

ANNUAL REPORT 2007- 2008

Excellence Through Classics: Elementary and Middle School Levels Submitted by Zee Ann Poerio, Chair

Executive Committee Members: Zee Ann Poerio (Chair), Matthew Webb (Immediate Past Chair), Micheal Posey (Vice-Chair), Jacque Meyers (Prima Editor), Courtney Holman (Exploratory Latin Exam Chair), Vivian Klein (Secretary), Diana Nixon (National Mythology Exam Chair), Kristin Tracy (Activity Packets Editor).

(ETC) is dedicated to the goal of promoting classical education for students in grades kindergarten through nine and introductory Classics programs. Our presentations and materials include interdisciplinary units in which the mythology, history, and culture of the Greeks and Romans are taught. These units often include instruction in Latin as well as word etymology. For several years we have promoted teaching materials based on mythology of Native Americans and Africa as well.

In March, the ETC Executive Board met at Miami University of Ohio for our Annual Spring Meeting. The ETC will celebrate 20 years as a standing committee of the ACL in 2009. This gives us the opportunity to revisit the goals of ETC and bring our work to the forefront of the Classics community. This year at the 61st Annual Institute at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, the ETC board members will be presenting two special sessions. One session, The ABC's of the NME and the ELE, will focus on how to ready, teach and successfully administer the Exploratory Latin Exam and the National Mythology Exams and the other, *Moda Lucida - Bright Ideas: Illuminating the K-9 Classics Classroom*, will focus on sharing best-practice teaching ideas for the elementary and middle school classroom.

ETC is also revisiting the idea of the Classics Clubs that was started in the early years of ETC and will be developing a Classics Kit for teachers with resources that will enable schools or groups to develop or start their own Classics programs. Matthew Webb will serve as the Activity Packets Assistant Editor to assemble, develop and collate these materials. In addition to a special session at institute in 2009 in California, the ETC is also planning two regional workshops for teachers and students to promote the study of Classics at the elementary and middle school levels for the Summer of 2009. One event will be organized by Zee Ann Poerio and will take place in Pittsburgh, PA while another will be organized by Matthew Webb and will be located in New Hampshire.

The Exploratory Latin Exam (ELE) is sponsored by the ETC to recognize and celebrate interest in Classics at the Elementary and Middle School levels. This is an age-appropriate national evaluation for students in grades 3 - 6 includes questions on general topics and a special theme for each year. The special theme for the 2007-2008 exam was Notable Men of Ancient Rome and the 2008-2009 theme will be Notable Women of Ancient Rome. The number of teachers participating in the Exploratory Latin Exam (ELE) increased from 77 to 81. This year 1798 Exams were ordered. All students were awarded Ribbons of Participation and certificates were awarded to the top 41% percentile of scorers. Each year the ELE develops classroom-ready teaching packets highlighting each year's special theme. This year's theme packet sales increased from 39 to 50. The ELE committee is chaired by Courtney Holman. This year, the following people served with Holman on the ELE committee to write questions for the exam: Ian Hochberg, Karyn Moon, Doug Bunch, Matthew Webb, Kristen Boose, Peg Minnick, Shirley Hall, Kathy Smerke, Andrea Stehle, Kris Tracy.

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The National Mythology Exam (NME), now in its 19th year, is our most popular endeavor. Diana Nixon serves as the chair of The National Mythology Exam Committee. The following people served on the National Mythology Exam committee in 2007 - 2008 to write and edit the exam: Diana Nixon, Chair (African), Laurie Darman (Aeneid), Margaret Connor (Iliad and Odyssey), Allison Fiegel (Native American), and Kris Tracy (Norse and Theme Questions).

The 2008 theme for the NME was Theseus. The registrants for the 2008 National Mythology Exam included 10775 students from 293 schools. Gold, silver, and bronze medallions were awarded with 42% of all participants receiving awards. The theme for the upcoming 2009 National Mythology Exam is Jason and the Argonauts. The NME also includes literary subtests on The Iliad, Odyssey, Aeneid, African, Native American and Norse mythology. The 2009 subtests will focus on Book XVIII of the Iliad, Book I of the Odyssey, and Book IV of the Aeneid. Other subtest areas of emphasis will be announced with the publishing of the 2009 NME Bibliography available on the ETC website at etclassics.org.

The ETC Teaching Packets provide study materials to schools and home schooling parents which prepare students for the National Mythology Exam and also provide general instruction in many areas of Classical studies. Each year the ETC offers a newly revised set of materials which correspond to the theme of that year's National Mythology Exam. This year we sold 420 packets (a 39% increase from last year), which included 171 Theseus packets, the 2008 theme. Of those 171 theme packets, 103 were sold on CD. All teaching packets are offered at a discount price to members of the ACL. Kristin Tracy is editor of the teaching packets.

