

2018 CAMWS Upper South Region Report

Submitted by Ryan Sellers, Memphis University School

Introduction

As always, Classics teachers at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels in the Upper South region certainly face the same essential challenges faced by teachers throughout the entire CAMWS region: budget cuts, pressure to maintain enrollment numbers, emphasis on athletic programs and trendy STEM curricula over traditional humanities subjects such as Latin, etc. Yet, as the state reports indicate, the teachers in the Upper South region are working tirelessly to promote the Classics in a variety of innovative ways.

In respect to high school programs throughout the region, the scope of enrollment in Latin can be gauged – however imperfectly – by examining participation in the National Latin Exam. Not all schools, of course, participate in the NLE, and of those that do, not all of them require the participation of all of their students. At any rate, the National Latin Exam does provide a convenient, quantifiable metric:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	
AR	270	311	
KY	1581	1651	(number of students participating in the NLE)
TN	4302	4945	

Over the past year, all three states in our region saw a decline in NLE participation. Overall numbers in Tennessee remain strong, though they are considerably smaller than some other states in the CAMWS territory (e.g., Virginia and Texas, both of which had over 10,000 students participate).

Arkansas Report

Submitted by Maureen Stover, Mount Saint Mary Academy

(this is a resubmission from a previous year)

In Fort Smith, Mark Byers reports that Latin is holding steady, despite some significant challenges: “Our numbers have remained consistent in total due to a shift of enrollment in second- and third-year classes to the majority now in Latin One. The reason for this is twofold: 1) Retention rates are lower than I've seen in a very long while. We are at a disadvantage in having three-year high schools in Fort Smith rather than schools that operate on the traditional four-year model. This makes Latin Three the highest level offered, and when students discover that AP Latin is not an option, many enroll in other languages. 2) Course availability continues to be denied to students at Northside High School. Any students attempting to register for Latin Two are told that it is not available, and they are turned away.”

In Little Rock, Maureen Stover reports that the program at Mount St. Mary Academy is strong: “Our Latin program is holding steady. We offer four years of Latin. We are finishing our last year of the IB program and are transitioning to the AP program, which we will implement in 2018. Our Latin One numbers are up this year, and we are beginning our study of Caesar in Latin Three. As far as extracurricular activities are concerned, we will be participating in the AFLTA Language Competition at Harding University on April 1. We have had students enter the Medusa Mythology Exam, the National Etymology Exam, and all Latin students will take the National Latin Exam. We are also preparing for our 28th Ancient Roman Banquet, which is based on Petronius’ *Satyricon*.”

The program at Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock is strong enough to employ two full-time Latin teachers. As Christy Marquis reports, “We offer Latin in grades 8 through 12, and two full-time Latin teachers offer Latin One, Two, Three, Four, and AP Latin, as well as

introductory Greek. However, we anticipate some changes, both positive and negative, as our school seeks to redesign the middle school curriculum. Our JCL activities this year have included decorating the water fountains and giving a presentation on Fontinalia on the date of that festival, a screening of the 1963 film *Cleopatra*, and a Saturnalia banquet complete with red paper *pilei* and dice games. Spring activities will include a visit to the Classics department at Hendrix College, which our students greatly enjoyed last year. We are also in the very early stages of establishing an outreach program using the *Aequora* curriculum from the Paideia Institute.”

At the post-secondary level, Rebecca Resinski at Hendrix College in Conway files this report: “This year the Classics program at Hendrix integrated paleography and epigraphy into its curricular and co-curricular offerings, developed a new course on biographies of polarizing Classical figures, produced a pamphlet (authored collectively by students) for an etymologically-oriented walking tour of the campus, ran an ancient book-making workshop, held reading / listening events focused on *Regulus* (the Latin translation of *The Little Prince*), hosted an ancient gaming night, and celebrated Saturnalia with a banquet which included a reading of Symphosius' riddles.”

Tennessee Report

Submitted by Ed Long, Clarksville High School

(this is a resubmission from a previous year)

Tennessee Classical Association

The Tennessee Classical Association held its annual business meeting and luncheon on Saturday, November 5 in conjunction with the annual conference of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association. Twenty-nine were in attendance. President Maria Marable of Meigs Magnet School in Nashville presided over the meeting. Hume-Fogg Academic High School Latin teacher Tim Russell was recognized as the recipient of the Distinguished Latin Teaching Award for 2016. Assistant Professor Stephen Collins-Elliott of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville gave the keynote address about the Roman presence in Morocco. Abigail Braddock-Simone of Houston High School was elected as the 2017 President of the Tennessee Classical Association.

Promoting Classics Within the State

Patrick McFadden, Latin teacher at St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis, continues to maintain the "Latin Helps" Facebook page and Twitter feed. Social media users can post to this page an example of how Latin has helped them in their personal or professional lives or in the life of someone they know. Often there are postings about celebrities who studied the Classics.

Clarksville High School Latin teacher Ed Long continues to maintain a statewide e-mail list of approximately 160 classicists at all educational levels. Announcements of interest to

classicists, including job openings, are sent out approximately once a month, and the list is regularly updated.

