Fostering a Love for Latin

LatinSummer Programs in 2012: This past summer, over 150 students from Birmingham AL, Boston MA, Fairfax County VA, and Richmond VA, participated in our LatinSummer programs, which have been the centerpiece of our organization since its founding in 2000. At LatinSummer, students spend two weeks learning about the language, culture, and mythology of the ancient Romans.

Innovation and Accessibility: LatinSummer remains the oldest and largest program of its type in the nation. Yet LatinSummer directors are not satisfied with the status quo. Over the past 12 years of LatinSummer, we have responded to the needs of our audience by instituting an ancient Greek curriculum, a special class for 1st and 2nd graders and, most recently, a semi-immersion experience for middle school children. Another recent innovation is the development of a three-tiered system of registration fees, with some rates as low as $50 for a two week camp, ensuring that LatinSummer is accessible to as many families as possible. These rates are supported in part by generous donors such as yourself.

Growth with Stability: Ascanius has selected four sites for LatinSummer 2013. In response to strong relationships we have built over time, we return for the third time to Williamsburg, VA and Amherst, MA, and for the second time to Charleston, SC. In keeping with our commitment, started this past summer with our program in Birmingham, AL, to expand LatinSummer beyond the East Coast, we offer LatinSummer for the first time in Saint Louis, MO.

Shifting the Career Path

Chloe Benner is a student at Virginia Tech. She taught at LatinSummer Richmond 2012, and writes:

“I wanted to teach for Ascanius because I wanted to inspire a passion for Latin in these children that they would be grateful for in years to come. The biggest surprise, though, was that in significant ways those expectations were flipped. I thought I would influence them to love Classics. But they also influenced me to love Classics even more as their enthusiasm met mine. Being with them made me change my future plans, and made me hope to become a teacher. I’m infinitely grateful for that development! Each day of coming into class made me happy. I loved seeing the students explore ancient times, and I was excited to find a job that I cared about so much. I loved the creativity and energy of that age group. I had to brace myself, though, for the end of the program. I wondered if I would ever have the chance to combine Latin and elementary school education again.”

Read more of Chloe’s story, including whether she got that chance, at www.ascaniusyci.org/iterascanii, plus find out which other former LatinSummer faculty members were inspired to enter the classroom, be it a Latin classroom or otherwise.
Beginning Partnerships:
Roman Explorers Program

Above: Collinsville (IL) High School Latin Club students serve as teachers to local elementary students through the Roman Explorers program. Roman Explorers is a half-day or full-day outreach program introducing elementary and middle school students to Latin and the ancient Romans.

A new and exciting partnership between Ascanius and local schools has emerged in the form of Roman Explorers. Roman Explorers Collinsville, Roman Explorers Norfolk (VA), and Roman Explorers Elkton (VA) have ignited a love of Latin to students in local elementary schools through fun and interactive workshops. Ascanius aims to develop long-term partnerships in these and other areas of the country.

April Buckmaster is a 3rd grade teacher at Elkton ES in Virginia. She writes about the new partnership via Roman Explorers, which was made possible in part by Excellence Through Classics:

“Through a grant from Ascanius: The Youth Classics Institute, the third graders at Elkton Elementary School were given the opportunity to be immersed in the culture of ancient Rome for the day this past May. This was both an interesting introduction to Latin and a review of Virginia’s History Standards of Learning for the ancient civilization of Rome. The Roman Explorers outreach program helped to bring our history curriculum to life. It was enjoyable for our third graders, and it gave me a wealth of new ideas for teaching my ancient Rome unit for next year!”

Continuing Partnerships:
ACL and UMass Amherst

As part of the June 2012 American Classical League Institute, thirty elementary schoolers and their families were immersed in spoken Latin and ancient Roman culture at the University of Nevada Las Vegas during Roman Explorers: Las Vegas. After building mosaics, constructing Roman roads, and much more, students left with a new enthusiasm for Classics - and free resources to foster their interest. This was the eleventh year in a row that ACL and Ascanius have worked together to reach out to young students in the geographical area of the ACL Institute.

Ascanius Board Member Suzanne Henrich was a guest lecturer at UMass Amherst, introducing the students in the MAT in Teaching Latin & Classical Humanities program to methods for teaching Latin in the elementary school. The six year partnership between UMass and Ascanius, which also includes annual LatinSummer programs, provides an important element in the training of these future teachers.

