

FORUM FACTORUM

APRIL 2016 ISSUE IV VOLUME XLI

**HOW TO MAKE THE
MOST OF STATES THIS
YEAR [8-9]**

**QUIZ: WHICH ROMAN
GOD OR GODDESS
ARE YOU? [12]**



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THE OFFICIAL MASSJCL NEWSLETTER



editor's note

Salvete, MassJCLers!

I give you all a very warm welcome to MassJCL's 60th annual State Convention. Four years ago, when I attended my first State Convention, the one thing I remember needing more of was time. These next few days will fly by; so whether this is your first or last State Convention, make the most of it. Meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, participate in contests, have pizza delivered to your hotel at 11 p.m. But when you aren't doing all of that, feel free to peek through the *FF*! It is so rewarding to finish another issue, and I hope it is rewarding for you to get caught up on the latest MassJCL news, learn how to make the most of States this year, and find out which Roman god or goddess is your counterpart. Make lots of memories this weekend. I hope you have the time of your life. See you all soon,

Najla Nassar



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CRED: KAYAK.COM

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+OVERVIEW

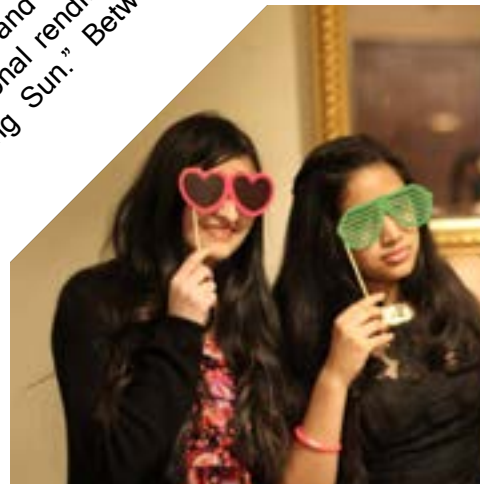
BY ANUSHREE IYENGAR, AMSA '18
MASSJCL TECH-CO 2015-2016

Fancy Fantasy Ball

The Fancy Fantasy Ball, this year's MassJCL dance, took place on March 12th at the Boston Common Hotel. I had never attended Snowball previously, and as someone who usually is not a fan of dances, I must admit that I did not have high hopes for the evening. After all, what else would I expect from a semiformal dance planned by a notoriously nerdy organization? Well, I could not have been more wrong. We kicked off the evening with entertained JCLers, accompanied by delicious food (especially the pizza!). Everyone who performed did beautifully, most notably Dan Sherman and Allyson Ping with their hilarious skit, and Anthony Dooley with a sensational rendition of "House of the Rising Sun." Between all of the acts, Hanna Seariac offered everyone some comic relief with her horrible, yet funny jokes (A Roman walks into a bar and asks for a martini. The bartender asks, "Do you mean a martini?" The Roman replies, "If I wanted a double, I would have asked for one!"). After the entertainment, the DJ got the evening started. We all were slow to enter the dance floor at first, but within the hour, we started to dance the night away. In fact, we still had a blast even when we were ordered to evacuate the floor due to a mishap with the elevators. The event as a whole was so much fun that when my parents finally arrived near the end, I begged them to let me stay just a little longer. I can say beyond a shadow of a doubt that I regret not attending this event in the past. ■

PHOTO (RIGHT):
ANUSHREE IYENGAR (AMSA)
AND SHREYA MURTHY (AMSA)
POSE WITH SUNGLASS PROPS
CRED:
BURNETT

CRED: BURNETT



+PERSPECTIVE

PHOTO:
MASSJCL'S FIRST
ANNUAL PRAETORIA ALUMNI



BY KIRA SOLOVAY, ARLINGTON '18

MassJCL's first Praetoria was fabulous. The event took place late February at Worcester's College of the Holy Cross. Samantha Stephens, the President of our Arlington chapter, and I, the Historian, attended. Being from Arlington, a relatively small chapter, we greatly appreciated the limit of two delegates per chapter; we enjoyed having equal share in the discussion.

This will be Arlington's second year attending State Convention. Samantha and I are both very active members in our chapter and were the only States attendees last year. We are always seeking ways to make our school club more lively. Although Arlington's chapter has grown considerably this past year, we still have room to improve with our participation in the MassJCL.

