

August 28, 2008

Salvete Magistri et Magistrae!

Greetings once again from Tuscaloosa! We are pleased to tell you that we are busy preparing for our **Sixth Annual Latin Day**, the 2009 edition. Last year we were not able to hold it, but the year before we had around 450 participants; since we can handle this volume, we are going to open up the day to middle school students again.

The 2009 Latin Day is going to take place on Friday, **March 6, 2009**, at the Ferguson Student Center on the Tuscaloosa UA campus. The day will be filled, as always, with guest speakers, contests, entertainment, exhibits, and prizes. Again, the fee for the student participants will be \$10 to defray the cost of the event; there is no fee for teacher sponsors of Latin clubs or chaperones.

Preregistration is a must and is going to last until Saturday, February 28, which is also the deadline for submitting items that need to be judged in advance. You may find the description of the competitions, along with the criteria for their grading and specific instructions, on the web at <http://bama.ua.edu/~ksummers/LATINDAY/latinday.htm> under the link "Latin Day Competitions."

Nota bene: The 3-D Vitruvius Competition entries are likely to be bulky, therefore we ask that you bring them on the day of the competition rather than ship them. We do request that you send us a picture of your entry along with its dimensions and a description by the deadline date, February 28. This will allow us to reserve the correct amount of space in the exhibit room for your entry. Note too that this is a *Vitruvius* competition—i.e., the architect—not a *Vesuvius* competition.

This year's theme for the video competition is "In Rome, do as the Romans." The more creative your interpretation the better, but we are particularly interested in references to Roman influences on modern culture. Remember also that we want quality productions! Students need to submit a DVD of their entry by February 28. We will be showing the best entries in the Ferguson movie theater during Latin Day, starting at 10:15 a.m.

All entries should be mailed to: Professor Kirk Summers, Modern Languages and Classics, Box 870246, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0246.

We cannot be responsible for entries lost in the mail, so it may be advisable to send packages registered; our administrative assistants in the main office will be able to sign upon delivery. Please note clearly the names of the contributors, the school, and the sponsor teacher on your entry, and make sure your label is not easily knocked off. This goes both for entries mailed in advance and entries brought on Latin Day itself. We receive many entries with unidentifiable senders, which, regrettably, are disqualified.

Please be forewarned that entries will not be returned to the individuals or clubs, unless you are fortunate enough to be able to retrieve them at the end of Latin Day (so make a copy for yourselves!).

We will be offering **Latin Day t-shirts** for pre-ordering by your students. The design will be placed for viewing on the Latin Day web page soon, along with the deadline for ordering. Your students will be able to indicate what size they prefer when they order. We hope that the success of this initiative will allow us to defray the cost of the event overall.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about Latin Day, please direct them to Kirk Summers at beza1519@aol.com or Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers at atsummers@aol.com.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your students again this year.

Valete,

Kirk Summers & Tatiana Tsakiropoulou-Summers,
Latin Day Directors