



Hello!

Classes ended a while ago, but I'm still ticking off things I need to do before I'm fully into summer mode. The 2024-25 cohort thrived despite the fact that I was on leave in the fall, and then our government went haywire in January, suddenly changing the landscape for graduate admissions (among other things).

Next year our students will be in the following programs:

Florida State University, MA
Oxford University, MA
University of Arizona, MA
University of Maryland, MA
University of Pennsylvania, PhD (GLLL)
University of Pennsylvania, Urban Teaching Apprenticeship Program
University of Pennsylvania, Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies

As always, thank you to everyone who wrote in to share updates. I am so happy to have the opportunity to get back in touch with so many of you, and to hear about the wide range of paths you have taken. It is a highlight of my spring to get these reminders of your fond feelings for Penn. And it is an important affirmation to be told that our work here matters.

I included a few updates from public sources.

In case anyone is keeping track (and who isn't?), the class of 2011 wins for the most updates this year!

Curtis Dozier 2001

My news is that my book *The White Pedestal: How White Nationalists Use Ancient Greece and Rome to Justify Hate* will be published in January 2026 from Yale University Press. Copies will be available for pre-order soon; you can follow me on Bluesky or watch pharosclassics.org for an announcement. Meanwhile, finishing the manuscript has allowed me to put some energy back into publishing articles about appropriations of Greco-Roman antiquity by hate groups at *Pharos*, including a couple articles about similarities between Elon Musk's attitudes toward Greco-Roman antiquity and those espoused by notorious white nationalist intellectuals.

Jason Linn 2005

I'm about to finish my 12th year at Cal Poly, which recently renewed my three-year contract teaching classes on world history, western civ, and warfare. I delivered a paper titled "Did the Huns reach Thermopylae in 447?" at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, Michigan and will submit it for publication this summer. I'm revising a paper on Freshwater logistics of Triremes.

Suzanne Lye 2005

I was awarded tenure this week at UNC-Chapel Hill, moving up to the rank of Associate Professor in July. It's been a long journey, and I'm grateful for the strong start the Penn postbac program gave me!

In other news, my book *Life / Afterlife: Revolution and Reflection in the Ancient Greek Underworld from Homer to Lucian* was also published in September by Oxford University Press. It was featured in May on UNC's college homepage in their [Bookmark This](#) series.

I also had the chance this Spring term to catch up with colleagues and friends at the SCS in Philadelphia and CAMWS in Champaign-Urbana.

On the home front, I now have two teenagers in the house, who both asked to study Latin this summer — yay! (Trying not to show too much overt excitement at this lest I jinx it). Happy to still be part of this community! I love reading the updates!

Peter Petite 2005

Am soon to finish my 3rd year at Boston Trinity Academy as Co-Director of College Counseling. Last year we were having to deal with the FAFSA form. This year? Well, just about anything and everything else coming out of D.C. On the side, though near to my heart, I am working with the [Gazan Student Support Network](#). Trying to assist secondary students in Gaza desiring to continue on to university studies is indeed a Sisyphean and at times heartbreaking task in today's world. If you or anyone you know may be interested in this, Julie can provide my email address.

Richard Hutchins 2006

I'm not sure if I wrote this last year. Probably not. I have moved from a TT job at Loyola University to a TT job at Amherst College.

Alice Crane 2007

You don't have to include me in the newsletter but I just wanted to say hello! I miss Philadelphia, had a conference there last June and got to see Pamela and Jeremy at that time as well! I am currently still in Kansas City have been here since 2022 building the abdominal transplant program. Things are good! Met a local haha and between us have 2 cats and 1 dog.

Kathleen Ess 2007

We are settling in after a move last year, from rural British Columbia to my post-post-bacc stomping grounds in the Twin Cities. I am now spending most of my time teaching English to immigrants at a small non-profit, wrangling our 5-year-old kiddo, and occasionally translating and proofreading work by German-speaking academics. It's nice (and also weird) to be back in Minnesota after so many years away! Our dog Sadie enjoys spending hours staring at the local rabbit population in the front yard (a change from the deer and turkeys in BC). We are looking forward to exploring the area more this summer with adventures in the Boundary Waters and other camping excursions.