PRIMA is the newsletter of the ETC. Jacque Myers serves as the Editor of PRIMA. Prima will continue to have a similar appearance, and features such as the "10 Questions" and "Spotlight on Classics Programs" series will continue. New features will include student work and reports from the committee members, and publication of teacher-created materials (handouts, lessons, rubrics, etc.) to go along with PRIMA articles. We are exploring the idea of reprinting articles from past ETC Journals which included materials submitted by those who attended the Aeneid Institute in the early years of ETC. We are also planning to make these materials available for download on the ETC website. The new issues of PRIMA will now preserve active Internet links in the on-line version. Internet web addresses and e-mail addresses will be hyperlinked and active available on the website when reading and viewing the issues online.

This year, Micheal Posey organized ETC's second PRIMA T-Shirt Design Contest. We received several entries for the contest. The illustration by Austin Fenner, a fourth grade student of Carol Johnson at The Meadows School in Las Vegas, NV, was selected as the winning design. Fenner was chosen as the winner unanimously by the ETC board at its annual ETC retreat in Oxford, OH. Fenner's winning design was selected largely based on the submission's creativity and composition. In addition, the drawing prominently illustrated this year's National Mythology Exam theme of Theseus by depicting the hero fighting the dreadful Minotaur. T-shirts featuring Fenner's design are now available for purchase through CafePress which you can access via ETC's home page or at: <http://www.cafepress.com/etclassics>.

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In 2000, the Julia K. Petrino Award was established to honor middle school classical scholars who exemplify the dedication, discipline, and love of classics exemplified by the young woman for whom the award is named. The award is a special book and certificate and was established by Julia K. Petrino's middle school Latin teacher, Lauri Dabbieri, as well as family and friends of Julia. The recipients are selected by a committee from a group of middle school students nominated by their teachers based on their performance on the National Mythology Exam and other activities in the field of classics. All teachers administering the National Mythology Exam to middle level students receive nomination forms for this award. In 2007, Emily Iannarilli of Montrose School was honored with the award. Emily was nominated by her teacher, Karen Demirjian. Mic Townsend of Fuqua School was also honored. Mic was nominated by his teacher, Jodi Maxey.

In 2004, the ETC established the Calliope Award, a bi-annual award designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated long-term commitment to the promotion and advancement of Classical Studies in the elementary and middle schools. Recipients of the award are recognized in PRIMA and at ACL Institute, and receive a special gift from the ETC. In 2006, David Baumbach was honored posthumously. Woolslair Gifted Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where David taught received a gift of classics books for young students for their school library. David participated in the Aeneid Institute in 1987 and was the first chair of ETC. This year, the recipient of the Calliope Award will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at the American Classical League Summer Institute in New Hampshire.

The ETC has a long-standing tradition of supporting innovation and creativity in K-9 classical studies programs. To solidify and formalize this tradition, in 2003 the ETC established the Outreach Grants Program, designed to support individuals and organizations dedicated to the promotion and advancement of K-9 classical studies. Recipients of funds are required to write a 300-500 word article about their funded activities for PRIMA. This article must be submitted within 30 days after the conclusion of the funded activity. Recipients who fail to submit the article must repay the grant funds in full. Recipients of funds who are not members of the American Classical League at the date of request, and have never previously been members of the ACL, will be awarded one year of ACL membership free of charge. In the 2007-2008 school year the ETC awarded grants to the following:

Danielle Schaefer, \$350

For Latin program materials for The Newport School, Silver Spring, MD

In 2006, Matthew Webb coordinated the debut of Quintilian which established an online bank of publications for ETC which offers for purchase publications appropriate to the study of Classics on the elementary and middle school levels. The service operates under the joint aegis of the ETC and the Director of the ACL's Teaching Materials and Resource Center. It makes use of an online print-on-demand service known as CafePress. Currently there are 10 publications by various authors for sale on Quintilian. In the coming year we hope to increase the number of publications available, make more teachers aware of the existence of Quintilian, and thus disseminate such publications to a wider audience. Quintilian can be accessed by visiting the following website: <http://www.cafepress.com/etclassics>.

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The new ETC website continues to receive great feedback and continues to evolve. The site is more user-friendly and includes an introduction to the ETC, links to PRIMA, the ETC newsletter, National Mythology Exam, Exploratory Latin Exam , Resources, information on Grants, Awards, Weblinks, Events, Contests, and Photos. The website also includes direct links to the ACL website, the TMRC, and Quintilian. Zee Ann Poerio designed buttons and ads for the exams and continues to work with Terrie Baranek who has served as the site's Webmistress. The ETC board members also contribute to update their respective sections of the website. We are working on the teacher and student sections and look for ways to include more teacher ready resources and update the blog section.

Our goals for the future include, increasing publicity and participation in the Exploratory Latin Exam and the National Mythology Exam; increasing sales of the teaching packets; continuing to harness technology to advance the ETC and its programs; contacting more elementary and middle school teachers interested in promoting the classics and including them in this organization; and reaching out to homeschoolers, gifted and talented students, and teachers at all levels to making materials and information more available in order to initiate or expand classics-related programs. ETC board members also plan to travel and attend regional and national conferences and workshops to promote the goals of the ETC and promote teaching materials.