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ALAE MERCURII POLICY

The Alae Mercurii is the official publication of the Georgia Junior Classical League, made with the purpose of informing the readers about the past, present, and upcoming events throughout the chapters of the GJCL. The statements, comments, and opinions found in the Alae Mercurii are those of the respective author and should not be considered to reflect the policy of the GJCL, its officers, or the state committee.
Wikipedia says that editing is the process of selecting and preparing written, visual, audible, and film media used to convey information. I think that if Wikipedia had better editors, maybe they would be a reputable source.

My name is Eric! I'm a senior from Wheeler High School in Marietta and your editor for the next year. You may know me for my love affair with frisbee or the card tricks I constantly pepper people with during convention. I like Poke bowls and drawing comics, but I can only put one of those in these publications.

In this issue of the Alae, we'll reflect on all the happenings of National Convention, including a special sit-down talk with NJCL Historian Jason Juang. I will also offer a sneak-peek of our Fall Forum site, Wheeler High. Also, I hope you check out the debut comic I am making exclusively for GJCL!

Above, you will find a picture of me messing up a magic trick during my senior photoshoot. I included this because publication-making is a learning process for me, too. I might mess up a bunch this year, but I'm glad y'all are along for the ride.

Sic infinit.

ERIC YAO
GJCL Editor 2019-2020

Submit To the Alae
HERE’S HOW!

1. WRITE A 300-800 WORD ARTICLE

2. ADD PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS

3. SUBMIT IT TO

EDITOR@GJCL.ORG
FARAGO
UNDER THE
DOME
Maybe someday, when I am old and senile, I will finally forget the incredible shock of seeing the Fargo Dome for the first time. It juts out of place on the flat country, a behemoth among the other buildings of the university. I feel the Fargo Dome accurately summarizes the entire convention. Like many people, I wasn’t thrilled about going to nationals in North Dakota this year. I dreamed of big cities like San Diego or New Orleans and the excitement that would have come with those sites. All that I knew about Fargo was its cornfields and flat terrain, neither of which can be characterized as significant landmarks. But I am glad to say that I was proven dead wrong. Like everyone else, my week in North Dakota was filled with surprises and excitement that was uncharacteristic of the bland landscape surrounding it. It was all that I loved about the Junior Classical League from my previous years, and here are some of my favorite moments from the 2019 National Convention.
As the first rays of sun shone on the Fargo Dome, JCLers from around the country trickled in through the airport. Some were still bleary-eyed from their flights, while others had already spent a night in the hot, humid dorms.

These unventilated rooms became a common complaint among those who had to live in them. Who knew that North Dakota weather could rival our hometown heat? Walking into the first General Assembly is always an incredible feeling. The wave of noise and spirit cheers bring back memories of conventions past for some while leaving others in awe.

Below, some Georgia delegates pose with some of North Dakota’s natural wildlife. The e160 John Deere multi purpose tractor can be seen roaming the campus of the university. They’re docile creatures, much unlike the violent critters that populate the grass.
For many, waking up early was a harsh transition from the relaxing pace of summer vacation. The ice cream machine from the cafeteria was quickly becoming a staple among people, however, with some filling their plates up for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Nominations Committee was definitely the main event of the day. By an easy margin, our very own Jason Juang passed and progressed to the next stage. It felt like a mission impossible movie as teams raced to put up posters at the best locations as soon as we got the news. Thus for the rest of the week, Jason's name and face became common sights all around campus.

At the start of the basketball games, Georgia was still working hard to put together a rag-tag bunch to cross up some Wisco kids. It was a hard fought battle, but our allstars still fell in the second round. The crossers have become the crossed.
This year, NJCL 2nd VP Michaela Phan put together a project that benefitted schoolchildren in need of supplies. Thousands of notebooks and folders were collected over a few days, and each was adorned with a custom note decorated by us! It was a fun and engaging project that really let Latin students use their imaginations to their full extent.

Service projects are truly a vital part of the JCL experience. We get to work with people we would normally compete against to fulfill a common goal. It has an environment of sharing and brotherhood, and also provides a quiet space from the rush of the campaign trail.

If you did not know already, I love Ultimate Frisbee. The thrill of chasing a plastic disc down a football field is irreplaceable to me. Along with countless other convention goers, I looked forward to the tournament hosted at Nationals each year. Needless to say, I was heartbroken to learn that the event was to be cancelled due to bad weather.

As I wallowed in my sorrow on an emptying field, some Latin students began to voice ideas of running an unofficial game. We split up into two teams just as the heavens split open to bless our makeshift contest with a slow drizzle. Organized play quickly dissolved into a slip and slide match, but nevertheless, we played on. Extraordinary passes and not so extraordinary defense kept the score close, and at the end of the day my team lost with a score of 7-8.

I left the field soaked to the bone and much too tired to even go eat dinner. All I could do was laugh and talk with my new teammates as we headed back to the dorms. Our legendary battle on the rainy fields will not be recognized at any awards ceremonies, but sharing the experience with fellow JCL’ers was the greatest prize I could have asked for. People always ask me what I do at convention, and now I finally know what to say.

