



SPRING ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON LATIN HONOR SOCIETY
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CONVENTION
EDITION!

ii updates

You know what they say: Better late than never. This is the winter issue, oddly enough, but technicalities-schmechanicalities. In the long-awaited second issue of the *Scribe*, we deep-dive into Convention roundup, from academic awards to karaoke.

If you're thinking: What about everything else that's happened since Convention? Don't worry! That all will be coming in the next issue. For now, sit back, relax, and think back to our fateful trek down to the Richmond Convention Center back in November...



Cover: Sophomores Grace "Maia" Yuan and Angela "Arria" Yan give their all shouting our spirit cheers.

Above: Our spirit banner, created by our artifices, flies high.

Left: Seniors pose with their sweepstakes ribbons upon returning to TJ. Below: The Praetores Magni lead traditional cheers as well as the ones they wrote specifically for this year's Convention.



CALLING ALL DEDICATED LATINERS!

If you'd like to contribute to the *Scribe*, reach out to Sophia Tzvetanov, Angela Yan, or Elisabet Cabrera-Caballero, and we can feature your work in the next issue!

This issue of the scribe was created by Sophia "Eris" Tzvetanov with lots of help from her fellow Latin *amici*. Thank you to everyone who provided interviews and/or photos (especially you, Marius, *gratias*).

Q: What were your opinions on the "Skibidi SCL" speech?



- "My liver curled in on itself." - Anna
- "Psyche" Kim
- "Peak." - Jacob "Paris" Wolfsthal
- "I loved it; it was hilarious." - Sarah
- "Iris" Trainer
- Vivian "Delia" Xue
- "Pain and suffering, I fear." - Anna
- "Daphne" Park

Latin Buddies Winter Party: In December, Latin buddies gathered once more to eat sweets and decorate cookies. Stay tuned for future Latin Buddy events!

Certamen: Lots of *certamina* have passed since our last issue, including: Hayfield Certamen (NJCL Autumnale), Stafford Street Certamen, Flint Hill Certamen, and national tournaments at Yale and Princeton.

- Hayfield Certamen (Saturday, November 2)
 - Advanced A (1st) - Alex Bakalov, Philip Cho, Sarah Trainer, Vivian Xue
- Stafford Street Certamen (Saturday, December 14)
 - Advanced B (1st) - Peter Beatty, Fiona MacGarvey, Justin Yuan
 - Intermediate A (1st) - Caden Cosgrove, James Fleming, Vyaas Raj
 - Novice A (1st) - Eleri Healy, Emery Mize, Isha Stauber, Sophia Wang
- Flint Hill Certamen (Saturday, January 25)
 - Advanced B (1st) - Sarah Kate Kangas, Ethan O'Hara, Sameeha Shaik, Aidan Wright
 - Novice A (2nd) - Eleri Healy, Emery Mize, Isha Stauber, Sophia Wang
- Yale Certamen (Saturday, November 9)
 - Advanced A (2nd in Varsity) - Alex Bakalov, Philip Cho, Sarah Trainer, Vivian Xue
 - Advanced B (2nd in JV) - Vir Maniar, Ethan O'Hara, Samuel Payne, Aidan Wright
- Princeton Certamen (Saturday, February 8)
 - Advanced A (4th) - Alex Bakalov, Philip Cho, Aidan Wright, Vivian Xue
 - Novice A (3rd) - Eleri Healy, Emery Mize, Isha Stauber, Sophia Wang

Latin Assassins: You might've seen the socks, heard the screams, or noticed the overall aura of sneakiness lurking around the Latin classrooms between classes. This year TJ Latin Assassins returns for another round of secrets and betrayal (*Et tu, Brute?*).

Lupercalia: On February 14th (the day before Lupercalia!) students gathered for a fierce game of goat-themed Mafia. Goats were slaughtered, blood was spilled—fun was had.

Latin Honor Society Inductions: Congratulations to the students who were recently officially inducted into Latin Honor Society!

TJ Certamen: On March 1st, TJ hosted Certamen and brought together several schools to play against each other, and some fierce adversaries (we're looking at you, Boston Latvian School).

Ides of March: With our lungs full of air, and our hearts full of cultish passion, we made our annual march around the school clad in black, ending with a theatrical reenactment of Caesar's assassination.

