

# FORUM FACTORUM

FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE III VOLUME XLI



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**T-SHIRT CONTEST AWARDS [11]**

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**THE OFFICIAL MASSJCL NEWSLETTER**



## editor's note

**H**ello, everyone!

The other day I was thinking about my trip last summer to San Antonio for Nationals (for who does not think about warm summer days during these 20 degree days and nights?). I remember gazing out at the wide-open sky from my balcony. There were no Berkshire hills and no daunting city skyline obstructing the view: the view into beyond seemed endless. So, indeed, it's almost March, and the JCL year is flying by; but, like the San Antonio sky, the JCL spirit and JC Love never comes to an end. If you think about, you keep them alive by meeting with your local chapter, creating memories in every Latin or Greek class, studying for Certamen, or writing about Dido and Aeneas, to name a few. Every one of you is a carrier of the JCL spirit and JC Love. Every one of you is a leader in one way or another. This issue of the *Forum Factorum* recaps Classics Day and introduces Praetoria. To brush the surface, you will find 1st VP Allyson Ping's Classics Day opening remarks, read about Rising Tide's Classics Night, and learn about the Praetorian Guard. Enjoy!



All the best,

*Najla Nassar*

## letter from the president

**H**ow's it going, MassJCL?

Welcome to a new year, filled with exciting JCL fun! I hope that you all enjoyed Classics Day thoroughly, and, if you have attended any of the recent Certamen tournaments, that you had an awesome time at those as well. This year, Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, so an early spring is on its way. With this time of rebirth comes a revival of all our annual JCL activities, such as our dance on March 12th and State Convention, falling this year from April 29th to May 1st. As well, a couple of new buds are sprouting, such as our new Praetoria event, which we hope will soon bloom into a beautiful flower. As warmer weather and sunshine slowly creep back into our lives, prepare yourselves for another amazing 365 days of Latin fun!

Warmly,

*Linda Qin*



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TAKEN BY MASSJCL HISTORIAN EMILY BONNICI)

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**COVER:**

VIEW OF THE  
GSU BALLROOM



## *Allyson Ping's* *Classics Day Opening Remarks*

Salvete Omnes,

Welcome to Classics Day! It is my pleasure to present to you this year's theme, "A Day in the Life: The Classical World." Now recently, I've gotten a lot of questions about this theme. "What does it mean?" "Why this one?" "What is it again?" Naturally, these questions led me to consider my theme a bit more, and in doing so, I came to some realizations about what we're doing here today.

One question that has pursued me throughout five years of Latin class is, "Why do we take Latin?" Today, Latin is often regarded as a "scholarly" language, reserved for select individuals. It is marketed towards middle and high school students as something that "will help with your SATs," or "will look great on your college application!" For many disillusioned young classicists, these explanations can only hold out for so long, and eventually, an epiphany is inevitable. "Maybe...maybe I should take a language that is still spoken today. Maybe I might, you know, possibly, transfer to...Spanish."

Our society is at fault for the degradation and trivialization of something as magnificent and sublime as the Classics. Society fails to look towards the spectacular realm of language, literature, arts, and culture that awaits them. Instead, they choose to use it to pass standardized testing or to represent educational status.

But by sitting here today, you are proving that you have not fallen victim to society's ignorance. Remember why you signed up for your first Classics course. If you ever doubt your selection in any way, take a step back and put that endless prose passage or stymieing literary device into perspective. Yes, language, syntax, and grammar are fundamentals in the study of Classical languages, but they are only fundamentals. There is moment in every classicist's journey when they realize, "Wow, this actually happened." For hundreds and thousands of years, this was the way people communicated, how they wrote, and how they lived. And that moment is magical; it may even go as far as to define a career in Classics. Every tedious verb chart, parse, and translation done is as essential to the understanding of the greatness of the Classics as an exciting Roman myth or Greek tragedy.

However, today, I want to offer you all an opportunity to look a little bit past the logistics of the language. I want you to experience what it must have been like to live in the golden age of every Classical and ancient civilization ranging from the grand empire of the Romans to the beautiful and technologically advanced Islamic empire. It is thanks to our knowledgeable and exceptional presenters that we have the chance to escape from the raucous of modern life and journey to the blissful past as we learn about what makes the legacy of Classical civilizations so everlasting.

EDITING CRED:  
DANIEL SHERMAN

## +OVERVIEW

Every year, JCLers congregate at the George Sherman Union Building (GSU) at Boston University for Classics Day. Classics Day is advertised as the second event of the MassJCL year, where JCLers attend themed workshops by Classics teachers and professors, eat a delicious lunch, and perform skits for points toward the state trophy. The 1st Vice President organizes the event according to a chosen theme, and it takes place in early December.