After all the delegates had trickled into Holy Cross, the state officers running Praetoria, Linda Qin and Allyson Ping, handed everyone either a blue, green, or red t-shirt, grouping us under a legion leader, Anushree Iyengar, Najla Nassar, or Dan Sherman. Each delegate was given a binder containing information on all the state contests and several extra pages for notes. Once we introduced ourselves to our legion, we exchanged contact information. I loved how we were able to stay in touch afterwards.

I felt more included in the MassJCL after actually speaking in person with the state officers and the higher-ups of the other Massachusetts schools.

While in our legions, we discussed spirit, fundraising, offices, elections, service and publicity. For the time dedicated to fundraising, many shared what their chapters did to fundraise, causing everyone to have more ideas by the end. Arlington, and I'm sure many other schools, relies heavily on fundraising to pay for our bus to State Convention. The influx of ideas will make a difference in our chapter.

"We are always looking for ways to become more involved in the JCL."

We were also delighted to learn all the many ways members could help expand our club's influence, as we also are always looking for ways to become more involved in the JCL. Last year, our chapter hardly participated in any whole school contests; however, we are glad to participate in both the Scrapbook competition and the Membership contest this year. Talking with the state Historian, Emily

Bonnici, gave me great ideas on how to make Arlington's scrapbook more engaging. Similarly, learning how easy it is to compete in the membership contest helped encourage us to take part.

Praetoria was a very special event for me. I loved getting to know all the state officers and friends from many other nearby chapters. I'll definitely show up again next year to continue to build up relations with other JCLers. I look forward to seeing everyone again here at State Convention! ■

HARVARD CERTAMEN

BY CARINA LAYFIELD, BLS '19

On Saturday, March 26th, the long-awaited Harvard Certamen had finally arrived. I had been looking forward to Harvard for a while for a few reasons. Competing in Certamen is always fun, but I was also extremely excited to see friends I had made from other states. My preparations for Harvard included not only extra practices but also extra talking to my friends from Florida. The hype was real. During the night before, my teammates and I had one final online practice before the tournament. We wanted to be ready. My teammates, Clair Fu, Ashley Chou, Tran Nguyen, and I felt very confident going into the day. We felt that our preparations and studying for the tournament would pay off.

At the end of prelims we were seeded as the third seed with 635 points. Seeded fourth was the other BLS intermediate team! This meant we would be playing each other along with Roxbury Latin in semis. As semis progressed the score remained very close. Going into question twenty the other BLS team could have won. I heard the sound of the buzzer machine, signaling that someone had buzzed in. It was Jairam! He said his answer and time seemed to stop as I waited

to hear if it was correct. "That is incorrect." Our moderator said. We did it! We had made finals at Harvard. Although I was sorry that Jairam and his teammates had not also made finals, I was excited to play our long time rival, Basis DC, and Stanton College Preparatory School from Florida, the school that my friend Megan attends.

"He said his
answer and
time seemed to
stop as I waited
to hear if it was
correct."

Finals started and already I could feel the tension as each team remained in a tight race. At each score check we seemed farther and farther away from Stanton. After the scores were announced at 15, DC started playing catch-up, and boy were they good at it. By the time we got to question 20 the scores were 105 Stanton, 75 us, and 70 DC. Would we be able to beat DC? The tossup began to be read. BUZZ. It was Stanton! "That is incorrect...A1? That is incorrect...C1? That is incorrect." All

three of our teams had not managed to get the final tossup, but BLS managed to take home second in the Intermediate Level.

I am very happy with how well my teammates and I played. I am pleased with the level of competition we faced. I am glad that I was able to see friends and enjoy myself. As far as Novice and Advanced go, BLS took home second in Novice and first and third in Advanced. ■



> @WEAREMASSJCL <





April 29, 2016

Salvete fellow JCLers;

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to our 60th annual State Convention! Wow, 60 years. 60 years of competition, 60 years of scholarship, 60 years of friendships. This weekend, let us celebrate the camaraderie created by our shared love for the Classics that has kept the spirit of the Massachusetts Junior Classical League alive for so long. Now, to make the most of this 60th year, here is a list of things to do this weekend involving 60.

