

CAMWS Regional Vice-President's Report 2016-2017

Northern Plains

submitted by Dr. Lorina Quartarone (University of Saint Thomas)

State officers reporting: Clara Hardy (Carleton College, MN); Keely Lake (Wayland Academy, WI); and Rock Wentzel (Augustana College, SD).

1) INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE/PROVINCIAL CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION:

MINNESOTA

The Classical Association of Minnesota had its annual meeting on October 8, 2016 at Macalester College. The meeting included the standard business (reports from president, treasurer, and from the schools in attendance), and conferred the Latin Teacher of the Year award to David Johnson of Bloomington Jefferson High School. Like last year, the morning sessions at the meeting were pedagogical, and included sessions on a storytelling approach to Latin, online games and activities, resources for teaching Latin/classics at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and a move to add Latin to the languages that confer the "Seal of Bi-Literacy" in the state of Minnesota. In the afternoon Matt Panciera and Krista Osmundson gave a presentation on the highly successful NEH summer seminar Matt had led on Daily Life at Pompeii." The keynote address was by Erich Gruen (Wood Professor Emeritus, Berkeley) on ancient attitudes toward Jews.

NORTH DAKOTA

Nothing reported.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota has no state/provincial Classical association.

WISCONSIN

Attendance at WAFLT was up this year, though it still remains low compared to some previous years. The big activity for WLTA remains JCL. Information from Jim Greenwald concerning NJCL: "Wisconsin won the Advanced National Championship in certamen this summer! 3 kids from Brookfield Academy (all returning!) and one from Marquette University HS. It was exciting!!" State Convention for Wisconsin JCL was the last weekend of January. 490 kids from 13 schools attended this year – it was another good competition. Wayland Academy took home the small school trophy and Brookfield Academy took it for big schools.

2) PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE OR PROVINCE:

MINNESOTA – SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Michelle Vitt (Minnehaha Academy) once again hosted the Annual Ludi Romani, with over a hundred students participating from eight Twin Cities schools (Edina High School, Edina Valley View Middle School, Edina South View Middle School, Minnehaha Upper School, Minnehaha Middle School, Nova Classical Academy, Providence Academy, Seven Hills Preparatory Academy, South High School). This is a highly successful and much-anticipated element of Latin activities in the state. The website includes video clips of various events (<http://www.ludi-romani.org/ludi.html>); the program that details the activities may also be downloaded.

MINNESOTA – COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Last Spring Carleton College continued its collaboration with St. Olaf College on the after-school Latin Club for 3rd-5th graders at Greenvale Park Elementary School in Northfield, MN. Rob Hardy (Carleton) and Anne Groton (St. Olaf) had received a "bridge" grant from the two

institutions to work with a student on lesson planning during the summer.

In the fall St. Olaf and Carleton tried a different format with a “Classics Night” at the Greenvale Park Elementary “Community School,” an initiative that runs programming for children and their families. Eight faculty and ten students from St. Olaf and Carleton ran several concurrent activities for some fifty parents and children. The format was very successful and somewhat more sustainable than the Latin Club had been; there are hopes to continue this in the future, perhaps once per semester.

In September Rob Hardy’s adaptation of the Oresteia was produced by Minneapolis’ Hero Now Theatre Company; groups of students from Hamline, Macalester, St. Thomas and Carleton attended both performances and pre-performance talks. In addition, one performance was designated as carrying Continuing Legal Education credit; this was followed by a panel presentation from current academics, lawyers, and a sitting appeals court judge. A lively discussion on the current legal issues raised by the work followed.

Finally, there is an important initiative that will run through the 2017-18 academic year, which also extends beyond the borders of Minnesota. Five faculty from the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) have been awarded a grant to undertake a “Tuning” project, based on the American Historical Association’s project of the same name (more information here: <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/tuning-the-historydiscipline>). The goal is to identify a set of skills/outcomes commonly associated with an undergraduate major in classics, and develop compelling language for use in promoting the value of those skills to a broad audience. Institutions taking part are Beloit College, Carleton College, Coe College, Colorado College and Cornell College. The project leaders plan to present the results of the grant project at both the SCS and CAMWS 2018, in the hopes that a larger regional or national organization will consider scaling up the initiative.

NORTH DAKOTA

Nothing reported.

SOUTH DAKOTA – SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Both Lincoln and O’Gorman High Schools are offering Latin I, II, III and AP. Both schools will participate in the National Latin Exam. Lynn Thomason will be taking a group of 44 students to Italy and Sicily this June. Both schools have maintained enrollment with a slight increase at Lincoln. There are 50 Latin I students at Lincoln and 10 at O’Gorman. AP enrollment for this year in Sioux Falls is 12 students. After the AP exam last year and before school ended the students visited college campuses, applied for scholarships and had a week of Greek with Dr. Wentzel from Augustana University.