On Thursday, December 3rd, 2015, nearly eight hundred MassJCLers from twenty-three schools filed into GSU for "A Day in the Life: The Classical World." Abby Kelley was one of those schools. An hour before, I was frantically helping the other Abby Kelley JCLers onto the bus. It was a strange moment for me, watching all my fellow JCLers get excited for this event. For many, it was their first time; but for me, it was my last. Though it was bittersweet, I was ready to make the most of my last Classics Day.

My last Classics Day started, as always, with the JCL creed and song. After encouraging speeches by 1st Vice President Allyson Ping and Professor Scully, the workshops began. I never know what to expect. It never crossed my mind that I would be learning about the Islamic State during an ancient Roman and Greek themed event. After my second workshop and lunch, each school lined up near the stage to perform their skit. While our skit about the Kardashians and Kanye West did not win any major awards, our Parliamentarian, Brian Aprahm, did win the award "Most Likely to be the next Yeezus," which, if you really think about it, is the best or worst award depending on your Kanye philosophies.

"It was a strange moment for me, watching all my fellow JCLers get excited for this event. For many, it was their first time; but for me, it was my last."

During the bus ride home, I thought back to all of my past JCL experiences and all the memories I had made. Suddenly, I realized that State Convention was the one remaining MassJCL event for me. My JCL experience really was coming to an end. However, attending Classics Day encouraged me to head into my last few months of being a JCLer with renewed energy and excitement. ■



**TOP:**  
ALLYSON PING, 1ST VP  
**BOTTOM LEFT:**  
WORKSHOP IN SESSION  
**BOTTOM RIGHT:**  
BANNERS OUTSIDE OF GSU,  
BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
**CRED:**  
SDSNEWENGLAND.COM  
(BOTTOM RIGHT)

## +PERSPECTIVE



**TOP LEFT:**  
CONVENTION PROJECTS  
ON DISPLAY

**TOP RIGHT:**  
AWARDS CEREMONY FOR  
THE POETRY CONTEST

**BOTTOM:**  
PERFORMANCE OF THE HADES  
AND PERSEPHONE MYTH

**CREDITS:**  
TAKAHASHI

# *Rising Tide Hosts Classics Night*

BY JOEY STARUSKI, RT '16

Rising Tide JCL's annual showcase event is entering its third consecutive year. It features all the talents of our unique JCL chapter. We call it Classics Night. It begins outside, where guests arrive and eat a traditional Roman meal: hamburgers and hot dogs with potato chips and salad. As the line for food begins, JCL members dress the guests (the ones who are willing) in togas, while the others fill our little Greek theater, created by the school's curved hill, with their original music. Boys and girls throw discuses (weighted frisbees) and sing poetry before a panel of judges, and candidates for the club's executive board campaign with chants and signs. But as great Helios rides beyond our vision, Classics Night is far from over.

The hallway to the atrium is adorned with convention projects created by our club's most dedicated members. On display are the club's scrapbooks from years past, so all might see the progress Rising Tide has made since the founding of the new

"It is not so much of a stretch to say that for this afternoon, Rising Tide was a miniature classical world. We created something with which to bring together our school community, and it was pretty amazing. Classics Night is an opportunity for the talented and hardworking members of the Rising Tide Junior Classical League to take some pride in the hard work they have put into their beloved Classics Club throughout the year. JCL is about community

high school. Once in the school's great hall, executive officers give speeches and JCL members treat their guests to a classically-themed play written and performed by club members. The judges present awards to the poetry contest winners. Then the night concludes with a viewing of the club promotional video and videos from past years.

It is not so much of a stretch to say that for this afternoon, Rising Tide was a miniature classical world. We created something with which to bring together our school community, and it was pretty amazing. Classics Night is an opportunity for the talented and hardworking members of the Rising Tide Junior Classical League to take some pride in the hard work they have put into their beloved Classics Club throughout the year. JCL is about community and sharing our mutual love for the ancient civilizations. It is about developing our own characters and learning to understand the past so we can better appreciate this world of today. In this way, Classics Night embodies the spirit of the Junior Classical League. ■



February 27, 2016

Salvete, MassJCLers, and welcome to Praetoria!

I hope this day will be filled with learning and you will leave chock-full of ideas to bring back to your local chapters. The 1st Vice President, Allyson Ping, and I originally came up with this idea in order to help you, student leaders, strengthen your Latin clubs and develop leadership skills. Although it is only our inaugural year, we have high hopes for Praetoria's success and, *deo volente*, its expansion in the upcoming years.

The word leadership has been tossed around often in relation to this event, but what exactly is leadership? What constitutes a leader?

