
From: "Murphy Tom" <murphy_tom@msmail.muohio.edu>
 To: Multiple recipients of list <ceda-l@cornell.edu>
 Subject: Outcome Assessment
 Date: Wed, 4 May 1994 17:21:29 -0400

I find it interesting that a few messages have been posted regarding outcome assessment in CEDA. While I believe outcome assessment is a valuable idea, I am somewhat concerned about what I perceive to be reasons for its current popularity.

1. Outcome assessment assumes no intrinsic value in what is being assessed. Why must I continually be forced to prove that what I do is of value? Why should not the opposite be true; that those who believe it is not must prove so? One primary target of the "assessment" mindset/movement is liberal education, including areas of study such as rhetoric.

2. Assessment assumes an external focus. This is perhaps one of the worst aspects of assessment. If I can't prove that speech communication majors can get jobs when they graduate, my program is eliminated. Thus, job training drives curriculum and other choices. If I can't prove that debate increases critical thinking, it must be of no value.

3. Assessment is just another "buzzword" designed to keep management gurus in the dough. It will pass, along with TQM and all the other "touchy feely" fads (although my real world management friends enjoy mocking them). I am not saying they are bad, but haven't we been down this road before? I find it ironic that, as a solution to excellent research deemed "inconclusive" by some in our community, more research is proposed. How many times must we reinvent the wheel?

-TLM

From: DFRANK@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU (David Frank)
 To: Multiple recipients of list <ceda-l@cornell.edu>
 Subject: On Knowing what we do
 Date: Wed, 4 May 1994 20:56:33 -0400

Professor Murphy raises some notes of caution about the purpose and function of assessment. And his caution is warranted. However, the Forensics Educational Outcomes Project will serve a host of productive functions. The participants in the project believe in the values of academic debate and are responding to the calls that have been sounded for over thirty years that we should conduct careful research investigations into what forensics does or does not do for students, educators, and the public sphere. I am hopeful that the project will serve an important community building function. We now have more than twenty forensic educators working with us on this project and they are a representative lot.

1. We assume that forensics can be a wonderful and an educational activity. And there may be benefits of an education in forensics that need to be catalogued and documented. At the same time, we need to see what we may not do well and what we might do better.

2. We will embrace external and internal standards of assessment. We need to cast a wide net for our standards, and we must include the values and

opinions of those who are not members of the forensics community. At the same time, our opinions and judgments are important as well.

3. The assessment project will employ any and all modes of inquiry that will reveal the effects of an education in forensics. And I have some faith that we may find benefits we didn't expect, and some problems that we may need to better address.

We need to carefully review the literature on forensics education, create appropriate methods of inquiry, and advance our knowledge of what forensics does well. To embark on the task self evaluation reflects that we care deeply about what we do, and that we practice what we teach: we are skeptical of authorities, evidence and data. To embark on a mission of self study demonstrates that we are interested in the careful study of what we do or do not do for our students.

David Frank

University of Oregon

... Conclusions ...

The explosions of the information age continue to escalate geometrically as a function of time and technology. Few are surprised that those involved in forensic education and competition would be eager users of additional channels of communication. The threads presented, an admittedly small sample, do not include any examples of "flaming," or calendar announcements, etc. There are some times when you will doubt your sanity for subscribing. For example, after a long weekend, you may find over a hundred e-mail messages on the list servers. What CEDA-L, NDT-L, and IE-L provide is access to a forum for sharing information and ideas and that is their inherent value. Facilitating the sharing of information and ideas outweighs any of the limitations and frustrations that are also inherent to e-mail interest groups.

... E-mail Techno Glossary ...

(Net.Speak—The Internet Dictionary (1994, Hayden Books) defines hundreds of terms, while this glossary only mentions a few of the basic terms. Most of the definitions that follow are quoted from or paraphrased from Net Speak.)

America OnLine (AOL) — a commercial information service with a direct internet connection. Debate Central is located on AOL. Also, see Prodigy and CompuServe.

Archive — the location of stored files from from a listserv. For example, Debate Central archives CEDA-L messages on a weekly basis.

