

# NOTA BENE

VOL. 25 NO. 3

News from the Harvard Department of the Classics

*Commencement 2020*



## 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. ~

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DESIGNED BY LISA KYLE CLARK

## SENIOR CONCENTRATORS



Sasha Barish



Lydia Cawley



Christopher Gregory  
Colby



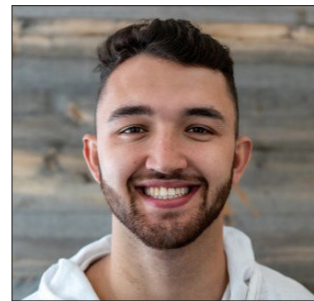
Julie Effron



Caroline Engelmayer



Samantha Hand



Alexander Hively



Micah Marie Johnson-  
Levy



Sheridan Marsh



Samuel Ezra Puopolo



Ben Roy



Alejandro Quintana



Liam Warner



Ellis Jaewon Yeo

## 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”

Advisor: 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 Elmer

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 Prevelakis’ Το Δέντρο”

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)

THESIS PRIZES	
<i>Ancient History Prize for a thesis on Ancient History</i>	
<b>Alejandro Quintana</b>	
<i>Smyth Thesis Prize for a thesis on Greek</i>	
<b>Lydia Cawley</b>	
<i>Pease Thesis Prize for a thesis on Latin</i>	
<b>Sasha Barish</b>	
<i>Hoopes Prize for an outstanding undergraduate thesis</i>	
<b>Christopher Colby, Caroline Engelmayer, Alejandro Quintana</b>	
<i>Captain Jonathan Fay Prize for an outstanding and imaginative undergraduate thesis</i>	
<b>Alejandro Quintana</b>	
SENIOR PRIZES	
<i>Arthur Deloraine Corey Fellowship for graduate study</i>	
<b>Christopher Colby, Sheridan Marsh, Liam Warner</b>	
<i>Louis Curtis Prize for excellence in Latin</i>	
<b>Caroline Engelmayer</b>	
<i>William King Richardson Scholarship for distinction in both Greek and Latin</i>	
<b>Alejandro Quintana</b>	
<i>Department Prizes for academic achievement and contributions to the Classics community</i>	
<b>Julie Effron, Samantha Hand, Micah Johnson-Levy, Sheridan Marsh, Sam Puopolo, Ben Roy</b>	

SENIORS’ FUTURE PLANS	
<p><b>Sasha Barish</b> does not have immediate plans yet. Stay tuned!</p> <p><b>Lydia Cawley</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Christopher (Topher) Colby</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Julie Effron</b> will be working at Blackstone in New York City as an analyst in the Real Estate Acquisitions group.</p> <p><b>Caroline Engelmayer</b> will pursue an MPhil at the University of Cambridge as a Harvard-Cambridge Scholar.</p> <p><b>Samantha Hand</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Alex Hively</b> 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</p>	
<p>type of corporation, recognized by the SEC and IRS. He plans to be the first federally regulated inclusive-sustainable corporation.</p> <p><b>Micah Johnson-Levy</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Sheridan Marsh</b> plans to attend the University of Oxford for an MSt in Classical Archaeology.</p> <p><b>Samuel Ezra Puopolo</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Alejandro Quintana</b> will pursue a Ph.D. in Classics and History at Yale University this coming fall.</p> <p><b>Ben Roy</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Liam Warner</b> is hoping to be allowed by the academic and civil powers to pursue a master’s in Classics abroad.</p> <p><b>Ellis Jaewon Yeo</b> 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.</p>	



**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 from my Classics family a couple of months earlier than 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 translations, gossiping at fancy faculty lunches, coordinating an impromptu thesis photoshoot, 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 hunching 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 TFs, 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 who would come to be one of the many familiar faces I knew in the department. Alyson's dog, Beth, came out to say hello, and she was a very welcome 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 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 in the wonderful people and the amazing world I've enjoyed here in the Classics Department. Ten thousand dollars at the drop of a hat, I'd give it all gladly if everyone's lives could be like that.



## 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, Statius, and Myth in Material Culture.

In May 2020 **Sarah Eisen** (G3) completed her Special Exams on Greek Painted Pottery, Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World, and Ancient Greek Sacrifice and Ritual in the Wider Mediterranean Context.

