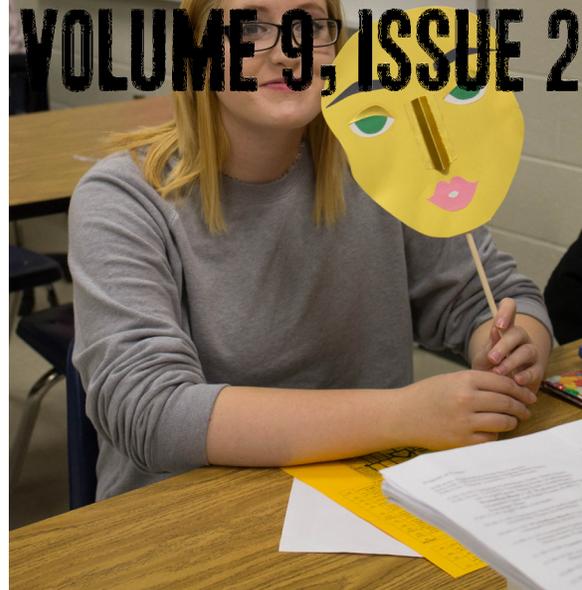




FALL FORUM EDITION



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Alae Mercurii Policy

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Highlights

What has been going on in the GJCL?

Blessed Trinity Catholic High School JCL

ASHLEY CHOO-HEN, BTCHS JCL

Blessed Trinity's Latin Club kicked off the start of their year with a quaint picnic, laden with pizzas, pictures, and unfortunately, pests (sigh). A quarter of the club set up picnic blankets in the area between the football field and the school. After the pizza arrived, the group relaxed on the blankets and mingled amongst themselves, enjoying the lovely weather and the classic Papa John's. Dr. Freeman, father of our other Freeman, enjoyed the '80s hits Pandora station. We hope that the picnic was a warm welcome to the JCL during his first couple months at Blessed Trinity. Ms. Freeman, sneaky as she is, placed stickers on the bottom of the pizza plates, and the student with the special sticker won a Starbucks gift card! The prizes did not end here. Following the pizza and the slicing of the "Salvete Omnes!" cookie cake, Ms. Freeman and the club president, Ashley Choo-Hen, announced the rules of the Latin scavenger hunt. The students had to find numerous things around the BT campus: including a formica, rivus, and cloaca. After finding whatever Latin word was on the group's index card, the group not only had to take a picture with it but also had to remember the word so they could later recite them to us. The students ran around the campus, frantically photographing their friends, and the first to complete the scavenger hunt also won Starbucks gift cards! The group quieted down, with some resorting to tossing the good ol' pigskin and others scurrying off to help with the fall play (an adaptation of *The Birds* by Aristophanes!). Four wonderful ladies publicized the Blessed Trinity Latin Club by ushering for the play in togas. The only downfall of the picnic was the swarm of ants that engulfed the last few pizzas, but everything is a learning experience! The picnic concluded wonderfully with the BTJCLers eager to participate in more Latin-related activities. #GoTitans

Cambridge High School JCL

CASEY STACHLER, CHS JCL

The first Praetoria was an unforgettable experience where student representatives from schools around the state came together to learn from each other and create bonds with their fellow students.

This event is particularly beneficial to schools with a minimal amount of students in their JCL chapter. Firstly, you are grouped with many large schools, so you can learn from their successes and failures. Secondly, it allows your chapter to gain recognition amongst peers. For chapters of all sizes, Praetoria acts as a way for potential leaders to gain experience, as well as to retrieve possibly unknown information for their chapter.

When you arrive at Praetoria you are thrown into a group of unfamiliar kids, but immediately you make friends with them. It's really easy to do so because you have something in common with every single person in that room: Latin. After playing some odd icebreaker games, everyone became one giant family, and, I would have to say, was one

of the most rewarding parts of the experience.

Once everyone had arrived, we were grouped off into "legions". Each group is based on location. Because of this, it makes it easier to work with other chapters outside the major JCL events, as well as creates the opportunity for cross school events to occur. For instance, I was a part of Legion One. Legion One consisted of, Cambridge, Walton, Blessed Trinity, Woodstock, and Kell. As a legion we are now planning an Olympika event where the proceeds are to be donated to the children's Rheumatoid Arthritis foundation, Bella Blue. At this event, the chapters within "Legion 1" will have the opportunity to get to know each other's members on a more personal level, just as the representatives of the legion have grown to know each other personally after participating in Praetoria.

