

2019 CAMWS Upper South Region Report

Ryan Sellers, Memphis University School

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I. Introduction – Regional High School Enrollment

One metric for determining the number of high school Latin students across the region is to examine participation statistics for the National Latin Exam. Of course, this is an imperfect tool for measurement, since not every school participates in the NLE, and of those who do participate, not all of them require participation for all of their students. At any rate, it does offer us at least a partial picture of high school enrollment. Here are the numbers for the 2018 exam, with the numbers from five years ago also posted for reference:

	<u>2018 National Latin Exam</u>	<u>2014 National Latin Exam</u>
Arkansas	274 students, 10 schools	263 students, 7 schools
Kentucky	1565 students, 42 schools	1790 students, 34 schools
Tennessee	4329 students, 126 schools	5216 students, 113 schools

These numbers indicate, therefore, that participation in Arkansas, while quite modest, has shown a small bit of improvement over the past five years. In Kentucky and Tennessee, on the other hand, more schools are participating in the NLE (a 14% increase), but the overall number of students participating in the last five years is on the decline (a 15% decrease).

II. Arkansas Report

Christy Marquis reports that Latin is going strong at Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock. While all 8th grade students at the school are required to take Latin, 40% continue their Latin with Christy when they enter the high school. Over the years that Christy has been teaching at Episcopal, she has moved more toward a comprehensible input approach and corresponding high-input activities. Episcopal's active Junior Classical League has visited Hendrix College, held movie nights and banquets, had a number of students take the NJCL exams with good results, and presented on classical topics at school-wide assemblies. Christy will leave Episcopal at the end of this school year; a search for a replacement has begun.

Daniel Levine from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville reports that the faculty have been offering a number of Classics-related study-abroad opportunities for students: a summer program in Rome (led by Rhodora Vennarucci and Joy Reeber), a 12-day January study tour in Sicily (led by Daniel and Rhodora), a semester in Rome (led by Charles Muntz), and an upcoming trip to Greece this summer (led by Daniel). Back in Fayetteville, the Classics program is busy with new offerings (e.g., *Sex and Gender in the Classical World*, *Greek and Roman Law*, and *Classical Background of English Literature*), and Dave Fredrick continues to work on the intersection of game design and Classics via the Tesseract Center.

As for classical goings-on at Hendrix College in Conway, Stan Rauh became a tenured Associate Professor of Classics in 2018, and in the fall we welcomed Dr. Martin Shedd to campus as a two-year Murphy Visiting Fellow in Classics. In the past year, we have hosted a visiting speaker, run classically-themed workshops, offered book discussion groups, and coordinated readings of classical literature. This spring, Dr. Shedd, drawing on his undergraduate experience at St. Olaf College, will work with students to adapt a Roman comedy into a short play that they will take on the road to high schools and middle schools.

Maureen Stover at Mount St. Mary Academy in Little Rock continues to be the coordinator for the Latin portion of the Arkansas World Languages Competition, a contest held each spring for the state's high school students.

The number of Classics programs in Arkansas may be small, but we are actively committed to the discipline and to finding ways to extend students' engagement with the ancient world beyond the classroom!

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resinski

Hendrix College (Conway, AR)

February 2019

III. Tennessee Report

Tennessee Classical Association

The Tennessee Classical Association held its annual business meeting and luncheon on Saturday November 3 in conjunction with the annual conference of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association. Twenty-nine were in attendance. President Abigail Simone of Houston High School in Germantown presided over the meeting. St. Mary's Episcopal School Latin teacher Patrick McFadden was recognized as the recipient of the Distinguished Latin Teaching Award for 2018. Ed Long, Latin teacher at Clarksville High School, gave an illustrated talk about the history of the TCA. Ryan Sellers of Memphis University School was elected as the President of the Tennessee Classical Association for 2019 and 2020.

Promoting Classics Within the State

Dr. Patrick McFadden, Latin teacher at St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis, continues to maintain a Facebook page and Twitter feed called Latin Helps. Social media users can post to this page examples of how Latin has helped them in their personal lives or in the life of someone they know. Often there are postings about celebrities who studied the Classics.

Clarksville High School Latin teacher Ed Long continues to maintain a statewide email list of approximately 200 classicists. Using Google, he regularly searches the faculty lists at schools statewide to find Classics instructors and add them to the list. Announcements of interest to classicists, including job openings, are sent out approximately once a month, and the list is regularly updated.

The 43rd Annual Mid-State JCL Tournament was held in February at Hume-Fogg High School in Nashville, hosted by Tim Russell. This annual event features competitions for middle school and high school students in the areas of academics and the arts.

The 62nd Annual Tennessee JCL Convention was held in April at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville and was coordinated by Ryan Vinson of Rossvie High School and Tim Russell of Hume-Fogg. This annual event features competitions for middle school and high school students in the areas of academics, athletics, and the arts.

The 37th Annual UTK Latin Day was held in October at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville under the direction of Classics Department Head Aleydis Van de Moortel. The annual event for middle school and high school students features seminars given by university faculty on topics related to classical studies.

The 11th Annual Latin Fall Festivus for Latin programs in the Memphis-Shelby County area was held in November at Memphis University School, hosted by David Gagliano. The annual event features competitions for middle school and high school students in the areas of academics, athletics, and the arts.

