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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.
Standing in the spotlight reminds me of looking through a one-way mirror. Everyone can see me clear as day, while I am greeted with a blur of faces no matter how hard I squint. Writing publications is kind of like that as well. As soon as I publish work into the limelight, all I can do is smile and wave at the teeming readers.

Meeting you guys at Fall Forum really helped alleviate some of those nerves. There were undoubtedly more cheers than boos as I took that podium, and although my lack of glasses made it hard to see, your spirit and support shone through the glare of the spotlight, so thank you.

In this installment of the Alae, we'll highlight the happenings of Fall Forum, as well as introduce you guys to our new GJCL Host, Ashley Gaytan. Although the holiday season is over, I'll provide plenty of ideas and inspiration for a Latin themed Christmas party for your chapter next year.

Pocky is loving the positive feedback from everyone, so check out his new adventures later in the issue! Baby Yoda, you may be the star child for now, but we’re coming for you.

This is the way.

ERIC YAO
GJCL Editor 2019-2020
FALL OF THE DECADE

WORDS BY ERIC YAO

PICTURES BY HELEN LIU
The last Fall Forum of the decade was just as revolutionary as all its predecessors. From Tiktoks to hedgehogs, here are my favorite moments from the autumn classics.
ON SATURDAY MORNINGS,

the sun seems to forget to wake up for the day. Only us Latin students drag ourselves out of bed to convene at Wheeler High School, the site of Fall Forum. The first GA was undoubtedly a change of scenery from last year at North Gwinett. The soft seats of the Performing Arts Center began to lull delegates to sleep as the officers organized their notes on stage.

Suddenly, cheers of spirit broke the quiet murmur of conversation. Freshmen sat up, alarmed as schools around the room joined in with ritualistic chants of banana. It occurred to me that this would be their first exposure to the JCL, and nothing could be more fitting.

SCHOOLS AROUND THE ROOM JOINED IN WITH RITUALISTIC CHANTS OF BANANA

After the assembly was adjourned and the announcements were made, students streamed out of the building, heading to their first workshops. Wheeler is by no means easy to navigate, and it wasn't surprising to see many people stopped in the middle of the halls trying to orient themselves. There was an unexpected side effect to this, as students were forced to band together with people from other schools to decode the maps provided. Strangers from all around the state bonded over the struggle of navigation, and by noon the only things people were getting lost in were the faces of the new friends they have made.

Meanwhile, legendary displays of athleticism were going on in the gym. The finest recreational YMCA basketball players the state had to offer faced off on the court in dramatic fashion. Volleyball quickly devolved into a game of "keep it off the floor," and our historian Helen did her best to document all of the action.
In the cafeteria, our 2nd VP Anita Singh worked steadily with her volunteers on the service project. She turned the GJCL into an organized paracord machine as students pumped out bracelets all throughout the day. These would eventually be donated to Operation Gratitude, an operation that provides care packages to troops stationed abroad. The success of the project really shows the power of our organization and how much we can accomplish together.

I TREMBLE BENEATH THE INTENSITY OF THEIR GAZES

The muted energy of the morning was nothing compared to the bustle of the lunchroom. People chattered and exchanged stories of the morning while waiting in line for their Chickfila. They discussed the certamen matches excitedly and crossed their fingers Ultimate Frisbee wouldn't be rained out.

Speaking of certamen, the tournament of knowledge was just as riveting as usual. Competitors lined up in teams of four, holding their breaths as they waited for questions to be read. I tremble beneath the intensity of their gazes and gape in awe of their hyperbuzzes.
Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with our plans, and we were forced to cancel frisbee for the day. Track, however, carried on and featured spectacular performances from Pranav (shown left), and previous president Daniel Lee. When asked after the race how he keeps in peak physical condition, Daniel collapsed on the turf and begged nearby delegates for water.

After the long day of JCL activities and getting lost, students once again filed into the Performing Arts Center for General Assembly. Some wore centurion helmets made of construction paper, some tried to catch their breaths from olympica and ludi, and some were still missing, finishing the last rounds of certamen. But everyone sat in anticipation of one thing: the results of the host competition.

While most of the state spent their day participating in all that Fall Forum had to offer, 11 delegates competed with each other for the position of host this year. They participated in countless interviews, trying to make the best impressions possible on the teachers and current host as they made their deliberations. Now, with the decision held in her hand, Anna stepped up to the podium to announce the winner.
The crowd erupted in cheers as Ashley Gaytan from Mountain View was called out through the speakers. She made her way to the front in stunned silence. Her laurel wreath crown all the more fitting as she stood in victory on stage. Emma finished up the rest of the announcements for the day, then adjourned the assembly and Fall Forum. The same sleepy-eyed freshmen from the morning rushed around to say goodbye to their newly made friends. The upperclassmen, nearing the end of JCL, promised to face off at State Convention's frisbee fields. And the board gathered around Anna to wish her farewell and welcomed Ashley to our little family. Thank you to everyone for spending their day at Fall Forum, and we can't wait to see y'all at Rock Eagle!
Pocky
A board.
And a hedgehog
Christmas, Saturnalia, and more!