SOUTH DAKOTA – COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

Classics students applied and received approval to form a Classics Club at Augustana University in anticipation of applying to start a chapter of Eta Sigma Phi.

Dr. David O’Hara and Dr. Rocki Wentzel (Augustana University) will be leading a group of 12 students to Greece for their study abroad course, Tracing the Roots of Western Civilization.

Last May Dr. Wentzel spent a week with the AP Latin students at Lincoln after their exam teaching them the basics of ancient Greek.

Dr. Graham Wrightson (South Dakota State University, History) hosted a conference on Alexander the Great on April 4, 2016. The conference was a success and included 8 international scholars (Canada and Italy) in attendance. It was open to both undergraduate and graduate

speakers, researchers in the early stages of their careers and established academics. The keynote speaker was Professor Waldemar Heckel (U of Calgary). Other featured speakers were Dr. Jeanne Reames (U of Nebraska, Omaha), and Dr. Carolyn Willekes (independent author).

Dr. Wrightson and Dr. James Murphy (South Dakota State U, Religion) led a course in May and June in Greece. Dr. Wrightson will be teaching a course this semester involving building replica sarissas.

Dr. Clayton Lehmann (U of South Dakota) took a group of students to Omaha for Dimitri Nakassis's AIA lecture on the collapse of the Bronze Age world. Dr. Lehmann is also teaching a graduate seminar on the Athenian Empire.

WISCONSIN

One Caristia grant was applied for (by Keely Lake at Wayland Academy).

3) CAMWS MEMBERSHIP (EFFORTS AT PROMOTION AND RESULTS):

MINNESOTA

As of January 2017 there were 38 current members of CAMWS in the state, with another 19 who were members in 15-16 but had not yet renewed their membership for 16-17. Before the annual meeting of the Classical Association of Minnesota Clara Hardy had reached out especially to the K-12 teachers in the state advertising the benefits of CAMWS membership; after receiving the spreadsheet from Tom Sienkewicz she emailed the 19 members who hadn't yet re-upped exhorting them to do so. In comparison with last year's 12/20/15 spreadsheet, seven of the fifteen who were emailed last year did in the end renew their membership, so if there should be once again a nearly 50% success rate, that should bring the roles up to almost fifty! This is something to shoot for next year.

NORTH DAKOTA

Current and past members were contacted, thanked for their membership, and informed of the benefits of membership.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Current and members from recent years have been contacted.

WISCONSIN

Lapsed members were contacted and reminded of the value of membership.

4) EFFORTS IN THE STATE OR PROVINCE TO MEET THE CPL ANNUAL GOALS:

MINNESOTA

Nothing reported.

NORTH DAKOTA

Nothing reported.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Dr. Wentzel spoke to Lynn Thomason, the Latin teacher at Lincoln and O'Gorman High Schools about having the Lincoln High School and Augustana Latin students collaborate on a final spring event, such as a banquet or a *certamen*. The Classics Club at Augustana will be brainstorming ideas, and depending on what they develop, they may apply for a CPL grant.

WISCONSIN

Nothing reported.

5) USE OF CPL MONIES, INTEREST IN CAMWS SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC.:

MINNESOTA

Courtney Shaw at the Blake School received a BIG grant of \$250 to help host a Paideia Institute workshop aimed at training teachers to use spoken Latin more in their classes. The event occurred Feb. 11 and was a great success. Due to the generous funding by CAMWS (\$250) and

The Blake School (\$2500), 21 Twin Cities area teachers were able to attend a FREE full day Active Latin workshop by Justin Slocum Bailey and Paideia Institute. The original advertisement can be found at http://www.paideiainstitute.org/teacher_training_in_minneapolis. Blake's funding covered the workshop costs and the CAMWS funding covered breakfast, snacks, and lunch. The workshop included a number of use-on-Monday activities, and bigger ideas to transform Latin programs. The participants were enthusiastic, engaged, and extremely grateful for the rare opportunity to have a Latin specific workshop; participants came from several area schools, including: The Blake School, Edina High and Middle Schools, Eagle Ridge Academy, South View School, U of MN, Liberty Classical, Seven Hills Prep, University Liggett, Saint Robert Bell, Minnehaha Academy, St. Croix Prep, Christ's Household, South High, Parnassus Prep. The original funding request was for a big grant of \$500; the grant was lower because of the high demand for this sort of workshop – a Salvi Biduum Latinum is also in the works for April. Since over the past several years these funds have been under-spent, it was somewhat disconcerting that the request was not fully funded, but hopefully this means that there is higher demand and therefore fuller use of these monies.

NORTH DAKOTA

Nothing reported.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nothing reported.

WISCONSIN

Nothing reported.

6) PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN THE STATE OR PROVINCE:

Nothing reported.

7) Other:

Nothing reported.