

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Think Locally?** I've always been struck by the fact that in other states, at least those where several towns are grouped into a single school district, neighboring Latin teachers have built-in ways to meet and exchange ideas. By contrast, most Massachusetts teachers are quite isolated. I propose a way to ameliorate this: CAM's constitution provides for dividing the state into eight regions and I suggest we exploit them.

**Reading Groups.** What can neighboring teachers do? One possibility is to form reading groups. Reading groups are a wonderful way to delve into Latin texts and, in the process, reach out to colleagues in adjacent communities. Several groups are operating informally in Massachusetts and New England, but I suspect that a large number of teachers would like to be included. The CAM web site is now serving as a reference tool by listing the email addresses and locations of Massachusetts teachers who are interested in serving as local coordinators in different parts of the state. (I have listed the regions on the CAM web site; if you teach in one region but live in another, you can decide what best suits you.)

Groups can convene anywhere: schools, homes, or public library meeting rooms. They can meet as often as they like and read as much as they like (AP Caesar comes to mind), though I think it would be nice to find at least one short text of common interest for discussion at our meetings. Several teachers have already volunteered to serve as coordinators, but more are welcome.

I will even recommend a specific reading: for the May 5 meeting at MaFLA Diversity Day, Prof. Pat Johnson of Boston University will discuss the story of Arachne in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Book Six, and it would be stimulating to have a group of participants who have read the story in English translation or, if possible, in Latin. I propose a particular passage: the description of the tapestries at lines 6.70-128. A basic Latin text, translation and commentary are being posted on the CAM web site.

A reading group would certainly merit PDPs. In the future, I am interested in exploring ways to fit a sequence of readings, in conjunction with other work, into a coherent format and result in graduate credit. I welcome advice on what suits teachers' needs.

**Museum of Fine Arts.** It's a pity that the splendid Aphrodite show at the MFA this winter is not a permanent installation. I had a chance to walk about fifty teachers through the gallery in December and January and was impressed with how well thought out it was. As it happens, most of the works in the exhibit actually do belong to the MFA, but we can't see them now because the show will be on national tour until 2013. Fortunately,

the 2012-13 academic year will also find the opening of a new gallery devoted to ancient coins. Coins are outstanding teaching tools and I hope to alert you to workshops at the MFA.

-Ken Rothwell, Classics, UMass Boston  
kenneth.rothwell@umb.edu

## **CAM Updates**

*CAMEl Courier* reappears after a hiatus of a few years; its absence means that many memberships have lapsed and we invite you to renew. In updating the mailing list we may have missed teachers and ask you to alert your colleagues.

## **Membership Renewal Form:**

**[www.massclass.org](http://www.massclass.org)**

As we updated mailing labels we were alarmed to find that the state has lost at least fifteen Latin programs in the last five years. If you are under threat, please let members of the Executive Committee know. An organized response appears to have helped restore middle school Latin in Newton last spring.

## **CAM Website & Tutoring Information**

Thanks to Lydia Haile Fassett, the CAM website ([www.massclass.org](http://www.massclass.org)) has been completely redesigned, with a view of the Forum and Palatine on the masthead.

A new feature allows tutors to advertise their availability. This can be a valuable clearing-house of information for anyone who needs to locate a tutor for a student or who would like to offer his or her own services. We ask that potential tutors be CAM members.

## ***Mensae Latinae: Cenabis bene . . .***

Conversational Latin is more than a passing fad! Join others at a Mensa Latina. In the Boston area, contact Jim Dobreff ([james.dobreff@umb.edu](mailto:james.dobreff@umb.edu)). In the western part of the state, join T. J. Howell at the Amherst Brewing Company, Amherst, Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm. To confirm, email him at [t\\_j\\_howell@yahoo.com](mailto:t_j_howell@yahoo.com).

