



Welcome to the Summer 2023 Penn Post-Baccalaureate Newsletter!

This was the first year of being largely back to normal after several years of COVID-related adaptations. That said, I started the year with a few online class meetings because, after dodging COVID for two years, it finally caught up to me right before the start of the fall semester. Luckily I was fully vaccinated, so it was a fairly mild case (though I did end up having a rebound case, which dragged it out an extra week) and I was able to get back in the classroom relatively quickly. Though it was no joke – I was deeply exhausted for the first few months of the year.

Despite that inauspicious start to the academic year, we were able to educate and advise our post-baccalaureate students as usual. Our 2022-23 cohort will be moving on to the following programs next year:

City University of New York, MA  
Florida State University, MA  
Tufts University, MA  
Tulane University, MA  
University of Arizona, MA  
University of Chicago, MA  
University of Pennsylvania, PhD

As usual, I received a smattering of responses to my first request, and then you all outdid yourselves when I requested photos of babies and pets! So many cute children and animals – thank you so much for brightening my inbox, and for helping me evolve the newsletter another step. Not that long ago, it was all text, and now it has quite a different look!

Curtis Dozier 2001

This past year I continued teaching at Vassar College and spoke about my research on white nationalism and Classics at Johannes Gutenberg University in Germany, Hollins University, Boston University, and the Bard Graduate Center. My latest article on Quintilian (“Rhetorical Display and Productive Dissonance in Quintilian’s Quotations of Poetry”) was published in *Ramus* 51.2 and I’ve just received a Loeb Classical Library fellowship for a research leave in 23/24 to complete my book on white nationalist classicism, which is now under contract with Yale University Press. Not exactly a year “off” with so much work still to do on that but I’m excited to have the time to do it properly.

Jason Linn 2005

I finished my 10<sup>th</sup> year of teaching World History and Western Civilization at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. This spring I finally got to teach Ancient Rome again, which I haven’t taught since Fall 2016.

In September I will present a paper on freshwater logistics of triremes at the Naval Academy.

Suzanne Lye 2005

I was awarded two fellowships:

- 1) UNC Institute of Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship (Spring 2024)
- 2) Mellon Emerging Faculty Leaders Fellowship 2023: <https://citizensandscholars.org/2023-mellon-emerging-faculty-leaders/>

Other things: I was elected to the SCS Board of Directors, and I'm also currently the co-chair of the Women's Classical Caucus.

Peter Petite 2005

Following my return to the States in 2017 after six remarkable and memorable years teaching in China (including teaching Latin and humanities to Chinese secondary school students) in Beijing and Shenzhen, I eased my way back into the American educational landscape, fraught and fractured as it may be. The pandemic, of course, presented its own set of challenges and professional sojourns. However, in August of 2022 I found myself moving into an apartment in Boston to take up the position of Director of College Counseling -- while continuing to teach some Latin and humanities -- at Boston Trinity Academy, a remarkable day school in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston. Year two is soon to begin.

One of the students I worked with recently graduated from Swat and will begin her graduate studies in architecture at MIT this coming fall!

Alison Lanski 2006

It's been 17 years (wow, time flies) since I finished my postbac year, and I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up. I went from the program straight into school, doing an MA and PhD at University of Illinois (during that: various TA roles, online instructional design/teaching, Summer Session at the ASCSA, visiting student at UChicago). Since then, I've been at Notre Dame in a lot of roles --- adjunct/visiting faculty in Classics, instructional design and product management for eportfolios and digital badges at the Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, professional grad student (MS in Data Science), data warehousing with the IT department, end-to-end reporting and process improvements with Institutional Research, and finally (currently) teaching faculty in the IT, Analytics & Operations department at the business school. Whew. It turns out that an interest in narrative structure translates pretty well to effective business-related communications and reporting. It also turns out that the punishing attention to detail we need for all things Classics is great when you're trying to merge forty years of archived data (I call this "data archaeology"). Last year I taught canned courses, so this summer I'm working to incorporate more of my teaching methods from Latin and Greek into my classes on basic coding, data visualization, and text analysis -- different subjects, same learning science. Outside of work, I've had a lot of adventures, including getting married, designing a house, lots of travel, and even more ultimate frisbee. I have no idea what I might do in the next 17 years, but if Julie is still running a newsletter, I'll let you know!

