

**2018 CAMWS Regional Vice-President's Report**  
**Ohio Valley Region**  
**Submitted by Gwen Compton-Engle, John Carroll University**

## **Regional Overview**

Classics programs in Ohio and West Virginia experienced a continuation of trends we have seen for the past several years: bright spots and many strong programs, counter-balanced by challenged programs facing elimination or downgrading of their programs. I have used the word Darwinian in previous reports to describe this dynamic. The stronger programs are the ones already most involved in state organizations and in CAMWS, and are those most likely to respond to requests for information about the status of their programs. The most vulnerable programs have not made those connections. I applaud our new Ohio VP Garrett Jacobsen for his outreach efforts (detailed below) to try to bring more schools into the fold. As Garrett details, the Ohio Classical Conference has taken an important step by holding its meeting jointly with the OJCL in order to better facilitate interaction between K-12 and college/university faculty.

West Virginia is on the one hand a quite different case from Ohio, since the entire state of West Virginia has one university classics program, at Marshall University. But as Del Chrol indicates in his report below, the picture there too is mixed. In great news, Del received national recognition with the 2017 SCS Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Collegiate Level. A less positive development is that Marshall has eliminated both its MA and MAT programs in Latin, so there is no longer a master's level program in the state. Del reports that high school enrollments seem stable. Thus West Virginia exemplifies an area of concern that I know is shared across CAMWS: the reduction in teacher-training programs. If high school Latin programs remain stable, but university-level teacher-training programs are phased out, from where does the continuing supply of Latin teachers come?

## **Ohio State VP Report** **submitted by Garrett Jacobsen, Denison University**

This year I have established a fairly reliable list of of K-12 Latin teachers (122) and their schools (73) in Ohio, and a list of college/university programs that

have a Classics program or include Latin in their Languages program (19). Using this list, as well as a list of CAMWS members in Ohio (also under revision currently), I have contacted individuals by email, encouraging them to join or renew membership in CAMWS, emphasizing the benefits of membership and including a link to the CAMWS promotional flyers. For the K-12 teachers I separately emphasized the various awards and support offered by the Committee for the Promotion of Latin, as well as mentioning the Vergilian Society study tours and scholarships; for college/university programs I also encouraged institutional membership. In addition, I also encouraged our Ohio members to support petitions to the U.S Congress against the proposed budget cuts for the NEH and NEA, and on the local front I forwarded information on signing a petition to keep the excellent Latin program at the Columbus Alternative HS in the face of the principal's decision to cut it. In regard to the CAHS Latin program, there have been over 1000 signatures from Latin teachers and former students of Latin in Ohio, and our own CAMWS colleagues from across the country, to keep the program, with many eloquent comments on the value of Latin. The most recent update indicates that the Columbus City Schools have added a section ("TALK TO US") to its website allowing one to vote for a class to keep/spare.

Attending the Ohio Classical Conference meeting this past October, I found that the membership in the organization had dwindled considerably over the last several years. However, it was also my sense that the current leadership is taking steps to revitalize the OCC, and this meeting was quite successful, in part by the decision to have a joint meeting with the Ohio Junior Classical League. This increased the interaction between K-12 teachers and the college/university faculty, beyond just paper sessions, something that the K-12 teachers strongly desire. Moreover, it also afforded the opportunity for the college/university faculty to observe high school Latin students competing in 'certamina', and in some cases to be the reader/presenter of questions at a session. As an indication of the success of this joint meeting, this format will again be used in the coming October for another OCC-OJCL Fall Forum, again to take place at the Columbus Academy.

In an additional email to K-12 teachers and to currently listed chairs of programs in colleges/universities, I asked for recent news about their respective programs. The few responses are included below.

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***RESPONSES*** for news (Ohio)

**High School**

## McAuley HS (Cincinnati)

Hello Garrett,

Thank you for reaching out and showing an interest in Ohio's K-12 Latin programs. You are to be commended for your perspicacity in realizing that we are the foundations of collegiate Classics programs and that our present is your future. Gratias!

