



Forum Factorum

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The Nationals Experience:

A MassJCL delegate recounts her personal experience at the 53rd National Convention

By Grace Thomas
Turkey Hill Middle School

This summer started out like all the others; monotonous and typical. Except this summer, one luminous star gleamed along the bleak horizon. That star was the NJCL Convention.

Latin was a stranger to me; I was only a Latin 1/2. Also, I was the youngest delegate going to Nationals from Massachusetts. As you can imagine, I was scared stiff. My original purpose for going to Nationals was simply to compete in Certamen. When I got there, though, I found so much more than that. My certamen team, the novices, and I had trained hard each and every day for every single match, but we always remembered to have fun. Kudos to the Upper and Lower teams for guiding me along the way.

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MassJCLers prepare for the first spirit competition at the 2006 NJCL convention at Indiana University.

My experience as a first-time delegate was life changing and so completely different than what I had anticipated that it took me a full week to recover. I had so much fun and I learned so many things that I feel as if I'm becoming a whole new person. All the work and dedication put into preparing for this trip turned out to be worth it; all the art projects, certamen homework, and plain old studying truly did pay off. I sacrificed two months of my summer to my studies! Although even I can't believe I did such a thing, I would not

without hard work, and I wouldn't trade this experience for the world. This week long adventure has shaped me into who I am this very moment, and it's given me memories, both good and bad, but all extremely valuable.

That week was like many new experiences. In the beginning, you're nervous and you don't know anybody; however, that changes as you meet many new wonderful people and bond with them. You know that some of these friendships will last a lifetime and some of them might slip away. But the memory of the experience will live for eternity.

Moving On: Life As A Slasher

JCL

Forum Factorum

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The *Forum Factorum* is a state-sponsored, quarterly newsletter produced entirely by students of the Massachusetts Junior Classical League. Its mission is to inform members of important happenings, showcase and highlight achievement, and to create a forum for discussion of statewide issues.

This Issue's Staff:
Grace Thomas THM
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By Jennifer Pfeiffer
Boston Latin Academy



Jennifer as Queen of the Day

Believe it or not, going to the NJCL convention at Indiana University was my first national convention...and sadly, my last as a JCLer. But I assure you this was not my final convention. During my time there, I became an active member of the National Senior Classical League.

On the first day of Convention, I took part in all the JCL activities, but also looked forward an SCL General Assembly. I was happy to find that the SCL assemblies held the same energy as the JCL assemblies, and that the SCL had just as many quirky traditions. This year, the SCL began the tradition of "Queen for a Day"; Every day an SCLer of Queen, and later that person would pass on the crown. It was all so much fun; I left that night feeling truly excited about being a part of the NSCL. I made a decision that I didn't

want to be just anybody in the SCL- I really wanted get involved. I decided to get out of bed early on Wednesday and help with the track and field events. When I arrived at the field, the SCL was happy to see that they had a Slasher to help out. I was thrilled to offer my help, and the next day I even volunteered my time to help run Ludi soccer.

The big surprise came later that day at the NSCL general assembly. The time had come for the Queen for the Day to pass on the crown. The current Queen announced that he wanted to give it to a "hard-working SCL Slasher"...Me! I felt so honored as I was crowned in front of everybody.

Unfortunately, our time in Indiana was to end that Friday, and I was to pass on my crown. I decided to pass it on to the new NSCL president, James Black, because he worked so hard at so many events. The final luncheon ended too soon, however, and we all departed knowing that we would never forget our experiences.

Now to all you graduating seniors: I encourage you to be as involved as possible next year! I know you will give up a little sleep to help, but believe me; it's worth it in the end. Remember when I said that I didn't want to be just anybody in the NSCL? I'm not. I'm somebody in the NSCL. Take my advice; you'll be happy you did.

The 2006 NJCL Convention

Awards



MassJCLers pose at the Toga Parade.