Kathleen Ess 2007

I am still in Kimberley, BC, now approaching the longest I've lived at the same address since high school. In April I started a new part-time position as a settlement worker with the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, a regional non-profit offering various literacy supports as

well as settlement services for immigrants. It still feels quite new, but also feels like just the right spot for me in many ways. I continue to work as a freelance translator, with a book currently in the works (should be published next spring) and various small projects here and there. Beyond work, we are enjoying the natural beauty of this area as much as we can with hiking, kayaking, camping, and backpacking in the summer, and last winter I learned to downhill ski alongside our 3 year old, who is already better and braver than I. He is turning into quite a little comic, and loves to tell lengthy stories.

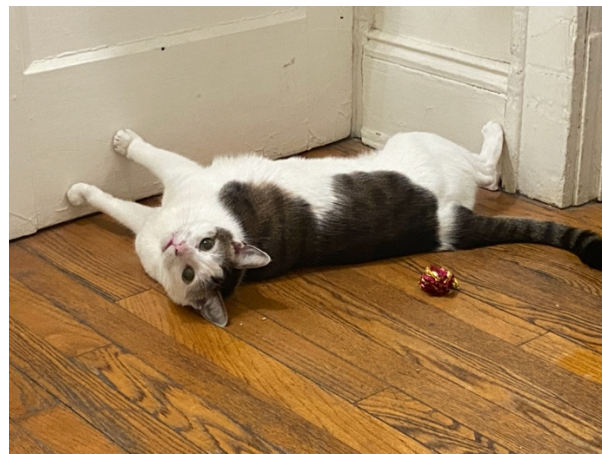


- 1) Sadie
- 2) Sebastian overseeing yard work in his life vest, because why not.

Allison Fandl 2008

Thanks for putting this together every year. I don't have any big life news or updates to share, but I do have pictures of my cat. I've kept an adjusted, hybrid work schedule so I can work from home two days a week because we became fully codependent during a year or so of intense isolation. If he didn't hate leaving the apartment, I'd take him everywhere with me.

Please enjoy the attached photos and feel free to share them. The white/tabby potato is my Frank. The dogs are a few favorites I met at work over the last year. I love all dogs (and cats) but I accidentally bonded pretty hard with these awesome pups. Hazard of the job!





Gillian Bentley-Richardson 2009



I'll give you babies AND a pet, to make up for not sending updates in a while!

I moved to London right after the postbac and I haven't left. I met my now-husband at the library during my PhD and our daughters Ingrid and Oona are almost 5 and almost 2. Our cat Henry is still getting used to the indignities of being a big brother. These days I'm a freelance editor, mostly for children's fiction writers.



Tom Buck 2009

I'm still enrolled at the University at Buffalo but my progress got derailed a bit by some health challenges, so I've gone off and started working full time outside the field while my dissertation inches along. I also got married in 2021 to a lovely woman named Maria whom I met during my regular year at ASCSA. We got married in a Greek Orthodox church near her home in Cyprus, so the ceremony was in Koine; I hope this allows me to claim I'm still keeping up with my Greek, both ancient and modern. Now we're living in DC, where she's one of several classicists lecturing in the English department at Howard University—they closed their Classics department in 2021, but I guess they didn't want to stop offering classics courses.

Kristina Douglass 2009

I am adjusting to life in a new institution and have enjoyed getting to know my colleagues at Columbia this year. I have also enjoyed living in NYC and particularly all of the opportunities to play Capoeira and get my kids, Percy (8) and Virgil (4) involved in Capoeira, too!

On our way to Madagascar for fieldwork and it will be my kids' first trip to this beautiful island!

