

# HOME SCHOOL HELPER

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The impact of one man who followed in the footsteps of Christ.

FEATURE ARTICLE



## Et Tu, Home Schooler?

Latin may be the language of Catholic liturgy, Renaissance intellectuals, and Jerome, but why study a dead language in the 21st century?

For years educators have argued about the benefits of studying Latin. Some claim that it helps students to understand grammar. But any foreign language study does that—because it's easier to learn a structure like grammar from outside a native language than from inside. For example, with every French verb an English-speaking child learns, he practices subject-verb agreement. The concept of having a third-person singular pronoun subject (he, she, or it) agree with a third-person singular verb (studies, reads, or is) rarely occurs to the average American child (or adult, for that matter) until he sees it in action in a foreign language.

### Latin is all around us

A greater benefit of Latin study in particular is its effect on vocabulary building and word formation. More than half our English words are indebted to the “dead tongue.” From the Latin *dicere*, “to say, tell,” we get words like *dictate*, *diction*, *dictum*, *benediction*, *contradict*, *edict*, *predict*, and *verdict*. The words *section*, *sector*, *segment*, *dissect*, and *intersect* come, understandably, from a word meaning “to cut,” *secāre*. A student who learns that *novus* is the Latin word for “new” has a handle on the meanings of *novelty*, *novice*, *innovate*, and *renovate* when he runs across them. Many Latin phrases have been

# Mottoes of the and the STATES

## USA

*E pluribus unum* "One from many"

## District of Columbia

*Justitia Omnibus* "Justice for all"

## Alabama

*Audemus Jura Nostra Defendere* "We dare to defend our rights."

## Arizona

*Ditat Deus* "God enriches"

## Colorado

*Nil Sine Numine* "Nothing without the Deity"

## Connecticut

*Qui Transtulit, Sustinet* "He who transplanted continues to sustain."

## Idaho

*Esto Perpetua* "Mayest thou endure forever."

## Kansas

*Ad Astra Per Aspera* "To the stars through difficulties"

## Maine

*Dirigo* "I direct. / I guide."

## Maryland

*Scuto Bonae Voluntatis Tuae* "With the shield of Thy good will  
*Coronasti Nos* "thou hast crowned us."

## Massachusetts

*Ense Petit Placidam Sub* "With the sword she seeks peace  
*Libertate Quietem* "under liberty."

## Michigan

*Si Quaeris Peninsulam* "If you seek a pleasant peninsula,  
*Amoenam, Circumspice* look around you. / If thou seekest  
a delightful peninsula, look around  
thee."

## Mississippi

*Virtute et Armis* "By valor and arms"

adopted into American vocabulary too. Some of the most common—*alma mater*, *alter ego*, *antebellum*, *bona fide*, *et cetera*, *in memoriam*, *per capita*, and *terra firma*—are no longer thought of as coming from another language (an "unspoken" one at that!).

A number of families claim that Latin serves well as a first foreign language experience because of the high correlation between Latin, Spanish, French, and Italian vocabulary words. In addition, when their children begin with Latin, they also learn concepts of how languages like German and Russian work. Virginia Barrett, in a paper written in 1996, states, "Students of Latin develop skills and strategies for acquiring new vocabulary and sentence structures, which increase their readiness to acquire other languages as needed."<sup>1</sup>

## Latin study affects test scores

For some parents, the bottom line is whether Latin study affects students' test scores. Tests conducted by the Educational Testing Service from 1988 to 1997 show that Latin students outperform all other students on the verbal portion of the SAT. The *Bradenton (FL) Herald* reported that, in 2003, students

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*Latin serves well as a first foreign language experience because of the high correlation between Latin, Spanish, French, and Italian vocabulary words.*

who took Latin to fulfill their foreign language requirements had a mean score of 559 on the verbal component of the SATs. The mean national verbal SAT score was 507.

