



### 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 graduated from Kent State University with a B.S. in Latin Education and English; he went on to earn a Ph.D. in Classical Philology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He 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*, *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* (2002). His most recent book, *How to Win an Argument: An Ancient Guide to the Art of Persuasion* (Princeton University Press, 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 (now the Society for Classical Studies) 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 national Classics honor society, in 2019.

May has visited Greece 39 times and rowed on the crew of the trireme *Olympias*. He restores antique trucks, cars, and tractors, competes in handball, and grows grapes to make his own wine. He has built houses, harpsichords, a tortoise-shell lyre, and a bouzouki. He enjoys performing Gregorian chant, singing with his wife Donna in her Renaissance chamber choir, and entertaining their four grandchildren.

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



### JAKOB WISSE

The Seventh Annual James M. May Lecture in Classics, “Not in that imaginary Republic of Plato’s’: Rhetoric, Lies, and Morality in Cicero (and why he is not Donald Trump),” will be delivered on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. CDT by Dr. Jakob (Jaap) Wisse, Professor of Latin Language and Literature, Newcastle University, England.

Wisse received his doctorate in Classics in 1994 at the University of Amsterdam; he also holds the equivalent of a Research Master’s Degree in Mathematics (with Physics) from the same university. He has taught at Newcastle since 1999, being appointed to a Professorship there in 2009 and elected to The Academy of Europe (Academia Europaea) in 2014.

Wisse’s extensive publications center on ancient rhetoric, in particular Cicero and his most important and influential dialogue *De oratore* (“On the Ideal Orator”). Wisse played an instrumental role in creating a magisterial, five-volume commentary on *De oratore*, published by Universitätsverlag Winter (Heidelberg); he co-authored Vol. 4 with his mentors Anton D. Leeman and Harm Pinkster in 1996, and Vol. 5 with Elaine Fantham and Michael Winterbottom in 2008. His first book, *Ethos and Pathos from Aristotle to Cicero* (Amsterdam: Hakkert, 1989), explored the rhetorical proofs of ethos and pathos in the rhetorical works of Aristotle and Cicero.

In 1989, Jaap was introduced to Jim May by George Kennedy, their mutual friend and mentor. This led to a decade of collaboration, resulting in the publication of a new, annotated translation of *De oratore* by Oxford University Press (2001). During those ten years, Jim traveled to Amsterdam several times to work with Jaap, and Jaap reciprocated with several trips to Northfield. In addition to producing thousands of email exchanges and a publishable translation, their partnership resulted in an enduring and much-cherished friendship.

Wisse is currently collaborating with his Newcastle colleague Federico Santangelo, writing a commentary on Sallust's *War with Jugurtha* for Cambridge University Press. After that, he is planning to edit a new Oxford Classical Text of *De oratore*.