Prior to Praetoria, my high school, Cambridge, was in a way pushed off to the side. Our JCL two years ago consisted of fewer than five kids, and now we have grown to approximately sixty. Due to our initial small numbers, we never had any ties with any other clubs, but after Praetoria, I can confidently say that Cambridge has established friendships with other schools. The relationships and communication that has been established between schools because of Praetoria has allowed for my once small club to learn how to adapt to gaining more students, as well as to learn how we can gain more students. On top of all that, information kits are given to representatives that outline everything from convention planning to fundraising, which are great references for the future. For any school considering participating in this event next year that perhaps did not attend this year, I would highly recommend it.

North Gwinnett High School JCL

ELTON LOSSNER, NGHS JCL

This year, North Gwinnett's JCL participated for the second time in our school's annual Trunk or Treat community event. For Halloween, the major clubs at our school gather together in the parking lot and create a mini "neighborhood" with car trunks serving as houses. Each club offers games and candy for the visiting trick-or-treaters; we were not an exception. After procuring plenty of sugary goodness from JCL donations, we got to work in establishing our booth. We used the theme of "undead Romans", dressing up in bloodstained togas and applying face makeup. For the game, we took out our six-foot tall wooden statue of Augustus Caesar and invented "Pin the Dagger on Caesar". A rehash of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey", we marked a target on the statue and let the blindfolded kids have a stab at it once they were spun around. Fortunately for us, the young kids and their parents alike did not recognize the historical discrepancy between Augustus Caesar and Julius Caesar, and without a doubt, it was the most popular booth, attracting the most participants, both candy-seeking and child-watching. For three hours we took up this task, entertaining all who came by, making sure to photograph the occasion and speak to any interested parent about our classics program should they consider enrolling their child ten years down the road. The event was tiring, but everyone went home sugared up and satisfied from a fun night of spookiness, entertainment, candy, and classics.

Northview High School JCL

ISHAN DEULKAR, NHS JCL

When we first realized that Northview would be hosting fall forum, we were elated. Fall forum always had some special magic as it was the first event of the year and we were all excited at the chance to plan and host it. For most of the summer though, Jermaine, our Georgia JCL president, conducted the planning. He told us to leave it to him as he would sort out the larger scale planning aspects. At the start of the school year though, after the excitement of Nationals had died down, the looming task of Fall Forum drew close. It was then that we first, along with the rest of the GJCL officers, had to step in and take charge of the operation. We can say now, free from the stress of putting it all on, that it was quite the task. We needed to mobilize everyone in our JCL who desired to lend a hand. It put a fairly large burden, and we use that in the greatest way possible as hosting was a pleasure, on our officers though. Everyone from our Vice Presidents down to the sophomores on the Comitia worked around the clock to put on the show. The build up to the actual event was surely hectic but once the day for Fall Forum came we knew that we could count on our JCL to make everything run smoothly. Since we had many state officers, much of the power was entrusted to the other officers and they did perfectly. All of our volunteers were there bright eyed and bushy tailed promptly in the morning. They then darted all over the school from room to room preparing and making sure not chair or sheet of paper was out of place. No team of JCLers could have done better. Hosting Fall Forum also helped significantly with boosting some enthusiasm in our JCL. In late December, we hosted a JCL Christmas party and the turnout was far more than the past year, which can be attributed to the buzz created by Fall Forum. Now we look on to State, though we can't disclose what other secret Northview JCL events our board may be planning, and our JCL is more driven by the exhausting yet inspiring gift that was hosting the GJCL Fall Forum.

Woodstock High School JCL

NICOLAS FRANCO, WHS JCL

Events and their planning are arduous and stressful, but the stress becomes success and it all does pay off. Through Praetoria -an event planned by our Vice President Saad Bashir- all participants and the 'Legions' we were placed in were encouraged to initiate a new aspect of JCL. Praetoria was a weekend of getting to know what was behind the scenes of the executive boards of all tiers of the GJCL- national, state, and local or school chapters. It was a program started in hopes of increasing cross-school communication and interaction. While there, we were taught what made State Convention what it is and how to run and manage the League (and our local chapters) and even how to promote the classics. Many challenges were presented to is and the ultimate challenges was that of initiating something new (with what we were given in the form of leader

ship). Together as a legion, we would add to the GJCL experience.

