ETA SIGMA PHI

BETA NU CHAPTER

**UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON**

**ESSAY CONTEST 2017**

**Essay topic:** According to Suetonius (*Vita Divi Iuli* 32),

Julius Caesar said as he crossed the river Rubicon,

*Iacta alea est.* (“The die is cast.”)

By crossing the Rubicon into Italy proper, Caesar started a civil war

that ended with him as the head of Rome.

His quote captures a sense of the wild risk he took to gain everything,

and how if he had not been so lucky, he easily could have lost everything.

When have you, or someone you have known, taken a wild risk in life,

and how did that risk turn out?

Format: The essays are to be 2-3 pages in length (approximately 750 words). They may be either typed (double-spaced) or handwritten (alternating lines). Each essay will need a cover sheet containing the following information: the name of the student; his/her grade level; the Latin teacher’s name and e-mail address; and the name and address of the school. The student/teacher/school should not be identified on the essay itself. The student may consult books and other reference tools, but not people, in writing the essay. Discussing the topic in class and using the essay as a class assignment is perfectly acceptable as long as the teacher does not make or suggest any changes to what is submitted.

**Eligibility: Entries will be accepted for Latin students attending Spotsylvania, Stafford, or Fredericksburg schools, or whose teacher is a member of the Fredericksburg Area Latin Teachers’ Association (FALTA).**

**Levels of Competition: There will be two levels of competition. The “junior level” will be for students in the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grades, and the “senior level” will be for students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.**

**Prizes: Books and Eta Sigma Phi medals will be given as prizes to winners at each level. Certificates of commendation will be presented for entries deserving honorable mention.**

**Submission: More than one essay may be sent in a single envelope, but each essay must have a separate cover sheet. Teachers are to send the essays to**

# **Prof. Liane Houghtalin**

**Dept. of Classics, Philosophy, & Religion**

# **University of Mary Washington**

**1301 College Ave.**

**Fredericksburg, VA 22401**

**Submissions must be RECEIVED by Thursday March 23, 2017.**

**questions may be directed to L. Houghtalin, (540) 654-1345, lhoughta@umw.edu**