



TORCH: MD

tu ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito. Vergil, Aeneid VI.95

Yield not to misfortunes, but advance all the more boldly against them.

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2015 National Convention

The convention will be held in San Antonio, TX, at Trinity University from July 27-August 1, 2015. We encourage you to start thinking about attending!

Get published!

Has your JCL chapter done anything noteworthy? Want to share your opinions on the latest state event? Want to heap lauds and honors upon the Executive Board? Contact the Editor of the Torch: MD with your idea or article.

Casey Ohringer
 editor.mdjcl@gmail.com

Novus Annus Triumph

MDJCL welcomes you to another year of delicia and scientia! In order to make that happen, you have a state board of student officers working tirelessly to make 2014-15 a year to remember. We hope you will attend the various certamina throughout the year -- including one at a new school in March (don't worry, no one will get stabbed). Mark you calendars now for another 2-day convention on April 25th-26th with even more madness! Get ready to carpe more than just one diem...

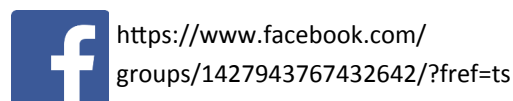
Ms. Kunz, MDJCL State Chair

Welcome to ERHS!

Welcome to the Raider Nation, or, as the Romans might have called it, *Patria Piratae!* We're proud to be hosting 27 teams from 13 different schools, one of the biggest events in MDJCL history. We've got a day full of fun activities planned out for you, and can't wait to kick off another great year for MDJCL.

Casey Ohringer

MDJCL Editor and ERJCL President



State Convention

Last year's convention didn't only have the usual Certamen, ultimate discus, chariot race, art contest, dramatic interpretation, and toga party, but it also had many new events like the gladiator tournament, mural making, new "ludi," and more. In fact, there were so many events that the convention took two days instead of just one! This was one of the best features of the convention; people didn't have to rush through major events like the Certamen or the chariot race, and there were two days' worth of things to do. In contrast, there were probably too many things going on at the same time for everyone to participate in everything. Overall, last year's convention was very fun exciting.

William, Easton HS

National Convention

The 61st annual NJCL Convention was held at Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia. There aren't even words to describe how much fun we had there. From General Assemblies to a Harry Potter themed colloquium to obscenely late nights, the activity never stopped— and all of us from Maryland were glad to be along for the ride.

Even though Maryland is a small state at convention (we had 6 delegates), we definitely got around. We were recognized for multiple awards, such as Liganore receiving 10th place in the publicity contest and Shira Gorin being recognized for her MDJCL website. Elliott and I also won a prize for best musical roll call skit! We were also featured in the Convention Ear— the newsletter that the NSCL publishes daily. We met tons of people from other states, from Maine to Nevada.

I also have to recognize Annee Lyons at this point. She was the 1st Vice President on the National Board last year, and was an instrumental part in planning the convention. The board did a great job last year, and she represented our state well.

The theme for last year was from Cicero's *de finibus bonorum et malorum*, "omnium enim rerum principia parva sunt". "For the beginnings of all things are small"— and that includes the MDJCL delegation to National Convention. I encourage you all to join in on the fun next year, in San Antonio, Texas.

Casey Ohringer

Eleanor Roosevelt HS

Meet the Officers!

Kevin Ho (President)

Montgomery Blair High School
 AP Latin
 president.mdjcl@gmail.com
 Favorite Classical Author: Vergil. He was the author whose work truly immersed me in a pool of innumerable rhetorical devices and taught me how to appreciate not only the beauty of Latin as an inflected language, but also the English language itself, because I started to see certain subtleties and nifty nuances.
 Song last stuck in my head: "Carried Away" by Passion Pit

Why I take Latin: I signed up for Latin because Blair didn't offer the language I had been taking in Middle School and because the Percy Jackson series made me hungry to learn more mythology. I still take Latin now because it taught me to think and approach problems differently than my STEM-oriented peers do. Latin helped me find my niche.

Casey Ohringer (Editor)

Eleanor Roosevelt HS
 Latin Level: Post-AP
 Email: editor.mdjcl@gmail.com
 Favorite Classical Author: Cicero. His mastery of the Latin language, especially in his invective, is unbelievable. I will admit that his poetry kind of sucks, though.
 Song last stuck in my head: Blodtørst by Kvelertak

Why I took Latin: I was first introduced to the Classics at Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth, where I took a course on the ancient world. I was hooked from the start on the culture and mythology, and it's only been up from there.

