August 28, 2017 

Dear Forensics Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the **Once a Bearcat, Always a Bearcat Swing** at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri On September 29th thru October 1st, 2017. The tournament will feature Craig Brown from Kansas State University as the Northwest Alumni Tournament Director. For those that don’t know, Craig was the first individual events director at Northwest.

The swing will feature a four round Public Forum debate tournament on Friday, Sept. 29th and two individual events tournaments in the eleven AFA events on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st. Each individual events tournament will offer two preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds. Awards will be given for 1st-6th places in each event. School Sweepstakes will be available for the top three programs for each day of the tournament.

In April, Northwest will host the Public Communication Speech and Debate League National Tournament. As an organization, PCSDL strives to find additional performance options beyond the traditional forensics events. In anticipation of that event, we will also be offering PCSDL events which will run concurrently with the traditional events. Events descriptions are included in this invitation.

**Entries for the tournament can be made using ForensicsTournament.net and are due by Tuesday, Sept. 26th at 5pm.** Be sure to register for each half of the swing if you plan on competing both days.

I look forward to seeing you at the swing. If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian Swafford

Director of Forensics

Northwest Missouri State University

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(660) 562-1506

**Once a Bearcat, Always a Bearcat Swing**

**Information and Procedures:**

**Debate:** Public Forum will follow the policies and principles of the Public Communication Speech and Debate League. The tournament will consist of 4 preliminary rounds and a final round, if necessary. Teams will debate the Fall semester topic that will be released on September 1st. Event description can be found below.

**Individual Events:** The tournaments will follow AFA guidelines for events. Each tournament will offer two preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds. **Students may enter up to three events per flight.** Events with more than 50 entries will have a semifinal round. Events with 7 or fewer entries will have three rounds and no final.

**A Flight B Flight**

Extemporaneous Speaking Impromptu Speaking

Dramatic Duo Interpretation Prose Interpretation

Dramatic Interpretation Poetry Interpretation

Program of Oral Interpretation Informative Speaking

Communication Analysis After Dinner Speaking

Persuasive Speaking

**PCSDL Events:** Northwest will host the PCSDL National Tournament in March. To give the programs in the region a chance to compete in these events, we will be offering some of the PCSDL events. These events will be flighted with the more traditional IE events.  **Students are limited to a total of three events per flight, whether PCSDL or traditional IE events.** Event descriptions can be found below.

**A Flight B Flight**

Stand Up Comedy Pecha Kucha

Slam Poetry Duo Improv

Table Topics Audition Monologue

**Entry Deadline:** The deadline for all entries will be **Tuesday, Sept. 26th at 5pm via ForensicsTournament.net.** Confirmations will be sent out upon receipt of entries.

**Fees:**

Public Forum Teams $50 per team

Individual Event Entries $8 per entry

PCSDL Entries $2 per entry

**Changes and Drops:**

Changes made after entry deadline $10 per change

Changes made at registration $25 per change

Dropped judges at Registration $200 per dropped judge

Please make checks payable to Northwest Missouri State University.

**Judges:** This is the first time in many years that Northwest has hosted a tournament. This means that the judging pool is limited. **Our football team will be playing at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City on Sept. 30th. This game may cut into our already limited judging pool. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you cover your entries.** While we will make every effort to provide quality hired judges, we need programs to make every effort to cover their entries. We would rather have your judges than your $$$. In debate, each school is required to provide one judge for every two teams entered. Hired judges are available at a cost of $100 per uncovered team. For both IE and PCSDL events, judges can cover a total of 6 slots (either all 6 of IE, all 6 of PCSDL, or some combination of both). Hired judges are available at a cost of $10 per uncovered slot in addition to the entry fees for the event.

**Awards:** In debate, trophies will be presented to both teams in the final round. Speaker awards will be presented to the top 6 speakers at the tournament. Team sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top schools at the tournament. Sweepstakes formula will count each prelim win as 5 points. Speaker awards will be based upon highest adjusted total score (dropping worst score), highest total score, lowest adjusted speaker rank (dropping worst rank), and finally lowest total rank.

