

# SALVETE!

Greetings from the Department of Classics at Holy Cross

## Steve Stack '94 speaks of the Classics, medicine, and life

By Charlie Schufreider '17

What did Steven Stack do with his liberal arts education? Having graduated from Holy Cross as a Classics major in 1994, Stack went on to become a prominent emergency physician, became a member of the American Medical Association's (AMA's) Board of Trustees, and is now the president-elect of the AMA. This March Stack graciously returned to Holy Cross to deliver a lecture about how his education has influenced his career. The title of the talk, "Cicero and Socrates Walk Into a Bar...", reflects both his scholarly pursuits and his sense of humor that made for an extremely enjoyable afternoon.

After an introduction from Prof. John Hamilton (who taught him in many courses on Fenwick 4), Dr. Stack began by sharing

some of the wisdom he has acquired from his career thus far. He stressed that we ought to commit ourselves to careers that we truly are passionate about, and that to become truly excellent at that career we have to be willing to be put in an

abundance of time and effort. He decided, ultimately, that he could craft no path for his life more rewarding than what he had. He did, however, concede that dealing with Congressmen who give speeches masquerading as questions can be less than satisfying.



*Dr. Stack chats with students after his talk (Photo by Rob Carlin).*

Overall, Dr. Stack could not stress enough that working to give someone something as sacred as the chance to continue living is not something to be taken lightly. Rather, the fact that others frequently decide to trust their own life to him provides Dr. Stack with an experience unlike any other, and it is this reverence for the patient-doctor relationship that keeps him grounded in

medicine.

The afternoon, however, was not a lecture in a strict sense. Exchanging both jokes and heartfelt stories, he mostly described what it is like to be an emergency physician and president-elect of the AMA. He

While such passion for his work certainly arises from Dr. Stack's own character, he himself attributed part of his disposition to his education. At the heart of his lecture, he

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## Finding a home in Rome

By Margaret Jones '16

As winter break came to an end, and my four-month abroad experience in Italy loomed closer, I'm not going to lie, I was very apprehensive about going. Spending so much time away from my family and friends was daunting, and in a country whose language I didn't speak? No, thank you. But now, having been back in the U.S. for almost two weeks, I am already racking my brain for ways to get back to my new favorite place in the world.

There is so much to do, see, and eat in Rome. I think journalist Silvio Negro put it best when he wrote, "Roma, non

basta una vita," which, thanks to my Italian 101 class, I now know means, "Rome, one lifetime is not enough."

Every morning you wake up and are faced with endless options: Do you want to indulge in the laid-back Italian culture and sip on a cappuccino while reading in a local café? Do you want to visit one of the umpteen beautiful churches Rome has to offer you? Perhaps you'd like to stroll the course of a Roman triumph, taking in the aesthetics and history of each monument. Or maybe you made plans to hop on a train or plane, and are spending the weekend in Firenze, Venetia, or even

somewhere international. You knew that wherever you went you could find the best gelato, pasta and pizza, and the people you'd encounter would be even better.

Above all, what I took away from my time in Rome is that you could never

other how unbelievable it was that we were seeing Livy's translations in person, having taken Professor Joseph's "Sallust and Livy" class together just one year ago.

And such was the rest of the semester. It was incredible to see

how alive the Classics are in Rome, and throughout the rest of Italy. On a weekend trip to Sicilia I reveled in seeing the unfinished temple at Segesta that I had translated about in Professor Nagy's Thucydides course the semester prior.

I am so thankful I had this opportunity to expand my horizons, engulf myself in my major, experience both ancient and modern Italian culture, and make so many new friends. Maggie, Jess [Cormier], Chris [Ryan], Erika [Park], Caroline [O'Day] and I



*Maggie MacMullin, Caroline O'Day, Jessica Cormier, Margaret Jones, Erika Park, and Chris Ryan (all class of 2016) inside the Flavian Amphitheater*

make a bad choice. Adventure was waiting around every corner.

