



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.

2015 National Convention

The convention will be held in San Antonio, TX, at Trinity University from July 27-August 1, 2015. Packets have been released and are almost sold out! There are 200 left. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

See page 6 for a message from Ruiqi He, the NJCL President.

Certamen MVPs!

In order to recognize the best Certamen players in the state of Maryland, we will be voting on Certamen MVPs at each level. During preliminary rounds, ballots will be passed out. Note your level and the person who you are voting for as MVP.

Get published!

Have you done anything fun with JCL? Do you feel that the 2015 board is the best in history? Did you make some art, a comic, or write a short story? Contact the Editor of the Torch: MD with your idea or article. All schools are highly encouraged to submit.

Casey Ohringer/TO BE DETERMINED

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Welcome to Easton!

Welcome to the 2015 State Convention! We are so honored that you have come all the way to Easton again and we hope you have an amazing time. This year's national motto urges you to advance more boldly against troubles--hopefully this weekend you will strive in a variety of competitions: mental, physical, and mythological. We have Certamen in the morning, ludi, colloquia, dancing, a game room, and all sorts of contests. Send Mercury with a message if there's any way you could be having more fun.-- Mrs. Kunz

Thanks for Hosting!

Congratulations to Tuscarora on hosting their first Certamen! We had some issues with pitting at the beginning, but everything worked out for the best. You all did a great job, and we thank you and hope you will consider hosting the MDJCL again next year.



Candidates

Candidates were asked to send a paragraph detailing either one idea they had for their term as an officer or an experience with their JCL that qualified them for leadership. Here they are— between these, their speeches, and the Candidate’s Open Forum, you will have a chance to meet the candidates and judge the best of them.

President

Ellie Kilmon

I am Ellie Kilmon and I am running for MDJCL President. As MDJCL grows as an organization, we should always look for the next step. We might not be able to reach now but want to be on a higher step someday. Making these steps and planning the way up that staircase is as exhilarating as the climb. One of the next steps I hope to make the foundation for is a scholarship fund for national convention and state conventions. I know that this would require countless hours of fundraising but I believe it is an important gateway to expansion. It would allow more people to attend conventions, more people to get excited about the classics, and more outreach as a state organization. The opportunity that a scholarship fund would provide for old members as well as new members, would give much more scope and credibility to the state classical league as a whole. A scholarship fund would likely take years to grow to a scale that would be sufficient but I look forward to setting the foundation for the future ascent of the Maryland Junior Classical League.

Vice President

Ella Joshi

The State Convention is the MDJCL’s biggest project. This is the biggest competition in the state and MDJCL officers help to organize it as well as the Easton High School Latin Club, since we are the hosts. I have helped to plan and organize this major event as well as plan for the contests I will be entering, such as the costume contest. Despite the fact that I have had to miss some of our planning meetings, I was still determined to help out as much as I could, which shows my capacity to be a leader. I have also helped our Latin Club fundraise so that some members, including myself, could attend the 2015 National Convention and learn new possible ways to improve the MDJCL. My determination, love for Latin, and my willingness to step up are all necessary qualities in an MDJCL leader.

Parliamentarian

Edmund Obeng

The MDJCL is an organization which has repeatedly shown me high levels of organization, yet simultaneous intercommunication between its participant schools/chapters. With this being said, however, I believe it must be noted that outside of the state convention and various Certamen competitions held, there exist relatively few opportunities for members of separate chapters to meet and truly interact with each other while maintaining the theme of a celebration of classics. In my belief, this in the past has discouraged many members and chapters of the organization that do not wish to partake only in the conference and competitions, but rather seek less of a “rivalry-oriented” system in which they may express their love of Roman culture, arts, and language. While as parliamentarian my duties in itself will specifically be to uphold and review the constitution, as well as oversee the election of the following year and the amendment process (should such a need occur), I would hope to work with other members of the executive board to organize and support the assembly of chapters in other, separate “ludi” and “classical expression” events throughout the academic/calendar year. I imagine the MDJCL would benefit from more casual environments, similar in general style to those which are currently only observed at the spring convention (i.e. workshops, athletic meets, and simple socials).