Matt Capriotti, a fourteen-year-old sophomore from Florida, made a perfect score on the National Latin Exam in March. Capriotti claimed that Latin had strengthened his ability to think. “In general, you

know what makes sense and you rule things out,” Capriotti said, when asked how he aced the test. “You think logically. So it’s not maybe the Latin itself, but what you get out of it.”<sup>2</sup>

Though most educators would recommend that Latin be taught on the junior high or high school level, some reports indicate that Latin learning benefits elementary-aged children too. After studying Latin for fifteen to twenty minutes a day for a year, fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade Latin students in Philadelphia performed one year higher on the Vocabulary Subtest of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills than did a control group of students who had not studied Latin. Sixth-grade students in Indianapolis, after thirty minutes of Latin each school day for five months, advanced one year in reading and thirteen months in language.<sup>3</sup>

(continued on p. 7)

<b>Missouri</b>	
<i>Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto</i>	“Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law. / The safety of the people is to be the supreme law.”
<b>New Mexico</b>	
<i>Crescit Eundo</i>	“It grows by going. / It grows as it goes.”
<b>New York</b>	
<i>Excelsior</i>	“Higher”
<b>North Carolina</b>	
<i>Esse Quam Videri</i>	“To be rather than to seem”
<b>Ohio</b>	
<i>Imperium in Imperio</i>	“An empire in an empire”
<b>Oklahoma</b>	
<i>Labor omnia vincit</i>	“Labor conquers all things.”
<b>Oregon</b>	
<i>Alis Volat Propriis</i>	“She flies with her own wings.”
<b>Virginia</b>	
<i>Sic Semper Tyrannis</i>	“Thus always to tyrants”
<b>West Virginia</b>	
<i>Montani Semper Liberi and Libertas et Fidelitas</i>	“Mountaineers are always free men” and “Freedom and loyalty”

Collected by Edith E. Smith, M.A.

# A Conn-versation with Garry and Jennifer

Garry and Jennifer Conn celebrated seven years with Bob Jones University's Center for Educational Technology on June 16 of this year. Garry is a familiar face to BJ HomeSat customers—he teaches Geometry and Precalculus—while his wife serves behind the scenes. They are the parents of two sons, Tyler and Ryan.

**Jennifer, many customers see Garry every school day, but they may not be familiar with your role. What do you do at BJ HomeSat?**

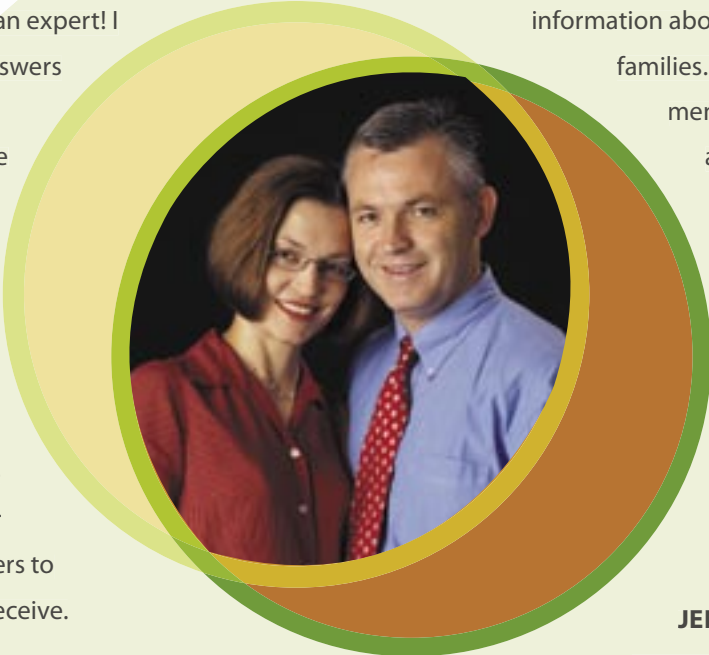
**JENNIFER:** I have a couple roles. My official title is "Subject Matter Expert." However, that always makes me smile because I certainly don't consider myself an expert! I try to provide answers to nonroutine Customer Service questions. For example, I watch the lessons, reference the curriculum, and talk with the teachers in order to provide answers to questions they receive.

We are also working on making some of the special programming seen on the BJ HomeSat Network available on DVD as "The Best of BJ HomeSat." I have been helping to coordinate that. And I also do closed captioning of the University's films for ShowForth.

**What interaction do you have with home schooling families?**

**GARRY:** I interact with registered home schooling families by e-mail. They can e-mail me geometry and precalculus questions and prayer requests, send pictures to be shown on the air, and share information about themselves and their families. I frequently am asked to mention birthdays on the air. I also have the opportunity to meet my students when they come to campus for various reasons—to bring a sibling to college, state days, fine arts competitions, and various Academy of Home Education events.

**JENNIFER:** My interaction is more behind the scenes through customer service.



### What would you see as the greatest strength of home schooling families?

**GARRY:** From my perspective they are more intimately involved in the education of their children. I have been told by many parents that they watch the class with their child. As a result they know what their child is learning and being asked to do, and they know what I am like as a teacher.

