



# NATIONAL LATIN EXAM NEWSLETTER



## IN MEMORIAM: CHRISTINE FERNALD SLEEPER

September 20, 1916 – February 15, 2015

### *Mater, Uxor, Amica, Viator Orbis Terrarum*

Christine Fernald Sleeper started teaching Latin at Fairfax County's Herndon High School in 1970. She was 54 years young that first year and retired in 2000 at the age of 84!

When Jane Hall established the National Latin Exam in 1976, she invited Christine to join her on this new venture.

Christine served as Vice President of the American Classical League from 1988-1991 and for many years was the Chairman of the ACL Scholarship Committee. Christine received the first ever Excellence in Pre-Collegiate Teaching Award from the American Philological Association (now the Society for Classical Studies) in 1999. She served from 2001-2004 on a newly reorganized Development Committee for the APA and also as Chair of the Coffin Traveling Fellowship Committee for that same organization. Christine was a loyal member of the Classical Association of Virginia and was elected President of that organization in 1980.

Christine received her undergraduate degree in French and Latin from the University of New Hampshire in 1938. The following year she spent at Radcliffe (now part of Harvard), obtaining her master's degree. She taught Latin and French at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, New Hampshire, from 1939-1941 and in Lexington, Massachusetts, from 1941-1943.

By that time the United States had entered World War II, and Christine wanted to serve! She had gained her pilot's license in May 1941 and later had become an Air Traffic Controller at Logan Airport in Boston, a position she held from July 1943 until late 1944. But that was not enough for Christine! She wanted to be where the action was, so she began her training with the American Red Cross. For two years she held postings in Naples, Paris, and Salzburg and managed to make excursions to London, Florence, and Venice on her days off. She always remarked that her American Red Cross experience was one of the highlights of her life.

Christine met Raymond Sleeper at UNH the last week of her sophomore year in 1936, as he was  
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## IN MEMORIAM: CHRISTINE FERNALD SLEEPER

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preparing to transfer to West Point. According to Christine, he was not a good dancer, and she was not impressed. Christine took a second look when the Outing Club to which she belonged was planning to climb Mount Lafayette. She discovered Ray was a good climber! He graduated from West Point in 1940 and saw service as a bomber pilot in the South Pacific.

Ray proposed to Christine in August 1946, and they were married that November. They settled in Arlington, Massachusetts, with Ray's four year old son Tony while Ray attended Harvard. They later expanded their family to six with the birth of their children Jack (1948), Jane (1950), Tray (1952), Harry (1953), and Grant (1955). Their family saw postings in Washington, D.C.; Montgomery, AL; Fort Worth, TX; Hawaii; Andrews AFB in Maryland; and Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio.

It was while they were at Andrews AFB that Christine, returning to the Latin classroom after an 18 year hiatus, taught at Surrattsville High School. Then, while they were stationed at Wright Patterson, she taught Latin at the newly formed Wright State University. When Ray retired in 1969, they moved to Virginia. After one year of docent duty at the National Gallery of Art, Christine took the job teaching Latin at Herndon High School, from which her sons Harry and Grant graduated.

Christine was selected as Virginia's Distinguished Foreign Language Teacher of the Year in 1980 and was given a CAMWS Ovatio in 1984, an Angela Lloyd Book Award in 1995, a Washington Classical Society Award in 1999, and an ACL Merita in 2002.

Christine served on the National Latin Exam Writing Committee from 1976 until her move to her beloved New Hampshire in 2009. She was never late for a meeting, and if she arrived early, she could always be found napping in her car, or writing out a postcard or a letter (always with some enclosed article from the NY Times) to a friend or family member. With an editor's eye for precision with the English language, Christine was the best NLE proofreader! She always wanted the NLE to set a certain positive tone with the exam, and there were to be no gruesome battle scenes under her watch!

Her passions were a daily reading of both the NY Times and the Washington Post, opera at the Met, eating coffee ice cream, visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art, participating in the Senior Olympics, swimming in the lakes of New Hampshire, finding

Baci candy wherever she traveled, and always learning something new.

Is this how you will remember Christine Sleeper? There was always a mischievous twinkle in her eye. She was always a lady. An intellectual. In a room...she always talked to all...but paid particular attention to those standing alone. Welcoming and encouraging, especially to new teachers, were her specialties. The astronaut Alan Shepherd was her student at Pinkerton Academy. She inaugurated an Etymology class at HHS which was copied by many others. She organized one-day trips to NYC for her students and her colleagues, with pick up at 5:00 am and return at midnight! She was the conscience of various committees on which she served. She had a life rich in friendships, family, memories, events, celebrations, adventures. She was an enthusiastic attendee at Euro Classica. She always looked elegant and distinguished – our very own Katharine Hepburn. If Christine was in Washington for an evening event, she frequently stayed overnight at the Army Navy Club near the White House; she loved to entertain there as well. If Christine had to be someplace at a certain day and time, she would drive there the day before to check it out! No matter the location, a daily swim was always on the agenda. One never saw her angry. She never said anything negative about anyone. She celebrated and honored the past but was always looking forward to the future, to the next new event, trip, meeting, invention, experience! She was determined to visit all seven continents...and she did! As an octogenarian she traveled to both the South Pole to see the penguins and to Mongolia to stay in a yurt!