In both IE and PCSDL events, awards will be presented for the six event finalists. Team sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top schools at the tournament. Sweepstakes formula in prelims will be 3 points for a 1st, 2 points for a 2nd, and 1 point for a 3rd and in finals will be 12 points for 1st, 10 points for 2nd, 8 points for 3rd, 6 points for 4th, 4 points for 5th, 2 points for 6th. While we will not have a separate novice division, we will recognize the top novice competitors for each event.

Awards will be presented to the top Community College program and the top Pi Kappa Delta chapter.

There will also be a Quality Award. This award will be won by the program with the most points earned per entry at the tournament (IE and PCSDL events only).

Team awards will be earned for each day of the swing. Weekend Sweepstakes and Weekend Quality awards will be awarded on the second day for the top program(s) that competed in both halves of the swing.

**Individual Sweepstakes:** Students entered in at least 4 events (IE or PCSDL) will be eligible for individual sweepstakes awards. The top 5 students in individual sweepstakes earn awards. This award will use the same formula as the IE and PCSDL team sweepstakes awards. The top competitor in individual sweepstakes from both halves of the swing will earn the Weekend Individual Sweepstakes championship.

**Area Lodging**: Maryville is a wonderful small town, but it is also a small town. I would recommend making reservations early.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Comfort Inn Red Roof Inn

2929 S. Main St. 2817 S. Main St. 2817 S. Main St.

(660) 562-9949 (660) 224-4992 (660) 562-2002

Country Hearth Inn America’s Best Value Inn

222 E. Summit Dr. 1700 E. 1st St.

(660) 582-8088 (660) 562-3111

**Tournament Schedule**

**Friday, Sept. 29th**

1 pm Registration for Public Forum – Wells Hall Lobby

2pm Public Forum Round 1

3pm Public Forum Round 2

4pm Public Forum Round 3

5pm Public Forum Round 4

6pm Public Forum Final Round

ASAP Public Forum Awards

**Saturday, Sept. 30th and Sunday, Oct. 1st**

8am Registration for IE and PCSDL Events – Valk Hall Lobby (Second Floor)

8:30am Extemp Draw

9am A Flight Round 1 (EXT, DUO, DI, POI, CA, PER, Stand Up, Poetry Slam, Table Topics)

10:15am B Flight Round 1 (IMP, PRO, POE, INFO, ADS, TED Talks, Aud. Monologue, Improv DUO)

11:30am LUNCH

12pm Extemp Draw

12:30pm A Flight Round 2

1:45pm B Flight Round 2

3pm Extemp Draw

3:30pm A Flight Finals (and any semifinals that need to occur)

5pm B Flight Finals (and any remaining finals)

6:30pm IE and PCSDL Awards

**Meals:** There are several eating establishments on campus or nearby for lunch options. On campus, there is the Bearcat Commons on the lower level of the Union (all you can eat food court) or the Jones on the second level of the Union (grab and go options). Off campus, there are several delivery options including Jimmy John’s, Pizza Hut, Domino’s, and Pizza Ranch. We are a small town so most dining options are very close.

**College Public Forum:**

1. **Philosophy:** Public Forum focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution. Competitors in this team event advocate or reject a position posed by a resolution (prepared by the Public Communication Speech and Debate League (PCSDL) Executive Council and distributed via the IE-L). The clash of idea must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury. Public Forum should:
	1. **Display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis.**
	2. **Utilize evidence without being driven by it.**
	3. **Present a clash of ideas by countering/refuting arguments of the opposing team (rebuttal)**
	4. **Communicate ideas with civility, clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum.**

This is not a debate event, per se, and as such, teams do not have prime facie burdens or the burden of rejoinder. Instead, teams are asked to advocate for (pro) or against (con) the ideas and policies represented within the resolution.

Since this is not a debate event, in the traditional sense, teams are prohibited from utilizing plans (formalized comprehensive proposals for implementation), counterplans and kritiks (off-topic arguments). Multiple competitive venues exist for the application of these argumentative strategies.