Webmaster

Jonah Langlieb

As webmaster for Maryland’s Junior Classical League, I would strive to make the website’s information more accessible across many different platforms, especially mobile devices and email. As more and more people access information via their phones, I would like to use tools like Google’s web designer and my knowledge of HTML5, dynamic javascript, and CSS to bring an engaging website into everyone’s hands. Also, I could work with the editor of the TORCH to create customized email signups (and social media alerts) to facilitate its distribution. I’m excited for the opportunity to help spread my love of Latin through technology.

Historian

Katie Toth, Jacqueline Samek, and Elizabeth Capuano

Katie

One idea I have for making MDJCL a better organization in the future is to communicate and cooperate more with NJCL. As someone who loves Latin, I would truly enjoy associating with similar people from other states and countries, and I am sure many other Maryland students want the same. Hopefully, with better contact, we can have events other than just the National Convention to connect the national Latin community, such as holiday conventions (e.g. Saturnalia, Lupercalia, etc.).

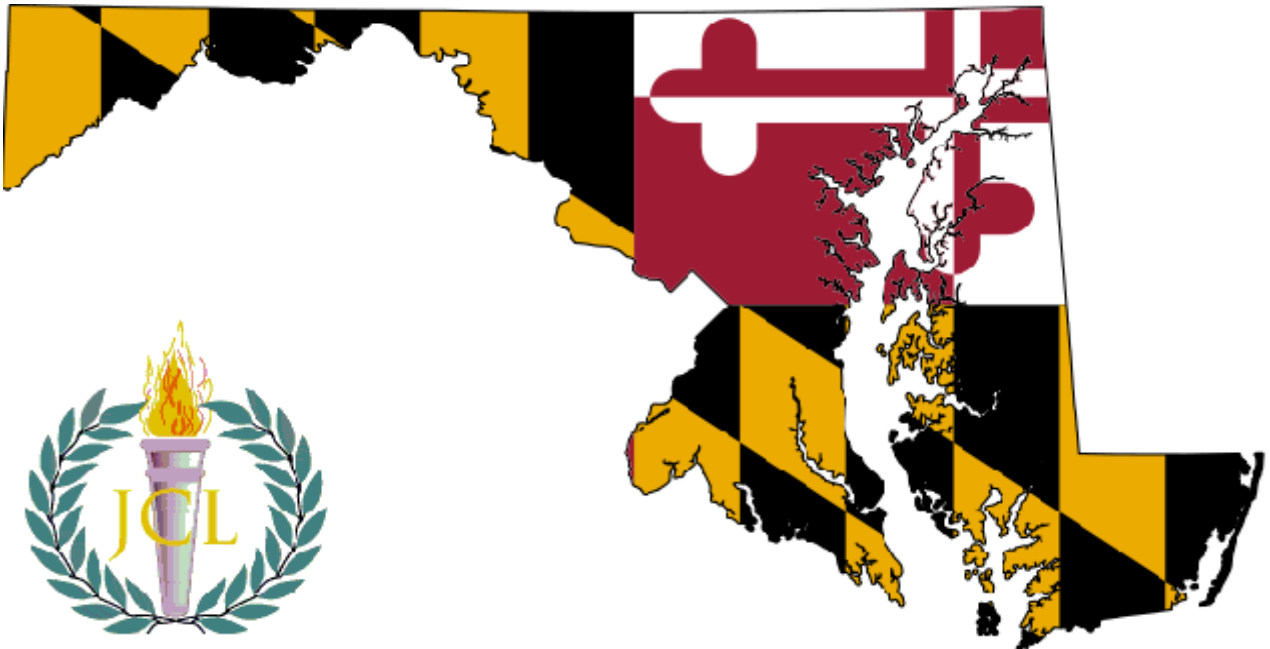
Elizabeth

If elected historian, I will make your MDJCL experience you will never forget. Literally, you will not be able to forget it because the memories will be preserved in a magnificent scrapbook available to all MDJCL chapters. I will create a book immortalizing all MDJCL Certamena events and of course MDJCL Convention for the 2015-2016 school year, and hopefully will be able to pass this tradition on to my successor. This will provide each chapter with a memento that will last for years, and hopefully, each chapter will accumulate a collection of these tokens. Vote Elizabeth Capuano for MDJCL historian.

