



## **THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 2017 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 2017-2018. This list will be distributed to all secondary schools in the United States in September of 2017.

### **THE EXAM BY THE NUMBERS**

The 40<sup>th</sup> annual National Latin Exam was administered to 136,891 students in the three-week testing window between late February and early March 2017.

149,591 students were registered for the exam; 91.5% actually sat for the exam.

- In the United States, the exam was administered in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Outside of the United States, 1,610 students from Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, and, for the first time, Belize participated. This number represents 1.176% of the total participants.
- The exam was administered in 3,195 schools, including 23 colleges and 18 elementary schools.
- 4,446 students took the exam in 835 home schools. This number remains the fastest growing population of participants.
- The exam was administered online in 350 schools. A total of 7,965 students took the exam online.

The charts below indicate the states with the greatest number of students taking the 2017 exam and those states showing the greatest percentage of increase in participants.

<b>The Top 10 States for Number of Students Taking the 2017 Exam</b>	
Massachusetts	11,913
New York	11,031
Texas	10,863
Virginia	10,053
Pennsylvania	7,964
California	7,646
New Jersey	7,248
Ohio	6,364
Georgia	6,343
Connecticut	5,230

<b>The Top 10 States with the Greatest % Increase in Students Taking the 2017 Exam</b>	
Nevada	95.3%
New Mexico	24.8%
Maryland	23.4%
Iowa	20.0%
South Dakota	15.9%
North Carolina	11.8%
Colorado	9.7%
Michigan	6.2%
Wisconsin	6.2%
Washington	5.9%

## GENERAL AWARDS

On the 2017 exams, 52,554 students (38.4%) 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	21,530	29	299	4,250 Ribbons and Certificates of Outstanding Achievement 5,780 Certificates of Achievement				
Latin I	46,645	28	202	4,868	6,845	5,283	5,347	22,343
Latin II	33,384	30	501	4,038	3,379	3,539	3,527	14,483
Latin III	16,962	26	37	1,949	1,984	2,602	936	7,471
Prose III	3,797	26	6	409	428	580	198	1,615
Prose IV	4,896	26	18	579	631	476	522	2,208
Poetry III	1,575	23	4	184	159	236	104	683
Poetry IV	5,293	26	34	653	630	550	601	2,434
Latin V	2,401	24	7	252	265	336	276	1,129
Latin VI+	408	26	4	46	58	53	31	188
<b>Totals</b>	<b>136,891</b>		<b>1,112</b>	<b>12,978</b>	<b>14,379</b>	<b>13,655</b>	<b>11,542</b>	<b>52,554</b>

## SPECIAL AWARDS

There were 813 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 twenty-one students who have three years of perfect papers, the one student who has 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 299 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 507 students this year in recognition of their outstanding achievement. The 101 students who have won five gold medals, the four students who won six gold medals, and the one student who won eight 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 859 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 \$2000 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 Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI, in June. The scholarship recipients from 2016, 2015, and 2014 are eligible for an additional \$2000 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 2016, the National Latin Exam awarded \$94,500 in scholarships. Meghan Kiernan was the winner of the Sally R. Davis Graduate School Scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year. Meghan was pursuing her MAT at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

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 Nicole Diamente, who will be participating in a four-week trip to Rome this summer to investigate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) in connection to Latin and the Roman world. Alice Guppy is the chair of the committee that administers this award.

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 2017 Jane Harriman Hall Award is Meghan Kiernan. She will participate in the Vergilian Society Latin Authors in Italy tour 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 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 2017 John Donohue Memorial Award recipients are Max Bedford, Princeton University; Erynn Kim, Princeton University; Frederick Muth, Yale University; and Daniel Schlather, Kenyon College.

As mentioned in the opening article, this year marked the second 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 five winners: Ethan Byrd (NC), Josey Parker (NC), Jessica Thompson (FL), Dominick Vandenberg (NY), and James Wilusz (VA). Sue Robertson, a member of the NLE Writing Committee, and Margaret Hicks are co-chairs of the committee that administers this award.

## THE NUTS AND BOLTS

In September, the National Latin Exam office sent applications for the 2017 National Latin Exam to teachers who participated in the 2016 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, 2017.

The 2017 exam required fifteen 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, 2017. 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 Meagan Wilkinson 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 2017 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 2016. 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 Rosevear (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 S. 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.