

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL LATIN EXAM 1978-PRESENT

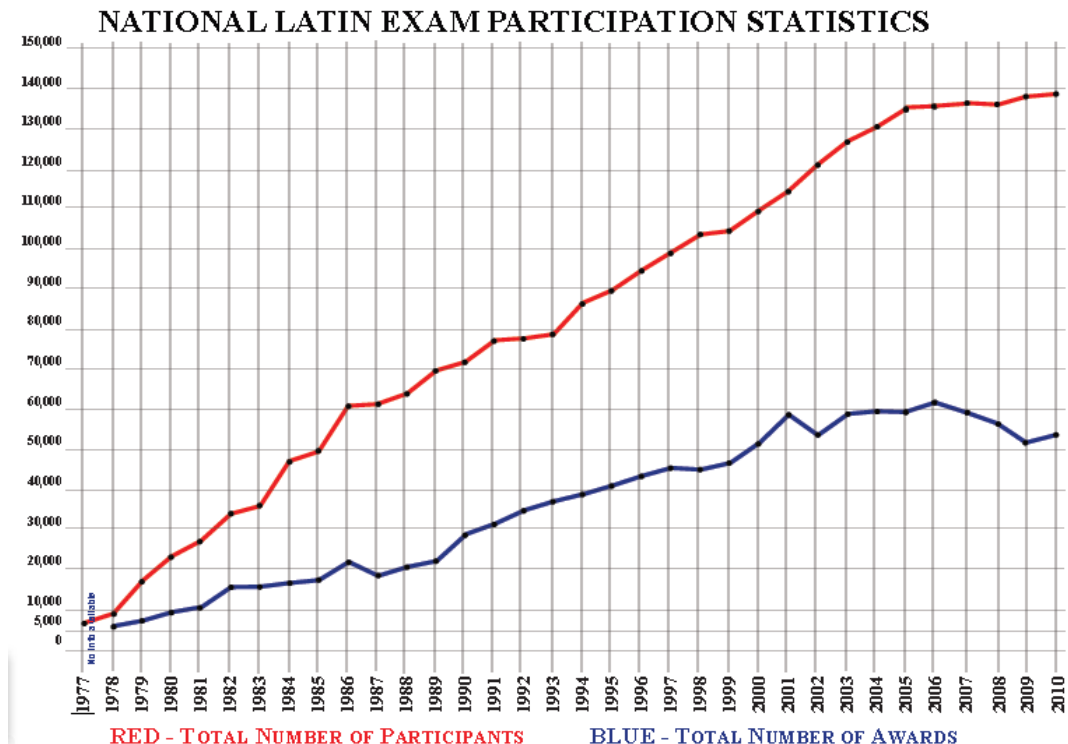
Written by Jane Hall and Ian Hochberg

In 2010, over 138,170 Latin students registered for the National Latin Exam (NLE). Entrants came from all 50 states as well as the US Virgin Islands, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe. The exam was administered in 2,025 high schools, 352 middle schools, 335 home schools, 49 foreign schools, 21 colleges and universities, and 11 elementary schools. In its inaugural year, 1978, approximately 9,000 students participated in the exam, and the number has grown steadily each of its 34 years to reach its current level. The birth, growth, and success of the NLE are all the results of a cooperative venture which has linked elementary-, middle-, high-school, and college teachers across the nation. Here is the growth rounded to the nearest 1,000.

1977	0
1978	9,000
1979	19,000
1980	22,000
1981	30,000
1982	35,000
1983	37,000
1984	48,000
1985	56,000
1986	62,000
1987	62,000
1988	66,000

1989	74,000
1990	75,000
1991	77,000
1992	79,000
1993	79,000
1994	86,000
1995	89,000
1996	94,000
1997	98,000
1998	103,000
1999	104,000
2000	110,000

2001	114,000
2002	121,000
2003	127,000
2004	130,000
2005	135,000
2006	135,000
2007	136,000
2008	135,000
2009	137,000
2010	138,000



The National Latin Exam was conceived at The American Classical League Institute at Georgetown University in 1976, when Jane H. Hall, who taught at Fort Hunt H.S. in Alexandria, Virginia just a few miles from Mt. Vernon, urged her ACL colleagues to consider reviving the National Latin Exam in some form. There had been a National Latin Exam sponsored by the Association for the Promotion of the Study of Latin, but due to the ailing health of its director, Dr. Albert E. Warsley, the exam was discontinued in the early 1970s.

Outgoing president of ACL, Robert Wolverton, and incoming ACL president, Gil Lawall, suggested to Jane that she investigate the possibilities of creating a National Latin Exam sponsored by The American Classical League. Encouraged by these offers of support, Jane returned to Virginia, and asked fellow Latin teachers Sally Davis, Linda Sharrard (now Linda Montross), Maureen O'Donnell, and Christine Sleeper if they would be willing to form a committee to write exams and plan the administration of a National Latin Exam. They were delighted to accept, and the now established ACL Subcommittee B on the National Latin Examination began to meet weekly to decide on format and make-up of the exams.

