



Alae Mercurii

ISSUE 02 / VOLUME 10

MEET THE
HOST AND HOSTESS

workshops & reunions

BLESSED TRINITY
HIGH SCHOOL
X-X-MMXV

Fall Forum 2015

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GEORGIA JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

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MEET THE

Name: Hannah Marier

School: Marist High School

Grade: 10th

Favorite Latin Word: My favorite Latin word would have to be "spes" (hope) because after hard work, all that remains is hope.

Favorite Latin Quote: It isn't really a "Latin quote" from Virgil or Seneca. Instead, my favorite Latin quote is "Nata sum parata" (I was born ready).

JCLove: For my JCLove I'd probably have to go with Bryce, my fellow host!

What do you plan to do as the new Host of the GJCL? As the new Hostess of the GJCL this year, I plan on focusing all my energies on service and being approachable. Expanding the GJCL to the smaller schools and giving the Latin programs of the whole state of Georgia an equal voice- this is what I hope to accomplish with my fellow GJCL officers this year. I want everybody to have the chance to understand just how amazing JCL is. JCL fosters a huge community of friends, scholars, and enthusiasts. I want everybody to see how beautiful that is and how utterly mindboggling it is that such a fantastic place even exists. Also, anybody is free to come and talk to me whenever they want! I'm always open to talk to about Latin or whatever!

What are you looking forward to most in the JCL? I'm really excited to work with all the other GJCL officers! They all are incredibly and genuinely nice to everybody they meet, and I hope that I can help them out anyway I can. I'm also super excited to meet as many new people as physically possible at State Convention this year! Please come and say hi!

If you were to have dinner with any famous person, with whom would it be? If I were to have dinner with any famous person, I would probably have dinner with J.R.R. Tolkien. He has influenced my life so much through his books, sparking inside me my love of reading and my imagination. Reading Tolkien inspired me to not only read more, but also to write more. I developed a love of poetry, preparing me for Ovid and others.



THE HOSTS

Name: Bryce Mathis

School: Classical Conversations

Grade: 10th

Favorite Latin word: Flumen (river) has to be my favorite word because it's ironically my Latin teacher's least favorite word. Hearing that word messes with her for some reason.

Favorite Latin Quote: "faber est quisque fortunae suae" (Every man is architect of his own fortune). I like quote this because it relates with what I am doing in the GJCL. This is my first year in the GJCL and I'm on my own with it right now, so I am the architect of my own fortune.

JCLove: It's my first year so I guess we'll have to see.

What do you plan to do as the new Host of the GJCL? I plan to bring in more South Georgia students, schools, and homeschoolers.

What are you looking forward to the most in the JCL? Definitely the board meetings and my first state convention.



If you were to have dinner with any famous person, with whom would it be? Adam Levine before he shaved his hair. Mainly because I really enjoy music and he's pretty dang good at it.