My school, McAuley High School, is an all-girls Catholic school run by the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati. Latin I-IV, AP and Dual Enrollment Classes are offered to students here. Latin enrollment has been steady, but has followed the overall drop in the school's enrollment: when we were a school of 800, there were 120 Latin students and now that we are a school of 450, we have but 66 in Latin.

However, McAuley is merging with its sister school, Mother of Mercy High School, this fall which will result in a combined enrollment of over 700, so there is a reasonable expectation that Latin's numbers will go back up at the new Mercy McAuley High School. In the fall, as part of the new school's academic enrichment bells, a freshman Classical Mythology course ("Heroes and Monsters of Ancient Greece and Rome") will be added to the curriculum. We are planning to offer a Roman Engineering course as well in the year after that as a way to bring the Classics to a wider audience of students.

The McAuley Latin program is very active! We have traveled to Italy, Greece and Turkey 5 times in the last decade in addition to taking many local field trips. Mostly recently, students went to see the Cincinnati Ballet perform the Carmina Burana with 3 opera singers and a live 75-member choir onstage. Having read many of the poems ahead of time, McAuley students really enjoyed the performance especially the comedic Swan Song (Olim Lacus Colueram). We even met the dancer who played the fouled fowl and got her signed toe shoes which now hang in our classroom. At McAuley we always say, "Latin is Ubiquitous!" and look for every opportunity to take our learning outside the classroom door.

McAuley Latin Club is also very active in the OJCL, attending state convention every year and nationals most years. Last year, McAuley Latin Club co-consul Julia Cardinal was the Overall Sweepstakes winner at the OJCL State Convention (meaning she had the highest total points of all 500+ delegates in the academic and artistic contests). Julia also won the Maureen O'Donnell Book Award for her 4 gold

medals on the National Latin Exam too and is now a Classics major at Duquesne University.

Previous to Julia, McAuley alumna Megan Whitacre was the Academic Overall Sweepstakes winner two years running at the OJCL Convention and led our Upper Level Certamen team to win the State Championship. Megan went on to attend Holy Cross on a Bean Scholarship and now teaches Latin herself in Jackson, Mississippi. Three other McAuley Latin alumnae have won the University of Cincinnati's Semple Scholarship one of which, Melissa O'Mahoney, is now also a Latin teacher in New York.

At the OJCL Convention, McAuley has been the top all-girls school in the state for over a decade consistently finishing in the top ten and, in some years, the top five schools in Ohio. Due to this and the numerous NLE awards earned by students, McAuley was awarded the Hildesheim Vase Award in 2011.

Hope that gives you what you need! Feel free to cut or edit as you see fit.

Best,  
Rachel Ritchie Kless  
Latin Teacher  
McAuley High School

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### **College/University**

#### **Case Western Reserve University (Paul Iversen)**

-In June and July of 2017 we were able to give scholarships to 5 undergraduates to go to Ancient Corinth to excavate on the Lechaion Harbor and Settlement Land Project, and we will be giving scholarships to 6 more in June and July of 2018 to do the same.

-In October of 2017 we held our first Classics Day. About 100 high school students from area Latin programs came to CWRU where they engaged in hands-on activities at our library's Special Collections, this included viewing some papyri, codices, squeezes of Greek and Latin inscriptions, and some Roman coins. They also got to see a demonstration by some Roman legionnaire re-enactors as well as do some hands-on activities with the Greek and Roman art collection at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

-We also report that we have been given approval to hire a tenure-track colleague in Latin Literature.

-Finally, we are at the final stages of having an MA program in Classical Studies be approved by the State of Ohio.

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Hiram College

Dear Garrett,

Thanks for your work on this! I'm happy to report that Hiram College now has a minor in Classics for the first time in over a decade (Classical and Medieval Studies). It was passed by the faculty and went active this academic year. It's the first step in my goal of reestablishing the Classics program in a more permanent way.

