

Spring is ahead of schedule here in Williamsburg and, as students (and professors!) turn their thoughts to summer and all that lies ahead, it's hard to believe that the end of another academic year is quickly closing in upon us.

Let me take a moment to share with you what has been a year of notable "*firsts*" for us: our *first* time to graduate twenty majors later this spring (from among 42 students who now claim Classical Studies as their major!); our *first* time at hosting a Homecoming reception for our alums (yes, it was a success, and yes, we will do it again next fall!); and our *first* opportunity to tell you about our new archaeology major (which debuts in the fall along side our other tracks in Greek, Latin and Classical Civilization).

Let me say a bit more about this third item. The new track will draw on the College's long-standing academic strengths and will offer yet another opportunity for students to further specialize in an area of interest besides the broader Classical Studies program. It will also allow them to work on excavations overseas and gain valuable experience should they choose to go on to graduate school.

We are very excited about this, as are our students. Be sure to check out the full story on our Department web page.

So, as you can see, we move ever forward. Some of you may remember the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. He was fond of saying that "the universe is change but life is understanding."

As always, we are grateful to those of you who have joined us this past year in supporting our students' journey through "change" and "understanding." For those of you who have not yet made a gift, we hope that you will consider doing so. Please know that it will go a long way to ensuring that we can continue to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

Best regards,

John Donahue
Associate Professor and Chair