

It is my pleasure this evening to announce the recipients of the 2024 ICC Lifetime Achievement Award. Established in 2006, the purpose of this award is to recognize those members of the Illinois Classical Conference who may have been outstanding teachers but who have especially made outstanding contributions to ICC and to the promotion of the Classics especially in the State of Illinois over at least a ten year period. The first recipients of this award were Marie and Lou Bolchazy, whose publishing company has made available countless texts and studies on Classical subjects. Other major advocates of Classics in Illinois who have been recipients of this award include Henrietta Davis and Judy Streid of Pekin High School, Judy Hayes of New Trier High School, LeaAnn Osburn of Barrington High School, Alice Mulberry of Kenwood Academy in Chicago, and Marilyn Brusherd, longtime editor the *Augur*, ICC's newsletter. All of these individuals dedicated countless hours of service to ICC and to supporting Classical events throughout the state. Tonight we add two new members to this illustrious list.

Our first honoree is one of those faithful souls who are always there and ready to help, whom you can rely on to get things done quietly but efficiently and who has unpretentiously supported the Classics throughout a long teaching career. A native of Rochelle, Illinois, Vicki Wine attended North Central College in Naperville where she majored in Classics and English and studied under Andrew Adams, an alumnus of Monmouth College. Since Andy was a beloved student of Bernice Fox, who taught Classics for 34 years, that makes Vicki an academic grandchild of Bernice. In order to earn her teacher certification, she student taught at Benet Academy. After graduating *magna cum laude* from North Central in 1974, Vicki continued her study of Classics at Northwestern University, where she earned an MA in Classics in 1979 and a Ph.D. in 1984 with a dissertation entitled *The Idealization of Rustic Life in the Roman Agronomists*. Her first professional paper, based on this dissertation, was given at the 1984 ICC held at Northern Illinois University. This was the first ICC meeting I myself attended and I remember that paper well.

Vicki has taught a wide range of courses and has served a variety of educational institutions over her 39-year teaching career. As a certified high school Latin teacher, she has taught at Oak Park River Forest High School, St.

Katherine's and St. Mark's School in Bettendorf, and Monmouth High School. She has also taught mythology and scientific terminology at Loyola University, Classics and English at Augustana College, Latin and Linguistics at St. Ambrose University, and English courses at Knox College, Scott Community College and Black Hawk College. At Monmouth College, where she taught as my colleague for 23 years, Vicki taught Elementary Latin, Elementary Greek, Mythology Scientific Terminology, and courses in ancient history, as well as courses in Monmouth's general education program She especially contributed to the Classics program with courses like Understanding Spoken Latin and Latin Teaching Methodology. She has also worked, among other things, as a professional writing consultant for Western Illinois University, conducted word processing workshops at Black Hawk College, and served as an editor, for Bolchazy-Carducci Publishing and Pearson Publishing.

Her former students invariably speak of her kindness, fairness and generosity. My own daughter studied Latin with Vicki at Monmouth High School where, Julia says, "Vicki was such a supportive, gentle and quietly attentive teacher. She balanced a really complex room full of personalities and moved us forward in our learning while giving each the individual attention needed for us

to reach our goals.” Don Trinite, a Monmouth College student who took Understanding Spoken Latin from Vicki, says that “Dr. Wine was an incredible Latin educator. She helped stimulate my passion for reading, speaking and translating Latin. She never gave up on her students and was always working to perfect her craft.” Another Monmouth College student, Emma Vanderpool, who took Latin Teaching Methodology with Vicki, says that “Vicki was kind and generous. She was open-minded to hear our thoughts on changing Latin methodologies as we used knowledge of the past to shape our future careers and approaches to teaching.”

Vicki has also been very active outside the classroom at Monmouth. Bob Simmons notes that “She has been a fixture in the Classics community here, attending hundreds of archaeological and Classics talks, Fox Lectures, *Cenae Classicae*, Ciders with Classics, Eta Sigma Phi inductions, Classics Days, and the like. She has even driven a busload of students to an Eta Sigma Phi national meeting in Texas and back!”

Attending one of Monmouth College’s Fox Classics Lectures actually proved to be a life-changing event for Vicki for that is where she met music professor

Jim Betts, whom she eventually married. As Vicki herself has said, “I will be forever grateful [to the Monmouth College Classics Department] for making this opportunity and happenstance possible, and to the Music Department for having hired Jim.” She and Jim share a profound love of animals, especially dogs, and I long ago lost count of how many dogs she and Jim have taken into their home and loved.” She also shares with Jim a love and a talent for music. She has been a church organist and has played the bass clarinet in a variety of musical groups, including the Monmouth College Wind Ensemble and the Monmouth City Band.

With Jim Vicki also participated in several trips to Classical sites, including Greece, Turkey and France, which I organized for Monmouth College students. The students certainly enjoyed her companionship on these trips, and so did I. Since then she and Jim have traveled to a number of other Classical sites, including in Germany and Britain, and she has occasionally shared her experiences at ICC meetings.

Besides all this, somehow Vicki has found the time throughout her career to be active in professional organizations. She is a member of the Chicago

Classical Club and a frequent attendee at its events. As a member of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South she has often attended meetings and served as Vice-President for Illinois. In particular, however, she has been a faithful and supportive member of the Illinois Classical Conference. She has regularly attended ICC meetings at which she has occasionally given papers. She has served as newsletter editor, membership chair, ICC representative to CAMWS, Teacher's Exchange chair, vice-president, and, then, president from 2005 through 2007. As ICC president she presided at meetings at Loyola Academy and in Springfield with the Missouri Classical Association.

Marilyn Brusherd vividly remembers that Vicki was the first person to come up to her at her first ICC meeting to welcome her. Ariana Traill of the University of Illinois says that "It has been a pleasure to work with Vicki over the years. She has always been there, with a smile for everyone, capable, helpful, and generous with her time." Sherrilyn Martin of Keith Country Day School observes that "Vicki was always friendly and kind and very supportive of ICC."

Therefore, in gratitude for many years of faithful service and dedication to Classics the Illinois Classics Conference honors Vicki Wine with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

*Plaudite, quaeso, Vicki Wine.*

Our second honoree, Marcene Holverson Farley, grew up in Pekin, Illinois, the marigold capital of the world. She attended Pekin Community High School, where she learned Latin from Henrietta Davis and Judy Streid, two long-time pillars of Latin in Illinois and, especially, of the Illinois Classical Conference. She continued her education at Monmouth College, where she was a student of Bernice Fox. In 1984, as a senior Classics major, she was asked to interview candidates for the college's recently established endowed chair in Classics. I was one of those interviewed by Marcene, so, in a sense, I owe my career at Monmouth College to Marcene.

Marcene graduated from Monmouth in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts in Classics and Education. Later, in 1998, she earned a Masters in Educational Leadership from Xavier University.

Her first teaching job, right out of college, was in Marshall, Illinois, where she taught Latin and English from 1984 to 1986. In addition to sponsoring a Latin Club, Marcene also coached Marshall's Scholastic Bowl team and was a sponsor of their National Honor Society. She was also a ticket seller at the school's athletic events. It speaks highly of Marcene's commitment to

teaching that she continued to be involved in all these extracurricular activities throughout her 38-year career.

Marcene has devotedly stayed in contact with many of her students long after they graduated. Angela Kelsheimer, one of Marcene's first students at Marshall, vividly recalls her class trip with Marcene to the Field Museum and the Art Institute. Growing up in a small town more than 200 miles south of Chicago, many of Marcene's students at Marshall had never been to Chicago, let alone visited the Field or the Art Institute. Angela attributes her life-long appreciation of art to Marcene and says she "can only imagine the number of Latin students as well as their children that Marcene's teaching has influenced and the lives she has touched over her impressive career. There are so many doors of future interest that Marcene opened for me during her time as my teacher. As a friend now, she continues to challenge and teach me. I am grateful for what she brings to my life, both then and now."

In 1986 Marcene moved to New Albany High School in Indiana, where she replaced a beloved Latin teacher who had just retired after a long and successful career. Marcene hit the ground running and quickly made her own

mark on the program, especially by making the school much more active in the Indiana Junior Classical League. One of her seniors in that first year was Steve Perkins, who credits Marcene with enabling him to receive several scholarships to study Latin in college. Steve went on to become a Latin teacher himself and says of Marcene that she “was never a person's teacher for only a few years, but always a friend and mentor for life. She represents the very best not only of keeping Classics alive in the 21st century, but of instilling true love of the ancient world in her students, a love she fosters into what is for many a lifelong enjoyment of Greco-Roman culture.”

When Henrietta Davis and Judy Streid were preparing to retire, in 1991 Marcene left New Albany to return to her alma mater, where she taught Latin, etymology and mythology for 31 years, until her retirement in 2022. During these years she continued to involve her students in Junior Classical League and often hosted conventions for the Illinois Junior Classical League. I attended more than one of those conventions and was invariably amazed at how well organized and exciting these events were under her leadership. I particularly remember one convention at which there was a contest for the

best decorated pumpkin with a classical theme and I am convinced that that contest was Marcene's idea.

During her years at Pekin Marcene led eleven student trips to Italy. Kirk Hoffman was a student on one of those trips and his recollections of this trip illustrate not only Marcene's own love of music and her imaginative teaching style but also her focus on teaching life skills as well as Latin. Kirk vividly remembers Marcene "sharing her playlist (because she always has a playlist) based on the places we would visit. It was the first time that he says "[he had] ever heard The Band's "When I Paint My Masterpiece" with the first verse blending imagery from ancient and modern Rome. She was terrified lightning would strike [him] down when [he] "accidentally" swore in the Vatican. She had a nice long chat [with him] about appropriate language on the bus back to the airport."

Over the years Marcene's excellent teaching has inspired students to continue their study of Latin in college and even, like Steve Perkins, to become Latin teachers themselves. I can vouch from personal experience for the excellent preparation these students received. Two of her students chose to continue

their study of Latin here at her alma mater. Zina Lewis, Pekin class of 1998, was an outstanding student who was named Monmouth's Lincoln Laureate Scholar in 2000. Having earned her BA in Classics at Monmouth in 2001, she is now teaching Latin at the Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School in Missouri. While Tia Graham, Pekin class of 2014, did not major in Classics, she did study Latin at Monmouth and always spoke highly of Marcene. Tia says that not only was Marcene "an amazing instructor, but her care for her students and ability to develop a friendly and cohesive class environment really helped throughout the ordeal that is high school. Mrs. Farley's classroom felt like homebase, a safe space to return to each day."

Marcene's career is also a vivid illustration of good citizenship both at her high school and in her community at large. Marcene has been a member of the high school's Dragon Day orientation committee and the Dragon Pride committees. She has also served her fellow teachers as a Regional Council Delegate and a Representative Assembly Delegate to the Illinois Education Association as well as a Representative Assembly Delegate to the National Education Association. Beyond the walls of the high school she has, for many years, volunteered for the local PBS station Channel 47 Bowl-a-thon and

annual auction and for the local Marigold Festival. She has also worked as an election judge and for the Tazewell County Democrats. In her spare time, if she has any, she enjoys the music of Elvis Presley and trips to enjoy the music and cuisine of Nashville.

Marcene was the recipient of a number of awards during her years at Pekin. In 2012 she was named the Farrand Baker Illinois Latin Teacher of the Year by the Illinois Classical Conference. In receiving this award she followed in the footsteps of her own teacher, Henrietta Davis, who was the first recipient of this award in 1985. In 2018 the students at Pekin voted her the faculty member with the most school spirit and gave her the Master Dragon Award. In 2022 a faculty committee chose Marcene as the recipient of the school district's Outstanding Contributor Award which, according to Pekin High principal Danielle Owens, "recognizes a full-time employee who has demonstrated a sustained and/or significant contribution to the educational program and students of the district. This employee also has significantly gone beyond the normal duties of his/her particular job and has made significant contributions to the community within the District."

Even more than these awards, Marcene should be rightly proud of the many accolades she receives from her students who invariably refer to Marcene with words like “caring,” “passion,” “loving,” and “blessing.” Jenni Schulze, a 1999 Pekin graduate, for example, describes Marcene as “truly a blessing to Pekin Community High School [and to] the hundreds of students she encountered over the years and so many of us that she still runs into around town. Every former Latin student I have ever talked with always speaks about Mrs. Farley with a smile on their face!” Pekin alumnus Matt Sanders writes that “Mrs. Farley has been a constant, reliable, and loving presence in my life.....She challenged me and accompanied me during that sensitive time, showing her care for me especially during some very difficult periods. I came to trust her and love her then, and I still do. I am grateful for her care and faithfulness.”

For all these reasons it is very fitting that the Illinois Classical Conference acknowledge Marcene Farley’s outstanding career and life with this this Lifetime Achievement Award.

*Plaudite, quaeso, Marcene Holverson Farley.*