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THE HISTORY OF PI KAPPA DELTA: 1913-1987

Compiled by Dr. Larry Norton, Professor Emeritus, Bradley University

This is a record of Pi Kappa Delta's seventy-five years of service to American forensics from its founding in 1913 through the Diamond Jubilee convention in March 1987. Part I reports the general history as recorded by the Pi Kappa Delta historians. Part II describes the organization on the national, provincial and local levels with separate chapters on publications and alumni. Part III covers the tournament with its contests, subjects and awards. Part IV gives an account of the convention - its business, student participation, professional programs, and special features. An extended Appendix includes lists of chapters, national and province officers, contest subjects and national superior contest winners as well as the current constitution and rituals.

All receipts from the sale of The History, over and above printing costs, are a contribution to Pi Kappa Delta for the purpose of establishing an endowed educational fund.

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR PKD AWARDS FOR ACTIVE COACHES

Nominations are sought for the following three awards to be presented at the Speech Communication Association's 1993 convention in Miami, Florida:

L.E. Norton Award for Outstanding Scholarship. This award is given to an individual or individuals who made an outstanding scholarly contribution to PKD through a book or article. An article need not be one published in *The Forensic*, but must be one in the field of argumentation or forensics. Nominations may come from any PKD member and will be judged by the Awards Committee (and the *Forensic* Editor as ex-officio member) on the basis of the quality and contribution of the book or article to the further understanding of argumentation or the forensic discipline.

John Shields Award for Outstanding Contributions to Pi Kappa Delta. This award is given to an individual or individuals who have made significant service contributions to the fraternity. Nominations may come from any PKD member and will be judged by the Awards Committee (and the National President as ex-officio member) on the basis of both quality and quantity of contributions to the fraternity at either the national, province, or local level. The recipient must be a member of the Order of Instruction.

E.R. Nichols Award for Outstanding Contributions to Furtherance of the Forensic Discipline. The award is given to an individual or individuals who have made significant contributions to improving intercollegiate forensics in the United States. Nominations may come from any PKD member and will be judged by the Awards Committee on the basis of the nominee's contribution to improving the competitive quality or the intellectual standing of the activity. Such contributions need not be exclusively through the channel of Pi Kappa Delta.

The deadline for receiving nominations is November 15, 1993. **Nominations and supporting documentation (letters of recommendation, background information about the nominee, examples of scholarship or contributions) for the above awards should be sent to Robert S. Littlefield, Chair, PKD Awards Committee, Box 5075, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105.** Current members of the PKD National Council are ineligible for these awards.

HALL OF FAME NOMINEES SOUGHT BY NATIONAL COUNCIL

At each PKD convention and tournament, individuals who have distinguished themselves in service to the fraternity are inducted into the PKD Hall of Fame. Nominees are classified into three categories: Recent Years—1970-1995; Middle Years—1944-1969; and Early Years—1913-1943.

Any member of Pi Kappa Delta may recommend a nominee for the Hall of Fame by submitting, in writing, the name of the nominee, the years of most significant contribution to the fraternity, and a statement of justification or support for the nomination. Additional information may be added, including the nominee's professional vitae and letters of support.

All materials related to the nomination should be sent by April 1, 1994, to the Chair of the PKD Awards Committee, Robert Littlefield, PKD National Office, Box 5075, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105-5075.

Joel Hefling

Province Coordinator



After receiving my undergraduate degree and teaching in the public schools for four years, I completed my graduate degree at Emporia State University (KS), and began teaching at South Dakota State University. I have been associated with the forensics program and Pi Kappa Delta here since 1973, first as Assistant Director and, for the past ten years, as Director of Forensics. I have been fortunate to be able to attend every Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament and Convention since 1977, and have attended province tournaments in all the intervening years. During my twenty years in Pi Kappa Delta, I have served as Lieutenant Governor and Governor of the Province of the Sioux, governor of the Province of the Northern Lights, and have directed province, bi-province, and tri-province tournaments. In addition, I have served on the Site Selection Committee, the Tournament Evaluation Committee, participated in the Developmental Conference and worked as a part of the tab room staff.