Going to onsite classes was an escapade of its own -- waking up early, taking the chaotic public transportation system, and finding your way to places you'd only dreamed of seeing in person. I remember my first topography class started at the Tiber River, where we heard the story every Classics major knows like the back of his or her hand— Romulus, Remus, and the she-wolf. As my professor quoted Livy during our lesson, which took us to the Tiber Island and to Circus Maximus while we talked about the founding of Rome, Maggie [MacMullin] and I whispered to each

have plans of reliving our experiences through Italian dinners throughout our senior year, and I know the six of us will never run out of things to talk about. I know I can speak for all of us when I say we're going to miss stopping for gelato on scenic walks in the city, saying things like "Ciao!" and "Prego!" to the locals, bonding over a bottle of delicious (and cheap!) Italian wine, and passing the Vatican on our ride home at night. But most of all, we're going to miss being able to call Rome "home."

*Margaret is a Classics major from Hawthorne, NY.*

## Celebrating Toni's 40 years at Holy Cross

In April of this year the College honored Antoinette Methe for her forty years of service to Holy Cross. After working in the Assistant Dean's Office (1974-82), the Counseling Center (1982-85), and the PreMed Office (1985-90), Toni has spent the last twenty-five years in the Department of Classics. On the occasion of these two milestones, we celebrate and salute Toni for all she has done to keep everyone on Fenwick 4 moving and smiling.

Prof. Bill Ziobro, who taught in the Department from 1969 to 2011 and served as Chair for nine years, was one of the first at the College to meet Toni. When serving as an Assistant Dean in 1974, he interviewed Toni for a position in that office. "I remember the interview as if it were yesterday," said Prof. Ziobro. "Toni presented herself in a very professional manner, upbeat, smiling, and engaging. Certainly those attributes never changed throughout her forty years at the College."

Prof. Ziobro elaborated on Toni's legendary friendliness and consideration for others: "Toni has the unique ability of giving a staff member or a student her undivided attention, and she always follows through, whether one is close by or miles away. She also respects the confidentiality of anyone's situation -- from Department Chair to housekeeping.

"Most importantly, she has befriended hundreds of students

over the years and assisted them in meeting many challenges, both personal and academic," Ziobro continued. "The College in general and the Classics Department in particular have been blessed to have had Toni Methe in its presence for the past forty years! Congratulations to Toni!"

One of Toni's signature feats is her coordination of



*Toni at the College's commemorative banquet in April.*

Classics Day, the annual spring event that draws hundreds of students from around the Northeast to compete in events and share their enthusiasm for Classical culture. "I will never forget the first time I saw the full splendor of Classics Day in operation. Ancient Rome would have been proud to host such a celebration," recalls Prof. Tom Martin, who served as Classics Chair from 2004-7 and then

2009-12. "When I discovered that Toni was the goddess who made all this happen, flawlessly organizing events for hundreds and hundreds of students every time, I knew as Chair that I had an invaluable ally in working to support the wondrous record of our beloved department."

Prof. Mary Ebbott, who has served as Chair since 2012, makes an apt Homeric comparison when considering Toni's commitment to the Department and its students: "Toni's longevity at Holy Cross and within the Classics Department means that she has known and guided generations of faculty and students, not unlike the wise and sweet speaking Nestor, who ruled among three generations of heroes. And like Nestor said about those heroes of old, we will never see her kind again. I'm glad I was among the generations who worked with her!"

An enduring hallmark of Toni's -- along with the beautiful singing voice with which we are graced at times -- is her smile. Prof. Blaise Nagy, who served as Chair for thirteen years and has worked closely with Toni for all of her twenty-five years in the Department, singles out this priceless quality of hers: "Toni possesses so many qualities my colleagues and I admire, but I personally value most the way Toni presents such an incredibly friendly face for the Classics Department."

This spring, inspired by a Tedx talk by Phuc Tran titled “Grammar, Identity, and the Dark Side of the Subjunctive” (<http://www.npr.org/2013/12/13/248195238/does-the-subjunctive-have-a-dark-side>), students in Latin 102 wrote short essays about a grammatical concept from Latin class that has affected their broader thinking. We include two students’ essays here.

