

TAEDA

SALUTEM PLURIMAM DICIMUS | GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS!

Advice Column

Marcus: "I just went through a tough breakup. Any relationship advice?"

Cicero: "For friendship excels relationship in this: that while you can eliminate affection from relationship, you cannot from friendship."

(i.e., just stick to friends or you'll become like Catullus)

(Namque hoc praestat amicitia propinquitati, quod ex propinquitate benevolentia tolli potest, ex amicitia non potest)

Julia: "What's the time? I lost my iSundial at the forum..."

Seneca the Younger: "I cannot tell you the exact hour. It is easier to reach agreement among philosophers than among clocks."

(Horam non possum certam tibi dicere. Facilius inter philosophies quam inter horologia conveniet.)



About TAEDA

Salvete omnes!

The TAEDA, Latin for *torch*, is the Michigan JCI's newsletter for conference updates and officer-contributed articles on the classics. Our goal is to shed light on interesting topics in classics that are also relevant to our world today.

Our journal will regularly feature articles on different topics relating to the classics written by each of our members. We'll also include a bit of humor with each issue, whether it be an advice column from ancient authors or a section for puns.

Hope you enjoy the issue, and stay tuned for more! *Valete!*

- Maria Cheriyan, TAEDA Editor

Conference Reflections

In this issue, you'll read about the highlights of our conference on April 13, 2019.

Our Contributors

HANS LIU – MJCL president, rising senior at Detroit Country Day School.

MARIA CHERIYAN – TAEDA Editor, rising junior at Detroit Country Day School.

SOPHIA TESIC – MJCL Parliamentarian, rising junior at Mercy High School.

DALIA HOUSEY – MJCL Historian, rising junior at Mercy High School.

Hope you're enjoying the issue! Feel free to reach out at michiganMJCL@gmail.com.

catering. However, my friends and I discovered that we had a smorgasbord of food in the cafeteria with endless options. I wanted to sample everything, and enjoyed my lunch with many choices of food, as did my friends.

Arguably, the most entertaining aspect of the conference is the Olympika. Olympika is the best form of stress relief for me because everything is so entertaining and is well done. There were two events during the day: long jump and Myth Relay. I had a great time watching people performing the long jump so flawlessly; I also had a fun experience watching and doing the Myth Relay.

From Hans Liu, President

This year's MJCL conference was held in Grand Valley State University. It was truly a memorable experience. To me, it was a perfect way to start the day with the First General Assembly, especially with the unique keynote address. I was excited to learn that any creature in myth can be described as a dragon, as well as the etymology of the word dragon.

Tests and early mornings usually don't produce positive results for most students. However, I think having the Academic Tests at MJCL is an element of fun. People can always find some category or categories that fit their interests. The process of finding the right test to take itself was a fun experience. This year I also planned to do take all five tests, which was something I wanted for myself since my freshman year. Those tests definitely consumed much of energy because after I finished them, I was in desperate need of more fuel.

This year we got to go to the Grand Valley Student Commons to get our own lunch, which is a change since previously lunch was included in the registration and brought over to us by

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Colloquia has always been two parts: Certamen and lectures. I started out with the Certamen preliminaries where I also found some of my weaknesses. I learned a great amount of information and had fun time. Afterwards, I had all my time for a colloquium session. I choose to go to the lecture on Roman Meter because that was the topic most related to what I was learning this year. I learned some fresh perspectives on meter as well as scanned the beginning of the Aeneid.

I loved this day so much and this will be for sure stored in my memories. For the first time this year after having participated MJCL for three years, I took all the five tests and reaped rewards in all the tests: the certamen champion as well as three first place and two second place. This day was not just about the fact that I got to meet friends again and learn new information, but also a day that reassures classics is still very much alive ■

From Maria Cheriyan, TAEDA Editor

I was so excited to come to MJCL this year! This was my fifth conference — I've been attending MJCL since sixth grade and have always loved the events of the day.

For me, the two most exciting parts of the conference were the annual oratory competition and the colloquia session. As always, I love yelling at unsuspecting audiences in Latin (that's definitely what oratory is, right?) This year's piece was from Tacitus' *Agricola* — it was a speech calling the

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British tribes to unite and resist the colonialism of the Romans. After the oratory, during the first colloquia session, I got to meet Dr. Diane Raynor, a professor at GVSU and a renowned translator of Greek plays and poetry. I'm really interested in classical literature, so it was a great experience to talk to Dr. Raynor about what she found exciting yet difficult about translation.

