

# The Letter of the League

The Official Publication of the National Senior Classical League

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Summer 2020

**BONUS EDITION!**

## Letter from the NSCowboyL Historian

Hey y'all,

I hope you're doing well and staying safe. I am collecting photos and short videos for a quarantine recap video. Since I won't be able to take too many photos of different people during convention, I will be compiling a video to present at our banquet.

Your participation is crucial.

The goal of this video is to highlight the talents each of us have. What is something neat, profound, or special to you that you've accomplished in this season? Did you get a PhD or did you graduate? Do you have a massive garden you've been working on? Do you have a special talent none of us know about? How can the rest of the community support your achievements?

[Submit photos and videos here!](#) NSCL reserve the right to withhold submissions for creative purposes.

What if there was a Senior Cowboy League,  
Savannah France, Cowboy Historian

## Letter from the NSCL Treasurer

I am pleased to announce our new clothing line, NSCL 2020, designed by the omniscient and omnipotent Grace McIntire. This line is now available on NSCL's [website!](#) Currently available products are a t-shirts, hoodies, and stickers, and a snazzy NSCL shower curtain.

Additionally, Hugo the Boomer™ would like to apologize for getting the merch out so late because he doesn't know how to operate a website.

Hugo Budd, NSCL Treasurer



## *Omnes...summa ope niti decet, ne vitam silentio transeant*

In 2020, front-line workers and those who help better the lives of others are the heroes of our age. Around the United States, these dedicated former JCLers improve the lives of those around them and are part of an elite squad known as adults. These are their stories.

### **Catherine Xia**

As a freshman at Washington and Lee University and former member of the Arizona Junior Classical League, Catherine spent the first seven months of her college career in Virginia, acclimating to campus and adjusting to classes in her Strategic Communications major. With the sudden shift to online courses over spring break, she was faced with a once-in-a-lifetime challenge. Already helping to advocate for fellow students with disabilities with various Deans and the University's Board of Trustees, she has been working since June to advocate for students of color. Additionally, due to recent events, this has included advocating for the removal of Robert E. Lee's name from the University.

### **Margot Armbruster**

A former member of the Wisconsin Junior Classical League and a national Certamen champion, Margot is currently enrolled at Duke University, where she is a rising Junior majoring in English. At the same time, she works with the University's newspaper The Chronicle and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, where she has written an article that was recently syndicated through Gannett. Her current work includes documenting current challenges that young adults have been facing during the pandemic, and what they are doing to overcome them. One challenge that she has had to overcome herself is conducting interviews, which can no longer be conducted in person. As such, she has been working with Duke's Career Advisors to reach out to fellow students to tell their stories.

### **Ina Lee Beinborn**

A former member of the Massachusetts Junior Classical League, Ina has been working hard to provide food delivery services to citizens in need in the Boston area as a Shift Lead at Instacart. A rising Neuroscience Junior at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Ina has spent countless hours walking in the Dorchester neighborhood to help ensure that people are able to feel safe and are well fed. In her spare time, she also translates subtitles for TED Talks into Korean.

### **Ann Nguyen**

A former member of the Louisiana Junior Classical League and a rising Junior at the University of Southern California, Ann has spent the past few months working in conjunction with fellow Louisiana member Vincent Bianca to provide life updates on the travels and travails of Joe Cicero, the Senior Classical League's premiere law expert. Outside of video production, she has been creating paid drawings for friends as a side hobby, is working on a short film production, and is completing illustrating a Dungeons and Dragons-inspired children's book in her free time.

### **Jacob Summerville**

A former member of the Louisiana Junior Classical League and a rising Junior at Southeastern Louisiana University, Jacob is a double major in Political Science and History. During the past few months, Jacob has been providing food delivery services as part of his job at DoorDash.



## Classical Pet Costume Contest

Submission details on the [Link List](#)

[Enter here!](#)

### Kris Plunkett

A former member of the Louisiana Junior Classical League, Kris recently graduated from Louisiana State University. With the need for masks becoming apparent this spring, Kris made a couple hundred masks and around fifty caps for healthcare professionals. Outside of sewing, she can be found baking and working with her sister Clare on photographic endeavors around town.

### Vincent Bianca

A former member of the Louisiana Junior Classical League, Vincent is a recent graduate of Louisiana State University, where he majored in Theatre Performance. During the last convention, he starred in a series of videos playing a lawyer named Joe Cicero, as a parody of ambulance-chasing lawyers everywhere. Since March, he has been working in conjunction with Ann Nguyen to update people on Cicero's life, while also providing whimsical videos about quarantine life. Outside of the corner suite in his bedroom, he is a part of LSU's Improv Club, which recently competed in the National College Improv Tournament, placing in the top eight, which was conducted over Zoom. In addition to all of this, he has also found time to work for DoorDash, conducting food deliveries.