Jacqueline

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Samek and I am currently in Latin II. I would like to be historian or any other position if it happens to be open. I have come face to face with many aspects of JCL that I relish this year. Last year, as a freshman I was not involved in any club. I wasn't in Latin club or Certamen. However, this year my teacher recommended that I join either of these clubs. So, I decided that it wouldn't hurt to join Latin club. I couldn't be more right, the experience has paid off tremendously. Currently I am an active member in both Latin club and Certamen. I have attended all Certamen matches but one. Furthermore, I would like to be a leader in MD state JCL for next year and a local leader as well. I am very much aware of the responsibilities that will be imposed upon me and I look forward to creating a better Latin experience for future members. I have gained tremendous knowledge about Latin, Latin history, being kind to other students, respect, and gratefulness amongst all else.

These are your candidates for office for the 2015-2016 academic year. They all have the potential to be good officers, but you, as the MDJCL, need to select the best. You also need to support them in the coming year. The MDJCL will only ever be as great as you make it. I, personally, am confident that you will not yield to misfortunes, but advance all the more bravely against them.



State JCL T Shirt!



Inspired by the ritualistic phrase from the religion of the Drowned God in Game of Thrones, and bearing the sigil of House Greyjoy (But with a Maryland twist!), this is our new state t shirt.

“What is dead will never die, but rises again harder and stronger than before. Latin lives!”

Unfortunately, we were not able to get enough preorders to print the shirts in time for convention. However, we are still taking preorders. We will definitely have the shirts printed before National Convention, and will make efforts to deliver them to you in a reasonable timeframe..

From the NJCL

Howdy, Maryland JCLers!

It is my pleasure to invite you all to attend this year's National Junior Classical League Convention at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. I am so excited to see a cheering, smiling crew of Maryland JCLers looking back at me at General Assemblies this summer. Maryland JCL is known to be home to some of the most enthusiastic, dedicated JCLers around (for example, take Annee Lyons and Elliott Rebello), so I encourage as many of you to grab your convention packet as possible, because I'd love to see you there.

I'm proud to call myself a San Antonian. Temperatures here don't soar as high as they do in Vegas and moisture levels don't rival Atlanta's—an impeccable balance. We bear sites rich in history, like the Alamo and various missions, but we're also home to the magical Riverwalk, lined with restaurants and attractions, and fantastic amusement parks like Six Flags and SeaWorld. Not only does the host city of the upcoming convention boast wonders; the host school does as well. Trinity University has one of the best classics programs in the South, and I know from numerous visits that its campus is beautiful, with modern architecture, green lawns, and state-of-the-art facilities. The perfect place to hold a gathering of JCLers.

National convention is something I've consistently looked forward to each year, and just one week spent with fellow classicists always yields memories and friendships to last a lifetime. That being said, I urge you to join us in good ol' Texas for the 2015 National Junior Classical League Convention. See y'all there!

E corde,

Ruiqi He

2014-2015 NJCL President



From the Editor's Desk

For those of you who might not know me, (which would be surprising, I've been bothering you all for articles all year) my name is Casey Ohringer, and I have been privileged to serve as the 2015 Maryland Junior Classical League State Editor. It's been a great year for me with the JCL– from going to my first NJCL convention in Atlanta to gearing up for San Antonio– and the MDJCL has been a huge part of it. From Certamination at the Advanced level to late night meetings with the Executive Board, I've had a ton of fun. At State Convention last year, I promised to serve and give back to the MDJCL. Thank you for giving me that opportunity. I hope to see you next year– I have joined the University of Maryland at College Park (Go Terps!), and might be able to hitch rides with the Eleanor Roosevelt chapter.

Gratias maximas!

Casey Ohringer