Travis Wieland 2008

Sorry to have missed you when I was in Philly! I'm still living in Minneapolis and working clinically here in the emergency department, but am now involved with point-of-care ultrasound and nerve block committees with my hospital and practice group. I was in western Kenya in April teaching a WHO/ICRC emergency care course at Moi University Hospital and will be returning in September to teach the course again and to meet with stakeholders from the university, government, and NGO's to plan the expansion of the course to more rural areas of that part of Kenya. Our working group has been publishing our research on information retention and improvements in care after the course, so it's been exciting to see where things have gotten better. I've started coursework to fulfill the prerequisites for my diploma in tropical medicine & hygiene, and will be sitting for a second set of Board exams for obesity medicine in October. I feel like a student again with all the studying! Trips to Japan and Italy will be scattered amidst the chaos as well. Hope that all went well with the end of the year for the post-bac program. I'm currently (re)reading some Plato, so I definitely haven't let Classics out of my life! Always interesting to see where people end up, and I look forward to seeing all the updates. I'll also plan better so that we can actually catch up in-person the next time I'm in Philly.

Gillian Bentley-Richardson 2009

I've been busy editing fiction and volunteering for a few charities. Also continuing to force the classics on the next generation. My littlest is obsessed with Medusa and my eldest is hooked on the Greeking Out podcast. We just returned from a family holiday to Turkey where we visited Ephesus. Pics included :)



Kristina Guild Douglass 2009

Thank you so much for keeping our alumni network alive! I'm happy to share a quick update.

Earlier this year, I was awarded tenure at Columbia, where I teach in the Climate School and direct the Olo Be Taloha Lab. This past week, I had the honor of spending time at Oxford as an Astor Fellow. It was a wonderful visit, and I gave a lecture on social memory in an era of global change—exploring how embodied, landscape-based, and intergenerational forms of memory contribute to community resilience, especially in the face of colonial erasure and environmental upheaval.

I'm now preparing for my next round of fieldwork in Madagascar, where I'll be based this summer. My family is doing well—Percy and Virgil, now 10 and 6, have fully embraced life as savvy NYC city kids and continue to amaze me with their curiosity and spirit.

Andrew Moore 2009, 2010

Andrew didn't write in, but I saw that his first book, *Children of Solo*, came out in April! I haven't read it yet, but it's on my books-to-read list.

Megan (Brodie) Maier 2010

I continue in my work to inform and support voters—especially those from historically disenfranchised communities. Ahead of last year's elections, I enjoyed giving several briefings on the laws and policies that affect voters and was even interviewed on a few podcasts. I'm finding meaning this year in volunteer work analyzing (mostly bad) state legislation. We spent the winter downhill skiing and are now on to mountain biking! We also grew our family by adopting a puppy: Fox! I'm happy to share that Furby is still her fabulous self!



Yukai Li 2010

Not a huge amount to report from me this year. I've been on sabbatical this year and very belatedly went to Greece for the first time (photos: the beautiful temple of Aphaia on Aegina, and the sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron). Other than that, I've just been reading and writing what I hope will be a couple of chapters of my second book.



Jacob Nabel 2010

Jake posted this [video](#) of himself summarizing his book, "The Arsacids of Rome," in Persian. There are subtitles in English and Persian.

Mali Skotheim 2010

This year I moved from higher ed into public green space, first with the Friends of FDR Park, and since February, as the grants manager at Philadelphia Parks and Recreation. I have joined the board of Awbury Arboretum, whose executive director also has an MA in Classics (in addition to a background in horticulture). I am still writing, researching, and publishing on Greek theater in the Hellenistic and Roman-era, and was pleased to connect with Classics friends at the SCS in Philadelphia this January!

Josh Boardman 2011

Things have been wild over here. I may have mentioned last year that I've started my own writing coaching, editing, and tutoring business, Hewes House. It's so rewarding to run my own small business, no matter how many years I swore it off, and we're making some really exciting moves over the next few months. I have a few new stories that have been published and a chapbook this past March called *Colossal*. I've also started a fun translation project of Ovid's *Heroides*, just taking one poem at a time and playing with it. Lots to be proud of in my life—but even more, my wife and I are now expecting our first child. I'm very disappointed to give up Halloween for lil homie's birthday, but we're excited to see what happens next.