BITNET — stands for Because It's Time Network, a network used by the academic and research community for e-mail. You can access a listserv through BITNET.

CompuServe — one of three largest commercial information services. CompuServe customers can use Internet e-mail through CompuServe, but CompuServe does not currently fully support all the functions of Internet.

Download — a process of taking a file from the list and electronically moving it into your own PC. A downloaded file can then be used like any text or ASCII file on your computer. For example, the e-mail messages used in this article were downloaded to the author's computer, placed in the word processing program file that now constitutes the article before you.

E-mail — electronic mail, messages exchanged between and among individuals via computer.

Flame — an expression or message rooted in verbal aggression, inflammatory rhetoric.

Gopher — a menu driven program that locates and directs users to information on the Internet.

Internet — a network of approximately 45,000 interconnected networks in 70 countries. It is the largest network of computers in the world.

LISTSERV — a shortened label for list server, a list or group of people in an e-mail discussion and information group, i.e., CEDA-L, NDT-L and IE-L. The abbreviation of listserv is used as a convenience for the eight character file name limitation of IBM type systems.

Prodigy — one of the three largest commercial computer-based information services. Prodigy as access to the e-mail function of Internet.

Modem — a piece of computer hardware that process electronic signals between computers over telephone lines. Modems can be internal (that is, located out of sight inside your computer) or external.

Upload — the procedure for taking a file you've created on your personal computer and sending it via modem to a receiving computer. For example, Debate Central encourages uploading of files on debate that would be of general interest to the debate community.

... Additional Resources on Internet ...

I would direct your attention to Internet, The Magazine for Internet Users (1-800-573-3062 for subscriptions only).

Also, Osborne McGraw-Hill has a comprehensive reference book titled The Internet Yellow Pages (2nd), 1995.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND APPRECIATIONS

President's Pen
Sally A. Roden

For the past two years many people have contributed to the preparations necessary for a convention and tournament of national scope. As President of Pi Kappa Delta I know first-hand how hard the National Council members you elected in 1993 have worked for you to bring about the 1995 PKD National Convention and Tournament. Being elected to the National Council means thinking about or performing some responsibility for Pi Kappa Delta almost daily. (You might consider your own full and hectic schedules and then think what it would mean to add to that the daily work for Pi Kappa Delta.) I appreciate the work of the dedicated individuals who have contributed so greatly and would like to publicly say thank you.

Bill Hill, Jr., the President-Elect of Pi Kappa Delta, has given many hours to locating a site for the 1997 National Convention and Tournament. This may appear an easy task but it is anything but easy. Locations must fit certain requirements, such as an adequate number of competition rooms and housing requirements. Bill's job goes far beyond just these physical requirements, however, to issues that effect the future of Pi Kappa Delta. Bill is committed to students and their interests and he considers the impact of all decisions on their welfare. Not only is he an advocate for students, Bill also has a personal interest in research and scholarship, and for two years he has presented excellent program choices for the SCA conventions. These programs were all of high quality and enhanced the scholarly reputation of Pi Kappa Delta. Bill's thoughtful and solid work has given strength to the future of Pi Kappa Delta. I appreciate the support and contributions that Bill has given over these two years.

Robert Littlefield also has served admirably during the past two years. Not only has Robert served in the capacity of Past-President, but he also has fulfilled responsibilities as the newly elected Secretary-Treasurer. At a time when it would have been easy to rest on his laurels, Robert accepted the position of Secretary-Treasurer and moved the main office physically from Harold Widvey's office at Brookings, SD, to Fargo, North Dakota. In addition to the physical move, many of the computer programs were updated to reflect better reports on membership status and new programs were established to reflect budgetary line items to facilitate accounting procedures. In addition, Robert has had Pi Kappa Delta incorporated, and improved insurance possibilities have been researched. With Robert's watchful eye and projections, Pi Kappa Delta is in a financially stable and healthy condition. Robert has managed to perform very successfully the responsibilities of Past-President as well as Secretary-Treasurer. Pi Kappa Delta is a better organization because of Robert's past and present leadership. He has been and is a mentor for us all and especially for me. Thanks, Robert, for showing the way to the 21st century and working beyond expectations. The records will reflect that Robert was a leader of vision. I admire his abilities and I am very appreciative of his advice and leadership.

