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## Letter From the President

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L E T T E R F R O M  
T H E P R E S I D E N T

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Dear Members of CANE:

Well, the year is certainly moving along quickly, with Thanksgiving just around the corner. When I think about those things for which I am thankful, one would surely be my half century of positive learning, friendship and renewal derived from membership in the Classical Association of New England. The other day a visitor to my school in her capacity as a professional reviewer was taken quite by surprise when I could rattle off names of several teachers in her area of eastern Massachusetts, some one hundred fifty miles away from the Berkshires. I explained that is a distinct benefit of being a CANE member all these years, and the wonderful networking it provides classicists from throughout the six-state region. I have, and will continue to keep my membership as a top priority when giving thanks this month.

The CANE Executive Board convened its first meeting of the year on 14 October at Amherst College, a day that still had the look and feel of late summer. The full agenda covered some new initiatives, an overview of Annual Meeting plans, and an ever-important lengthy vetting of the CANE budget. I wish to mention some takeaways from that meeting which have immediate importance for all members. First, please consider presenting a paper or workshop at the annual meeting on 16-17 March 2018 at the University of Rhode Island. You may make your proposal at [caneweb.org](http://caneweb.org) hopefully by early December at the latest. Just click the “Annual Events” tab. I will notify you as promptly as possible about the status of your offering. Remember that papers **MUST NOT** exceed a 15-minute delivery time, with just a couple of additional minutes for any questions. Workshops do not exceed a one-hour window. Another very important item for your attention is a survey on [caneweb.org](http://caneweb.org) from Scott Smith at

the University of New Hampshire. You will find it by clicking the “News” tab. We really need your individual and collective help to glean a health report for classical studies programs throughout the six-state region. This survey is an attempt to be one way that we can give our profession a greater public presence. Soon on the CANE website you will be able to express your thoughts about what provides you with the greatest satisfaction and joy as a teacher or devotee of classical studies. We hope to garner enough comments from throughout CANE Country that we can post in appropriate locations and media sources. Also, do encourage your students to write about Lucretius’s assertion that life must exist elsewhere in the cosmos. You will find rules and regulations under the “Annual Events” tab. (N.B. One of the best-selling books for the past couple of months, and still, as of this writing, #5 in the Boston Globe, is “Astrophysics for People in a Hurry” by Neil DeGrasse Tyson. I was just elated upon opening to Chapter One to find that this distinguished scientist, as a heading for Chapter 1, gives the reader this quote from Lucretius. “The world has persisted many a long year, having once been set going in the appropriate motions. From these everything else follows.” This just proves that everything ancient is suitably modern!) Finally, remember, too, that caneweb.org is a delightfully rich source of ideas and information about all things classical. On the home page you will find great articles from teachers who continue to find innovative ways to get their students excited about Latin and other classical subjects. And you should also peruse the possibilities for scholarships and funding located under the “resources” tab. Ben Revkin has given us a web site of which every CANE member can be duly proud!

It’s difficult to believe that for many of us in the region’s schools, the first quarter of teaching and learning has come to an end. Education continues to evolve, and some of us sometimes reel under the pressures coming from initiatives for classroom pedagogy and management with acronyms too numerous to mention, let alone remember. But on this I think we can all agree. When you get the chance to close that classroom door, and it’s just you and the kids together with Caesar or Vergil, Catullus

or Lucretius, Daedalus or the Fates, does it get any better? Some fifty-five years ago as a senior at Haverhill (MA) High School studying Vergil under the tutelage of the late Margaret McCormick, I decided then and there that my life would be a full one if I could ever match her zeal and creativity as a classical studies teacher. It has certainly been a life “less travelled by”, but via Frost, “that has made all the difference.”

Please accept, on behalf of the CANE Executive Board, my best wishes to you for the holiday season. And both March and URI await us all!

Ex corde,

Charlie Bradshaw, CANE President

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