Academics

- James Carroll, LUN**
2nd Roman History III
- Eva Cheung, BLS**
4th Reading Comprehension: Prose IV
- Tim Devlin, BLA**
3rd Roman history, ½
- Dylan Drolette, THM**
3rd Ancient Geography I
4th Greek Life and Literature I
5th Roman History I
- Freeman Fisher, BLS**
5th Latin Literature I
- Veronica Koven-Matasy, BLS**
1st Latin Grammar- Advanced V+
1st Reading Comprehension-Prose V+
2nd Academic Heptathlon V+
2nd Greek Derivatives V+
2nd Latin Derivatives V+
2nd Mottoes V+
2nd Reading Comprehension-Poetry V+
4th Hellenic History V+
4th Latin Vocabulary V+
5th Latin Literature V+
5th Mythology V+
- Grace Laidlaw, MTG**
2nd Reading Comprehension: Prose IV
- Christopher Londa, LUN**
1st Latin Derivatives II
2nd Latin Literature II
2nd Mythology II
3rd Academic Heptathlon II
3rd Roman History II
5th Reading Comprehension II
- Jacob Meister, BLS**
1st Academic Heptathlon II
1st Latin Vocabulary II
1st Roman Life II
2nd Classical Art II
2nd Greek Derivatives II
2nd Hellenic History II
2nd Latin Derivatives II
3rd Ancient Geography II
3rd Greek Life and Literature II
3rd Latin Literature II

- 3rd Reading Comprehension II
4th Latin Grammar- Level II
4th Roman History II
5th Mottoes II
5th Mythology II
- Lidiya Petrova, BLS**
5th Latin Derivatives III
- Daniel Phelps, MTG**
5th Hellenic History 1/2
- Rachel Singh, BLA**
3rd Heptathlon, V+
4th Latin derivatives, V+
2nd Mythology, V+
5th Reading Comprehension, Poetry V+
5th Roman History, V+
- Rachel Taylor, MIL**
1st Mythology, V+
4th Greek Life and Literature V+
- Tharu, BLS**
3rd Reading Comprehension: Poetry 3
- Grace Thomas, THM**
1st Latin Vocabulary 1/2
2nd Classical Art 1/2
3rd Ancient Geography 1/2
3rd Latin Grammar 1/2 and 1
3rd Roman History 1/2
4th Academic Heptathlon 1/2
4th Latin Derivatives 1/2
4th Latin Literature 1/2
4th Mottoes 1/2
4th Mythology 1/2
4th Roman Life 1/2
5th Hellenic History 1/2
- Xingbo Wang, THM**
2nd Reading Comprehension II



Grace, Jacob, and Veronica; Overall Academic winners

Creative

- James Carroll, LUN**
3rd Essay- Gr. 10 Boys
- Veronica Koven-Matasy, BLS**
1st Essay- Gr. 12 Girls
1st Sight Latin Poetry Girls
- Grace Laidlaw, MTG**
3rd Essay- Gr. 11 Girls
3rd Sight Latin Prose Girls
- Christopher Londa, LUN**
1st English Oratory- Lower
5th Essay- Gr. 9 Boys
8th Modern Myth- Lower

