The Alae Mercurii is the official publication of the Georgia Junior Classical League, made with the purpose of informing readers about past, present, and upcoming events throughout the chapters of the Georgia Junior Classical League. 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 Georgia Junior Classical League, its officers, or the state committee.
What has been going on in the GJCl?

The GJCl held a Fall Forum in December, which was a great opportunity for the students to participate in a variety of fun activities and learn more about the club. The event was hosted at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, and it was a great success. The students were able to learn about the different branches of the GJCl and how they work together to promote Latin education. The Latin scavenger hunt was a particularly popular event, and it was a great way for students to learn about Latin history and culture. The event also included a quiz on Latin culture, and the winners were awarded with prizes. Overall, the event was a great success, and it was a great way for the students to learn more about Latin and the GJCl.
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—the 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 participatory 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 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 were 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 is your favorite Latin word? My favorite Latin word is nescire because of its timeless message. “Timendi causa est nescire” (Ignorance is the cause of fear) by Seneca is my favorite Latin quote because of its timeless message.

What do you plan to as the new host 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.

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 nescre” (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!

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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!