Montclair State University
The Institute for the Humanities &
Department of Classics and General Humanities announce

CLASSICS DAY 2020 AT MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020

-- A Program of Presentations, Discussions, Competitions for High
School Latin Students and Teachers
-- Time: Friday, October 30, 2020, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
-- Location: Montclair State University ZOOM
-- Registration fee: FREE! Pre-Registration required.

Contact for further information: englishm@montclair.edu,
rennert@montclair.edu, 973-655-4419.

THE PROGRAM

10:00 AM: Welcoming remarks and orientation.
10:15 – 10:50 AM: Session 1—Presentations and discussions led by MSU Classics and
Humanities professors. Attendees can select one of three options.
____ A. *"Spooky Rome"*   ***Prudence Jones***
____ B. *"Ancient Greek for Latin Students"*   ***Mary English***
____ C. *"Ancient Slavery"*   ***Timothy Renner***

11:00 – 11:45 AM: Interview with graphic novelist George O'Connor, author of The
Olympians series.

12:00 Noon – 12:35 PM: Session 2—Presentations and discussions led by MSU Classics
and Humanities professors. Attendees can select one of three options.
____ D. *"Technology in Myths and Sacred Places"*   ***Deborah Chatr***
                                                          Aryamontri
____ E. *"A Latin Ghost Story"*   ***Sulochana Asirvatham***
____ F. *"Encounters with the Classical Underworld in*   ***Patricia B. Salzman***

12:40 – 1:15 PM: Costume Contest (see details below).

1:15 – 2:00 PM: Teacher Idea Exchange and Networking Session.

OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATIONS BY MSU FACULTY:

A. *"Spooky Rome: Zombies, Ghosts, Vampires, and other Halloween Monsters in*
***Latin Literature"* (Session 1)**
The Romans loved scary stories about creatures we associate with Halloween. We will
discuss a variety of spooks and specters found in Latin literature.
Prudence Jones, *Professor of Classics and General Humanities*

B. *"Ancient Greek for Latin Students"* **(Session 1)**
If you enjoy learning Latin, you will LOVE studying Ancient Greek! This workshop will introduce students to the Greek alphabet and some common vocabulary. By the end of the session, students will be able to amaze their friends with their knowledge of ancient Greek.
Mary English, Professor of Classics and General Humanities
C. *"Ancient Slavery"* **(Session 1)**
We will explore the most important similarities and differences between, on the one hand, ancient Greek and Roman slavery and, on the other, slavery in the United States before Emancipation. We will look especially at slaves' work, treatment, and possibilities for freedom.
Timothy Renner, Professor of Classics and General Humanities

D. *"Technology in Myths and Sacred Places of the Greco-Roman World"* **(Session 2)**
Technological advancements seem to be the landmark of the contemporary world and people usually identify technology with modern scientific progress. However, already the ancient Greeks and Romans envisioned, and in some cases created, innovative machinery and equipment able to achieve those heights. We will explore how technology was exploited for religious purposes and how it played an important part in some of the most significant myths of the Greco-Roman world.
Deborah Chatr Aryamontri, Assistant Professor of Classics and General Humanities

E. *"Horresco referens! A Latin Ghost Story"* **(Session 2)**
In this workshop we will read a brief Latin story concerning a philosopher's unnerving encounter with a ghost. Teachers are encouraged to do a "pre-reading" with their students; please email Dr. Asirvatham at asirvathas@montclair.edu for a copy of the text with commentary and running vocabulary.
Sulochana Asirvatham, Professor of Classics and General Humanities

F. *Encounters with the Classical Underworld in Modern Film* **(Session 2)**
This talk discusses various representations of the Classical Underworld, both direct and symbolic in modern movies that rework Classical myths. The descent or encounter with Hades is a pivotal moment in the young hero/ heroine's mythical career and we will see how some of these themes are developed and intertwined with coming of age stories seen for example in *The Hunger Games, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* and *Clash of the Titans*.
Patricia B. Salzman, Professor of Classics and General Humanities

COSTUME COMPETITION
Design a hat for your favorite mythological character and prepare a short description (3-4 sentences) that you can cut and paste into a Zoom Chat. Students will compete as a school team. Every team member needs a hat. Teachers must be present for the costume competition. The schools with the best designs and descriptions will win prizes.

-------The 2020 Classics Day Organizing Committee: Jean Alvares, Sulochana Asirvatham, Deborah Chatr Aryamontri, Mary English, Prudence Jones, Victoria Larson, Timothy Renner

Registration Form
Classics Day, October 30, 2020

Complete this form and return it by Tuesday, October 27, 2020 via email to:
englishm@montclair.edu
rennert@montclair.edu

Teacher's Name: _____   Department: _____

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime telephone: _____   Ext. _____

Email address (please print clearly): _____@_____

Confirmation and program information will be sent via e-mail.

Number of students: _____   Number of teachers: _____

Will your school participate in the costume competition?
                                                    ____ yes   ____ no

Choosing Session Presentations

You will have the opportunity to attend two of the four presentations. Rank your choices from #1 (top) to #6 (bottom) next to the titles below. Since space is limited, groups of 10 or more may have to be divided between different presentations. We will try our best to give everyone their desired selections, but cannot guarantee them.

____ A. *"Spooky Rome"*   *Prudence Jones*
____ B. *"Ancient Greek for Latin Students"*   *Mary English*
____ C. *"Ancient Slavery"*   *Timothy Renner*
____ D. *"Technology in Myths and Sacred Places"*   *Deborah Chatr Aryamontri*
____ E. *"A Latin Ghost Story"*   *Sulochana Asirvatham*
____ F. *"Encounters with the Classical Underworld in   Patricia B. Salzman
        Modern Film"*

Follow-up: After we receive your request, we will send you an e-mail confirmation. Zoom links will be sent to teachers on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 or earlier if possible.