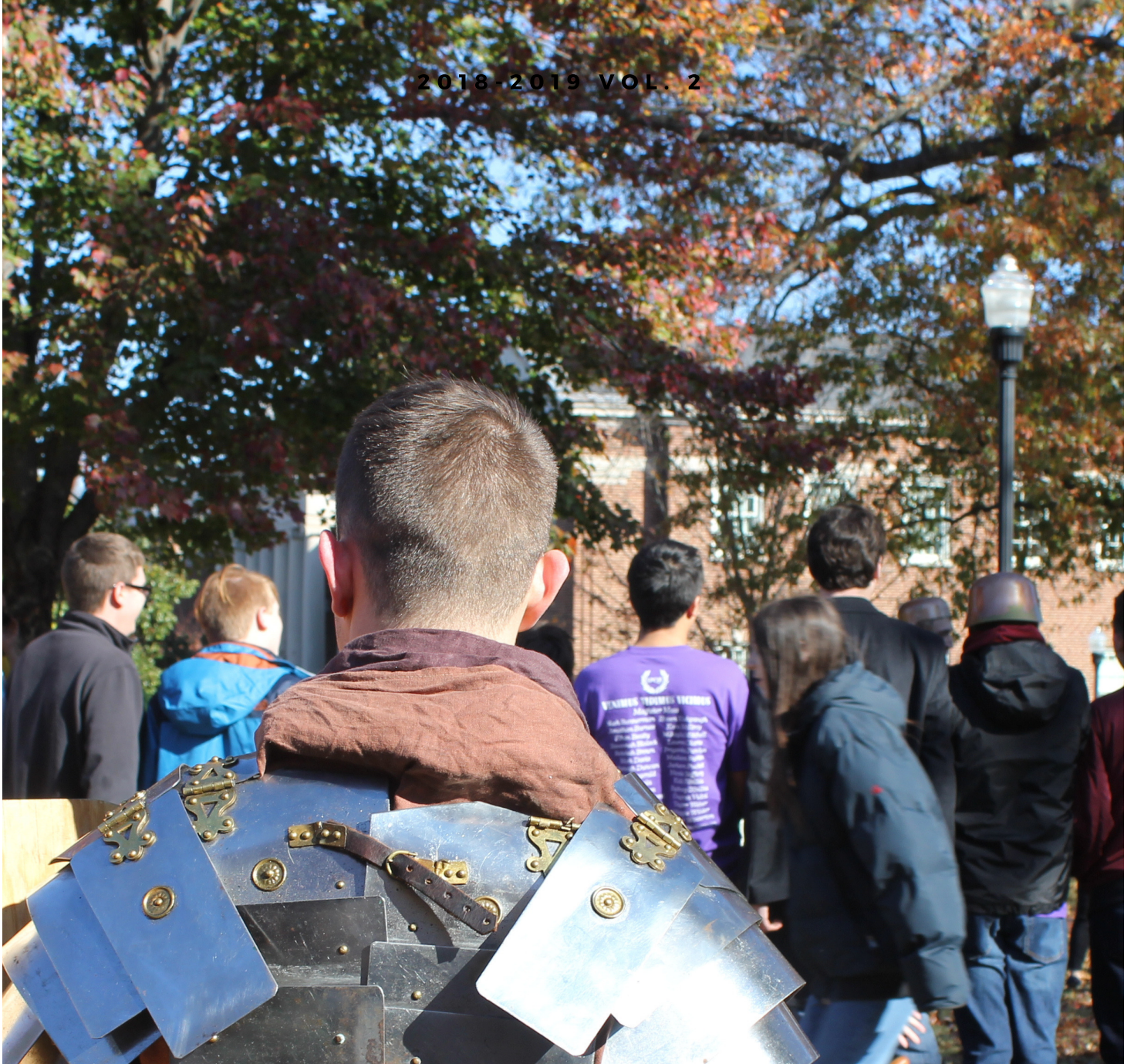


2018-2019 VOL. 2



# THE TORCH

WINTER EDITION



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WE MISS YOU...  
**FALL FORUM**