YOUR GUIDE TO LATIN CLUB HOLIDAY PLANNING

By, Eric Yao
Every December,

Latin clubs all around the nation gather together to celebrate the end of the semester and the coming of the holiday season. They partake in a multitude of activities, anything from gift-giving to arts and crafts. Here are the most popular things to do at your chapter's next Saturnalia party.

1. Gift Exchange

White Elephant exchanges are popular ways to spread the Christmas spirit while connecting with your fellow chapter members. For an extra classical twist, you can assign secret Santas as patrons and recipients as clients.

2. Gingerbread Villa

Although gingerbread wasn't the most prominent building material used in ancient Rome, it can be during your next Saturnalia meeting.

Delegates can compete to create the most elaborate hortos out of icing and Graham crackers, and don't forget to decorate with plenty of sprinkles for the tricliniums.
Service

Service projects are the spirit of the GJCL, and Christmas is the season of giving. What better combination is there?

Spend your Saturnalia meeting writing cards and packing presents for families in need all around the community. Or take an example from Northview, who created dog toys from old club tshirts.

Roman Cooking

Cured meat and preserved fish may not be the most appetizing things in the world nowadays, but they were all the rage in the Roman world.

Put a classical twist on popular Christmas snacks such as Pompeii lava hot chocolate and Pecunia chocolate chip cookies.
Photo of the Month

Penelope Williams
DEKALB SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

One of our members takes a swing at our sacrificial horse for our Equus October celebration!
North Gwinnett Delegates pack boxes full of toys, school supplies, and toiletries for our monthly service project, Operation Christmas Child, which delivers presents to kids in need all over the world.

Way to go!

Richenelle Isip

NORTH GWINNETT HIGH SCHOOL
Photo of the Month

DECEMBER

Yena Kwon

NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Four members of the Northview JCL enjoy a Friday afternoon by taking part in Northview JCL’s service project while having fun with friends, snacks, and saturnalia!

Congrats!
Officer's Minute

Ashley Gaytan, newly selected GJCL host, introduces herself to the state.

THE PLAYBACK

Hey Ashley! Congrats again on winning host this year.

Ashley: Thank you so much! It's honestly all been such a rush I haven't even understood what happened yet.

Trust me I know, could you answer a few questions so the state could get to know you a bit better?

Sure! fire away.

Alright, so why did you decide to run for host?

Ah, right. I decided to run for host cause I wanted to be more involved with the GJCL especially after last year's convention. It was my first time going and honestly one of my best experiences.

Cool moving on, which member of the board do you think would be the first to die in a horror film?

Uhh, *chuckles* that seems a bit off topic, but if I had to choose I think Sanjay wou-

Sanjay - I KNEW IT! FOOLISH MORTAL, I HAVE SURVIVED MUCH MORE THAN YOUR PETTY SCARY FILMS, TREMBLE BENEATH MY PRESENCE!

(ERIC AND ASHLEY ARE SCREAMING AND COWERING UNDER THE COFFEE TABLE)

Ashley - Oh my god oh my god oh my god we need to get out of here, how is he levitating???

*Eric passes out*

Sanjay - YOU CANNOT RUN, STAND AND FACE THE WRATH OF THE EONS.

Ashley - Please, I take it all back, you would be the last to die in a ooh look at that! *points over his shoulder*

Sanjay - HUH? *

(Ashley scrambles to her feet and stumble out of the coffee shop)

Sanjay - YOU DARE DECEIVE ME, PREPARE TO FEAR THE POWER OF THE WEBMASTER.

End log

THE BREAKDOWN

Data recovered from the interview site was heavily corrupted, but Eric will make a full recovery. Based on recent seismic activity and forest fires, we have triangulated Sanjay's location to be somewhere in Australia. We have yet to hear from Ashley at this time.
These are some of my favorite submissions from the past couple of months. Be sure to look out for the rubric for the state meme contest that will be awarded during state convention!

Insiya Ali
Milton HS

-19-
Pompeii watch out for the volcano

Oh no he’s wearing Airpods he can’t hear us oh

Destruction of Pompeii, 79 A.D.

if my dad made me wings out of wax and feathers in order to escape our prison home i wouldn’t die

rip to icarus but im different

Ocean: *exists*
Caligula:

You’ve yee’d your last haw.
Chapter highlights

C h a p t e r

J A N U A R Y

2 0 2 0

Good Times

you guys

Georgia

G e o r g i a
e d i t o r @ g j c l . o r g

Wow!

E H E U !

Enjoy every moment.
A Greek merchant named Pytheas once sailed aloft of the waves, caught sick air, and discovered polar ice. But was his profound discovery unassisted? Today, we will be taking a deep dive into the chilly mysteries that surround the life of Pytheas.