Sara Foerster 2009

Hi, Julie. Ok, I'll bite! And I'll grace you with some photos, too, see attached 😊

Life is good! Our family is on year 3 in beautiful Bend, Oregon and we are loving it here. When we relocated here in 2020, I knew that my ability to work remotely for Nike (corporate



HQ is in the Portland area) would eventually run out as they shifted back to the hybrid/on-site approach. I left in September 2022 to search for something that I could do remotely for the long term (living in a town of 100,000 people, there are not a lot of local options for me). I did some consulting work earlier this year, and then Nike reached back out to me this spring with an offer I couldn't refuse, fully remote. So, I'm back at Nike as of May 1, but in a new part of the company doing Change Management for North America Supply Chain. I love working from home – I get to take a nice long walk with the dogs by the river at lunch and easily tailor my schedule around family stuff and volunteer work. Our two girls are so fun (and demanding) at their current ages: Virginia (Gigi) is 5

and starting kindergarten this fall, and Helen is by far the largest 3 year old in her class. We also adopted a second dog last fall, Clifford the hound mix (joining Skye, a pit mix), and the complexities that this has added to our lives were definitely not anticipated, but at least he is the



happiest goof on four legs and my heart and home are f-u-l-l. (No more living beings to care for, please!)

Wang Wei 2009

Hello from Shanghai! As I'm writing this message, I just finished teaching an intermediate Greek reading class on Plato's *Protagoras*, in the Penn post-bac style that I picked up from Julie. No big news this year so far, but in early 2022 I was tenured as associate professor in philosophy at Fudan University, and I have an article on Aristotle's natural philosophy coming down the pipeline in *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* vol. 62. Now that both the pandemic and the semester are over, we are looking forward to having some real vacation somewhere else. Hope to see you guys at the beach this summer!

Azeem Gopalani 2010

I have made the decision to settle permanently in Scotland, having obtained British citizenship last year and feeling sufficiently connected to the people that surround me. I miss Maryland and my family especially, but it is easy enough to get back stateside when needed, and video calls make all the difference in staying connected (a world of difference from the uncertain methods of long-distance communication in ages past!). I'm also now living in Glasgow, having moved here for work about a year ago; I'm still working in banking, and have finally started identifying myself as a banker, after 12 years in the industry. I've also made it a mission to advocate for equity and inclusion in both banking and more broadly: I am involved in a women's advocacy group internally at my firm as well as promoting greater inclusion of all kinds of people when it comes to hiking in Scotland's majestic landscapes. We may as well make a positive difference while we're here, and the post-bac program at Penn was an important stepping stone on my journey, one that still evokes fond memories.

Yukai Li 2010

The main change for me this year has been going through the tenure/promotion process at Carleton University (Ottawa), which has happily concluded and I'll be officially tenured starting July. In other news, the Homer panel I was on at this year's SCS had great post-bac representation! Three of the five panelists were Penn post-bac alums, as well as the panel chair herself.



Here's a photo of Horatio among some books!

PS: The alums on the panel, if you were wondering: Joe Watkins '15, Emily West '91, and Alex Purves '97 (chair).

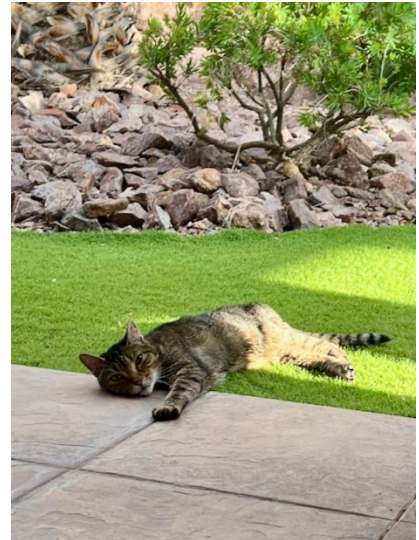
Megan Maier 2010

I continue to work at Verified Voting—where elections and technology meet! I’ve been writing more about election administration and voting access, and have been focusing more of my time on Election Protection work, which involves supporting the super-important 866-OUR-VOTE hotline that people can call when they have issues voting. The main difference in my life from last year’s update is that I’m now doing this work from Las Vegas, where we’ve temporarily relocated as my wife flies helicopter tours of the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas Strip. (Yeah, it’s super fun! Highly recommend!) As always, I look forward to reading what others are up to!



