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Constructing Social Reality: An Examination of Contemporary Perceptions of 20th Century Forensic Leadership
ROBERT S. LITTLEFIELD, NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Memorial or Pro-Life Tool?: The Case of the *National Memorial for the Unborn*
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Forum Piece

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The *Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta* invites authors to submit manuscripts related to scholarship, pedagogy, research and administration in competitive and non-competitive debate. The Editor and Editorial Board especially seek articles that are especially about ways to increase diversity in forensics. The Editorial Board will consider manuscripts of this nature of top priority. Manuscripts submitted by undergraduate students and previously unpublished scholars will also receive serious consideration.

This journal reflects the values of its supporting organization, *Pi Kappa Delta*, which is committed to promoting *the art of persuasion, beautiful and just*. The journal seeks to promote serious scholarly discussion of issues connected to making competitive debate and individual events a powerful tool for teaching students the skills necessary for becoming articulate citizens. The journal seeks essays reflecting perspectives from all current debate and individual events forms, including, but not limited to: NDT, CEDA, NEDA, NPDA, Lincoln-Douglas debate, as well as NIET, NFA, and nontraditional individual events.

Reviews of books, activities, and other educational materials will be published periodically (as submitted), and those submissions are also sought. Potential authors should contact the Editor regarding the choice of materials for review.

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Constructing Social Reality: An Examination of Contemporary Perceptions of 20th Century Forensic Leadership

ROBERT S. LITTLEFIELD, NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Abstract: *This study utilized a social constructionist approach to examine the perceptions about forensic leaders in the 20th century. 171 perceived forensic leaders were identified. Characteristics that constructed forensic leadership were noted, respondents most often perceived leaders from their own academic identity groups over others, more men than women were identified, and those having national influence through offices or services rendered to a forensic organization, leading a forensic initiative, or publishing books or manuscripts about forensics were perceived as leaders.*

Throughout the 20th century, forensics evolved due, in part, to the demonstration of leadership by particular individuals who saw value in student-inspired competitive communication activities and who worked to build and sustain the systemic infrastructure needed to institutionalize what would be defined by Littlefield and Bartanen (2010) as an uniquely American educational innovation marrying the skills of civic engagement with competition. The study of forensic leadership during the 20th century focused on key individuals, the roles they played within their particular schools, and what they accomplished within their organizations. Because competitive forensics was essentially born in the 20th century, early scholars wrote extensively of the origins of the activity, key individuals (both students and coaches), participating schools, and emerging practices and trends.

The historical materials identifying the early forensic leaders during the early 20th century were largely anecdotal. Many articles,

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books, and academic disquisitions detailed particular high school or collegiate forensic programs and their directors (Fifty years of debating at Bates College, 1947; Harshbarger, 1976; Johnston, 1917; Morrison, 1948; Potter, 1944; Roberts, 1978; Sillars, 1949), or provided the histories of forensic organizations, with their leaders, activities, practices, milestones, and achievements (Baird, 1923; Busfield, 1950; Ewbank, 1939; Fernandez, 1959; Freeley, 1951; Jacob, 1931; Lambert, 1948). Histories of state or regional forensic activities provided some of what is known about forensic leadership during the 20th century (e.g., Berry, 1928; Buehler, 1946; Diem, 1950; Littlefield, 1997; Montgomery, 1950; Moriarity, 1945; Schmidt, 1949; Wells, 1929). Beyond reporting established facts or providing impressionistic accounts of individuals or organizations, these histories served as little more than records for posterity. How these histories have been used or regarded by contemporary forensic educators and practitioners to familiarize forensic students and the broader forensic community about significant leaders and their accomplishments has not been examined. This study reveals the perceptions of contemporary forensic educators and practitioners about those individuals identified by the forensic community of the 20th century as significant leaders.

Historical Context

National honorary organizations at both the collegiate and high school levels influenced the evolution of forensics during the 20th century. At the four-year collegiate level, through Pi Kappa Delta (PKD), Delta Sigma Rho (DSR), and Tau Kappa Alpha (TKA), individuals could acquire leadership experience through district or provincial entities created to provide competitive and fraternal opportunities within defined geographic areas for affiliated schools sharing a common perspective. For high schools, the National Forensic League (NFL) offered coaches and teachers opportunities for leadership and service as part of district or national committees. After World War II, representatives from all forensic organizations came together to establish the American Forensic Association (AFA) as a supra organization for all forensic activities (Blyton, 1970a). This association had officers, committees, and sponsored activities that provided opportunities for individuals to take on additional responsibilities of leadership.