In February 2020 **Stephen Hughes** (G7) completed his prospectus entitled “Legal Fictions: Tragedy and Jurisprudence in Classical Athens.”

In February 2020 **Miriam Kamil** (G5) completed her prospectus entitled “*Inspirantque graves animas*: The Furies in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*.”

In April 2020 **Suzanne Paszkowski** (G5) completed her prospectus entitled “Addiction in the Ancient Greco-Roman World.”

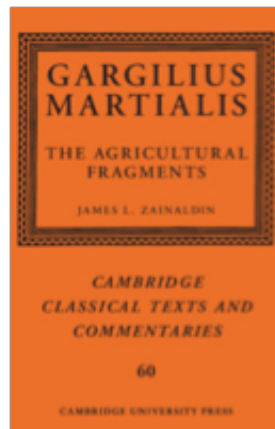
In February 2020 **Allison Resnick** (G4) completed her Special Exams on Homer, Sallust, and Social History in the Late Republic/Early Empire.

In October 2019 **Hannelore Segers** (G4) completed her prospectus on “Paraphrasis and Cento: A Comparative Analysis of Late Antique Greek and Latin Versification.”

In March 2020 **Felipe Soza** (G4)

completed his prospectus on “The Antigonid Imperial System: Sovereignty and Politics of Empire in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean.”

In May 2020 **Alexander Vega** (G3) completed his Special Exams on Aristotle, Augustine, and Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy of law.

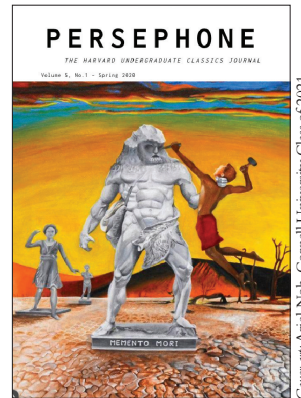


In April 2020 the edition and commentary, [Gargilius Martialis: The Agricultural Fragments](#), by **James Zainaldin** (G6) was published by Cambridge University Press in the series Cambridge Classical Texts and Commentaries.

## Undergraduate Student News

**Serena Shah** ('21) presented a paper entitled “Names and Classical Reception in the African American Experience” at “Our Voices: A Conference for Inclusive Classics Pedagogy” at Columbia University in February 2020.

The new issue of the [Persephone: The Harvard Undergraduate Classics Journal](#)



came out in Spring 2020, thanks to 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 next issue on the [Persephone website](#).

## Fellowships and Other Awards

### Graduate Student Awards

The Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Composition in Greek has been awarded to **Stephen Hughes** (G7).

The Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Composition in Latin has been awarded to **Alexander Schwennicke** (G4).

The following students have received GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowships for 2020–21: **Christopher Cochran** (G5), **Stephen Hughes** (G7), and **Alexandra Schultz** (G6).

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 Psychedelics 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).



*Fabrications* by Keating McKeon



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 12!*)

The David Taggart Clark Prize for the Undergraduate Latin Commencement Oration has been awarded to **Caroline Engelmayer** ('20).

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

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

**Lydia Cawley** ('20) has been awarded the [Pearson Fellowship](#) by the Society for Classical Studies to pursue an MPhil 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 Engelmayer** ('20) has been awarded a [Harvard-Cambridge Scholarship](#) to pursue an MPhil at Emmanuel College next year. She is also a recipient of the Sophia Freund Prize, which is awarded annually to the students in the senior class of Harvard College who are graduating *summa cum laude* with the highest grade point average.

One undergraduate student has earned recognition in the competition for this year's [John J. 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 Aloian 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 Cawley** ('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 Asraf** (G5): Latin 10. Introduction to Latin Literature

**Supratik Baralay** (G4): Culture & Belief 35. Classical Mythology

**Christopher Cochran** (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 Kamil** (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 I

**Alexander Schwennicke** (G4): Greek 2. Introductory Ancient Greek 2

**Hannelore Segers** (G4): General Education 1131. Loss; 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 Shennan** (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 Damarete 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 Henrichs.