My Legion was composed of Kyra Montes, Casey Stachler, Adam Patton, Chris Cherian, and myself- Nicolas Franco. As the weekend progressed, all of the legionaries exchanged ideas, experiences, and even goals that we hope to accomplish within the GJCL. When it became time to create something as our project, we decided to organize an event beneficial to our clubs and communities. With this in mind, we decided upon a Ludi et Olympika event where money earned would benefit a charity while still highlighting what it means to be a JCLer. In observance of the GJCL creed, we will be fostering brotherhood, promoting enthusiasm, and inspiring education as well as having fun!

Our event, called 'The Call to the Colosseum', will become an annual event and is tentatively scheduled for March 9th at Cambridge High School in North Fulton. This event will feature an array of athletic events including relays, discus throws, and ultimate frisbee. At the end, a winning school, which will be determined by a point system, will be awarded with an overall prize. Food will also be sold and all proceeds will be donated to Bella Blue, a foundation aimed at finding a cure for arthritis. Bella Blue was started by a local volleyball player from Blessed Trinity who battles juvenile rheumatoid arthritis herself and actively promotes the idea of curing this illness.

Each legionary volunteered to partake in manage a portion of the event and together we have been able to set dates and receive sponsors for this event. Organization has been an immense portion of this process and we still have logistics to overcome, but we are all excited to this product as a result of Praetoria! Without Praetoria as our inspiration and guide, this event and addition to the GJCL experience would have not been possible! It was only through Praetoria that we were able to meet and share our ideas.



Fall Forum 2014 Recap

Vinayak Eranezhath, 2014-2015 GJCL Editor



"Tu ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito"
Aeneid, VI 95

A few weeks after the beginning of the school year, schools across the state of Georgia convened at Northview High School for the annual kick-off event of the Georgia Junior Classical League, - Fall Forum. Here at Northview, over 600 JCL students congregated to celebrate the beginning of the new GJCL year by partaking in academic, athletic, and artistic contests. For all that were there, it was a great time as many of them saw old friends and made new ones; but most importantly, they all rejoiced in that which they love the most- the classics.

The event started with many Northview JCLers arriving early in the morning to set up for all of the events. Welcome packets were made and seating arrangements were put down, and they were ready to entertain the hoard of JCLers that would arrive. The Northview campus was filled by JCLers by 9 a.m., with the very first ones coming around 7 to see the spectacles of Northview students running around, ensuring all aspects of the school and the program were perfectly ready. When all was ready, General Assembly I began.

All GJCLers attending were greatly enthused. It was the first time they had seen their officers since National Convention, and to say the least, they were given a warm welcome. GJCL President Jermaine Bryant opened the assembly with welcome speech and an introductory oration about the new JCL year, and GJCL Editor Vinayak Eranezhath welcomed the GJCL to the host school. During the General Assembly, many things were covered, and much of the GJCL was able to see the National Certamen Championship trophy for the first time since National Convention. Once the first General Assembly was over, the JCLers in attendance burst out of the gymnasium to partake in the numerous activities.

Many went to workshops. Some of these workshops were informative, while many of them were all about having some fun. Many students left workshop rooms with Roman coins, clay-models of Roman soldiers, or information on how to write good articles and how to increase their school JCL's publicity. But perhaps the most fun and the most participated in workshop was Gladiatorial Combat. Back by popular demand from last year's Fall Forum and State Convention, two students faced off against each other with "swords" in this game. The game got so competitive that students could eventually only play for two consecutive rounds. Regardless, all of the workshops were very successful and all students who participated said that they look forward to revisiting them the following year.

Other than workshops there were academic tests and athletic contests. The academic tests were for all students and were split up by difficulty and subject. All students enjoyed testing their knowledge as the new year began.

Those who participated in athletic events also got to test their skills. The athletic events included fifty meter and one-hundred meter dashes, Frisbee throw, and softball throw, and each event was split up into various age categories.