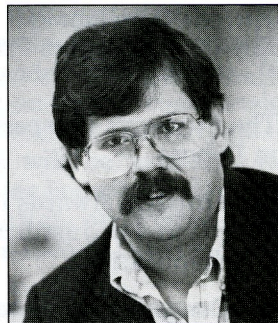
Pi Kappa Delta faces several challenges in the decade ahead. As more and more schools and forensics programs face increasing demands on their resources, we must identify innovative methods of keeping the organization vital and responsive to the changing needs of the membership, utilizing the wealth of resources available within the organization. As we seek to provide opportunities for all members to participate at the national level, we must also encourage continued growth and activity for all levels of membership. As a member of the National Council, I will strive to maintain open lines of communication with all members of the organization. As Province Coordinator, my goal is to establish a newsletter to be sent to Province Governors. A goal for the National Council is to identify and provide assistance for chapters who may be experiencing some difficulties, and the Province Governors and I can help in that area. In Public Relations, I intend to provide information at both the province and local chapter level to help spread the word to a non-forensic audience about Pi Kappa Delta and forensics in general.

It has been encouraging to receive numerous offers to help with these projects. Pi Kappa Delta has developed and maintained its reputation in part because of its personalized approach to speech activities. As an organization, we are in an excellent position to continue that approach. With the help of our Province officers and local chapter officers and sponsors, we can make a difference. With the help of our undergraduate students and our alumni, we can make a difference. Team work is the key, and I hope to involve an energetic team of faculty and students alike. Now it is the time for us to tap the resources that exist in our active members, our sponsors, and our alumni. Working together, we can meet the challenges of the present and the future. Working together, we can help new and old members alike enjoy "the art of persuasion, beautiful and just."

Ed Inch

1993 SCA Program Planner 1995 Tournament Director

Ed Inch is Director of Forensics at Pacific Lutheran University. Ed was an undergraduate debater and speaker at Western Washington University where he made it to the quarterfinals at NDT Nationals. Ed recently finished his PhD at the University of Washington. Ed Inch has been active as a PKD National Council Member for four years. He headed the last development conference for PKD. In addition Ed is the coauthor of a text on argumentation reviewed in this issue of *The Forensic*.



Ed is seeking an efficient and gracious tournament at Shreveport. Those with suggestions for events, rules, and/or scheduling changes should send them to:

Ed Inch
Dept. of Communication and Theatre
Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, WA. 98447

CONGRATULATIONS TO PKD MEMBERS FOR SCA PANELS

We had several outstanding proposals for SCA convention papers and I am very happy to announce that nine proposals were accepted. We should make every effort to attend these at the convention this fall and I think we are truly fortunate to have so much quality in our organization. The accepted programs are:

Title

Assessing University Forensics
Programs in the Nineties

Coaching and Counseling:
Where to Draw the Line

Communicating Consciousness Through
Advocacy: Questioning the Use of Questions
in Individual Events

Forensics in a Broader Context: Relevance
and Adaptation to a Multi-Cultural Clientele

Guild of American Forensics Educators:
Open Meeting and Discussion of Issues in
American Forensics

Philosophies and Practices: The Status of
Judging Philosophies at Pi Kappa Delta
Nationals

Sponsor

Tony Allison
Cameron University

Audra Colvert
James Madison U.

Scott Jensen
McNeese University

Don Swanson
U. of Guam

Michael Bartanen
Pacific Lutheran U.

Christopher B. Crawford
Fort Hayes St. U.

Speaker Development Through Forensic Experience: Papers Presented in Honor of Harold Widvey

Bob Derryberry
Southwest Baptist U.

The Student's Perspective on Judging in Debate

Susan Milsap
Otterbein College

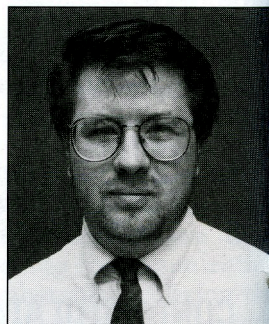
Sweepstakes Awards in Forensic Tournaments: Justifications, Methodologies, and Implications

Harold Lawson
Central Missouri St.
University

Congratulations to all the people who submitted. I think these are some very strong panels and I hope most of us can attend them in Miami.

