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THE scribe

NEWSLETTER OF THE
THOMAS JEFFERSON
LATIN HONOR SOCIETY



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Victory and Unity

LHS Executive Board 2015-16

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If any TJ Latin Honor Society or Latin Club member is interested in submitting to the newsletter, submissions can be sent to Editor Stephanie Do at TJLHSScribe@gmail.com.

For more information, visit our award-winning website at <http://activities.tjhsst.edu/latin/>

The next time somebody tells you that Latin is a dead language, kindly escort them into our classrooms and let them immerse themselves in the heroic feats of Hercules, the intricate rules of the subjunctive, the influence of Julius Caesar on the entirety of western civilization, and watch. Latin is as alive as the people who study it, and it is our duty as proud Romans to inform the world of that.

Our classroom location may have changed and the weather may be more indecisive than Tiberius and his government policies, but one thing has remained unchanged - our love for Latin. After a whirlwind of events, including Convention, Lupercalia, Saturnalia, and everything in between, TJ Latin still has more to offer. Upcoming events range from Rome's birthday, to my personal favorite: National Convention!

As your current Auctor, I feel obliged to congratulate my fellow Romans on how far they've come, and then throw in a gentle reminder that there are still a few more months of school left. However, following our VJCL theme, *Ubi Concordia, Ibi Victoria*, where there is unity there is victory, as long as we trust in each other, we can succeed in anything. The TJ Latin family is here for each and every one of its members. That bond goes beyond the classroom - whenever you need a friend or a confidant, Latin has your back.

– Stephanie Do, 2015-16 TJ LHS Editor

Pinwheels, Nuclear Fusion, and Apollo

Fists pumping and yellow pinwheels twirling, the chanting of the mass of black-and-gold clad students fills the entire auditorium. As the spirit leaders in the front bellow "Ubi victoria", the rest of the Colonials respond with a deafening "Ibi Victoria". To the outside world, a mob of teenagers screaming in Latin would inspire fear and possibly have them dialing 9-1-1. However, to those attending the

ancient proverb meaning "Where there is unity there is victory." TJ, not wanting to fall short of our reputation as the "nerd" school, put a new twist on the theme and related it to nuclear fusion. "Just as nuclear fusion references the amazing release of energy that occurs when nuclei come together, "Ubi concordia, ibi victoria" reminds us that we achieve our best when we come together," says Senior Matt Sun. To symbolize the sun, yellow and orange pinwheels were created for spirit props, and a student, Bill Tang, dressed up as Apollo, the Roman god of the Sun.

Other highlights of the convention include Zara Batalvi running for VJCL president, and Wonseok Song winning

first for That's Entertainment with his poi routine. In fact, TJ students did a lot of winning, which frankly isn't too surprising given our amazing Latin background and teachers. Best of Show recipients for creative arts include juniors Stephanie Do and Rebecca Mays for their Scylla and Charybdis costumes, and senior Ally Scholle for her dramatic interpretation of Dido's reaction to Aeneas's abandonment. Those who won Best in Show for academics include senior Ryan Golant for Latin Literature, Katie Tam for Roman Life. Best of show winners for

graphic arts include Elizabeth Hu for her colored pencil. Sweepstake winners, those who accumulated the most points in their grade level, include: seniors Ryan Golant, Junyoung Hwang, Ally Scholle, Bradford Case, and Daniel Chae, who received 2nd, 5th, 5th, and 9th respectively; juniors Stephanie Do, Rebecca Mays, Elizabeth Hu, and Akshay Balaji who received 4th, 5th, 6th, and 9th place respectively; sophomores Minyoung Hwang, John Kim, Meenakshi Balan, and Militsa Sotirova, who received 4th, 5th, 8th, and 10th respectively; and freshmen Anna Thamasett, Gewndolyn Jacobson, Alyssa Nash, Ash-



Virginia Classical League State Convention, it was just another school trying to win first place in Spirit. Which we did, of course.

On November 22-23, 93 TJ students attended the convention held in the Greater Richmond Convention Center. During the two day trip, students participated in a plethora of activities including stifling coughs during the test sessions, rushing to study for grammar tests on the bus, sleeping during lectures, and finishing art projects moments before the signs closed.

The theme for this year was "Ubi Concordia, Ibi Victoria," an old



en Shen, Shreya Vinjamuri, Matvey Yutin, Lexa Hummel, and Lynn Nguyen, who received 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 10th respectively.



Renovation Never Stopped Anybody

By Junyoung Hwang

As we all know, ever since our sage seniors were but mere sophomores, TJ has tragically not been able to hold her annual *magnum opus*. Due to what the Powers-That-Be delicately term the destruction of our classrooms and homes as "renovation," deeming the rubble created by the destruction the powers that be call "renovation," the same *aer bituminatum* that we pass through every day, was deemed unsuitable for the young children of classical cottage. At last however, we were able to host once more the best Certamen in the universe.