As the five of them were geographically spread out in Northern Virginia, they needed a somewhat central location in which to meet. That turned out to be Linda's apartment in Annandale, right off the Capital Beltway. In the fall of 1976, they started meeting almost every Wednesday afternoon to write the first exam.

They studied numerous exams sent from all parts of the country, and finally decided on a 40-question, multiple-choice format so that the exam could be given within a single class period and scored by machine. They were in agreement that a Latin curriculum should include Roman life, history, mythology, and geography, as well as grammar and comprehension. This led to the format of 20 grammar and derivative questions; 15 questions on mythology, culture, history, and Roman life; and five questions based on a short passage in Latin. The committee also proposed that the exam be open to all Latin students enrolled in Latin I, II, III, or IV, thus four separate exams. It was also stipulated that the teacher must be a member of The American Classical League, a stipulation which was removed in 1984.

Following in the steps of the National German Exam, the committee decided that the exam should be administered in the individual school, since there is usually only one teacher of Latin in most schools; establishing regional centers across the nation, as the National French and Spanish Exams have done, would not ensure maximum participation by Latin students.

Realizing the need for consultants to review the accuracy of the content of the exams, the Working Committee enrolled James Minter who in 1978 was a Latin teacher in Virginia and very involved in *certamina*. John F. Latimer, Professor Emeritus, George Washington University, and former president of ACL, who had been instrumental in collaboration between high school and college Latin teachers in the Washington area, was also asked. Both accepted with alacrity and enthusiasm.



(l to r) Sally, Christine, Wallace, Kevin, Betty, Tamara, and Jane
Founding Mothers Sally Davis, Christine Sleeper, and Jane Hall with writers
Wallace Ragan, Kevin Gushman, and Betty Merrill, and consultant Tamara Bauer.

Value Engineering, a data systems corporation in Alexandria agreed to keypunch applications, send out exams and answer sheets, process the returned answer sheets, and send out the results and awards for 42¢ per student.

Emulating Albert Warsley's idea of multiple winners, it was decided that there would be four winning categories. All four categories would receive certificates, and gold and silver medals would be awarded to categories one and two. The committee designed the medals and a trophy shop agreed to produce them for 80¢ each. Sally Davis designed the certificates which are still being used today. A budget was worked out, and the committee determined that a fee of \$1 per student would cover the costs of the exam.



Sally designing the certificates

At the June, 1977, ACL Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, the committee submitted a proposal for a National Latin Exam to begin in 1978 and requested a \$600 loan from the ACL and NJCL. The ACL Council voted unanimously to loan the money to the ACL/NJCL National Latin Exam.

Inspired by the overwhelming support, the committee met frequently during the summer of 1977 to produce four exams, an answer sheet, an application, and letters to principals and teachers. The exams were not based on any specific textbook series, since many different texts were used and studied by the committee. As the components of the exams were reviewed, revised, and retyped five different times, they were sent to James Minter for his comments. James sent back a detailed analysis of the four exams, which included many helpful suggestions. The exams were revised again and routed to John Latimer for his meticulous perusal. Dr. Latimer was affectionately called *ipsissimus* by the committee, as it was felt that if any error escaped his eagle eye, no one else would spot it either.

The first National Latin Exam application was sent out from the ACL office in October, 1977, to all ACL members with the deadline for receipt on January 10th and the committee waited anxiously to ascertain how many students would enter. John Latimer thought that we would be fortunate to have 300 participants, and that this would prove that the exam was a viable endeavor. The committee members estimated from 900 to 3,000 and so were absolutely amazed to have almost 9,000 participants.

Articles in *The Classical Outlook*, *TORCH: U.S.*, and the *CANE Newsletter* publicized the fledgling exam.

The committee accepted the bid of the Marine Corps Association in Quantico for the printing of the exams. The exams were typeset, and as the typesetter knew no Latin, proofing was a tremendous problem, and took many hours of close scrutiny. After many changes, 10,000 exams were printed.



The founding mothers at Value Engineering in 1979

In April, 1978, the results and awards were sent to the principals of the schools, accompanied by letters of congratulations for the achievement of teachers and students. Over 40% of the 1978 participants won awards that first year, and the committee received numerous letters of appreciation from teachers across the nation.

At the 1978 ACL Institute in San Diego, Jane Hall reported on the success of the NLE, paid back the \$600 loan, and asked for a \$400 grant.

In 1979, Martha (Marty) Abbott joined the NLE as a member of the Working Committee, and Robert LaBouve was designated as member-at-large. His duties included collecting sample tests, questions, and suggestions pertaining to the NLE. Glenn Knudsvig, University of Michigan, whose area of expertise was testing, agreed to help proof the exams. It was in this year that the NLE requested that the committee be granted status of a standing committee by both the ACL and the NJCL and this motion was passed at the ACL Council Meeting. Students who achieved perfect scores became a new category, and a special letter was sent to the principals of the schools congratulating these students.