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 forthcoming sabbatical, 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 Kelsey, 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 Kelsey'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 residences 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 forthcoming sabbatical, which he will devote to his study of the reception of the medieval epic, *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; Modern Greek Ab. 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, *Odes*

Archie Hall (’21)

*Meter: ottava rima*

In vast Aegean snared, man turns to pray  
For calm, as the cloud-covered moon stands black  
Amid unglimmering 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,  
Or crowded bothers that play, roost and dwell  
In ceilings too rich, gold-paneled and fine.  
A better life will wear the modest well,  
A table dressed by heirlooms unrefined.  
No nights of fear, nor sordid lust dare keep  
The contented man from his soft sleep.

What foolish valiance would have us waste  
Scarce time alive on scattered scheme, empty feat?  
Why exchange our homes for foreign embrace,  
An alien sun, unfamiliar heat?  
Which exiled man, who flees his native place,  
Can ever yet escape himself, complete?  
Cruel, swift worry boards brazen ships a-sail,  
Outpaces horsemen, stag, East Wind and gale.

Happy in the moment are minds that hate  
Uneasy fears of woes to come, that soothe  
Those bitter pangs that gentle laughs abate,  
And dare not forget that most humble truth:  
Naught is perfect through and through. We know  
great  
Achilles, of fierce renown, death in youth  
Swift struck down. Yet ‘twas age brought Tithon low.  
Who knows? Your hours may run fast, mine run slow.

To you, a hundred herds bellow and bleat,  
And mares neigh in chariots, four-abreast.  
Rich crimson dyes, Afric’s finest, twice-treat  
Your woolen garb in hue from sea-snails pressed.  
Fate bestows a little farm as my seat  
And grants me too the Muse’s tender breath  
Of Grecian poetry, and then in turn  
Sense good enough ill-meaning men to spurn.

Benjamin LaFond (’22)

*Meter: iambic pentameter, tercets*

They pray to God for rest, becalmed off Crete,  
when massing 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.

Achilles’ life was glorious but short.  
Tithonus shrivels still in deathless age.  
The day that takes from you might give to me.

The bulls that Wall Street breeds have roared for you,  
your Lamborghini’s engine purrs for you,  
and fur from Arctic foxes lines your clothes,  
but still I thank my lucky stars I have  
this modest farm, the breath of poetry,  
and courage to disdain the bleating hordes.

Horace  
*Odes 2.16*

Otium diuos rogat in patienti  
prensus Aegaeo, simul atra nubes  
condidit lunam neque certa fulgent  
sidera nautis,

otium bello furiosa Thrace, 5  
otium Medi pharetra decori,  
Grosphe, non gemmis neque purpura ue-  
nale neque auro.

non enim gazae neque consularis 10  
submouet lictor miseros tumultus  
mentis et curas laqueata circum  
tecta uolantis.

uiuitur paruo bene, cui paternum  
splendet in mensa tenui salinum  
nec leuis somnos timor aut cupido 15  
sordidus aufert.

quid breui fortes iaculamur aeuo  
multa? quid terras alio calentis  
sole mutamus? patriae quis exsul 20  
se quoque fugit?

[scandit aeratas uitiosa nauis  
cura nec turmas equitum relinquit,  
ocior ceruis et agente nimbos  
ocior Euro.]

laetus in praesens animus quod ultra est 25  
oderit curare et amara lento  
temperet risu: nihil est ab omni  
parte beatum.

abstulit clarum cita mors Achillem,  
longa Tithonum minuit senectus, 30  
et mihi forsan, tibi quod negarit,  
porriget hora.

te greges centum Siculaeque circum-  
mugiunt uaccae, tibi tollit hinnitum  
apta quadrigis equa, te bis Afro 35  
murice tinctae

uestiunt lanae: mihi parua rura et  
spiritum Graiae tenuem Camenae  
Parca non mendax dedit et malignum 40  
spernere uolgus.



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Paolo Pellegrini, “R. A. B. Mynors and Harvard: An Unpublished Letter to E. K. Rand (10.10.1944)”

**Nadav Asraf (G5)**

“Noun Incorporation in Ancient Greek?” Presented at the panel entitled “Greek and Latin Linguistics” at the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2020.