FALL FORUM 2015

GRACE XU, GJCL EDITOR



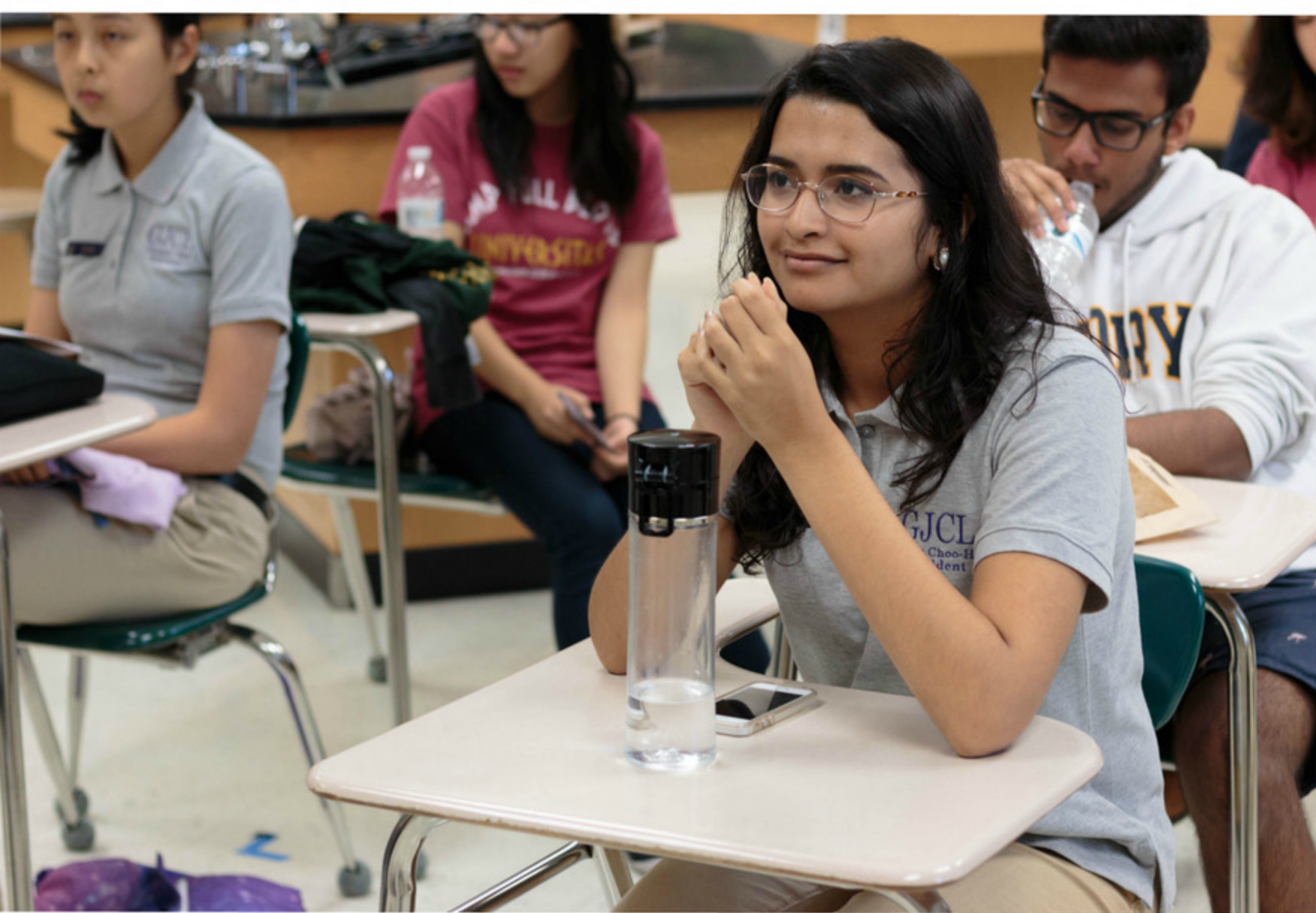
WHERE THERE IS UNITY, THERE IS VICTORY

Reuniting after nationals

The GJCL held its annual kick-off event, Fall Forum, on October 10th at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School. Over 500 students from all across the state had the opportunity to meet up, enjoy the festivities, and partake in the multitude of activities, including a Classics Photo Booth, Certamen matches, essay competitions. The first General Assembly was met with riotous uproars of school spirit and standards waving in the air, and as President Ashley Choo-Hen gaveled to adjourn the session, it signified the inception of a truly unforgettable day for the GJCL. In particular, the gladiatorial combat shows were highly popular, as students engaged in head-to-head combat with foam weapons and dozens of spectators gathered to cheer on their friends and vie for the opportunity to compete. JCLers shared the spirit of camaraderie while meeting new friends and participating in a wide array of workshops that catered to all interests,

such as Greek Dancing and the Roman Feast. Delegates also participated in a special service project for MUST Ministries, a local homeless shelter, by decorating lunch bag donations for those in poverty in order to leave a meaningful impact through JCL service projects. A special workshop featured a reunion of all delegates of Praetoria, the annual leadership conference held in September to initiate partnerships amongst schools to strengthen JCL chapters. Additionally, the crafts workshops guided students in the step-by-step processes to make their own Roman helmets, cookie coins, signet rings, mosaics, and bullae as small keepsakes from their experience at Fall Forum. The officers led workshops to share tips on publicity and running for office to begin preparations for passing on the torch to the next generation of passionate JCLers. Finally, at the second general assembly, the two winners of the Host and

Hostess Competition, Bryce Mathis and Hannah Marier, were announced and appointed as official board members of the GJCL, prepared to take on their new responsibilities and promote the classics at their schools. The winner of the Illustrated Quotations contest was revealed, whose artwork will be promoted as the cover page for the State Convention program, and ribbons and certificates for the academic and creative arts competitions were distributed to the ecstatic winners. Most notably, the amendment for installing a 2nd Vice President in the state constitution was passed at Fall Forum, paving a new path for the GJCL to become more proactive in spirit and service. Overall, the GJCL is off to an amazing start for this unifying year and hopes to see all delegates again at State Convention in April!