Jan and Joe of Clement Testing Service

Software Design, then and still run by the Clement family, became the computer company for the NLE in 1980, and continues to be to this day. The company processes the applications, handles mail-outs and numerous telephone calls from teachers, and continues to maintain a personal interest and a meticulous accuracy in servicing the steadily increasing number of students and teachers.

New medals were purchased for the 1982 exam, replacing the large plastic discs at the same cost.

The steadily increasing costs for the production and mailing of the NLE forced the committee to announce that the fee for the exam would increase to \$2 per student in 1983. The NLE was concerned that the increase to \$2 would lead to a decrease in the number of Latin students participating, but in 1983, the number increased by 3,000.

The NLE scholarship began in 1983. The NLE Scholarship Committee was formed with Robert LaBouve as chair. Guidelines were written as this committee was to be completely separate from the NLE.

In 1984, over 11,000 more students participated in the exam than in 1983, the largest increase to date, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals voted to place the NLE on the Advisory List of National Contests and Activities for 1984-1985. This list is distributed to all secondary schools in the United States in September. The NLE has been placed on the NASSP Advisory List each succeeding year.

In the same year, Marty Abbott drew up a syllabus for the NLE which was edited and published. The syllabus has been revised several times including 2009. A copy of the revised NLE syllabus is included in this book and online at <http://www.nle.org/syllabi.html>.

Robert LaBouve announced the first NLE scholarship winners at the 1984 ACL Institute at the University of Massachusetts. Four students were awarded \$1,000 each. Chairman LaBouve and Committee members Virginia M. Barrett and John (Jack) W. Zarker reviewed the applications of 67 eligible seniors in Latin III or IV who had won gold medals, and agreed to take a year of Latin or ancient Greek in college. In 1985, eight \$1,000 NLE scholarships were awarded.



Marty Abbott

The Latin V exam was added in 1986, in response to many requests from teachers, to encourage students to continue their study of Latin and enable a greater number of deserving students to become eligible for NLE scholarships. The Latin V Exam consists of two Latin passages with 40 multiple-choice questions on comprehension, grammar, historical background, classical literature, and literary devices. In the first year, of the 388 students who took the exam,

244 won awards, five of which were perfect papers. It was gratifying to see that the percentage of award winners was remarkably high at this level of study. Also in this year, 12 \$1,000 scholarships were awarded, and a newsletter containing exam statistics and items of interest to teachers and students was sent out by the NLE and the National Greek Examination.



Maureen O'Donnell, Sally Davis, Marty Abbott, Linda Montross, and Christine Sleeper
The "Founding Mothers" of the National Latin Exam

The number of scholarship winners was increased to 15 in 1987, and Doris Kays joined the Scholarship Committee, which had the arduous task of reading 103 applications. Edith M.A. Kovach, Professor Emerita, University of Detroit, became a consultant, adding her considerable experience and expertise to the reading of the exams, and a ten-year booklet was published, containing all the exams and answers from 1978-1987, a detailed analysis of the 1987 Exam, scholarship winners and their teachers, statistics, and the syllabus. The booklet was dedicated to the thousands of teachers and students who have enjoyed and supported the NLE.

The *Introduction to Latin Exam* became available in 1988 and was designed for Latin I students who covered approximately one-half the Latin I syllabus. It was well received with 5,117 students taking the exam, 1,111 of whom received special achievement certificates and purple ribbons. Eighteen students answered all 40 questions correctly, and the committee sent a special congratulatory letter noting this achievement. An *Introduction to Latin* syllabus was published and sent to all teachers who registered for the Introduction to Latin Exam. A survey was also sent, in which teachers were asked to respond to the new exam with their comments and suggestions.

The syllabus was revised in 1988, as the committee recognized the effect that the syllabus was having on curriculum development. The syllabus for the NLE has become, as it were, a national vehicle for curriculum description. The syllabus was available in classical newsletters and journals, thus enabling both colleges and high schools to support present or proposed curricula by linking them with national goals and norms. Publication of the syllabus also encouraged feedback. In response to teachers who expressed concern over the amount of material covered by the exams, especially considering that the exams are given in early March, the committee made major revisions.

Holders of the 1987 NLE Scholarship awards were invited to re-apply for an additional \$1,000 in 1988, under the stipulation that they would agree to continue their study of Latin or ancient Greek for another year. In 1988, under these rules, \$24,000 was awarded to deserving Latin students throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Colloquia workshops, whereby members of the NLE Committee travel anywhere in the United States or Canada to discuss current trends and methodologies in the teaching of Latin and

classical studies and focus on developing successful programs in Latin, were added to the NLE agenda in 1988. The NLE sponsored more than 20 such workshops in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 1989, a bright light in the classics profession was extinguished when NLE committee member Maureen O'Donnell died of cancer. Maureen had an untiring devotion to the Latin exam and its philosophy, and the committee experienced an irrevocable loss with her passing. The award of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* to students who have won four gold medals was named in her honor: the Maureen O'Donnell Memorial Award.