Ellie Kilmon (Vice President)

Easton High School
 AP Latin
 Email: eleanorkilmon@gmail.com
 Favorite Classical Author: Ovid. Tears happened, you know how hard it is to make a teenage girl cry? But seriously, the pathos is real.
 Song last stuck in my head: Does the beginning of the Aeneid count? (Arma virumque Cano....) Shake it off by my girl Tswizzle
 Why I take Latin has become one of the closest things to my heart during my high school career. No feeling touches the challenge, connection, and inspiration that Latin ignites not only my mind but also my soul. How many people can say that they can read the same texts that people read thousands of years before them. And also food if we are being honest Festival Friday anyone?

Emma Langfitt (Parliamentarian)

Easton High School
 Latin 3
 eglangfitt@gmail.com/
 Favorite Classical Author: Homer. The Odyssey was the first piece I read, and I loved it

Song last stuck in my head: Are You Gonna Be My Girl by Jet

Why I take Latin: I take Latin because it's so much more than a language. It is a different way of thinking, an entire history and culture that never ceases to fascinate me.

Dee Buchholz (Webmaster)

Rockbridge Academy
 Latin Level: Done with Latin at her school! Email: webmaster.mdjcl@gmail.com
 Favorite Classical Author: Homer. The Iliad was the work that got me into my love of mythology and it skyrocketed from there.
 Song last stuck in my head: Steal My Girl by One Direction
 Why I Took Latin: Besides the fact that I had to, I fell in love with the origin and roots of it and it helped me think differently.

Madison Haun (Historian)

Easton HS
 Latin Level: Latin III
 Email: madison_lh99@hotmail.com
 Favorite Classical Author: Homer. He was an amazing writer, and he left a giant impact, felt so many years later. That's amazing to me.
 Song last stuck in my head:

Centuries by Fall Out Boy

Why I took Latin: At first, I thought it would help with my future. I want to go into medicine and thought Latin would teach me about origins of medical terminology. But it has become so much more. The history and culture is so intriguing to me. I love learning about how much Rome has shaped our culture and influenced our daily lives.

A Senior's Farewell

Three years. Four teammates. Over a dozen competitions. Untold hours of practice. By the time of the 2014 MDJCL state convention, I was anything but unprepared for the certamen. For the convention itself? I wish that had been the case. The MDJCL had become a bigger part of my life than I'd ever expected, and knowing that that was the last time I'd ever compete in any JCL event was... strange. The two-day convention had been months in the making, and for so long, it had felt like a pipe dream –seeing anything you've put that much time and effort into come to life is amazing, and made every minute of it worth it. Even if it were to have gone badly, well, I *like* state convention. I enjoy the normal certamina, but state... the adrenaline, the extra activities, the knowledge that *this* is how the year's going to wrap up, *this* is how the team will be remembered, *this* will set the tone for the team the following year and be what the new Latin students have to look at until the first certamen of the year –well, it adds a fair bit of pressure. With the knowledge that this was going to be the last certamen I would compete in in high school, and, quite probably, ever, well, wrapping up the high school record was a terrifying enough prospect, but the idea of saying farewell to something that had become so important to me added a touch of sadness.

The drive to Easton was nervewracking, to say the least. For all the competitions I'd been to, I'd never travelled without my team before –that time, though, we were heading up separately, which not only meant no practice on the way up –a tradition we had practiced for every match for three years –but no distractions from the pre-competition buildup of nerves and adrenaline. By the time we got to Easton, I was so keyed up I could not actually hold still –thankfully, our first stop was at the school for registration, and not the hotel for check-in, or I would have gone crazy. Er, crazier.

I apologize that I have not said much of my memories of the convention itself. They are highly emotional, and despite numerous attempts to put them into words, anything I can come up with ends up either failing to properly capture my meaning or sounding wholly incoherent. Given, however, that many of you who are reading this are likely to be in my shoes at some point in the coming years, I would like to at least try to clarify what it is that makes the writing so hard for me.

I didn't love certamina because of the winning –the chance to show off –although that was, admittedly, pretty darn great. It wasn't about the knowledge, the trivia, the weird details that otherwise I might never have learned, although I enjoyed learning them and will never regret having done so. It wasn't about the activities, fun as they were. It was about the camaraderie. I had three years competing with and against some *damn* awesome people. Three years in a welcoming, friendly organization that helped me grow as a person. Three years meeting and befriending people I probably never would have interacted with, or even *met* otherwise. It was an opportunity to use one of things I most love studying, a chance to talk with people who understand why I study Latin, why I read mythology, without feeling the need to justify it, because *they were doing the same thing*. A place that feels so much like home is rare, and as sad as it always is to leave, I am so much the richer for the experience that it is far easier to be thankful for the experience I had than to be sad that it is ended.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors -may your experiences be as positive as mine have been. *Ave atque vale*.

Shira Gorin

Auburn University

2013-2014 MDJCL Webmaster