## The merits of the “deponent” life

By Gordon Farley '18

Before my retreat as a high school senior last year, I seemed to only put any real stock in events where I could be an active participant. If I did not immediately recognize the potential to affect what I was doing, I was very quick to dismiss it. Despite having attended a Jesuit school for four years, self-reflection had almost no presence in my life. Looking back, the word passive seemed synonymous with meaningless to me. Spending two days in almost complete silence at a convent in upstate New York corrected that mindset. While there, my teachers emphasized the idea of “active silence.” These deep self-examinations sparked a spiritually moving few days, which allowed me to better myself in ways that I had not known existed.

I fell out of practice during my first semester at Holy Cross. Overwhelmed by the major transition phase that the first semester of college embodies, I too often excused myself as too busy for “active” silence. Deponent verbs reminded me. Consciously shifting from a passive mentality to an active one for a very specific task or, in this case, verb forced me to

remember the deliberate choice I must make in order to actually reflect.

These verbs had such a profound effect on me because of the fact that they appear passive. It requires a different way of thinking on my part in order to see their true meaning. Very much akin to wasting three days on a silent retreat by simply checking out, failing to translate a deponent verb actively robs a sentence of all the potential weight it carries.

As I came across more deponent verbs, I recognized other areas of my life to which I could apply this “active” lifestyle. Instead of simply spending an hour each Sunday inside of the chapel thinking about all of the things I needed to accomplish after leaving, I found myself singing to the hymns and analyzing each Bible passage read by the lectors. Just as a deponent verb will not explicitly signal its active meaning in a sentence, it takes my own assessment to make reflection or even mass a substantial experience.

*Gordon, who hails from Northvale, NJ, has not declared a major yet.*

## Knowing nouns and knowing others

By Erin Buckley '18

After learning Latin for two semesters, there are numerous grammatical concepts that I still find difficult to master. However, one concept in particular, noun cases and declensions, has impacted my viewpoint on individuals in general. Nouns in Latin are important because they are the bulk of the sentence and give significant information for completely understanding what is being said. Determining the different roles of a noun, with regard to the seven cases, is initially difficult for anyone starting out in this ancient language. For instance, it is important to distinguish whether a word is in the nominative or accusative case, because the two play different roles in a sentence. A sentence in Latin with a word in the accusative translated in the nominative would not make sense and would thus confuse the translator.

In my life, learning the noun cases has impacted how I view people in general. With noun cases, knowing the roles of each word in a sentence in order to understand the final meaning is similar to

knowing the “who” of a person and not just judging that person on first impressions and appearances. It is necessary to know more about the person to gain a full understanding of who he or she really is. One cannot just jump to conclusions, not for translating nouns in Latin nor for meeting a person for the first time. Details mean everything, especially when attempting to understand a person; as a result of this, I have learned that it is important to keep learning and to not let judgments interfere in the actual character of a person.

The intensity and challenge of the Latin language makes the learning so much more interesting. Concentration and memorization are key qualities to success in this ancient language. As seen with the connection of noun cases and getting to know individuals for who they really are, I believe that, without such learning, important life lessons will be missed.

*Erin, whose hometown is Haddam, CT, is planning to major in Classics while completing the Pre-Health Professions Program.*

## Visit by Stack '94 to HC (continued from Page 1)

explained how what he learned at Holy Cross has brought meaning to his work; or, in his words, "my classical liberal arts education illuminates the soul behind the science." What this means is that his studies had a much deeper influence than simply allowing him to understand the Latin and Greek roots behind anatomical jargon. Instead, armed with his college education and his continued studies of Classical history, as well as American presidential history, Dr. Stack is able to gain a wider perspective about his place in the world. Classical studies, for one thing, have taught him to be conscious of the preciousness of human life, recognizing that humanity, preserved in Classical writings, extends far beyond the scope of modern times.

Further still, he noted that while at times he is proud of himself and his incredible

achievement of becoming the youngest president of the AMA in over a century (at 43 years old), his studies of history have taught him to keep a level head. Roman emperors and generals

maintaining a healthy relationship between the importance of his duties and his own self-importance: something he deems possible only with a liberal arts education.



*Dr. Stack back on Fenwick 4 with his teachers Prof. John Hamilton and Prof. Blaise Nagy (Photo by Rob Carlin).*

maintained one of the greatest empires in existence, all at an age similar to Stack's. Even Theodore Roosevelt, Stack's favorite president, became the youngest chief executive in U.S. history at just 42.

