

Biography of James S. Ruebel, CAMWS President (2001-2002)

This presentation will consist of a biography of James S. Ruebel. Born on 18 August 1945 to Violet and George Ruebel in Cincinnati OH, Jim graduated from Finneytown High School in Finneytown, OH in 1963, and matriculated at Yale University where he earned a B.A. in classics and ancient history in 1967. At the University of Cincinnati he earned both his Master's degree with a thesis titled: "Contemporary Theories in the Chronology of the Beginning of the Roman Republic," in 1970 and his doctoral degree with a dissertation titled: "The Political Development of Cato Censorius" in 1972. After a year teaching at the University of Cincinnati, he joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota where he taught from 1973-1978. He moved to Iowa State University where he founded the classics program and from the years 1978-2000 he rose through the ranks, serving as the departmental executive officer, Classical Studies' program chair, and chair of the University Athletic Council. In the early 1980s, Jim became a founding member of AMICI, the Classical Association of Iowa.

In 2000 he left Iowa after being appointed Dean of the Honors College at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. As Dean he oversaw the renovation of the Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball residence into the new home of the Honors College. He also served as director of the Whiting Scholars Program, Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA and the Mid American Conference (2002-2013), vice-president, president-elect and president of the National Collegiate Honors Council (2012-2014). He was Dean and Professor of Classical Studies until his death on 6 October 2016.

Dr. Ruebel had a strong and active interest in the technology of instruction in Latin and in classical studies. In 1994, he received an American Philological Association Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Classics, and for many years he served CAMWS as a stalwart

committee member and as president from 2000-2001. Jim's academic work included articles on Roman history and Lucretius. He was the author of *Apuleius: The Metamorphoses, Book 1* (Wauconda: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 2000) and *Caesar and the Crisis of the Roman Aristocracy* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994). His death was sudden, dying "in the saddle" so to speak. He was well-loved at Ball State University where a memorial service was held for him on Sunday, 23 October 2016 in the Sursa Performance Hall that was followed by a reception at the Honors College. The paper will close with a sample of student comments about Dr. Ruebel and its text will serve as an acknowledgement of his years as our friend and colleague in CAMWS.