Her family published a book about her most wonderful life in 2009. The following quote from Christine appears in the chapter on teaching: "Mine has been a lifelong love affair with Latin. It is a vibrant, multifaceted subject. When you teach Latin, you teach about life—about philosophy, mythology, language and derivatives. You learn about ancient times and ancient thought. If you know how things were before, you know what's good about today. If you've had Latin, you're a better writer, a better speaker, and a better person."

Christine Sleeper epitomized "*Carpe Diem.*" *Ave atque vale, amica carissima!*

# NATIONAL LATIN EXAM ANNOUNCES JOHN DONOHUE MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

The National Latin Exam was deeply saddened by the death last year of John Donohue, a very special member of the NLE family. For many years John wrote and consulted for the National Latin Exam, where his wisdom and Latin expertise were a great inspiration to all of us. John was best known in Latin classes throughout the world for his starring role as Marcus Favonius, the anchor in *Forum Romanum*, the NLE's news program which he created and directed. Although, after successful years in the classroom, John left teaching Latin to pursue a career in corporate training and development, he remained a lover of and advocate for Latin. Now the John Donohue Memorial Awards have been established in loving memory of John and in special recognition of his life-long commitment to all things Roman.

Beginning this spring, every graduating National Latin Exam Scholar who has renewed his or her scholarship for all four years of undergraduate study will receive a John Donohue Memorial Award of \$1000. These award recipients are not required to attend graduate school in Classics or to enter a career in the field. It is our hope that the honorees, like John, will live a life inspired by a love of Latin and will influence others to embrace a life-long interest in the Classics regardless of their careers. In return for this reward, the NLE asks only that these scholars share their story with the rest of the Latin community. We do not care what these recipients do with the funds but hope that they will "pay it forward," *i.e.*, that they will be lifetime Latin lovers, that they will continue to learn, appreciate, and acknowledge the classics in their lives, and that they will influence those with whom they come in contact. That is what John Donohue did during his lifetime.

Our 1915 John Donohue Memorial Award recipients are Joshua Davids, Carleton College; Zachary Fletcher, Harvard University; Rebecca Gerdes, Smith College; Mason Johnson, Rhodes College; Woojin Kim, Johns Hopkins University; Bernard Lin, Rutgers University; Melissa Luttmann, College of the Holy Cross; Alison Rosenberg, Wesleyan University; Kelci Schilly, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; India Watkins, Davidson College; and Elliot Wilson, Harvard University. Congratulations to all of you!



**VIVAT LINGUA LATINA IN OMNIBUS NOBIS AD AETERNUM!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Here are the dates for the 2016 National Latin Exam:

February 22 – 26

February 29 – March 4  
(2016 is a leap year.)

March 7 - 11

## MEMBERS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

**Ephy Howard, Chair**, [epc@troycable.net](mailto:epc@troycable.net)

**Sarah Bjorkman**, [sarahinrome@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahinrome@yahoo.com)

**Randall Childree**, [randall.childree@furman.edu](mailto:randall.childree@furman.edu)

**Cathy Daugherty**, [emerita07@comcast.net](mailto:emerita07@comcast.net)

**Patricia Richardson**, [patricia.richardson@hotmail.com](mailto:patricia.richardson@hotmail.com)

**Michael Sloan**, [sloanmc@wfu.edu](mailto:sloanmc@wfu.edu)

**Sandra Woodward**, [swoodward@graniteschools.org](mailto:swoodward@graniteschools.org)

# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 2015 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

The National Latin Exam, sponsored by the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League, is a 40-question, multiple-choice test with a time limit of 45 minutes, offered to students on seven levels. On the Introduction to Latin, Latin I, Latin II, Latin III, Latin III/IV Prose, and Latin III/IV Poetry exams, there are questions on grammar, comprehension, mythology, derivatives, literature, Roman life, history, geography, oral Latin, and Latin in use in the modern world. The Latin V-VI exam contains two Latin passages as the basis for questions on grammar, comprehension, historical background, classical literature, and literary devices.

The philosophy of the National Latin Exam is predicated on providing every Latin student the opportunity to experience a sense of personal accomplishment and success in his or her study of the Latin language and culture. This opportunity exists for all students since, in the National Latin Exam, they are not competing with their fellow students on a comparative basis, but are evaluated solely on their own performance on the exam. The basic purposes of the NLE are to promote the study of Latin and to encourage the individual student.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has voted to place the National Latin Exam on the Advisory List of National Contests and Activities for 2015-2016. This list will be distributed to all secondary schools in the United States in September of 2015.

## THE EXAM BY THE NUMBERS

The 38th annual National Latin Exam was administered to 140,745 students in the three-week testing window between late February and early March 2015.

153,822 students were registered for the exam; 91.5% actually sat for the exam.

- In the United States, the exam was administered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam.
- Outside of the United States, 1,506 students from Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, and, for the first time, Croatia and South Africa participated. This number represents less than 0.01% of the total participants.
- The exam was administered in 3,015 schools, including 22 colleges and 12 elementary schools.
- 3,732 students took the exam in 664 home schools. This number remains the fastest growing population of participants.

The charts to the right indicate the states with the greatest number of students taking the 2015 exam and those states showing the greatest percentage of increase in participants.