**Editor’s Pick**

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Braxton Buff from Eastside Highschool is seen with his strikingly accurate depiction of Italy. This can serve both as a friendly message and as a mini map for the lucky student who receives his drawing.
MONDAY, JULY 29

All of the officers took today to dress up as various characters from Winnie the Pooh. Photographic evidence can be found on the cover of this issue. The campaign came to an end after Open Forum, and Georgia held its breath as the results were announced in General Assembly.

It was the calm before the storm. Everyone has worked so hard these past couple of days to campaign and make posters. But no one had put more effort into this moment than Jason himself, which made his victory so much sweeter as he was announced as our new NJCL historian. We erupted in cheers as Jason made his way up to the stage. He looked like a man of pure happiness, and we were all glad to help him on his journey.

Later that night, the nation flocked to The Dome for That's Entertainment. It featured a star-studded lineup with many Georgian faces, such as Braxton Sizemore, Jacob Sloman, Jackson Hamel, and Kelly Jeong, who took home first place overall. Mr. Ward from Wheeler led convention in the annual "Brown Squirrel", and we headed to fellowship tired from a perfect day.

The newly elected Jason poses with his favorite type of bear. We're proud of you, go do great things this year.

Georgia is the state of champions. Kelly serenades the judges and the crowd with her smooth string crossings and stunning musical performance.
TUESDAY, JULY 30

After the excitement of yesterday, everyone seemed to pass through today in a daze. As per tradition, we soon found ourselves lined up by state for the Roman Procession into the final assembly.

The sweltering sun beat down on the ranks of Latin students as our togas made the march rather difficult to endure. I became the temporary mascot of our state by donning a fake beard and hula skirt, my best impression of Neptune. We screamed and shouted with all the spirit we had left, and entered the Fargo Dome for the last time as a force to be reckoned with.

As the past officers gave their thanks and farewells to us, it dawned on me that convention was almost over. Jason stood with his new peers for his inauguration, and before I knew it, the gavel had fallen to signal the adjournment. It would be another year before I would have to scream my heart out for a little inflatable prize, and I honestly cannot wait.

The Roman Feast was followed by the farewell dance, and the board gathered outside to take some artsy shots. Don't worry, I'm sure y'all looked just as sharp as us. Afterwards came the final fellowship, and with it the senior speeches. One after another, they took the podium and told us how thankful they were for all that JCL had given to them. They came from all backgrounds, from past presidents to first time convention attendees. We shared their laughs and their tears, but mostly tears, and everyone headed to their dorms that night with heavy hearts. Seniors, GJCL won't be the same without you, the sky is the limit for you, and I will miss you.

Neptune, the god of the sea himself, wields the standard of Georgia as they march towards their final assembly. Little did he know, he would still be picking beard lint from his clothes weeks later.
As the final day dawned, no one seemed to be in a hurry to leave. Probably due to the all nighters they pulled, but also because it will be a whole year before they can revisit the friends they made and continue their Latin journey.

For me, this convention was special in a different way. I got to see the operation from the perspective of a board member, a role that carried both reward and responsibility. Most importantly, I was deftly reminded of how little time I had left in this organization and how next year it would be me giving a speech at the last fellowship.

I looked out my plane window after we took off and caught the last glimpse of the Fargo Dome as it dissapeared over the horizon. The sunlight sparkled off its dull roof like a diamond in the rough as we flew away from convention and back to our lives. JCL is a hidden gem among the vast plains of high school. It doesn't seem to offer much from an outsider's point of view, but that assumption cannot be more wrong. In the vastness of life, very few people have had the chance to be a part of it, but not a single person who joined has walked away less fulfilled than when they started. I'm glad to be one of these lucky few, and look forward to one last unforgettable year in the Junior Classical League.
A board.
And a hedgehog.
Six things TO KNOW ABOUT WHEELER HIGH -SITE OF 2019 GJCL FALL FORUM
This Year,

Fall Forum is happening at an exciting new locale, Wheeler High School. It's located in Marietta, GA next to famous attractions such as Kroger, Wendys, and Walton High School. The local chapter here has been hard at work preparing for the GJCL, so here are some things you should know about Wheeler for the upcoming Fall Forum!

01 The Front door

Our stately entrance is hard to miss as your turn into the bus lane from Holt Road. After registering, follow the signs and guides to the Arena where we will have the first GA!
The Arena

Get ready for early-morning spirit and cheering as you enter the arena. This brand new gym will be the location of both volleyball and basketball!

PAC

The Performing Arts Center will surely wow you with its sleek, modern interior and amazing acoustics. The quiet wood paneling makes it the perfect location for General Assemblies this year.
Corky Kell Stadium

Our astroturf football field is ready to see fierce ludi and olympica from JCL'ers! Whether it’s Ultimate Frisbee or track, we've got you covered.

The Cafe

Take a break from a day full of activities in the Cafeteria. This classy dining facility is the perfect place to catch up with your Latin buddies, and maybe make a few new ones too!
And You!
Without all of your smiling faces and JCL spirit, Wheeler would just be an empty building on a Saturday Morning. You are the ones who will make this place truly special, and we can't wait to kick off this year together!
Photo of the Month

SEPTEMBER

Congrats!

