

Christopher S. Celenza, PhD, DrPhil

Christopher Celenza was named James B. Knapp Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences in January 2021.

Celenza, who previously served as vice provost for faculty affairs, rejoined Johns Hopkins after three years as dean of Georgetown University's College of Arts and Sciences. A faculty member affiliated with the history and classics departments, his research interests include the Latin literature and philosophy of the Italian Renaissance; late medieval intellectual history; the history of philosophy; the history of books and reading practices; Latin paleography; and the history of the classical tradition.

Dr. Celenza oversees the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, which has 22 highly ranked academic departments within the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. While at Georgetown, Celenza advanced many strategic initiatives, including prioritizing efforts to foster diversity, inclusion, and equity while significantly refining faculty hiring practices. He also developed a new undergraduate research program that provided students with more opportunities to explore career paths and took concerted steps to enfranchise faculty and build mentoring programs for assistant and associate professors.

At the Krieger School, Celenza has made it a priority to foster diversity and inclusion. He also plans to build on the school's collaborative relationships, deepening support for scholars at every stage of their careers.

Celenza first joined the Krieger School in 2005 as a professor in what was then the Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures and the Department of Classics. He went on to hold several leadership roles, ultimately serving as vice provost for faculty affairs until he departed for Georgetown in summer 2017.

As vice provost for faculty affairs at Hopkins, Celenza worked closely with schools across the university to address issues related to recruiting and retaining faculty. His efforts included fostering collaboration, increasing faculty diversity and administering the university's ongoing Faculty Diversity Initiative, and working to assess and improve mentorship programs for junior faculty.

In addition to his role as a vice provost, Celenza founded the Charles Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe, serving as its first director, and assisted in the founding of the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute. From 2010 to 2014, he was director of the American Academy in Rome, the United States' oldest center for independent art and humanities research based outside the country. When he returned to Hopkins, he chaired the Department of Classics, held the Charles Homer Haskins Professorship, and served as vice dean for humanities and social sciences.

Celenza came to Johns Hopkins in 2005 after teaching for nine years in the Department of History at Michigan State University. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, he earned two doctoral degrees—one in history from Duke University and one in classics and neo-Latin literature from the University of Hamburg—after earning bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the State University of New York at Albany.

Celenza has received numerous awards and grants, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Fulbright Foundation, and the American Council of Learned Societies. He is the author or editor of 11 books and more than 40 scholarly articles in the fields of Italian Renaissance history,

post-classical Latin literature and philosophy, and the history of classical scholarship. An Italian translation of his book *The Lost Italian Renaissance* was published in 2014.

His most recent books include *Petrarch: Everywhere a Wanderer* (London: Reaktion, 2017) and *The Intellectual World of the Italian Renaissance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018). His latest book, *The Italian Renaissance and the Origins of the Modern Humanities: An Intellectual History, 1400-1800* is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.