In sum, nothing seemed more crucial to Dr. Stack than

Dr. Stack represents a great answer to that question thousands of students have to answer every day from various sources: What are you going to do with that liberal arts (or Classics) degree? He shows that there is no reason we have to completely write off four years' worth of learning, but that we can continue to show immense interest and passion in our studies long after we have stopped

submitting papers to professors. What we learn can be used to shape ourselves into better doctors, leaders, or simply better, more humble people.

*Charlie, a native of Glenview, IL, is a Classics major and in the Pre-Health Professions program.*

## ALUMNAE / -I NEWS

**Trudy Harrington Becker '83**, senior instructor and associate chair in the Department of History at Virginia Tech, recently received the university's 2015 William E. Wine Award for excellence in teaching.

**Meghan Quinn '08** is in her third year teaching Latin at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School in Gwynedd Valley, PA. Meghan reports that last summer she traveled with Dr. Henry Bender (who taught in the HC Classics Department in 2008-9) to Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Sperlonga, Paestum, and Capri.

**Seán Connolly '10** will be ordained into the priesthood on May 23, 2015, and celebrate his first mass at St. Augustine's Church in Ossining, NY, the following day.

**C. Dan Earley '12** will begin medical school at Tufts University in the fall.

**Mark Hogan '14** is heading to Boston College in the fall to pursue an M.A. in Classics.

In the fall **Christine Roughan '14** will begin the Ph.D. program at New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World.

Across town, **Debbie Sokolowski '14** will begin a Ph.D. in Classical Studies at Columbia University.

*Please let us know what you're up to by sending updates to Tim Joseph '98 at [tjoseph@holycross.edu](mailto:tjoseph@holycross.edu)*

## ALIA NOVA CENACULO FENWICKIENSI ACTA

◆ The 43rd annual Classics Day, held on April 16, brought hundreds of high school Classics students from around the Northeast to campus. The day was orchestrated by Ms. Toni Methe, along with students in Eta Sigma Phi, directed by Classics Day chair Nick Jalbert '16. Click here for a link to the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette's* photo coverage of the chariot race: <http://www.telegram.com/gallery/WT/20150416/NEWS/416009999>

◆ In March Jason Steranko '17 traveled to the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC, to present his paper "War and Peace in Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae*" at a symposium of undergraduate Classicists hosted by the national consortium Sunoikisis.

◆ At the Academic Conference in Hogan Campus Center in April, fifteen members of the Manuscripts, Inscriptions and Documents Club presented their work.

Porter Weeks '15 and Blake Werab '17 gave the presentation "An Investigation of the Table of Chords in Manuscripts of Ptolemy's *Almagest*." Mary Patrice Hamilton '17 spoke about "The Purpose and Construction of Diagrams in Proclus' *Commentary on Euclid*, Book One." Rebecca Finnigan '15 delivered the paper "An Investigation into the Mathematical Diagrams of Euclid Using Primary Sources." Andrew Boudon '15 discussed his research about "Changes in Ancient Greek Divinity after the Lamian War."

Seven students shared their research on Homeric matters. Michael Kelley '18 and Corey Scannell '18 presented on "The Only Extant Manuscript Copy of Apollonius Sophistes' *Homeric Lexicon*," while Charlie Schufreider '17, Alex Simrell '16, and Melody Wauke '17 spoke about "Observations in *Iliad* Books 14 and 15 in the Venetus A Manuscript." Brian Clark '15 spoke about "Retellings of the *Iliad*," and Nik Churik '15 about "A Study of *Iliadic* Paraphrase."

Claude Hanley '18, Steven Merola '16, and Stephanie Neville '16 gave the presentation "Tracing the Scribal Tradition in Manuscripts of Jerone's *Chronicle*."

◆ Claude, Steven, and Stephanie also presented their work on Jerome in March at the Classical Association of New England (CANE) Annual Meeting in Needham, MA -- where they ran into Mark Hogan '14, Daniel Libatique '10, Stephanie Lindeborg '13, and Michael Roberts '13, and Prof. Aaron Seider, all of whom presented papers as well.