Steve Hunt received unanimous support from the National Council at the Pi Kappa Delta Convention to become the Editor of *The Forensic*. The

publications of the past two years of *The Forensic* reveal a steady improvement in quality of the journal. Steve has personally contacted and persuaded people to submit articles. This should not be one of the responsibilities of an editor, but Steve has high expectations and standards and refuses to publish anything less. This commitment to quality is a service to all Pi Kappa Delta members and one from which we all benefit. We are a strong scholarly organization, research oriented, and our journal should reflect that and Steve is accomplishing these goals with each issue. My congratulations to Steve on exceptional work.

Ed Inch agreed to serve the organization as Tournament Director for 1995. This is an awesome responsibility and one of the most demanding of all assignments. Rules must be reviewed, policies established, and the schedule must be fine tuned to meet convention, professional development and tournament demands. Everyone wants time and Ed has provided a schedule that meets everyone's requests. Not only has he been accommodating, but he has done it with such ease and style. He has been enthusiastic and optimistic with every change, and there have been many. This positive attitude and patience are virtues that I'm sure many of us wish we had. Ed has certainly had a positive influence on me and made my life on the National Council a pleasurable one.

David Ray, since taking the office of Historian, has made great strides in securing a permanent record of Pi Kappa Delta. The records stored in boxes and in basements for years are being unpacked and labeled for the archives at William Jewell University under the watchful eye of Tom Willett and Georgia Brown. The traveling Hall of Fame is being improved for the 1995 PKD Convention and Tournament and will again be an honorary and educational part of the convention. In addition to the direct responsibilities of the Historian, David adds a voice of wisdom to the deliberations of the National Council. Having served as President, he is able to speak from an insightful perspective and with a voice of experience. Even though the Historian is a non-voting member, David has contributed to every action and every decision made by the National Council. His voice of reason has helped maintain a steady balance needed for the future of Pi Kappa Delta. With a great deal of respect and admiration, I want to express appreciation to David.

Melissa O'Connor and Colby Walker, the student National Council members, have been wise choices for their positions. They have not been intimidated by the amount of responsibility given to them by the demands of the position and especially since this responsibility is given them in addition to their own academic pursuits. Serving as representatives of the host province, Province of the Lower Mississippi, and one of the host universities, LSU-S, as well as all students, they have planned and considered what would be best and most enjoyable for those attending either their first or last Pi Kappa Delta Convention. Melissa has served for two years and Colby replaced Tony and has served for one year - both students have served admirably. I am proud to say that I served on the National Convention with them and their contributions as students were very valuable to the business of Pi Kappa Delta.

Both Scott Jensen and Joel Hefling were new to the National Council for the 1993-1995 term. As your newly elected members, they had major responsibilities. Scott assumed the responsibility of the Professional

Development Conference and Joel was Coordinator of the Provinces. Pi Kappa Delta cannot exist unless we, as an organization, continue to demonstrate our ability to contribute to forensic academic development. We need to direct the attention of our university administrators to our contributions to professional growth and our efforts to provide unique opportunities for professional development. In order to do this, Scott has had to re-evaluate the purpose of the Professional Development Conference and seek a new approach of inclusion of sessions within the tournament structure. With this approach, more students and coaches can benefit from the materials presented in the Professional Development Conference. Scott's freshness of ideas and his zest for Pi Kappa Delta have given the National Council a new spark and that enthusiasm has passed on to me and for that I am grateful.

Joel was able to add valuable experience to the National Council. He has served Pi Kappa Delta as Province Governor and certainly knows how important a strong province is to the future of Pi Kappa Delta. The province cannot exist without strong chapters within that province and so the chapters, provinces and the National Council must be linked. Through newsletters and contacts, Joel strengthened communication among the different units. Involving more people in the government of Pi Kappa Delta cannot be completed in two years, but must continue to be an important goal of the National Council. Through Joel's interviews with past governors, it is important that the National Council improve its image and justify its actions to all members. I thank Joel for his contributions during the past two years.