It seems as if everyone has their own opinions. On Amazon alone, there are 180,431 results for books on this topic. If we go to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the word "leader" is defined as "a person who guides on a way, especially by going in advance." In this way, every single one of you is a leader in your own right. By setting examples for others, you are paving a path for the next generation of JCLers. In the same way that Rome paved a path for the rest of the history, so do you through your JCL endeavors, guiding the way of the Classics into the future. Whether it is introducing the world of Certamen to youngsters or preparing your chapter for Spirit at State Convention, each and every one of you has done amazing things worth applauding.

I thank you for your dedication to spreading the Classics and commitment to self-growth, for it is this fire that brought you here today. I hope that, through Praetoria, you will be inspired, motivated, and encouraged to continue what you are doing. As leaders, let us continue to guide the way with the torch of Classical antiquity into the modern world, lighting the way for those who follow.

E corde,

*Linda Qin*

Linda Qin  
MassJCL President 2015-2016

## +SPECIAL REPORT

# ANCIENT FBI: THE PRAETORIAN GUARD

BY RYAN BROWNE, BLA '20

Imagine this: you are the emperor of Rome. Like many public political figures, both today and in ancient Rome, you need protection from dangers. But who would do that? Who would act as your guardian angel? Well, that's easy. The Praetorian Guard!

Created by Augustus to act as the emperor's bodyguards, Praetorian guards had many jobs, including protecting the current emperor, carrying out the duties of a secret police force, and, a personal favorite of mine, acting as firemen. Sorry, Nero! They also participated in games such as hunts and naval battles, as if watching gladiators duel to the end was not enjoyment enough.

You might think that the emperor's imperial entourage was always looking out for him. Sadly, this wasn't always the case. They actually orchestrated several assassinations of certain rulers of Rome. They were responsible for the death of old Little Boot, Caligula. Too bad that there was no one left to recommend that Incitatus rise up

in the ranks of Roman government. They were not always the wisest of protectors. After they assassinated emperor Pertinax, they auctioned off the Empire to the highest bidder. Karma came back to bite the Praetorian Guard, as this act ultimately led to their downfall.

Being guards, the Praetorians fought in many wars for the Empire. For instance, they fought for Marcus Aurelius during the Marcomannic Wars (166 A.D. through 180 A.D.), which eventually led to a victory for the Empire. Their military formations were in the

same fashion as those of most other military groups. They were very useful as soldiers, fighting boldly to protect their supreme leader.

The Praetorian Guard helped the Roman Empire thrive, and always did what they believed was the best thing to do for their beloved city of Rome. The Roman world would have been completely different without it, as the *Senatus Populusque Romanus* was indebted to this ancient protection agency. ■

"Praetorian guards had many jobs, including protecting the current emperor, carrying out the duties of a secret police force, and acting as firemen."



CRED: HISTORY.COM

## +UPDATES & UPCOMING

### events

#### MIDNIGHT MASQUERADE

boston common hotel  
march 12

#### HARVARD CERTAMEN

harvard university  
march 26

#### STATE CONVENTION

barnstable high school  
april 29, 30 & may 1

#### NATIONAL CONVENTION

indiana university, bloomington  
july 25-29

### april 1st deadlines

- NEWSLETTER CONTEST
- WEBSITE CONTEST
- CANDIDACY FORM
- NJCI SCHOLARSHIP
- MULTIMEDIA CONTEST
- PUBLICITY CONTEST
- SCRAPBOOK BONUS POINTS
- CREATIVE WRITING

| *see contest booklet @ massjci.org for details*

### bls certamen results

#### NOVICE

1st: bls  
2nd: bla  
3rd: phillips exeter

#### INTERMEDIATE

1st: roxbury latin  
2nd: phillips exeter  
3rd: st. paul's

#### ADVANCED

1st: phillips exeter  
2nd: amsa (cowtullus)  
3rd: bla

### coin wars standings

1. VEENA LAGARE, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: 840 points
2. ANUSHREE IYENGAR, TECH-CO: 765 points
3. ANUSHA KULKARNI, TREASURER: 642 points
4. DANIEL SHERMAN, SECRETARY: 178 points
5. NAJILA NASSAR, EDITOR: 121 points
6. LINDA QIN, PRESIDENT: -416 points
7. EMILY BONNICKI, HISTORIAN: -497 points
8. ALLYSON PING, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT: -680 points
9. DALENA NGUYEN, PARLIAMENTARIAN: -2358 points

# horoscopes

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## {aries}

MARCH 21-  
APRIL 19

UH OH. TESTING SEASON  
IS APPROACHING. WHILE IT  
MAY BE TEMPTING TO LOAD  
UP ON JAVA, SLEEP IS THE  
MUCH BETTER ALTERNATIVE!