### Tashi Treadway

A former Virginia Junior Classical League member, Tashi planned on spending this academic year teaching in Germany. However, the spread of Covid-19 cancelled the program, and she was forced to return home to America. During this time, she found time with her mother creating greeting cards and collecting cards from others to be delivered to a local nursing home.

### Kristina Mihaljovic

A former member of the Indiana Junior Classical League, Kristina is a current PhD student at the University of Arizona in Linguistics. During quarantine, she became integral to the National Senior Classical League by helping coordinate bi-weekly reunions during the nationwide quarantine, connecting over thirty members each session. In addition, she is a co-founder of the Arizona/Nevada Senior Classical League with Liz Noone and can be found volunteering at conventions in Arizona, California, and Indiana helping to spread her love of Classics.

### Cardboard Kurtout

Editor's note: We were unable to speak to Mr. Kurtout, as an untimely gust of wind blew him into the Mississippi River right after we sat down for the interview. If you see him when he visits New Orleans, please tell him that we appreciate his efforts but have since found someone else for this piece.

### Matt Cowan

A former member of the Arizona Junior Classical League, Matt stepped up last month, when a woman uploaded a video of a Starbucks employee who refused her service because she was not wearing a facemask, in an attempt to shame the employee into being fired. Seeing the news, Matt decided to get involved and started a GoFundMe campaign for this employee. With an initial goal of \$1,000, the effort eventually closed with an astounding \$105,445 raised.

### Kevin Rutherford

A former member of the Massachusetts Junior Classical League, Kevin is a consultant in local government in Massachusetts. Faced with abundant free time in March, he networked with a friend to assist with the Coronavirus Tech Handbook, as well as finding time to volunteer with the Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps, where he hands out food to underserved individuals one day a week.

### Amanda Datesman

A former member of the Indiana Junior Classical League, Amanda is a nurse at a neonatal intensive care unit at the University of Virginia University Hospital. Due to pandemic demands, she has spent time in the Covid-19 intensive care unit and the emergency room. Reflecting, she admits to officially becoming old when she started to fall asleep at nine in the evening in late March, something which never occurs at a National Convention.