One of the benefits of being President of Pi Kappa Delta is the opportunity to speak to so many of you in person and by phone. You have all reaffirmed what I already knew before accepting the position of President of Pi Kappa Delta: that this organization is the greatest organization in the country and is made up of the greatest people. The values you stand for, the ideals you support and the actual work you do, have given me the drive to strive to do my very best. I, therefore, thank each and everyone of you for a wonderful experience. Have a great New Year! See you in Louisiana as we go "Rollin' on the Red."

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE

November 1994

This report of the Constitution Revision Committee is presented to the National Council of Pi Kappa Delta at the convention of the Speech Communication Association In New Orleans, November 1994. The committee consists of Patrick Garner, Chair, Don Brownlee and William Yaremchuck. The committee received only one proposed set of amendments. They came from the Alumni Committee and are stated as follows:

The Alumni Committee proposes that a sixth alumni position be added to the National Council. To achieve this goal, they propose the following amendments to the Constitution of Pi Kappa Delta:

DETAILS NEEDED FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE AN ALUMNI MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PI KAPPA DELTA:

Part 1 of the proposed amendment:

In Article III, Section 352:

Substitute the word "six- for the word -five in the first and second sentences of Article 352 and add these words following the word women in sentence number 2: "and one shall be an alumni representative.

Current reading of Section 352:

The elective officers of the National Organization shall be a President Elect and five general council members. Of the five general council members, two shall be student representatives, one man and one woman. The Student Representatives shall hold office only while Active members of an undergraduate Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta. The remaining three council members shall be of the order of instruction.

The new reading with changes underlined.

The elective officers of the National Organization shall be a President Elect and six general council members. Of the six general council members, two shall be student representatives, one man and one woman, and one shall be an alumni representative. The Student Representatives shall hold office only while Active members of an undergraduate Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta. The remaining three council members shall be of the order of instruction.

Part 2 of the Proposed Amendment:

Add a new section, Section 354.1:

Section 354.1

The Alumni Representative shall be nominated by the National Council with the advice of alumni, alumni chapters, and/or any other alumni organization and shall be approved by the National Convention. The term of the Alumni Representative shall be two years and shall begin on the first day of June following election.

Part 3 of the Proposed Amendment:

Add a new section under 358, Duties:

Section 358.7

The Alumni Representative shall attend to the interests of the Alumni of Pi Kappa Delta and shall perform such duties as shall be assigned by the National President.

Part 4 of the Proposed Amendment:

In Section 359, sentence 1, delete the word -five and insert the word -six" in its place:

SENTENCE 1 OF SECTION 359 WITH CHANGE UNDERLINED: The National Council shall be composed of the National President, the President-Elect, the six general council members, and immediate Past-President. and the National Secretary-Treasurer, each of whom shall be a voting member."

Part 5 of the Proposed Amendment:

Add the following eligibility section:

Section 359.3

To be eligible to be elected to the National Council as Alumni Representative, the person must be an alumni of an undergraduate chapter of Pi Kappa Delta and must be available to attend the National Convention and the regular meetings of the National C. Council.

The committee voted in favor of the amendments. There were however several reservations voiced. Most of these had to do with details to be worked out in implementing the proposal. Adding another seat to the Council will entail added expense to Pi Kappa Delta. How much will this be? Is awarding one entire seat on the National Council awarding disproportionate representation to one small group within the current organization? Who would be eligible to serve as an alumni representative? Could it be someone who is a current forensics coach or perhaps even a graduate assistant? Does the person need to have a certain number of years past college graduation before they can serve? Should they be a current member of an alumni chapter? How will this person who is eligible to run be nominated and elected to this position?

These were some of the reservations or questions we had about the proposal. On a positive note, the committee felt that the addition of the alumni member to the Council was consistent with our desire to increase alumni involvement and provide a reality check for Pi Kappa Delta. Nevertheless, we felt the above questions must be addressed before this series of amendments is put to the organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick H. Garner

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ADD AN ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PI KAPPA DELTA

by Bill Hill, President-Elect

At the 1994 Summer Council meeting, I was instructed to summarize the Council's position regarding the proposed constitutional amendment to add an Alumni representative to the National Council of Pi Kappa Delta. I was further instructed to present the report to the National Council at the regularly scheduled Council meeting at SCA.

