were Zeph’s vision and respect for what the Library should be, his keen judgment about the right projects and the right scholars to tackle each one, and his matchless tact and skill at recruiting potential authors, or letting them down gently when they were not right for the job.”

Richard Thomas of Harvard’s Department of the Classics, who succeeded Stewart as executive trustee of the Library, points to the direct and impressive result of this reordering and revitalization, namely, the establishment of the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, which currently provides considerable financial assistance for the research of classicists worldwide.

As master of Lowell House, Stewart greatly emphasized the importance of community. He welcomed the advent of women into the House. He endeavored to modernize the college rules and regulations, and was particularly successful in integrating Harvard faculty into the life of the House.

Stewart became renowned for his administrative skills and financial expertise. Over the years he held eight different appointments in offices and on committees of the American Philological Association (APA). Adam Blistein, the current executive director of the APA, recalls the immediate and dramatic effect of Stewart’s impact as financial trustee of the Association. Ward Briggs of the University of South Carolina and a serving financial trustee of the APA credits him largely with radical changes that helped to restore the finances to a robust condition.

Stewart was president of the American Philological Association (1983); a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (vice president 1979–82); and visiting professor at Hamilton College and the University of Colorado. In 2000, he received the Barlow-Beach Award of the Classical Association of New England “for exceptional service to the Classics in New England.”

He is survived by his wife, Diana, with whom he offered cherished hospitality to successive generations of scholars and students, and by two daughters, Sarah and Mary, a son, Christopher, and two grandchildren.

Reprinted, with permission and minor revisions, from the obituary by John Duffy which appeared in the Harvard University Gazette on December 6, 2007.
IN MEMORIAM: ISAAC JACOB MEYERS

Isaac Meyers entered the graduate program in Classical Philology at Harvard in Fall 2004, having completed the degrees of BA in Classics (Latin) at Yale in 2001 and MSt in Jewish Studies at St. Peter’s College, Oxford, in 2004. At the time of his death, in a traffic accident in Cambridge on March 17, 2008, he was about to embark on his dissertation, having completed his Special exams in a distinguished performance in January. The areas he chose for his Specials reflect the range and depth of his scholarly interests: for his Greek author, he studied the fragments of the Greek historians in Jacoby’s monumental edition; for his Latin author, Cicero; and for his field, Translation and Bilingualism, ranging over texts as varied as the Res Gestae and the Book of Mormon. This was a challenging trio of assignments, but their difficulty would not have entered into Isaac’s calculations; he studied what he studied for its intrinsic interest, and he derived great joy from the enquiry.

Isaac was a delight, in the purest and most fundamental sense of that word. He was entirely happy in what he was doing, and his engagement was infectious. His capacious intellect ranged far and wide. The small and simple details gave him as much pleasure as the grandest edifices of the past: the clumsy Latin of a semi-literate subject on the fringes of the Roman Empire, trying to express himself in an inscription, would make Isaac’s eyes widen with pleasure, and he would nod appreciatively as he gazed at the text and grasped its author’s intentions across the centuries. What he studied was of a piece with what he taught: he saw no hierarchical divisions in learning, and he delighted in bringing his students in beginners’ Latin extra material, such as a grammatical solecism from an inscription, to engage their interest and stimulate their imagination.

Isaac was a faithful member of Harvard Hillel, and a devoted student of Jewish texts, which he read with great intensity, focusing on the nuances of every word and phrase. At Hillel, and in the Classics Department, his friendship was greatly cherished by many, students and faculty alike. His abstracted manner suited the quintessential scholar; and yet, he was not in the least remote from the practicalities of graduate student life, serving as graduate rep to the Department of the Classics as soon as he arrived. His scholarly precision and linguistic expertise earned him an appointment as proofreader of Greek, Latin, and modern languages for The American Journal of Philology, a task that he acquitted with great distinction, catching errors that had eluded authors and editor alike. His own writing was marked by unpretentious elegance, every word chosen with such sensitivity that it seemed the utterly natural and mellifluous choice, expressing precisely and memorably just what he wanted to say.

Isaac’s tragic death, at the age of twenty-nine, has robbed the world of a true scholar and a most lovable person. We extend our deepest sympathy to his parents, William Meyers and Nahma Sandrow, his sister, Hannah, and his beloved fiancée, Margot Lurie. We are the richer for his years among us, and deeply saddened by his passing.

Obituary by Kathleen Coleman, Director of Graduate Studies, Harvard University, 2002–05 and 2006–07
## Academic Calendar

### Summer School:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 8 (Sunday)</td>
<td>Registration Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23 (Monday)</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8 (Friday)</td>
<td>Classes End</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 15 (Friday)</td>
<td>Examinations End</td>
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### Fall 2008 Semester:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Freshman Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 10 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>GSAS Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 12 (Friday)</td>
<td>Upperclass Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15 (Monday)</td>
<td>Academic Year Begins</td>
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(Classics courses on-line at our web site located at http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~classics)

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**Nota Bene**
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