And, since you requested photos: here are our

two sweet kitties. They’re not new additions to the family—they were with me in Philly all those years ago!



Nikki Pareja 2010

Academically, this year has been a blast! I organized a workshop at Oxford this past winter around a lecture tour through Europe, and this summer is jam-packed with fieldwork and editing a few volumes. Life is good!

I’m attaching a photo of the view from Naxos tonight and a couple from our last couple of weeks. (Nikki also shared a photo of her gorgeous husky, Pizza)



Mali Skotheim 2010

I spent my 2022-23 sabbatical at home in Philadelphia--Rafael and I are in the same house as we were during my postbac years over a decade ago, now joined by Atlas the cat, of Athenian heritage. I was honored to be invited to give a talk in the department lecture series at the beginning of the year, and it has been wonderful to reconnect with Penn faculty, attend the Penn Classics lectures, and meet some of the current students in the department. This summer I will be in Boston doing some library research for a project on pantomime dance, and in the Fall I will be writing at the CHS in Washington, DC.

Morgan Condell 2011

Morgan didn't write in, but I wanted to plug the wonderful bakery/café that she opened in Northfield, MN this past year. I was in Northfield (home of Carleton College) several times and each time enjoyed the bread and cookies that I got at [Bread People](#). I also follow them on [Instagram](#) and salivate over the sandwiches and delicious-looking seasonal offerings, like rhubarb cake!

Sara Criswell (Jones) 2011

I got married last year at the University Club in San Francisco to Blake, my partner of 10 years! I attached a photo of us on a cable car on our wedding day. We live in San Francisco with our 13-year-old cat Daisy. I am also approaching 5 years as a grant writer at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, where I raise funds for science and education programs.





Stephen Hopkins 2012

This year has been full of news and surprises for the Hopkins family: in October, we welcomed Callan Evans Hopkins into the world (our second). Then, a couple months later, I found out I was selected for an NEH Fellowship (which I'll be on for all of 2024) to finish my book, *Translating Hell* (now under contract with Manchester UP). The book looks at how translations of apocryphal hell texts altered and localized hells first in Late Antique Greek and Latin, then in Old English, Old Norse, Middle Welsh, and Old Irish. To add to the chaos, we just moved to Charlottesville, VA this week, where I'll be starting as an Assistant Professor in the English Department at UVA in August.

And as requested, our "Baby Tax" payment is attached.



David Schneller 2012

I defended my PhD, *Crafting Across Time and Space: Artistic Exchange and Archaic Greek Sanctuaries in the Eastern Mediterranean*, at Columbia University in 2021. Since that time, I've been a Lecturer in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia and SUNY New Paltz, where I've had the great pleasure of teaching seminars on western art and architecture and lectures on Greek, Near Eastern, and Roman art and architecture. This summer, my partner and I (and our beloved dog Sandy) will move to Los Angeles where I'll take up a new post as Assistant Professor of Ancient Art at UCLA.

Kelley Hirsch 2012, 2013



Well since you don't have any baby photos yet, let me share a photo and my update:

My husband and I welcomed baby Maya in January. We've loved watching her grow and explore the world around her, especially as the Boston weather has warmed up. We're trying to speak some Modern Greek to her since my husband is a heritage speaker. It's fun though I'm very rusty! I'm still working as a learning designer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where I work on online courses for our master's students.

David Smigen-Rothkopf 2013, 2014

I successfully defended my dissertation in medieval English literature at Fordham and am now officially Dr. Smigen-Rothkopf.

