

# Litterae Societatis

The Official Publication of the National Senior Classical League

Fall/Winter 2011



## From the President's Desk

*Dan Garrett, NSCL President*

Dear Friends,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome all of you to another year of SCL excitement! As I am writing this, I am getting ready to leave the awesome campus of Wake Forest University from a great fall planning meeting. Although Ethan decided to follow in the footsteps of the great Zachary Fenno and miss his flight out of Fargo, Tony and I managed to get by all right.

The facilities look pretty great overall! Everything is air conditioned, even the gyms where we will hold basketball. SCL dorms are in the middle of campus, directly next to the venue for That's Entertainment, which makes

everything a pretty easy walk. Most importantly, the dances will take place in a room that has what looks like an actual wooden dance floor.

Campus is gorgeous. I am not sure if my opinion has to do entirely with the campus itself or the fact that it snowed in Athens, Ohio on the day that I left, but I am rather certain it is the campus. But everyone will get to see for themselves come July.

While scouting the JCL officers for competitive spirit and athletic prowess, there is no reason to be overly worried about the officer Ludi competitions this year. The SCL board has

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## Editor's Notes

*Megan Whitacre, NSCL Editor*

Welcome to the first issue of the brand new Letter of the League!

You may be asking, "What is this 'Litterae Societatis'?" And why am I getting it now?"

Ladies and gentlemen, the Letter of the League is a newsletter published by the SCL, *for the SCL*. Its purpose is to connect the Senior Classical League as a national organization and to give all our members a forum to share their news and collaborate with other SCLers during the year. In this way, the Letter of the League hopes to con-

tinue the mission of the Senior Classical League itself, bringing together lovers of the classics and carrying on the torch of ancient civilization in the modern world.

This is not the Convention Ear – the Letter of the League is just for us, the Senior Classical League, in all our omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, and indispensable glory. So, welcome (or should I say, welcome back) and I hope you enjoy!

Fondly,  
Megan

# Announcements

(From the President's Desk, continued from page 1)

quite a bit of girth and experience \*cough\*Ethan, Brendon, and Blaine\*cough\* over the JCL officers.

There are several things in particular about which to get excited. Gladiatorial fights are an optional evening activity, so be ready to watch delegates hit each other with pool noodles. The Dining area has both Coke and Pepsi products. There is even an overflow dining area that is rather fancy for those who are feeling classy.

I hope that everyone in college is having an awesome semester and that midterms don't keep anyone down for too long. I look forward to seeing you all in North Carolina.

Best,

Dan Garrett

NSCL President



Looking classy, Wake Forest.



These SCL memories are brought to you by Paul De, VSCL. Contribute your own by sending them to editor@nscl.org!



# APPLY

for the **Susan S. Schearer NSCL Scholarship!**

Are you a member of the NSCL? Are you entering your sophomore, junior, or senior year of college? Are you majoring in Latin, Greek, Classics, or Classical Studies? If you answered "yes" to all of these questions, then you are eligible to win this \$1,500 scholarship!

Head to [nscl.org/members/scholarships/nscl\\_scholarship](http://nscl.org/members/scholarships/nscl_scholarship) for information about how to apply!

## ABOUT THE OFFICERS

**Dan Garrett**

President



Ohio University

**Major:** Economics and Finance

**Goal for the year:** Keep Tony from causing too much trouble and get my small indie band signed.

**God with whom I identify most:** Apollo, because life without music and sunlight would not be fun.

**Ethan Kraft**

Vice President



University of North Dakota

**Major:** Math and Classics

**Goal for the year:** Run a successful week of Ludi and competitions!

**God with whom I identify most:** Eros—Look at my picture, I'm a pretty irresistible guy (haha)! But seriously probably Janus—always looking to the future but learning from past experiences.

**Laura Sroka**

Secretary



University of Florida Alum

**Major:** Classical Studies

**Goal for the year:** To be an awesome Latin teacher (it's my first year!)

**God with whom I identify most:** Atlas because I'm sure he either did the snatch or the clean and jerk to get the world up there. (I used to be a competitive weightlifter)

# State News

Got an announcement? Planning a convention? Need some help? Changing the world? Getting married? **SHARE YOUR NEWS** with fellow SCLers in this section. Just email your news with your name and state chapter to editor@nscl.org. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Salvete! The Virginia Senior Classical League is hard at work preparing for our State Kickoff Certamen and State Convention. The certamen is Saturday, October 15th at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes' School in Alexandria. We currently have over 70 teams registered from elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the state. SCLers helped write and edit questions and prepare the materials, and about 10 will be on site to help run it. Our state convention is November 19-21st this year and we already have 25 SCLers committed to attend. We have already begun working on skits for That's Entertainment! We will elect a new round of officers at Convention this year with three current multi-term officers retiring from their posts. It is an exciting time for the VSCL!  
*Sarah Williamson, VSCL President*

MassSCL is in the midst of planning their annual March certamen—more information will be coming soon!  
*Kevin Rutherford, MassSCL*

**And now for something completely ridiculous...**



THANK YOU TO EMILY FORNEY, OSCL FOR THIS MS PAINT MASTERPIECE!