Those who assumed leadership roles—at whatever level—faced a number of issues affecting the length and focus of their commitment. The resources available to forensic educators and practitioners often determined their level of involvement beyond their campuses. Those with limited budgets retained a campus or local focus to their forensic activities; while those programs with larger budgets were able to travel to other parts of the country (or world). The self-selection of coaches and schools into particular national forensic honoraries or organizations also affected their name recognition and perceived leadership status. For example, individuals who were members of a particular national organization were more familiar with the officers and

prominent individuals within their organization than they were with the officers or prominent individuals of another.

With all of the forensic contexts in which individuals could become leaders, no clear picture has emerged to reveal which individuals during the 20th century were perceived by contemporary forensic educators and practitioners as the most significant. This leads the researchers to question:

RQ1: Who are perceived by contemporary forensic educators and practitioners to be the forensic leaders of the 20th century?

Similarly, the characteristics or practices of those 20th century individuals that made them forensic leaders has yet to be established. This leads the researchers to question:

RQ2: What characteristics or practices of particular individuals involved in forensics are identified as reasons for their perceived status as forensic leaders during the 20th century?

As forensics moves into the 21st century, the issues confronting the activity will require leaders capable of managing the challenges. Contemporary forensic educators and practitioners can benefit from retrospectively identifying the forensic leaders of the 20th century and why individuals perceived them to be the leaders.

Conceptual and Operational Definitions of Leadership

Scholars have criticized leadership studies in the past for lack of a clear definition of what constitutes leadership. Leadership has been variously defined. Johns and Moser (2001) provided a range of definitions inherently linked by their action-orientation, including: Katz and Kahn (1966) who characterized as leadership as "any act of influence on a matter of organizational relevance" (p. 334); Tannenbaum, Weschler, and Massarch (1961) who suggested leadership as, "interpersonal influence, exercised in situations and directed toward the attainment of specific goals" (p. 24); and Burns (1979) who described leaders as, "[inducing] followers to act for certain goals" (p. 381). This action-oriented and leader-centered approach to leadership is what Pearce (1995) described as the social construction of reality: when a leader's actions determine whether or not an individual is demonstrating leadership.

The social construction of reality as it applies to leadership stands in contrast with the construction of social reality where perceptions from members of an organization or community about the demonstration of leadership come to the forefront (Pearce, 1995). Rather than defining leadership based upon the action of influence at work in a particular context, Fairhurst and Grant (2010) suggested leadership to be a co-constructed reality created between and among actors. This approach to leadership is "intersubjectively produced" (p. 174) and proposed that people construct leaders based upon their perceptions of what a leader should be or should do. They argued:

"Leadership is co-constructed a product of sociohistorical and collective meaning-making, and negotiated on an ongoing basis through a complex interplay among leadership actors, be they designated or emergent leaders, managers, and/or followers" (p. 172). The nature of the interplay among leadership actors should be affected by their organizational identity within the context of forensics. First, there is organizational identity, that being a forensic program at a school is affiliated with a particular honorary organization (e.g., PKD; NFL). Actors within that particular organization should be perceived to have some amount organizational influence. Then, there is the academic level identity of the institution that affects perceptions of leadership. For example, high school forensic teams compete with other high school teams, while collegiate forensic programs compete with other collegiate programs. Forensic programs exist within particular circles of actors and discourse. Leeds-Hurwitz (1995) posited that such time-space existences limit the language of discourse to which actors are exposed, and thus the social construction of identity. The impact of these identities on creating groups of known actors involved in the interplay of the realities occurring within the forensic organizations should be reflected in the identification of those perceived to be influential leaders. Thus we posit the following hypothesis:

- H1: Contemporary high school and collegiate forensic educators and practitioners will be more likely to identify perceived leaders from within their own academic identity groups than from outside their own academic identity groups.