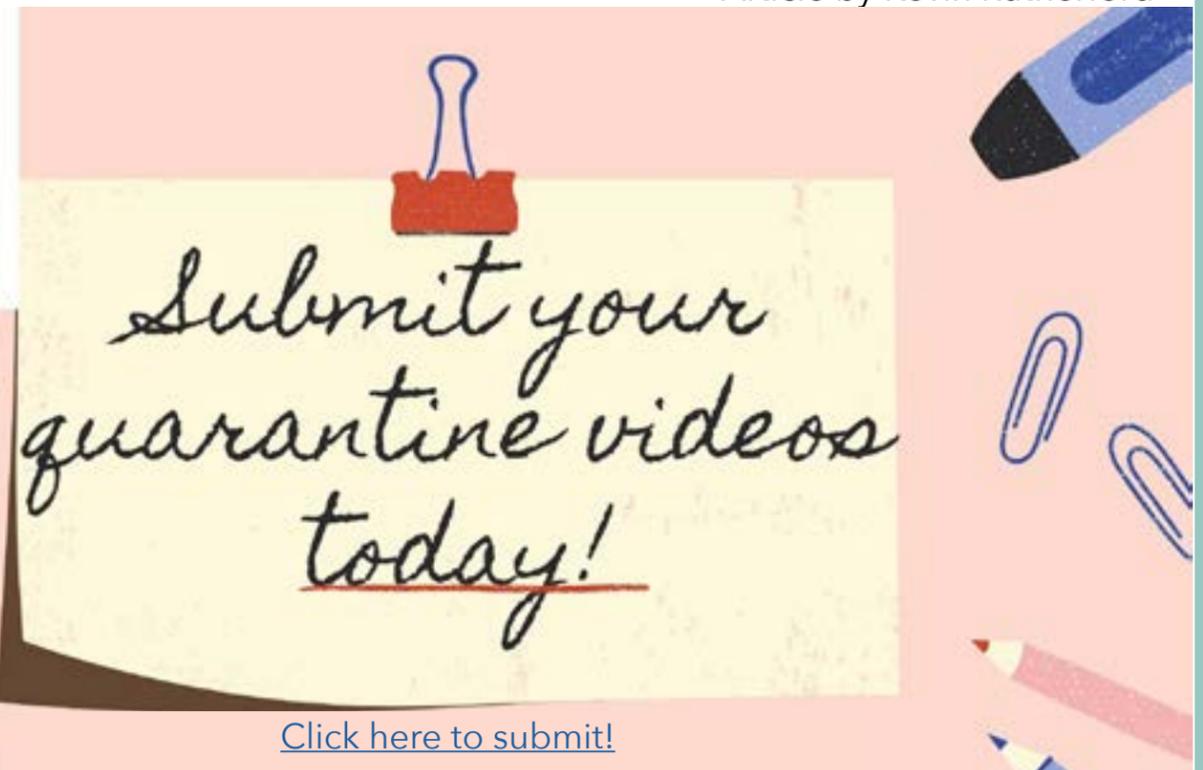
### Shannon O'Neill

A former member of the Florida Junior Classical League, Shannon is a Registered Nurse at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. After voluntarily cutting her hours by roughly half so that the floor staff nurses did not have to cut theirs, she voluntarily took vacation time this spring while spending time with her cat Aristaeus (pictured), in between watching numerous YouTube videos.

### Stephen Gentle

A former member of the Ohio Junior Classical League, Stephen is the Lead Web Developer at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. During the pandemic, he has developed a Covid case counter for the hospital's intranet system, helping to better inform operations.

Article by Kevin Rutherford



[Click here to submit!](#)

# Rezoomions

**Rezoomion** (ri'zoomiən) *noun, vibe*. **1.** a chance to remind each other that we're all SCLOved; I'm so excited for tonight's *Rezoomion*! **2.** something to keep SCLers from self-combusting in the midst of apocalyptic times; Thank goodness we have *Rezoomions*!

Sure, SCLers are spread across the world at any given time – it comes with the omnipresence, naturally. Yet everything that 2020 has thrown at us makes that distance feel all the greater. Covid-19 may mean that we won't be road-tripping to reconnect in Richmond this Friday, but luckily, technology exists! Through the magic of semi-stable internet routers and cooperating devices, Rezoomions have brought some stability and SCLOve into many of our lives.

On April 6th, Arizona SCLer Kristina Mihajlovic invited everyone in the NSCL Facebook group to the first unofficial "Zoomunion," as it was called at the time. "I started doing Rezoomions around Easter when I realized that the pandemic had already taken an emotional toll on so many of us: state conventions and other spring events had been canceled or moved online; entire quarters from college were moved online; people had been losing their jobs; essential workers lived in greater uncertainty," she said. "All of this uncertainty, plus the possibility of no in-person national convention or reunion made me miss all my SCL family even more. However, I soon realized that most of us basically physically distance from each other for 50 weeks of the year anyway, so we're uniquely prepared to handle a few thousand miles."

The first Rezoomion was an absolute hit! So many people joined the call to catch up, check in on each other, and co-exist virtually. Since the first unofficial SCL e-hangout, Rezoomion has been joined by over 45 NSCLers – and countless lovable pets, or as Kristina dubbed them, "NSCrittlersL." Activities have included Jackbox games, trivia night hosted by Ben Henkel, and That's Entertainment brainstorming. Many SCLers have found these video calls to be just what's needed in coping with the world on fire around us. In fact, everyone is hoping they will continue after the pandemic is finally over. For Joey Chatelain, Rezoomion has been crucial in offering a chance to see our SCL fam in a context outside of convention. "The Rezoomions have been a truly amazing and unique experience for me. Before the apocalypse I would typically see my wonderful SCL friends once or twice a year at nationals. This has the effect of creating convention-centric relationships with a limited understanding of the external lives these fantastic people have beyond convention. It has been great to catch up with everyone, and learn more about them during these end times. Kristina is absolutely brilliant for making them happen." LSCL member Drew Alvarez remarked, "It has been really fun to see everyone on a regular basis and play trivia and just chat. I hope we can continue to have these even past the current crisis."

These days, it can get really frustrating spending endless hours staring at our screens for online classes, remote work, and staying updated, but Rezoomions always provide little sparks of happiness. "I definitely have Zoom fatigue these days, but seeing a bunch of y'all's friendly faces was—and is—really important to me. One of my greatest joys is curating joyful experiences for others, and I was glad to have had the opportunity to brighten the days of so many of my oldest and closest and most beloved friends. Rezoomions are every first Sunday (except 8/2) at 7 EST. E-see y'all next time!" Kristina says.

Thanks to Rezoomions, isolation feels a lot less lonely. Here's hoping we e-see each other every first Sunday until we figure out how to SC-teLeport!

Article by Ann Nguyen, LSCL President  
Photos by Kristina Mihajlovic