Sophia D'Ignazio 2014

I'm finishing my first year as a high school English teacher in Philly. If any alums have questions about the transition from grad school to public school teaching, I'm happy to share what I've learned so far!

Thomas Motter 2014

This year I graduated from UCLA with a Ph.D in Indo-European Studies. My dissertation is entitled "Clausal relations at the interfaces: A study of Hittite correlatives at the intersection of syntax, semantics, and discourse". It was a lot of hard work over three years — though let's be real, half of it was written in a span of five months — and I'm very proud of it! I didn't have any luck with academic job applications this year, but hopefully next year turns out better. I'll be looking for a job soon, though I haven't decided whether to go the direction of teaching high school or something, or to apply my linguistic training somewhere in the industry sector.

Anna Simas 2014

Great to hear from you! I hope that all is well with you. I've been thinking a lot about our time reading the Homeric Hymns—I'm hoping to return to them again for fun in the near future!

This year has brought a lot of change for me. I officially transitioned out of academia and into the world of corporate Human Resources at Slalom, a consulting company. I actually got the offer three days after I emailed you last year (and the same week I got married!) I'm enjoying the work a lot! It's a ton of data analysis and research, which means that the PhD has been coming in handy in an unexpected way. I also get to do some really meaningful work with our Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity initiatives. All in all it's been a great and transformative year!

Sending all best wishes to you, the faculty, and the 2014 cohort!

Torie Burmeister 2015

On June 5 I successfully defended my dissertation, "Witches and Space in Roman Literature," at Boston University. It was a great privilege to work on this with Professor James Uden and get to write about some of my favorite characters from some of my favorite writers—Horace, Ovid, Seneca, Lucan, and Apuleius are all included. Life on the other side is more restful, but I am brainstorming ways to stay involved in the community—so hopefully more news coming soon! In my newfound time I am enjoying watching movies, cooking more elaborate meals, and catching up on gardening in my new home in Connecticut.

Michael Vazquez 2015

Thanks for writing! I always enjoy reading the updates! Here's a quick one for me: this past year I collaborated with the Classics Department at UNC to host a stage reading of Seneca's *Medea* (using Emily Wilson's translation). Before the stage reading we hosted a series of community-facing reading groups and lectures at local bookstores and on campus. The series was a huge success, with over 80 in attendance at the reading, and several dozens at our pre-read events. We are planning another series for this coming academic year. Some of us on the team

wrote a small blurb about the event here: <https://www.ednc.org/the-future-of-humanities-is-public>

AJ Maroney 2016

Another year, another job change! In March, I left the Four Seasons New Orleans and joined a local independent wine shop. I'm happily learning the ins and outs of running a small business, driving an expansion of some countries (leading to me nagging some of our distributors to carry more Greek wines...), and generally enjoying the move out of the hospitality industry. Also in March, I took a trip to Seattle, passed my Certified Sommelier exam, and also got to spend a day hanging out with the always-wonderful SBB and tour their old neighborhood!

As always, if anyone is planning a trip down to New Orleans, feel free to reach out -- I'm always happy to make recommendations and would love to catch up with some Penn Pals!

Regina Preston 2016

It's good to hear from you! My update is that I'm a Senior Financial Data Analyst at Alvarez and Marsal in New York. I've been working there for almost a year and I love it. I've found data analytics to be very similar to diagramming a sentence in Latin or Greek! I've been able to apply my love of studying languages to learning different coding languages.

Shenda Kuang 2016, 2017

Apologies for my last minute reply. I just finished a tour to West Turkey with Columbia's CAM and got back to China for summer break. I am currently finishing my dissertation on a phenomenological reading of Herodotos, and will be teaching Columbia's Core Curriculum (Contemporary Civilizations) next year. Hope everything's well at Penn!

Olivia Merkhofer 2019



Congrats on another successful year! I am holding down my same position at the law firm while exploring career options. When I'm not working I love spending time with my fur babies!

