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Letter From the President

Sue Curry

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LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT

“IO TRIUMP(H)E!”



Dear Members of CANE:

A new year is upon us and I don't know about you, but I am very much looking forward to it.

Don't get me wrong, I am not one to wish any moment of my life away. In fact, if I could afford it, like Trimalchio, I would employ a trumpeter to play every hour as a reminder of another sixty minutes gone, just gone. Instead I have my mother, who raised me on a now favorite saying of mind oft-told to nearly all I have met and taught: “we all die a little bit every day.” It may sound a bit bleak upon first hearing, but Mom always says it with a smile. And so do I.

In talking with students, colleagues, friends, and family, however, it has become clear that, for many of us, the past year has contained more than the usual aggregate of difficulties and challenges. For myself as well. And so I am looking forward to a new beginning this year as I never have before.

It may come as a surprise to those of you who only know me through the above, but I am not a person who finds it easy to see the glass “half full.” Nonetheless, I would like to suggest that we at CANE issue in the new year on the theme: *The Year You Toot Your Own Horn*. Or perhaps someone else's horn. In other words, in the absence of a 21st century Pindar to sing our praises, let's make like Walt Whitman and sing songs of ourselves.

Among CANE's membership are many talented, generous, and award-winning scholars, teachers, and community members, and, yet, we – and the people who evaluate their work for promotion and other purposes – do not always hear of the many contributions these individuals make to CANE itself and to the

larger Classics community.

Two of CANE's outstanding members, Charlie Bradshaw and Jere Mead, have proposed – quite rightly – that we at CANE need to do more to celebrate the service and achievements of our members. So many do so much that goes unremarked upon, much less celebrated, and who knows when a letter to a principal or an announcement of an award in a local newspaper might make a difference to the survival of a Latin teaching position or a whole program. It can't hurt to try.

So, let's celebrate this as *The Year You Toot Your Own (or Someone Else's) Horn*. Or, if you prefer the cliché in British English (to me, it sounds a bit more modest that way): *The Year You Blow Your Own (or Someone Else's) Trumpet*. Whatever else may be implied by these clichés, I simply wish to ask you to let us and others know of your or someone else's professional and intellectual triumphs. You might begin with a resounding, "io triumph!" and follow up with an email to me (Susan.Curry@unh.edu) detailing your or someone else's special achievement.

If, like me, such tooting and trumpeting is totally anathema, likely only to draw the attention of jealous and angry deities – or perhaps that is just me – or, again, like me, you are a person who has a chorus of internal slaves reminding you that you are a mortal human being, not just at moments of triumph, but pretty much every day of every moment of your life, then you might start by celebrating another.

Let us begin:

"Io triumph!" (I proclaim in an intellectual/pedagogical achievement and not a militaristic sort of way...there is, I believe, a slight difference in pitch and accent.)

I am absolutely thrilled to congratulate here, Thomas J. (TJ) Howell of Northampton High School in Massachusetts. He is the recipient of one of two national Society for Classical Studies Precollegiate Teaching Awards – a great honor indeed! The SCS website details some of TJ's innovative approaches to the teaching of Latin including his talents for engaging students through *Commentarii de inepto puero* (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*), the Bayeux

Tapestry, and Catullus and through a number of different communication methods designed to demonstrate to students that Latin is a language, a means of communicating, and not simply a taxing translation exercise. Many of you, too, are aware that TJ has given much of his time in service, for example, as President of the Classical Association of Massachusetts and as a board member of CANE.

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to TJ!!!

And speaking of communication ... while we are singing songs of ourselves and celebrating the triumphs of others, please be sure to share this information with those closest to you on a daily basis: your students and colleagues. I would especially ask you to sing CANE's praises to a new generation of teachers and scholars, who may not know of all CANE does to offer its members chances to learn from one another at the Annual Meeting and throughout the year, to meet others as passionate about things ancient as you are, and to keep the study of the ancient world alive in a world that all too often insists upon its demise. We all know that reports of its death are greatly exaggerated. Nonetheless, if we do not speak up and celebrate what we do and do well, exaggeration may quickly become reality.

So – if you forgive this last analogy – let's make of CANE itself a kind of English village pub. Like in *Midsomer Murders*, perhaps, but without the murders. What I love about a local pub in England is the way they are so often patronized by several generations at once, often several generations of the same family at once. I know we need several generations with their different kinds of energy, knowledge, and know-how to even have a shot at winning on trivia night at our local, and we at CANE also need several generations with their different kinds of energy, knowledge, and know-how if we are to survive, support one another, and keep bringing the rigors and pleasures of the study of the ancient world to New England.

We have much to offer.

Let the young people know.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the CANE
Annual Meeting at the College of the Holy Cross,
Worcester, Massachusetts, March 8th and 9th,
2019, and I wish you a year full of celebrations.

Sue Curry,
CANE President
Senior Lecturer in Classics, University of New Hampshire
Susan.Curry@unh.edu