Connie Ma, BLS

4th Essay- 12th Grade Girls

Jacob Meister, BLS

1st Sight Latin- Boys Level II

1st Slogan

2nd Essay- 9th Grade Boys

3rd Modern Myth- Lower

Lidiya Petrova, BLS

5th Dramatic Interpretation- Poetry

5th Sight Latin Poetry Girls

Daniel Phelps, MTG

1st Dramatic Interpretation- ½

Olivia Schwob, BLS

1st Essay- Gr. 7 and 8 Girls

Tharu, BLS

1st Essay- Gr. 11 Girls

3rd Sight Latin Poetry Girls

Grace Thomas, THM

4th Modern Myth- Lower



Tharu, Jacob, and
Veronica; Overall
Creative winners

Graphics

Kerri Bisaga, BLA

2nd black ink, gr. 11-12

4th illustrated quotes, gr. 11-12

James Carroll, LUN

3rd Multimedia-Gr.10

4th Maps- Gr. 10

5th Small Models- Gr.10

Maria Centeio, BLA1st Local Paper Scrapbook-large**Joseph Donahue, MIL**

1st Mosaics-Gr. 9

Dylan Drolette, THM

3rd Maps- Gr. 7-8

3rd Multimedia- Gr. 7-8

Karyn Greene, BLA

2nd Dolls - gr. 10

Erik Guilfoyle, CMH

2nd Miscellaneous- Gr. 10

Christopher Londa, LUN

2nd Colored Ink- Gr.9

2nd Pottery- Gr.9

3rd Multimedia-Gr.9

3rd Other Textiles- Gr. 9

4th Chalk/Pastel, Gr.9

4th Watercolor- Gr.9

5th Decorative Stitching- Gr.9

Jacob Meister, BLS

2nd Chalk/Pastel, Gr.9

2nd Posters: Constructed, Gr.9

3rd Mixed Media, Gr.9

3rd Watercolor, Gr.9

4th Colored Pencil, Gr. 9

5th Black Ink, Gr. 9

5th Greeting Cards, Gr. 9

Christina Owens, BLA

2nd Watercolor - gr. 7-8

Lidiya Petrova, BLS

5th Cartoons- Gr.11-12

Thuy Quan, BLA

3rd colored pencil, gr. 11-12

Nick Robinette, BLA

1st posters, constructed, gr. 7-8

Olivia Schwob, BLS

1st Mixed Media, Gr.7-8

1st Watercolor, Gr.7-8

2nd Black Ink, Gr. 7-8

2nd Black Pencil, Gr. 7-8

2nd Computer Enhanced Photo, Gr.8

3rd Sculpture, Gr. 7-8

4th Acrylic/Oil, Gr. 7-8

Madeline Shattow, BLA

4th Traditional Photography, Gr. 10

Grace Thomas, THM

1st Colored Ink- Gr.7-8

1st Greeting Cards, Gr. 7-8

1st Posters: Drawn, Gr. 7-8

2nd Charcoal, Gr. 7-8

2nd Decorative Stitching- Gr.7-8

3rd Black Pencil, Gr. 7-8

3rd Colored Pencil, Gr. 7-8

3rd Mosaics-Gr. 7-8

3rd Multimedia, Gr. 7-8

3rd Watercolor, Gr. 7-8

4th Chalk/Pastel, Gr.7-8

4th Maps, Gr. 7-8

4th Other Textiles- Gr. 7-8

4th Sculpture, Gr. 7-8

5th Acrylic/Oil, Gr. 7-8

5th Pottery- Gr.7-8

2nd Traditional Photography, Gr. 7/8

Sierra Tilton, BLS

5th Sculpture, Gr. 11-12

Mara Trochez, BLA

1st dolls - gr. 7-8

Mt. Greylock Regional High School3rd Local Paper Scrapbook- medium**Scrapbook- Massachusetts**2nd Paper Scrapbook- State



Grace, Chris,
and Olivia;
Overall Graphic
Arts winners.

Olympika

Maria Centeio, *BLA*

- 5th 100 meter, Sr. Girls Track
- 5th 200 meter, Sr. Girls Track
- 4th Discus, Sr. girls
- 3rd Long Jump, Sr. girls

Tim Devlin, *BLA*

- 5th 200 meter, Jr. Boys Track

Keifer Gonzales, *CMH*

- 5th High Jump Sr. Boys

Jared Hicks, *BLA*

- 3rd 200 meter, Jr. Boys Track
- 2nd 400 meter, Jr. Boys Track
- 3rd Marathon, Jr. Boys

Christopher Londa, *LUN*

- 3rd 100 Meter Jr. Boys Track
- 3rd Shot Put Jr. Boys
- 4th 50-yd Backstroke Jr. Boys

Christina Owens, *BLA*

- 1st 100 meter, Jr. Girls Track
- 1st 200 meter, Jr. Boys Track

Nick Robinette, *BLA*

- 4th 50-yard freestyle, Jr. Boys

Anicka Samuel, *BLA*

- 3rd 100 meter, Jr. Girls Track
- 1st 400 meter, Jr. Girls Track
- 3rd Discus, Jr. Girls

Jean-Luc Teixeira, *BLA*

- 3rd Long jump, Jr. Boys

Xingbo Wang, *THM*

- 2nd Discus Jr. Boys
- 4th 100-Yard Backstroke Jr. Boys
- 5th Shot Put Jr. Boys

Certamen

2nd **Novice** (*Dylan Drolette, Grace Thomas, Olivia Schwob, Freeman Fisher, Henock Woldemicael*)