As the end of Fall Forum neared, the importance of certain contests was becoming more and more important. *Certamen*, for example, displayed some of the best and the brightest of the GJCL, as many students from many schools duked it out in a fast-paced buzzer game. In the end, three schools came out victorious- one at each level. Webb Bridge Middle School won Novice, Northview High School won Intermediate, and Walton High School won Advanced. There were, however, those who had a much higher goal when they came to Fall Forum. They wanted to become GJCL Officers.

The Host/Hostess competition is one that is very popular at Fall Forum. The opportunity to be in the running for becoming an official of the GJCL is quite rare, so when the students were given the chance, they took it. Many students came toga-clad to Fall Forum, and everyone knew that those dressed up could be a future officer. All they had to do was be in authentic Roman attire, prepare a speech about the theme (*tu ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito*), and be prepared for an interview. Many students tried for the two spots, previously held by Ashley Choo-Hen and Elton Lossner, but only two could prevail. The two with the best speeches, the best costumes, and the best interviews were chosen by the old Host and Hostess and the GJCL Sponsor- Casey Stachler from Cambridge High School and Nicolas Franco from Woodstock High School.

After all of the events, all students convened for the day ending General Assembly II. Here President Bryant gave a closing address and the rest of the GJCL Officers presented the awards for academic, athletic, and artistic contests. During the final General Assembly, there was a flash mob by many students from many schools, and also a break-dance war between a student from Walton and North Gwinnett High School. After the awards were read and the certificates we taken, all left for home, reminiscing about the great memories made and looking forward for the next GJCL event: the 2015 State Convention at Rock Eagle, Georgia.

Name: Nicolas Franco

School: Woodstock High School

Grade: 10th

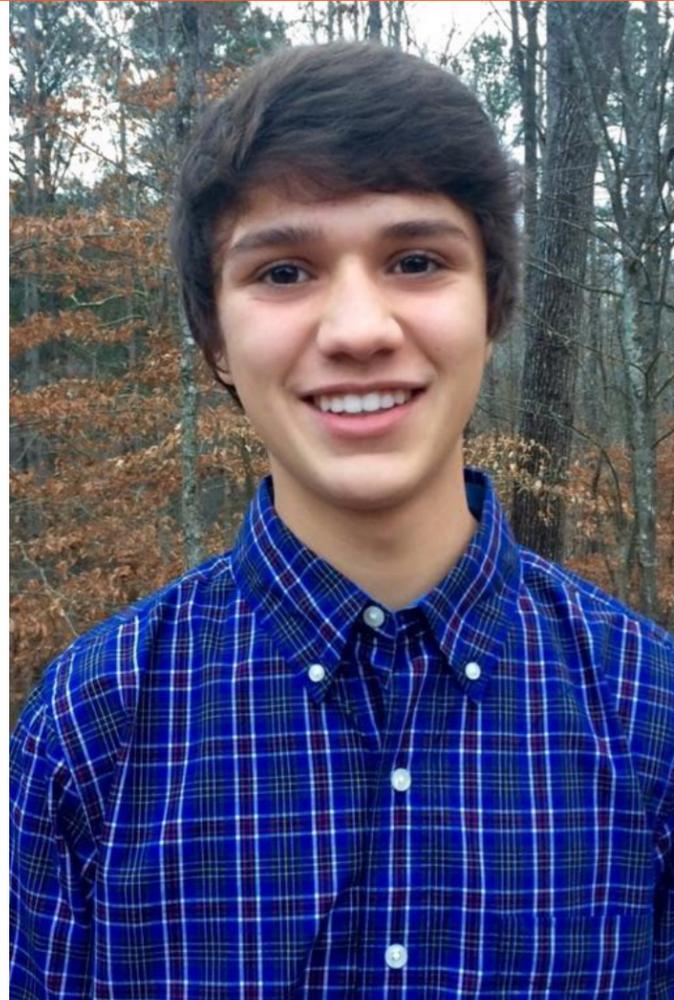
Why did you take Latin? The fact that such an ancient people could have been so advanced in their society, culture, and academics always amazed me, which is the reason why I was so drawn to Latin. Ever since taking a Latin class and joining a Latin club and even becoming an officer for the GJCL, I find my passion and intrigue for this Empire growing. It feels that with Latin, there is no limit to how much you can grow as a person. Another reason that I took Latin was because of my grandfather, who started learning Latin while he was in a seminary studying to be a Catholic priest. After a few years there, he felt that the position wasn't for him so he left and started a family. When I was born, he would throw in Latin words here and there until I was old enough to speak. Together, we would toss words back and forth and these words eventually stayed with me. It wasn't until I was in the 5th grade that I realized what he had done and that the little words that I thought were nothing were actually words in Latin. I then found out that my future high school would be offering Latin and I knew that I would take as much of the class as I could!