PRAETORIA: UNIFYING GJCL

Frank Hu, Parkview High School

Praetoria was nothing short of amazing. It was more than a learning experience where potential leaders gathered together and discussed new ways to improve their own high school's JCL; it was also a gathering of Latin lovers in which one would build bonds that will last a lifetime.

At first, when I seated myself, I had constant questions running through my mind: "How am I going to fit in with these other students," "How is this whole day going to turn out," and "Am I going to regret coming?" But all these questions became quelled as the day progressed. We were then grouped into "legions," which were based upon the proximity of our schools to one another. After which, Ashley and Dong Yoon, our President and Vice President, respectively, opened Praetoria with a series of icebreakers. The first was a competition for each legion to create their own legion name. Our legion came up with the inspiring name: Four Legged Fiends (obviously the best). But more importantly was the bonding that was kindled between the four members. These bonds only grew as Praetoria progressed.

After the series of icebreakers, Dong Yoon and Ashley guided us over a range of topics, beginning with the Publicity Contest, which I had never heard of before. I learned that this was a contest setup to help promote Latin (especially during the 1900s in which Latin took a hit) where JCL chapters could submit a binder documenting efforts to publicize Latin on radio, TV, newspaper, and etc.

WE THEN PROCEEDED TO ENTER A SOCRATIC DISCUSSION

brainstorming, discussing, and exchanging ideas of ways to promote Latin at our schools. As each representative shared their ideas, such as Pies of March, chariot rides at football games, and gift drives in December, a bond could be felt growing between all the soon to be friends in the room. And as the day progressed, the bond kept growing. Our next topic of discussion was Olympika where Ashley and

Dong Yoon not only explained it but also took us outside and held a Tug of War competition, where the Four Legged Fiends and Kevin won! After being exhausted from the Tug of War competition, a game of tag, and the heat, we went inside and ran through several more topics, like Certamen and the Activities competition.

As the next day approached, the atmosphere of the room was different; it had a sense of comfort. We proceeded with more discussions about topics, such as elections and Praetoria, and eventually Praetoria ended. We said our farewells and departed on our separate ways. Unlike how we entered Rock Eagle as strangers, not knowing the majority of the people there and information soon to be discussed, we left Rock Eagle with an abundance of knowledge, ready to help our schools, but also maybe more importantly, we left Rock Eagle with new friendships. And in the end, I no longer had those questions running through my mind instead I had questions of how could I use what I had learned from this experience to better Parkview's JCL and how much am I going to miss all these wonderful friends?

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Submit your JCL chapter's activities!

PARKVIEW JCL

Fariha and Kasfia Kazi

During December, Parkview's Junior Classical League hosted its Saturnalia celebration in honor of Saturn, one of the famed ancient gods of Rome. Parkview JCL is always eager to celebrate this every year because it preserves the traditions of the ancient Romans and shows our members that even old festivities can be entertaining. Parkview JCL chooses to celebrate this holiday by hosting a large pizza social for all to enjoy. There are three aspects of the Saturnalia celebration: a bonfire, a sacrifice, and a banquet. In order to replicate this celebration, we ask the JCL members to contribute a tealight candle and a food or drink item. In past years, members have donated canned goods, which were delivered to the Lilburn Cooperative Ministry, Inc., a nonprofit organization that exists for the sole purpose of helping to fulfill the needs of Lilburn's families and individuals. This year, Parkview JCL's service project supported the family of a Latin student in need. In addition to the donations by the Saturnalia goers and Latin classes, Parkview Latin IV student, Jon Lemons, worked with his science class to sell over 200 smores during lunch periods. Upon arrival, the tealight candles were lit and placed along the front driveway of the clubhouse in order to mimic the large bonfire held during this festival of light back in the days of the empire.