**Massimo Cè (G7)**

“The *Ilias Latina* in the Context of Ancient Epitome Translation.” In *Ilias Latina: Text, Interpretation, Reception*, edited by M. J. Falcone and C. Schubert, forthcoming.

“The Secondary Incipit of the *Odyssey* (*Od.* 9.39): Quotation, Translation, and Adaptation in the Ancient Reception of Homer.” *Classical Philology*, forthcoming.

**Christopher Cochran (G5)**

“A Land Without Slavery: Daphnis’ Civil Status in the Pastoral Landscape of Longus.” Presented at the panel entitled “Greek and Roman Novel” at the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2020.

“Manumission and Translation in Apuleius’ *Metamorphoses*.” University of Massachusetts Boston, February 2020.

and **Miriam Kamil (G5)**. “The Ethics of Excerpting in the Classroom.” Presented at “Our Voices: A Conference for Inclusive Classics Pedagogy,” Columbia University, February 2020.

**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 Peloponnese 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 Aelius 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.

“The Women of Thebes as Aeschylean Erinyes: The First Messenger Speech of Euripides’ *Bacchae*.” In *Greek Drama V: Studies in the Theatre of the Fifth and Fourth Centuries*, edited by C. W. Marshall and Hallie Marshall, 129–35. London: Bloomsbury, 2020.

**Miriam Kamil (G5)**

“Censoring the Classics, Learning from the Classics: Ovid’s Invidia in the Florilegium Gallicum.” Presented at the Harvard-Yale Conference in Book History, Harvard University, May 2019.

and **Christopher Cochran (G5)**. “The Ethics of Excerpting in the Classroom.” Presented at “Our Voices: A Conference for Inclusive Classics Pedagogy,” Columbia University, February 2020.

“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.