It's always so much fun to read these updates. Thanks for keeping up with them, and I hope things are good on your side too!

Stephanie Crooks 2011

I graduated from New York University in 2019 with my PhD in Classics. I now work at The Nightingale-Bamford School in Manhattan, where I teach Latin and Ancient Philosophy. My husband and I also welcomed a baby boy (Alexander) in June 2024.

Sara (Jones) Criswell 2011

I am in my second year as Director of Foundation and Government Giving for the de Young and Legion of Honor museums. This spring, I participated in our Wayne Thiebaud-inspired Cake Picnic and made a cake imitating the *Three Machines* painting (see photo). There were over 1,400 cakes at the event! My husband, Blake, and I share a rent-controlled San Francisco apartment within walking distance of both museums, with our sweet but grumpy 15-year-old cat, Daisy. We spent Christmas in Belize and are headed to Sardinia this summer. Hoping to bring Blake to see Philadelphia some day!



David Stifler 2011

I recently published my first monograph, with Bloomsbury. It's titled *Lucian and the Atticists: Linguistic Satire in the Second Sophistic*, and you can see its listing here:

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/lucian-and-the-atticists-9781350357600/>

It came out March 6, and I haven't seen any reviews of it yet but I am very happy that it's out in the world.

Here is a photo of me posed with it →

I don't think I have any other major news to report, but my wife and daughter are both doing well and we have a new cat named Phoebe.

Thank you for the check-in and I hope you (as well as fellow postbac alumni) are doing well also!



Amy Conwell 2013

2024 was a big year for me! I completed my PhD in Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. The home stretch was hectic: I submitted my final dissertation from an airport lobby, in the middle of a move across the world. I am now living in Fremantle, Western Australia, and working as a union official, representing ship captains against big oil and gas companies.

Juan Dopico 2013

I received my Ph.D. in August 2023 from Johns Hopkins University in Greco-Roman imperial historiography, and I have a paper on Brutus as a Conspirator in Early Imperial Historians to be published in *Mnemosyne*. I am currently an adjunct lecture at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where I teach Classical Mythology, Word Roots, the Ancient Greeks, and the Roman World year round. I am currently striving to publish my Ph.D dissertation into a monograph, and I am participating in the upcoming meeting for the Classical Association of Atlantic States, presenting a reception paper on the Japanese anime, *Alexander Senki*."

Becky Vandewalle 2013, 2014

I hope you are doing well! Thank you for putting in the work to keep all of us in the loop! I finally have some news: 2024-2025 was an exciting year for me! I got married in the summer and defended my PhD dissertation this spring. I have now officially graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a PhD in Geography, and will be starting as an assistant professor at the University of South Florida in the School of Information this fall. I will join my husband, Udit, who is an assistant professor there in Mechanical Engineering. I'm very thankful that the Penn post-bac program was flexible, as the variety of courses I had a chance to take while in Philly (especially the GIS courses!) helped shape my research interests and ultimately led me to Illinois and Florida!

Thomas Motter 2014

This has been a busy year for me! I got a new full-time job as a lecturer in the Linguistics department at UCLA, and I have just signed a renewed contract for two more years. This year all of my courses were effectively new to me, so I have had a ton of preparation work. This last quarter in particular has been crazy busy, as I have an unusual load of three classes, two of them new preps; so I've just been writing lectures almost nonstop! But the end is close, and it all puts me in a good position to teach (some of) these again next year.

Danielle Perry 2014

Danielle defended her thesis, "Embedded Histories: Belonging in the Maghreb from 1st c. BCE - 4th c. CE" and received her PhD in Ancient History from Penn.

Anna Simas 2014

I'm doing well. I'm still in my role in HR at Slalom (going on 3 years now.) My biggest life update is still in the works—my husband Tom and I are expecting a baby girl at the end of June!