Ruth Adams, Latin teacher at Schreiber High School in New York, joined the NLE as a high school consultant to review the exams in terms of their suitability for the high school level.

Also in 1989, a thirty-second television advertisement, developed and organized by Lyceum, Inc., with the voice of then ACL president, Ed Phinney, and the students of high school teacher Donna Lyons, appeared on Public Broadcasting Stations across the nation. The advertisement generated many telephone calls and much interest on the part of the general public.

The NLE has become a support group for the many Latin teachers across the nation, many of whom have no other colleague at their school with whom to share their concerns. The many cards and letters that the NLE has received have helped the Working Committee to understand the needs and concerns of the Latin teacher. It was with these thoughts in mind that the *ad hoc* Advisory Committee to the National Latin Exam was appointed in 1990, by President Ed Phinney, who also chaired the committee. This committee consisted of eight (now ten) representatives from different areas of the country who were chosen not only with respect to geographical location but also according to the size and type of their respective schools. The function of the Advisory Committee is to serve as a conduit of information to the NLE. At its first meeting, the Advisory Committee, which received ACL standing committee status in 1992, recommended that more comprehension questions be included on the exams. In 1991, the NLE Working Committee did increase the number of comprehension questions on the III-IV prose and poetry exams from five to eight. This increase extended to all exams in 1994.

From the 1990 NLE Latin III-IV-V survey, the committee received more than 800 responses detailing classroom grouping, curricula, texts used, and how the NLE correlates with programs of instruction. This information was invaluable in the preparation of future NLE exams.

In 1991, students from all 50 states participated in the NLE for the first time. After seven years of dedicated work as the Scholarship Chair, Robert LaBouve decided to step down, and Doris Kays agreed to serve in that capacity. Marcia Stille, a retired high school Latin teacher from Florida, was appointed a member of the Scholarship Committee, and Tamara Bauer joined the committee as an exam writer.

There were many changes in 1992. Richard Gascoyne took over as the Advisory Committee's 2nd chair. John Francis Latimer, the first consultant for the NLE, passed away in October at the age of 88. He had vigorously supported the concept of the NLE, and had looked at every word with great care. His death was an immeasurable loss to the exam and to all who knew and loved him.

Linda Sharrard Montross and Sally Davis, founding members of the NLE who have served faithfully and selflessly for 15 years, retired from the NLE to pursue other interests, both personal and professional. Their dedication to, and work on the exam, was greatly missed. Thankfully, both rejoined the exam in later years.

Betty Merrill, then teacher of Latin at James Monroe High School, and John Donohue, then teacher of Latin at W. T. Woodson High School, joined the Working Committee, bringing with them their considerable knowledge and experience. John later brought the Latin world Marcus Favonius and Forum Romanum (*vide infra*).



The real Favonius

The increase in the cost of postage, paper, printing, and awards necessitated an increase in the cost per students to \$3 in 1992.

The NLE and the National Greek Exam joined forces, with the NLE/NGE Scholarship Committee representing both languages, and offering 15 \$1,000 Latin scholarships, two \$1,000 Greek scholarships, and one \$1,000 scholarship for a winner in both languages. Twenty-six thousand dollars was awarded in 1992. In 1993, there were 222 seniors eligible for one of the 15 \$1,000 scholarships, a considerable increase from the 67 eligible in 1984.

The Maureen O'Donnell *Oxford Classical Dictionary* Award was sent to six students in 1990, and to 62 in 1993.

Two new consultants, Kathy Elifrits, a high school teacher of Latin from Rolla, Missouri, and Sheila K. Dickison, University of Florida, joined the NLE in 1993. Both brought to the exam a specific area of expertise, and thus added a great deal to the overall quality of the exam. In the 1994 spring newsletter, the NLE advertised colloquia workshops, in which two committee members travelled to an area where a minimum of twenty participants requested a workshop. The topics addressed ranged from the history of the exam to strategies for the classroom. The length of the presentations and topics discussed were the choice of the workshop participants. The NLE offered these workshops for free but requested that lunch be provided for the presenters. The NLE held its first workshops in Texas, Colorado, and Maine for high schools and state classical organizations.

Also in 1994, fifty-one medalists selected at random from the fifty states and the District of Columbia appeared in the USA TODAY in a full color page advertisement. Kevin Gushman, the Latin teacher at Yorktown High School in Arlington, VA, joined the NLE committee. The following year, Wallace Ragan, the Latin teacher at St. Albans School in Washington, DC, joined the committee as well. Both he and Kevin are still teaching today at their same respective schools. In 1995, the NLE conducted a survey on that year's exams as well as on the current syllabus. Specifically, the committee was interested in the difficulty level of the exams and block scheduling. In response to the survey, the NLE published statistics of teacher responses as well as a block scheduling decision in the subsequent newsletter. In 1996, Marty Abbott left the NLE working committee after seventeen years of service. Additional professional responsibilities prompted her decision to leave; at the time, Marty served as the Foreign Language Coordinator in Fairfax County Public Schools and held leadership roles on boards of regional and national classical organizations. She was greatly missed, but thankfully has remained a staunch supporter of the NLE. In addition, she has since played a major role in advocacy for Latin instruction in the United States and has served as the president of ACTFL. Sally Davis rejoined the NLE as a consultant in 1995. *Mirabile dictu!*

