

# The Letter of the League

(not to be confused with Palace Script MT, the lettering of "The Letter of the League")

An Official Publication of the National Senior Classical League



## From the Desk(top) of the President

Hello all,

My name is Ethan Kraft, and I am your NSCL President for the 2012-2013 year. I'd like to take the time to once again thank everyone who made it out to national convention in Wake Forest this past year. We had an awesome convention and everything ran as smoothly as anyone could have hoped. For those of you who couldn't make it, don't worry; we will still allow you to come to Las Vegas in 2013! Speaking of which, I recently attended Fall Planning Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. While there, Brendon, Tony and I saw all the facilities and dorms, and I can't tell you how

excited I am for convention. All of the sports facilities and fields should work perfectly for the different Ludi events, and with Kurt as our editor, the *Convention Ear* should be amazing to work with. I know some of you are afraid of the desert heat, but don't worry; we managed to move all of the outdoor events to either later in the evening or early morning. While the campus is amazing and beautiful, there are a limited number of beds this year, so if you try to apply late there is a good chance you won't be able to make it. Other than that, though, the whole convention should be an amazing time and I highly recommend



those of you that are primary, secondary, or post-secondary members to attend and join me in Las Vegas this coming summer. I hope to see all of you at the 2013 convention in Vegas!

Your NSCL President,

Ethan Kraft

## A Letter from the Editor



Amici!

Welcome to the second year of our newly-resurrected Letter of the League, a publication that, in the true spirit of Latin, refuses to die. In this medium of the National Senior Classical League's all-powerful (and all-a-bunch-

of-other-adjectives) message, you can find state news, read up on the NSCL scholarship application process, or discover your calling to be a chair for one of our events at national convention in July 2013. You can discern the words of the divinities or learn how to volunteer to work in the Convention Ear office; you can bask in the glory of our presidential letters or read whatever the Editor happened to write in shameless self-promotion.

As always, we welcome submissions of all types into the newsletter. If you really want to

tell us about a Latin class at your university or recount the glorious (and perhaps censored) tale of your state SCL's Saturnalia bash, make haste to send it to editor@nscl.org.

We await your submissions and feedback as anxiously as we hope you look forward to new issues of this newsletter.

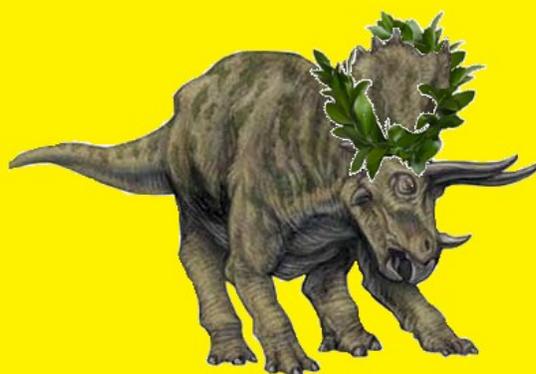
Until next time,

Kurt Ristroph

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***Everyone Wants  
to be a  
TRICERATOPS...***



**2012-2013  
Officer Profiles**



**President**

**Ethan Kraft**

**Name:** Ethan Kraft

**Office:** President

**Age:** 22

**State Delegation:** North Dakota

**School:** University of North Dakota

**Major:** Math/Latin/Pre-Med

**Non-SCL activities:** I work at Biolife Plasma Services as a phlebotomist and when I'm not enjoying translating Caesar, I love to read and play video games. I've been nerding out with Halo 4 recently and am addicted to the Game of Thrones series.

**Favorite Roman authors:** I love Caesar and De Bello Gallico.

**Fun fact about you:** I was 19 when I had my first kiss.

**On a scale from the Senate when Caesar crossed the Rubicon to Reggie Fils-Aime at E3 2007, how ready are you for Nationals this summer?** I'd say Master Chief slaying some Promethian knights. Ready whip my other officers into shape ha.

**What would be your response to a strategic non-nuclear attack by an allied North Korea and China against South Korea and Japan?** I'd say we should warm up our low orbit ion cannons and protect the motherland.

**What kind of dinosaur would you be, and why?** I'd be a Pachycephalosaurous. They are the ones with the big skulls that would headbutt each other for fun.



**Vice President**

**Brendon Walsh**

**Name:** Brendon Liam Walsh

**Office:** Vice-President, Director of Muggle Affairs

**Age:** 22

**State Delegation:** TXSCL

**School:** Texas State University

**Major:** International Relations with a focus on International Security and Asian Studies, minor in Aerospace Studies

**Non-SCL activities:** I am a cadet in Air Force ROTC and will commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 2014. I also play for Texas State's Collegiate Handball Team.