Alicia Shaw

GEORGE WALTON ACADEMY

GWA third graders get excited for Latin bookmarks!
Honorable Mentions

**BONAMY BRANTLEY**
The Walker School

Off to the Races! Sixth-grade members of SODALITAS celebrate the Ludi Romani by repairing the chariot. Upper School students cheer on their success as the chariot makes an appearance at the JV football game.

---

**REBECCA LEE**
Walton High School

WJCLers marched at the East Cobber Parade to promote Latin and the JCL!
Officer's Minute

Jason Juang, NJCL Historian, debunks some of the greatest mysteries about himself.

THE PLAYBACK

Thanks for your time today Jason, the GJCL is dying to learn more about their new national officer.

Jason: No problem dude, I’m really looking forward to this year.

I know that campaigning for office takes up most of your time, so what were things you missed the most at national convention this year?

Spirit! Although I always ended up taking pictures of people at spirit, I missed the times that I was screaming at the top of my voice with Georgia.

Man my voice was raw after leading those chants.

*chuckles* It be like that sometimes, but watching our state do the GEO-RGIA cheer all the way from the stage made me think about what I would be doing if I were in the crowd. Spirit is also not as nerve wracking as giving speeches for all the NJCL!

And that’s coming from a pro like yourself! *applause*

*startled* What the, where did that come from, is there an audience?

Moving on, how did you handle yourself in from of the eyes of a nation as you gave speeches on stage?

*visibly confused* Uh, right, well leading up to Nationals, I was constantly rehearsing my speech with my friends and myself. My incredibly supportive campaign team gave me tons of feedback on how to make them as-

*Eric pulls out a bottle and takes a sip*

-impactful as possible. Even though I had the things I wanted to say on my page, I- *sniffs* Jesus that smells awful, what are you drinking?

It’s apple cider vinegar *laughter in the background*

What the, why would you- why do I keep hearing so many people!? *Shaken* I’m sorry, I think I need to head out, I hope that was enough questions.

Everyone, give it up for Jason Juang! *cheers erupt from all around*

THE BREAKDOWN

After this interview, we have not yet been able to reschedule a follow up appointment with the NJCL Historian. His agent has denied all of our calls and Jason seems to have moved to a different county. Nevertheless, the staff at the Alae appreciate his time and cooperation.
A reflection of Praetoria from your 1st Vice President!

WORDS BY: VIVI LU
Praetoria was a huge success once again. With 15 schools in attendance, delegates spent two days at Rock Eagle to learn more about JCL and leadership. The students were able to understand the GJCL from the perspective of extra-large schools, medium-sized chapters, and even a member-at-large while bonding over icebreakers and games of Mafia.

Students discussed topics like contests, spirit, Olympika, exams, publicity, fundraising, and much more. The most important takeaways seem to be (a) elections, (b) service, and (d) membership.

1. **The JCL election process** can be confusing and daunting even for local officers and seasoned JCLers. At Praetoria, we reviewed the GJCL officer positions and their duties, whether they were elected or appointed, and other necessary information. In addition, attendees learned tips on campaigning for elected office and on interviewing for appointed office. Delegates also learned the importance of attending Nominations Committee (“Nom Com”) and Open Forum at state convention. For more information on the election process, email your GJCL Parliamentarian Talha Ali at parliamentarian@gjcl.org or the respective office in which you are interested.

2. **Community service** has long been a major part of the JCL and what the organization stands for. Service projects can be fun activities for local clubs, like making blankets, reading to elementary school students at a public library, or donating to a local homeless shelter. Because planning your own service project at a local level can be difficult, the GJCL has service projects at Fall Forum and state convention. All delegates are highly encouraged to bring necessary materials, which will be posted beforehand on the GJCL Instagram and Facebook, and participate in the events themselves.

3. **Increasing membership** at both the state and local level is necessary to sustain and spread the JCL. Delegates had many ideas for increasing membership in local chapters as well as involvement in activities like club meetings. They shared their experiences and suggestions with one another, from planning gladiator fights to simply bringing food to meetings. In schools with Latin and without JCL as well as in schools like North Atlanta HS without either but with great interest in joining, it’s important to reach out.
Attendees highlighted the significance of incorporating small chapters, especially in Southern Georgia. While most schools that are heavily involved in the GJCL are medium or large sized and located around the Atlanta area, small schools are just as necessary and important.

We also noted the decline of Certamen, and we came up with suggestions to rectify the situation. For more information on starting up Certamen at your own JCL, email me at the address below for useful study guides, Certamen practice rounds, and a free online site to simulate Certamen buzzers.

### THANK YOU FOR COMING!

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<td>Samyukta Iyer</td>
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I hope to see even more attendees in the future, and I’m excited to see the next generation of JCL leaders grow! For more detailed recap or any questions about Praetoria 2020, email vp@gjcl.org.

**Vivi Lu**

GJCL 1st Vice President