1996 saw the birth of "Forum Romanum" a series of short "news programs" presented entirely in Latin by qualified Latin language speakers in cooperation with Northern Virginia Public television station WNVT-TV. *Salvete, omnes! Mihi nomen est Marcus Favonius et hoc est Forum Romanum!* So began every episode of Forum Romanum. The series was John Donohue's brainchild with Jane Hall's and Marty Abbott's encouragement. John developed the scripts and brought the series to life with the aid of fellow Latin teachers. Segments were designed around the idea that the forum was the social, political, economic, and religious center in ancient Rome. Here is a description of Forum Romanum as published in the 1996 NLE Fall Newsletter:

Each show runs about ten minutes and uses a news broadcast format, offering news from the ancient world *as it happens*.

An individual show takes place on a specific date in Roman history, such as August 24, 79 A.D., or March 15, 44 B.C. The show opens with a question that cues the audience into that show's theme. Following this *Quaestio Hodierna* comes the *Quid Novi* segment, in which the top story is announced, e.g., "*Mons Vesuvius erupit!*" or "*Caesar caesus est!*" Details of the story are

given by co-anchors Marcus Favonius (John Donohue) and Iulia Pauli (Amy High), either from the news desk or “on location.” The next segment features discussion of a related topic or an interview with a *persona notanda*, such as Pliny the Younger, Marc Antony, or the Cumaean Sibyl. Following the news segment, the *Tempestas Hodierna* is discussed by weatherman Aulus Serenus (Wallace Ragan). The weather segment is designed to be a geography lesson, emphasizing locations around the Mediterranean relevant to that show’s feature story. The answer to the *Quaestio Hodierna* is then given, followed by the *Dictum Hodiernum* (also based on the feature story). The show closes with a quick review of the top story and a brief valediction by Favonius. ...

The purpose of the show is to present Latin *as a language* by allowing the audience to *hear spoken Latin*, featured within a realistic and relevant context. The principal challenge in composing scripts has been to find a golden mean between realistic colloquial Latin and vocabulary and syntax accessible to the majority of the target audience. To achieve the goal of showing Latin *as a language in a realistic context*, it was imperative to use lively colloquial elements of the Latin language rather than vocabulary or sentences dependent on any one textbook.

Shows of Forum Romanum initially were made available for purchase on VHS tape for classroom use. In 2004, they became available on DVD, and two years later John Donohue published a “Forum Romanum Companion” to accompany the videos.

In 1996, the NLE committee wished Christine Sleeper a happy 80th birthday (in Latin of course: *Laetum octogesimum natalem diem, tibi, Christine Sleeper*). A decade later, Christine was still working on the exam and most of the committee attended a large 90th birthday party for her.

The NLE started devoting a regular column of its newsletter to the National Committee for Latin and Greek (NCLG) in 1996. Virginia Barrett resigned the NLE Scholarship Committee in 1997 to devote full time to the NCLG of which she was the chair. Her husband, Conrad Barrett, took her place on the Scholarship Committee. That same year, Ephy Howard became the 3rd chair of the Advisory Committee. The NLE also first included a Certificate of Merit in each school’s results envelope at the request of many principals and teachers. It has been provided to teachers and schools each year since as a proud reminder of their students’ participation in the National Latin Exam. A copy of this and other NLE certificates appears later in this book.

For the first time in 1997, the NLE sponsored its scholarship recipients who were college juniors and seniors to attend the American Classical League Institute in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Four NLE scholars accepted the invitation: Rebecca Benefiel, Howard Chang, Stewart Chang, and Sonia Sabnis.

In 1998, the NLE mourned the loss of Glenn Knudsvig, consultant for the NLE since 1979. According to the 1998 NLE Newsletter, “Glenn was instrumental in pushing the NLE to simplify and not obfuscate.” One of his favorite comments was, “Too hard! My college students wouldn’t know the answer to that question.” The NLE passed a milestone that same year with the “Twenty Years of the National Latin Exam” book. The NLE was also busy offering colloquia all over the east coast (New Hampshire, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Ohio to name a few). These colloquia continued for many subsequent years under the primary coordination of Wallace Ragan. The NLE also improved the exams by introducing macrons to them in 1999 with the help of David Perry and at the urging of many teachers. David Perry still adds macrons to all the exams. In response to teacher request, the passage questions increased in number from 8 to 10. E. Christian Kopff, who taught at the University of Colorado, Boulder, joined the NLE Scholarship Committee in 1998 too.

Carter Drake, Latin teacher at Rockbridge County High School near Lexington, VA, joined the NLE as a consultant in 1999. On the 1999 NLE application, teachers were asked to indicate if they taught in a semester-block (4 by 4) scheduling system. Just over 7% of students who took the exam were on a block schedule. The NLE compared the mean scores of those students with and without block schedules and published the results in the 1999 Fall Newsletter.