The Council fully discussed the proposed amendment at the Summer Council meeting. The record of minutes for that meeting should reflect that virtually all persons attending the meeting contributed to the discussion.

To a person, it is clear that the National Council recognizes the need to work to more fully integrate alumni into the on-going operation and activities of the organization at national, provincial, and chapter levels. We fully endorse efforts to increase Alumni membership and to develop additional Alumni Chapters. We recognize the valuable contribution alumni can make to local undergraduate chapters and the important conduit they can provide between the organization and potential supporters of Pi Kappa Delta outside the confines of academe. We recognize that alumni are important role models for our undergraduate members and that alumni exemplify how membership in Pi Kappa Delta can contribute to one's lifelong professional and social pursuits.

We recognize the important contribution the Alumni Committee has made to identify Alumni needs and develop strategies to meet those needs within the appropriate structures of the organization, and we encourage that committee to continue its work. We further recognize the need for the organization to clarify a number of its guidelines regarding the status of alumni including classification of Alumni memberships, and requirements regarding alumni voting at the National Convention. In short, none question the importance of Alumni to our organization or the necessity of the organization to address in responsive and meaningful ways the needs and concerns of our alumni.

At the same time, however, the members of the National Council have significant concerns about the practicality and effort of implementing the proposed amendment in the immediate future. The practical concerns with the amendment are these.

- 1) The proposed amendment calls for the Alumni representative to be "nominated by the National Council with the advice of alumni, alumni chapters, and/or any other alumni organization..." This provision

would place selection of this Alumni representative outside the existing nomination process because it would be removed nominating power from the nomination committee and place it in the hands of the National Council. There is no accompanying rationale which justifies such an alteration in our stated election procedure. Moreover, members of the National Council view such a alteration as potentially damaging to this integrity of our election process.

2) The proposed amendment states that "To be eligible to be elected to the National Council as Alumni Representative the person...must be available to attend the National Convention and the regular meetings of the National Council." While the amendment establishes qualification guidelines, it does not explain how we would determine in specific cases which persons meet those guidelines. Would, for example, a candidate for Alumni representative be judged to be eligible based upon a stated intention to attend our regularly scheduled business meetings? Our concern should not be constructed as in indictment of veracity of any Alumni's stated intentions. However, it is based in our awareness that our regularly scheduled business meetings might often conflict with the professional expectations and responsibilities of Alumni outside academe. Expecting any Alumni to make a 2 year commitment to attend our meetings when such a commitment would likely bear little relationship to that person's professional responsibilities seem both problematic for the organization and an undue burden on the individual.

Moreover, there is no explanation in the proposed amendment about the responsibility of Pi Kappa Delta in enabling the Alumni representative to attend our business meetings. We assume that the intention of the authors is that the organization would make the same financial contribution to the Alumni Representative as is currently made to other Council members, at least there is no rationale provided which indicates otherwise. Currently, the organization pays all travel expenses for Council members (including Student Representatives) to attend the Summer Council meeting, but pays no expenses incurred to attend our Fall meeting at SCA. We are not convinced that increasing the financial obligations of the organization is prudent at this time. This same concern was the impetus behind our unwillingness to support at the Representative to Council. Nor do we feel it reasonable for our organization to ask an alumni who is probably without the benefit of department travel funds to totally finance travel expenses to our meetings.

Our concern with the effect of the proposed amendment is this: there is no convincing rationale accompanying the proposed amendment which explains what unique purpose or value would be served by adding an Alumni Representative to the Council. The Council is not convinced that it's membership, as presently constituted, is unable to adequately represent alumni. Many of the current Council members are also alumni and active

members of alumni chapters at their undergraduate institution. Others have sponsored establishment of Alumni chapters. Alumni have a direct link to the Council via either the Alumni caucus, or through the Alumni committee. Moreover, there is no indication of how adding an Alumni member would result in decision-making by the Council which is more responsive to specific needs and concerns of alumni increase alumni involvement in the organization generally, or make a significant contribution beyond our current efforts to more fully integrate alumni into the on-going organizational life of Pi Kappa Delta.