- 1. Say hello to 60 different people**—Push yourself past your comfort zone and try to make new friends with people from all over Massachusetts!
- 2. Spend 60 minutes at graphics art viewing**—There are incredible pieces of artwork created by your fellow MassJCLers on display throughout the weekend. Take a look at their hard work and become inspired to create some of your own.
- 3. Listen to 60 Certamen questions**—Throughout this weekend, schools will be competing in preliminary rounds, semifinals and finals of Certamen. Cheer on you friends and commend the time and dedication they put into this.
- 4. Wake up at (6:0)0 A.M.**—Swimming starts early this year, so make sure to set your alarm clock in order to make Olympika!
- 5. Show your JCL spirit in the (60)/4 minutes before GA**—Spirit begins 15 minutes before the general assembly on Saturday, and will occur during the Toga Parade on Sunday. Let your passion for the Classics be unleashed!
- 6. Sleep for over 60 minutes**—As exciting as State Convention is, it is still important to get your zzz's in.

These are just a few suggestions out of the plethora of activities going on this weekend. As always, feel free to stop me or any other MassJCL officer and chat with us (about anything, really--from tips for creative arts to our favorite cat videos). Whatever you do, I hope you make the most out of these three days and make it a weekend to remember.

Toodles,

Linda Qin

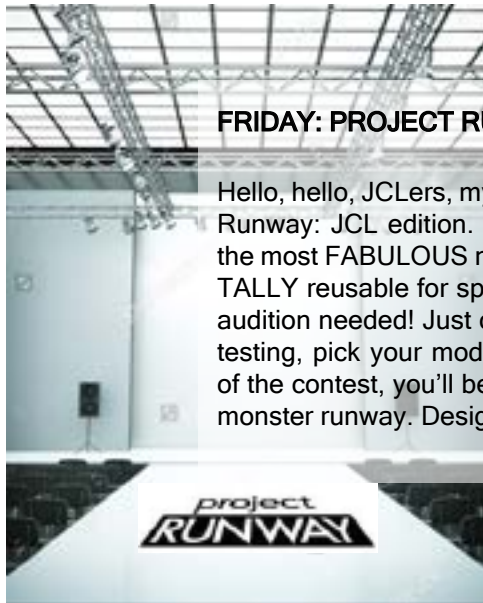
Linda Qin
MassJCL President 2015-2016

HOW TO MAKE



CHECK IT OUT

Ready for something new? Two new events, Project Runway and Forum Friending, have been added to the States schedule this year. Be sure to check them out!



CRED: SHUTTER STOCK

FRIDAY: PROJECT RUNWAY TAKES THE CLASSICS

Hello, hello, JCLers, my name is Tiberius Gunn, and I'm here to welcome you to Project Runway: JCL edition. Tonight at state convention, you will be tasked with designing the most FABULOUS mythological monster-themed outfits (which are, by the way, TOTALLY reusable for spirit tomorrow!) It's easy to join Project Runway: JCL Edition, no audition needed! Just come to the PAC as soon as possible after you finish academic testing, pick your model, and start designing with the materials provided! At the end of the contest, you'll be able to present your hard work by having your model walk the monster runway. Designers, go go go!



SATURDAY: FORUM FRIENDING

Do you want to make new friends at the speed of light? Well, then come to Forum Friending, where you will be able to meet tons of JCLers in a fraction of the time! All you have to do is show up to room 1610 at 12:30 and the fun will begin! Forum friending is in no way affiliated with a similar franchise known as "speed dating." Copyright MassJCL 2016.



MASSJCL STATES

THE MOST OF

GET PUMPED FOR SPIRIT

M-A-J-C-L, M-A-J-C-L, WOO! Salvete, MassJCL! As of last year, there are two days of spirit here at States, meaning two times the craziness. Let me be your guide for surviving these two days of screaming, yelling, and prop waving, while still abiding by the rules.



MASSJCL 2NDVP
VEENA LAGARE



CRED: GREEKMYTHOLOGY.COM

SATURDAY: MASSACHUSETTS MONSTER MASH!

Beware of all the horrifying, bone-chilling monsters you thought were only myths. Latin is not dead, and neither are its monsters. Varying from animal-like creatures like the Hydra to human monsters like Medusa, I suggest you choose a side: the monster or the monster slayer. Look out for snakes, teeth, and claws!

SUNDAY: CLASSICAL BAYS (BAES)!