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

Torie Burmeister 2015

I completed my dissertation on Witches and space in Roman literature at Boston University in 2023. This fall I started a visiting assistant professorship at Wesleyan University, and I look forward to continuing on there next year. My spouse, stepson and I adopted a puppy in November, so my free time is mostly spent taking her for walks and training her. Her name is Soup. I have also been enjoying dedicating more time to gardening. This summer I'm looking forward to digging into some research projects, and hoping to start a Latin reading group.

Joshua Renfro 2015

Thank you for putting the newsletter together. In August 2024, I defended my dissertation *Allegories of Platonic Love: How Plato, Plutarch, and Apuleius Connect Us To the Cosmos* at UT Austin in the Joint Program in Ancient Philosophy. Shortly later that same month I moved to Indiana to begin a job as Clinical Assistant Professor at Purdue University. The school year is now finished, and I am looking forward to summer.

Michael Vazquez 2015

I'm just wrapping up at a Cicero conference at NYU Law School, where I met your former colleague Brent Shaw, who I learned was around when you first launched the post-bacc program! I've just finished my fifth year teaching in the Philosophy Department at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Emily Erickson 2016

It's been a busy year over here! I'm still working on my PhD in Art History here at the University of Oregon. Last spring I passed my comprehensive exams. Last fall I passed my prospectus defense and advanced to candidacy. Right now I'm finishing up the term and preparing to spend two months in Italy for the Classical Summer School program at the American Academy in Rome. After the program concludes, I'll spend a week visiting different

museums in Italy and Austria conducting research for my dissertation, which analyzes representations of Parthians in Roman art.

Hope the rest of the 2016 cohort is doing well!

Max Dietrich 2017

Max received his PhD in Ancient History from Penn; the title of his dissertation is “Writing Roman Civil War: Greek Elites, Stasis, and Empire.”

William Pedrick 2018, 2019

I wanted to share with you that I’ve been selected as a 2025-26 Rome Prize fellow, so next year I will be finishing my dissertation at the American Academy in Rome. I’m attaching the press release with more information on this year’s Rome Prize. My time in the Penn post-bac built such a strong foundation for my coursework at Princeton and now for my dissertation research and writing.

[JNJ: I’m also including the relevant part of the press release!]

ROME, ITALY and NEW YORK, NY– April 23, 2025 – The American Academy in Rome announced today the winners of the 2025–26 Rome Prize, the rigorous competition supporting innovative fellows in the arts, humanities, and sciences. The Samuel H. Kress Foundation Rome Prize is awarded to William Pedrick to support his work in Ancient Art and Archaeology. The Rome Prize equips artists and scholars with the time, space, setting, and colleagues to explore and create in the singular city of Rome. The 35 recipients will reside at the Academy’s 11-acre grounds in the Eternal City for five to ten months, starting this September.

Jeremy Steinberg 2019

Jeremy Steinberg (PB ’19) completed his PhD in Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation was titled *How the Bible Became Literature: Jewish Assumptions About the Nature of Text in the Hellenistic Period*. Starting in August, he will serve as Visiting Assistant Professor of Hebrew & Jewish Studies at the University of Kentucky. Jeremy also received an Honorable Mention in the SCS’s Erich Gruen Prize competition for his paper *Rethinking Nerva’s Fiscus Iudaicus Coin*.

Eve Svoboda 2020

I believe my last update left off with a note about beginning my job search after graduate school, and I’m happy to report I did indeed find one! I’m still based in DC, and have been working at the National Archives and Records Administration for about a year and a half now as a digitization archivist. I work mainly on records noting historical events that I tend to have very little background knowledge of as a classicist, but looking through the primary sources is incredibly interesting and I’ve learned quite a lot about American history already! Although I don’t use my Greek and Latin on a daily basis, I’m sure it’ll come in handy one of these days!

Mark Russell 2021, 2022

I’m finishing my first year of teaching Latin at the Wyndcroft School (grades 5-8), and it’s a joy to pass on what I love. My son Bruce just celebrated his 5th birthday, and my daughter Amy is now over a year old. I miss Greek so much! I’ll probably try to brush up for fun this summer. Currently in the weeds of grading finals and finishing report cards. We had a very successful Latin Day at Wyndcroft, my first ever! 5th graders presented on gods and goddesses,

6th graders built models of a Roman villa, 7th grade put on a presentation of Terence's *Adelphi*, and 8th grade put on chariot races for the whole school. So far, the school admin has been so supportive of me as I navigate the ins and outs of teaching. Now that I've built a curriculum, next year should be a lot smoother in terms of prep work.

