

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 2016 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

The National Latin Exam, sponsored by the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League, is a 40-question, multiple-choice test with a time limit of 45 minutes, offered to students on seven levels. On the Introduction to Latin, Latin I, Latin II, Latin III, Latin III/IV Prose, and Latin III/IV Poetry exams, there are questions on grammar, comprehension, mythology, derivatives, literature, Roman life, history, geography, oral Latin, and Latin in use in the modern world. The Latin V-VI exam contains two Latin passages as the basis for questions on grammar, comprehension, historical background, classical literature, and literary devices.

The philosophy of the National Latin Exam is predicated on providing every Latin student the opportunity to experience a sense of personal accomplishment and success in his or her study of the Latin language and culture. This opportunity exists for all students since, in the National Latin Exam, they are not competing with their fellow students on a comparative basis, but are evaluated solely on their own performance on the exam. The basic purposes of the NLE are to promote the study of Latin and to encourage the individual student.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has voted to place the National Latin Exam on the Advisory List of National Contests and Activities for 2016-2017. This list will be distributed to all secondary schools in the United States in September of 2016.

THE EXAM BY THE NUMBERS

The 39th annual National Latin Exam was administered to 142,271 students in the three-week testing window between late February and early March 2016.

154,619 students were registered for the exam; 92% actually sat for the exam.

- In the United States, the exam was administered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- Outside of the United States, 1,258 students from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, and, for the first time, Ghana, Greece, Portugal, and United Arab Emirates participated. This number represents less than 0.009% of the total participants.
- The exam was administered in 3,119 schools, including 21 colleges and 14 elementary schools.
- 4,111 students took the exam in 745 home schools. This number remains the fastest growing population of participants.
- The exam was administered online in 321 schools. A total of 8,014 students took the exam online.

The charts below indicate the states with the greatest number of students taking the 2016 exam and those states showing the greatest percentage of increase in participants.

The Top 10 States for Number of Students Taking the 2016 Exam	
Massachusetts	12,456
Texas	11,522
New York	10,958
Virginia	10,392
California	8,418
Pennsylvania	8,362
Georgia	7,367
New Jersey	7,334
Ohio	6,585
Connecticut	5,399

The Top 10 States with the Greatest % Increase in Students Taking the 2016 Exam	
Iowa	400.0%
Oregon	184.4%
Vermont	26.2%
Alabama	25.9%
Arkansas	25.4%
Georgia	21.9%
West Virginia	19.5%
South Dakota	15.3%
California	14.7%
Texas	13.6%

GENERAL AWARDS

On the 2016 exams, 53,796 students (37.8%) earned awards. Students who received a score above the national average on each level were recognized. The chart below shows the average scores and the number of awards by level of exam and by category.

Level of Exam	Total Students	Average Score	Perfect Scores	Gold Medal/ Summa Cum Laude	Silver Medal/ Maxima Cum Laude	Magna Cum Laude	Cum Laude	Total Awards
Intro	22,217	32	747	3,406 Ribbons and Certificates of Outstanding Achievement 5,162 Certificates of Achievement				
Latin I	49,606	29	481	6,144	7,052	5,671	2,964	21,831
Latin II	34,244	26	270	3,911	5,467	3,179	3,429	15,986
Latin III	17,130	24	92	2,120	2,265	2,289	807	7,481
Prose III	4,188	26	18	526	685	241	507	1,959
Prose IV	4,926	27	20	559	624	570	311	2,064
Poetry III	1,578	21	1	179	241	129	152	701
Poetry IV	5,479	25	36	705	805	461	470	2,441
Latin V	2,495	25	9	305	314	266	262	1,147
Latin VI+	408	26	2	44	62	38	42	186
Totals	142,271		1,676	14,493	17,515	12,844	8,944	53,796

SPECIAL AWARDS

There were 929 perfect papers in Latin I-VI. All students performing at this level received a special, hand-lettered certificate. A congratulatory letter has been sent to the principal of each school with copies for the student, the Latin teacher, and the student's permanent record. The thirty-five students who have three years of perfect papers, the three students who have four

years of perfect papers, and the two students who have five years of perfect papers are being sent the Carter Stubbs Drake Goad Memorial Book Award in addition to the special certificate.