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was historically one of the "classic" thirteen original colonies. As a convention devoted to the Classics, appreciating both Massachusetts and Rome, let us not forget the classical couples within their times that have defined and greatly influenced drama, love, and lust. There were Marc Antony and Cleopatra, Pyramus and Thisbe, and Zeus and Hera, to note just a few. Love will be in the air at this convention. Let us celebrate and cherish the history of Massachusetts and of Rome together.



CRED: GORGONOEARTIMENOS

THIS YEAR

Not many people associate the Mount Greylock JCL with being winners. In fact, we only ever seem to win at one contest: large catapult. Do not mistake Greylock's glorious name, however. We are some of the best athletes in Western Massachusetts... just maybe not the best MassJCL champions. The general problem in the JCL department of Mount Greylock has been the lack of organization and forward thinking. Far too often in the past, the Greylock board failed to meet routinely. As a result, most of the plans for school-wide competitions at State Convention came to fruition moments before they actually happened.

However, our two preceding boards, no matter how disorganized they were, accomplished a victory not seen to many of us in a while. Through a series of decisive actions, the board efficiently brought together a crowd of unprepared Mount Greylock JCLers and turned them into a fighting force. Instead of barely making the top ten overall, for the past few years Mount Greylock has pushed hard to place third.

How? you ask. Let me explain. For one, we witnessed what could happen if we prepared for events such as Certamen, even if that preparation was merely pre-game googling and discussion on who answers what. That is, participation points toward the state trophy (gotta love those participation points). Traditionally, our Spirit is a nightmare (there is no easier way to explain it).

"For us, it was not about the ribbon as much as it was about coming together as a chapter."

Our spirit is comparable to Massachusetts's weather: sometimes it's nice and works out, and sometimes it's chaotic and brings tears to the eyes. Although we did not place in the competition last year, Mount Greylock had a moral victory. For us, it was not about the ribbon as much as it was about coming together as a chapter. We bonded by "wearing" (in our hair, behind our ears, in the crevices of our togas) plastic soup spoons for Clam Chowda Classics. So, the Mount Greylock JCL entered States expecting somewhat of a defeat, yet we left with a feeling of pride in our stomachs.

That convention left us the seeds for a new beginning to the Mount Greylock JCL. Through weekly meetings, Mount Greylock has brought about a new sense of unity to the once anarchical club. Although the victories seem minor so far (only third place in the Classic's Day Skit and first in large catapult), what they represent means so much more. They represent a new dawn of victory through unity for Mount Greylock. The Mount Greylock JCL has pulled itself

up from the ashes to emerge as a true contender in the field of Junior Classical League competitions. This year, we bring a full force of competent candidates, prepared athletes and scholars for both the academics and athletics, and new entries into competitions Mount Greylock has avoided previously, such as the Publicity Binder. Through a newfound sense of unity, Mount Greylock rises to take hold of the victories that await them; *ubi concordia, ibi victoria*. ■

BY JACOB HANE, MTG '18

MOUNT GREYLOCK JCL STATES PREP
AND THE 2016 MOTTO

2016
motto

UBI CONCORDIA,
IBI VICTORIA

where there is unity, there is victory

SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS



CRED: CEOFRIDAY.COM

BY RACHEL BISSON, MTG '19

mythology
costume
couple

Noted in Homer's *Odyssey*, Scylla and Charybdis were sea monsters in the forms of a half-maiden, half-snake-necked-dog-headed creature, and vast whirlpool, respectively. Both resided on opposite sides of the Strait of Messina, but were close enough that sailors had to pass one or the other and choose which monster to brave when seeking passage. According to Homer, Odysseus made this decision with the logic that he would lose much of his crew to Scylla, but would lose the entirety of his ship to Charybdis. He decided the former would at least allow him to pass with some ship and crew left and chose the lesser of two evils.

Similar stories involving the navigation of one hazard or another led to the creation of idiomatic sayings such as "incidit in scyllam cupiens vitare charybdim" (he runs on Scylla, wishing to avoid Charybdis) and

"Between a rock and a hard place." Such sayings have become commonplace in everyday English with many native English speakers using them without even realizing the mythical background.