What is your favorite Latin word? My favorite Latin word is *necare* because it sounds so beautiful but is actually fatal...literally.

What is your favorite Latin quote? My favorite Latin quote comes from the poet Virgil and reads, "Carpent tua poma nepotes." And translates to 'Your descendants will pick your fruit.' I love the idea that Virgil is portraying in this line because it is so true to life: the actions that you commit and the legacy you leave will affect those who come after you and the harder you work, the more plentiful the fruit you produce.

Any JCLove? The executive board for the GJCL is full of amazing people, but I have to say...my JCLove falls on Ashley Choo-Hen.

What do you plan to do as the new Host of the GJCL? As Host of the GJCL, I plan to accommodate the smaller schools in the GJCL and encourage them to embrace all that we have to offer! Coming from a smaller school, I know that getting in-



involved can be both intimidating and difficult, so I hope to make access to information easier. Also, I know that the vice president has a lot as part of his duty, so I hope to take on some of the stress of that position.

What are you looking forward to most in the JCL? I am very excited to serve the board and the state this year and cannot wait to meet you all at State Convention!

If you were to have dinner with any person, with whom would it be? I wouldn't. Instead, I would choose Caligula and Nero simply because they are so different from all other Roman Emperors. Caligula was so dramatic and was very radical and odd that it would just be interesting to speak with a man who was convinced he was divine and who placed his horse into the senate (among other strange acts). And I would definitely have to ask Nero if he had truly fiddled as he watched Rome burn!



Name: Casey Stachler

School: Cambridge High School

Grade: 10th

Why did you take Latin? Latin isn't necessarily the most popular world language to take in the area that I live in. That being said, I wasn't really aware of the existence of JCL. So, the reason why I chose to take Latin is mainly because of my love for words, history, and culture. No other language really taught the culture, it was always ONLY grammar. My decision to switch language paths going into freshman year was one of my best decisions that I have made in regards to school.

What is your favorite Latin word? "Eheu!" It sounds like someone is sneezing and cursing someone out simultaneously, and every time I hear it in a story I can't help but laugh.

What is your favorite Latin quote? "Timendi causa est nescire" (Ignorance is the cause of fear) by Seneca is my favorite Latin quote because of its timeless message.

Any JCLove? My JCLove is my Host Husband Nic <3. Love you, hubby!

What do you plan to do as the new Hostess of the GJCL? As hostess, I plan to do whatever is required of me to the best of my ability. State Latin Convention is one of the most important Georgia Junior Classical League events of the year, and I will do everything in my power to make it the best convention yet. On another note, I would really like to find a way to encourage or facilitate cross school events. We all create really strong bonds at convention, and I think it is really important that we try and continue to foster these relationships at all times during the year.

What are you looking forward to most in the JCL? The thing I am looking forward to the most in JCL is meeting new people, and attempting to make connections with as many members as possible. I think of JCL as a second family, and I really want to get to know all of you!!

If you were to have dinner with any person, with whom would it be? If I could have dinner with any person, it would have to be Leonardo da Vinci. There are so many intelligent and influential men and women throughout history; however, da Vinci was always one step, or many steps, ahead of his peers. He dipped his hands in a little of everything, always chose to be curious, innovative, and he did so very successfully. A dinner with da Vinci could last a lifetime. The knowledge he held was something far beyond one subject, and I consider him one of the greatest men in history because of this.