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# WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE FORUM

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## "A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM"



For those who are unaware of a popular play called "A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum," we can easily summarize the plot from our experiences at the 2018 Fall Forum. It was nine o'clock in the morning when most of you arrived. You were probably tired because you were too excited to sleep the night before. Some of you had to travel from far away and others only drove a short distance to reach the beautiful UNCG campus. Students and fellow JCLers were "buzzing" around the auditorium, gearing up for the Opening Assembly. The adult chaperones and teachers were fueled by caffeinated coffee and Dunkin Donuts in an attempt to keep their eyes open. A short opening ceremony with loud screams and

chants helped every JCLer get into the Latin spirit. Yellow and black filled the room with the national theme. The fun continued outside where the campus Senior Classical League put on a grand performance full of Ancient Roman traditions. A traditional marriage ceremony occurred, sacrifices, betrayal, and sword fights. The day was full of fun, highly "intense" certamen practice and a booming spirit competition. Yellow and black "buzzed" the rooms and auditoriums throughout the campus. Fall Forum 2018 was a success and an exciting event to kick off the Convention season. The funny memories and events that occurred for each Latin club at Fall Forum "stung" us with the "Latin loving bug."

MEAL VOUCHERS CAN BE PURCHASED FOR FRIDAY DINNER OR SATURDAY LUNCH. OTHER FOOD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE

# Join us for the Annual State Latin Convention

WHEN: APRIL 5-6, 2019

WHERE: WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

REGISTRATION: EARLY BIRD-MARCH 11 (\$17 PER PERSON)

REGULAR BY MARCH 22 (\$20 PER PERSON)

Do you want to run for a State Officer position?

Register your campaign by March 15

Positions: President, 1stVP, 2ndVP, Parliamentarian, Secretary, Torch Editor, Middle School Rep

Contact Harper for more info on registering or positions:  
harper.parliamentarian@gmail.com or (919)895-8843

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## Ancients BEE-hive-ing Badly

### New Contests in 2019!

**Literature** Test: authors and their works, historical context, styles, themes

**Swimming:** 50-yd. freestyle, 100-yd. individual medley, 200-yd. freestyle relay, 200-yd. medley relay

### Costume Characters

**male:** Lucius Tarquinius Superbus

**female:** Tullia (Minor)

**couple:** Numa Pompilius and Egeria

**Character (male or female):** Janus

### Topic of English Oratory

“Apes non sunt solitaria natura.” (Bees are not of a solitary nature. Varro, De Agri Cultura 3.16)

# “META” MATTERS IN ANCIENT COMEDY

BY T.H.M GELLAR GOAD

You’ve probably been hearing a lot about “The Wall” in the news recently, but I’d like to talk to you about one that’s even more imaginary: the Fourth Wall.

When you’re watching a TV show or a movie or a play, the characters interacting on screen or on stage are surrounded by the physical walls you can see on the set — but you are looking at them from behind a fourth wall, one that allows you to see them but doesn’t allow them to see you. This is the Fourth Wall, and it isn’t a wall you can see or touch but is a metaphorical wall that represents our suspension of disbelief.

But sometimes those characters may break the Fourth Wall by talking directly to you! Or by acknowledging that they’re in a play or movie or TV show. When they do this, it is an example of a type of theatrical technique called metatheater.

“Meta-” is a prefix that in English often means “\_\_\_ about \_\_\_.” So metacognition is thinking about thinking, metacommentary is commentary about commentary, and metatheater is theater about theater. It comes in four basic types:

\* Type 1 metatheater is when there is a play within a play, or a TV show within a TV show. The classic example of this is Shakespeare’s Hamlet, where the title character puts on a literal play, with actors and everything, to try to get his uncle to show signs of a guilty conscience. 30 Rock, an amazing late-2000s sitcom (starring the amazing Tina Fey!), is a comedy TV show about people who make a comedy TV show.