A direct translation from Pytheas of Massalia: On the Ocean.
"An unearthly gobbler threatens our nation. What becomes of the markets of Massalia? To whom do we owe our sacrifices and life?"

A scholarly interpretation: This is a message wrought with warning. Historians have tussled over the interpretation of this message and the identity of the unknown 'gobbler'. Who or what would have the power to threaten Massalia?

A student's interpretation: the Greeks of Massalia must have discovered the existence of turkeys before they were able to record them. Clearly, a turkey held their city hostage for multiple days where the inhabitants tried to sacrifice to either deities to no avail.

The interpretation and message of this writing has been hotly debated for centuries. What was Pytheas thinking when he wrote this? What could he have been thinking of? We may never know.

In other news, the Alpharetta Chapter has yet to be established by Latin teacher Neil David.
Our GWA Latin Club joined together with Beta, NHS, and Spanish Honor Society to bring some holiday cheer to the elderly at Great Oaks Senior Living by singing Christmas carols. This has been a yearly service project at our school for many years. The students and senior citizens both enjoy the carols and talking about what Christmas is really about. One student said "the project is such a great way to bring our club together and do some good for our community." We all hope to continue this GWA JCL tradition in years to come to spread the love for the season and for the classics!
The Milton JCL annual toga tailgate took place August 26th, this year and it was a blast! The officers started off with the setup up with a nightmarish tent but were rewarded with some nice watermelon later. Soon the grill was on and the burgers were rolling in. There was a selection of different burgers like veggie and beef, to accommodate everyone. There were many other items besides burgers to fill up everyone’s plates. Students played some games like the ever amusing, cornhole, and even certamen. Students enjoyed as a whole and can’t wait for the next Milton JCL event!
The Milton JCL celebrated saturnalia with our annual white elephant gift exchange. There were many gag gifts, similar to those that the Romans shared with each other, but among all the jars of peanut butter and Justin Bieber toothbrushes, our teacher, the iconic Mr. Marsh, had hidden some crustula, giving us extra credit. On top of these yearly traditions of Milton, this year we also made paper ornaments to decorate our very own Saturnalia tree (completely not related to Christmas. At all.) Saturnalia was a blast and brought some much needed relief during the Chaos that is finals week.
Both familiar and new faces blend into the crowd of people huddled around the dessert table, eager for a serving of the tasty treat.

Every year, Northview High School’s Latin Club comes together for the readily anticipated and very exciting ice cream social event to kick off the beginning of the school year. This year, both returning and new members of all grades came to enjoy the flavorful dessert and an engaging game of Kahoot.

Members made their way, mid-conversation, to the front of the room to stand in line for a taste of the creamy dessert. New members were able to interact with returning members, learning more about not only the JCL club at Northview, but also JCL as a whole.

After standing in line for the delicious ice cream, members made their way back to their seats, ready for the intense game of Kahoot that lies ahead. However, before the game, Northview JCL’s president, senior Christine Jeong, introduced herself and the other officers. The officers explained their positions and their favorite thing about JCL, causing a few murmurs and laughs to arise here and there among the members.

Following this, members were asked to sign onto Kahoot to play what started out as a fun, non-competitive game that ended up turning into an intense, extremely competitive Kahoot that involved the sounds of both laughter and yelling. The Kahoot was meant to introduce new members to the world of certamen, and consisted of a series of questions about mythology, history, and more. The game kept everyone in the event engaged, excited, and having fun.

Overall, the ice cream social this year was an extremely successful event, with more people showing up than the expected number based on previous years. Northview’s JCL club hopes to continue to see these new members in later meetings and hopes to further grow as a club throughout the year.
JCL officers were pleased with the turnout, as a number of members of all grades came to celebrate this event. Members brought various foods as appetizers or main dishes, some of which included chips and noodles, along with a wide array of tasteful desserts. Members enjoyed the variety of foods as they mingled, and teachers down the hall even joined the feast.

It provided members the opportunity to come together for a fun event with a sense of community and acceptance, while also giving students a break from the stress of school.

Along with celebrating Saturnalia, the officers decided to incorporate a service project into the event. The service project was making dog toys out of old t-shirts to then distribute to various shelters. Laughter and music could be heard through the hall as students gathered to partake in the service project, which involved cutting strips of cloth from the t-shirts and braiding them together to create a toy. The project was very successful in the end, as we made a total of 43 dog toys. First Vice President Somya Mittal, who organized the service project, was extremely pleased with not only the amount of dog toys made, but also the teamwork and excitement shown by the members.

“I think it was really cool to see how one goal, or a service project, can bring people of different friend groups and grades together to create something that’s going to help others,” Mittal said. “I’m really happy that we got to combine our regular Saturnalia party with this because it was definitely fun getting to do something new and rewarding.”

The officers hope that this event has made some impact on members and that it will inspire members to get more involved in the club the following semester.