## ABOUT THE OFFICERS

**Blaine Cytryn**

Treasurer



George Mason University

**Major:** History

**Goal for the year:** To live up to everyone's expectations.

**God with whom I identify most:** Apollo, for I sing quite often and Apollo was the more musically oriented god, not including various demigods, of course.

**Brendon Liam Walsh**

Parliamentarian



Texas State University

**Major:** Biochemistry with a minor in Aerospace Studies

**Goal for the year:** My main goal is to not break the Constitution.

**God with whom I identify most:** Terminus, because I am the thin grey line between order and absolute madness.

**Megan Whitacre**

Editor



College of the Holy Cross

**Major:** Classics

**Goal for the year:** To publish the Letter of the League.

**God with whom I identify most:** Terpsichore, because I am constantly dancing!

# Spotlight on Classics: THE HOMER MULTI-TEXT PROJECT

Megan Whitacre, OSCL

*Contrary to popular belief, the study of the Classics is still new and exciting. What proved that to you? Submit your story to editor@nscl.org.*

When I entered college as a Classics major, I knew I would be reading the work of a lot of old, dead guys. I was happy about it, of course, but I sometimes felt that my studies were not exactly relevant and definitely were not groundbreaking. Then I got involved in something that changed my mind completely—and is changing the world of Classics research as we know it.

Allow me to introduce the Homer Multi-text Project: an online, accessible work of collaborative Classics scholarship. Run by Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies, the Homer Multi-text Project is in the process of uploading images of every folio of the many existing manuscripts of the Iliad, including the Venetus A, the U4, and the E3, and producing diplomatic editions of these texts. Students, including undergraduates, are editing texts, reading scholia, creating paleographic guides, and putting it all online. Even first year Greek students are able to contribute to making these unpublished manuscripts accessible.

The Homer Multi-text Project is revolutionizing the way we look at Classics research because it allows for an editorial work drawn straight from visual evidence. Because the work is done digitally, researchers can collaborate from anywhere. Participating institutions include Brandeis University, Furman University, and the College of the Holy Cross, with contributions from Georgetown University, Harvard, and the University of Houston in a workshop this past summer. High school programs, led by Ms. Meghan Zopsa at Charlotte Country Day School in North Carolina and Mr. Peter O'Sullivan at Avon High School in Connecticut, are even getting involved with this kind of work, beginning with a 9<sup>th</sup> century Latin manuscript of Josephus.

There is a different kind of excitement involved in connection to the real text, and that excitement is contagious. With the Homer Multi-text, we are making these texts accessible to all—and perhaps proving their relevance yet again.

*Curious about the Project? Want to learn more? Check out [homermultitext.org](http://homermultitext.org), or read our blog at [homermultitext.blogspot.com](http://homermultitext.blogspot.com).*

*Thanks to D.Neel Smith, College of the Holy Cross and Project Architect.*

## ARE YOU GOING TO THE NSCL REUNION?

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## ABOUT THE OFFICERS

**Martina Bright**

Historian



Lake Forest College

**Major:** Studio Art and Communication, with a minor in Digital Media Design

**Goal for the year:** This year I would like to keep in close contact with JCLers and fellow SCLers, as I love making and retaining friendships through the Classical Leagues. In addition, I would like to assist my JCL Historian successor, Emily Chang, in her work for the year. I would also like to make sure that I can divide up the events of NJCL 2012 convention evenly so that I can collect photos from most, or hopefully all, of the events, as well as help plan and decorate a fantastic SCL banquet for convention.

**God with whom I identify most:** I would say Mars, because my name comes from him, but then again, I don't know if I'm that into war. So I suppose I'd say that I most identify with Minerva, as she is the goddess of wisdom, arts, and industry. Plus her symbol is the owl (art student owl? Obviously).

## CONTACT US

*Questions, comments, concerns? We are best reached by email. Contact the officers individually using the email addresses below, or reach all of us at officers@nscl.org.*

**Dan:** president@nscl.org  
dan.ggarrett@gmail.com

**Ethan:** vp@nscl.org

**Laura:** secretary@nscl.org  
laura.lee.sroka@gmail.com

**Blaine:** treasurer@nscl.org  
stickfigurefreak3@hotmail.com

**Brendon:** parliamentarian@nscl.org  
bwalsh@txstate.edu

**Megan:** editor@nscl.org  
mpwhit14@g.holycross.edu

**Martina:** historian@nscl.org  
martina.a.bright@gmail.com  
brightma@mx.lakeforest.edu

**Tony:** advisor@nscl.org