We were even fortunate enough to have two Italian exchange students from DCDS attend the conference. They definitely enjoyed their time there, from competing in the Olympika to even winning an award for the test in Roman history.

After a heated round of Certamen, where Hans definitely blew the opposition (me) out of the water, we settled down for the awards ceremony and the election. I was so happy to be elected as

TAEDA editor! If you weren't at the conference, I mentioned that I loved learning about the classics, the lives and writings of ancient authors, and all the influences that they had on our own lives today. With that in mind, I'll work hard to make an accessible journal to promote the study of the classics and to impart some knowledge to anyone who reads it.

All in all, the conference this year was one of the best I've ever attended. Here's to another conference just as good next year ■

From Sophia Tesic, Parliamentarian

This year's MJCL conference at Grand Valley State University was another year in the tradition of great conferences, and, needless to say, was an amazing experience. The day began with the opening ceremony, including an interesting presentation by a GVSU professor on the connections between languages and cultures through mythology. The testing session which followed gave everyone a chance to walk through the college campus and compete with their knowledge in various categories of the Latin language and Roman culture. The activity-filled morning was then enhanced by the opportunity to eat in a campus dining hall. After everyone had re-energized for the afternoon, each school sent representatives to compete in the Olympika. Watching the relay races and cheering on competitors was enjoyable, and the time outside was refreshing. After the Colloquia sessions, the Certamen finale involved not only the competing teams, but the audience. The spectators cheered when the team in third place answered their first correct question. The day's conclusion provided the satisfying ending of the awards ceremony and officer inductions. I look forward to next year's conference being just as great as this one ■

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From Dalia Housey, Historian

This year, on April 13th, I attended my second MJCL conference at Grand Valley State University. I knew after last year's conference I had to come back! There is nothing like hanging out with a delightful group of Latin-lovers! Similar to last year, it was an absolutely awesome time and a great opportunity to learn more about the classics. However, this year was even more exciting than last year. We got to be on a college campus, and walk around. We even ate at a really nice, dining hall. It allowed me to picture what taking the classics would be like in college!

This year's keynote speaker Dr. David Crane, was wonderful. Dr. Crane, and his presentation were interactive and informative. It was a very interesting presentation, and we all got to learn about mythology and the creatures that are vital to the stories in mythology. Shortly after Dr. Crane's speech, we all headed off to do our academic testing. Though there is usually a unanimous groan when academic testing is announced, I sincerely enjoyed the testing! I also think it was a positive educational experience and opportunity for all of us, including middle schoolers to take academic tests, and win ribbons.

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After academic testing we got to blow off some steam during Olympika! It was so funny watching everyone fall and then try to sprint to the finish line, or run from Medusa backwards, making sure not to look at her! I especially admire everyone's sportsmanship and effort, especially since it was very cold out and I, for one, was not dressed properly to stand outside. You never know how quickly someone can run on their hands and feet until you see it, and let me tell you, it was a sight to see!

Subsequently, we went to our Colloquia sessions, which I found to be a blast. I saw 'Roman Riddles' and I knew I had to check that out first. We were given packets of riddles some in latin, some not, to try and solve. Let's just say I thought I was pretty good at riddles until I tried them... One specific riddle even caught just about everyone's eye, and after about 10 hints from the instructor, I am proud to say I finally got the right answer! The joy of solving that one riddle made that colloquia session absolutely worth it! The second colloquia session I attended was on Demeter and Persephone. That session, I have to say, is much different than anything I had ever done before! Essentially it was a modern therapy session with Zeus, Demeter, and their daughter, Persephone. In groups of 3 we all got to play one of the characters, and talk about (more like argue about), Zeus sending his daughter to be married to his brother Hades. I played Demeter and got to rip apart Zeus for sending my daughter away to be married. I told Zeus I was getting a divorce and keeping custody! Boy we'd be in court a lot! Let's just say it was a fun time, filled with laughs. I hope we can implement something similar next year!

After colloquia we all went to watch the Certamen finals which may have been my favorite part of the whole day! Watching our MJCL president, Hans Liu, absolutely dominate in Certamen was so inspiring. I was sitting on the edge of my seat the entire time!

Near the end of the conference we gathered for various awards; such as academic awards, art awards, costume contest awards and more, it was very exciting!

Last but not least, the swearing in of the new officers including me, Dalia Housey! I am very grateful for your votes, and look forward to making next year's JCL conference the best one yet ■

THANK YOU FOR READING | GRATIAS AGIMUS TIBI ET VALE!