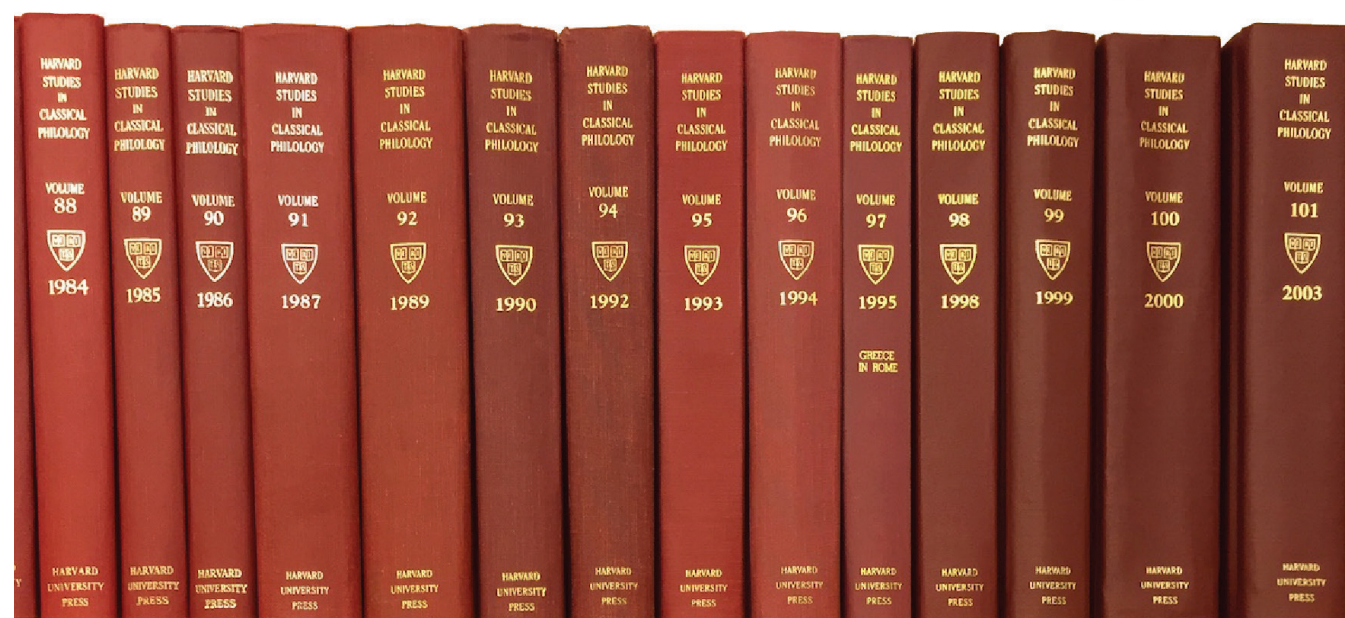
**Astrid Khoo (G1)**

“*Anathema Sit*: Curse-Response Formulae and Editing English Monastic Manuscripts.” Presented at the panel entitled “Material Philology: Manuscripts as Physical Objects in the Ecdotic Practice, II – Glosses in Context, Marginalia and How to Deal with Them” at the 2019 Leeds International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2019.

“De Adulescentia Divitis Donaldi.” *Vox Latina*, 2019.

“De Boethio.” *Vox Latina*, 2019.

“Dream Scenes in Ancient Epic.” In *Structures of Epic Poetry II.2: Configuration*, edited by C. Reitz and S. Finkmann, 563–95. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2019.





“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.

“The Abbot and the Learned Woman: Desiderius Erasmus (1466–1536), *Colloquia (Abbatis et Eruditae)*.” In *An Anthology of European Neo-Latin Literature*, edited by G. Manuwald, D. Hadas, and L. Nicholas, 57–75. Bloomsbury Neo-Latin Series: Early Modern Texts and Anthologies. London: Bloomsbury, 2020.

“Thetis and the Thames: ‘Unorthodox’ Receptions of Thetis in Neo-Latin Poetry.” Presented at the panel entitled “Sovereign of the Sea: The Staying Power of Thetis in the Greco-Roman World and Beyond” at the 12th Celtic Conference in Classics, Coimbra, Portugal, June 2019.

and **M. Dinter**. Review of *Annaei Lucani Belli Civilis Liber VII. Biblioteca Nazionale, Serie dei Classici Greci e Latini*. Testi con Commento Filologico 22, by M. Lanzarone. *Gnomon* 92 (2020): 174–76.

and **M. Dinter**. Review of *Intratextuality and Latin Literature* (Trends in Classics – Supplementary Volumes 69), by S Harrison, S Frangoulidis, and T. D. Papanghelis. *Journal of Roman Studies* 109 (2019): 396–98.

and **M. Dinter**. Review of *Lucan’s Egyptian Civil War*, by Jonathan Tracy. *Gnomon* 91 (2019): 655–57.

and **M. Dinter**. Review of *Word of Mouth: Fama and its Personifications in Art and Literature from Ancient Rome to the Middle Ages*, by G. Guastella. *Rivista di Filologia e Istruzione Classica* 146 (2019): 260–62.

and **M. Dinter**. “‘If Skin Were Parchment’: Tattoos in Antiquity.” In *Tattoo Histories: Transcultural Perspectives on the Narratives, Practices, and Representations of Tattooing*, edited by S. T. Kloth, 85–102. London: Routledge, 2019.

and **M. Dinter**. “Messenger Scenes in Greek Epic.” In *Structures of Epic Poetry II.2: Configuration*, edited by C. Reitz and S. Finkmann, 481–500. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2019.

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## Keating McKeon (G8)

“Barbarians at the Gate: Herodotus, Bisotun, and a Persian Punishment in Egypt.” *American Journal of Philology*, Forthcoming.

“Perseid Wars and Notional Nostos in Herodotus’ *Histories*.” Presented at the conference “Time, Tense and Genre in Ancient Greek Literature,” King’s College London, September 2019.

“Perverted Return: Odious Epinician and Deadly Athletics in the *Oedipus Tyrannus*.” Presented at the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 2020.

## Justin Miller (G4)

and **Evan Levine**. “I, a Body, Am Buried in This Earth: Identity and Community in the Shem/Antipatros Stele of the Kerameikos.” Presented at the North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy (NACGLE), Washington, D.C., January 2020.

## Davide Napoli (G2)

“A Sophistic Utopia: Herodotus’ Ethiopia.” Presented at the Columbia Graduate Student Conference, “The World Upside Down: Absurdities, Inversions, and Alternate Realities,” Columbia University, November 2019.