This year, we invited and celebrated with Central Gwinnett High School to share in the spirit of holiday festivities. Volunteers of National Latin Honor Society helped set up the tables and chairs and decorated the clubhouse with streamers, balloons, and tinsel. Right away, members jumped into the fun games brought in such as Just Dance 3 and Mario Kart. Groups of kids competed intensely in board games like Apples to Apples, UNO, and Monopoly. After just thirty minutes of activities, the doorbell rang, and everyone ran downstairs, for the pizza delivery man had arrived and the prospect of fresh pizza piqued all of our interests. Seeing potato chips fly everywhere and kids fighting over the last remaining Sprite bottle, I could definitely say the meal was a success. With full stomachs and light hearts, we enjoyed the rest of the evening with our teachers and friends. The night was unforgettable, and Parkview's JCL will certainly be looking forward to next year's Saturnalia.

BLESSED TRINITY JCL

Avery Moore

As autumn turned into winter, the Blessed Trinity Junior Classical League was in need of an event that would be both enjoyable, and more importantly, warm! What better than to cozy up in the Latin room, watching good ole Hercules and sipping some sweet hot chocolate? This is exactly what the BTJCL decided to do as the first semester approached its end. Advertising "Hercules and Hot Chocolate" on the message boards, Latin students from all grade levels attended. They were also encouraged to bring a friend who was not in Latin to join in the festivities, boosting the overall friendliness and hospitality of the club.

The first "Hercules and Hot Chocolate" event took place towards the end of November. Students gathered together in the Latin room, filling up desks and selectively choosing spots on the floor, as they prepared to watch Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson fight in some epic battle scenes. Hot chocolate was served and many students came back for seconds. They were greatly pleased with how fun the gathering was, and couldn't wait for the next meetup.

The school year continued to progress towards its end. Temperatures outside dropped lower and lower. Frost began to appear on the grass every morning. With the pressure of final exams approaching, students were in great need of some quality time together to unwind. The second round of "Hercules and Hot Chocolate" took place, much to everyone's liking. Hot cocoa was again served, but this time a larger crowd was seen- no one wanted to miss Disney's rendition on the quests and accomplishments of the mighty Hercules! The second time around was even more enjoyable than the first- who doesn't love a good musical? The Blessed Trinity Junior Classical League will be sure to make this a tradition for future members. There's no better way to bond as a club than to sing off-key, sip warm cocoa, and watch a classic story unfold. Next winter, make sure to stop by "Hercules and Hot Chocolate" if you're in need of an awesome time and a little

WALTON JCL

Chris Cherian

'Twas the night before Saturnalia, when all through the school not a creature was stirring, not even a freshman. This past December, the Latin Club at Walton High School participated in the "Adopt a Family Program," where we gathered Christmas presents for a less privileged family. The gifts included action figures, shoes, and even Frozen t-shirts! Walton JCL created a Saturnalia bush (Christmas tree) and pinned ornaments requesting specific items for the family. Many students volunteered to buy items for the parents and their five children. After a couple of weeks, there were no more ornaments left on the bush! At the end of the event, students ranging from frivolous freshmen to somber seniors gathered

together and wrapped all the gifts into neat, perfectly packaged items ready for the placement underneath an actual Christmas tree. It was a great opportunity for the WJCL to come together and give back to a community that gives so much to us every day!

Another event that WJCL enjoyed was the annual legendary arm wrestling contest. Sixteen brave souls entered the contest... only one would emerge victor to arm wrestle Mr. Farnsworth - the unrivaled champion - himself. After forming a bracket, contestants sat down face to face across the table, locking arms, eyes, and souls in the greatest battle of their lives. Although each of the aspirants fought for the title with all their might, some left the arena rejoicing and others weeping. Eventually, the final student challenger emerged: David LaRussa. But the struggle wasn't over - the only thing keeping David from the title of strongest stud(ent) on campus was Mr. Farnsworth's indomitable arm. Cameras began to roll, and silence fell upon the room as the two men sat across from each other, face to face. Their arms interlocked, the referee counted down the fateful numbers. Several students claim that when the match started, they saw not Mr. Farnsworth and David, but two Titans directly from famed myths. It turns out that it was only David and Mr. Farnsworth in their arm wrestle, but the strength and intensity emanating from the fight was equal to a Titan's strength! If a syringe were filled with the amount of testosterone radiating from the competition and injected into a human, the Hulk would be real right now. He would amass legs that rival even those of wise Jermaine, quads that rival even those of saadistic Saad, biceps that rival even those of witty Ishan, and abs that rival even those of amazing Ashley. After what seemed like an eternity, Mr. Farnsworth finally won a war fought harder than the Punic. Mr. Farnsworth will continue to stay the WJCL arm wrestling champion and awaits the next challenger!