CAMWS Membership and Involvement

There are currently approximately fifty CAMWS members throughout Tennessee. These Tennesseans currently serve on CAMWS committees:

- Theodora Kopestonsky of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (History Committee)
- David Tandy of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (Finance Committee)
- Scott Cochran of Siegel High School (Subcommittee on the School Awards)
- Timothy Winters of Austin Peay State University (Subcommittee on the Bolchazy Pedagogy Book Award)

The following Tennesseans were presenters at the 114th CAMWS Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico:

- Justin Arft, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Anna Beek, University of Memphis
- Taylor Coughlan, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Christopher Craig, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- John Friend, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Stephen Kershner, Austin Peay State University
- Kristin Knopick, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Maura Lafferty, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Stephanie McCarter, University of the South
- Christopher McDonough, University of the South
- Zachary Quint, Belmont University
- Jessica Westerhold, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Timothy Winters, Austin Peay State University

Problems and Challenges

Like all other states, we face the challenge of continuing to defend the teaching of Classics in our schools, most often when it is stated that a modern spoken language is more useful or practical.

Kudos

Membership and participation in activities for middle school and high school students continues to be strong throughout the state. There are annual tournaments and conferences in Memphis, Clarksville, Nashville, and Knoxville.

Austin Peay State University in Clarksville now offers state teaching certification in Latin for its undergraduate majors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Long

Clarksville High School (Clarksville, TN)

January 2019

Memphis Addendum

(Note: Since I live in Memphis and know the classical landscape here pretty well, I've included a few additional observations about this part of Tennessee. – R.S.)

The metropolitan Memphis area has a long tradition of excellence in respect to the teaching of Latin, and for the most part, this tradition is still intact. Public high schools such as

White Station High School and Houston High School have well-established Latin programs, as do local independent schools such as Memphis University School and St. Mary's Episcopal School. Latin is not, however, confined exclusively to the affluent areas of the city, as programs have been established at the Collegiate School of Memphis, Soulsville Charter School, East High School T-STEM Academy, and Westwood High School, all of which are located in underresourced parts of town.

There are two special community events for Memphis-area high school Latin students each year: the Latin Veterani Dinner and the Latin Fall Festivus. The Latin Veterani Dinner, held each October, is designed to give "veteran" Latin students (i.e., AP Latin students, IB Latin students, or students in a regular Latin Four class) some well-deserved recognition and much-needed encouragement for their years of progress in the language. The 2018 dinner was held on the campus of Memphis University School. Approximately 70 students and teachers from 11 area schools attended; Professor Susan Satterfield of Rhodes College delivered a guest lecture. As for the Latin Fall Festivus, it is essentially a half-day, miniature version of the Tennessee Junior Classical League State Convention. Founded in 2008, the Latin Fall Festivus features a wide variety of competitions such as Academic Testing, Open Certamen, Airing of Grievances, Trigon, and Mythology Spelling Bee. In 2018, Memphis University School hosted the event, with about 250 students from around the Memphis area participating.

At the post-secondary level, the Classics program at Rhodes College is flourishing. The college's Department of Greek and Roman Studies, which includes seven full-time faculty members, offers both major and minor courses of study, and it has also recently implemented a licensure program for students who are interested in teaching in K-12 public schools upon graduation. At the University of Memphis, on the other hand, things are not as good. The Department of World Languages and Literatures only has one full-time instructor for Classics – and this person is actually split between Classics and Italian – and the department no longer offers either a major or minor program of study in Latin. It does, however, offer a few courses in

beginning and intermediate Latin, classical mythology, and classical etymology-related medical terminology.

IV. Kentucky Report (this is a resubmission from a previous year)

The commonwealth of Kentucky currently possesses a total of 40 Classics programs at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels, plus several colleges and universities that offer Latin / Greek courses at the elementary level. The University of Kentucky is the only university that offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Classics. It is also internationally recognized for its summer institute promoting conversational Latin, the *Conventiculum Latinum*.

Good News

This last fall was the first meeting of the Bluegrass Classics Undergraduate Conference at which nine students from the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University presented papers. The conference was held at Transylvania University. In the future it will move around among the local schools (University of Kentucky, Centre, and Georgetown). Students from several Lexington-area colleges attended a production of Diane Arnson Svarlien's translation of Euripides' *Medea* at Berea College in fall 2015. The Transylvania University Classics Club, *Sodalitas*, has been quite active. Transylvania University was given a substantial gift in December 2015 to establish a permanent lecture series in Classics. The first lecture will be in the fall of 2017.

Participation in the Junior Classical League continues to be high. Fourteen schools will take part in this year's state convention in March in Erlanger, KY with a total of 270 participants. The number of student participants is considerably lower than last year (we had over 350

students last year), but this is in line with what we have heard anecdotally from neighboring states' JCL conventions. Bari Clements (Madison Central High School) and Kelly Kusch (Covington Latin School) are the current state JCL co-chairs.

Challenges

A continual problem for Kentucky is that although the state has several colleges / universities that offer Latin courses, the state department of education currently only recognizes one of them (Asbury College) to certify new high school Latin teachers. This can delay or even sometimes deny certification (and therefore positions) to prospective teachers, and it encourages those teachers to relocate to states in which they can receive certification more easily. This is a hindrance and obstacle for prospective Latin teachers and the future of Classics in Kentucky. I have written a letter on behalf of CAMWS to the state government to address, in particular, the lack of alternative certification paths for Latin teachers.

Michael Harstad is retiring as a Latin teacher from Ballard High School in Louisville. Ballard High School has had a Latin program since it opened in the 1960s, and Mr. Harstad is hoping that the school will be able to replace him.

Secondary school Latin teachers in Kentucky have stopped participating in the Kentucky World Language Association's (KWLA) annual foreign language festival. The festival underwent major changes two years ago, and the newly designed event has little relevancy for students of Latin.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Handler

Covington Latin School