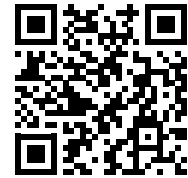
Culturally, the story of Scylla and Charybdis has been referenced in everything from eighteenth century political cartoons to twenty-first century rock songs. Jim Gillray's *Britannia between Scylla and Charybdis* (3 June 1793) depicts William

Pitt at the helm of the ship *Constitution* carrying a visibly alarmed Britannia. The ship comes between a rock with the liberty cap on top, representing democracy, and a whirlpool in the shape of an inverted crown, serving as representation of arbitrary power. The cartoon was drawn to illustrate the effects of the French Revolution on British politics. Even in the last few centuries, the myth of Scylla and Charybdis continues to be used to relate important issues to the public. The choice between two evils continues to be a common theme in people's everyday lives even today. ■

"The choice between two evils continues to be a common theme in people's everyday lives even today."

+QUIZ

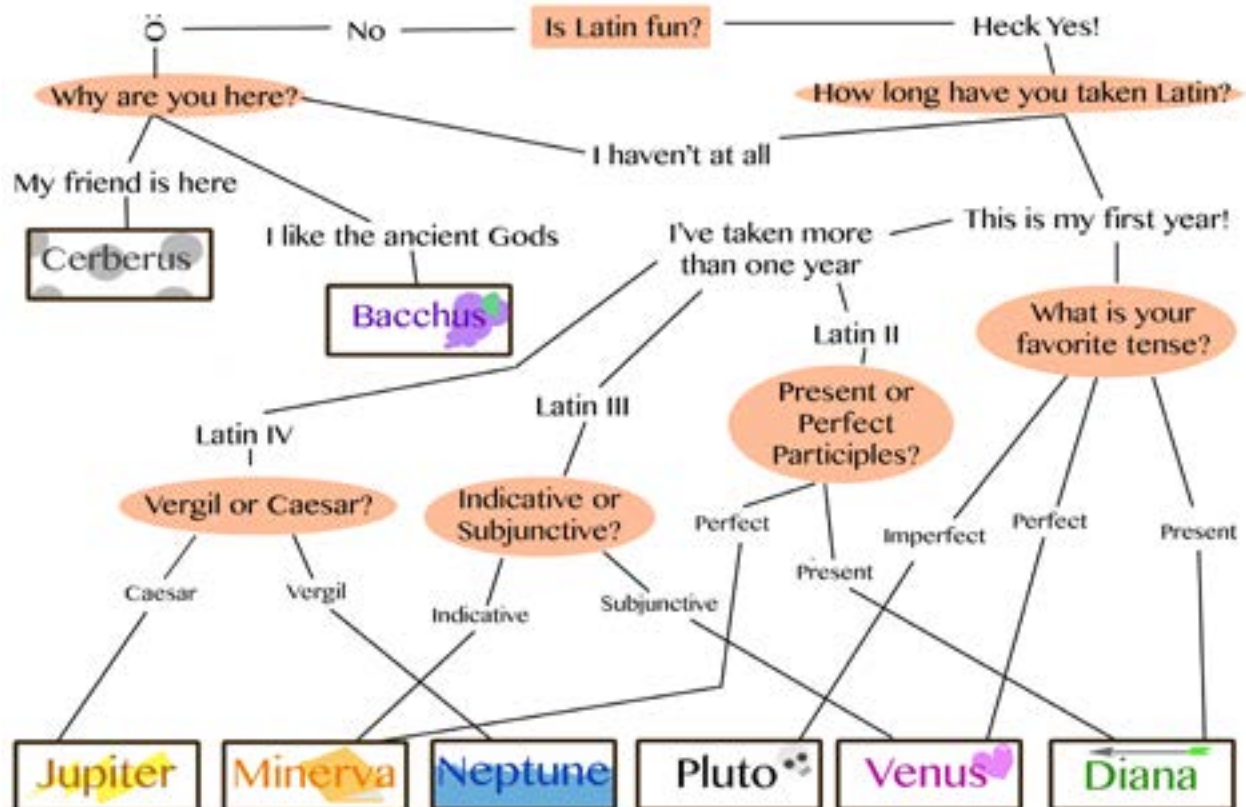
go to massjcl.org or scan below for explanations



WHICH ROMAN GOD OR GODDESS ARE YOU?

BY JULIA BLAKELY AND DAVIANA ENGLANDER, WINCHESTER '18

start here



horoscopes

.....