WOODSTOCK JCL

In December, the Woodstock Latin Club helped the local elementary school by sponsoring a child nominated for the Elves Club Secret Santa. The Latin Club received the information of a 10 year old girl whose favorite colors are pink, neon, green, and purple. On December 17th, we were able to give her the gifts and watch her eyes light up with joy to see all the wonderful gifts that she would receive.

CHAPTER SNAPSHOTS



1: Dr. Patrick snaps a selfie with his AP Latin students at Parkview's Saturnalia; 2,5: Blessed Trinity JCL Social; 3: October Photo of the Month (Latin II students Katherine Oliver and Molly Carter, along with Latin I student Cameron, show their Spirit for JCL by carving a rendition of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy during Eastside's JCL pumpkin carving party); 4: Walker School Sodalitas Latin IV students learning Greek visit It's Greek To US, a Greek restaurant in Marietta. While they are there, they read the signs and menus written in Greek (and completed the exercises of chapter 2 in their texts); 6,7,9: Woodstock JCL students donating gifts to a local elementary school child in need; 8: Kevin Mulally, one of the faculty at Marist, passes the Aeneid over to a Latin II student at the annual Marist JCL Readathon, which serves as a fundraiser for the club's service projects

CREATIVE CONTENT

LAUREN NGUYEN

1ST PLACE MODERN MYTH

He was a man of creation, a man of paint-splattered smocks and clay-caked hands. His fingers could dance over clay and leave behind beautifully sculpted figures and delicately twining ivy in their wake. These same fingers could snatch up a brush, dip it in paint, and run it over a blank canvas to create an image of a bird that breathed and flew. Such was his skill—that he could create life out of pigments and turpentine, pottery and glazes, that with his paintbrush and throwing wheel he could carve away at the planes of the mundane world and open windows into the planes of wishes and dreams.

Splatters of color covered his little studio apartment like the footprints of little elves that frolicked about in the early hours of the morning. His coffee mugs often held dark and pungent paint thinner, and his wineglasses shone with slick glaze in shades of champagne and burgundy. Canvases hung in place of window curtains, blocking the view of the bustling streets and mirrored skyscrapers of Manhattan.

"The Artist"

Such was his curse—that he woke up to mugs filled with turpentine and plates piled with scraps of clay, that his house had only one heart of flesh among the many hearts of clay and canvas.

The people of Manhattan—the ones who sipped champagne from champagne flutes and plucked delicate little hors d'oeuvres from silver platters—whispered about the brilliant young man who lived in the tiny little studio apartment and made these brilliant works of arts.

They tittered and laughed quietly as they pored over his paintings and statues.

Artists—they are such strange people. Have you ever seen him? No—have you? Is he living with anyone in that little apartment of his? Well, I don't know—is he? He is young, isn't he? Oh, yes, quite young. And with quite a lot of admirers, too...

Winsome female admirers of his work would sidle up to him at exhibitions and flutter their eyelashes coyly, asking him for permission to watch him work or for his attendance at some gala or luncheon. He would always refuse, for he knew what lay behind their thickly made-up eyes and lipstick-garnished smiles—nothing. These women were shallow, painted shells of flesh containing nothing save the avaricious nothingness of society. At the sight of every fleshy contour encased in scarlet satin, every delicate ankle accentuated by stilettos, his disgust grew. These women—these beautiful, bejeweled women—would not lift a single manicured finger to save a dying man. They were so artificial, so cosseted, so blinded by easy life—they were out of tune with the great masterpiece that was natural existence; they were monsters in the eyes of the artist. In life, in flesh—in dreary existence—beauty was but a mask covering the very opposite. In art, beauty was pure and eternal.