We've also just put an offer on a house, and will be moving from Blue Bell to Ambler if all goes well - so much for a relaxing summer!

Liam Dulany 2022



I still have a week left in the quarter here at the University of Washington. I just got my M.A., and I'm taking generals this fall -- looking forward to being ABD! Here's a picture of me just before teaching a class.

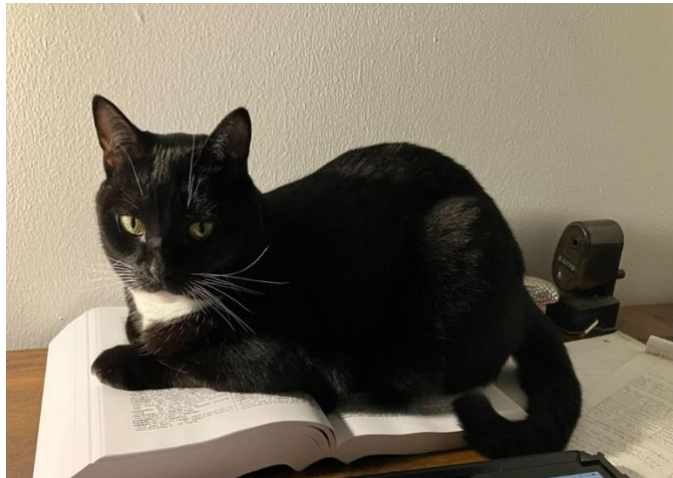
Jingyi (Jean) Yang 2022

As an unprecedented heat wave just hit Texas (in mid-May!), I feel fortunate to have completed a fruitful semester and moved to Chicago to stay with my partner Shengsong and our two chinchillas for the summer. I defended my dissertation prospectus titled "Aristotle on the Rational Structure of Emotion," which will be what occupies my next few years in the ancient philosophy program at UT Austin. I'll be teaching an intro to philosophy course of my own design for the first time in Fall 2025 -- extremely excited about that.

In the past couple of weeks at Uchicago I was sitting in Prof. Elizabeth Asmis' seminar, where we discussed Lucretius's *De Rerum Natura*, and it brought back all the wonderful memories of studying and translating this text with you in the Post-Bac Latin poetry seminar. I feel grateful to have been encouraged to learn to appreciate so many different authors and styles of Latin and Greek in my Post-Bac year, many of which I would never have encountered as a philosophy student. Thank you so much, Julie, for all the efforts and care you've put into this amazing program, and hope it continues to illuminate many others.

Kate Cota 2023

Just finished my first year of my MA at Indiana University Bloomington! My research interests are Classical Archaeology and Reception. At the moment, I am researching religious worship of Greek gods on Late Iron Age Crete. I am having a great time in the program and cannot wait to see what else is in store for me. I still live with my tuxedo cat, Bast. He is a great help (hindrance) when it comes to my studies!



Kyle Machado 2023

I just completed my MA at FSU, and I will be staying there in the classical archaeology PhD program. I wrote my MA paper on the Hellenistic-era tombs in Naples and how they compare with other tombs in Italy, along with the ways in which they were influenced by Macedonian tombs. FSU's MA program has us teach as instructors of record in our second year, and I taught a course in ancient Greek civilization and rhetoric both semesters. I'm currently assigned to teach ancient mythology in the fall.

I was also at CAMWS in March and presented a paper on the use of sea-storm episodes as openings in Roman epic. As far as fieldwork goes, I will be returning to excavate at Montereggi in Tuscany in June (our Instagram is @themontereggiproject for anyone interested).

On a personal note, I'm getting married in July. My fiancée also just completed her master's degree in classical archaeology. The wedding will be in Stockholm (her home city), and then we'll be going to Crete for our honeymoon right after. Between this and excavating, it will be a busy summer with lots of traveling, but I'm very much looking forward to it!