Mark Keith joined the NLE Working Committee in the spring of 2000. At the time he taught at Chancellor High School in Fredericksburg, VA and currently he is the Latin teacher at Riverbend High School also in Fredericksburg. Mark, as a former student of Betty Merrill, represents the second generation of NLE Committee members. Mark initially joined the NLE as a technical consultant. At the present time, Mark serves as the co-chair of the National Latin Exam. Also in 2000, Sally Davis started compiling "The Hard Ones and Easy Ones," a record of the hardest and easiest question on each exam (Intro-IV) for the year. These are included after each year's exams later in this book.

In 2001 Ephy Howard bid farewell as Advisory Committee Chair and passed the torch on to Sue Gillen, Latin teacher at White Plains High School and Middle School in White Plains, New York. She became the 4th chair of the committee. At the ACL Institute in San Antonio, Texas, the NLE held a session in which, in addition to presenting the exam statistics for 2001, they unveiled the New NLE syllabus. The NLE worked for the previous two years preparing the new edition. The purpose of the revision was to update, fill in gaps, and add more examples. Two versions of the new syllabus were made available: the beige version (in the same format as the previous syllabus) and the new poster format which became very popular among teachers. While the poster covered the same items that the new beige version covered, it also set out a complete scope and sequence for the course of Latin study from middle school through high school. The new poster also showed coordination between the National Latin Exam Syllabus and the National Standards for Classical Languages.

In 2002, Sally Murphy of the Windsor School in Boston, Massachusetts joined the NLE as a consultant. The NLE also posted the results of its second survey concerning the impact of block scheduling.



2002 ACL in Madison, WI (l to r): advisory member and 1999 NLE Scholar Matt Webb, founding mother Jane Hall, writer Ian Hochberg, 1998 NLE Scholar Amy Sommer, Latin teacher and Ian's wife Kathy Smerke, and former ACL president Sherwin Little

After twenty-six years of being operated out of member's living rooms and basements, the NLE opened its office on the campus of Mary Washington College (now the University of Mary Washington). Phil Hall, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Mary Washington was instrumental in making the move a reality. He stated, "I believe this is the right home for the National Latin Exam." The NLE hopes that UMW will continue to be its home for years to come. On campus, the NLE was located at Tyler House since April 2003 before moving to the basement of Trinkle Hall in October 2006 and to its current home, a suite of offices on the main floor of Trinkle Hall, in May 2009.



The University of Mary Washington's Trinkle Hall, home to the NLE

Also in 2003, Kevin Gushman moved from the working committee to consultant status. The working committee added Sue Robertson, Latin teacher at Midlothian High School in Chesterfield County, Virginia and Joe Davenport, Latin teacher at Norwell Middle School in Holbrook, Massachusetts. Joe joined the committee as an Introduction To Latin Exam specialist. For the past eight years, Joe has had the unenviable task of composing, with limited vocabulary and grammar, one short story from which questions 13 to 40 are drawn.

2003 was a busy year for new appointments. Ephy Howard was named the new chair of the NLE Scholarship Committee in 2003. She taught Latin at Charles Henderson High School in Troy, Alabama. Ephy still serves as the committee's chair, and she travels to most ACL Institutes and NJCL Conventions to announce that year's NLE Scholarship winners. Carol Ellis, teacher at Nimitz Middle School, Churchill High School, and Madison High School, joined the scholarship committee, as did Judith de Luce, Professor and Chair of the Department of Classics at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Linda Montross, one of the "founding mothers" returned to the NLE as Scholarship Liaison. Lastly, David Winn, who taught in Spotsylvania County, VA for thirty-four years, joined the NLE Working Committee.

Tragically, Amy High (Iulia Pauli from Forum Romanum) died suddenly of a brain aneurism in September of 2003 at age 39. An Amy High Latin Scholarship fund was established in her memory to support aspiring and current Latin teachers to study with Father Reginald Foster in Rome. The website devoted to the scholarship in her name states, "A major presence in the northern Virginia Latin scene, Amy taught Latin at a number of local high schools, among them McLean, West Potomac, W.T. Woodson, and Paul VI. Her elementary Latin program at Providence Elementary School in Fairfax County was featured in *Time* magazine and on the Oxygen cable television network."

A new postgraduate scholarship of \$2,000 was introduced in 2004 for the 2005 NLE. In addition, many exam administration changes took place. The NLE changed its registration deadline to January 15th and with a late fee incurred for applications postmarked after that date. The exam fee increased from \$3 to \$4 to offset the price of materials, printing, mailing, and related services. An "Early Bird Special" was introduced to encourage teachers to send in their

applications early. The following year it was discontinued as it created logistical challenges keeping track of the early registrations and it created more problems than it solved. A new checklist was included in the fall newsletter to help with exam procedures. Janine Kutty, a graduate of Mary Washington joined the NLE as office manager. Ian Hochberg, Latin teacher at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes school in Alexandria, VA, joined the NLE as a consultant, and the following year he joined the Working Committee.

