

The Lake Michigan Region is home to many thriving Classics programs. In spite of the success of individual programs, a general sense of unease prevails owing to budgetary concerns across the region and particularly in Illinois. While no large-scale cuts happened this year, constant vigilance is warranted and the vice presidents of all three states must stay in better contact to ensure that mutual support and collaboration is in place before crises occur. Such communication was a goal identified in last year's reports, but it never materialized across state borders.

In Illinois, the most pressing issue, particularly at institutions of higher education, is the continuing lack of a state budget. The state has now been without a budget for 1.5 years. While there is hope that a budget will be passed in the next month or so, there is concern that even those appropriations will be a reduction from past funding levels for higher education, and that irreparable damage has already been done as students elect to go out-of-state for college. As funding levels decrease, colleges and universities are considering the merger or closure of smaller programs, particularly those in the humanities; for example, Western Illinois University has just recently eliminated its Philosophy program; Eastern Illinois is considering following suit. In such climates Classics is also particularly vulnerable.

Despite these challenges, programs around the state remain active. Numerous speaker series in the Chicago area maintain the visibility of the profession, and three chapters of the AIA host speaker series around the state. The Illinois Classical Conference (ICC) held its annual meeting on October 7-9 at Barrington High School; IJCL hosted its 53rd annual convention in February of 2016. Illinois also traditionally sends a strong contingent to the national convention. Monmouth College's third annual Classics Day took place in conjunction with IJCL-South, on October 22, 2016. Helmed by Robert Simmons, Classics Day continues to build bridges between high school and college programs. As of this writing, several colleges and universities are hiring for faculty positions in Classics, which augurs well for the continuation of Classics at the post-secondary level.

In Indiana, it was a good year for Classics. The Indiana Classical Conference (ICC) held two meetings at which strategies for growth were discussed. In particular, the use of institutional memberships to boost participation in organizations such as CAMWS and ICC was identified as a desideratum. For CAMWS, there was a recommendation to make clear whether institutional membership allows individual teachers to apply for such benefits as BIG grants. For ICC, an institutional membership strategy modeled on CAMWS was floated as a way to encourage engagement across levels. ICC is also working on strategies to improve communication within the state.

This was a particularly big year for the IJCL (Indiana Junior Classical League), as it hosted the National JCL Convention at Indiana University (Bloomington). Other regular events included the State Convention (hosted by IU Bloomington) and Fall Latin Day (hosted by Butler University). Butler has developed an Ancient Mediterranean Cultures and Archaeology Lab, a mobile lab that is designed as both a campus resource and a means for K-12 teachers to enhance their programs. Ideally, this lab could serve as a model for ways for university Classics programs to help facilitate Latin education at all levels.

Michigan remains highly active in Classics but many smaller programs continue to struggle to find support from their administrations. Wayne State, for example, has revived its enrollments in Greek and Latin but is having trouble convincing the Dean to staff the program properly, which in turn makes it hard to maintain those enrollments. Similarly, but at the high school level, with an outpouring of community support, including from CAMWS, the Latin program at East Kentwood High School has been saved from elimination, but its long-term future remains uncertain. The program at Calvin is shrinking but active, and Grand Valley State has preemptively taken steps to ward off future cuts. All of this news bespeaks a general atmosphere of anxiety and uncertainty.

Despite these challenges, there is much to be excited about. Numerous college faculty members (including CAMWS state VP Anise Strong) won awards, and the state is a veritable hotbed of Classics activity. Calvin College hosted a Spoken Latin Weekend through the Paideia Institute; Western Michigan once again hosted the International Medieval Congress, this year featuring 4 nights of medieval plays, some in Latin; Bruce Frier of the University of Michigan published a massive new work of scholarship making the Codex of Justinian more accessible than ever before; Grand Valley State hosted a Paleo-Olympics event and a Stoics Week as well as producing a performance of Euripides' *Helen*. Michigan continues to have many thriving Latin high school programs, especially at Catholic high schools in the eastern part of the state. Finally, the University of Michigan Classical Studies Department remains one of the strongest programs in the country.

The Lake Michigan Region is home to many excellent Classics programs at both the K-12 and college/university level. Nevertheless, budgetary concerns continue to pose a threat. Although robust and proactive advocacy is already underway, further strategic collaboration within each state and on a regional level is needed to address current challenges and anticipate future ones. I strongly recommend improving communication between incoming/outgoing state VPs and between sitting state VPs across the region.

Respectfully submitted,

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