### The Top 10 States for Number of Students Taking the 2015 Exam

Massachusetts	12,189
New York	11,381
Virginia	10,357
Texas	10,146
New Jersey	7,848
Pennsylvania	7,719
California	7,336
Ohio	6,742
Georgia	6,043
Connecticut	5,417

### The Top 10 States with the Greatest % Increase in Students Taking the 2015 Exam

Utah	236.0%
Wyoming	61.9%
Indiana	43.1%
Montana	30.7%
Washington	19.2%
Idaho	15.2%
Oregon	14.5%
Arizona	8.4%
Georgia	4.6%
Texas	4.5%

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# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 2015 NLE

## GENERAL AWARDS

On the 2015 exams, 55,014 students (39.1%) earned awards. Students who received a score above the national average on each level were recognized. The chart below shows the average scores and the number of awards by level of exam and by category.

Level of Exam	Total Students	Average Score	Perfect Scores	Gold Medal/ Summa Cum Laude	Silver Medal/ Maxima Cum Laude	Magna Cum Laude	Cum Laude	Total Awards
Intro	19,851	31	554	2,914 Ribbons and Certificates of Outstanding Achievement 5,888 Certificates of Achievement				
Latin I	50,567	27	439	5,042	7,991	4,951	5,179	23,163
Latin II	34,534	28	462	3,362	5,784	3,307	3,591	16,044
Latin III	17,308	25	42	1,522	2,740	1,860	1,901	8,023
Prose III	3,639	23	4	357	532	323	411	1,623
Prose IV	4,931	23	9	467	684	525	546	2,222
Poetry III	1,420	22	2	166	162	210	129	667
Poetry IV	5,747	26	27	639	66	782	557	2,044
Latin V	2,445	26	13	302	294	231	264	1,091
Latin VI+	303	28	6	42	26	34	35	137
<b>Totals</b>	<b>140,745</b>		<b>1,558</b>	<b>11,899</b>	<b>18,279</b>	<b>12,223</b>	<b>12,613</b>	<b>55,014</b>

## SPECIAL AWARDS

There were 1,004 perfect papers in Latin I-VI. All students performing at this level received a special, hand-lettered certificate. A congratulatory letter has been sent to the principal of each school with copies for the student, the Latin teacher, and the student's permanent record. The sixteen students who have three years of perfect papers, the six students who have four years of perfect papers, and the one student with five years of perfect papers are being sent the Carter Stubbs Drake Goad Memorial Book Award in addition to the special certificate.

In the Introduction to Latin Exam, 554 students who answered all 40 questions correctly were sent a special congratulatory letter in addition to a special certificate of merit for a perfect score.

The Maureen O'Donnell *Oxford Classical Dictionary* Award, given to students who win four gold medals, is being sent to 459 students this year in recognition of their outstanding achievement. The

77 students who have won five gold medals and the 11 students who won six gold medals will be sent special book awards. The names of the winners of perfect papers will be published in *Torch U.S.*, the publication of the National Junior Classical League.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND MONETARY AWARDS

There were 834 seniors who won gold medals on the Latin III, Latin III-IV Prose, Latin III-IV Poetry, or the Latin V-VI Exam. These students are eligible to apply for one of the twenty-one \$1000 scholarships, including one from an anonymous donor. In addition, a \$2000 scholarship, the National Latin Exam Sally R. Davis Graduate School Scholarship, will be awarded for post graduate study leading to the teaching of Latin and/or Greek at the elementary, intermediate, or high school level. These scholarship awards will be announced by NLE Scholarship Chair, Ephy Howard, at the ACL Institute at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT, in June. The scholarship

recipients from 2014, 2013, and 2012 are eligible for an additional \$1000 if they continue their study of Latin and/or Greek. As juniors and seniors, NLE scholarship recipients must have declared a major in Classics, Latin, or Greek. In 2014, the National Latin Exam awarded \$63,000 in scholarships. Joseph Madsen was the winner of the Sally R. Davis Graduate School Scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year. Joseph is doing his graduate work at Trinity School in Dublin, Ireland, working toward a Master of Philosophy-Classics degree.

The National Latin Exam is also proud to offer the Jane Harriman Hall Award for Professional Development. This award, up to \$5,000, will be presented annually to a current and experienced Latin teacher who wishes to pursue further study in Latin teaching and pedagogy. This award is named in honor of Jane Hall, who founded the NLE in 1977 and whose energy and commitment led to the exam which exists today. There were two recipients of this year's award. Anne "Nancy" Antonellis was awarded \$4,000 toward her participation in the Paideia Institute's Caesar in Gaul program in the summer of 2015. Sara Sprunk was awarded \$1,000 toward her participation in the University of Florida's Summer Latin Institute for 2015. Marty Abbott, a former member of the Writing Committee, and Executive Director of ACTFL, is chair of the committee which administers this award.

The National Latin Exam is also proud to offer the Christine Fernald Sleeper Educational Travel Award. This award, up to \$5,000, will be presented annually to a current experienced Latin teacher who wishes to pursue an educational travel program. This award is named in honor of Christine Sleeper, one of the "founding mothers" of the NLE and a longtime member of the Writing Committee. The recipient of this year's award is Karin Suzadail, who will be participating in the Vergilian Society's tour "Tunisia: A Journey in a Magical Land" in the summer of 2015. Kevin Gushman, a former member of the Writing Committee and a current NLE Consultant, is the chair of the committee that administers this award.

