

# Classics Day, 2008

A DAY OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS AND A COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE STUDYING LATIN 3 & 4

Friday, October 24, 2008

9:00 am – 1:30 pm

*Sponsored by*

The Institute for the Humanities

Montclair State University

**Please Note: This Year's Classics Day Program is being held in UNIVERSITY HALL.**

*On Friday, October 24, 2008, the Department of Classics and General Humanities at Montclair State University invites high school students who are studying Latin 3 and 4, together with their teachers, to our annual "Classics Day"—a day of lectures, discussions and academic competition.*

*Six (6) students from each school may participate in the competition, which is geared for students who have completed Latin 3 and 4.*

*Our aim is to provide students with the experience of studying Classics in college. (We encourage teachers to bring additional students who would like to attend the lectures only.)*

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**The registration fee for this program is \$18.00 per student or teacher. In addition to the registration fee, there is a separate \$20.00 charge for teachers who would like to receive 3 hours of Professional Development Credit.**

For planning purposes, we ask that you pre-register your school group by returning the attached form to our office, along with a check or purchase order number, by the **deadline date, Tuesday, October 16th.**

**We do not bill schools for payment.** If you plan to use a purchase order, send us a copy of the registration form, and send a copy to your business office—to act as an invoice.

Registrations may be mailed, faxed or sent via E-mail to the *Institute for the Humanities*, and check mailed under separate cover. Mailing address, below.

**Make checks payable to:** *Montclair State University.*

After we receive your registration information, a confirmation letter and directions to the campus will be e-mailed to you. Please include your e-mail address on the registration form.

**The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 16th.**

Our 2008-2009 on-campus program calendar is available on the Institute for the Humanities website:

**<http://chss2.montclair.edu/instituteforthehumanities/>**

## Mailing Address:

Montclair State University, Institute for the Humanities, 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, New Jersey 07043

Phone: 973.655.7516

Email: [inst\\_hum@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:inst_hum@mail.montclair.edu)

Fax: 973.655.7207

**Classics Day will begin with an opening address in the University Hall Ballrooms at 9:00 AM. Students and teachers will then go to their assigned lecture rooms (also located in Univ. Hall) to hear two different lectures—at 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM.**

## **THE LECTURES**

**You will be asked to choose two presentations from the following topics (see registration form):**

### **1. "The Politics of Our Past: America's Founding Fathers and Ancient Rome"**

The vast majority of Americans are looking forward to this November's election as an opportunity to turn our country around. When we debate which is the right direction for this turn, Americans often refer to the Constitution and to the writings of the Founding Fathers who established this country. In their own time, the Founding Fathers often invoked the Roman Republic and its heroes to debate the values of the new country and its form of government. Why did America's founders talk about ancient Rome? What can the ancient historians of Rome contribute to our political discussion today, on the eve of our national election?

*Speaker: Meredith Safran, Adjunct Instructor, Department of Classics & General Humanities, Montclair State University*

### **2. "Cleopatra: Images of Female Power"**

Who was Cleopatra? Who is Cleopatra? After a brief introduction to the events of her life, we will explore the ways in which authors and artists of the Medieval through Modern periods have re-invented one of history's most fascinating female rulers. We will also answer the question, could Cleopatra have made a cocktail out of vinegar and a pearl?

*Speaker: Associate Professor, Prudence Jones, Department of Classics & General Humanities, Montclair State University*

### **3. "The Other great Latin Epic – The *Pharsalia* of Lucan"**

Everyone knows Vergil's *Aeneid*, but too few the *Pharsalia* of Lucan. Written (but not finished) during the reign of Nero, it tells the story of the bloody civil war between Caesar and Pompey—and Caesar is hardly the hero. Stoic philosophy, imaginative plot details, plenty of violence, and over-the-top special rhetorical effects all mixed together in this Silver-Age masterpiece.

*Speaker: Professor Jean Alvares, Chair, Department of Classics & General Humanities, Montclair State University*

### **4. "Breaking through the Shell"**

A certain group of patients come to therapy regularly, are quite pleasant, pay their bills, and do everything the therapist asks. Yet there is no improvement on the part of the patient and no sense on the therapist's part that they have come to understand this patient. Many times the patient's chief complaint is that no one knows them. Now therapists know that the techniques for helping this patient are to create a special vocabulary with them, share important stories that capture the course of the therapy, and have regular rituals they participate in. They are in fact creating a joint myth that will allow the patient to become human and spontaneous and capable of emotional attachment. This process gives us a lot of clues as to the underlying psychological impact of myth in the culture and why these myths have such staying power in this post-mythological milieu.

*Speaker: Gene Templeton, Adjunct Instructor, Department of Classics & General Humanities, Montclair State University*

## **The Competition**

Following the lectures, a competition, which will test knowledge in three areas—Roman Civilization, Latin Grammar, and Classical Mythology—will be held. The competition will be entered on a school group basis. Six students from each school may participate.

Your group will be assigned to an area where they can discuss and complete the answers to the questions, which will be multiple-choice in format. The group will have one-half hour to demonstrate its collective knowledge of the material. The three groups, which get the most correct answers within the time limit, will each receive a prize for their school. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony following lunch at 1:00 pm.

Teachers may be asked to proctor a group from a school other than their own.

## **Lunch**

Teachers will meet for lunch at 12:00 Noon in The Courtyard Dining Room in University Hall. A complimentary lunch will be offered to one teacher per school group. Additional teacher's lunch may be purchased for \$8.00. (See registration form.)

Students may bring a bag lunch, or they may purchase lunch in the MSU Student Center Cafeteria or Rathskeller. Both dining facilities are located in the Student Center—across the walkway from University Hall.

## Registration Form – “Classics Day, 2008”

Return this form along with check or purchase order number to our office by deadline date, Tuesday, October 16th.

**Registration Fee:** \$18.00 per student or teacher (\$20.00 additional per teacher for professional development credit hours)

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (zip code) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ ext. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

**(Provide us with an e-mail address so that a confirmation letter and directions may be sent to you)**

# Students: \_\_\_\_\_ # Teachers: \_\_\_\_\_ Parking: # Cars \_\_\_\_\_ Van/Bus \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l Teacher's lunch (\$8.00 per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 complimentary teachers' lunch per school group)

I would like to receive 3 hours Prof. Development Credit: (\$20.00 additional)  
*List the names of teachers who would like to receive Professional Development Credit for this program.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, our school will participate in the Competition

Purchase Order No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed, including charge for credit hours for teacher(s):  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- **Choose Two.** You will have the opportunity to attend two of the four presentations. Write-in the total number of people in your group (including teachers) for each of your selections. Groups of 10 or more may be asked to split-up.

\_\_\_\_\_ "The Politics of Our Past: America's Founding Fathers and Ancient Rome" *Meredith Safran*

\_\_\_\_\_ "Cleopatra: Images of Female Power" *Prudence Jones*

\_\_\_\_\_ "The Other great Latin Epic – The *Pharsalia* of Lucan" *Jean Alvares*

\_\_\_\_\_ "Breaking through the Shell" *Gene Templeton*

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