Grist (2000) further explained how the co-construction of leadership functioned: "What counts as a 'situation' and what counts as 'appropriate' ways of leading in that situation are interpretive and contestable issues, not issues that can be decided by objective criteria" (p. 3). Upon examination of the context of competitive forensics as it evolved, the construction of the the forensic community was dominated by men. From all accounts, most all of the earliest intercollegiate debaters and speakers were men. As the forensic organizations were established to enable the national network of member schools to compete among themselves and with competing programs, men dominated the leadership positions for most of the 20th century. As late as the 1980s, Friedley and Manchester (1985) found a significant "gender gap" in national forensic organizations, reporting that the 1984 NDT consisted of 85% male contestants, and at the AFA-National Individual Events Tournament (NIET) of the same year, just 20% of the finalists were women. While there were teams with women as well as mixed-sex teams of participants, men were most often prominent and identifiable. Thus, when considering the demographics of who might be identified by contemporary forensic educators and practitioners, the following hypothesis emerges:

- H2: Contemporary forensic educators are more likely to identify men than women as influential forensic leaders of the 20th century.

When considering the leadership contributions of individuals in particular forensic contexts, the situations are interpretive and contestable. The influence of an individual perceived to be a leader in one context may be contested by someone who perceives another individual to be more influential. How people define *influential leader* varies, especially in the context of forensics. How one considers a person to be *influential* has personal, local, and national implications. These conditions are represented in Figure 1.

Figure 1

Conditions of Influence on Perceptions of Leadership

Condition #1 (personal influence):	An individual may have a very important role in the personal development of an individual (e.g., a coach may be perceived as influential by student competitor on an individual level).
Condition #2 (local influence):	An individual may have founded a local program (e.g., speakers' Bureau), or established a local tradition (e.g., hosting public debates in election years), so that the local community considers the individual to influential to the continued success of the program or tradition.
Condition #3 (national influence):	An individual may have provided service or leadership as an elected or appointed official in an established forensic organization, established regional or national forensic initiatives, or published books or journal articles about forensics, and thus be considered as significant within or across various forensic organizations.

Within the context of this paper, the operational definition of *influential leader* must be qualified by *the level or condition at which the contribution of the individual to forensics was notable to observers*. This allows for the inclusion of the conditions listed above. Because an individual or local perception of influence as represented by conditions 1 and 2 may limit the exposure of some individuals on a regional or national level, the following hypothesis is introduced:

- H3: Individuals meeting level or condition #3 (those who were identified as having provided service or leadership as an elected or appointed official in a forensic organization, established regional or national forensic initiatives, or published books or journal articles about forensics) will be recognized more frequently as influential leaders by contemporary forensic educators and practitioners more than individuals who were perceived to be personally or locally influential.

To answer the research questions and test the hypotheses, a mixed-method approach was used.

Method

A retrospective analysis of selected historical publications by major forensic honorary organizations was undertaken to establish how these groups socially constructed leaders who were regarded as influential. Because not all forensic organizations were uniform in their preservation of historical records, the baseline for this study served only to provide a range of individuals along with some of the rationale for their inclusion as influential leaders. To gather the data necessary to determine who current forensic educators perceived to be influential leaders in forensics during the 20th century, a survey was developed and administered using a purposive sampling approach.

Retrospective Historical Approach

Because the major forensic honoraries and organizations published journals and magazines for the benefit of their memberships, these publications became the best sources for records of influential forensic leadership in the 20th century. Through a review of *The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho*, *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta*, *The Rostrum* and website published by the NFL, and the *Journal of the American Forensic Association*, a glimpse of early 20th century leaders from within each organization and the forensic community emerged. A search of all extant published volumes of each of these publications resulted in the identification of six sources specifically listing individuals who were considered influential leaders. These individuals and their qualification for being included were compiled to provide a base-line for comparison with contemporary perceptions about influential leaders of the 20th century.

Survey Approach

An inductive approach was used to develop the survey to gather perceptions of contemporary forensic educators about influential people regarded as influential forensic leaders during the 20th century. The participants were purposely selected based upon the researchers' knowledge of their organizational forensic affiliations and their academic level identity as high school or collegiate forensic educators and practitioners. The data were gathered over a six month period of time (during the 2006-2007 academic year), beginning in November at the National Communication Association's annual convention and ending at the PKD National Tournament in March.

Participants

The participants were collegiate and high school professionals with strong ties to forensics spanning seven decades of the 20th century (1930-2000). The respondents came from four sources: Individuals specifically identified as an established Emeritus group associated with the AFA and having significant interest in forensics (N=74); living members of the NFL's Hall of Fame, primarily representing high school leaders recognized for their contribution to the NFL or high

school forensics ($N=78$); on-line subscribers to CRTNET, a listserv for individuals in the communication profession ($N=\text{all subscribers who read the invitation were invited to participate}$); and collegiate coaches and judges at one of the national forensic honorary tournaments ($N=100$). From these groups, 95 individuals completed and returned the surveys.