## **Deadline Approaching!! Elaine G. Batting Memorial Scholarship Nominations**

MaFLA has established a \$500.00 scholarship to honor the memory of an outstanding teacher of Latin in Massachusetts. The applicant must be a member in good standing of MaFLA, be a full-time teacher in a public or private school K-12, and must carry a teaching load of at least 60% in classical languages/studies. Nominations are due by **March 31, 2012**. Please find nomination documents at the link below and forward to:

Brenda Cook (email: [bbc777@verizon.net](mailto:bbc777@verizon.net))  
60 Miller Street, Middleboro, MA 02346  
<http://mafla.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Elaine-Batting-2012.pdf>

## ***CAM Excellence in Teaching 2011***

**Sara Honig (r), The Cambridge School of Weston,  
with Madelyn Gonnerman Torchin (l)**

Sara Honig earned a B.A. cum laude from Barnard College and holds masters in Latin and Classical humanities from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and in Policy, Planning, and Administration from Boston University. She also pursued advanced courses in mathematics at Westfield College. Sara began her teaching career in Brooklyn, New York and has taught at UMass Amherst, Ludlow High School, and Wilbraham and Monson Academy. In 1995 she began her service to the Cambridge School of Weston, where, in addition to teaching a wide variety of classics and math courses, she has been Foreign Language Department Chair, Faculty Trustee, and Interim Academic Dean. Here, her extensive service ranges from offering policy, academic and student support to advising student groups, such as the JCL and the cheerleading squad, to performing with the Student-Faculty Chorus. In addition to teaching Latin and math courses at the Cambridge School of Weston, Sara also holds licensure as principal and assistant principal.

Throughout her long and distinguished career Sara has been an admired teacher, a respected mentor, a supportive colleague, and an inspiration to anyone interested in studying the Classics. Indeed, the students whom Sara has taught know of her passion for her work. These fortunate students have been informed, inspired, and challenged by her to realize their potential through the pursuit of the classics. For, in the classroom, Sara does not merely present material to her students, but engages them in the work. Indeed, students performing in a video that she shared in a recent presentation at Lasell College were caught in outtakes as they thanked their teacher, "Oh, Ms. Honig, you take such good care of us--You work so hard for us! We love you." Perceptive and high praise, indeed, from those who have benefited so greatly from her care, her enthusiasm, and her passion. Moreover, they, as we, know Sara as a team player, a leader, a passionate advocate for classics, but also an ardent hiker, swimmer, diver, underwater photographer, mom and new grandmother!

Beyond her exemplary work as a classroom teacher, Sara has demonstrated her scholarship through the publication of a book and several articles. Her contributions to the profession are enormous. She has given presentations and workshops and organized events such as New York City Latin Day for students and colleagues over the past twenty years. EMFLA, MaFLA, CAM, and PVCA are only some of the professional organizations that have benefited from Sara's willingness

to share her time and knowledge to enhance the study of the Classics.

It is for twenty-five years of inspiring her students, supporting her colleagues, and making extraordinary contributions to the profession that Sara Honig has been granted the Classical Association of Massachusetts 2011 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

*-Submitted by Madelyn Gonnerman Torchin*

## ***EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD 2012***

We are receiving nominations for the CAM Excellence in Teaching Award, which is given every year at the Fall Massachusetts Foreign Language Association meeting.

Please see the form at [www.massclass.org](http://www.massclass.org).

## **MaFLA Annual Conference**

### **Sturbridge, 2011: *LATIN STRAND***

What foreign language teacher doesn't like to travel? At MaFLA's fall conference this year the Latin attendees found themselves on a whirlwind trip from the land of the internet where Brian McCarthy helped us navigate many useful websites and activities suitable for the classroom to a photographic journey of the ancient land of Carthage/North Africa where Emil Penarubia narrated findings from his summer trip there as an Elaine Batting award winner. Klara Sands continued our journey through the use of the smart board in the classroom. Many attendees enthusiastically participated in several of these activities. Nancy Antonellis served as our tour guide as we followed in the footsteps of Aeneas and considered many resources for teaching about him and his adventures throughout all levels of instruction. On Saturday morning we journeyed to Victorian England where we were inspired by the classical training of the female writers. Brenda Cook drew our attention to the similarities and differences between these women and the *Docta Puella* of the ancient world. Many activities to encourage creative writing in the classroom were shared. Nell Wright led us on poetic feet to the land of meter where we scanned lines of poetry and searched for those difficult *long by natures*. Our journey concluded with a presentation by Doug Ryan on the deification of leaders – both in Rome and in America. After setting goals and establishing leadership for next year through our CAM gathering, final farewells were said and many left inspired, refreshed, encouraged and renewed especially in the friendships we share through our love for the classics and with eager anticipation for our next journey together. *-Submitted by Brenda Cook*