3rd **Lower** (*Xingbo, Christopher Londa, Jared Hicks, Jacob Meister*)



The Winning Certamen Teams and their
coach, Mr. Cox



Overall Achievement

Academics

- 3rd Jacob Meister, *BLS*
- 7th Veronica Koven-Matasy, *BLS*
- 9th Grace Thomas, *THM*

Creative

- 1st Jacob Meister, *BLS*
- 7th Veronica Koven-Matasy, *BLS*
- 9th Tharu, *BLS*

Graphic Arts

- 2nd Grace Thomas, *THM*
- 6th Olivia Schwob, *BLS*
- 10th Christopher Londa, *LUN*

Overall Sweepstakes

- 1st Jacob Meister, *BLS*
- 2nd Grace Thomas, *THM*
- 8th Christopher Londa, *LUN*

Lillie B. Hamilton Award

- 1st Jacob Meister, *BLS*
- 2nd Grace Thomas, *THM*



MassJCLers Pose by the Venus Fountain on the
IU Campus.

Doubts No More

A MassJCLer writes about her journey to the National Convention.



Liza and her friends grin as the MassJCL prepares for another Spirit Competition.

By Liza Ruano
Boston Latin Academy

I realized that traveling to Bloomington is no quick or easy feat as I finally arrived on the campus of the University of Indiana. All of the excitement had been building inside of me, but suddenly doubt was rising as well. Would everyone like me? Would I get lost on the campus? I soon found that my worries were all for nothing, because everyone was so accepting and kind.

Running into any of the General assemblies, I was always amazed. Seeing all of the outfits and hearing all the cheers made excitement rise in me every single time. Everyone seemed to be dedicated to spirit, but at the third General Assembly I was impressed by the speeches made by the candidates for national offices. Many of the speeches heard were filled with jokes, memories, and examples of the candidate's dedication. All of the speeches, though, had one thing in common: hope. All the candidates hoped not only to be elected, but to have their delegation and their friends

“The spirit contests, the dances, and everything was just so full of energy and life.”

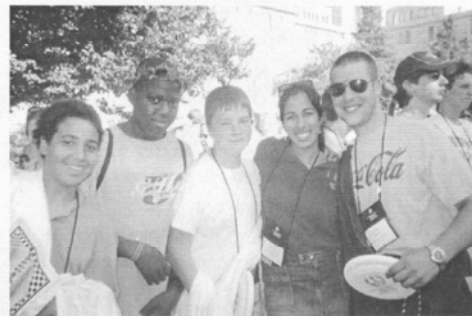
there to support them at the end of the day, no matter what the outcome.

During my stay at the convention, I also attended a few Certamen matches and Colloquium. Certamen has always reminded me of the gladiatorial games of the Colosseum. With speed and diligence the players battle it out with their mighty buzzers. Sparks fly as the first question is read and the scores rise. Although the game was tough, the general attitude was very enjoyable. The same could be said of the colloquia on Roman cooking my friends and I attended, where I learned to cover up the taste of rotten food with spices.

All in all, the convention was awesome. I got in trouble for being too loud at two in the morning, and I had a great time making new friends from across the country. The spirit contests, the dances, and everything was just so full of energy and life. I am already looking forward to next year's National convention.



MassJCLers stop for a picture as they get ready to cheer.



MassJCLers who pooled their money to buy Rachel at the National Officer Auction pose with their purchase.

Nationals: Absolutely Worth It

A delegate weighs his experiences at the national convention

By Mark McNally
Catholic Memorial High School

My first time attending the National Junior Classical League Convention was one filled with confusion, excitement, extreme enthusiasm, irritation and almost every other emotion one can imagine. As we arrived, I was very tired, having taken two flights to get to Indianapolis, and climbing several flights of stairs to my dorm room at Indiana University. With some initial confusion about our rooms, it was time for dinner, where we got our first glimpses of JCL delegates from around the country.

The next morning began with registration, and the first of the General Assemblies. Looking back on all of the General Assemblies I attended at Nationals, all I can say is my ears have never hurt so much in my life as they did after those assemblies. People were screaming cheers all around us, and at first I had no idea why they were shouting or what any of them were saying. Very soon, though, I caught on.