Initi: Init practices have been in full swing! On April 6th, we'll be performing the story of Orpheus and Eurydice.



On November 24, TJ Latin packed up and went fishing—that is, went to Convention.

Every year, the VJCL brings together schools from all over the state for two days of intrigue, mystery, and usually a lot of coughing. This year, to fit the theme: *Nōn scholae sed vitae discimus* (We learn not for school, but for life), TJ Latin brought out the fishing poles.

It was certainly a memorable year—we said *vale* to our former VJCL president, handed out dozens of “Catullus” pencils, and fought for our lives while listening to the VSCL speech. Read on to get the scoop!

The Freshmen Experience:

Everyone remembers it: their very first Convention. For freshmen Isha “Calliope” Stauber, Sophia “Hecate” Wang, Emery “Fufidius” Mize, and Eleri “Echo” Healy, there was one universal highlight: spending time with friends.

“I really loved being with my friends for two days straight,” says Mize, “and the nerdy atmosphere

and the sheer ridiculousness of it all.”

This year, Stauber and Wang’s favorite tests included myth, reading comp, and history—next year they plan on trying different tests, signing up for all six testing slots to take advantage of all Convention has to offer.

“I didn’t really know what to expect,” says Healy, “But now that I’ve seen what other people create for Convention, I have a huge amount of inspiration!”

All four plan on attending next year as well, with renewed vigor for their projects and studying, as well as an eagerness to try new things.



THE CATCH AT CONVENTION

Sea Shanties and Spirit

What do you do with a lazy student? Why, *remitte ad patrum suum*, of course. To match our fish theme this year, TJ Latin tested its vocal chops with parodies of popular sea shanties.

Perhaps one of the more memorable moments of Convention, as we were marching down to the meeting hall to compete in spirit, our banner holders got a little ahead of themselves and led our delegation past the entrance. Eheu!

Although it was a little embarrassing having to twist the entire delegation back in the



correct direction, we did eventually find our way into the assembly hall, and despite our small mishap, we still gave it our all in cheering and won first place in spirit for extra large delegations.

The Usual Mischief

Imagine: You've just shuffled your way into the humongous grey meeting hall (with your ID card at the ready, of course, so the lines for testing go faster) and taken a seat with a couple colorful test packets in hand. Your clipboard is sturdy, your pencil is sharp, and you are ready to go. Then, just as you begin to deliberate over subjunctive tenses, you hear it: the coughing.

An all-too-familiar Convention tradition seems to have come back stronger than ever this year, with the average time it took for a domino-effect of coughing to begin decreasing to only a few minutes after the start of each testing session.

Why do people deem this so funny? No one knows. All we have to say about it is this: Do Not Engage. If you feel like you might accidentally start genuinely coughing--swallow it. Swallow your cough. We beg you.



VALE, PUERCA

We all said goodbye to our lovely former VJCL president Vivian Xue, with an added bonus of seeing her up on stage in a ketchup costume. Due to the outcome of coin wars, she also reenacted the iconic "My Heart Will Go On" *Titanic* scene with former parliamentarian Josh Kohm—that memory will go on in our hearts for sure.

In her farewell address, she said: "Ultimately, I am left with memories that I cherish beyond words."



FAVORITE MOMENTS

"Crying on stage like a little baby during Valete." - Vivian "Delia" Xue

"Taking the exams!" - Philip "Philippus" Cho

"Jackie karaoke was good." - Alex "Marius" Bakalov

"Taking history and reading comp in a grand total of 30 minutes before...the most awful Nom-Com ever." - Sam "Dolorellus" Payne

"Late night karaoke! I had so much fun singing with my friends." - Grace "Maia" Yuan

"Sprinting into the ballroom to dance to "HOT TO GO!"" - Hayden "Hestia" Fecteau

"Hearing Philip scream to "California Girls" during the dance." - Sophia "Eris" Tzvetanov

MEET THE BBB: BRUTUS'S BHANGRA *BADDIES*

Under the proud gaze of Rishabh "Brutus" Kumaran, seniors Rabia Chadha, Alex Do, Japneet Kaur, Avery Li, Eshwar Moorthy, Arushi Tambade, Aahil Valliani, Aarush Vinod, Pallavi Yalamanchilli, and Ray Zhang perform in That's Entertainment!