*MID members on a Friday afternoon: (front row) Melody Wauke '17, Rebecca Finnigan '15, Mary Patrice Hamilton '17, Stephanie Neville '17; (back row) Michael Kelley '18, Charlie Schufreider '17, Corey Scannell '18, Brian Clark '15, Andrew Boudon '15, Claude Hanley '18, Nik Churik '15, Anne Thompson '17, and Therese Starshak '17.*

### "Avete atque valete" ab Michael Russo '15

Idem qui quondam fui numquam ero nam magistri me docuerunt ratione animi gubernatore vivendum. Si hoc solum didicissem, beatus tamen essem, tantum enim qui rationaliter vivit sibi suaeque rei publicae quam utilissimus esse potest. Magistris qui mentem meam erudiistis exemplumque inlustre humanitatis et sapientiae mihi prae buistis gratias inexplabiles debeo.

## ΧΑΪΡΕΤΕ to the Class of 2015

**Colby Aubuchon** is enrolled in a Certified Nurse Assistant program. This fall she will start applying to Nurse Practitioner programs.

**Andrew Boudon**, a double-major in Classics and Mathematics, completed a thesis in the department with Prof. Thomas Martin titled "Cognitive Dissonance after the Lamian War and Changes in Greek Divinity." He was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Starting this summer, Andrew will pursue a Master's in Education at Wake Forest University.

**Peter Carlino** is currently applying to graduate programs and hopes to teach Latin this summer to grade school students.

**Nikolas Churik** was a recipient of the Rev. Robert F. Healey, S.J., Greek Prize, *ex aequo*, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Next year he will be on a Fulbright research grant to Leiden University in the Netherlands, where he will study Greek palaeography and literature.

**David Cieremans** completed the pre-Health Professions program and worked this spring on a tutorial project with Fr. Edward Vodoklys titled "Techne or Episteme? The Persisting Medical Dichotomy." He will be working as an alumni mentor and Greek teacher at Regis High School in New York next year.

**Harry Crimi** was inducted as a member and elected as Vice

President of Alpha Sigma Nu. Next year he will be a full-time Latin teacher at Cristo Rey High School in Philadelphia.

**Brian Clark**, a double-major in Spanish and Classics, was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish Honors Society. He completed a digital humanities thesis, under the direction of Prof. Neel Smith, titled "Retellings of the Iliad and the Epic Cycle." Next year he will be teaching English either in Spain through the Auxiliares de conversación program, or through volunteer work with Education and Hope in Guatemala.

**Rebecca Finnigan**, a double-major in Classics and Mathematics, did a tutorial this semester with Prof. Neel Smith on the transmission of mathematical diagrams in Greek, Latin, and Arabic manuscripts of Euclid's Elements. She will be at Simmons College in the fall getting her Masters in Library Sciences and hopefully doing an internship at the Perseus Project.

**Melissa Luttmann** received the Philip J. Conniff, S.J., prize for excellence in Latin, *ex aequo*, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She will spend the summer cruising the Mediterranean before starting a position in either Latin teaching or college counseling.

**Shea Maunsell**, a double-major in Classics and a self-designed international relations major, received a Thomas Jefferson Award

this year from the New Citizens Center for her senior project on English Language Learners. After graduation she will be working at Accenture in Chicago in the sale division.

**Lindsey Nemshick** completed the pre-Health Professions program and has been awarded the Rev. Robert F. Healey, S.J., Greek Prize, *ex aequo*. She was also inducted into Alpha Sigma Nu and Phi Beta Kappa. Lindsey's honors thesis, written under the direction of Prof. Nancy Andrews, is entitled "The Power of the Female Voice in Homer's *Odyssey*." She will begin attending the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine this August.

**Michael Russo** received the The Philip A. Conniff, S.J., Prize for excellence in the study of Latin, *ex aequo*, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. This fall he will begin working as a Latin Teacher in Wyoming.

**Anne Williams**, a double-major in Classics and English, wrote a senior thesis for the English Honors Program entitled "A Common Pool of Feeling: Unhappiness in Iris Murdoch's *The Sea, the Sea*." She was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. In the fall she will head to The University of Chicago for their Master of Arts Program in the Humanities. She plans to stay in Chicago after finishing the program before pursuing a Ph.D in English.