FJM Yates-Wykle 2023

I hope you're well! It's been a whirlwind couple of years since wrapping up the post-bacc, but fruitful ones nonetheless.

I've stayed in Philadelphia, working at Penn's Office of Undergraduate Admissions, leading initiatives on rural recruitment and humanities advocacy, and recently stepping into the role of Assistant Director. I'm also earning my MS.Ed in Higher Education at Penn's GSE. I also recently married my long-time partner, Chris Yates, in January-- even though he's





a Latinist and I'm a Hellenist! We added a new addition to our furry family as well: a Pekingese puppy named Kowloon who's been making waves in the dog show circuit (a sentence I never thought I'd write!). Life has been sweet, unexpected, and full of constant reminders of the importance of Classics in every part of life.

Christopher Bendle 2023, 2024

Hi everyone, hope you're all well! This past year I moved to Cincinnati to start doctoral studies at the University of Cincinnati, in no small part due to all the help and assistance I received from everyone at Penn and the post-bacc. It is a really awesome program here, my Latin and Greek has kept improving, and I've taken some really good courses in papyrology and Greek history. Next year I will be the grad assistant for the *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies* journal, which is really exciting. The city itself is cool, there are some fun areas and great museums, and I love the southern friendliness - but I do miss Philly, especially when the birds won the superbowl! My wife and I bought a house, and we have a spare room of a finished attic, it's basically a studio apartment, so if anyone is visiting our neck of the woods, please reach out if you need a place to stay, or just to say hi!

Kevin Treadway 2024

I have just finished up the final coursework that I will complete at Cornell as their last Bridge M.A. Fellow in Classics. I will be defending my thesis on the Roman landowner and blind man Gaius Gemellus Horigenes in July, then joining the Yale University Department of Classics as a doctoral student this fall. It has been an immense privilege to study with the faculty and students here at Cornell. This year (and two summers) has flown by as I worked on graduate applications, my research, and getting my languages up to speed (a process the Penn post-bacc

program began of course), especially Homeric Greek, which I feel much more confident in as I look to begin my doctoral studies later this year, which will certainly involve more Homer by the looks of the reading lists... I have lived in Upstate New York for nearly ten years now (except for my time at Penn), and so to finally be leaving the area is shocking and bittersweet, even as I look forward to beginning my PhD, and to living by the ocean again (which I last forsook when I left Florida to attend Syracuse for college in 2017).

This year we also lost a dear and special member of my family, my childhood dog, Seger. He was an American cocker spaniel of just over ten years



in age. He suddenly developed an acute medical condition and rapidly declined in the middle of January, right before the spring semester (and many interviews) began. I and my mother, whom he was even closer to, had to make the extremely painful decision to help him meet a relatively peaceful end on January 15, having lived since October 23, 2014. He was my and my mother's best friend, and an incredibly

sharp, playful, and loving dog. If he had to pass, I suppose it is fitting that he did so here in Ithaca; for my Greek survey this semester, I wrote a new commentary on the passage of the *Odyssey* (XVII.290-327) wherein Odysseus is (incompletely) reunited with his old dog Argos. Exploring the ancient relationship between dog and man helped me some, though Seger was truly irreplaceable, and I feel a part of me left with him. I will ever be grateful that we got to be companions here for as long as we did, and will remember him, and the happiness he gave to us so freely and readily, all my life, at the conclusion of which I hope dearly to see him again, and to embrace him with the greatest joy; τοῦ δ' οὐκ ἐπιλήσομαι, ὅφρ' ἂν ἔγωγε ζωῶσιν μετέω καί μοι φίλα γούνατ' ὀρώρη: εἰ δὲ θανόντων περ καταλήθοντ' εἰν Αἴδαο αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ καὶ κείθι φίλου μεμνήσομ' ἐταίρου.