## THE NUTS AND BOLTS

In September, the National Latin Exam office sent applications for the 2015 National Latin Exam to teachers who participated in the 2014 NLE. When the applications, along with payment, were sent back to the NLE office, the staff mailed to each teacher a postcard verifying the number of applicants and

informing the teacher that the exams and answer sheets would be mailed by the United Parcel Service to the exam administrator or principal by February 20, 2015.

The 2015 exam required fifteen working sessions averaging three and a half hours each to complete the work associated with the exams. In addition to the general working sessions, each member of the Writing Committee spent countless hours taking care of specific tasks such as writing exam questions, answering correspondence, word processing, record keeping, publicizing the exam, ordering supplies, and writing newsletter articles.

Clement Testing Service mailed out the exams, answer sheets, and instructions and scored the returned answer sheets. The company also mailed out the results, awards, exam answers, and a congratulatory letter to the teacher by April 20, 2015. A copy of the congratulatory letter for the principal was included in this package. In order to help teachers and students assess strengths and weaknesses, the percent correct for each question throughout the nation as well as for the individual school was included.

The office of the National Latin Exam is located on the campus of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The NLE Office Manager Janine Kuty, Administrative Assistant Ellen Smith, and student aide Rita Bailey tended to numerous NLE matters such as registering schools for the exam, processing exam fees, answering daily phone calls and e-mails, handling bookkeeping, and mailing postcards, awards letters, and Perfect Paper Certificates.

## COMMITTEES OF THE NLE

The National Latin Exam functions under the guidance and direction of four committees: the Executive Committee, the Writing Committee, the Advisory Committee, and the Scholarship Committee:

- The Executive Committee for the 2015 exam consists of Mark Keith, Co-Chair, Linda Montross, Co-Chair, Betty Merrill, Treasurer, and Sue Robertson, Member-At-Large. This committee oversees the administrative duties of the NLE and directs the work of the other committees.

- The Writing Committee consists of Mark Keith, Linda Montross, Joe Davenport, Elizabeth Heimbach, Ian Hochberg, Emily Lewis, Patricia Lister, Betty

Merrill, Sue Robertson, and Lauren Rogers. Jane Hall and Christine Sleeper, two of the original founders of the NLE, have been honored with Emerita status. (Sadly, Christine passed away earlier this year.) The committee began writing this year's exams in the spring of 2014. By the middle of August it began the difficult task of reviewing and editing each exam with respect to the level of difficulty, accuracy, and content. After several revisions, the exams were sent to consultants Michael Bales, David Bloch, Sally Davis, Kathy Elifrits, Kevin Gushman, Ruth Haukeland, Richard LaFleur, David Pellegrino, David Perry, and Wallace Ragan for their in-depth critiques. Acting upon their suggestions, the Committee made further revisions. After a final reading and revision, 173,250 copies of the exams were printed.

- The members of the Advisory Committee are Susan McDonald, Chair (Florida), Liane Houghtalin (Virginia), Caroline Switzer Kelly (North Carolina), Kelly Kusch (Kentucky), Nora MacDonald (Washington), Mary Pendergraft (North Carolina), and Amy Sommer (Colorado). This committee receives comments, questions, and suggestions from teachers who give the exam. The members of this Committee represent the various geographic areas of the country, middle and high schools, colleges, and public and private schools.

- The Scholarship Committee consists of Ephy Howard, Chair, and members Sarah Bjorkman,

Randall Childree, Cathy Daugherty, Patricia Richardson, Michael Sloan, and Sandra Woodward. This committee reviews the scholarship applications of qualified students and awards the scholarships. Linda S. Montross serves as the Scholarship Liaison.

## IN THE WORKS

The Executive Committee of the National Latin Exam has continued taking steps toward offering schools the option of taking the exam online. The online exam was tested at a small number of schools in 2014. The test group was expanded for the 2015 NLE, with a hope to make the option available world-wide in 2016. The committee realizes that this format is a necessary option for the exam to remain competitive and relevant.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Latin Exam wishes to recognize and thank all those individuals who work so diligently to make these exams a reality. The NLE continues to make a difference in the promotion and study of the Latin language in schools and homes around the world.

The NLE also wishes to thank all the teachers and students for their participation in this celebration of Latin.

## NLE OFFICE STAFF

Janine Kutty, Office Manager

Ellen Smith, Administrative Assistant

Rita Bailey, Student Aide



## LIZ HEIMBACH JOINS NLE'S CONSULTANTS

After seven years as a member of the NLE Writing Committee, Elizabeth Heimbach is looking forward to wearing a new hat next year: instead of writing an exam, she will be a consultant. She is excited to work on this part of the exam creation process.

Liz taught Latin for many years in Northern Virginia before moving to Port Royal, a little town on the Rappahannock River just south of Fredericksburg. She is currently teaching as an adjunct at the University of Mary Washington. She is the author of two workbooks, both of which were inspired by her experience in preparing her students for the NLE.