## Jorge Wong (G3)

“A Fare Share: Prometheus’ Trick in *Theogony* 535–557.” Presented at the Rutgers Classics Department Graduate Student Conference, “Food and Drink in the Ancient World,” Rutgers University, June 2019.

Review of *Tierra, territorio y población en la Grecia Antigua: Aspectos institucionales y míticos*, edited by M. Oller, J. Pàmias, and C. Varias. *Classical Review* 69, no. 2 (2019): 496–99.

“The Grammar of Divine Epiphany.” Presented at the CorHaLi Colloquium, “Voice and language of the gods in the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey* and the *Homeric Hymns*,” University of Lausanne, June 2019.

## Valete FROM PHD RECIPIENTS



### Massimo Cè

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 international 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 *loca amoena* that have become part of my near-daily routines, including Smyth Library’s iconic round table, the light-flooded courtyard of the Harvard Art Museums, and the Harvard Film Archive with its eclectic but always inspired 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 student. 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 Assistant 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.



### Eliza Gettel

My years at Harvard have been the most intellectually rewarding and most enjoyable time of my life. I owe my wonderful experiences at Harvard to the people who mentored and accompanied me through graduate school: in the Department 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 chasing students between Sicilian temples, learning Turkish idioms in an olive grove at Sardis, navigating Bulgarian bus systems between archaeological sites, squinting 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 Theater, 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 Pennsylvania to join the Department of History at Villanova University as an assistant professor. COVID-19 unexpectedly 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 Commencement, 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.*



### David Hansen

My time as a graduate student in the Classics Department was one of the most inspiring and enriching 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 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 to do justice to the

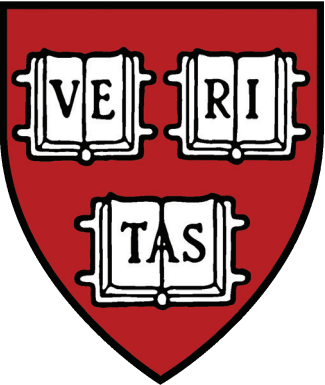
countless friendships, conversations, and ideas that have made the last seven years so rewarding. During that time Boylston Hall has truly felt like home, and living outside of Cambridge for the past year has impressed upon me how much I am going to miss the supportive and intellectually stimulating 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.



**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 head-first 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!





## ITER PERPETUUM

**P**raeses Bacow, decani notissimi, professores doctissimi, familiae honoratissimae, hospites clarissimi, et tandem, vos, condiscipuli carissimi: salvete omnes. mihi magno honori est apud vos in hoc foro, quod Theatrum Tercentenarium appellamus, verba proferre etiamsi in lingua (eheu) plurimis obscura. felicitatis nostrae conscia, res gestas pronuntiabo cohortis Universitatis Harvardianae anni bismillesimi vicesimi (et vicesimi primi), cohortis et nomine clarae et factis fortis.

hodie ex Area Harvardiana proficiscimur, alii ad terras remotas, alii ad sedes propiores, alii ad regiones novas, omnes tamen post experientiam tam mirabilem ut nonnulli eam transformativam esse affirmant. mihi autem alio de itinere dicendum est, itinere nostro per Universitatem Harvardianam, quod mihi simile videtur fabulae Ulixis, multa ac diu patientis, qui decem annos post Troiam direptam erravit dum domum rediret.

nemo dubitare potest quin tantis vicibus repetinis afflicti iter nostrum identidem flectere cogeremur. nos novos homines controversia de stipendiis laborantium ex tricliniis Annenbergensibus expulit; nos seniores pestis totum per orbem terrarum calamitosa ex deversoriis Cantabrigiaeque propulsit. sed triumphavimus. alacritate, constantia, Tauroque Rubro acti, quaestiones collectas Scientiae Computatoriae Quinquaginta debellavimus atque compositiones Expositionum Scribendarum superavimus. cum hieme furioso Bostoniense hostibusque Novi Portus certavimus. Sicut Ulixes ad sedem Lotophagorum appropriinquavit, etiam nos locum invenimus ubi quicumque ingrederetur, nec dormiens nec vigilans, temporis procedentis oblivisceretur. (id est, contignatio tertia bibliothecae Lamontis.)