For ages, VJCL's talent show *That's Entertainment!* has been a favorite activity for convention-goers to close out Convention. This year, a group of seniors took to the stage to give a Bhangra performance choreographed by our very own Eshwar "Augustus" Moorthy and Japneet "Eumachia" Kaur.

On Sunday morning, without any prior planning, the BBB was born. Senior Rabia "Penthesilea" Chadha explains that originally, the plan was for a few people to dance, but then they decided to

include all seniors who wanted to participate.

In order to learn the dance before their audition at 3 pm, those involved took every spare minute between testing sessions and oratory events to practice.

"It was challenging," Chadha says. "I know a few of us struggled...."

Nevertheless, their performance was a major success, snagging first place in the talent show! Their decision to audition may have been last-minute, but it was certainly the right one.

BEHIND THE SCENES: THE ARTIFICES

The artifices are known for making posters and fliers for Latin year-round, but one of their most important jobs is creating the spirit banner, scrapbook, and t-shirts for Convention.

A lot of work happens behind the scenes to get all of these done on time, especially with only three people, but the result is worth it.

And what happens before the drawing and the painting? Design. Anna "Psyche" Kim drew

inspiration from Odysseus's journey in her design of the game pieces on the banner (see page ii).

For Kim, the most interesting part of the process was the coloring. "I...sat down on the bus one day and it was rainy and sad but also the lights inside the bus were glowing so I just stole that aesthetic and plopped it onto the banner." Her ideas have given this year's banner a distinctive look, as well as a cool backstory.

NO PAYNE NO GAIN



Many may remember the task set upon TJ Latin: hand out as many pencils as possible. These pencils were printed with a line from Catullus 51, which translates to: Idleness has destroyed both kings and blessed cities before.

Junior Samuel "Dolorellus" Payne, who handed out the pencils as part of his campaign for VJCL 1st VP, has never been idle in the Latin community.

Payne is TJ Latin's Praetor Maximus, which has a similar role to the 1st VP of the VJCL. When asked why he decided to run, Payne says simply: "It seemed like the next thing to do in order to get involved in the Latin community."

"The process was something indeed," he recalls. "I got to

witness the silliest nomcom of all time." Despite the stress, Payne attests that it was overall a good experience.

Although he did not win, he will continue to immerse himself in the Latin community in every way he can, and support TJ Latin as our 1st VP.

BRINGING OUT THE ACADEMIC WEAPONS

We learn not for school, but for life—and Convention. We learn a lot for Convention.

This year, senior Alex "Marius" Bakalov took first place in one of the most notoriously hard tests at Convention: Academic Decathlon. The test is so advanced and long, it's only offered to those in Latin III or above, and it has its own testing session. Those who take it answer questions on ten different topics, including geography, classical art, and derivatives, to name a few.



Above: Students eagerly dig for extra tests
Below: Sarah "Iris" Trainer sanitizes the fish statue before going in for a kiss.



Bakalov says that for him the "biggest thing was going through all the previous years' practice exams and taking notes on everything [he] got wrong."

"I personally put [the notes] all on a Google sheet, so I could look at them easier," Bakalov explains. "[It] gave me a pretty good database for things I should know."

In the end, Bakalov's hard work paid off. "I was not expecting to do so well," he says. "It was both incredibly shocking but also incredibly satisfying."

Several others also excelled in academic contests, racking up points in sweepstakes or dominating certain subjects. Congratulations to everyone who won awards, and may the learning continue!



Congrats to our plaque winners!

Aidan "Scribonius" Wright, 11 - Maureen O'Donnell Award for Grammar

Vivian "Delia" Xue, 12 - Robert Parks Award for Mythology

Ethan "Scaevola" O'Hara, 11 - Award for Roman History

Sarah "Iris" Trainer, 11 - Hughlings J. Himwich Award for Academic Excellence

TODAY'S THEME

That's legit!

Y	D	I	V	G	R
N	L	O	I	I	V
I	P	Y	L	R	S
A	V	L	O	S	U
S	U	I	H	N	I
A	P	T	O	T	E
O	P	R	E	C	U
H	E	T	E	N	S

TODAY'S THEME

That's legit!