## BLOCK SCHEDULING RESULTS FOR 2015 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

Again on the 2015 NLE application, teachers were asked to indicate if they taught on a semester block (4 by 4) schedule. Of the students taking the exam, 3,605 in 108 schools were taught on this type schedule. These students' test scores were examined and compared with the mean scores of students on traditional schedules. The results are below:

### NATIONAL LATIN EXAM 2015 BLOCK SCHOOL ANALYSIS

LEVEL	OVERALL TOOK	AVERAGE	NON - BLOCKED SCH TOOK	AVERAGE	BLOCKED SCHOOLS TOOK	AVERAGE
Intro	19,851	31	19,631	31	220	32
Latin I	50,567	27	49,270	27	1,297	2
Latin II	34,534	28	33,502	28	1,032	27
Latin III	17,308	25	16,766	25	542	25
Prose III	3,639	23	3,592	23	47	21
Prose IV	4,931	23	4,756	23	175	22
Poetry III	1,420	22	1,385	22	35	20
Poetry IV	5,747	26	5,582	26	165	24
Latin V	2,445	26	2,361	26	84	22
Latin VI	303	28	295	28	8	26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>140,745</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>137,140</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3,605</b>	<b>25</b>



## THE 2015 NLE SCORES OF HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

According to the 2015 NLE applications, 3,732 students taking the exam were taught in home schools. These students' test scores were examined and compared with the mean scores of students in traditional schools. The results are below..

### NATIONAL LATIN EXAM 2015 HOME SCHOOL ANALYSIS

LEVEL	OVERALL TOOK	AVERAGE	NON - HOME SCH TOOK	AVERAGE	HOME SCHOOLS TOOK	AVERAGE
Intro	19,851	31	18,548	31	1,303	31
Latin I	50,567	27	49,316	27	1,251	30
Latin II	34,534	28	33,838	28	696	31
Latin III	17,308	25	17,039	25	269	29
Prose III	3,639	23	3,592	23	47	26
Prose IV	4,931	23	4,873	23	58	30
Poetry III	1,420	22	1,392	22	28	28
Poetry IV	5,747	26	5,705	26	42	31
Latin V	2,445	26	2,413	26	31	31
Latin VI	303	28	297	28	6	35
<b>Totals</b>	<b>140,745</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>137,013</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3,732</b>	<b>30</b>

## NATIONAL LATIN EXAM PRACTICE APP

The National Latin Exam Practice App is a free web-based application that allows students to prepare for the National Latin Exam and test their classical knowledge year-round, on demand, in an environment they can individually customize based on their level and time availability.

The web link for this link is <http://quiz.nle.org> Students can either type the link in and practice on the web, or they can scan and use it on their phones

## THE NLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The NLE Advisory Committee will meet in June 2015, during the ACL Institute at The University of Connecticut. The members of this committee represent the various geographic areas of the country, from both public and private middle schools, high schools, and colleges. Please feel free to contact any of these members with your comments, suggestions, questions, or concerns about the National Latin Exam. Your concerns will be discussed at the meeting in June.

### Members of the NLE Advisory Committee - 2015

**Susan McDonald, Chair**

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## ONLINE REGISTRATION WITH CREDIT CARD AVAILABLE

Teachers are able to pay for their National Latin Exams using a Visa, Master Card, or Discover Card. Because it is most important to keep the application and payment from each school together, credit card payment information can be given in two ways: Teachers may fill in the credit card information on the regular application form for the 2016 exam, or they may submit their application with credit card information through the NLE website. Credit card payments will not be accepted by phone since they would not be accompanied by the application form. There will be a convenience charge of \$5 for each application charged to a credit card.

# NLE WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS TO ITS WRITING COMMITTEE

The Writing Committee is pleased to announce the addition of two new members. Donna Dollings and Debra Heaton will begin their duties this fall as they help with the formulation and editing of the 2016 exams.

## Donna Dollings

When Donna Dollings was a student at Henrico High School near Richmond, Virginia, she took five years of Latin at Henrico High School under her teacher Sarah Collier. NLE's own Sue Robertson was her practice teacher during that time. She then attended Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where she majored in Latin and Classical Civilization. She holds a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UVA. She has been teaching Latin in a variety of schools in Chesterfield County, VA, for thirty years, and, for the last twenty-one years, at James River High School.



Donna always wanted to be a teacher and an archaeologist. She has thoroughly enjoyed teaching Latin and has recently had the opportunity to work on archaeological projects at Stabiae, Pompeii, and Herculaneum. The NLE helped her be able to participate in the Herculaneum Graffiti Project last summer through the Christine Sleeper Scholarship, for which she is so grateful. She feels that she has been blessed with the best of both worlds: teaching a subject and students that she loves and getting to participate in some archaeological endeavors. Donna has just renewed her National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification.

Donna and her husband live in an old farmhouse in Midlothian, VA, with their dogs, Zeus and Perseus. They have three children and six grandchildren and are active in the Midlothian Baptist Church.

## Debra Heaton

Debra Heaton began her Latin teaching career at JEB Stuart High School in Fairfax County, VA, in 1985. She taught there for 11 years, while being very active in the Fairfax County Latin Teacher's Association and the Classical Association of Virginia. She then taught all levels of Latin, including AP and 8th grade at Glasgow Middle School. In 1996, after moving to Massachusetts, she continued her career both as a Latin teacher and an administrator in Marblehead and Westford. She currently teaches and serves as the Head Teacher in World Languages at Salem High School.



Debra is the past vice-president and president of the Classical Association of Massachusetts and is finishing her term as the treasurer of the American Classical League.