The percentage of respondents is unavailable due to the multiple delivery options available to participants; however, the quality of the sample was high due to several factors. The Emeritus Group included past elected leaders and individuals who had maintained a connection with forensics following their retirement from active coaching and continued to meet annually. Similarly, the NFL Hall of Fame members represented those who had made a considerable contribution to the promotion and operation of NFL. Within the ranks of the NFL Hall of Fame group were many past and present officers, coaches, and former student competitors. Of the 95 respondents, 29 (30.5%) indicated one or two decades of forensic involvement; 37 (38.8%) had three or four decades of forensic involvement; and 29 (30.5%) had five or six decades of forensic involvement. Nearly 70% of the respondents indicated they were presently involved in forensic activities; 15.7% reported that they concluded their forensic involvement during the decade of the 1990s; 11.5% were last involved during the 1980s; and 3.1% ended their direct forensic involvement during the 1970s.

Participants were asked to provide demographic data to establish the basis for their forensic expertise and to identify the decades of their involvement in forensics at any/all levels. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents were male (64.2%); slightly more than one-third were female (34.7%). 78.9% of those responding competed at the high school level, with slightly more (80%) competing at the collegiate level. Just over half of the respondents (55.7%) indicated they were high school teachers and/or coaches, while 70.5% were collegiate coaches or instructors. More respondents (65.2%) had been members of the NFL than those indicating membership in collegiate honoraries (54.7%). 92% of the respondents had judged forensic events.

Instrument

The survey was designed with open-ended questions to identify the names of individuals considered to be the most significant forensic leaders in the United States from 1900 to the present. Participants were asked to: 1) List the name of an individual they perceived to be an influential forensic leader during the 20th century; 2) identify the school or forensic organizational affiliation of the individual (if known); 3) explain their relationship or connection with the individual (if any); and 4) provide their rationale for including the individual. Participants could submit as many names of individuals as they wished.

Electronic versions of the survey were made available to the Emeritus group and CRTNET subscribers, while print versions were mailed to the living NFL Hall of Fame members and distributed at the PKD biennial national tournament. The Emeritus group was identified through a member of the AFA, and the names and addresses of living Hall of Fame members were provided by the NFL. The survey was posted on CRTNET, and the researchers obtained permission from the PKD Research Board to make the survey available at the coaches' meeting.

Data

As the survey was delivered through electronic and paper formats, and administered to participants in multiple organizations, respondents were asked to submit their data only once. In all, 95 surveys were returned, providing a total of 352 names of individuals perceived to be significant forensic leaders during the 20th Century (Mean=3.70; Mode=4.00). Fourteen (15%) of the 95 respondents provided only a single name, of which nine (64%) were among the most commonly mentioned individuals. After accounting for duplication, the total number of individuals included in the study was 171, including 34 women and 137 men.

Results

Retrospective Historical Analysis

The review of publications from each of the selected organizations produced a baseline listing of individuals who were considered influential by their respective organizations: DSR, PKD, NFL, and the AFA. The following historical analysis reveals the names and rationale supporting the inclusion of these individuals as a baseline for leadership in the 20th century.

Delta Sigma Rho

The DSR honorary did not *formally* self-identify organizational leaders in its early publications; however, at the celebration of DSR's Golden Jubilee in 1956, the leadership identified 19 individuals who made "notable contributions" in various professions (Fest, 1956, p. 99-105). Included within the ranks were four individuals making their contributions specifically to forensics or the communication discipline: Albert Craig Baird—president of Speech Association of America; Henry Lee Ewbank—coached forensics for over 29 years at the University of Wisconsin, authored numerous books on forensics; Wayne Lyman Morse—taught and coached debate in Wisconsin and Minnesota; and James Albert Winans—authored one of the most influential public speaking textbooks in the first half of the 20th century. In the mid-1950s, DSR and TKA merged to become DSR-TKA. At the union of these organizations, there were testimonials to the past, but there was no published self-identification of their leaders.

