



**THE FOURTH ANNUAL  
JAMES M. MAY  
LECTURE IN CLASSICS  
ST. OLAF COLLEGE**



**JAMES M. MAY**

Jim May retired in 2017 after teaching at St. Olaf for 40 years. He was Provost and Dean of the College (2002-11) and Kenneth O. Bjork Distinguished Professor (2014-17).

May is the author of many articles on classical rhetoric and Latin pedagogy, and of several books: *Trials of Character: The Eloquence of Ciceronian Ethos*, an annotated translation (co-authored with Jakob Wisse) of Cicero's *On the Ideal Orator*, *A Cicero Reader: Selections from Five Essays and Four Speeches with Five Letters*, *38 Latin Stories*, and *46 Stories in Classical Greek* (the last two co-authored with Anne Groton). In addition, he edited *Brill's Companion to Cicero: Oratory and Rhetoric*. His most recent book, *How to Win an Argument: An Ancient Guide to the Art of Persuasion* (Princeton, 2016), has been translated into nine languages!

Former President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South and the Classical Association of Minnesota, May held two NEH Fellowships and directed two NEH Summer Seminars for School Teachers. He has served the American Philological Association in a number of capacities, including on the Board of Directors, as Vice President for Education, and as Vice President for Professional Matters. He won the APA's Award for Excellence in the Teaching of the Classics in 1986 and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award in 1991; he was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics honor society, in 2019.

May has visited Greece 37 times and rowed on the crew of the trireme *Olympias*. He restores antique trucks, cars, and tractors, builds houses, harpsichords, and tortoise-shell lyres, competes in handball, and grows grapes to make his own wine. In his spare time he teaches an online ecclesiastical Latin class, plays the bouzouki, performs Gregorian chant, sings with his wife Donna in her Renaissance chamber choir, and enjoys entertaining their four grandchildren.

**JOHN F. MILLER**

The Fourth Annual James M. May Endowed Lecture in Classics, entitled "Contesting Muses," will be delivered virtually on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. CDT by John F. Miller, Arthur F. and Marian W. Stocker Professor of Classics at the University of Virginia.

After graduating with a B.A. in Classics and German from Xavier University, Miller earned his M.A. in Comparative Literature and his Ph.D. in Classics from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). He taught at the University of Minnesota for six years before moving in 1984 to the University of Virginia. During his nearly four decades there, he devoted 15 years to chairing the Department of Classics. An avid runner, he lives in Charlottesville with his wife Mary.

The focus of Miller's research is Latin poetry, especially its links with Roman religion and Hellenistic Greek poetry. He is the author of *Apollo, Augustus, and the Poets* (Cambridge, 2009), which won the 2010 Charles J. Goodwin Award of Merit from the American Philological Association, *Ovid's Elegiac Festivals: Studies in the Fasti* (Peter Lang, 1991), and numerous articles. He has also co-edited four volumes on Greek and Roman literature and culture, most recently *A Handbook to the Reception of Ovid* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014).

Miller's professional service has included, among many other leadership positions, being Editor of *Classical Journal* from 1991 to 1998, being President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, the Classical Association of Minnesota, and the Classical Association of Virginia, and being a Trustee of the Vergilian Society. A popular speaker with student groups, he has given talks for the Virginia Governor's Latin Academy for more than 25 summers!

Before his lecture Miller will pay a visit via Zoom to an Advanced Latin class and then chat with current St. Olaf Classics students in an online "Meet the Speaker" session.