Scott Jensen **Professional Development**

Scott Jensen recently moved from the University of Missouri-St. Louis to McNeesse State University. Scott is a new member of PKD's National Council but well known in forensic circles as a coach, tournament host, and author. A rabid baseball fan, Scott is currently focusing on the World Series and lamenting the lack of professional baseball in Louisiana. Scott believes strongly in the professional forensics development of coaches and students alike. He is already planning PKD's next development conference and for more active involvement of students in PKD's professional affairs.



DYNAMIC PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee on Professional Development will not only be moving forward during the next two years, but in every other direction possible as well. Goals I have laid out for my committee help to define the expanded direction I wish to see our organization move in terms of scholarship, creative expression, and student/professional relations. The capstone event for this committee will be the 1995 Professional Development Conference. While the theme for the upcoming conference will not be finalized until Pi Kappa Delta's fall meetings in Miami Beach, it will center around the need for PKD to assume a proactive posture in moving our activity forward. Panels will center around applications of ideas from the past in order to seek positive change for the future.

Beyond the Professional Development Conference are regional and national outlets for student scholarship. I envision provincial research contests and student/professional panels and forums that will be part of the various provincial tournaments being held this year. These regional opportunities will pave the way for a national student research competition to be held in conjunction with the 1994-95 national tournament and convention year. In all cases, it is my goal to see the top papers from these contests and forums appear in upcoming issues of *The Forensic*.

Pi Kappa Delta is also organizing a placement service, yet another idea coming from the Committee on Professional Development. Quarterly newsletters from our national office will soon provide opportunities for institutions to place openings for faculty positions. On an even broader scale, the 1995 national tournament will feature its first "career fair" in which companies, graduate schools, and career counselors will be available for students. The bridge from a college education to a career is perhaps the most important that a student will cross. The Committee on Professional Development hopes to ease this transition with services such as the career fair and placement service.

Other plans include a student column in *The Forensic*, a Pi Kappa Delta-sponsored text on forensics education, and a dynamic slate of forums and showcases at the 1995 national tournament that include a townhall debate that brings students and professionals together for an animated (but certainly not heated) dialogue.

The future is bright for Pi Kappa Delta, and the Committee on Professional Development intends to be in the middle of all the excitement as we plan for the next century, and more immediately, nationals in Louisiana in 1995!

STUDENT COLUMN TO SHOWCASE STUDENTS' VOICES

Future issues of *The Forensic* will feature a new column—one intended for student views on issues critical to forensic activities. The Committee on Professional Development will have a student committee member author a "student corner" in each issue of Pi Kappa Delta's journal.

A major goal of this column is to spur debate over issues that are central to our activity. Future columns might well feature point-counterpoint discussions from a variety of PKD students. Possible topics include speed in debate rounds, the incorporation of questions in individual events rounds, the length of tournaments, judge intervention, or students' roles in forensics leadership.

Our activity is very much dependent upon students as the core of what we do. Students serve as critical agents of change as Pi Kappa Delta and our activity moves forward. *The Forensic's* student column will play an important role in lifting the student voice and advancing discussion on the issues that shape our activity. All students are urged to get involved. Watch for this exciting addition in the next issue of *The Forensic*.

Melissa O'Connor Student Representative

Hello, my name is Melissa O'Connor and I am the student female representative for the Pi Kappa Delta National Council. I am a junior, speech major and a member of the Arkansas Theta Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. I have actively participated in collegiate Debate/Forensics for the past two years. I am very excited about my position on the National Council, and I



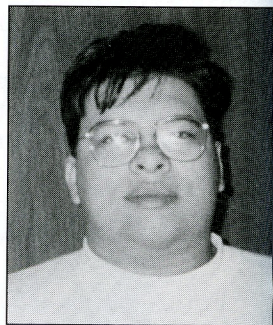
understand that I am a direct channel by which the students can communicate ideas and complaints to the council.

My ultimate goal is the promotion of student involvement in Pi Kappa Delta. Students play a very intricate part in this organization. Students are the foundation of Pi Kappa Delta. The more involvement we have as students guarantees continued support after graduation. If we let Pi Kappa Delta play an active role in our lives, the experiences we obtain will contribute to our success in our community, career, and personal ventures. We should remember that by effective communication and a little effort, we can accomplish anything. I am certain that the next two years should be very exciting and productive. Let's communicate!