Pi Kappa Delta

The history of PKD reflected a greater tendency than other collegiate honoraries to self-identify those individuals within its ranks who assumed forensic leadership stature. The National Council was more formal in its recognition of individuals for their leadership; particularly, through its "Roll Call of Service," "50 Famous Alumni," and Hall of Fame.

Golden Anniversary Roll Call of Service. At the time of its 50th anniversary, PKD published a "roll call of service to the fraternity" to identify those "who have served where the work has been hardest and longest, and where, sometimes, the tasks have been thankless" (The roll call of service, 1963, p. 46-55). The following individuals with their major contributions to PKD were cited: Egbert R. Nichols—founder of PKD, president and editor of *The Forensic*, instrumental in founding the AFA; John A. Shields—founder PKD, first secretary-treasurer; John R. Macarthur—one of only a few to hold three major offices of PKD (president, secretary, and editor of *The Forensic*); Roy Painter—second treasurer of PKD; Charles A. Marsh—third national president of PKD and secretary; Alfred Westfall—from 1920-1947 served as president, treasurer, secretary-treasurer, editor; George Finley—PKD secretary-treasurer (1924-1948); William H. Veatch—fifth president (1928-1930) and historian; George Pflaum—PKD president (1930-1932); Harold D. Hopkins—PKD president (1932-1934); George McCarty—PKD president (1934-1936); Sylvester R. Toussaint—PKD president (1936-1938) and secretary-treasurer (1948-1953); Forrest H. Rose—PKD president (1938-1940); William V. O'Connell—PKD president (1940-1942); Glenn R. Capp—PKD president (1942 until called into military service); Martin J. Holcomb—PKD president (1942-1947); Edward S. Betz—student representative on National Council (1930-1932), PKD president (1947-1949); Wilbur E. Moore—editor of *The Forensic* (1947-1951); Sherod J. Collins—PKD president (1949-1951); Roy D. Mahaffey—PKD president (1951-1953); Harvey Cromwell—editor of *The Forensic* (1951-1955) and PKD president (1959-1961); John W. Randolph—PKD president (1953-1955), editor of *The Forensic*, president of Missouri Association of Debate Directors; D. J. Nabors—national council member (1948-1953), secretary-treasurer (1953-1963+); Theodore F. Nelson—PKD president (1955-1957); Emmett T. Long—editor of *The Forensic* (1955-1959); Laurence E. Norton—PKD president (1957-1959) and historian; Raymond Yeager—PKD president (1961-1963).

50 Famous Alumni. In addition to the Honor Roll, PKD identified 50 famous alumni (Fifty famous alumni, 1963, pp. 27-45). Upon review of the short biographical sketches, five alumni (10%) were specifically identified as leaders in the forensic community: Charles T. Battin—Director of Forensics (1932-1959) at University of Puget Sound, PKD National Council (1955-1959); Waldo W. Braden—president (1962) of the Speech Association of America, editor of *Quarterly Journal of Speech*; first vice president of TKA; Kenneth G. Hance—PKD Province

Governor of the Lakes, national secretary of DSR and editor of *The Gavel*, executive secretary of the Interstate Oratorical Association, and president of the Speech Association of America; Bruno E. Jacob—founder and executive secretary of the NFL; Lester Thonssen—editor of *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, editor of *Speech Monographs*, President of Speech Association of America (1956).

Hall of Fame. PKD inaugurated its Hall of Fame in 1987. While individuals continue to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, the following individuals were named during the 20th century: 1987 – Georgia Bowman, Theodore O. H. Karl, Roy Mahaffey, Egbert R. Nichols, Larry E. Norton, John Shields, William H. Veatch; 1989 – George Finley, D. J. Nabors, Alfred Westfall; 1991 – Roy Murphy, Sylvester R. Toussaint; 1993 – Charles Battin, Fred Goodwin, George McCarty, Forrest Rose, Raymond Yeager; 1995 – Harvey Cromwell, George R. R. Pflaum; 1997 – James A. Grissinger, Bruno E. Jacob; 1999 – Carolyn Keefe, E. A. Vaughn, Grace Walsh, Harold Widvey. The continued recognition of alumni and leaders by PKD was part of a strategy undertaken by its National Council to prepare for the organization's Centennial Celebration.