## {gemini}

MAY 21-  
JUNE 20

YOU MAY BE HAVING A  
CRABBY DAY, BUT, WITH  
FRIENDS, THAT FROWN WILL  
TURN UPSIDE DOWN AND  
BECOME A CRABTASTIC DAY.

## {leo}

STAY LOYAL TO THE VOWS  
YOU MAIDEN THE PAST  
TO YOUR FRIENDS. DON'T  
LET OLD PROMISES CON-  
FLICT WITH NEW ONES!

FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY SEEM  
TO BE IN YOUR FUTURE, BUT  
WITH COURAGE AND SELF CON-  
FIDENCE, YOUR TASKS WILL BE  
COMPLETE. EWE CAN DO IT!

## {taurus}

APRIL 20-  
MAY 20

NEED HELP WITH A  
CHALLENGING TASK? ASK  
SOMEONE FOR HELP.  
AFTER ALL, TWO HEADS ARE  
ALWAYS BETTER THAN ONE.

## {cancer}

JUNE 21-  
JULY 22

THERE'S NO POINT IN  
LION DOWN ALL DAY.  
CARPE DIEM AND MAKE  
DO WITH YOUR FREE DAY.

## {virgo}

AUGUST 23-  
SEPTEMBER 22

# {libra}

SEPTEMBER 23-

OCTOBER 22

PEOPLE MAY UNDERESTIMATE YOU NOW, BUT PROVE THEM WRONG AND SHOW THEM THAT YOU'RE A HUGE THREAT IN COMPETITION.

TIME FOR YOU TO HIT THE BOOKS AND HEAD TO THE LIBRARY. YOU CAN'T PROCRAS- TINATE COMPLETING THAT ASSIGNMENT ANY LONGER.

# scorpio}

OCTOBER 23-

NOVEMBER 21

# {sagittarius}

NOVEMBER 22-

DECEMBER 21

A PERIOD OF INSPIRATION WILL SOON COME TO YOU. DON'T HOLD BACK: SHARE YOUR CORNUCOPIA OF IDEAS WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

YOU HAVE BEEN IRONI- CALLY STRUCK BY CUPID'S ARROW. PROCEED WITH CAUTION IF YOU WISH TO PURSUE YOUR INTEREST.

DECEMBER 22-

JANUARY 19

# capricorn}

# {aquarius}

JANUARY 20-

FEBRUARY 18

RED ALERT! YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE HOOKED ON SOMETHING THAT WILL CAUSE YOU TO LOSE FOCUS IN SCHOOL. DON'T SWIM INTO THE TRAP!

PEOPLE SEEM TO BE CRIT- ICIZING YOUR WORK, BUT EH, WATER YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THEM? JUST GO WITH YOUR OWN FLOW.

# pisces}

FEBRUARY 19-

MARCH 20



# STATE T-SHIRT AWARD CONTEST 2016



BLA • 2ND PLACE



# RISING TIDE •

## 3RD PLACE



• 1ST PLACE  
BLS premieres  
@ states!

## ARTS AREA

CRED: MICHELLEHUX.KINJA.COM

## DESTINATION CLASSICS DAY



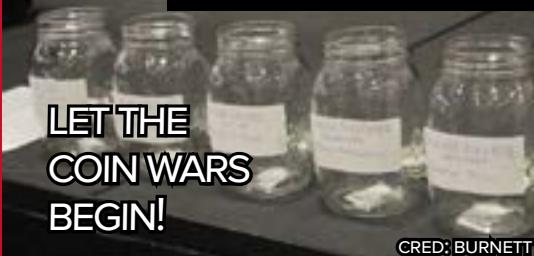
## BARNSTABLE, ALL SMILES @ CLASSICS DAY

CRED: BURNETT

## "KANYE WEST" APPEARS IN CLASSICS DAY SKIT

CRED: VAN

## MASSJCL MOMENTS



## LET THE COIN WARS BEGIN!

CRED: BURNETT



## EAGER YOUNG MINDS @ BLA CERTAMEN

CRED: CASEY

CRED: LUONG



## BLS STUDENTS POSE @ BLS CERTAMEN

CRED: CHAI



## WHEN YOU HAVE ALL THESE LUNCHES TO DISTRIBUTE BUT THAT HASN'T BROKEN YOUR SMILE

# GRATIAS MAXIMAS

FROM THE MASSJCL

adams specialty printing

FOR YOUR GENEROUS WORK ON THIS ISSUE

+

merimax web

FOR DONATING STATE AND LOCAL WEBSITES

