

**Thursday November 10, 2022**

**Welcome Back Luncheon**

*“How Poets Petrarca and Catullus ‘Met’ One Another Across More Than 1,000 Years”*

**Featuring Dr. Brendan Cook**

**Naples Hilton**

**Doors open at 11:00**

**Lecture 11:30 Luncheon to follow**

**Price: \$65**

**Chairs: Bob DiLoreto  
Lynn Wuestoff**

In this lecture, Dr. Cook will recreate the encounter between two of Italy’s greatest poets across a divide of over one thousand years. In 1347, Francesco Petrarca, the master of the Renaissance sonnet sequence, made a remarkable discovery in the Verona Cathedral: one of the last surviving manuscripts of the Roman lyric poet Gaius Valerius Catullus, who lived and worked in the first century BC. In Catullus, Petrarca found a writer both like and unlike himself, molded by a radically different life experience, but equally committed to exploring the human condition in deeply personal terms. Dr. Cook will explore the significance of this meeting for the history of European poetry, showing how the encounter with Italy’s ancient past shaped its modern future.

***For special dietary needs, please contact the event Chair at least one (1) week before the luncheon.***



**Francesco Petrarca**



**Gaius Valerius Catullus**

## **Dr. Brendan Cook**

Born and educated in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada, Brendan Cook earned a Ph.D. in History from the University of Toronto in 2009. He held teaching positions at the University of Toronto and Carthage College before coming to the University of South Florida in 2013. As a Senior Instructor in Humanities and Cultural Studies, Dr. Cook teaches courses on medieval Tuscany, the Florentine Renaissance, and Dante's *Commedia*. Dr. Cook is a specialist in Latin philology, and his translation of the correspondence of the fifteenth-century Roman humanist Lorenzo Valla was published in 2014 by Harvard University Press.