I took part in a variety of activities at the convention. I went to the Nomination



Toga-wearing CM delegates pose for a picture.

Committee meeting, where I listened as all the candidates for national office made their case on why they should be elected. I was surprised at how formal it was, but I learned a lot about our national officers-to-be. The next big thing was "That's Entertainment". My favorite act was the one that poked fun of the national officers.

Saturday was the last day we were there, and as we arrived home I asked myself whether or not it was all worth it. After all the late nights, all the GA's and ear-splitting spirit contests, meeting so many different people from all around the country, and sprinting from fellowship to the dorm for pizza before curfew, I wondered, "was it really worth it?" The answer: absolutely. I had a great time, and would definitely go back next year.



The MassJCL may not have any *real* cheerleaders in the delegation... But we've sure got spirit!

Thank You!

Recently, the MassJCL has had several generous benefactors donate to our club. This month, we would like to thank **Schell Printing** in Jamaica Plain for their donation, and **Merrimax Web Mechanics** and Charles Hannigan for ongoing work with the MassJCL.

A Message from your MassJCL 06-07 Executive Board:

Interested in helping run JCL? Think you might even have what it takes to become a member of the MassJCL Executive Board? Make your voice heard, and attend an Executive Board Meeting!

Dates: Saturday, September 23
Sunday, October 22
Saturday, December 9
Saturday, January 27
Saturday, March 3
Sunday, April 22

Executive Board Meetings are held at various locations throughout the state. For more information, please contact a board member (contact information can be found on MassJCL.org). Please RSVP before attending a meeting.

We hope to see you there!



The Lillie B. Hamilton Winners pose with Lillie, herself.



MassJCL poses at the Toga Parade.

Charles Hannigan: Behind the Scenes on MassJCL.org

A Q&A interview with the owner of Merrimax Web Mechanics

A few years ago, Charles Hannigan of Merrimax Web Mechanics donated the space for the award-winning MassJCL website. Now Mr. Hannigan is reaching out to local chapters in an attempt to help them build websites of their very own.

By Kerri Bisaga

Boston Latin Academy

Q: How (and when) did you become involved with the MassJCL?

A: I started my web hosting business in November, 2002, and to build a client list I looked for "free hosting" opportunities for local civic groups. My daughter was a junior at Tewksbury Memorial High School that school year and a member of the Junior Classical League, so I naturally looked to see if they had a web site. I found a Massachusetts Junior Classical League site hosted by a big corporation with banner ads and user tracking. I was somewhat annoyed, because the hosting was portrayed as "free", but the real cost was to privacy. I thought it would be a nice organization to help support, so I bought the domain name MassJCL.org and copied the site to one of my servers. I offered the site to the webmaster, Amanda Luong, and she accepted the offer. massjcl.org went live at the beginning of June, 2003 and it has been the official site of the Massachusetts Junior Classical League since then.

Q: I have been told that you are trying to help the local MassJCL chapters to establish websites of their own- can you explain how this process works?

A: I also bought the domain name majcl.org to allow me to offer chapter sites like blacc.majcl.org. Any school chapter

that wants a site should go to <http://majcl.org> and fill out the form with enough information so I can set up the account. The form generates an email to me; it doesn't go anywhere else. I reply to the email, usually with a few questions both to assure me that it's a legitimate request and to offer any needed assistance. I won't set up an account unless I have a contact person responsive to email so that if something is wrong I can help.

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring webmasters in the MassJCL?

A: Advice to aspiring webmasters? Just do it. You don't have to be a geek put up a page. Too many people get all wrapped up in presentation, but content is equally if not more important. You can put up a perfectly good web site with nothing more than a text editor and an FTP client. The Web is just a publication medium. A good web site is an organic, evolving thing. Once you have a bunch of stuff on a site, you can rearrange it and embellish it. You don't have to be technically savvy to create content for a web site, and if all you have are writers, it's perfectly fine to put up a plain text site.

Q: Is it true that you may be attending our annual Classics Day?

A: I will certainly attend the annual Classics Day; I only hope I can put together a presentation that won't bore people.