Toney Miller Student Representative

Greeting, fellow PKD members,

My name is Toney Miller and I am your student representative on the National Council. I attend Louisiana State University in Shreveport which is in the exciting province of the Lower Mississippi. I am a sophomore here at LSU-S. My studies are in political science with a double minor in English and Speech. My career objective is to attend law school and receive my Juris Doctorate.

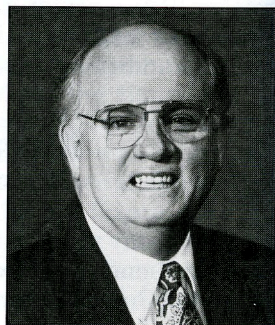


My agenda on the PKD National Council revolves around the student perspective. I plan to work with the Council to make the 1995 Convention and Tournament "student-friendly." I also have designs to further define the role of the student caucus in PKD decision-making and policy-setting procedures.

I see myself as a servant to the PKD community. I cannot overemphasize my desire for student input and involvement in our organization. Any ideas, criticisms or suggestions are always welcome. With us working together we can insure a successful exchange of ideas and experiences in 1995.

R. David Ray Pi Kappa Delta Historian 1991-1995

I first became a member of Pi Kappa Delta twenty years ago in the Order of Instruction. That was one of the best decisions as an educator that I have made for myself and my students. Those two decades of participation in the fraternity, I trust, have been mutually beneficial. During 1982-84, I served as Governor of the Province of the Lower Mississippi. In 1983, I was elected to the National Council of Pi Kappa Delta and served as a voting member through 1991. During that time I served as the first President-Elect 1985-87 and then President 1987-89. Those were four of the most rewarding years of my academic career. I am currently serving as Historian.



As Historian, the continued work on the Archives is of special concern to me and the Council. William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, was selected as the site for the PKD Archives and the collection has been allocated a section of the Special Collections Room of the W.J.C. Library. All of the historical materials previously held by the Historian's Office are now at the Library. Dr. Tom H. Willett (PKD member and Chair of the Department of Communication and Public Relations) and Dr. Georgia Bowman (PKD Past President and Hall of Fame member) began cataloging materials during the summer of 1993. This process will take some time to complete. It is hoped that we will soon be able to publicize information on the specific contents and method of operation of the Archives for research purposes. Additional PKD materials of historical significance are requested for placement in the Archives. All individuals, previous office holders, and especially past-presidents holding historically significant PKD materials should send them to Tom Willett. His address is Dr. Tom H. Willett, Department of Communication and Public Relations, William Jewell College, 500 College Hill Road, Liberty, MO 64068-1896. You may also contact R. David Ray, PKD Historian, Box 2882, Univ. of Ark., Monticello, AR 71656 or 501-460-1679, FAX 501-460-1922 for additional information.

Plans are continuing for the refinement of the "PKD Traveling Hall of Fame" that was first displayed at Tacoma and the completion of the PKD Hall of Fame located in Ripon, Wisconsin. The traveling display featured the pictures and biographical data of those Pi Kappa Deltans of distinction that have been inducted into the PKD Hall of Fame.

My overall goal in the next several years is to not only see that the history of Pi Kappa Delta is preserved for all to enjoy, but to seek out opportunities to share, in a variety of ways, the significant aspects of our organization's history.

1993 PI KAPPA DELTA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

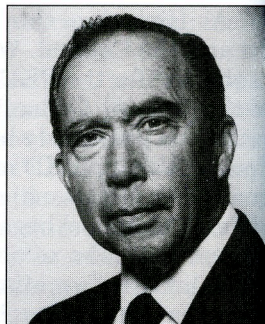
Charles T. Battin

One of the original founders of PKD—helped found the Ottawa University chapter in 1912. He coached debate at Ottawa, in France following World War I, and, in 1931, at the College of Puget Sound. While in the Northwest he was instrumental in founding the chapters at Seattle Pacific, Pacific Lutheran, Western Washington, Whitworth College, St. Martins College, and Lewis and Clark College. He also began the University of Puget Sound's invitational high school tournament in 1934 as well as a "tyro" tournament for junior division students. His influence in Pi Kappa Delta is felt in the lives of over 200 students who he brought into the Washington Alpha Chapter.



