

An Unexpected Journey

*“Sing through me, O Muse,
The story of a man,
Much traveled,
Driven by Fate
From Pacific Beach
To Atlantic Shore,
From 10000 Lakes
To Mississippi Delta,
And points in between,
Until finally reaching safe haven
Again in Northern Climes.
What adventures he did have,
What glorious victories,
What dread mishaps,
Shall surely inspire those who hear his tale.”*

As this epic proem suggests, although there are still some who get tenure-track positions right out of graduate school, it is becoming more and more the norm for those holding a Classics PhD to roam the country, from one visiting position to another, before finally achieving the goal of long-term employment. My story is certainly not unique: full-time positions at five institutions in four different states over the course of seven years. In this presentation, I will discuss my trials and tribulations in the hiring process, at times maddening, at others jubilant, ultimately ending successfully.