Since Debra looks upon Jane Hall, Linda Montross, Sally Davis, Marty Abbott, Maureen O'Donnell and Christine Sleeper as her mentors in her early career, she is thrilled to be joining the NLE family! Of course, she would also like to acknowledge and thank the person who made her a Latin teacher, and who continues to influence her teaching to this day—her high school Latin teacher, Susan Schearer, now retired from Handley High School in Winchester VA.

## QUESTIONS?



NLE Phone Number:  
**1-888-378-7721**

[nle@umw.edu](mailto:nle@umw.edu)  
[www.nle.org](http://www.nle.org)

Clement Testing Service Number:  
**1-800-459-9847**



# DEAR NELLY

Dear Nelly,

*I applied for the NLE last fall. After I sent in my application, my school's address changed, and I forgot to contact your office to update our mailing address. As it turned out, we had to have the package of exams expedited to us for an additional fee so that our students could take the exam during the testing window. How can I avoid this situation in the future?*

*-Flustered in Florence*

Dear Flustered,

Thank you for making us aware of this issue. We are happy to update address changes that occur between the application and examination processes. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to contact us in a timely manner about any such changes that might occur in the future.

Dear Nelly,

*I made sure to postmark my application and purchase order by the postmark deadline. My school district mailed the check the following week. Your office contacted me to say that my school owed a late fee. I don't understand. I got my application postmarked by the deadline.*

*-Bewildered in Belleville*

Dear Bewildered,

We require that the application AND payment be postmarked by the stated deadline. As it states on our application, we cannot accept a purchase order in lieu of payment in the form of a check, money order, or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover). It is not enough to postmark the application by the stated deadline with a promise of payment to come later. Next year, be sure to postmark your application AND payment by the deadline, and you'll avoid the late fee. Start the process with your school district early enough so that both the purchase order and payment can be processed and postmarked by the deadline and follow up to make sure the district stays on top of it and gets the application and payment postmarked in time.

Dear Nelly,

*If we get extra answer sheets in our package or have answer sheets left over from previous years, can we use those for the current year's NLE?*

*Questioning in Quebec*

Dear Questioning,

You may only use the number of answer sheets that you ordered for the current year. We ask that your proctors return all answer sheets each year, used and unused.

Dear Nelly,

*I have tried using your toll-free number, and it doesn't work for me. Our school is located outside the United States, so perhaps the number works only in the U.S. Can you provide me with an alternate contact number?*

*Calling from Canberra*

Dear Calling,

You are correct: Our toll-free number only works inside the United States. You can reach us by phone at 1-540-654-1296, and you can always reach us by e-mail at [nle@umw.edu](mailto:nle@umw.edu).

Dear Nelly,

*When I got my results back earlier this spring, I noticed that a handful of my students were scored at the wrong level. What do I need to do so that these students' exams can be scored at the correct level?*

*Pleading in Plano*

Dear Pleading,

On the last page of your results sheets that you received from our testing service; there are complete instructions for requesting a re-score for students who marked the wrong level on their answer sheets. If you still have questions, you can contact Clement Testing Service at 1-800-459-9847 or [clementtestingservice@verizon.net](mailto:clementtestingservice@verizon.net).



# GETTING TO KNOW OUR FORMER NLE SCHOLARS

Linda Montross has been so pleased to get to know several of our former NLE Scholars at various conventions that she attended this year. She found each one of these classicists extremely impressive.



Former NLE Scholar, Ben Watson, 2003 graduate of Harvard, earned his PhD from Oxford, and is now tenured at the University of Oklahoma.



Linda Montross with former NLE Scholar Emma Brobeck, 2013 graduate of Carleton College, currently in graduate school at the University of Washington



Linda Montross with former NLE Scholar Wesley Wood, 2013 graduate of the University of Notre Dame

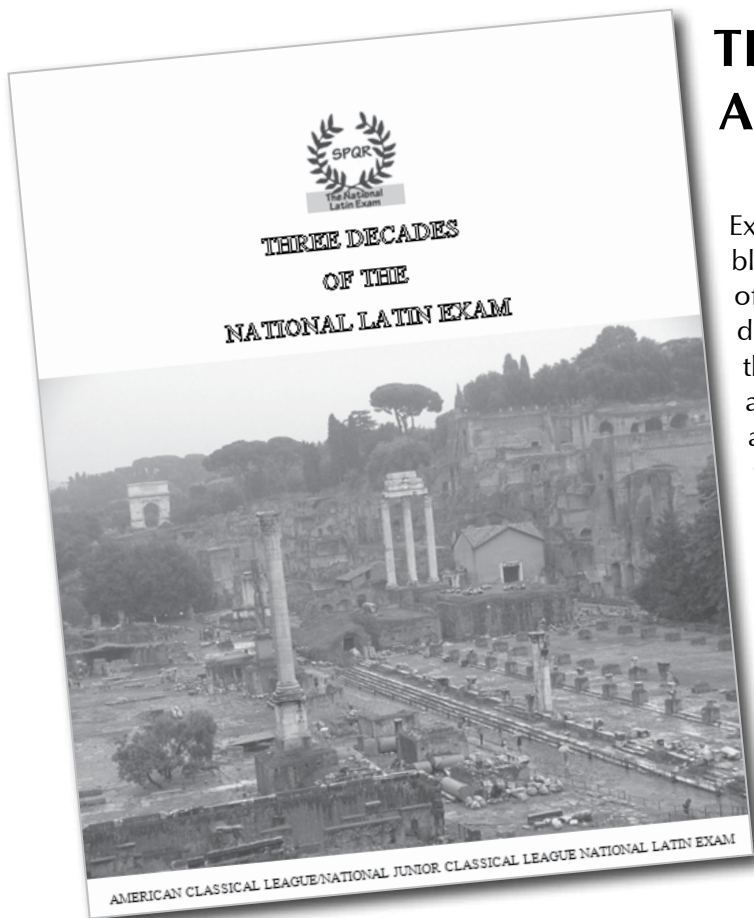
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## THREE DECADES BOOK AVAILABLE