Best,  
Matt  
Matthew Notarian  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics  
Hiram College

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University of Cincinnati

News from the Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati  
Both the undergraduate and graduate programs of our Department of Classics continue to thrive. We have a record number of undergraduates in our Classics club, with several science majors as members. John Hale will come to Cincinnati as guest lecturer at the club's spring banquet. Our Eta Sigma Phi, chapter Mu, initiated 4 new members on Nov. 8, 2017, and a second initiation is planned for the spring. Our graduate students and faculty, in collaboration with the Cincinnati Museum Center, have prepared the exhibition "Greece and Rome, and the Making of Cincinnati," which can be seen on the ground floor of Blegen Library at the university of University of Cincinnati, next to the Classics Library. The department sponsors a vigorous outreach program, which sends speakers into area schools more than a hundred times each year.

I've asked Classics Club for updates but so far they have not replied. We have a record year for membership, I think, with several members from science majors. A trip to Nashville (Parthenon) was discussed, but I'm not sure whether it's happening. John Hale is their invited lecturer, and he will be here April 5, with a banquet to follow, funded by SALD.

Eta Sigma Phi, chapter Mu (a quite old chapter in the history of Eta Sigma Phi, established 1926) initiated 4 new members on Nov. 8, and a second initiation is planned for the spring.

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The Ohio State University

The department reported a newly revised website.

\* <https://classics.osu.edu/>

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I wish I had received more responses, but even with a reminder the response rate was such. I will continue to send CAMWS related news to everyone, and for the K-12 group I will continue to emphasize our support and interest in their programs. My sense is that we need to maintain a closer relationship between the K-12 teachers and college/university faculty, and I am optimistic that the OCC can be instrumental in that respect.

Respectfully submitted,  
Garrett

**West Virginia State VP Report  
submitted by E. Del Chrol, Marshall University**

It has been a mixed year in West Virginia for the Classics. As in past years, the WV high schools have held a Junior Classical League convention (I believe partially sponsored with one of our grants). The amount of places teaching Latin at the secondary level seems marginally up this year (16 up from 14), judging by how many students are participating in translation contests run through Marshall, though this may be a rise from home school students. Despite my encouragement to use CAMWS funds or to get a first-year-free membership for teachers, to my

knowledge none have taken up the offer. At Marshall we will be bringing Kathryn Gutzwiller to speak this Spring, and we anticipate applying for CAMWS grant for that soon. My winning the SCS teaching award brought a little buzz to the department, mostly in the form of people emailing congratulations, often with the tag, "I didn't know Marshall had a Classics program!" The Maier Foundation which sponsors a scholarship for Latin majors as well as a translation contest for secondary school students doubled their endowment last year, and with the increased revenue from it we will be doubling the number of awards we give this year. Considering two of our current Latin majors and another of my Latin students were past Maier winners, I hope that the increased number of students winning awards will provide a small bump to our enrollments in the future. The increased generosity of the Maiers is perhaps the best news out of West Virginia.

The bad news is that Marshall has lost both its MAT in Latin and its MA in Latin. The MAT apparently had to go because the Ed school needs a certain average number of candidates for accreditation, and since we never send students to the MAT program, they decided to improve their rating by decreasing the denominator. I don't feel so bad about this, because though Marshall has produced a couple Latin teachers who have continued success, none have gone through the MAT program. I disrecommended it owing to the requirements – 36 hours of graduate credit, only 6 of which is in Latin. Instead I recommended students take our MA in Latin or go elsewhere for an MAT. The loss that stung was the MA in Latin. Though I successfully championed it two years ago when we had our 5-year review, arguing that if the two metrics were output and cost, though we had low output there was zero cost as all the courses were unpaid overloads. This year, well before the 5-year review and spurred by changes to the Higher Education Policy Commission and reddening complexion of our state legislature, they came for the MA. I fought but did not call on the CAMWS champions to help because we no longer have any students in the MA program. The school never gave us support or even opportunities for our students to TA so our draw was minimal, limited to occasional students in other states without MA programs, international students hoping to come to the US on a student visa, and internal candidates who had to stay in the area for family reasons. Though I feel the loss, there was nobody to defend and we let the program go.

The additional challenge that faces us is our senior colleague, Caroline Perkins, retires this year and we do not know if we will be able to advertise for her replacement. Our application is currently before the Freeze Review Committee. I type with crossed fingers.