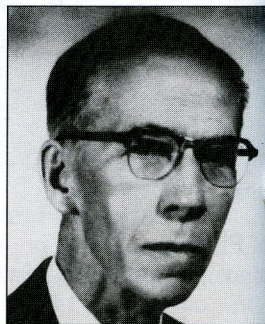
Fred Goodwin

Dr. Goodwin served Pi Kappa Delta as Governor of the Province of the Missouri and member of the National Council (1967-71) and National President (1971-73). As National President, he presided over the Omaha Convention, one of, if not, the largest PKD Convention ever. For many years he was chair and a member of the National Committee on Discussion and Debate and served several national conventions as parliamentarian. His leadership and coaching ability is exemplified by the record he holds of having more students sent to the Interstate Oratorical Contest than any other coach (a record tied by Grace Walsh).



George McCarty

Professor McCarty served Pi Kappa Delta for nearly twenty years in a variety of capacities. Member of the National Council from 1928-1938, Editor of *The Forensic* from 1928-1932, Vice President from 1932-1934, and National President from 1934-1936. He continued his service to Pi Kappa Delta following his term as National President through his contributions to the Province of the Sioux and served as its Province Governor from 1943-1945.



Forrest Rose

Professor Rose was a member of the National Council from 1934 to 1942 during which time he served as Vice President (1934-38) and National President (1938-40). His major contribution to forensics and Pi Kappa Delta involved his work on the National Committee on Intercollegiate Debate & Discussion. He was instrumental in formulating the first committee and represented PKD on that committee. His history of the first 27 years of the work of that committee was published in the October 1969 *Forensic*.



Raymond Yeager

Professor Yeager (or "Doc Yeager" as his many students call him) served as National President of PKD from 1961-1963 with previous service as Vice President from 1959-1961. As the Director of Forensics and Chapter Sponsor at Bowling Green State University, he influenced the lives of a large number of past and current forensics coaches, always installing in them the spirit of Pi Kappa Delta. For many years after his tenure as National President, Professor Yeager attended PKD National Conventions and participated in the activities of the Order.



PI KAPPA DELTA "HALL OF FAME"

The Pi Kappa Delta "Hall of Fame" was established by the National Council in 1987. The first recipients were presented at the 75th "Diamond Jubilee" Pi Kappa Delta National Convention and Tournament at LaCrosse, WI. The site for the permanent PKD Hall of Fame is the Wisconsin Alpha Chapter at Ripon College.

1987 Inductees

Georgia Bowman
Theodore O. H. Karl
Roy Mahaffey
Egbert R. Nichols
Larry E. Norton
John Shields
William H. Veatch

1989 Inductees

George Finley
D. J. Nabors
Alfred Westfall

1991 Inductees

Roy Murphy
Sylvester R. Toussaint

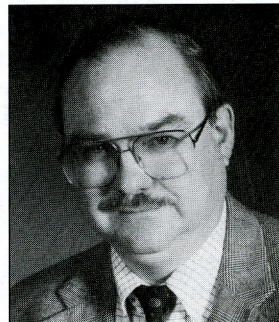
1993 Inductees

Charles T. Battin
Fred Goodwin
George McCarty
Forrest Rose
Raymond Yeager

Steve Hunt

Editor The Forensic

Steve Hunt participated in debate, oratory, extemp, informative speaking, impromptu, and helped manage tournaments as an undergraduate at the University of Denver, 1964-1968 under the direction of Roy Wood and Glen Strickland. He went on to an M.A. 1970 at the University of Houston as an assistant to William B. English where he first became a member of PKD and helped host the convention at Houston. He obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas 1973 with Donn Parson. He has since also been awarded a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law, 1985.



Hunt has been active in PKD as Governor of the Province of the Northwest, as an associate editor for *The Forensic*, and as an active participant at the two PKD developmental conferences.

Plans

I want *The Forensic* to become an ever better scholarly and fraternal journal for PKD. I want to see more submissions of scholarly research in argument, persuasion, rhetoric, and forensics. I would like to see the "coaches and students corner" become an active place for dialogue on forensics issues in debate and individual events. I want recent books, video programs, and computer items to be critically reviewed in our journal. At the same time, *The Forensic* must continue to contain fraternal news from the National Council and from provinces and chapters. Only if we all contribute in the spirit of PKD can *The Forensic* become the journal we all want it to be.

Kristine M. Bartanen, Ph.D.