Liam Albrittain 2020

I write to you from Centennial, CO (South Denver area), where I have just finished the school year teaching Latin at a classical high school in the neighboring suburb of Lone Tree. I am clinging by a thread to my UCLA email address, because this time last year, after completing my MA paper on color terminology in Sappho and Homer, I decided to take a year of leave from the doctoral program. Now, my leave has run out, and I just wrote to the department that I will not be returning this fall. Besides the psychological challenges of going to graduate school

during the height of the pandemic (indeed, the whole thing began during my last quarter at the Penn post-bacc program!), during my second year at UCLA, I started to lose interest in the professional field of classics itself. To be sure, while I enjoyed all the reading, survey courses and even Greek prose comp, I grew tired of the production-oriented outlook on scholarly writing that has taken over the humanities. Moreover, all the garden-variety classics concerns about jobs and stability suddenly began to weigh on me, to the point that teaching high school seemed like a good idea. I also moved to Colorado from LA in part because I have a handful of family members here, but working at the school was pretty much a disaster. The best thing about it was working alongside another Latin teacher who was himself on a year-long leave of absence from the classics program at Bryn Mawr. Otherwise, the students were extremely disrespectful and had no interest in learning (Latin, or anything else for that matter), and I will not be returning there either.

Tim Hampshire 2020

Salve from Rome! I write with hope of your forgiveness for my newsletter delinquency last year. Perhaps you heard from Rita already (she told me she had spoken with you), but this year I started a PhD program in the History of Art and Architecture at Harvard. My focus is on Roman and Early Christian art with an emphasis on Late Antique mosaics and the reception of Virgil in the visual culture of the Roman villa. To that end, I am also pursuing a secondary PhD concentration in classical philology.

I am now done with my first year of coursework and doing some traveling, mostly in Rome/Naples but also a bit in the UK to look at Romano-British villa mosaics. But the majority of my professional efforts are being concentrated on my true passions: pizza and gelato. On this front, my research trip to Rome has been very successful indeed.

Eve Svoboda 2020

I just graduated this May from UNC Chapel Hill with a dual MA in Art History (specializing in Greek and Roman art) and Library Science with a concentration in Archives and Records Management. I spent a lot of time in the Classics department for the art portion of my degree and was able to include a good bit of Greek and Latin in my art history thesis! I researched Roman representations of the myth of Hylas and linked the iconography to various Greek and Latin written sources which was a really fun project. I also managed to complete a graduate certificate in digital humanities and worked on a project digitizing Medieval Latin manuscripts over the last two years to keep up with my Latin! I moved back to DC right after graduation with my puppy, Piper, who already loves it here. I'm working for the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art this summer digitizing artists records, and I'll be starting my full-time job search within the next few weeks. I'm really hoping I'll be able to find a career in my field that allows me to use some of my language skills—fingers crossed I'll have a fun job update to include in next year's newsletter!



Shaun Espenshade 2020, 2021

In December 2022, Shaun Espenshade completed his MA in Greek and Latin at the University of Maryland where his MA projects included a thesis on archaism in late Euripidean cantica and a commentary on Accius' *Atreus*. He will be entering the PhD program in Classical Studies at the University of Michigan in August of this year. At Michigan, he plans to further his studies in Greek and Roman tragedy (especially fragmentary texts) and textual criticism.

Matt Rudin 2021

I recently finished teaching my second year of middle school Latin, Greek, and humanities at a classical school. I'm currently bartending at Tired Hands in Ardmore and helping to raise my son Ernest. I'm newly exploring a future return to graduate studies in classics.

Jordan Mitchell 2021, 2022

My foremost summer concerns, here in breathtaking Southern Philadelphia, are as follow: sfogliatelle, Glenn Gould's '81 *Goldberg Variations*, and the *Philogelos*. Otherwise, I'm wrangling an increasingly toothsome five-month-old (see photo) and preparing to move from Penn's Annenberg School, where I've been an archivist for the past eight years, over to Cohen Hall, where I'll be starting a doctoral program in classical studies.