\* Type 2 metatheater is when a play or movie is about the craft of playwrighting or moviemaking. So, for instance, Aristophanes’ Frogs is a drama (specifically, a comedy) with a plot centered on the question of whether Aeschylus or Euripides was the better dramatist (they were both tragedians). Some scholars may not agree with my claim that this is a type of metatheater — they might instead see it as metaliterary or metapoetic.

\* Type 3 metatheater is when characters acknowledge that they are in a play or TV show or movie. . This can come in the form of looking directly at the camera or audience and addressing the viewers —



*T.H.M Gellar Goad*

Assistant Professor of Classics and Zachary T. Smith Fellow at Wake Forest University.

He specializes in Roman poetry, especially the funny stuff: Roman comedy, Roman satire, Roman erotic elegy, and — if you believe him — the allegedly philosophical poet Lucretius. He is the author of the book *Laughing Atoms, Laughing Matter: Lucretius’ De Rerum Natura and Satire*, forthcoming with University of Michigan Press.



Or it can show up in dialogue, as in Plautus’ Pseudolus, where a couple times one character tells another “I’ll fill you in later, I’m not gonna repeat it now, the audience has already heard it, and plays are long enough already!”

\* Type 4 metatheater is when a character acts like a producer, director, or playwright. In contrast to Type 1, in Type 4 there is not literally a play within a play. But instead a character will behave this way metaphorically. More examples from Plautus’ Pseudolus: the title character says that he’ll behave like a poet (in Latin, poeta: ancient comedies were always in poetic verse) and invent the cash he needs. And a bit later, he directs a sidekick on how to act during an upcoming conversation with his arch-nemesis.

Look out for each of these types of metatheater this April 6 at A Total Skit Show, the performances by my Greek & Roman Comedy students at the NC JCL convention! And if you’d like to read a really good book about metatheater in the Roman comedies of Plautus, take a look at Niall W. Slater’s *Plautus in Performance: The Theatre of the Mind*, which was the first major work to bring the concept of metatheater into the study of Greek and Roman literature.

# CONVENTION CRAZINESS

## The Tentative Schedule for the State Convention

### FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Convention Registration 4:30-7:00  
Graphic Arts Registration 4:30-6:30  
Candidates' Meeting 6:30-7:00  
Opening Assembly (w/ Spirit) 7:00-  
7:45  
SCL Meeting 8:00-8:30  
Certamen Moderators' Mtg. 5:00-  
5:30  
Certamen Semifinals HS 5:30-7:00  
Essay 8:00-9:00  
Costume 8:00-9:30  
Impromptu Art 8:15-8:45  
Skit 8:00-9:45  
Games 8:15-10:00  
Service Project 8:15-9:15



### SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Convention Registration 8:00-10:00  
Graphic Arts & Scrapbook  
Registration 8:00-10:00  
GA & Scrapbook Judging 9:30-12:00  
View Graphic Arts 12:30-3:00  
Testing 9:00-10:00  
Seminar DIY Revenge: Curse  
Magic 9:15-9:45  
Seminar Virtual Tour of Roman  
Forum 9:15-9:45  
Dramatic Interpretation 10:30-12:00  
Latin Sight Reading 1:00-2:30  
English Oratory 1:00-2:30  
Certamen MS Finals 11:00-11:30  
Certamen HS Finals 11:45-1:15  
Open Certamen 10:15-12:00  
Meet the Candidates and ... 1:15 -..  
...Turn in Ballots ..-2:10  
Olympika (Catapult, Frisbee,  
Softball, Running) 1:00-3:00  
Chariot Race 2:30-3:00  
Swimming 1:00-3:00  
Seminar 3 10:15-10:45  
Seminar 4 1:15-1:45  
Seminar 5 - Roman Comedy 2:30-4:30  
Pick Up Graphic Arts 3:00-3:45  
Closing Assembly (w/ Spirit) 4:35-5:15