In its Three Decades volume, the National Latin Exam shares a complete history of the organization, blank certificates for teacher use, the syllabus, a full list of scholarship winners, and every exam on every level dating back to the inception of the exam. In addition, this compendium of all things NLE contains statistical analysis from 1999-2011 as well as the “Hard Ones and Easy Ones” and answer keys for each exam. In the back of the book there is a cd with pdf files of all exams before 1999.

This book is a *sine qua non* for any Latin teacher and an excellent resource for budding Classics students looking to improve their Latin through NLE practice. Visit the NLE website to access the order form for a \$30 copy of “Three Decades of The National Latin Exam” today or pick up a copy at a discounted price of \$20 at the ACL Institute or NJCL Convention

[www.nle.org](http://www.nle.org)



# The HARD Ones and the EASY Ones:2015

These are the questions which proved to be the most challenging and the easiest on each of the levels of the 2015 National Latin Exam:

## INTRODUCTION TO LATIN

### Language Questions

Hard: 23. Duo puerī dominō servum mōnstrant. A) to the master B) of the master C) with the master D) from the master (42% knew that A is the correct answer.)

Easy: 18. Duo puerī inter virōs ambulant. A) One B) Two C) Three D) Four (97% knew that B is the correct answer.)

### Other Questions

Hard: 11. In the abbreviation A.D., the letter “A” stands for the Latin word A) *Ad* B) *Annō* C) *Aut* D) *Ab* (53% knew that B is the correct answer.)

Easy: 12. The farmers could not inhabit the rocky coastal area. A) protect B) plow C) clean up D) live on (95% knew that D is the correct answer.)

## LATIN I

### Grammar Questions

Hard: 15. Magnō cum gaudiō pugnat et multōs hostēs necat. Which choice is closest in meaning to the underlined phrase? A) laetum B) laetē C) laetī D) laetōrum (38 % knew that B is the correct answer.)

Easy: 11. Menelāus, rēx Spartaē, uxōrem pulchram recipere cupīvit. The adjective *pulchram* agrees with A) *Menelāus* B) *rēx* C) *Spartae* D) *uxōrem* (77% knew that D is the correct answer.)

### Other Questions

Hard: 23. Who attempted to drive his father’s sun chariot across the sky but was unable to control the horses? A) Hercules B) Midas C) Orpheus D) Phaethon (41% knew that D is the correct answer.)

Easy: 20. When a teacher helps a Latin student, that student should respond A) “Sōl lūcet.” B) “Grātiās tibi agō” C) “Errāre hūmānum est.” D) “Absum.” (90% knew that B is the correct answer.)

## LATIN II

### Grammar Questions

Hard: 2. Fābulae dē deīs antīquīs semper in scholā legentur. A) are reading B) will be read C) have been read D) were reading (45% knew that B is the correct answer)

Easy: 11. Et puerī et puellae in magnō hortō lūdēbant A) Both...and B) Either...or C) Whether...or D) Not only...but also (88 % knew that A is the correct answer.)

### Other Questions

Hard: 29. Quis sum? Ego dē Olympō ad terram dēscendō. Sum nūntius deōrum. Ālās in pedibus meīs habeo. A) Neptūnus B) Mercurius C) Iānus D) Mars (53 % knew that B is the correct answer.)

Easy: 24. The Latin phrase *Dramatis Persōnae* often introduces a list of A) names on a grave stone B) candidates on a ballot C) players on a sports team D) characters in a theater production (93% knew that D is the correct answer.)

## LATIN III Grammar Questions

Hard: 8. Pāx \_\_\_\_petenda est. A) dictātōre B) dictātor C) dictātōrī D) dictātōrem  
(25% knew that C is the correct answer.)

Easy: 18. Sociī ad urbem ad lūdōs spectandōs venient. A) to watch the games B) the games must be watched  
C) while watching the games D) by watching the games (85% knew that A is the correct answer.)

## Other Questions

Hard: 28. Trebia, Lake Trasimene, and Cannae were A) places of Carthaginian victories in the Second Punic War  
B) areas in Britain colonized by Claudius C) areas in Gaul which rebelled against Caesar D) territories yielded to Rome by the Samnites (61% knew that A is the correct answer.)

Easy: 24. Where on the map is the Nile River located?  
A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4 (88 % knew that B is the correct answer.)



## LATIN III-IV PROSE Grammar Questions

Hard: 13. Num sunt Ūrania septem sorōrēs? A) Urania doesn't have seven sisters, does she? B) Urania has seven sisters, doesn't she? C) Does Urania have seven sisters? D) Who are the seven sisters of Urania?  
(24% knew that A is the correct answer.)

