

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 2014 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 2014-2015. This list will be distributed to all secondary schools in the United States in September of 2014.

THE EXAM BY THE NUMBERS

The 37th annual National Latin Exam was administered to 140,488 students in the three-week testing window between late February and early March 2014.

154,265 students were registered for the exam; 91% actually sat for the exam.

- In the United States, the exam was administered in 49 states (except Iowa), the District of Columbia, and Guam.
- Outside of the United States, 1,300 students from Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, and, for the first time, Oman and Spain participated. This number represents less than 1% of the total participants.
- The exam was administered in 2,974 schools, including 25 colleges and 12 elementary schools.
- 3,482 students took the exam in 614 home schools. This number remains the fastest growing population of participants.

The charts on the right indicate the states with the greatest number of students taking the 2014 exam and those states showing the greatest percentage of increase in participants.



The Top 10 States for Number of Students Taking the 2014 Exam

Massachusetts	12,738
New York	12,039
Virginia	10,447
Texas	9,711
Pennsylvania	8,528
New Jersey	8,503
California	7,536
Ohio	6,921
Georgia	5,780
Connecticut	5,763

The Top 10 States with the Greatest % Increase in Students Taking the 2014 Exam

Nevada	50.2%
District of Columbia	23%
Wyoming	16.7%
Minnesota	13.3%
Louisiana	12.2%
Missouri	12.1%
Pennsylvania	11.3%
Florida	11.3%
Arizona	11%
Tennessee	10.3%
West Virginia	10.3%

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 2014 NLE

GENERAL AWARDS

On the 2014 exams, 53,185 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	19,926	31	447	3,983 Ribbons and Certificates of Outstanding Achievement 4,474 Certificates of Achievement				
Latin I	50,852	31	1,466	5,671	5,086	5,459	5,594	21,810
Latin II	33,977	25	195	3,087	4,349	4,602	3,424	15,462
Latin III	17,286	27	104	1,703	1,951	2,520	1,708	7,882
Prose III	3,730	25	16	359	383	517	392	1,651
Prose IV	4,705	25	11	448	476	641	467	2,032
Poetry III	1,380	24	0	134	151	106	219	610
Poetry IV	5,858	27	29	567	659	584	662	2,472
Latin V	2,394	26	9	271	183	308	340	1,102
Latin VI+	380	27	3	46	32	48	38	164
Totals	140,448		2,280	12,286	13,270	14,785	12,844	53,185

SPECIAL AWARDS

There were 1,833 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-eight students who have three years of perfect papers and the seven students who have four 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, 447 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 415 students this year in recognition of their outstanding achievement. The 94 students who have won five gold medals and the

six students who won six 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 836 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 College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, in June. The scholarship recipients from 2013, 2012, and 2011 are eligible

Exam Report 2014

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 2013, the National Latin Exam awarded \$64,500 in scholarships. Rachel Ash was the winner of the Sally R. Davis Graduate School Scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year. Rachel is doing her graduate work in Classics in the learning program in Latin at the University of Florida.

The National Latin Exam is also proud to offer the Jane Harriman Hall Award for Professional Development. This award, up to \$5000, will be presented annually to a current and experienced 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. There were three recipients of this year's award: John Roth, John Fraser, and Christina Alvarez, all of the Bosque School in Albuquerque, NM. They received a total of \$5,000 to walk the path of Hadrian's Wall this summer. They will integrate what they learn on this trip into their teaching, as they compare their travels with the modern issues of borders and immigration in the United States. 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 experienced 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 recipients for this year's award are Donna J. Dollings and Valerie Gemske. Each will receive \$2,500. Donna will be participating in the Herculaneum Graffiti project this summer. Valerie will use her award to offset her travel costs when she takes 12 of her Latin students on a trip to Rome and Villa Vergiliana. 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 NUTS AND BOLTS

In September, the National Latin Exam office sent applications for the 2014 National Latin Exam to teachers who participated in the 2013 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, 2014.