Communication and Theatre Arts

I became a part of Pi Kappa Delta when I began coaching at the University of Puget Sound sixteen years ago. At Puget Sound I found a strong PKD tradition dating back to 1922 and it has been both fun and educational to retrace elements of our chapter's and the organization's history. I look forward to working with our current province governor to start an historical archive for the Great West. Helping to

strengthen Pi Kappa Delta at the chapter, regional and national level has been the focus of some of my professional work in forensics. I have served as lieutenant governor and governor of the Province of the Northwest, have presented papers at and helped to organize proposals for PKD developmental conferences and SCA panel presentations, have served on various PKD committees, and have both published in and been a reader for *The Forensic*. I recently completed my work as host for the 1993 nationals, and I look forward to working on the 1995 site selection committee and as an associate editor.

I have now been involved directly in forensics as competitor or coach for more than twenty years. That is longer than I have done anything else in my life! Forensics has been central to my growth and development as a person, teacher, and scholar. I find continuing challenge and reward in the process of helping young people formulate, support, and articulate clearly their ideas. That students become more critical receivers of information in this age of fragmented and conflicting messages and more empowered participants in public deliberation of important issues remains at the heart of my teaching philosophy. I believe that forensics can and should continue to be a key element in education for active citizenship. I am strongly committed to the view that forensics is a co-curricular endeavor, with education as its central goal and competition as a vehicle for accomplishing the goal.

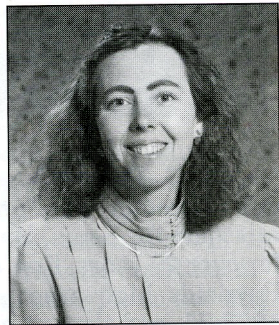
Pi Kappa Delta continues to face challenges in the years ahead. We must implement the constitutional revisions passed at the 1993 nationals so as to



increase truly the diversity of membership in our organization, to strengthen in fact our connections with PKD alumni, and to bring the organization to a more reliable financial state. In short, we must give our convention promises meaning and work to make Pi Kappa Delta a more meaningful part of the forensics experience.

Cynthia Carver

I have been involved with competitive forensics for the past twenty-six years. My first exposure to the activity was as a high school debater in northern Minnesota and then as an NDT debater at Concordia-Moorhead. Later I went on to coach/or direct forensics, both debate and individual events, at Bradley University, Winona State University and Concordia College. After twenty-six years I am still challenged and rewarded by my involvement with forensics.



My philosophy of forensics is a good fit with PKD. I frequently say that it is my belief that forensics is an educational activity that is well served by competitive practices. In other words, I am drawn to forensics by the strong educational opportunities it affords our students, but I also feel strongly that the competitive nature of forensics lends itself to the educational goals of the activity. So like PKD, I see forensics competition as a means to an end and not an end in itself.

Sam Cox

Biography and picture will appear in next issue.

Dr. Kevin W. Dean

Author of numerous articles and convention papers dealing with various aspects of forensics, communication education, and political communication, Dr. Kevin W. Dean is currently the Director of Forensics at West Chester University, Pennsylvania. As an undergraduate at Bowling Green University, Dean was an active member of PKD and earned the level of highest distinction, a level he has also attained as a coach having students achieve on the national level. Dean has received awards for both outstanding teaching and service and currently serves as an associate editor of the *National Forensic Journal* and *Speaker and Gravel*.



Philosophy Statement: Forensics is a co-curricular activity grounded in curricular communication theory. Forensics is a vehicle to motivate students who seek to develop and refine communication skills in areas of writing,

research, reasoning and presentation. Forensics unlocks countless educational and career opportunities. Above all, forensics helps students develop a sense of ethics and it enables them to experience the values of group cohesion and individual self confidence. The forensics director must constantly meet the challenge of developing a program which produces interpersonal competence as well as public communication excellence—a program where success is measured not by the number of trophies won but by the honor, intellect, and attitude of the ones who hold them.

Dr. C. Thomas Preston, Jr.

Dr. C. Thomas Preston, Jr., is Associate Professor and Director of Forensics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He has been involved in forensics for over 20 years, first as a debater at Paisley and R.J. Reynolds high schools in Winston-Salem, NC from 1973-75, and then as a varsity forensics competitor at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill from 1976 to 1979. As a competitor for the Tar Heels, Preston qualified for both the National Forensics Association and American Forensic Association national tournaments each year in several events.