**See enclosed registration form:  
CAM/MaFLA 2012 Meeting May 5  
Lasell College, Newton  
Teaching Latin through Ovid and Mythology**

9:00 – 12:00: Prof. Patricia Johnson (BU): The Myth of Arachne in Ovid & in Renaissance Art

12:00 – 1:00: CAM Meeting; Prof. Kenneth Rothwell: LIMC: A Visual Tool for Myth

1:00 – 3:00: Klara Sands: Teaching Aphrodite in

the Middle School

3:00 – 5:00: Prof. James Dobreff, UMass Boston:

Reading Ovid and Expanding Your Latin: Active Latin Pedagogy

### Other Important Dates

**March 16-17:** CANE, St. Sebastian's, Needham

([www.caneweb.org](http://www.caneweb.org))

**June 27-30: 65th Annual ACL Institute**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

(<http://www.aclclassics>)

**July 1-21: CANE Summer Institute**

**August 10-12: MaFLA Latin Institute**

**October 25-27: CAM with MaFLA, Sturbridge**

### CAM Officers

**President:** John Bracey [BraceyJ@mail.weston.org](mailto:BraceyJ@mail.weston.org)

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[penarubia@bchigh.edu](mailto:penarubia@bchigh.edu)

*Think Summer...*

*for Professional Development*

### HARVARD SUMMER SCHOOL:

25 June-10 August:

*Virgil: Aeneid:* TuTh, 6:30-9:30 pm

*Intermediate Greek: Pagan and Christian*

*Rhetoric in the Late Empire*

Mon & Wed, 3:15-6:15 pm.

*Two Tragic Women: Antigone and Medea:*

Mon & Wed, 6:30-9:30 pm

### TUFTS:

*Classical Legacies: Horace*

3 July-9 August, TuTh 9:00-12:30

Check out teacher incentive:

<http://ase.tufts.edu/summer/summreduced.asp>

### UMASS BOSTON:

*Caesar.* Online—May 29-August 23

*Lucretius,* 16 July -2 August,

MTWTh, 1:00-4:00

*Conventiculum Bostoniense:*

*Summer Latin Immersion Program*

July 28-Aug. 5, 2012

*Latin 670: Active Learning*

*Methodologies for Teaching Latin*

*Latin 675: Living Text: Caesar*

## ***MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE***

The MassJCL has had a busy year, packed as always with events and competitions. School year 2011-2012 kicked off on October 22 with the annual Catapult Contest at Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown. In addition to the catapults, there were tours of the Clark Art Institute, entertainment, and certamen and other competitions, all attended by approximately 200 students and teachers.

Classics Day took place at BU on December 8. Speakers from local schools, colleges, and universities presented workshops on "Powerful Women in the

Ancient World." 500 students and teachers were present from 22 schools.

Another recent event was the annual Snow Ball, a semi-formal dance for JCLers, which took place on February 25 at the John Hancock Hotel in Boston. Certamen players have been busy with competitions at Yale, Granite State (NH), Advanced Math and Science Academy, Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, Lunenburg High School, and Boston University. Coming up on March 31 is the Harvard Certamen, sponsored by the Harvard Classics Club.

Plans are now underway for the state and national conventions. The MassJCL convention will take place April 27-29 at Barnstable High School. Wake Forest University will be the site of this year's NJCL convention July 26-31.

Information about MassJCL is available on the excellent website: [www.massjcl.org](http://www.massjcl.org).

*Submitted by Tamara Bauer*