Classics Day, 2010
A morning of lectures, discussion, and a competition
for high school students studying Latin 3 and 4

Friday, October 22, 2010 9:00 am — 1:30 pm

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

The Program

On Friday, October 22, 2010, the Department of Classics and General Humanities at Montclair State University invites high school students who are studying Latin 3 and 4, together with their teachers, to our annual “Classics Day”—a morning of lectures, discussions and academic competition. Our aim is to provide students with a taste of exploring Classics-related topics at a college level. Six (6) students are able to participate in the competition; however, we encourage teachers to bring additional students who would like to attend the lectures only. Students and teachers are welcome to attend the lectures and not participate in the competition.

Classics Day will begin with an opening session at 9:00 am with welcoming remarks and orientation. The lectures begin at 9:20. Following the lectures, at 11:20, students who are participating in the competition will go to their assigned room for the half-hour test. Students not participating in the competition can purchase lunch on campus, or bring their own.

The Lectures

1. Religion, Love, History: the Joseph and Asenath Romance
The Greco-Roman novel grew up in multicultural communities of Egypt and Asia Minor, where there were substantial Jewish populations but Greek was a common language. Many of the early novels mixed history, religion and romance. The Joseph and Asenath Romance explains why the Jewish Joseph marries an Egyptian princess. Miracles occur. There is drama as Pharaoh's son, in love with Aseneth himself, attempts to seize her, persuading Dan and Gad to assist him and kill Joseph, but Benjamin saves the day.

Speaker: Prof. Jean Alvares, Chair, Department of Classics and General Humanities, MSU

2. The "Villa of the Antonines": Excavating a Roman Site in Summer 2010
This talk will present the archaeological site known as the "Villa of the Antonines" located at the 19th milestone on the Appian Way outside of Rome, how Montclair State became involved with it, how we evaluated it, how we organized an archaeological project to dig there this past summer, and what we found. The site dates to the 2nd century CE and takes its name from the fine statues of Antonine emperors, which were found there in the 18th century.

Speaker: Prof. Timothy Renner, Director, Center for Heritage and Archaeological Studies, MSU

3. Words of Power: Ancient Greek and Roman Public Speaking
Greeks and Romans were word crazy. Fueled by unusual political and social configurations that required many individuals to voice their opinions publicly to large groups, oratory flourished in ancient Greek and Rome in ways that today may seem excessive and strange to us: party guests relaxed by singing and reciting poetry to each other;
young boys and sometimes girls trained their ears and tongues from an early age by memorizing and performing large swaths of poetry, prose, rhythmic phrases and metaphors; students were drilled in creating convincing arguments on both sides of every question; famous playwrights incorporated speaking contests as climactic dramatic scenes in their tragedies; aspiring politicians spent time mastering physical gestures of such complexity that they approach a form of dance. The study of ancient oratory and public speaking tries to understand what social needs and desires were met by the development of the art of speaking, and how.

Speaker: Adjunct Prof. Jerise Fogel, Department of Classics and General Humanities, MSU

4. Reading Roman Coins as Cultural Artifacts

Students will learn the vocabulary used to discuss Roman coins, how to read the inscriptions on coins, decipher their illustrations and, finally, to understand how coins serve as cultural artifacts in the interpretation of Roman history.

Speaker: Beth Calamia Scheckel, Adjunct Instructor, Department of Classics and General Humanities; International Student Advisor, MSU

The Competition

Following the lectures, a competition, which will test knowledge in three areas—Roman Civilization, Latin Grammar, and Classical Mythology—will be held. The competition will be entered on a school group basis. Six (6) students from each school may participate in the competition, which is geared for students who have completed Latin 3 and 4.

The participating school groups will be assigned to an area where they can discuss and complete the answers to the questions, which will be multiple-choice in format. The group will have one-half hour to demonstrate its collective knowledge of the material. The three groups, which get the most correct answers within the time limit, will each receive a prize for their school. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony following lunch at 1:00 pm. Teachers may be asked to proctor a group from a school other than their own.

Registration Information

The registration fee for this program is $15.00 per student or teacher. In addition to the registration fee, there is a separate $20.00 charge for teachers who would like to receive 3 hours of Professional Development Credit. (see registration form)

For planning purposes, we ask that you pre-register your school group by returning the attached form, along with a check or purchase order number by the deadline date, Wednesday, October 13th.

If you plan to use a school purchase order, send us a copy of the registration form, and send a copy to your business office—to act as an invoice.

Registrations may be mailed, faxed or sent via E-mail to the Institute for the Humanities—check mailed under separate cover.

Make checks payable to: Montclair State University.

After we receive your registration information, an E-mail confirmation will be sent to you. Please include your e-mail address on the registration form.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, October 13th.

Institute for the Humanities program information for 2010-2011 is posted on our website: http://chss2.montclair.edu/instituteforthehumanities/

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