

## **Daniel Germain Receives Eunice E. Kraft Award for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching**

Daniel Germain earned his B.A. in Classics at the University of Washington and his M.A. in Teaching from the University of Southern California. Since then he has taught many levels of Latin from elementary to high school and since 2013 has been the much celebrated Latin teacher and Junior Classical League sponsor at Timber Creek High School in Orlando, Florida. At Timber Creek, Magister Germain has maintained a rigorous curriculum for five levels of Latin, provided his students with chances to shine on the National Classical Etymology and National Latin Exams, attended regional, state and national conventions with his students, earning numerous awards and state level rankings. His growth as a teacher can be summed up in his own lessons to new teachers: “Never stop growing; Love those kids; Be authentic; and The Greatest Teacher, Failure Is.”

His principal notes that Magister Germain’s students start Latin for all the usual reasons (SAT scores and a good resume builder) but discover that his passion becomes their passion. His administrators laud his dedication to expanding the horizons of his students with an Italian exchange program in Verona, as well as the opportunities he affords to his students off campus, calling him “ a stand out on our campus of over 3,500 students.” Magister Germain breathed new life into a struggling Latin program by creating a student-centered classroom imbued with creative learning experiences. One colleague notes, “Students are constantly buzzing around his classroom, even during lunch, because his room provides a safe place for them to go and feel as if they belong.” He is not only a supportive teacher, but also a technology leader on campus, a facilitator of new programs for his fellow teachers,.

Magister Germain’s creative teaching practices have been touted by his students, as well, who describe with fondness the grammatical chants, mythology theme parks, and triumphs at Florida JCL conventions. A former student describes Magister Germain as “unconventional - but in the best way possible” recalling marching around the school chanting grammatical forms. This same student observed four years later as a college freshman that their grammatical awareness has made them a better writer in English. Another student offered this: “Of all my teachers, Magister was easily the one most committed to ensuring the success of his students, and this was clearly reflected in the time that he so generously devoted to our education...” His patience and persistence are a common theme in his student recommendations, students’ whose fondest high school memories revolve around the Latin classroom, and whose future in college includes Classics majors and minors as a result.

Warmth and enthusiasm, patience and understanding, these traits come up again and again in Magister Germain’s letters. It is of little surprise that his students and colleagues continue to be inspired by his Latin lessons and passion for the ancient world.

The Committee is honored to award Daniel Germain the 2022 Kraft Award for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching.