



## **ILLINOIS CLASSICAL CONFERENCE**

### **Citation for Lifetime Achievement Award**

#### **Marilyn Brusherd**

If there is one phrase that sums up the contributions to this year's award winner, yet also doesn't do justice to her many, varied roles within our organization and to the field of Classics as a whole, it is this: "I am your *ancilla* today. Just tell me what to do."

This was the phrase that our recipient uttered to Alice Mulberry on the morning of the Latin Olympics. She would then spend the day performing a variety of tasks ranging from putting students' individual score cards in order to writing ribbons to running errands and generally making herself useful. I do not know what I would have done without her help!

This is a recurring theme: "We don't know what we would have done without her help." Indeed.

Our recipient graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a major in Classics. Although she worked as an employee of the federal government until retirement, she was devoted to the field of classics and was active in a number of organizations including the Chicago Classical Club and the Illinois Classical Conference. For the latter organization she served as the editor of the newsletter, *The Augur*, for many years and concurrently was an active member of the Advisory Council. She continues to diligently run the book exchange, raising money for scholarships for the Latin Pedagogy workshop at National-Louis University.

Tom Sienkiewicz remarks that "our recipient's presence has made ICC meetings extra special. As someone who attends as an amateur in the real sense of the word, she helps all of us who work in the classroom trenches why we do what we do, namely, because we can hopefully make a lifelong mark on our students. Her teachers made such a mark on her, one which has kept her active in Classics even as she pursued a career outside the discipline. She is living proof that studying Latin is a rewarding lifelong pursuit."

Although she was not a teacher of Latin, she became a ubiquitous presence at activities for students, including, but not limited to: Assisting the organizers of the Illinois Certamen League; assisting with the aforementioned Latin Olympics and the annual Archaeology Day of the Chicago Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. For Archaeology Day she would take a day off from work to serve as a volunteer in the room where the students were reconstructing replicas of ancient Palestinian pots. Students often needed advice and encouragement to finish the project in the time allotted. Teachers and students who attended the Illinois Junior Classical League Convention at any time "since the mid '80s" by one recollection, would be hard-pressed not to have felt our recipient's influence on the popular Art judging category. In addition to this, she worked tirelessly to assist with scoring, organizing, and, yes, even chaperone duty.

Longtime friend Lois Dion describes her as “a history of a rich tapestry of volunteerism in the true passion for the Classics. She does embody the JCL creed.”

And yet our recipient is so much more than the sum of her extraordinary resume of volunteerism. She is an enthusiastic traveler to ancient lands. She has taken many trips organized by the Vergilian Society and recently some organized by a group in Virginia. Alice Mulberry notes that “in 2009 my husband and I traveled with her to London and Egypt to take part in one of Archaeological Tours of the latter country led by our old friend, Prof. Lanny Bell. Marilyn was always an enthusiastic companion. In London and Alexandria she arranged for our hotels and in the former where she had some familiarity, she proved to be an excellent guide.”

In addition to these copious accomplishments and continued responsibilities with ICC, she has taken classes at Northern Illinois University and has served as a tutor—where does she find the time?

Our recipient is a true cheerleader and enthusiastic supporter for our organization. Without the commitment shown by our recipient, we would not be able to continue to do what we do. So, it is with great pleasure as the acting chair of the Awards Committee, and on behalf of all of us in the Illinois Classical Conference, and all teachers and students everywhere, that we recognize Marilyn Brusherd as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Classical Conference for 2016.