**JENNIFER:** I often hear how the whole family will come watch some special segment that is in one child's class. The children all seem to be very aware of what their other siblings are doing in school.

### What about your ministry excites you?

**GARRY:** It is very much the same as it is for any teacher. It is very gratifying to be told by a student that he always struggled with math until my class, that I made math fun or interesting for him, and so on. That doesn't always happen, but it is very encouraging when it does. Beyond the academic aspects it is a privilege to be able to encourage students spiritually.

**JENNIFER:** I think being able to provide suggestions that help make home schooling easier for a busy mom or dad is gratifying. Since I mainly deal with e-mail questions, I don't always know the background of the family or the hardships they

might be going through at the time. However, there have been a few times that I was later able to meet the family and found out more about them personally and how grateful they were for the help that we were able to provide. That to me is a blessing—that I can be a little part of the ministry of BJ HomeSat.

### Do you get to see much of each other on a daily basis?


**GARRY:** I see Jennifer at work as much as I do at home. I just can't seem to get away from her!

**JENNIFER:** I'd like to exercise my 5th Amendment rights.

### What Bible verse is a special encouragement to you in the work you do?

**GARRY:** Colossians 3:23: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

**JENNIFER:** There are several that come to mind, but this one is applicable all the time:

Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." 

# Following His Footsteps

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

When my mom was twelve years old, her dad died. A few years later, my grandma met a widower, Roy Gates, who consistently witnessed to her and her two children. As a result of his witness, my grandma, mom, and uncle were all saved. Roy married Grandma in a small ceremony when they came down to BJU to drop my mom off for college.

Throughout my childhood, my family made weekly visits to my grandpa and grandma. I remember that each time we left their house we all would hug and say our thank-yous, I-love-yous, and goodbyes.

But often, when Mom hugged Grandpa, she would say, “Thank you, Roy,” and then she’d whisper something in his ear, to which Grandpa would give her an extra squeeze.

I always figured she was just saying to him one of the things she said when she hugged me: “I love

you.” “I’m proud of you.” “You’re special.” “Clean your room.”

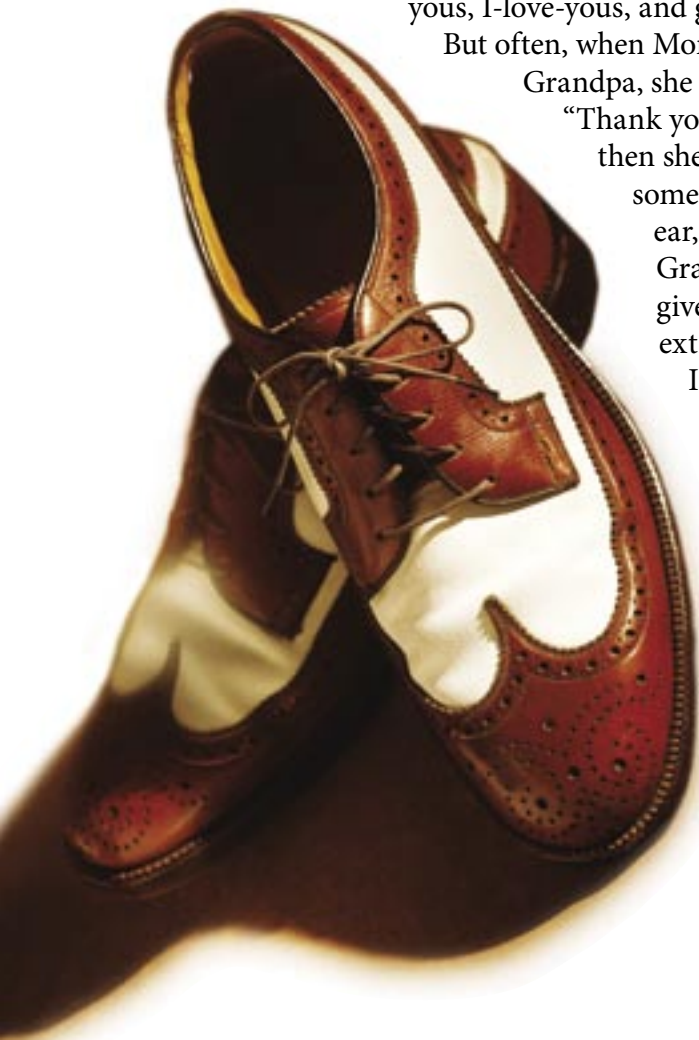
But it wasn’t until my grandpa’s funeral that I figured out what it was that Mom had been saying to Grandpa all those years. After everyone had gone to Grandpa’s casket to say goodbye, Mom finally went up. She looked at him and simply said, as she had so many times before, “Thank you, Roy.” Then she paused, rubbed his sleeve, and quietly added, “Thank you for showing me Jesus.”