For those of you who woefully lack any knowledge about Certamen, it is a game of wit and knowledge, speed and perseverance, life and death. Three teams play against each other, answering classics-related questions, from the heroics of Herak-er, Hercules, and the great feats of Scipio, to the translation of prose and poetry, whether it be the acerbic tongue of Catullus or the self-promotional propaganda

of Caesar. The three top scoring teams in each level after three rounds of play then go to the final round to play one more time to claim the title of champion of that Certamen and a large shiny trophy.

In truth, we weren't even completely sure if we would be able to host a Certamen due to every single humanities classroom being stuck in a trailer. Fate smiled upon us however and thus in December, we began a two and a half month project that would culminate in the TJ Certamen. Some assisted Magistra Conklin in dealing with the gargantuan task of the logistics. Others, under the guidance of Magistra Lister, wrote the questions themselves, a task that was soon followed by the much less enjoyable one of proofreading. Overall, it was a frantic January and February as we scrambled to complete everything on time.

The Certamen itself ran smoothly save for a few unforeseeable hiccups. In fact,

the generally loathed passage sections of the Upper Level were particularly praised at the Certamen itself for their creativity and ingenuity, though that praise was rather short-lived from the players themselves when they found out the finals passage would be excerpted from Newton's Principia. Despite some confusion from some of the schools with the layout of a deceptively rectangular school, diligent work from our underclassmen ensured things ran on time. We would note the winners of each level but in truth, it is a victory for all of us as it means TJ Certamen IS BACK!

In other news, Flint Hill won't stop winning.

Thanks for your participation in our ChildHelp toy drive! We collected so many toys because of you all!

Beware the Ides

It is a universal sentiment among all the plebeians (aka non-Latin students) at TJ that Latin is a cult. Marching around the school in all black, shouting to the masses and reenacting an assassination probably doesn't do much to dispel that notion. Celebrating the Ides of March has always been a TJ Latin tradition, for what better way to immortalize the glorious dictator Caesar than by dressing up and roaming

around the halls repeating the famous lines "beware the Ides of March?". Unfortunately the actual date of the Ides, the 15th, was at the same time as a senior field trip. However, the Ides were celebrated the following day. "I think it's one of my favorite parts of Latin- the community, and knowing that I'm part of some big crazy family that does these type of crazy things" remarks junior Nam Tran Nguyen. This was

her third time partaking in the march and "I never get bored of them" she says. Missed your chance to mourn Caesar's death? There's always next year!



Goats, Red Paint, Fertility, Oh My

Who knew that today's current tradition of chocolates and love notes stemmed from a pagan festival involving the smacking of young women with bloody strips of goat hide? Though some may argue that Valentine's day originated from Saint Valentine, we, in Latin, know better. Lupercalia, celebrated for the name of the she wolf who nursed Romulus and Remus, was originally celebrated on February 15th and involved the

sacrifice of a goat, followed by young women being hit with thongs of bloody goat skin in an attempt to become fertile.

Unfortunately for us, TJ Latin was unable to sacrifice a live goat. However, we were still able to honor this Roman holiday by whipping people with pieces of fabric after Dr. Glazer informed us that hitting people with bloody pieces of flesh was against the honor code. On February 17th, an 8th period block was dedicated to celebrating the holiday, and students from across the levels came to participate in the annual Lupercalia game. "I thought it was really, really fun" gushed sophomore Nathan Mays "I am definitely doing it again next year, who knew hitting



people with goat could be so much fun?"

"Thanks to your generosity in buying 'Mittendamanti' / Goat Grams' the LHS was able to buy several goats and a hive of honeybees to give to families in developing countries, through Heifer International. Thank you to all who participated!"



Shhhh It's a Secret

Only discussed in hushed tones, the Latin Initiation ceremony seems quite mystical; starting from freshman year, students imagine having to sacrifice a small rodent or sign their name in blood to finally become accepted into the Latin Cult...ure." On January 20th, those in their third year of Latin with at least a B+ average waited with wide eyes and bated breath in the cafeteria for when they too would become part of the Latin Honor Society."

"I had no idea what to expect when I walked into the cafeteria, but wow honestly, even after hearing all my upperclassmen friends talk about it, I was still really surprised" Junior Militsa Sotirova said after she exited the room, carnation in hand. When asked what her favorite part of the ceremony was, she remarked, "for some reason I really liked the tree. I'm not sure why it was there but it was great. The entire thing was just really cool". However, as exciting as the ceremony was, what happens

in initiation stays in initiation and any lowerclassmen who are on the edge of their seats... your time will come soon.



Latin Inite Steals the Spotlight

By Dhruv Gupta

Since 2001, the diversity and heterogeneity of the TJ community has been represented by the nation's largest high school cultural show, iNite. And yet, year after year, circumstances would have it that earth's mightiest empire never found a place there; Latin has never had an act. But now, for the first time ever, experience classical, Greco-Roman entertainment with Latin Club's very own iNite act!

Follow Maia and, her best friend Octavia as they are pulled into the festival of Saturnalia. Watch as estranged friends Marius and Ascanius spar over the love of Maia, with passion and violence. Smile as one of them wins the love of Maia with a bit of help from Apollo's grace.