**Favorite Roman authors:** Julius Caesar, but I much prefer Thucydides to any Roman.

**Fun fact about you:** I once wrote an objectively terrible short story about time travel.

**What would be your response to a strategic non-nuclear attack by an allied North Korea and China against South Korea and Japan?** That depends entirely upon their targets and means of attack. In the case of a land invasion/amphibious assault, I would station one carrier group in the South China Sea (to prevent further aggression against Taiwan) and another in the Sea of Japan. Hopefully this deterrent would be enough to force a cease-fire. In the case of an aerial bombardment, I would mobilize PACAF (Pacific Air Force Command) to begin a limited air interdiction campaign. In the case of a unified missile strike, I would hit back hard and fast and limit my targets to their missile launch facilities. A lack of collateral damage will make it nearly impossible for them to justify escalation to nuclear conflict.

**What kind of dinosaur would you be, and why?** This is a tough question, and I'm glad you brought it up. I would be a Deinonychus for two reasons. First, it is the smarter, deadlier cousin of the Velociraptor proper. Second, it is theorized that they hunted by leaping from tall trees, gliding down with their feathers, and using their downward velocity to tear through the thick skin of dinosaurs over ten times their size. In short, they dominated their food chain via Air Superiority.



**Secretary**

**Bri Forney**

**Name:** Bri Forney

**Office:** Secretary

**Age:** 19

**State Delegation:** Ohio

**School:** The Ohio State University

**Major:** English

**Non-SCL activities:** Sundial Humor Magazine, The Ohio State University Trampoline and Tumbling Club

**Favorite Roman Author:** Pliny the Younger

**Fun Fact About Me:** Last November I wrote a 50,000+ word novel in thirty days as part of National Novel Writing Month, and I'm trying again this year.

**On a scale from the Senate when Caesar crossed the Rubicon to Reggie Fils-Aime at E3 2007, how ready are you for Nationals this summer?** I'm about as ready as all the Greeks hanging out in the Trojan Horse as it lurched over the threshold into the city.

**What would be your response to a strategic non-nuclear attack by an allied North Korea and China against South Korea and Japan?** I'm assuming this means I'm in charge of America, in which case I'd probably let that simmer and work itself out for a bit. America has done pretty well by waiting until the end of a struggle and then finishing it and claiming we won the whole thing, so I'd do that.

**What kind of dinosaur would you be, and why?** Finally, a REAL question. I'd be a triceratops because 1, my favorite *The Land Before Time* character was Cera, 2, my favorite number is 3, and 3, I have 3 points to this argument.



**Treasurer**

**Taylor Locks**

**Name:** Taylor Locks

**Office:** Treasurer

**Age:** 20

**State Delegation:** Virginia

**School:** University of Virginia

**Major:** Latin and Foreign Affairs in the Middle East

**Non-SCL activities:** Residence Life, Orientation and New Student Programs, Alpha Delta Pi, Order of the Omega, UVA Student Council

**Favorite Roman authors:** Catullus and Vergil

**Fun fact about you:** I have been mistaken for Anne Hathaway at the Airport.

**On a scale from the Senate when Caesar crossed the Rubicon to Reggie Fils-Aime at E3 2007, how ready are you for Nationals this summer?** Ready for it? As ready as when Caesar felt when he crossed the Rubicon (*Alea iacta est*)  
Excited for it? As excited as Reggie.

**What would be your response to a strategic non-nuclear attack by an allied North Korea and China against South Korea and Japan?**

“To talk much and arrive nowhere is the same as climbing a tree to catch a fish” – Chinese Proverb.

**What kind of dinosaur would you be, and why?** I would be a triceratops because I love how in movies they are portrayed as tough, despite being really big softies. In fact, they are the second most popular ‘Hollywood’ dinosaur besides the T-Rex (and we all know I have celebrity potential). Plus, Cera from *The Land Before Time* was my favorite character! My only hope is that none of my fellow officers say they are T-Rexes because Triceratops were a favorite snack of the T-Rex



**Parliamentarian**

**Elliot Wilson**

**Name:** Elliot Wilson

**Office:** Parliamentarian

**Age:** 20

**State Delegation:** Missouri/Massachusetts

**School:** Harvard University

**Major:** Classics!

**Non-SCL activities:** I basically have no life outside of Latin and Greek. But I’m a DJ on Harvard’s radio station!

**Favorite Roman authors:** Ovid, Vergil, Lucretius, Seneca, Catullus, Horace.

**Fun fact about you:** I am *obsessed* with R. Kelly’s epic hip-hopera “Trapped in the Closet” and am currently in the process of writing an academic commentary on the first 22 chapters.

**On a scale from the Senate when Caesar crossed the Rubicon to Reggie Fils-Aime at E3 2007, how ready are you for Nationals this summer?** As ready as esteemed singer songwriter Robert “R. Kelly” Kelly upon the DVD release of the first 22 chapters of his epic hip-hopera “Trapped in the Closet”.  
That’s real.