Mark Russell 2021, 2022



So glad to hear from you! Happy to have my update included in the newsletter. I've just finished my first year at Villanova, and I've been singing the praises of UPenn's Post-Bacc program to everyone I come across.

I was lucky enough to be afforded a full scholarship and a stipend in exchange for work hours for the department, so I've had the opportunity to fill in teaching intermediate Latin for undergraduates, guiding them through Vergil's *Aeneid* and proctoring for exams. I've also been tutoring undergraduates in Greek (3 students so far), and it has definitely fortified my Greek. I'll also give one plug for Villanova's Masters program for anyone who's interested - it's completely online, and no thesis required! I only need to submit 3 papers to the department, and pass the comprehensive exams in the spring.

So far, I've covered Latin lit survey, Ciceronian philosophy, Greek lit survey, and Appian's history of Rome's civil wars (in Greek!). This summer, I'm lucky enough to take a course solely on Plato's *Apology of Socrates*, and another covering the Cupid and Psyche episode in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*. For most of my papers, I've elected to focus on Greek influence on Roman authors (Stoic influence on natural law in Cicero, Greek influence on *Georgics* and *Ars Amatoria*), and another on Ancient Greek wordplay at various stages throughout history (Homer, Plato, and Theocritus).

I can't begin to express how the Post-Bacc prepared me for a Masters - especially the dreaded tough nuts - it really gave me a chance to get into the weeds of Smyth and Allan and Greenough, whereas we don't have time at the graduate level to get into specific intricacies of grammar. I actually miss the days of just focusing on translation, and not having to write essays!

I have an abundance of pictures of Brucie - he just turned 3, and finished his first year of school! Once we get through the English alphabet, we'll work on Latin and Greek ;- ) I also have one of Bart, our lovely cat. We'll be getting a second one this Saturday, so we'll have more cat photos next year!

Liam Dulany 2022

Things have been going well with me. I've just rounded out my first year here at the University of Washington's PhD program. Living in Seattle has been going well so far, and I'm really enjoying my classes. I think that the post-bac program really helped prepare me for the course load, too, so thank you for that! I'm currently working on a syllabus for summer teaching, and I'm excited to get started with that.

Elise Ramsey 2022

I hope you are doing well! I'm not sure if I've been out of the program long enough to qualify for a news update, but I'm happily entering my second year of the MA program here at CU-Boulder this fall. I'm currently emailing from Supetar, on the island of Brač, Croatia, where I'm participating in an archaeological excavation directed by one of the faculty members at CU. I'm also excited to share that I'm helping to organize a graduate student conference for CU's Classics department. The conference will take place in January of 2024 (CFP here: <https://www.colorado.edu/classics/> though if you remove my shameless advertising from your newsletter, I won't be offended).



Attached is one photo of the harbor in Supetar, and one photo of Loda, the local goat who haunts the dig site. Loda supposedly once belonged to a local farmer, but when her babies were removed and sold, she became impossible to contain and has lived freely in the hills for several years now. If one is very nice, she allows herself to be petted.



Kristof Szabo 2022

I'm currently still at the Rutgers M.A. program for Interdisciplinary Classics and Ancient History, and this summer I'm beginning the process of researching for my masters thesis about Pannonia during Late Antiquity, and as I'm also enrolled in a summer intensive for German.

Chris Bendle 2023

Firstly, my monograph manuscript just got accepted for publication with Steiner Verlag, which I am super excited about. I'm also heading back to Australia for the first time in a year and a half for my brother's wedding. And I am looking forward to rejoining the post-bacc cohort next semester!

Sawyer Jones 2023

I am looking forward to attending the University of Arizona in the fall for an MA in classics. Having been awarded funding through a graduate teaching position, I am going to be spending the summer strengthening my grasp of Greek and Latin and building upon the groundwork of the post-bacc program at Penn. I am particularly eager to get the chance to put into practice some of the teaching tools I gathered from Penn.