National Forensic League

Elected Leaders. Through the creation of an organizational website (www.nflonline.org), the NFL posted information for its members as well as those interested in learning more about high school forensics. Included on the website is a history of NFL listing those individuals who served in *multiple, elected leadership positions* within NFL during the 20th century. Considerable recognition was afforded to those individuals who were elected to serve since they were voted upon by the membership on a regular basis. As such, the following individuals were those most often mentioned and influential high school forensic educators and coaches based upon their election to more than one office, multiple times: Senator Karl E. Mundt (President, Vice President), James F. Hawker (President, Vice President, Council Member), Dennis Winfield (President, Executive Secretary, Council Member), Carmendale Fernandez (President, Vice President, Council Member), James M. Copeland (President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Council Member), Frank Sferra (President, Vice President, Council Member), Donus D. Roberts (President, Vice President, Council Member), L. D. Naegelin (President, Council Member), Phyllis Barton (Vice President, Council Member), William Woods Tate, Jr. (Vice President), and Ted W. Belch (Vice President, Council Member). Two other individuals only served as Executive Secretaries of the NFL—Bruno E. Jacob and Lester M. Tucker—but were often mentioned due to their contact with schools across the country and their leadership in the management of the National Tournament.

Hall of Fame. The NFL created its Hall of Fame in 1978. Of the 149 members elected to the NFL Hall of Fame (<http://www.nflonline.org/AboutNFL/HallofFame>), the following were elected leaders (e.g.,

President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Council Member) of the League: Phyllis Barton, Ted W. Belch, C. Edwin Brower, Ray Cecil Carter, James M. Copeland, Carmendale Fernandez, James F. Hawker, Bruno E. Jacob, David Johnson, J. Edmund Mayer, Vernon W. Metz, H. B. Mitchell, Karl E. Mundt, L. D. Naegelin, Donus Roberts, Frank Sferra, Richard B. Sodikow, William Woods Tate, Jr., Lester M. Tucker, and Dennis D. Winfield.

American Forensic Association

Blyton (1970a) provided an account of the early history of the AFA, describing how debate coaches needed to do something to "meet the growing needs and special interests of high school and college coaches of forensics" (p. 13). Twenty-five people met in Chicago and from this group came the first officers and regional governors of the AFA, including: President, Hugo Hellman; Vice President, Wayne Eubank; and Secretary-Treasurer, E. R. Nichols; and Regional Governors, Alan Nichols, Thorrel Fest, Annabel Hagood, and Austin Freeley.

The AFA did not self-identify its significant leaders, per se; however, Blyton (1970b) provided short biographies of the first presidents of the Association, describing their commitment and leadership: Hugo Hellman—first president of the AFA, authored *Annual Background Book for High School Debaters* (1938-1968) and several other speech textbooks; Austin Freeley—president of AFA (1952-53), president of the New England Forensic Association, authored *Argumentation and Debate*, served as an officer in DSR-TKA, chaired the Committee on Intercollegiate Debate and Discussion; Paul Carmack—president of AFA (1954-55), was National Secretary of DSR; Annabel Dunham Hagood—first female president of AFA (1956-57), served as secretary-treasurer and vice president of AFA and was two-term president of TKA; Paul Newman—president of AFA (1958-59), published over 40 articles in leading journals; James McBath—president of AFA (1960-61), editor of *Journal of the AFA*, president of DSR-TKA, and edited *TV Championship Debates for AFA*; Nicholas Cripe—vice president and later president of AFA (1962-63), was secretary of DSR-TKA, and authored forensic articles; Robert Huber—president of AFA (1964-65), George Ziegelmüller—president (1966-67), secretary-treasurer, vice president of AFA, president of the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League; Gifford Blyton—president of AFA (1968-69) and secretary-treasurer, directed forensics at University of Kentucky, wrote the *History of the AFA*. These biographies of AFA presidents provided a portrayal of why these individuals were regarded as significant leaders of forensic activities during the 20th century.

Summary of Retrospective Analysis

This review revealed individuals assigned leadership status based upon their actions and accomplishments within the forensic community. While not exhaustive, the construction of these identified leaders provided a baseline listing of individuals who were perceived by

their peers and professional colleagues as 20th century leaders of the forensic community.

