The VCLA/UVM Annual Fall Newsletter 2013

NOTE: If you are reading this via email or attachment and know someone who might be interested, please forward this annual update on the activities of the Vermont Classical Languages Association and the UVM Department of Classics.

Latin Day will be APRIL 11, 2014; note that there will be no Latin Day Planning Meeting in December. (See below for more details about Latin Day.)

The VCLA Annual Meeting took place on Saturday, October 18th, 2013, at Burlington High School. Cliff Timpson, acting President in lieu of Meg Holland (who’s left teaching to study veterinary medicine), presided and prepared absolutely incredible, professional-quality Italian delicacies. Thank you, Cliff! The food was thoroughly appreciated, noticed, and enjoyed by all! Nora Cartier (BHS) kindly hosted this meeting in her classroom on short notice due to change in leadership in medias res. It was nice to have the meeting in Burlington, closest and most convenient for most of us. Jacques Bailly (Associate Professor of Classics at UVM) gave a fascinating talk about his experiences behind-the-scenes as Pronouncer for the Scripps Spelling Bee and about issues in lexicography and orthography. Many thanks to Jacques for preparing such a unique, useful, and eye-opening presentation.

Present at this year’s meeting (in no particular order): Mary Redmond (Montpelier), Angeline Chiu (UVM), Lydia Batten (BFA, St. Albans), Leanne Morton (CVU), Cliff Timpson (BFA, St. Albans), Nora Cartier (Burlington HS), Jessica Evans (UVM), Jacques Bailly (UVM), Priscilla Throop (independent scholar), Mark Usher (UVM), Z. Philip Ambrose (UVM); Karyn Greene (UVM grad student), Joanna Oh (UVM grad student), Jordan Johansen (UVM grad student), Christian Gonzalez (UVM grad student), Ted Szadzinski (UVM grad student), Travis Lynch (UVM grad student); (Special welcome to new students Jordan and Travis!); Roy Starling (Riverside); Mary Ann Chaffee (Emerita, Essex High), Sid Davis (Lyndon Institute); and special welcome to Rachel Birch, a new Latin teacher at CVU.

Business Meeting (Cliff Timpson, acting President, presiding) . . .

The following officers were elected and/or reappointed:

President: Cliff Timpson  
Vice President: Nora Cartier  
Treasurer: Norm McClure  
Representative to CANE: Leanne Morton

Minutes: The VCLA officers will be updating the language of the VCLA Constitution, which is mildly outdated. The proposed revisions will be sent to members via email and we will discuss/vote on them at next year’s meeting. Mary Redmond and Lydia Batten kindly volunteered to join the Officers to form a constitution-revision committee. It was also agreed that VCLA will support the material cost of maintaining the VCLA website, at $80 per year. (Up to this point, Leanne Morton had been paying the server fee out-of-pocket.) It was agreed that Pam will ensure that links between the UVM and VCLA pages are up-to-date and maintained. Roy Starling (Riverside) gave an encouraging and impassioned call for
participation in the Junior Classical League, providing information about its Certamina and other competition activities. Membership in the JCL costs schools only $2 per student. Roy related many positive experiences from years past when he taught in Florida and, now, at Riverside. He offered to forward links to VCLA members to quiz/test information that might be useful for Latin Day. Stay tuned . . . UVM grad student Karyn Greene (from the Boston area) also has considerable experience working with the JCL. If interested, please contact Roy (rstarling201@gmail.com) or Karyn (karyngreene@gmail.com) for more information. Also a matter of discussion: It was agreed to make a greater effort to include outstanding T-shirt designs/drawings that aren’t selected to be printed on the T-shirt in the Latin Day Packet.

Financial Report: In absentia, Treasurer Norm McClure reported a balance of $3,163.91 in the VCLA fiscus. He provided a very helpful handout/ledger indicating payments made and deposits received. It was reaffirmed that all proceeds (and any losses/expenses) from the sale of Latin Day T-shirts will be split each year between the Kent Fund and VCLA. Dues for membership in VCLA are still $10. If you have not paid your dues for the current year, please send them to Norm.