The Working Committee changed its name to the Writing Committee in 2005 and then to the Writing/Steering Committee to more accurately reflect the work it does. In its spring newsletter, the NLE recognized John H.H. Turner, the creator of the Perfect Paper Certificate for more than 25 years of service. When Jack was asked to create this special award for the NLE, he designed it, penned it, and did all the flourishes entirely by hand. David Volk of Fargo North High School in Fargo, North Dakota became the 4th chair of the Advisory Committee.



Sally Davis, Sue Roberston, and Joe Davenport

Deborah Mason of the NLE Scholarship Committee died in February of 2006. She was a Latin teacher at Altavista High School in Altavista, VA. All of the Virginia and NLE Latin community was saddened by her death. In the same year, Jane Hall was the first recipient of the Eta Sigma Phi Service Award. She was honored for her involvement and leadership on the National Latin Exam. In the fall of 2006, Joe and Jan Clement handed down their software design company to their son Joe Jr.. He and Software Design continue to serve the NLE by sending out the materials, scoring the exams, developing statistics, and returning results to schools. Thanks to a generous donor, the NLE also added a 21st scholarship named the Doris Kays Memorial Scholarship.



Tom Sienkewicz and Liane Houghtalin

The NLE welcomed Dr. Thomas J. Sienkewicz, Professor at Monmouth College, and Dr. Liane Houghtalin, Associate Professor at the University of Mary Washington, as specially-tasked members of the advisory committee. They were charged with exploring and promoting the use of the NLE at the college and university level. Approximately 130 post-secondary students took the exam at eleven colleges and universities across the country in 2006.

John Donohue's "Forum Romanum Companion" became available for purchase in the summer of 2006. As John says in his introduction, the book is designed to provide Latin teachers and students with supporting information and an instructional framework for using the Forum Romanum shows in the classroom. In addition to synopses and scripts for the twenty-four shows, there are commentaries, a glossary of Latin terms, useful expressions for spoken Latin, various exercises, learning activities, and grammar points. The list of shows from his companion is contained later in this book.

The NLE changed its look in 2007. The Latin I, II, Prose, and Poetry exams were printed on different colored sheets of paper instead of in the four-page-all-white-booklet format of the past. This also allowed for more room for the exams as each exam could now be printed on two sides of the page.

In February of 2007 Doris Lynn Kays, who served as Chair of the National Latin Exam Scholarship Committee from 1991-2003, died in San Antonio, Texas. She taught English and Latin at MacArthur High School in San Antonio, Texas. Elizabeth (Liz) Heimbach joined the

Writing/Steering Committee later that year. She taught Latin for thirty-five years in both public and private schools in Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Edith Foster of Hiram College, Kenyon College, and the College of Wooster joined the scholarship committee. Gaylan DuBose, who retired in 2010 from St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Texas after 44 years, joined the scholarship committee too.



Sara Dale, 2007 NLE Scholar, who renewed for 2 years to Saint Thomas Aquinas College in CA; Ephy Howard, chair of the NLE Scholarship Committee; and Pat Richardson, Sara's Latin teacher.

In the Fall 2007 NLE Newsletter, the NLE advertised that it was exploring the option of offering a generic Latin III exam in addition to the Latin III-IV prose and poetry exams. The NLE requested to hear from teachers before exploring further the development of this exam. In 2008 after hearing from teachers around the country, the NLE announced the addition of a new Latin III Exam starting in 2009. Because of the many requests and suggestions by teachers who do not complete the study of Latin grammar and syntax in two years, the NLE Writing/Steering Committee offered this new exam to serve students who are in those programs. A proposed syllabus was published in the 2008 spring newsletter, distributed at the ACL Institute later that summer, and disseminated further through the NLE website. This syllabus was then refined and updated along with all of the other levels in a new syllabus published in 2009.

In 2008, book prizes were awarded to the first school to send in its application, to the school with the highest number of participants, and to the school with largest percentage increase in participants. Also that year, Michael Bales, a Latin teacher at Toronto French School and an advisory committee member since 2005, became an NLE Consultant.

In the spring of 2009 the NLE in conjunction with the ACL/NJCL announced a registration price break for members of the ACL/NJCL. Teachers received a \$5 discount for membership in each organization beginning in 2010. The NLE also announced that exams may be given at different sittings and on different days. However, all students at a school taking the same level exam must still take that exam at the same sitting and at the same time, even though they may have different teachers. Please visit the NLE website for full instructions about this change. In addition, beginning with the 2010 NLE, teachers were allowed to hand out the answer sheets to their students before the exam date so that students might bubble-in the student information section of the exam in advance. The time allotted for actually taking the exam then would be 40 minutes.

Patty Lister, Latin teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Fairfax, VA, joined the NLE Writing/Steering Committee. She was delighted to have the opportunity to work with “*sua magistra*” and mentor, Linda Montross! Edith Kovach of the University of Detroit died in July of 2009. She served for many years as an NLE consultant. Susan McDonald, Latin teacher at Manatee School in Bradenton, Florida, became the 5th chair of the Advisory Committee.