MARCH 21-
APRIL 19
{aries

DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU NEED TO BE WITH YOUR FRIENDS 24/7. YOU'RE NOT YOKED, SO FEEL FREE TO EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN. AVOID GETTING BULLIED INTO DOING THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO DO.

DON'T STAY UP TOO LATE DURING CONVENTION. TRY TO GET AT LEAST FIVE HOURS OF SLEEP. IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW, JUST COUNT SHEEP. IT WILL HELP.

APRIL 20-
MAY 20
taurus}

MAY 21-
JUNE 20
{gemini

NO POINT IN BEING CRABBY AND SHELLFISH AT CONVENTION. HANG OUT WITH OLD FRIENDS OR MAKE NEW ONES SO YOU'LL FEEL BETTER. BUT BE CAREFUL; IF YOU DON'T SHARE WITH THEM, THEY MAY SCUTTLE AWAY.

STUCK BETWEEN TWO EVENTS? IF ONLY THERE WERE TWO OF YOU! PUT PRIORITIES ON THE MORE IMPORTANT EVENT FIRST AND THEN PERHAPS YOU WILL HAVE TIME FOR THE SECOND ONE.

JUNE 21-
JULY 22
cancer}

JULY 23-
AUGUST 22
{leo

SHARING IS CARING. BE AS GENEROUS AS HESTIA AT STATES BY HELPING THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED. PERHAPS A SPECIAL SOMEONE WILL RETURN THE FAVOR.

BE BRAVE AND TRY OUT FOR THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT. MAYBE YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO GET IN, BUT NEED A SMALL PEP TALK TO BRING OUT THAT TALENT. REMEMBER: YOU'VE GOT THIS!

AUGUST 23-
SEPTEMBER 22
virgo}

SEPTEMBER 23-
OCTOBER 22
{libra

DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AT STATES. TRY NEW THINGS—YOU WON'T REGRET IT. NOW IS THE TIME TO RECA(LIBRA)TE YOUR DESTINATION. ARE YOU READY?

YOU DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO THIS WEEKEND. WITH SO MANY OPTIONS, YOU FEEL OVERWHELMED. TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND SOON YOU'LL FIND THE PERFECT CATCH.

OCTOBER 23-
NOVEMBER 21

scorpio}

NOVEMBER 22-
DECEMBER 21
{sagittarius

YOU AIM FOR THE TOP WITH YOUR BOW AND ARROW, YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE. JUST REMEMBER TO TAKE A BREAK ONCE IN A WHILE. YOU MUST BALANCE BETWEEN BUSINESS AND LEISURE.

TIME TO BRING OUT THE BEST OF YOUR CORNY JOKES HERE AT STATES. YOU ARE BOUND TO MAKE SOME LIFE-LONG FRIENDS BY BEING REALLY PUNNY. WHO CARES IF YOU END UP LOOKING CAPRICIOUS?

DECEMBER 22-
JANUARY 19

capricorn}

JANUARY 20-
FEBRUARY 18
{aquarius

YOU ARE BEING RATHER AMBITIOUS THIS YEAR, PARTICIPATING IN MANY COMPETITIONS. REMEMBER TO KEEP YOURSELF HYDRATED SO YOU CAN GIVE IT YOUR BEST EFFORT!

MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS AT CONVENTION. THERE ARE MANY FISH IN THE SEA, AND ONE OF THEM HAS TO BE A GREAT CATCH FOR YOU. SWIM ALONG NOW!

FEBRUARY 19-
MARCH 20

pisces}





BY WILL BURNETT, BLS '17

This year, BLSJCL created a new contest for the club, dubbed "Talent in Togas" by the BLSJCL Publicity Crew. The contest highlights the artwork of the many talented JCLers throughout our delegation. Themes such as "Dreaming in December" and "February Fires" were the inspiration for 18 submissions over the year. Featured on the BLSJCL instagram, the contest was judged by "likes." One of the winning submissions, "Demeter," can be seen above. ■

DEMETER

ARTS AREA



MASSJCL MOMENTS



GRATIAS MAXIMAS

FROM THE MASSJCL

adams specialty printing
FOR YOUR GENEROUS WORK ON THIS ISSUE

+

merimax web
FOR DONATING STATE AND LOCAL WEBSITES