In summary, while the Council is fully cognizant of the need to work actively to promote Alumni involvement in Pi Kappa Delta, we have significant reservations about the practicality and effort of using the proposed amendment as a vehicle for accomplishing that purpose. The proposed amendment was submitted in a timely manner and in accordance with the stated procedures of the organization and is certainly appropriate for discussion by the membership at our 1995 convention in Shreveport. Until the major reservations we have expressed are satisfied, however, the National Council will not be prepared to endorse the proposed amendment.

PANELS AND CHAIRS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AND FORENSIC FORUMS

Professional Development Conference

9:00 Registration
10:00 SESSION ONE

Garden Room

Striking a Balance Among Choices in Direction

CHAIR: Robert Markstrom, McNeese State University

Gazebo Room

Making Forensics Accessible for the Novice

CHAIRS: Michael Cummings, Ottawa University
Jennifer Morgan, Southwestern College

Patio Room

Constructing the Deconstruction: Toward the Empowerment of Women and Minorities in Forensics

CHAIR: Jack E. Rogers, Southern University

12:00 Luncheon and Keynote Address
KEYNOTE: Larry Schnoor, St. Olaf College

1:00 SESSION TWO

Garden Room

The Debate Goes On: Reformulating Format for the New Century
CHAIR: Terry Cole, Appalachian State University

Gazebo Room

Perceptions from the Front Offices: Securing
Support for Forensics Activities
CHAIR: David Ray, University of Arkansas at Monticello

Patio Room

Rhetorical Biases in Forensics: Do Words Empower Participants in
Competition?
CHAIR: Jennifer Morgan, Southwestern College

Room 1055

Renovating Forensics for the Next Millennium
CHAIRS: Tammy Gingras, Longwood College

THURSDAY

9:15 FORUMS

The Debate Goes On: Reformulating Format for The New Century
CHAIR: Terry Cole, Appalachian State U

Preserving Traditions: Integrating Alumni into Forensics Programs
or Alumni Don't Die after Competition, They Just Get Real Jobs

CHAIR: Jeanine Barr, York College

2:00 FORUMS

Making Forensics Accessible for the Novice
CHAIRS: Michael Cummings, Ottawa U
Jennifer Morgan, Southwestern College

Striking a Balance Among Choices in Direction

CHAIR: Robert Markstrom, McNeese State U

FRIDAY

10:00 FORUMS

Renovating Forensics for the Next Millennium

CHAIR: Tammy Gingras, Longwood College

Rhetorical Biases in Forensics: Do Words Empower Participants in
Competition?

CHAIR: Jennifer Morgan, Southwestern College

2:30 Constructing the Deconstruction: Toward the
Empowerment of Women and Minorities in Forensics

CHAIR: Jack E. Rogers, Southern U

Perceptions from the Front Offices: Securing

Support for Forensics Activities

CHAIR: David Ray, U of Arkansas-Monticello

SATURDAY

9:15 SHOWCASES #1

12:45 SHOWCASES #2

4:00 FORUM

Preserving Traditions: Integrating Alumni into Forensics Programs
or Alumni Don't Die After Competition, They Just Get Real Jobs