Amanda Clemens 2024, 2025

These past two years have been a whirlwind—I can hardly believe it, but I’m now an alumn of Penn’s post-bacc program. I’m enjoying some time off before I move back down to Maryland, where I’ll begin working toward my Master’s degree at UMD and TA-ing for a mythology course this fall! Lately, I’ve been spending my afternoons in the garden, reading or digging up weeds as my chickens (Muffin, Drama, and Molly-Polly) run riot. If I’m not outside, chances are, I’m hunched over my spinning wheel, ruining my posture Rumpelstiltskin-style. I haven’t figured out how to spin straw into gold, though. Yet.



Kevin Ma 2024, 2025

I have attached two photos of me and Virgil (the name was a coincidence, I got him when I was 13 and far before I was involved in ancient history), one where we look more excited and one where we appear to be giving the side-eye. In good news, I have heard back from Oxford that I have student housing accommodation and so all that is left is for me to send over a few things and I’m all set to go. Thanks again for your instruction and guidance these last two years! I look forward to applying the skills I have learned here to my future endeavors, and, perhaps more importantly, to showing off to my friends and family.





News from the department:

Rather than trying to summarize, let me just refer you to the Spring 2025 department [newsletter](#).

News from the program:

Johanna Kaiser stepped in as interim director in the fall. Some of our more recent cohorts are familiar with her as a T.A. and instructor in various post-baccalaureate courses, and we were lucky that she was willing to accept this role. She was assisted by Jeremy McInerney, who took over the role of Faculty Co-Director this year, and the faculty advising group also included Joe Farrell and Tom Tartaron.

The Latin post-baccalaureate course in the fall, taught by Johanna Kaiser with T.A. Nathaniel Fleury Solley, focused on texts that discussed friendship. James Ker, with T.A. Julieta Vittore Dutto, read texts involving dialogue in the Greek post-baccalaureate course. In the spring, I chose versions of the Argonautic myth to read in the Latin seminar, and Nathaniel returned as T.A. And for the spring Greek course, Scheherazade Khan put together a crowd-sourced syllabus that touched on a wide swath of authors including (among others) Sappho, Xenophanes, Aeneas Tacticus, Plutarch, and Philostratus.

Under Johanna's leadership, the fall proseminar expanded to include some new topics, including a session on Classics in a Diverse World, and one on Public-facing Scholarship. Of course, she also held the usual workshops on graduate admissions, a visit to the library, and a museum field trip. A range of faculty and graduate student speakers (including Jordan Mitchell PB '21, '22) and Danielle Perry (PB '14) shared their trajectories with our cohort and gave advice about graduate school and beyond. When I returned in the spring, I oversaw sessions on interviews and campus visits, and we finished the year with our usual discussion about the transition to graduate school.

Our [Masciantonio Fellowship and Phare Fellowship](#) holders, Stephanie Sherrett and Emilie Prince, both made great strides with their Greek (I am bringing this up because they were in my Greek 100-200 sequence in 2023-24, and both jumped ahead to graduate-level Greek this year!). Over spring break, they traveled to Troy as part of the "Homer and Troy" seminar co-taught by Bridget Murnaghan and Brian Rose.

My news...

I was glad to have taken leave during Fall 2024. It gave me the flexibility I needed as I cared for my 20-year-old cat, Gracie, who passed away from kidney failure in November. Not long after that, my mother-in-law passed away in Iowa; we managed to get there in time to say goodbye, and then spent a week with family before the funeral.

My older son, Alex, just finished his second year in an Operations Management PhD program at Northwestern University. He will spend the summer continuing a research project using data from a French educational online game, and he is currently in Paris to meet with the founder and developers. My younger son, Tim, is working in a gluten-free bakery in Minneapolis and covering an occasional shift at the coffee shop where he used to work. He and his girlfriend recently moved into a bigger apartment and adopted a beautiful young cat, so now I hear from him a lot more as he texts me photos of Mei.

Speaking of cats, my husband and I fostered our friend's two cats for almost a year, until her daughter graduated from college and was able to give them a home. Mini was an only cat for a few weeks, but now she is a proud big sister to two kittens! We just adopted Luna (the feisty tabby) and Hector (the more reserved black cat) this past weekend. They are still quarantined in our study, so gradually introducing them to Mini is next on my summer schedule.



I hope summer 2025 proves to be a restorative time for us all. Sending good thoughts to all you alumns, near and far!

Best,
Julie

