

Letter From The Editor

Dear Reader,

Discentes was founded in 2012 by the initiative of students seeking to provide a forum for undergraduates in the University of Pennsylvania Department of Classical Studies. Now, we seek to continue and improve that founding initiative by introducing a new, cleaner, and stylish layout. We have simultaneously endeavored to maintain and strengthen the standards for *Discentes'* content.

Besides serving an undergraduate forum, we hope that *Discentes* will shine light onto the multi-disciplinary nature and range of undergraduate talent in the Classical Studies Department. While freshman Julia Pan provides an interpretive reading of Catullus on love, senior Allyson Zucker studies the diverse functions of the Roman Forum. While junior Ray Lahiri examines ancient Skeptic thought, sophomore Nathan May compares the poetry of Virgil and Augustine. Representing the Department's archaeological nature, junior Jeremy Cohen recounts his experience doing fieldwork in Israel. Further emphasizing an interdisciplinary approach, this edition's faculty interviews feature Professor Thomas Tartaron, who discusses ancient harbors, and Professor Lauren Ristvet, a Professor of Anthropology who has taught Classics courses.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts that made this publication possible. First, I would like to thank our Content Editors: Nina Kaledin, Alexander King, and Reggie Kramer, along with Tuyet-Van Huynh, our Layout Editor, who deserves credit for the publication's new appearance. Second, I would like to thank my colleague, Sean Carpenter, whose long tenure with *Discentes* brought important experience and knowledge to the table. Finally, I would like to thank our faculty advisor, Professor Ralph Rosen, whose advocacy made this publication financially viable, and whose cheerful yet helpful counsel made preparing this publication a true pleasure.


Louis Capozzi