CHAIR: Jeanine Barr, York College

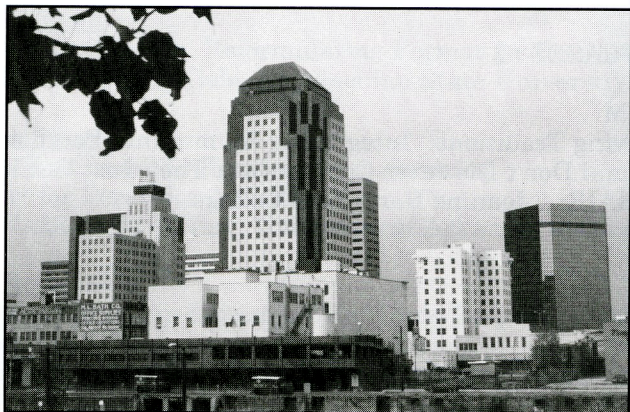
CALL FOR 1995 SCA PROGRAMS

Pi Kappa Delta is calling for proposals in the areas of forensics theory, practice, or pedagogy relevant to the general theme of "Unifying Teaching and Research." Proposal submissions may be made in either of the following categories: (1) thematic programs, and (2) selected papers. Thematic program proposals should include: (1) a brief abstract, (2) a rationale for the submission, (3) the name, address, and phone number of the program planner and all program participants including the program chair and respondent. Selected paper submissions should include: (1) the completed paper, omitting direct reference to the identity of the author(s), and (2) the name, address, and phone number of the author(s). Submitters should indicate papers and programs that are suitable for poster sessions. Proposal submissions presume a commitment to attend the 1995 SCA convention. All submissions will be competitively selected. Proposal submissions must be received by February 15th, 1995. Three (3) copies of each proposal submission should be sent to: Bill Hill, Pi Kappa Delta Program Planner; Communication

Studies, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223. (704) 547-4217; FAX (704) 547-3961.

THE TWIN CITIES

Shreveport/Bossier City, Louisiana



LOCATION

Shreveport is located on the west side of the Red River among the low, rolling hills of northwest Louisiana. Bossier City is on the east side of the river. These Twin Cities occupy some 150 square miles with a population of almost 250,000. They are 285 miles northwest of New Orleans and 180 miles east of Dallas.

CLIMATE

The area enjoys complete seasonal cycles with pleasant spring and fall season. The month of March marks a period of transition. Although temperatures extremes may range from a low of 29 to a high of 90, the normal range is between the upper 40's and the low 70's. March rainfall is usually 3.5 inches with the possibility of severe thunderstorms.

HISTORY

The Twin Cities are located in Caddo Parish, named for the Caddo Indians, who in 1835, sold their territory to the United States for \$80,000. Development of the area began in 1833, when Captain Henry Miller Shreve was commissioned to clear a blockage of the Red River called the "Great Raft." The "Raft" consisted of a 160-mile log jam that encompassed the area where Shreveport is now located. Captain Shreve cleared enough of the "Raft" by 1838 to allow steam-powered vessels to travel up the river beyond the present, location of the Twin Cities; and by 1873, the river was completely cleared. Natural advantages of the area were its strategic location among the Old Texas and Red River trails, plus abundant wood and agricultural resources. Cotton and lumber industries developed around the Twin Cities during the 1800's, with the area's first cotton gin and lumber mill in place by the late 1930's. Petroleum discoveries during the early 1900's led to exploration and oil industry service activity centered in Shreveport. Although petroleum is still an important part of the local economy, the Twin Cities have also attracted a diversified manufacturing and distribution base.

JOEL HEFLING

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

After receiving my undergraduate and graduate degrees from Emporia State University (KS), I have been associated with Pi Kappa Delta and the forensics program at South Dakota State University since 1973. In addition to being Director of Forensics, I have served as an officer of the former Province of the Sioux and the current Province of the Northern Lights, and have been a member of several national committees, in addition to completing a term on the National Council. I have been active in our state organization, as well as being an AFA District IV committee member for the past ten years.



As we approach the beginning of a new century, it becomes increasingly important for Pi Kappa Delta to identify innovative methods of keeping the organization and its chapters and provinces vital and responsive to the changing needs of the membership. With the recent changes in categories of membership, it is essential that we provide opportunities for all of those members to participate at the province and national levels. Organizational growth in terms of new chapters and additional members continues to be a priority, and with that growth, maintaining open lines of communication becomes even more critical.

The PKD ritual for the initiation of new members points out that the eye in the Pi Kappa Delta key is a sign of clearness, "an essential quality in those who would persuade others." The eye also indicates that "we try to cooperate, seeing eye to eye with one another." With demands on time and energy increasing for all of us, it is essential that we really work on the concept of cooperation so that we can maintain the health and vitality of Pi Kappa Delta.