

# MEI NUCESQUE

A newsletter for Classics at the University of Dallas

## A Look at Adjunct Professor David West

This month, *Me/ri Nucesque* has interviewed Mr. David West in order to give you a glimpse of one of the two adjunct professors in the Classics department. A UD alumnus of the Class of 2004, West teaches Elementary Latin I. After completing his own high school education of competitive sports and rigorous academics at Cistercian Preparatory School, Mr. David West then became a Politics major at the University of Dallas with a Classics concentration. He went on to have the experience of five years of theology and philosophy at a seminary, but now he is soon to finish a master's degree in Humanities.

A fledgling UD Classicist myself, I asked Mr. West what he saw as the best reason to study Classics. After conceding that it was a hard question, West spoke to the precision and clarity in thinking and expressing oneself that a student of the Greek and Latin languages gains by deciphering texts and mastering the knowledge of how sentences work. However, West believes that probably the best reason to study Classics is to get in touch with the very languages used by the philosophically inclined Greeks and the people of the Roman Empire. "Studying the languages themselves," West says, "means you get in touch with...foundational philosophical notions that are then influential on the entire Western tradition today."

Most interestingly, Mr. West mentioned another perspective offered by the study of Classics: "You get to see the historical climate...during which Christ comes into this world. It's striking to think about why God would have chosen that moment for his Incarnation. ... [T]he link with...the Christian world is right there." In this comment, Professor West seems to prove that Classics is one of those fields in which people can grasp their world more fully by forging links with far-away texts and ideas.

When asked about his favorite tradition at UD as an undergraduate, the first one on Mr. West's mind was the Rome semester. For West, living in Rome with colleagues, as well as seeing "monuments from the history of the Western world, both classical and Christian" made it an excellent experience. He added, "[I]n particular I have to admit that what struck me most

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## Roman Festivals in September

Sep. 1 (KALENDS)	<i>Juno Regina</i> <i>Jupiter Liber</i>	AVE CAESAR MORITURI TE SALUTAMUS
Sep. 4	The <i>Ludi Romani</i> begin.	
Sep. 5 (NONES)	<i>Jupiter Stator</i>	
Sep. 13 (IDES)	<i>Epulum Iovis</i> <i>Lectisternia</i>	
Sep. 19	The <i>Ludi Romani</i> end.	
Sep. 26	<i>Venus Genetrix</i>	
Sep. 30	<i>Meditrinalia</i>	

Source: *MusesRealm.net*.

<<http://www.musesrealm.net/rome/festivals.html>>.

## Deity of the Month

To the ancient Athenians, and to those who worshipped the Greco-Roman gods, Athena was the "gray-eyed goddess" of wisdom and a protector of the state. In myth, she sprang out of her father Zeus' head fully clad—as she is often portrayed—in battle armor and not without a war cry. Out of the pagan deities described to us by the traditions of the ancients, Athena seems to have one of the most complex personalities. Maternal protectiveness and loyalty are enclosed in martial prowess and terrifying power. The exalted character of Athena speaks to the respect that our good old friends—the ancients—had for wisdom. Today, we understand by the teaching of



Image from *TheWalters.org*.

the Catholic Church that wisdom is in fact no less than a gift from the Holy Spirit.

Source:

*Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*. Ed. Smith, William. *The Ancient Library*. Web. 7 Sep. 2010.

<<http://www.ancientlibrary.com/>>.

## Greek Grammar Corner

### Future More Vivid and Present General Conditions

Future More Vivid – These make a definite and unqualified statement (one that is more “vivid” in that it is more likely to take place) about some future event. They follow this formula:

Protasis ( <i>if</i> clause)	Apodosis (conclusion)
ἐάν, ἄν or ἦν + subjunctive	future indicative
(present or aorist)	or equivalent

If he comes, we shall conquer, ἐάν ἔλθῃ, νικήσομεν.

Present General – These state some general fact (one which is always true in present time. Their formula follows:

Protasis	Apodosis
ἐάν or ἄν or ἦν + subjunctive	present indicative
(present or aorist)	

If Cyrus is general, the soldiers (always) conquer, ἐάν Κύρος στρατηγὸς ᾗ, οἱ στρατιῶται νικῶσι.

Source: Chase and Phillips, Lesson 22

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about my Rome semester. . . was the utter reality of the Roman Catholic Church as a historical fact, a strong historical presence which is undeniable.”

In regard to advice for students interested in ancient, big-idea topics, Mr. West recommended finding a professor who opens your mind to “understanding these questions, and how they’re really important and affect reality.” Finding such a professor, whom you can learn from in and out of class, Mr. West says, “would make your college experience that much more worthwhile.”

*Article written by Matthew Bellet*

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If you have questions or comments about the newsletter, please email Kimberly Read at [kread1@udallas.edu](mailto:kread1@udallas.edu) or Matthew Bellet at [mbellet@udallas.edu](mailto:mbellet@udallas.edu).

## Latin Grammar Corner

According to Classics Department Chairman Karl Mauer, once one has learned the verb forms of Latin, the rest is relatively easy. Contributed by Sebastian Scofield (Class of ‘14), this mnemonic device may help you to memorize those good old subjunctives in the present tense:

### He hears a liar.

The *e* in “He” represents the vowel found in the present-tense subjunctive forms of 1<sup>st</sup>-conjugation verbs.

Eg. *amet*

The *ea* in “hears” represents the vowels we see in the present subjunctives of 2<sup>nd</sup>-conjugation verbs.

Eg. *audeamus*

For the third conjugation, the vowel in the present subjunctive forms is *a*.

Eg. *ducantur*

Finally, verbs in the fourth conjugation take *ia*.

Eg. *audiant*

## Classics Club Events

Friday, September 17 – Movie: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*  
– Lynch 7 pm

Friday, September 24 – Poetry Recitation –  
New Hall Courtyard Patio, 7 pm

Monday, September 27 – Meeting – Audio-  
Visual Center, 7 pm

Saturday, October 2 – Zoo Scavenger Hunt  
– Fort Worth Zoo (please RSVP to  
[kread1@udallas.edu](mailto:kread1@udallas.edu) by 12 pm on  
Thursday, September 30; costs \$5.75 per  
person)

Officers:

Kimberly Read – President

Daniel Orazio – Vice-President

Kaitlyn Willy – Secretary

For more information about Classics Club,  
please email Kimberly Read at  
[kread1@udallas.edu](mailto:kread1@udallas.edu) or