The act features dance, drama, romance, and, of course, gladiators! Join your friends and classmates as they perform Greek dancing, Roman martial arts, and hip-hop to Roman themes. Head choreographer Katherine Barbano says, "Our first year's gonna be hype! We're on flammeum!" This year, Latin stole the show!



Featured Latin Student Profiles

Latin I



Name: Silanur Inanoglu; **Grade:** 9

Why you decided to take Latin: I have loved mythology all of my life and I knew that mythology would be part of the class.

Latin field of interest: Mythology.

Involvement: I participate in Certamen, and I also volunteered at TJ Certamen.

Best accomplishment: Winning fourth place at last year's VJCL Convention for the Mythology test.

Favorite part of Latin at TJ: I love how tight-knit and close everyone in TJ Latin is, and all of the events we've had together as a community.

Latin II



Name: Coleen Choi **Grade:** 9

Why you decided to take Latin: It's different from languages I've tried before, so I thought it would be interesting to learn Latin.

Latin field of interest: Myth.

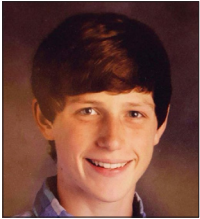
Involvement: Certamen and Latin Club.

Best accomplishment: Two gold Medals for the National Latin Exam.

Favorite part of Latin at TJ: The community, from both the students and the teachers.

Featured Latin Student Profiles

Latin II



Name: Charlie Gunn; **Grade:** 9

Why you decided to take Latin: In 6th grade, we had to learn over 500 Greek and Latin roots. I thought it was really interesting that so many English words were derived from a "dead language". Another reason is that I heard that my middle school had a really good Latin teacher and that Latin students didn't

have speaking PALs.

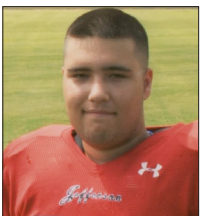
Latin field of interest: Derivatives and etymology.

Involvement in Latin: Gone to several Latin club events and took the etymology exam and the CAV exam.

Best accomplishment: I did well on the etymology exam. That's because as I said earlier I like etymology, but also because unlike the NLE, we did not specifically prepare for it in class.

Favorite part of Latin at TJ: The weird things TJ Latin does (Like then Ides of March march) make us stand out from the other language departments.

Latin III



Name: Ryan Bolton; **Grade:** 11

Why you decided to take Latin: I had always been fascinated by Greco-Roman culture and society and how they gave rise to modern Western civilization.

Latin field of interest: Mythology.

Involvement: LHS, exams (Civ,

etymology, etc.)

Best accomplishment: NLE perfect paper.

Favorite part of Latin at TJ: The way that our magistrae and discipuli take Latin seriously while also having fun and being spirited, which makes for an enthusiastic learning environment that breathes life into a "dead" language.



Name: Medhini Rachamalla; **Grade:** 10

Why you decided to take Latin: everyone in middle school told me Latin was hard so I wanted to prove them wrong.

Latin field of interest: Grammar.

Involvement: I participate in Certamen, and I also volunteered at TJ Certamen.

Best accomplishment: In seventh grade I got 5th on a academic decathlon test despite not knowing anything.

Favorite part of Latin at TJ: Spirit days. I love how everyone wears their shirts and all of the other languages get annoyed. I think it's really funny.

AP Latin



Name: Adam Kim **Grade:** 11

Why you decided to take Latin: I really enjoy Ancient Greek and Roman history, culture, and myth so I thought learning Latin would help enhance my understanding of those subject matters

Latin field of interest: Mythology, history, and culture.

Involvement: Latin honor society, Latin club, certamen (2015), Latin inite props.

Best accomplishment: Getting one of the top three scores on the Latin 5 national vocab exam by mistake.

Favorite part of Latin at TJ: Video projects!



Name: Prathik Naidu **Grade:** 11

Why you decided to take Latin: I Most students at my middle school took Spanish or French, so I wanted to learn more about a language that not many people knew about.

Latin field of interest: Geography, grammar, oratory.

Involvement: celebrating Rome's birthday and I am also part of the first ever Latin iNite act! Outside of TJ, I have helped tutor students at different middle schools in my area.

Best accomplishment: winning a grant to help start a Latin outreach program so elementary and middle school students can learn more about cool topics in Latin.

Favorite part of Latin at TJ: Being part of community of like-minded students who all share the same passion and interest in the classics!

Quid mox venturum est?

April 20

Romes Birthday

A or B block

Celebrate our favorite founding fathers city! Also a spirit day so don't let Ms. Conklin catch you not wearing your Latin shirt.

April 23

Certamen State Finals

Cheer our Certamen teams on as they compete in the State Finals!

April 30

Registration for NJCL

Dream of visiting Indiana and spending a week there doing nothing but Latin? Register for your packet by the 30th.

May 26

**Award Ceremony
Evening**

Who doesn't love a shiny gold medal around your neck? Come and watch all your late night cram sessions pay off at the award ceremony.



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