In the Introduction to Latin Exam, the 747 students who answered all 40 questions correctly were sent a special congratulatory letter in addition to a special certificate of merit for a perfect score.

The Maureen O'Donnell *Oxford Classical Dictionary* Award, given to students who win four gold medals, is being sent to 448 students this year in recognition of their outstanding achievement. The 99 students who have won five gold medals, the three students who won six gold medals, and the one student who won seven gold medals will be sent special book awards. The names of the winners of perfect papers will be published in *Torch U.S.*, the publication of the National Junior Classical League.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND MONETARY AWARDS

There were 926 seniors who won gold medals on the Latin III, Latin III-IV Prose, Latin III-IV Poetry, or the Latin V-VI Exam. These students are eligible to apply for one of the twenty-one \$1000 scholarships, including one from an anonymous donor. In addition, a \$2000 scholarship, the National Latin Exam Sally R. Davis Graduate School Scholarship, will be awarded for post graduate study leading to the teaching of Latin and/or Greek at the elementary, intermediate, or high school level. These scholarship awards will be announced by NLE Scholarship Chair, Ephy Howard, at the ACL Institute at the University of Texas in Austin, TX, in June. The scholarship recipients from 2015, 2014, and 2013 are eligible for an additional \$1000 if they continue their study of Latin and/or Greek. As juniors and seniors, NLE scholarship recipients must have declared a major in Classics, Latin, or Greek. In 2015, the National Latin Exam awarded \$92,000 in scholarships. Sarah Penso was the winner of the Sally R. Davis Graduate School Scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year. Sarah is pursuing her MA at Hunter College in New York.

The National Latin Exam is also proud to offer the Jane Harriman Hall Award for Professional Development. This award, up to \$5,000, will be presented annually to a current Latin teacher who wishes to pursue further study in Latin teaching and pedagogy. This award is named in honor of Jane Hall, who founded the NLE in 1977 and whose energy and commitment led to the exam which exists today. The recipient of the 2016 Jane Harriman Hall Award is Marissa Porter. She will participate in the Paideia Institute's Caesar in Gaul program this summer. Marty Abbott, a former member of the Writing Committee and Executive Director of ACTFL, is chair of the committee which administers this award.

The National Latin Exam is also proud to offer the Christine Fernald Sleeper Educational Travel Award. This award, up to \$5,000, will be presented annually to a current Latin teacher who wishes to pursue an educational travel program. This award is named in honor of Christine Sleeper, one of the "founding mothers" of the NLE and a longtime member of the Writing

Committee. The recipient of this year's award is Maria Giacchino, who will be participating in the Paideia Institute's Caesar in Gaul program in the summer of 2016. Kevin Gushman, a former member of the Writing Committee and a current NLE Consultant, is the chair of the committee that administers this award.

The John Donohue Award is given to graduating college seniors who have maintained their National Latin Exam Scholarship for the entirety of their undergraduate career. This award is named in memory of a truly special member of the National Latin Exam family, John Donohue, who passed away in 2014. Our 2016 John Donohue Memorial Award recipients are Thomas Carroll, Rice University; Kristina Cheung, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Rachel Goldstein, Yale University; Matilda Howard, University of Sydney; David Jaffe, University of Chicago; Katherine Needham, Washington University in St. Louis; Max Payne, University of California, Los Angeles; Erika Russ, Vanderbilt University; Fiona Sappenfield, University of Oxford (New College); and Henry Whitmore, College of the Holy Cross.