Easy: 11. Militēs sē suaque dedidērunt. A) They surrendered their possessions and soldiers B) The soldier surrendered his soldiers and his home C) The soldiers surrendered themselves and their possessions D) He himself surrendered his soldiers (83% knew that C is the correct answer.)

## Other Questions

Hard: 21. The Golden Age of Latin Literature included the authors Caesar and Cicero. The Silver Age included  
A) Martial and Pliny B) Plautus and Terence C) Vergil and Catullus D) Ovid and Horace  
(30% knew that A is the correct answer.)

Easy: 20. Chiron, tutor of both Jason and Achilles, one of the \_\_\_\_, was wise, gentle, and skilled in the arts of medicine and music. A) Cyclopes B) Furies C) Centaurs D) Harpies (76% knew that C is the correct answer.)

## LATIN III-IV POETRY Grammar Questions

Hard: 14. Post decem annōs urbs Troia in ruīnās cāsūra erat. A) had fallen B) might fall C) was about to fall  
(23% knew that C is the correct answer.)

Easy: 1. Anna sorōre pulchrior nōn erat. A) her sister B) from her sister C) than her sister D) to her sister  
(80% knew that C is the correct answer.)

## Other Questions

Hard: 25. In the line, *manūs ac supplicēs vōcēs ad Tiberium tendēns*, the participle *tendēns* changes its meaning with each of its different objects; this is an example of A) transferred epithet B) synecdoche C) litotes D) zeugma  
(36% knew that D is the correct answer.)

Easy: 24. What is the meaning of the Latin verb at the root of *attainment*, *contingency*, and *contact*?  
A) cover B) be silent C) touch D) try (86% knew that C is the correct answer.)

# APPLY FOR THE JANE HARRIMAN HALL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP!

## **Purpose**

The Jane Harriman Hall Professional Development Scholarship is designed to support teachers in their ability to teach Latin. The scholarship was developed in honor of Jane Harriman Hall, founder of the National Latin Exam, in order to continue her efforts to bring high quality Latin instruction to students throughout the United States.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants must be current teachers of Latin at the pre-K–12 level in a public or private school who spend at least 50% of their instructional time with students. Applicants are eligible for the award only once every ten years.

## **Funding**

Scholarships will be awarded based on the impact they will have on students and effective use of the funds. A total of \$5,000 will be allocated to the scholarship annually. This may result in one or more awards being given, based on the number and quality of the proposals.

## **Term of the Award**

This annual scholarship may be used any time from January through December of the year in which it is awarded.

## **Application process:**

Applications should be sent to:  
National Latin Exam  
The University of Mary Washington  
1301 College Avenue  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

[nle@umw.edu](mailto:nle@umw.edu)  
Telephone: 1-888-378-7721  
Deadline for application: **October 1, 2015**  
Applications are available at [www.nle.org](http://www.nle.org)

## ATTENTION ALL FORMER NLE SCHOLARS!

The National Latin Exam Newsletter is in the process of publishing a series of articles featuring former scholarship winners who have completed their undergraduate studies. NLE and the international Latin community are interested in you and would love follow-up information about your lives and careers. Please send us at the address below a brief account about where you are and what you are doing.



[nle@umw.edu](mailto:nle@umw.edu)  
or  
National Latin Exam  
University of Mary Washington  
1301 College Avenue  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401



**The Jane Harriman Hall Professional Development Scholarship Program**

**APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

1. Education (Please include all degrees earned or in progress, dates awarded, fields in which they were earned and institutions attended.)

2. Professional employment (include dates).

3. Courses taught (include institution, dates and grade levels)

4. References (please list two references of professors or supervisors including name, address, telephone and/or e-mail).

## The Jane Harriman Hall Professional Development Scholarship Program Application

5. Please describe how you intend to use the scholarship and how this experience will enhance your teaching.

6. Recommendation: Please include one letter of recommendation by one of the references provided above.\*

(\*N.B.: Your recommendation letter must be on school letterhead and must contain a signature. If submitting your application electronically, your recommendation must come directly from the person supplying it.)

7. Budget: Please include a detailed budget for how you intend to use the award.

8. Please list any additional scholarships for which you have applied during the same time period.

Send completed applications to:

### **National Latin Exam**

University of Mary Washington  
1301 College Avenue  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
nle@umw.edu  
Telephone: 1-888-378-7721

**Deadline for application: October 1, 2015**

Applications are available at **www.nle.org**

# NATIONAL LATIN EXAM WRITING COMMITTEE

These are the committee members who meet throughout the year to discuss, write, fine-tune, and proof the exams. These are all seasoned Latin teachers who have experience using a wide variety of textbooks and methods.

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Every fall the Consultants critique the exams and offer suggestions for improvement to the Writing Committee. Their ideas and contributions are invaluable in the process of preparing the exams for distribution to national and international Latin students.

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## **CHECK OUT THE NLE WEBSITE!**

**[www.nle.org](http://www.nle.org)**

### **UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON:**

The 2015 Exams and Answers  
Results, Awards, and Scholarship Information for 2015  
Our Application for 2016 – available beginning September 1, 2015  
Special Instructions for Home-Schoolers  
Copies of the 1999-2015 Exams  
The Syllabus for Each Level  
Contact Information for the NLE Committees and Consultants  
FORUM ROMANUM Videos, DVD, and Scripts  
Links to ACL and Other Classical Organizations