Christine Sleeper, one of the “founding mothers” of the NLE was recognized with Emerita status in the spring of 2010. At 93 she now lives in a retirement community in New Hampshire and therefore no longer travels to Fredericksburg for committee meetings.



Sally Davis, Christine Sleeper, and Jane Hall

In 2010, 21 colleges and universities had students participate in the NLE. This number is rising in large part due to the efforts of Liane Houghtalin and Tom Sienkewicz as well as a flyer made by Ian Hochberg to help promote the NLE to colleges. Cathy Daugherty, of Chapel Hill High School in NC and currently at Randolph-Macon in Ashland, VA, joined the NLE Scholarship Committee. Ginny Greenland and Meredith Sitz of the Bolles School in Florida have entered each National Latin Exam test question and answer set from 1978 to 2010 into “Access,” a Microsoft data-based program. With the help of Ian Hochberg and Cindy Caltagirone, these questions were placed on the NLE website for teachers to use in various ways, among them, for clicker technology. Also in 2010, Nancy Llewellyn, Associate Professor of Latin at Wyoming Catholic College, became an NLE Consultant.

In 2011, Jane Hall retired from the National Latin Exam (see Dedication). The beloved founder and Chair of the committee was honored with the creation of the Jane Harriman Hall Award for Professional Development. The grant will be awarded every year to a Latin teacher currently teaching with at least three years experience who wishes to pursue further study in teaching Latin. A special retirement reception was held for Jane in April. Linda Montross, also a “founding mother,”



Patty Lister with Co-chairs Linda and Mark accepted the position of Co-chair alongside Mark Keith, keeping the NLE in good hands. The NLE has been ever-growing, changing, and evolving these past 35 years to meet the needs of students and teachers. In response to teacher requests, the NLE created a new certificate in 2011 for perfect papers on the Intro Exam. Also in 2011, the Writing/Steering Committee conducted its first Skype meeting with Ian Hochberg. More Skype meetings are planned for 2012. Also new in 2012, teachers will be able to pay for exams with credit cards.

HISTORY SUPPLEMENT

Written by Linda Montross

Presented at the 2011 CAMWS-SS CAV Centennial Celebration

Family and Friends

When Jane asked the four of us [Sally, Maureen, Christine, and myself] to join her in this endeavor, we were mere colleagues. Three of us were Fairfax County teachers, one Arlington County, and one a local private school. By the time Marthy Abbott joined us in 1979, we had become not just colleagues but very dear friends, and, truthfully, a family... the NLE family. You see, Marty had been one of Jane's students at Fort Hunt High School.



The "Founding Mothers" Linda Sharrard Montross,
Jane Hall, Marty Abbott, Christine Sleeper,
Sally Davis, and Maureen O'Donnell

That tradition has continued for these decades as John Donohue was Maureen's student at W. T. Woodson High School, Mark Keith was Betty Merrill's student at Stafford High School, and Patty Lister was my student at James Madison High School. Sally's daughter Julia, an artist and calligrapher, calligraphs our perfect paper certificates and her sister Ruth Haukland, a Latin teacher on Long Island, is one of our consultants. We celebrated my wedding, Christine and Ray Sleeper's 40th wedding anniversary, Christine's 90th birthday, and the births of my two children and Ian Hochberg's second child on NLE meeting days. We have travelled together to Italy, Greece, and England too.

Location

In the 34 years since the NLE was founded we have met approximately 15 times each year to fine tune the exams. As has been mentioned earlier, those first meetings were at my apartment in Annandale, followed by my homes in Springfield and Vienna, the home of Joe and Jan Clement (who owned Software Design) in Springfield, Jane's house and later apartment in Alexandria, the Tyler building on the campus of the University of Mary Washington (then Mary Washington College), the basement of the rotunda, and now a very prominent suite of rooms on the first floor of the rotunda at UMW...a total of ten different locations in these three decades. We are most thrilled with the generosity of UMW and the wonderful space in which they have installed us! In these 34 years we have had only two addresses – P.O. Box 95 in Mt. Vernon and 1301 College Ave. at UMW.



The NLE Writing Committee in 2005 in front of Tyler Hall
(from left to right) Betty Merrill, Sue Robertson, David Winn, Ian Hochberg,
Joe Davenport, Jane Hall, Sally Davis, and Mark Keith

Office Staff

In those early years we were our own office staff. I recall stuffing awards into plastic bags and mailers over my dining room table. As the exam grew we eventually grew to depend on help from beyond the actual writing committee, including Kathy Adair, a friend of the Clements, a fellow FCPS Latin teacher Judy Wright, Jane's daughter Diane, and now the staff we have at our office at UMW, including our office manager Janine Kutty, who was a student of Jane's when she was an adjunct at UMW.



David Winn, Jane Hall, Sally Davis, and Christine Sleeper