The VCLA Directory of Members is currently available online at www.uvm.edu/~classics/VCLA/directory, but Leanne Morton has kindly taken it upon herself, in cooperation with Pam Cunov and the current President, to be sure it is accurate and up-to-date. Leanne is collating this list with a list she previously compiled from a survey of all Latin programs and Latin teachers in Vermont. The VCLA directory, once updated, will ultimately be posted to the VCLA website maintained by the site’s webmaster (currently Leanne) and the VCLA President. (See www.vtclassics.org.) Please send any changes, corrections or additions to this Directory to Pam Cunov, 802-656-3210, or email to pcunov@uvm.edu (NOTE: current and correct email addresses are especially important to have for the VCLA e-distribution list, which includes information about Latin Day.)

CANE News: This year’s CANE meeting will take place March 7-8 at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH. Information about the CANE Summer Institute 2013 has not yet been posted/finalized. For further details about both the Annual Meeting and the Summer Institute (including the call for papers), go directly to the new CANE webpage at www.caneweb.org.

The CANE Student Writing Contest: The topic for 2013-14 is “What Mighty Contests Arise from Trivials Things: Consequence in the Ancient World.” See the CANE webpage for guidelines: www.caneweb.org. Note: Cash prizes of $50, $30, and $20 are awarded by the VCLA to the best three submissions from Vermont. Vermonters have fared very well in this competition. Encourage your students to enter! The deadline for submission of entries is December 15. Please send submissions to Leanne Morton (CVU).

The 38th Annual Vermont Latin Day:

Date: April 11, 2014

Place: Patrick Gymnasium, UVM, Burlington
Theme: **MORES GENTIUM MUNDI** (a.k.a. MGM), a celebration of ethnic diversity and “multiculturalism” in the Roman world (both Republic and Empire). Participating schools will choose a tribe to impersonate and perform a skit about some episode in Roman history or myth involving that ethnicity. Selection of tribes will commence by email announcement early in the New Year, on a first-come, first-serve basis. (No two schools can have the same tribe.) Sample peoples/nations include, e.g., Egyptians, Gauls, Picts, Carthaginians, Britanni, The Iceni, Etruscans, Nubians, Scythians, Jews, Vandals, Persians (Sassanids), Germans, Greeks (Ionians, Dorians, etc.), Italians (Umbrians, Oscans), etc.

We will be producing Latin Day T-shirts again this year. Each school can submit one design on behalf of their school for the front and one design for the back of the shirt. This means that schools/teachers will need to vet multiple student submissions ahead of time before forwarding on their finalists to Pam Cunov for distribution by email attachment for voting by UVM faculty and participating schools and/or individual dues-paying members of the VCLA. Each school (or VCLA member in good standing who wishes to vote) is requested to designate a first and second place design for both front and back (i.e., four votes in all). This simple system lets schools put their own submission in first place while permitting an ultimate consensus. Note that voting is open to 1) schools intending or committed to participating in Latin Day whether or not they submit designs or if their teacher(s) are members of the VCLA, and 2) any interested, dues-paying member of the VCLA who cares to weigh in on the matter (including UVM faculty). We will provide a vote-by-deadline in the email announcing the finalists with an attachment of the designs. School finalists in the design competition are due by **January 31st**. Please send artwork via [high-resolution email attachment](mailto:pcunov@uvm.edu) (JPEG or PDF) to Pam (pcunov@uvm.edu). There will be prizes for the two winning designs at $100 each; runners-up will receive $50.

**UVM Department of Classics Newsletter ~ Fall 2013**

In lieu of the usual summary of current activities of UVM faculty, I insert a link here to a nice feature/profile of the Department that appeared in the October 2012 issue of UVM’s College of Arts and Sciences e-newsletter.


If you have difficulty opening the link, try copying and pasting the above address, or simply search for “Spotlight on the Classics Department” on the UVM website.

Wishing you all many happy returns,

Mark Usher
Associate Professor and Chair