Montclair State University
The Institute for the Humanities and the Department of Classics and
General Humanities

announce

CLASSICS DAY 2019 AT MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

PLAN NOW!

-- A Program of Presentations, Discussions, Competition for High
      School Latin Students and Teachers
-- Time: Friday, November 1, 2019, 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
-- Location: Montclair State University Student Center, Montclair, NJ
-- Registration fee: $18.00 per student or teacher.
-- Teachers May Earn Professional Development Hours

*Registration Form with payment instructions will be available
   September 1, 2019 on our websites:

https://www.montclair.edu/classics-and-general-humanities/
or
https://www.montclair.edu/institute-for-the-humanities/

**Competition portion of program is for advanced Latin students and is
   limited to six (6) students per school.

***Contact for further information: rennert@montclair.edu,
      englishm@montclair.edu, 973-655-4419.

THE PROGRAM

9:00 AM - Welcoming remarks and orientation.
9:30 – 11:30 AM – Presentations and discussions led by MSU Classics and Humanities
professors (see details below). Attendees will have the opportunity to attend two out of four
presentations. Large groups will be divided among different presentations.
11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon – Written competition in Latin grammar, mythology and Roman
Civilization. Each school may enter six (6) students.
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM – Lunch break. Teachers invited to lunch with department faculty.
1:00 – 1:30 PM – Closing activities and awards ceremony.

OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATIONS BY MSU FACULTY:

"Virgil the Medieval Magician"
This talk explores the medieval tradition of the venerable Roman poet as a vengeful, lustful, and even diabolical sorcerer--a tradition transmitted in select German texts of the high and late Middle Ages.
Alison Beringer, Associate Professor of Classics and General Humanities

"Pygmalion and the Posthuman. Maidens, Machines and Movies"
Re-creations of the Pygmalion myth, where the artist/creator falls in love with his creation, are prolific in modern film. We here explore the cybernetic re-creations of the ivory maiden and their significance for a posthuman imagination. We begin with earlier examples like *Weird Science* (1985) and discuss aspects of the myth in more recent versions such as *Simone* (2002), *Her* (2013) and *Morgan* (2016), to conclude with the challenging and thought-proving *Ex Machina* (2015).
Patricia Salzman, Professor of Classics and General Humanities

"In Search of Cleopatra"
What do we know about Cleopatra? How do we know it? Direct evidence is hard to find. Even our biographies of Cleopatra come from outside Egypt and were influenced by the negative propaganda of her enemy, Augustus. Plutarch provides one of the most complete accounts of her life, but he was a Greek author and lived over a century after Cleopatra. The Egyptians didn't produce narrative histories and Cleopatra didn't write an autobiography. This session will examine some other types of evidence, including documentary sources, archaeological finds, and forensic anthropology.
Prudence Jones, Professor of Classics and General Humanities

"Choosing to Act: a Comparative Perspective from Greek and Sanskrit Epics"
 Even if epic characters are best known from what they do, they often pause before acting. This talk examines these deliberations from a comparative perspective, bringing the ancient Sanskrit epics into dialogue with the ancient Greek ones.
Aditya Adarkar, Associate Professor of Classics and General Humanities

For the 2019 Classics Day Organizing Committee: Sulochana R. Asirvatham, Mary English, Prudence Jones, Victoria Larson, Timothy Renner