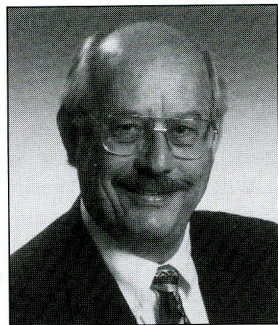
After earning a Masters from North Carolina in 1981, Preston earned a Doctorate in Communication from the University of Nebraska in 1986. During the 1983-84 year, Preston began coaching forensics as an assistant to Dr. Jack Kay in Lincoln, and was hired as lecturer and Director of Forensics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1984. Upon completing his doctorate, Preston was promoted to Assistant Professor at UM-St. Louis in 1986, and then tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 1992.

During his first nine years at UM-St. Louis, Preston's chief accomplishments included: 1) publishing many articles in forensics journals; 2) the presidency and secretary-treasurer posts of the Missouri Association of Forensics Activities; 3) establishing two college tournaments; 4) hosting annually the Eastern Missouri NFL championships; 5) establishing a summer forensics institute that attracts over 100 students annually; 6) establishing in 1984 a Pi Kappa Delta Chapter at UM-St. Louis; 7) hosting Pi Kappa Delta Nationals in 1989, the sixth year of that chapter; 8) establishing advanced college credit programs for basic speech and debate at 14 high schools; and reflecting this diversity in effort, 9) winning the 1993 Pi Kappa Delta President's Outstanding Award for the Missouri Province.

"Our program strives to do the greatest good for the greatest number," says Preston. "Working under Dr. Kay at Nebraska instilled in me the need to strive for this while running an honest and educational competitive program. I am still seeking ways to transform these ideas into reality. One of these ways will be to promote the publication of articles in *The Forensic* that support these ideals in other programs. Over the years, my coaching colleagues and I have been very blessed with students who have helped our program achieve these ends. My professional efforts, whether they be coaching, researching, reviewing, or whatever, are thus dedicated to giving something back to them."



Larry Schnoor



As I reflect over my past involvement with forensics, I realize that I have been witness to many changes in the forensic community. These changes have been in terms of personnel as well as in educational practices. If I were put in a position that I would no longer be able to be involved with forensics, I honestly believe I would say no to the position as I feel forensics has been the most important activity with which I have had the pleasure of being associated. The primary focus during my career has been on the education aspects of the activity. It is my firm belief that if a forensics program is based on sound educational principles, it will be a successful program and will achieve a measure of national recognition. This recognition naturally will be in line with the amount of support the program receives from its institution.

One of the rewarding factors that I have been able to enjoy, is to see and observe the success of the students with which I have had the opportunity to work. Their success is another strong indication of the educational nature of the activity. Many of these students have become involved with forensic programs of their own. Others have taken their forensic skills and put them to good use in business and government. I believe this is what forensics really means. It provides the opportunity for everyone to grow and employ these principles of effective public discourse for the betterment of themselves as well as society.

My forensics background extends back to my high school participation when I did an event in Minnesota called "Non-original Oratory." In college I participated in debate, extemp and oratory. If oral interpretation was included, it was just that - oral interpretation. There was not a separation of the areas of prose, poetry or drama. In fact, even debate was simply debate, with no prep time and the emphasis was on thinking on your feet. As I said earlier, there have been many changes.

I spent the bulk of my coaching years at Mankato State University, serving as the Director of Forensics for approximately 28 years. For 18 of those years I also served as the Chair of the Department. During that period of time I was very active in the AFA and the development of the NIET as well as working with the NFA and its national tournament. My interest has always been in forensics. Over the years I have been involved in numerous conferences and convention programs where forensics has been the subject under consideration. At the present time, I am the Director of Individual Events at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. I am thankful that I have this opportunity to continue my work at such a fine institution that has supported a strong forensic program for a number of years.

I do have some spare time. Yes, I do find time to enjoy my hobby of collecting antiques as well as cooking. Ask my wife and she will tell you, she lets me enjoy some expensive hobbies because I am willing to do the cooking. This past summer a new interest has come into her life and mine, as we became grandparents for the first time. Just as both of my daughters learned how to handle forensic tournaments, I hope that I shall have the privilege of helping my granddaughter do the same.