Even at a young age, Garrett Farrell SY ’16 was drawn to the ancient.

“I knew all along that I wanted to be a classics major,” says the Connecticut native, who studied Latin and Greek in high school. “The classics allow for a different mode of artistic expression in how the words fit together—ways not possible in more modern languages—that I have always found stimulating.”

Garrett chose Yale partly because of the positive experience of his mother, Susan Peel Farrell ’88. Another reason was to continue his studies of classical antiquity within Yale’s highly regarded humanities curriculum. As a freshman, Garrett broadened his knowledge through Directed Studies, a selective program involving interdisciplinary study of Western civilization; he also won Yale’s Henry A. Hurlbut prize for Latin translation.

He says he values Yale’s small classes, which have enabled him to work closely with faculty, studying Greek under Egbert Bakker and Latin with Kirk Freudenburg. Recently, he has been focused on the original Greek version of Homer’s Iliad. “It’s just a joy to read it,” he says. “The more in depth you go into those works, the more you get out of them.”

At present, Garrett is planning to earn a combined B.A./M.A. in classics before perhaps pursuing a Ph.D. But the degrees, he says, are less important than his interactions with long-treasured texts. “Some people can spend their lives reading these works and get continual satisfaction,” he says.

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Garrett to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.