The 2014 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, 2014. 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 Kuty, Administrative Assistant Ellen Smith, and student aide Dane Lawhorne 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 2014 exam consists of Mark Keith, Co-Chair; Linda Montross, Co-Chair; Betty Merrill, Treasurer; and Sue Robertson, 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, Elizabeth Heimbach, Ian Hochberg, Patricia Lister, Betty Merrill, Sue Robertson, and Matthew Webb. Jane Hall and Chris-

Exam Report 2014

tine Sleeper, two of the original founders of the NLE, have been honored with Emerita status. The committee began writing this year's exams in the spring of 2013. 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, Sally Davis, Sheila Dickison, John Donohue, Kathy Elifrits, Kevin Gushman, Ruth Haukeland, Nancy Llewellyn, 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, 169,750 copies of the exams were printed.

The members of the Advisory Committee are Susan McDonald, Chair (Florida), Nancy Czupik (Ohio), Liane Houghtalin (Virginia), Caroline Switzer Kelly (North Carolina), Nora MacDonald (Washington), Stephen Lee Pearce (Louisiana), Mary Pendergraft (North Carolina), and James Updegraff (California). 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, Cathy Daugherty, Judith de Luce,

Patricia Richardson, and Sandra Woodward. This committee reviews the scholarship applications of qualified students and awards the scholarships. Linda S. Montross serves as the Scholarship Liaison.

IN THE WORKS

The Executive Committee of the National Latin Exam has taken the first steps toward offering schools the option of taking the exam on-line. The online exam was tested at a small number of schools in 2014. The test group will be expanded for the 2015 NLE, with a hope to make the option available worldwide in 2016. The committee realizes that this format is a necessary option for the exam to remain competitive and relevant.

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.

NLE OFFICE STAFF

Janine Kutty, Office Manager

Ellen Smith, Administrative Assistant

Dane Lawhorne, Student Aide



Linda Montross, Co-Chair of NLE, chats with Lauren Rogers at the CAMWS meeting in Waco, Texas. Lauren has been the recipient of both the Sally R. Davis Graduate School Scholarship and the Jane Harriman Hall Professional Development Award. She teaches Latin at Salem Academy in Winston Salem, NC.

BLOCK SCHEDULING RESULTS FOR 2014 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

Again on the 2014 NLE application, teachers were asked to indicate if they taught on a semester-block (4 by 4) schedule. Of the students taking the exam, 4737 in 132 schools were taught on this type schedule. These students' test scores were examined and compared with the mean scores of students on traditional schedules. The results are below:

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM 2014 BLOCK SCHOOL ANALYSIS

LEVEL	OVERALL TOOK	AVERAGE	NON -BLOCKED SCH TOOK	AVERAGE	BLOCKED SCHOOLS TOOK	AVERAGE
Intro	19,926	31	19,425	31	501	30
Latin I	50,852	31	49,130	31	1,722	29
Latin II	33,977	25	32,780	25	1,197	24
Latin III	17,286	27	16,608	27	678	27
Prose III	3,730	25	3,672	25	58	21
Prose IV	4,705	25	4,534	25	171	25
Poetry III	1,380	24	1,305	24	75	22
Poetry IV	5,858	27	5,653	27	205	25
Latin V	2,394	26	2,289	26	105	25
Latin VI	380	27	355	27	25	28
Totals	140,488	27	135,751	27	4,737	26

THE 2014 NLE SCORES OF HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

According to the 2014 NLE applications, 3482 students taking the exam were taught inhome schools. These students' test scores were examined and compared with the mean scores of students in traditional schools. The results are below.

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM 2014 HOME SCHOOL ANALYSIS

LEVEL	OVERALL TOOK	AVERAGE	NON -HOME SCH TOOK	AVERAGE	HOME SCHOOLS TOOK	AVERAGE
Intro	19,926	31	18,668	31	1,258	30
Latin I	50,852	31	49,690	31	1,162	32
Latin II	33,977	25	33,361	25	616	28
Latin III	17,286	27	17,040	27	246	29
Prose III	3,730	25	3,667	25	63	27
Prose IV	4,705	25	4,650	25	55	26
Poetry III	1,380	24	1,366	24	14	28
Poetry IV	5,858	27	5,825	27	33	32
Latin V	2,394	26	2,366	26	28	31
Latin VI	380	27	373	27	7	31
Totals	140,488	27	137,006	27	3,482	29