

About the Abigail Adams Institute

The mission of the Abigail Adams Institute (AAI) is to foster and fortify traditional liberal arts education at Harvard and in the wider community of Boston-area universities, colleges, and secondary schools. In all our programming, we strive to model the virtues of intellectual friendship, civility, and free discourse.

Our approach is designed to open students to the value of deep and broad thinking and to stimulate the spirit of intellectual adventure. Our programs, guides, and recommendations are designed to motivate students to challenge themselves in intellectually ambitious ways: to ask better questions, to spend time with classic works, to explore diverse areas of thought and inquiry, to think and write with more passion and precision, and, above all, to make time for genuinely independent thought despite everyday busyness, conformity, and media-driven distractions.

Toward the end of Fall 2021, AAI published the first issue of its own journal, *The Veritas Review* (VR). After several years of wondering why there are so few outlets for creative writing at Harvard, and thanks to a series of fortuitous connections in Kirkland House, we decided to produce a semi-annual literary journal that we hope prompts more students to develop their writing and provide an outlet for other kinds of creative expression.

There were at least three needs we sought to address by launching VR. The first was to fill the lacuna alluded to above, since Harvard does not have an extant literary journal, whether faculty-run or student-run, of the sort. *Kirkland Review*, founded in the 1980s, used to play that role in years past, but is no longer in operation. Echoing the editorial statement in Issue I, we would like to address what we see as a kind of poverty of spirit in the students. Whatever is causing this flatness, it is our hunch that it is a function of supply as much as demand. Therefore, we decided that something ought to exist to stimulate creative and thoughtful expression. Our game plan was to raise the standard from the get-go by publishing student contributions alongside established poets, writers, and professors.

The second need, or goal, we wanted to fulfill was to feature some of AAI's live programs in this journal by asking the student participants to record their experiences in the journal. Our third goal was to promote harmony in the community by featuring subject matter that is not perceived as contentious as some of our contemporary political and cultural conversations. We, of course, do not shy away from principled arguments, whether in metaphysics, politics, or economics. Nevertheless, having an outlet featuring drawings, photography, poetry, and art criticism can offer an alternative approach in exploring life's bigger questions.

Danilo Petranovich '00
Director
Abigail Adams Institute

Photos by James Capuzzi



John Aroutiounian Fellows Loren Brown (Harvard College '23), Mathieu Ronayne (Boston College '22), Paige Proctor (Harvard College '23), and Gabby Landry (Harvard College '23) at the AAI 2022 Great Ideas Debate.



John Aroutiounian Fellows and AAI Student Fellows celebrate the launch of the John Aroutiounian Fellowship.



AAI Graduate Student Fellow Sarah Gustafson speaks on John Aroutiounian's legacy.



AAI Professional Fellow Alice Wang speaks on John Aroutiounian's legacy.



John Aroutiounian Fellows and AAI Student Fellows celebrate the launch of the John Aroutiounian Fellowship.



Harvard Undergraduate students of Professor Evridiki Georgantelli's Freshman Seminar *Looking for Clues: Ancient & Medieval Art* at Harvard class at a Piatti Dinner.



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Harvard Undergraduate students of Professor Sean Kelly's Philosophy 138: *Heidegger's Being and Time* class at a Piatti Dinner.



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Harvard Undergraduate students of Professor James Hankins' *Biography and Autobiography in Renaissance Italy* class at a Piatti Dinner.



At the Student Scholars Workshop, David Brannon, Harvard College '22, presents his award-winning senior thesis *George Fitzhugh and the End of Southern Order* at AAI headquarters.



Undergraduate and graduate student attendees at AAI Student Scholars Workshops.



John Aroutiounian Fellow Loren Brown, Harvard College '23, introduces the film *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* for AAI's Film Night.



Students and faculty gather at a reception before the 2022 AAI Great Ideas Debate *Return to the Founders to Save America* between Prof. Patrick Deneen and Prof. Michael Anton.



Dr. Danilo Petranovich, AAI Director, introduces speakers for the special *End of Christendom* Conference, addressing the work of the French philosopher Chantal Delsol.



R.R. Reno, *First Things Magazine*, and Dr. Teresa MacArt, Assistant Professor of Politics and Public Service at Holy Cross College (Notre Dame, IN), speak at January's *End of Christendom* Conference.



Students attending January's *End of Christendom* Conference, co-hosted with *First Things Magazine* and Palo Alto's Zephyr Institute.



Students attending AAI's Spring Party, May 2022.



Students and AAI community attending AAI's Spring Party, May 2022.



Dr. Petranovich moderates the AAI Great Ideas Debate between Prof. Anton and Prof. Deneen.