SAAD BASHIR, GJCL VICE PRESIDENT

The Praetorian Guard, a symbol of elite soldiers whose purpose was to protect their Emperors with their lives, are the basis for the most recent addition to the events sponsored by the GJCL. Maybe you've heard of it; Praetoria was an event hosted at Rock Eagle from November 15-16 with representatives coming from 28 different schools. The students were then subdivided into 6 smaller regional groups.

Now what exactly is the purpose of Praetoria and why were only so few people allowed to come? Well, Praetoria was first conceived as a convenient solution to three of the major issues that the GJCL faces today. These three issues were the lack of younger leaders, problems with small schools having the same opportunities as larger schools, and the fact that between Fall Forum and State Convention there is basically no GJCL activity. Basically, in order to combat these issues, Praetoria became a leadership retreat focused on chapter development while establishing the foundations for more regional activities.

The Praetorian Guard was an elite selection of soldiers that would serve under the Emperor and similarly at Praetoria, the representatives who came were to be the future leaders of their own chapters, the GJCL, and potentially even the NJCL. Each school that registered for Praetoria was asked to send only a single representative with the recommendation that they be underclassmen with the potential of becoming future leaders. By forcing strangers, all with great potential, from different schools together, they met other future leaders, learned the basics of managing a JCL chapter, and were exposed to all different activities that could help them in their future careers. There was even a mock election for the position of the GJCL "Grunt" for those interested in running for office. All in all, young leaders could take a leap ahead towards developing ideas of best managing their chapters.

Now, there has always been the issue of small schools vs big schools representation and one of the big reasons is that smaller schools don't exactly know what they need to do in order to compete at the same level as bigger schools. A large folder was also sent home with each of the representatives complete with rubrics for contests and information about different opportunities. Most of the format of Praetoria for each session followed a pattern of brief overview of a certain area, smaller regional group discussions, sharing new ideas, and then some sort of fun activity. Take our spirit session for example. A

PowerPoint overview explained the basic rules and advice of how spirit contests work at state and how the t-shirt contest also plays a role in that.

Afterwards groups discussed possible spirit ideas and shared their experiences in designing and ordering t-shirts. Finally, plain white t-shirts were handed out to each group and with paint and markers provided, each group was asked to design a t-shirt based around the theme from the quote "Exegi monumentum aere perennius." The winners of that contest will now have their design sold at the bazaar at State Convention. While Praetoria can help every person who goes and their chapters, it is an invaluable opportunity for smaller schools to engage in the world of JCL that they may not have been able to otherwise.

Finally, over the past couple of years, many people have tried to create some program that could tie the community together, often in a mentor/mentee type of program. After thinking it over, I (after being inspired by the regional groups of Texas JCL) decided that by only pairing off schools, it would be more difficult for schools to feel connected and follow up on their mentorship roles. Instead, what if there were small groups and each group had the responsibility of planning their own local events. In this way, it could relieve the stress on the GJCL to fund each and every major event and allow JCL chapters in the local area to get together more often and bond. Overall, it was an idea for increasing the number of events and the bonds in our GJCL community.

Overall, Praetoria, as I see it, went amazingly well and can serve as an incredibly valuable experience for both the representative that comes and the chapter that sends them. And it's not going to be just a one year thing, Praetoria will continue for years to come, so make sure to register next year!



In the upcoming weeks, many Latin students have the opportunity to partake in many national tests. Registration is over, but there is plenty of time to prepare for the following:

- National Latin Exam**
- National Roman Civilization Exam**
- National Latin Vocabulary Exam**
- Medusa Mythology Exam**

The following websites may help as they have much information concerning the topics:

- For the NLE: visit the official NLE website or www.fjcl.org/regional-study-guides.html. This site has information about all topics (also a good State Convention preparation site)**
- For the NRCE and NLVE: visit the NJCL website as it has the syllabus and sources for each test; the FJCL website will help as well**
- For the Medusa Myth Exam: visit the official Medusa Myth Exam website as it has the syllabus for this year's exam and the source materials from which all questions will derive**

Bonam fortunam to everyone!

**Enjoyed this edition of the Alae Mercurii?
The Pre-State Convention Edition will be
coming out in the next couple of weeks!
If you have any questions, comments,
or concerns, or would like to contribute
to the Alae Mercurii, contact Vinayak
Eranezhath, GJCL Editor, at editor@gjcl.org
for information. **Maximas Gratias!****