The 41st Annual Mid-State JCL Tournament was held at Hume-Fogg High School in Nashville, hosted by Tim Russell. This annual event features competitions for middle school and high school students in the areas of academics and the arts.

The 60th Annual Tennessee JCL Convention was held at the University of Memphis and was coordinated by Patrick McFadden of St. Mary's Episcopal School and Jenny Fields of Knoxville Catholic High School (now of Webb School of Knoxville). This annual event features competitions for middle school and high school students in the areas of academics, athletics, and the arts.

The 9th Annual Latin Fall Festivus for Latin programs in the Memphis-Shelby County area was held at Houston High School, hosted by Abigail Braddock-Simone. The annual event features competitions for middle school and high school students in the areas of academics, athletics, and the arts.

The 35th Annual Latin Day was held at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville under the direction of Classics Department Head Aleydis Van de Moortel. The annual event for middle school and high school students features seminars given by university faculty on topics related to classical studies.

CAMWS Membership and Involvement

There are currently approximately eighty CAMWS members throughout Tennessee. The following members currently serve on CAMWS committees: Stephanie McCarter, University of the South (Membership); Geoffrey Bakewell, Rhodes College (Resolutions); Ryan Sellers, Memphis University School (School Awards and Upper South Regional VP); Sarah Ellery, Montgomery Bell Academy (School Awards); Joseph Rife, Vanderbilt University (First Book

Award); Robert Sklenar, University of Tennessee at Knoxville (Teaching Awards).

The following members were presenters at the 112th CAMWS Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia: Justin Arft, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Chris Craig, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Geoffrey Bakewell, Rhodes College; Stephen Keshner, Austin Peay State University; Christopher McDonough, University of the South; Daniel Moore, University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

The following members were presenters at the 96th Meeting of the CAMWS-Southern Section in Atlanta, Georgia: Carl Springer, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; Christopher Craig, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Stephen Collins-Elliott, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Jessica Westerhold, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Robert Sklenar, University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Problems and Challenges

Like all other states, we face the challenge of continuing to defend the teaching of Classics in our schools, most often when it is stated that a modern spoken language is more useful or practical. Happily, we have many methods with which to combat such situations. Primarily, it is done through our capable, articulate, and well-informed classicists who understand the importance of what we do.

Kudos

Membership and participation in activities for middle school and high school students continues to be strong throughout the state. There are annual tournaments and conferences in Memphis, Clarksville, Nashville, and Knoxville. Participation by Tennesseans in CAMWS meetings and on CAMWS committees continues to be strong.

Classics faculty at state colleges and universities continue to report a steady increase in enrollment in Classics courses. Our various colleges and universities continue to produce many graduates each year who go on to teach the Classics somewhere in the state, providing a new generation of classicists to build on existing traditions.

Kentucky Report

Submitted by Marcie Handler, Covington Latin School

(this is a resubmission from a previous year)

The Commonwealth of Kentucky currently possesses a total of 40 Classics programs at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels, plus several colleges and universities that offer Latin / Greek courses at the elementary level. The University of Kentucky is the only university that offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Classics. It is also internationally recognized for its summer institute promoting conversational Latin, the *Conventiculum Latinum*.

Good News

This last fall was the first meeting of the Bluegrass Classics Undergraduate Conference at which nine students from the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University presented papers. The conference was held at Transylvania University. In the future it will move around among the local schools (University of Kentucky, Centre, and Georgetown). Students from several Lexington-area colleges attended a production of Diane Arnson Svarlien's translation of Euripides' *Medea* at Berea College in fall 2015. The Transylvania University Classics Club, *Sodalitas*, has been quite active. Transylvania University was given a substantial gift in December 2015 to establish a permanent lecture series in Classics. The first lecture will be in the fall of 2017.

Participation in the Junior Classical League continues to be high. Fourteen schools will take part in this year's state convention in March in Erlanger, KY with a total of 270 participants. The number of student participants is considerably lower than last year (we had over 350 students last year), but this is in line with what we have heard anecdotally from neighboring

states' JCL conventions. Bari Clements (Madison Central High School) and Kelly Kusch (Covington Latin School) are the current state JCL co-chairs.

Challenges

A continual problem for Kentucky is that although the state has several colleges / universities that offer Latin courses, the state department of education currently only recognizes one of them (Asbury College) to certify new high school Latin teachers. This can delay or even sometimes deny certification (and therefore positions) to prospective teachers, and it encourages those teachers to relocate to states in which they can receive certification more easily. This is a hindrance and obstacle for prospective Latin teachers and the future of Classics in Kentucky. I have written a letter on behalf of CAMWS to the state government to address, in particular, the lack of alternative certification paths for Latin teachers.

Michael Harstad is retiring as a Latin teacher from Ballard High School in Louisville. Ballard High School has had a Latin program since it opened in the 1960s, and Mr. Harstad is hoping that the school will be able to replace him.

Secondary school Latin teachers in Kentucky have stopped participating in the Kentucky World Language Association's (KWLA) annual foreign language festival. The festival underwent major changes two years ago, and the newly designed event has little relevancy for students of Latin.