

October 8, 2021

On this day last year we began our 2020 Virtual Annual Fall Meeting. At that moment the Covid 19 pandemic was of course at its height, vaccination was still in development, and our everyday teaching was mostly online. All of us were feeling our way and hoping for the best, but the Fall meeting was very successful despite the newness of our adopted format. We of course hoped that that meeting would be unique in CAAS's history, but the need for caution remains. So it is that our 2021 Annual Meeting, October 14-16, will be virtual, and I have every confidence that it will be as successful as last year's gathering. All the latest information for registration, program content, and membership renewal can be found on our website.

The task of assembling the program for the Fall meeting in any normal year is formidable enough, but it becomes yet more complicated when the meeting is virtual. We were blessed last year to be able to rely on the expertise of our Webmaster, Jennifer Ranck, and her support team; I am delighted to report that we will be in the same safe hands this Fall, and that Jennifer has once more assembled an outstanding Tech Team. But I must also pay a special tribute to our Program Coordinator, **Maria Marsilio** of St. Joseph's University. At the end of our Fall meeting Maria will be stepping down as Program Coordinator, a role she has fulfilled with consummate skill and diplomacy, enormous energy, and remarkable diligence. CAAS has been very fortunate indeed to benefit from Maria's expertise, and we all owe her a great debt of gratitude for her exemplary service.

As for the Fall meeting itself, please let me draw your attention to the **Jerry Clack Memorial Lecture** to be held on Friday October 15 at 6:00-7:30 p.m. Our eminent speaker this year is **Professor Donald Lateiner**, John R. Wright Professor of Greek, Emeritus, Ohio Wesleyan University. His lecture is entitled 'Epizêlos' Tale: The Phantom Killer at the Battle of Marathon (Herodotus, *Histories* 6.117).'

I also want to highlight other special events. On Friday October 15 two honorary *ovationes* are to be presented: one for **Lillian Doherty** is to be read by Katherine Wasdin; the other, for **Ann Kiernan**, is to be read by Henry Bender. Also on October 15 the **2021 CAAS Barbara F. McManus Leadership Award** will be presented to **Maria Marsilio** by Ann Raia. Then, just prior to the Annual Business Session on Saturday October 16, a special address will be offered by our guest speaker, **Dr. Anika Prather**.

In one of the most significant developments within CAAS in the last year, the **Anti-Racism Committee** under its chair, Marian Makins, has organized several very successful workshop events and outreach activities. I strongly urge you to attend the workshop that the Anti-Racism Committee is holding on the morning of Saturday October 16 at 8:00-10:00 a.m. Entitled *Who Benefits from Diversity Policies?*, it will feature four presenters: **Sara Flounders, Danielle Perry, David J. Wright, and Arti Mehta**.

Finally, some very important expressions of gratitude. As many of you know, **Dr. Rudolph Masciantonio**, long an active member of CAAS who passed away in 2016,

included CAAS among the various Classical organizations that were beneficiaries of his estate. We are very fortunate to benefit from Dr. Masciantonio's generosity, and I am delighted to announce the formation of the **Dr. Rudolph Masciantonio Grants Committee**, which will be co-chaired in 2021-23 by **Henry Bender** and **Mary Brown**. I also thank our longtime Archivist, **Jerry Heverly**, at a moment when he is preparing to conclude his service: we are much indebted to Jerry for his steady and dedicated work on behalf of CAAS.

I am deeply grateful to all those CAAS members who have served as Regional Directors or on one or more of the organization's administrative committees: CAAS relies for its smooth functioning on that generous service, and it has been very uplifting to observe the many contributions that have been made by so many to ensure that all runs well. But a special word of thanks to **Ralph Rosen**, who now steps down as Officer-at-Large at the end of his four-year term of service on the presidential *cursus*. We have all benefited from Ralph's poise, wisdom, and generosity of spirit, and I want to stress my own thanks to him for all that he has done for the benefit of the organization in his various roles in recent years.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of CAAS in the last year. Our field of Classics faces many important challenges at the moment, but those challenges also present many opportunities for beneficial growth and change. CAAS has many members who are very well equipped to help the organization to evolve in the times ahead, and so I look forward to the exciting opportunities that await us.

With best regards,

Gareth Williams
President of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States