Rebby Onken 2023

I'm currently looking forward to my upcoming masters at University of Chicago. Right now though, I'm taking advantage of my remaining time on the East Coast by catching up on

sleep, reading, and sightseeing. Recently, I have been to New York, Montreal, the Adirondacks, and DC, enjoying museums and historical sites in each. See the attached pictures!



News from the department:

The second annual spring newsletter is [online](#)!

News from the program:

Our advising group once again included Tom Tartaron and Jeremy McInerney, while Bridget Murnaghan continued her role as faculty co-director alongside me. Each of us was the principal advisor to four or five students and shepherded them through the process of graduate school applications.

In the fall, Johanna Kaiser taught the Latin post-bac seminar with Abigail Worguhl as her T.A. They focused on epistolary prose, reading selections from Cicero, Pliny, and Seneca. My Greek seminar students read Euripides' *Cyclops* and then the Cyclops episode in the *Odyssey*, followed by Aristophanes' *Frogs*. My spring Latin students enjoyed various the Argo-related works of Ovid, Seneca, and, of course, Valerius Flaccus, finishing with a comparative reading of Aeneas' voyage in *Aeneid* 3. Kate Brassel's spring Greek seminar explored Plato's *Alcibiades*.

We held our usual series of group meetings throughout the fall. Bridget and I kicked off the semester with two sessions demystifying the graduate school application process, addressing students' concerns about choosing programs, contacting possible mentors, and compiling application dossiers. Later in the semester, we ran a Q&A session, and once applications had been submitted, we spent one meeting focusing on interviews, waitlists, and campus visits. Tom Tartaron, Jeremy McInerney, and Ann Kuttner each hosted a question-and-answer discussion and advising session, giving our cohort multiple perspectives on graduate admissions. We had a



field trip to Van Pelt one week, where Rebecca Stuhr, the classics librarian, introduced the cohort to Penn's library and information systems. Current graduate students Danielle Perry (PB '14), Zach Elliott, and Kyle West shared their experiences in M.A. programs and answered many questions to help our students learn more about the benefits and expectations of M.A. vs. Ph.D. programs. Our final colloquium once again brought back Danielle Perry to answer pressing questions about making the transition from post-bac program to graduate school.

Penn LPS determined that our [website](#) should have updated photos, and given that all the photos up to that point were stock footage of random people, I had to agree. A number of our current students volunteered for a photo shoot outside of Cohen Hall, and photographers took some action shots during my Latin class. (If you look carefully, you'll see we were reading Valerius Flaccus that day!) They interviewed students, faculty, and one alumnus (thanks, Jeremy Steinberg '19!) for a promotional video as well, which I look forward to seeing soon.

Last but not least, we had the pleasure of awarding the [Masciantonio Fellowship and Phare Fellowship](#) to two new individuals this past year. Silja Hilton, the Phare fellow for 2022-23, will attend Tulane University next year. Our Masciantonio fellow, Rebbly Onken, will move on to the University of Chicago.

My news:

My husband and I made up for some lost time by travelling to five ultimate frisbee tournaments in five different states during the spring college ultimate season. Our son Tim's senior season culminated with a cold and muddy win at Regionals in Madison, earning his team the tenth seed at D-1 College Nationals, held outside of Cincinnati at the end of May. There he had his personal best games with some spectacular [plays](#).



Our final trip for the spring was for Tim's graduation from Carleton College with a B.A. in Japanese Studies. He and his girlfriend (who also just graduated) were not able to participate in the off-campus programs that they had planned to do in Fall 2020 because of COVID, so they will travel in Europe for a few months before figuring out their next steps.

Alex, our older son, is starting a Ph.D. program at Northwestern University this fall. He will be studying Operations Management at the Kellogg School and hopes to use mathematical modeling to focus on issues of educational equity and access.

I am looking forward to a summer of various fiber arts, reading, gardening, hanging out with my husband and three cats, and watching the Women's World Cup. I hope you all have equally fun summer plans!

Best,  
Julie