Now, Grandpa wasn’t a pastor, evangelist, or missionary. But his ministry to my family was just as real—even more so—as if he had been. Why? Because he was a faithful example of God’s love. He followed the steps of Christ.

Throughout our lives, our paths go different ways. Some may go the way of the mission field or pastorate. Some may go the way of being a cashier at Wal-Mart, a parent at home, a teacher in a Christian school . . .

Although our paths will be different, the destination should be the same: each path we take in the will of God should lead us—and others—to a closer relationship with Christ. He has left us an example. Follow Him. ☺


Kelley Moore graduated from Bob Jones University in 2000 with a degree in Publishing. She now serves at BJU Press as a compositor.



(continued from p. 3)

## BJU Press offers Latin instruction

In response to the demand from home educators and Christian school administrators, BJU Press offers two levels of Latin instruction. The materials included in *Latin for Christian Schools* and *Latin II for Christian Schools* teach basic grammar, vocabulary, and reading skills—and the good news is that the teacher needs no previous Latin training! The Teacher’s Editions make presenting easy with lots of extra helps and translations, and answer keys are available to go with BJUP’s prepared Tests. A *Teacher Pronunciation Guide Cassette* provides reinforcement and practice with the rules. (And it’s a great help for those who haven’t heard Latin spoken recently.) An Activity Manual for use with the first-year course gives plenty of practice. All of these materials may be ordered from the BJU Press catalog, *Textbooks for Home Schools*; through our website, [www.bjup.com](http://www.bjup.com); or by calling 1.800.845.5731.

If the thought of teaching Latin intimidates you, consider that *qui docet discit*. (He who teaches learns.) 

Gail Yost is a former student of Latin and teacher of English and French. She currently serves as assistant editor of *Home School Helper*.

<sup>1</sup>“The Role of Latin in American Education.” National Council of State Supervisors of Foreign Languages, December 2000. 3 June 2004 <<http://www.ncssf.org/latin.htm>>.

<sup>2</sup>Dymond, Richard. “Perfect test scores recognized.” *Bradenton Herald*, May 18, 2004. 3 June 2004 <[http://www.bradenton.com/mlid/bradentonherald/news/local/states/florida/counties/east\\_manatee/8691337.htm](http://www.bradenton.com/mlid/bradentonherald/news/local/states/florida/counties/east_manatee/8691337.htm)>.

<sup>3</sup>“The Latin Advantage.” *Bolchazy.com*. 2004. 24 Jan. 2004 <<http://www.bolchazy.com/al/latadv.htm>>.

## Other Mottos in Latin

*Beati pacifici*, “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

—James I of England

*Cor meum quasi immolatum tibi offero, Domine*,  
“I offer my heart to thee, Lord, as a sacrifice.”

—on John Calvin’s emblem

*Domine, dirige nos*, “Lord, direct us.”

—City of London

*Dominus illuminatio mea*, “The Lord is my light.”

*Ecclesiae et Litteris*, “For the church and for literature”

—King College, Bristol, Tennessee

*Festina lente*, “Make haste slowly.”

—Augustus Caesar

*Jehovae Patri Filio Spirituique Sancto*, “For Jehovah the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”

—Scottish Independent Presbyterian Church

*Mens Corpusque*, “Mind and body”

—Wisconsin State University

*Petimus Credimus*, “We pray, we believe. / We seek, we trust.”

—Bob Jones University

*Semper Fidelis*, “Always faithful”

—United States Marines

*Semper Paratus*, “Always prepared”

—Boy Scouts of America

*Veritas*, “Truth”

—Drake University

Collected by Edith E. Smith, M.A.



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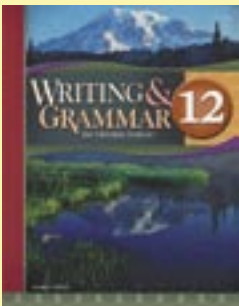
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