mox domus novas progressi sumus, pars ad ripas fluminis Caroli, pars (illa beatior) ad locum amoenum Horti Quadrati. sed terque quaterque beati, quibus intra moenia alta Domus Currierensis, splendidissimae ac illustrissimae omnium, considerare contigit.

paene ad finem itineris nostri perveneramus, thesibus scriptis correctis submissis, cum subito nuntiatum est morbi causa nobis plus ultra vagandum esse. pro noctibus in Taberna Felipeana tritis spatio inter socios consuescere conati sumus; cubicula dormitoria in cellas Zoomienses mutata sunt; et tandem vestimenta solita braxis sudatoriis cederunt. sed multas per gentes et multa per aequora vecti, meminimus experientias nostras apud Universitatem Harvardianam nos coniungere.

hodie, amici, aut coram aut procul, domum revenimus. diebus festis veris anni senioris amissis, aliquid tamen quoque adepti sumus: nexum inter nos duraturum. Sunt in porta Areae Harvardianae cohortis anni millesimi octingentesimi quinquagesimi septimi inscripti quidam versus poetae Horatii, “Felices ter et amplius / quos inrupta tenet copula / nec malis divulsus querimoniis / suprema citius solvet amor die.” Haec verba, condiscipuli carissimi, haec verba vobis loquor: illa familiaritas nostra semper inrupta manebit. ergo naves solvite, sed memoria tenete amicos Harvardianos tamquam portum tutum in alto mare semper futuros esse. avete atque valete!

## A LASTING JOURNEY

**P**resident Bacow, distinguished deans, learned professors, cherished families, illustrious guests, and, finally, dear classmates: welcome all. It is my great honor to address you in this forum, which we call Tercentenary Theatre, although I will speak in a language (alas) incomprehensible to almost all of you. Aware of our good fortune, I will proclaim the achievements of the Harvard Class of 2020 (and 2021), a class both famous in name and strong in deeds.

Today we set out on our journey from Harvard Yard. Some will travel to remote lands, others to nearby places, others to unknown regions, but all after an experience so marvelous that some call it transformative. But my topic is another journey, the journey that our class took through Harvard, a journey that reminds me of the story of the long and much-suffering Greek hero Odysseus, who wandered for 10 years after the sack of Troy until he returned home.

No one can doubt that we have been buffeted by so many sudden twists and turns that we have had to change course repeatedly. When we were first-years, a labor strike exiled us from the halls of Annenberg; when we were seniors, a destructive global plague drove us out of our lodgings and Cambridge altogether. But we have prevailed. Fueled by eagerness, determination, and Red Bull, we conquered CS 50 problem sets and Expos essays. We fought against the raging Boston winter and our enemies in New Haven. Just as Ulysses reached the land of the Lotus-Eaters, we, too, discovered a place where anyone who entered lost track of time, half-awake and half-asleep. (I refer, of course, to the third floor of Lamont.)

Soon we proceeded to new homes. Some of us voyaged to the banks of the Charles River, while others (the more fortunate bunch) journeyed to the idyllic setting of the Quad. But three and four times blessed are those who had the chance to settle within the high walls of Currier House, the most splendid and illustrious of all.

We had almost reached the end of our journey—our theses were written, revised, and submitted—when it was suddenly announced that, because of the pandemic, we had to wander even farther. Instead of late-night trips to Felipe’s, we tried to accustom ourselves to social distancing; our dorms were transformed into Zoom rooms; and our normal garb gave way to sweatpants. But even though we traveled across many nations and many seas, we remembered that our experiences at Harvard connect us.

Today, friends, whether in person or via live stream, we have come home. Although we have lost the festivities of senior spring, we have nevertheless gained something too: a lasting bond between us. On the Class of 1857 Gate in Harvard Yard, certain verses of the poet Horace are inscribed: “Fortunate three times and more are those whom an unbroken bond holds, and their love will not be torn apart by evil quarreling before their final day.” These words, dearest classmates, these words I say to you: that bond of ours will always endure unbroken. So set sail, but remember that friends from Harvard will always be a safe harbor amid storm-tossed seas. Hail and farewell!