Moving the Teaching of Latin Forward

During the fall of 2012, Ascanius sponsored three workshops for teachers in Missouri, Massachusetts, and Maryland. Topics included technology and online resources for teaching, using music in the classroom, and Latin in the twenty first century classroom. Dozens of teachers attended and walked away with plenty of materials for use in their classrooms!

Spreading the Study of Latin

*In February and July 2012, Ascanius conducted “Let’s Learn Latin!” workshops in MD and VA. These workshops are designed to give non-Latin teachers on the elementary and middle school levels the tools they need to begin to incorporate Latin into their classrooms. Thanks to the Classical Assoc. of the Atlantic States.

*In May 2012, Ascanius organized a major conference on teaching the ancient world in the elementary school: “The Eureka Conference” held in NH. Thanks to the NH Humanities Council.
Supporting the Passion of Young Teachers: Classical Promise Recipient Ann Evans Shares How Ascanius Helped Her Spread a Love of Latin!

“This March and April, I used the money I received from Ascanius to create a program for children in fourth and fifth grades. There were two sessions, each for one day for three weeks. The three days were overviews in mythology, Latin language, and art and architecture. The money was used for snacks and craft supplies. I taught the lessons using PowerPoint presentations. For the mythology day, we went over the 12 Olympians and some important myths surrounding them, including the myth of Pandora’s box. Afterwards, they were allowed to create their own boxes that they could fill with chocolate coins (which they would receive for answering questions correctly) and other handouts that we would give them. On language day, we went over the basics of Latin using Lingua Latina. On art and architecture day, we went over examples of Greek and Roman architecture and types of buildings like baths and aqueducts. The second half of the PowerPoint dealt with three types of art: mosaic, fresco, and statue. Students were then allowed to design their own column.”

The Classical Promise Scholarship is available to high school and college students interested in starting or maintaining an outreach program in their hometown. Awards range from $50 - $200. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, visit www.ascaniusyci.org/scholarships

Thank you to our 2011 donors:
Ryan and Kristin Bortner (IL), Julia Brown (NH), Jonathan Clark (NJ), Jillian Davidson (NY), Elizabeth Dowling (MD), Elizabeth and Mallory Factor (SC), Sara Flounders (PA), Jennifer Glaser (NY), Clark Hodgson (PA), Thomas Howell (MA), Jennifer Jones (NJ), Julian Jones (VA), Krystal Kubicek (PA), Jennifer Larson, Maureen Moriarty (MA), Carrie Opderbeck (NJ), Lindsay Rath (NJ), Courtney Rose (NJ), Claudia Taborn (NJ), Elizabeth Warren (NH), Maria Webb (MD), Matthew Webb and Suzanne Henrich (MA), Marie-Therese Witte (NY).

Vobis multas gratias agimus!

We need your help to continue our work.
The only thing stopping us from reaching more children is money, as is so often the case, especially in these tough economic times.

Will you make a pledge online today?
www.ascaniusyci.org/giving

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible up to 50% of Adjusted Gross Income.

Growth and Change:
Ascanius Hires Executive Director
In 2011, Ascanius achieved sufficient size to hire a part-time Executive Director. The Executive Director shapes the vision of the organization, and handles the logistics and the day-to-day operations of the organization so that other members of the Board can work on more substantive matters that advance the organization’s goals. With the hiring of an Executive Director, Ascanius’s growth and reach over the past two years has seen rapid acceleration.

Mr. Matthew Webb is a Massachusetts Latin instructor with 12 years of experience in the field. He has been involved in Ascanius since its founding in 2000. He also continues his work as Director of Teacher Programs for Ascanius.

Publications Update:
Readings from Roman History and Readings from Mythology are available from the ACL: www.aclclassics.org/store

These new booklets include authentic readings, accompanied by vocabulary and notes, comprehension questions, grammar review activities, and analysis of fine art. Proceeds benefit the work of ACL and Ascanius.
Annual Report of Ascanius: The Youth Classics Institute
Spring 2013

Thirteen years ago, we set out to bring the Classical world to the elementary school classroom. With your help, we’ve accomplished much. But we’re not done yet. Help us to continue our work. We can reach thousands of children in 2013, if you’re on board.

Please make an online pledge today: ascaniusyci.org/giving