This year marked the inaugural year for the New Latin Educators Scholarship, a \$2,000 scholarship awarded to students who are pursuing a career as a Latin teacher. This year there were six winners: Lydia Cawley (VA), Meghan Kiernan (NJ), Grace McIntire (VA), Erin Shanahan (MA), Emma Vanderpool (IL), and Alexis Whalen (MA). Sue Robertson, a member of the NLE Writing Committee, and Margaret Hicks are co-chairs of the committee that administers this scholarship.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

In September, the National Latin Exam office sent applications for the 2016 National Latin Exam to teachers who participated in the 2015 NLE. When the applications, along with payment, were sent back to the NLE office, the staff mailed to each teacher a postcard verifying the number of applicants and informing the teacher that the exams and answer sheets would be mailed by the United Parcel Service to the exam administrator or principal by February 20, 2016.

The 2016 exam required sixteen working sessions averaging three and a half hours each to complete the work associated with the exams. In addition to the general working sessions, each member of the Writing Committee spent countless hours taking care of specific tasks such as writing exam questions, answering correspondence, word processing, record keeping, publicizing the exam, ordering supplies, and writing newsletter articles.

Clement Testing Service mailed out the exams, answer sheets, and instructions and scored the returned answer sheets. The company also mailed out the results, awards, exam answers, and a congratulatory letter to the teacher by April 20, 2016. A copy of the congratulatory letter for the principal was included in this package. In order to help teachers and students assess strengths and weaknesses, the percent correct for each question throughout the nation as well as for the individual school was included.

The office of the National Latin Exam is located on the campus of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The NLE Office Manager Janine Kutty, Administrative Assistant Ellen Smith, and student aide Julia Romero tended to numerous NLE matters such as registering schools for the exam, processing exam fees, answering daily phone calls and e-mails, handling bookkeeping, and mailing postcards, awards letters, and Perfect Paper Certificates.

COMMITTEES OF THE NLE

The National Latin Exam functions under the guidance and direction of four committees: the Executive Committee, the Writing Committee, the Advisory Committee, and the Scholarship Committee:

- The Executive Committee for the 2016 exam consists of Mark Keith, Co-Chair, Linda Montross, Co-Chair, Betty Merrill, Treasurer, and Patricia Lister, Member-At-Large. This committee oversees the administrative duties of the NLE and directs the work of the other committees.
- The Writing Committee consists of Mark Keith, Linda Montross, Joe Davenport, Donna Dollings, Debra Heaton, Ian Hochberg, Emily Lewis, Patricia Lister, Betty Merrill, Sue Robertson, and Lauren Rogers. Jane Hall has been honored with emerita status. The committee began writing this year's exams in the spring of 2015. By the middle of August it began the difficult task of reviewing and editing each exam with respect to the level of difficulty, accuracy, and content. After several revisions, the exams were sent to consultants Michael Bales, David Bloch, Sally Davis, Kathy Elifrits, Kevin Gushman, Ruth Haukeland, Elizabeth Heimbach, Richard LaFleur, David Pellegrino, David Perry, and Wallace Ragan for their in-depth critiques. Acting upon their suggestions, the Committee made further revisions. After a final reading and revision, 173,250 copies of the exams were printed.
- The members of the Advisory Committee are Caroline Kelly, Chair (North Carolina), Liane Houghtalin (Virginia), Kelly Kusch (Kentucky), Nora MacDonald (Washington), Mary Pendergraft (North Carolina), Amy Sommer (Colorado) and Kristin Webster (New York). This committee receives comments, questions, and suggestions from teachers who give the exam. The members of this Committee represent the various geographic areas of the country, middle and high schools, colleges, and public and private schools.
- The Scholarship Committee consists of Ephy Howard, Chair, and members Sarah Bjorkman, Randall Childree, Patricia Richardson, Robert Simmons, Michael Sloan, and Sandra Woodward. This committee reviews the scholarship applications of qualified students and awards the scholarships. Linda Montross serves as the Scholarship Liaison.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Latin Exam wishes to recognize and thank all those individuals who work so diligently to make these exams a reality. The NLE continues to make a difference in the promotion and study of the Latin language in schools and homes around the world.

The NLE also wishes to thank all the teachers and students for their participation in this celebration of Latin.