**What would be your response to a strategic non-nuclear attack by an allied North Korea and China against South Korea and Japan?** Upon reflection, I would recommend that all of the nations’ leaders gather together to watch soul-man extraordinaire R. Kelly’s epic hip-hopera “Trapped in the Closet”. The worries and cares of life and international relations seem to matter less when you’re watching it and letting its smooth sounds wash over you.

**What kind of dinosaur would you be, and why?** I don’t think I can work Grammy-award winning musician R. Kelly’s epic hip-hopera “Trapped in the Closet” into this response. Or perhaps I just did! I would definitely be Petrie from *The Land Before Time*. He’s by far the cutest.

(the scene created by the relative positions of the two pictures below was as coincidental and unplanned as it is hilarious)



**Editor**

**Kurt Ristroph**

**Name:** Kurt Ristroph  
**Office:** Editor  
**Age:** 18  
**State Delegation:** Louisiana  
**School:** Louisiana State University  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering and Liberal Arts: Concentration in Classical Civilizations (it's the best LSU has, sorry...)

**Non-SCL activities:** American Institute of Chemical Engineers, LSU Freshman Leadership Council, LSU Honors College Advocates, and being the Batman.

**Favorite Roman authors:** Cicero, Catullus, Horace, and Vergil.

**Fun fact about you:** I am the proud owner of a customized purple and gold Batsuit for use at LSU football games, JCL conventions, and far more. On a related note, I also recently discovered that all of my t-shirts are either JCL/SCL or Batman-related.

**On a scale from the Senate when Caesar crossed the Rubicon to Reggie Fils-Aime at E3 2007, how ready are you for Nationals this summer?** I can only hope that the student body in attendance is as ready for the *Convention Ear* as Reggie's body was ready for Wii Fit.

**What would be your response to a strategic non-nuclear attack by an allied North Korea and China against South Korea and Japan?** *Twi nun nom gu wi ye na nun nom; baby baby na nun mol jom a nun nom; twi nun nom gu wi ye na nun nom; baby baby na nun mol jom a nun nom.*  
 You know what I'm saying?

**What kind of dinosaur would you be, and why?**

Did anyone here watch *Transformers: Beast Wars* as a kid? Probably not, but for those who did, I would definitely want to be a velociraptor because of Dinobot, especially if I could transform into a moderately existential time-travelling robot with laser eyes.



**Historian**

**Hannah Carlson**

**Name:** Hannah Carlson  
**Office:** Historian  
**Age:** 18  
**State Delegation:** Florida  
**School:** Furman University, Greenville, SC  
**Major:** Music Education

**Non-SCL activities:** Drum Corps International, Carolina Crown, Triathalons, Ultimate Discus, and of course, anything percussive.

**Favorite Roman authors:** Ovid

**Fun fact about you:** This summer, I jumped off a random bridge somewhere in between Kingston and Ocho Rios in Jamaica because my friends dared me to, and I'm definitely still alive.

**On a scale from the Senate when Caesar crossed the Rubicon to Reggie Fils-Aime at E3 2007, how ready are you for Nationals this summer?** As ready as the world is for Jimmy McMillan to lower rent.

**What would be your response to a strategic non-nuclear attack by an allied North Korea and China against South Korea and Japan?** I would find Pinto (the lady who cooked for us in Jamaica) and get her to fry a bunch of chicken and feed it to all of the North Korean and Chinese rulers, because that chicken could end wars.

**What kind of dinosaur would you be, and why?** A triceratops, because Cera was the best dinosaur on *The Land Before Time*.

## The Senior Classical League Directory

(also known as the Ladder of the League)



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## And Now a Word from our (potentially your) Sponsor

Attention, all you hard-working NSCLers who go to National Conventions! If you would like the chance to win the Hal Rather Convention Award (for the cost of a packet to the 2014 National Convention at Emory University), please go to [www.nscl.org/members/scholarships/hal\\_rather](http://www.nscl.org/members/scholarships/hal_rather) to read about it and apply. The winner will be selected by the current NSCL officers at the 2013 National Convention at UNLV.

Also, NSCLers majoring in Latin, Greek, Classics or Classical Studies should go to [www.nscl.org/members/scholarships/nscl\\_scholarship](http://www.nscl.org/members/scholarships/nscl_scholarship) to read about and apply for the \$2,000 Susan S. Schearer NSCL Scholarship. Read carefully about all of the requirements and the application instructions. Don't wait until the 11th hour to apply or you could miss a golden opportunity.

If you have any questions about either award, please e-mail NSCL Scholarship Board Chairman Jeff Coker using the "e-mail" link at the web page for the NSCL Scholarship. Bona fortuna!

## Convention Ear Sneak Peek

The *Ear* is always looking for fresh talent, and this year, that help came in the form of a well-known celebrity who has offered to give us an air of "professionalism" by sharing his ideas and advice with the convention as a whole. We proudly introduce you to a contributing author to this year's upcoming national *Convention Ears*: Marcus Coolius Cicebro.