Presentation of Survey Data

To identify the familiarity of current forensic educators, coaches, and practitioners with those individuals who were identified throughout the 20th century by forensic publications as significant leaders, the results to RQ1 were tabulated and presented here. Table 1 provides a listing of individuals mentioned most frequently as perceived influential forensic leaders in the 20th century, including: Larry Schnoor, Bruno E. Jacob, George Ziegelmuehler, James M. Copeland, David Zarefsky, Donn Parson, Melissa Maxie Wade, Peter Pober, Gerald Sanders, Grace Walsh, Austin J. Freeley, Carmendale Fernandez, Annabel Hagood, and Scott Nobles.

Table 1

Frequency of Mentions as Perceived Influential Forensic Leaders during the 20th century in the United States of America

Name	Total Mentions	Listing* (1st or only – 2nd – 3rd)
Larry Schnoor	18	8 – 6 – 2
Bruno E. Jacob	16	10 – 3 – 2
George Ziegelmuehler	15	8 – 0 – 2
James M. Copeland	15	6 – 4 – 2
David Zarefsky	14	2 – 4 – 4
Donn Parson	10	3 – 1 – 1
Melissa Maxie Wade	8	3 – 1 – 3
Peter Pober	7	1 – 2 – 2
Gerald Sanders	7	1 – 3 – 1
Grace Walsh	7	2 – 1 – 1
Austin J. Freeley	6	2 – 2 – 2
Carmendale Fernandez	5	0 – 1 – 2
Annabel Hagood	5	1 – 0 – 1
Scott Nobles	5	2 – 0 – 1

*The individual may have been listed as the participant's only perceived leader, or as one of several individuals perceived as leaders. The rankings (L to R) reflect being listed as 1st (or only), 2nd, or 3rd in a list of multiple names.

The names are listed in order based upon the total number of mentions. In addition, if multiple names were listed by a respondent, the table identifies whether the name was mentioned first, second, or third on the respondent's list of names. In order to be included in the table, the individual was mentioned by at least five respondents.

In addition to these individuals, five others received four mentions (Ted Belch, James "Al" Johnson, Donus Roberts, Kenneth Strange, and William Woods Tate, Jr.); nine individuals were mentioned three times (George Armstrong, Glenn Capp, Daniel Cronn-Mills, Donovan Cummings, Herbert James, David Matheny, J. W. Patterson, Frank Sferra, and Natalie Weber); 23 individuals were mentioned twice; with the remaining 120 individuals mentioned once.

Characteristics of the Top 14 Perceived Influential Forensic Leaders

In response to RQ2, a brief summary of the comments provided by the respondents are listed providing reasons why each individual was perceived as an influential forensic leader.

Larry Schnoor—founder of the AFA-NIET and current director, president of the National Forensic Association, executive secretary of the Interstate Oratory Association. Comments included: "He has coached thousands of students," and "he has worked with and mentored virtually all of the current coaches of forensics."

Bruno E. Jacob—founder of the NFL; longtime NFL executive director, NFL Hall of Fame member. Comments included: "His personal touch was inspirational to young coaches," and "he was committed to travel the country to encourage schools to join."

George Ziegelmuehler—one of the longest serving Director of Forensics in the United States following World War II (50+ years); author of argumentation/debate text; established outreach debate programs for inner city Detroit high schools before the formal Urban Debate League. Comments included being "revered" in the debate community, and helping to "launch the NDT in post-West Point years."

James Madison Copeland—Highly successful high school coach at Marquette; long-time NFL executive secretary, expanded NFL sponsorships to ensure the financial solvency of the League. Comments included: "Winningest high school coach in the 20th century," and "he personally saved the NFL as we know it from financial ruin."

David Zarefsky—president of the National Communication Association, president of the National Debate Tournament, author of textbooks on debate and public speaking, top speaker at the NDT, national oratory champion in high school. Comments included: "One of the best debaters of the 20th Century," and "best editor of the *Journal of the AFA* 'ever.'"

Donn Parson—leader in the NDT and AFA, NDT championship coach and tab room staff. Comments included: "produced more coaches than any other Director of Forensics," and "continues to mentor."

Melissa Maxie Wade—director of the Barkley Forum at Emory University; pioneer of the first Urban Debate Leagues in Atlanta; mentor and role model for women in debate; coached first team of two women to win the NDT. Comments included: "taken debate away from elites and offered it up to the masses, who need it most."

Peter Poher—coach at the University of Texas-Austin and later George Mason University; described as phenomenal coach; proof of the equation "results=funding=job security." Comments included: "Established the model for volunteer assistant coach-driven program that thrived despite lack of University funding," and "created national program from scratch in less than a decade."