The artist found himself in his studio, forming pale and rounded limbs out of white clay. He labored over slender hands long after the sun retired beneath the horizon. He filled scores of canvases with sea-blue eyes and smiling rosebud lips. The artist lost himself in the ecstasy of beauty, untainted and immortal beauty, the beauty of a single face filled with gentleness and compassion. Fine cheekbones in red clay, glazed in silver; glossy hair formed from brass wires and hints of lacquer; folds of rich navy and drapes of peach perfected with acrylics and oils on manifold canvases, toned calves and delicate ankles from white clay, flecked with gold—all these he manufactured, and all these he combined into a single woman. As the days—weeks, months, seasons—flew by, the artist discovered that there was indeed a woman on earth whom he loved.

But alas, reality intruded. The landlord soon came knocking on his door, demanding last month's rent. The chilly white breath of winter rattled his thin windowpanes, and the cold from the outside penetrated through the canvases insulating his home. The single can of tomato soup in his empty pantry frowned at him, silently demanding companions. The artist soon rediscovered the bitter truth that the pleasure of beauty had helped him forget. He found himself at another art exhibition, this one more grandiose than all the others, held in a room suspended well

above the city of steel. The artist stared in disdain and growing despair at the glistening ice sculptures and tables of expensive refreshments, waiters circulating with champagne glasses and rich men promenading with falsely beautiful women. He saw the garishly colored ribbons decorating the balconies and the ugly fluorescent lights illuminating the paintings. He flinched with every comment he overheard.

How beautifully sensual...the curve of her hips... I love her eyes, look at them... who do you think this is? Oh, it must be someone he knows quite well...she is quite lucky, then...or not,

I hear that artists actually live terrible lives...are they still living together?

So that's why he's always been so eager to leave—she's waiting for him at home...

The artist, who had never believed in any power save for that of paint and canvas, found himself praying—perhaps to God, perhaps not. And as he prayed to whatever powers ruled the city of Manhattan and to whatever powers presided over art and beauty, he found that the light breeze intermittently blowing in from the balconies had grown into an insistent wind that tugged at his hair and pulled at his thoughts. His gaze was drawn to the balcony—and the darkness beyond.

God—or whoever had

heard his prayers—had answered. There was indeed a place where he could find his beautiful woman, his love come to life. He ran towards the balcony, shoving people out of his path. Startled cries followed him. The artist reached the railings and was about to fling himself into the city below—

Someone hurtled into him from the side, tackling him and bearing them both down into the ground. The artist swore and wrestled with the creature between him and a world of beauty. The thing pinned him down on the ground with slender hands.

Sir! Sir! Stop! Calm down, okay? Look at me! Calm down! Look at me. Stop! Calm down; everything's going to be okay... sir...look at me! Calm down!

The artist obeyed. He saw fine cheekbones and a swanlike neck sculpted in ivory, rosebud lips and crystalline blue eyes, curls of burnished brass and a dress of painted navy and peach. But those hands resting on his shoulder were warm and supple, like wax warmed on the fire, like...

Living flesh.

The artist looked at her, at her beautiful and worry-filled face, and he began to laugh. He laughed as he reached up and embraced her, and his joyful laugh rang through the air. He opened his eyes—truly opened his eyes—and his first sight of the world unhindered by disgust and antipathy was that of both his lover and the arched dome of the eternal sky.

*This modern myth is a retelling of the story of Pygmalion.

SUBMIT TO THE ALAE

EDITOR@GJCL.ORG

Take an active role in the GJCL by submitting to the *Alae Mercurii*, our statewide publication. We encourage all students and teachers to participate in both options.

1. Increase publicity for your local JCL chapter events

Requirements

Chapter Highlights

300-400 words long

Include at least 2 photographs of the event

Summaries of chapter preparations for convention, recaps of general member meetings, etc. are all welcome!

Specific Events and Projects

600-800 words

Include at least 3 photographs of the event

Summaries of special service projects, JCL socials, pizza parties, celebrations, ceremonies, etc. are all welcome!

2. Submit your creative content to earn recognition and exposure for your work

Requirements

Creative Content

Must be related to the classics or JCL

Must be school-appropriate content

Drawings, photographs, poems, short stories (English or Latin), etc. are all welcome!