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## Message from the President

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# Message from the President

TERESA RAMSBY

Despite the global pandemic, and the nature of this year's challenges for all educators and students at every level, CANE has carried on. As president in the 2020-2021 academic year, I have seen first-hand evidence of the leadership and proactive engagement of our organization's members and committees. It has been enlightening and encouraging to see the dedication and innovative efforts of the members of this organization. CANE has indeed done a lot this year, which I am happy to report in what follows.

Our Education Programs Committee, chaired by Dr. Lindsay Sears, organized pedagogical gatherings on Zoom in the fall, and provided much needed funds for educators. The CANE Membership Committee, under the new leadership of Dr. Meredith Safran, has increased communication with our membership with a quarterly newsletter and through a survey provided at the annual meeting, and is undertaking many steps to attract more people to CANE and increase involvement among members. In July, I commissioned an *ad hoc* committee, chaired by Dr. Peter Barrios Lech, to oversee development of a scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students who are historically under-represented in our discipline. The results of that six-month discussion is the new Helen Maria Chesnutt Scholarship for Equity in Classical Study, funded in part by the Dr. Rudolph Masciantonio Fund for Classical Studies. The scholarship will be granted annually to one or more students engaged in projects, professional development, or coursework relevant to our discipline. Please keep an eye on the website for updated information about the application, due in January of 2022, and inform any students who might be interested.

The Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, created in September as an *ad hoc* committee, co-chaired by Dr. Jason Moralee and Dr. Lindsay Sears, and slated to become a standing committee, undertook to plan three events for our 2021 annual meeting, including the plenary panel that featured Dr. Shelley Haley, Dr. Dominic Machado, and John Bracey, who together discussed the ways our field can become more accessible and more inclusive; it was a riveting conversation. Gregory Stringer and the newly formulated Classics in Curricula committee are working with renewed vigor to become a greater force in our region for promoting and defending Latin and Ancient Greek programs, and for providing more opportunities for teachers to share ideas about making courses about the ancient Mediterranean more accessible and relevant.

Amanda Loud, our CANE Summer Institute Director, is hard at work to make the 2021 CSI the best one possible, considering it will take place on Zoom in July. Please check our website to read more about the opportunities it offers for courses and evening lectures. Our Curator of Funds, Roger Stone, and the members of our finance committee, as well as our highly dedicated Treasurer, Ruth Breindel, and our Auditors, Shirley Lowe and Paula Chabot, have all made sure the fiscal state of CANE remains strong. Our Media Coordinator, Ben Revkin, our Past President, Dr. John Higgins, and our Executive Secretary, Kevin Ballestrini, continued to work to make the events and decisions of CANE as transparent and accessible as possible.

The State Representatives for CANE consistently do the important work of coordinating the efforts of CANE with the state organizations for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Last, but not least, Dr. Aaron Seider, Editor of the *New England Classical Journal*, has worked tirelessly to make this journal, our organization's flagship publication, available to all, and has attracted high quality content, which is only right for an academic publication placed in New England!

The 2021 CANE Annual Meeting occurred successfully on Zoom on March 13 and 20. The meeting featured six paper sessions, eight workshops, three events, including the plenary panel, on social justice in classics, one special presentation by Phuc Tran (the nationally renowned speaker, memoirist, and former Latin teacher), and a keynote presentation by Michele Valerie Ronnick on Helen Maria Chesnutt. The meeting also hosted a Business meeting where voting occurred, obituaries were read, reports were submitted, and the annual Writing Contest winner read his winning entry. The meeting also offered affinity groups, and a closing, award-ceremony where Matthew Katsenes of Moultonborough Academy received the Matthew I. Wiencke Teaching Excellence Award, and Dr. Mark Pearsall of Glastonbury High School was presented the Barlow-Beach Award for Distinguished Service. Emma Vanderpool (CANE's MA state rep.) and a team of technology experts made sure the meeting ran smoothly. The 2022 Annual Meeting, under the supervision of incoming president, Dr. Lindsay Sears, will take place at UMass Amherst, most likely in-person, on April 8-9, 2022. Mark your calendars!

It has been a great honor to serve as president of CANE, and I thank all the officers and members of the CANE Executive Committee for their aid in making what could have been a difficult year, from my perspective, one of the best!

Curate ut valeatis,  
*Teresa Ramsby*  
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