1. **Resolution:** Resolutions will be distributed two times in a year. Topics will be announced on the IE-L.
	1. Sept. 1st for Fall tournaments.
	2. Jan. 1st for Spring tournaments.
2. **Procedure and order of speeches:** Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Note: The round begins at the conclusion of the coin flip/sides/positions discussion. Contestants may not leave the room or consult with coaches after the coin flip, which begins the round.
	1. First Speaker – Team A 5 minutes
	2. First Speaker – Team B 5 minutes
	3. Crossfire (first question by speaker A1) 3 minutes
	4. Second Speaker – Team A 5 minutes
	5. Second Speaker – Team B 5 minutes
	6. Crossfire (first question by A2) 3 minutes
	7. Summary – First Speaker – Team A 3 minutes
	8. Summary – First Speaker – Team B 3 minutes
	9. Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team A 3 minutes
	10. Closing Arguments – Second Speaker – Team B 3 minutes
	11. Prep Time 2 minutes per team
3. **Timing:** Judges and/or debaters should keep track of speaking time.
4. **Plans/Counterplans:** In College Public Forum, neither side is permitted to offer a plan nor a counterplan (formalized comprehensive proposal for implementation). Instead, each team should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
5. **Oral Critiques:** No debate ballot may be turned in without a reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. CPF and the PCSDL discourage judges from disclosing decisions in preliminary rounds of competition. The ballot serves as a valuable educational tool to the teams and their coaches. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.
6. **Judges:** The use of community judges is strongly encouraged.
7. **Governance:** College Public Forum is sponsored by the PCSDL and all matters not covered in this description will be clarified by the PCSDL committee.

**Stand Up Comedy**: Contestants will present an original 3-4 minute stand up comedy set. Comics learn quickly that the cleaner you work, the more you work. Your material should be appropriate for network (not cable) television. While there are numerous sites that provide instruction on how to prepare a Stand-Up Comedy program, the following provides an excellent overview: <http://www.standupcomedyclinic.com/1407/top-10-tips-for-performing-in-comedy-competitions2/>

**Duo Improv:** Preparation time for Duo Improv is three minutes. Preparation time is separate from performance time. Performance time must be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of six with a 30-second grace period. Contestants going over or under the allotted time and grace period may not be ranked first in that round. The judge should clarify with the students before they begin how time signals will be communicated and must then give hand signals as the contestants are performing to help them stay within the time limit. No make-up, costumes, props, or lighting are permitted, but a table and/or two chairs may be used. Doors and walls are considered props and must not be used. The scene must contain only two characters with equal sharing of dialogue. An introduction by one or both students is **REQUIRED** to set the scene, and a resolution of the conflict must be evident at the end of the scene. Excessive profanity, sexual innuendo, or excessive physicality (i.e. pushing, shoving, and striking) **will NOT** be tolerated. Contestants are to remain outside of the room until it is their time to perform. Once they have finished with their performance they must remain in the room (unless they are cross entered) until the round is complete.

*Hints for Duo Improv Judges:* The scene must be a self-contained unit holding together a story itself. Students must resolve the conflict presented in the topic. Criteria for judging include teamwork of the actors, timing, movement, consistent characterization, good speaking skills, pantomime of props, and the comedic or dramatic effect of the scene on the audience.

## Slam Poetry: Contestants will perform one self-authored poem. No introduction, other than the title of the poem, will be giving. Scripts may not be used. Maximum time limit is 3 minutes.

## *Poems and performance*

1. Poems can be on any subject and in any style.
2. Each poet must perform work that he or she has created.
3. No props, blocking, musical instruments, pre-recorded music or costumes.

The rule concerning props and blocking is not intended to squelch the spontaneity, unpredictability, or on-the-fly choreography that people love about the slam; its intent is to keep the focus on the words rather than poets who movement and/or dance to convey the ideas and meaning inherent in the words of the poem.

***Sampling -*** It is acceptable for poets to incorporate, imitate, or otherwise "signify on" the words, lyrics, or tune of someone else (commonly called "sampling") in their own work. If they are only riffing off another's words, they should expect only healthy controversy; if on the other hand, they are ripping off another poet's words, they should expect scornful contumely.

***The No Repeat Rule -*** Poems may not be repeated in prelims rounds. Students advancing to finals must perform one of their poems from prelims. Each poet should plan on bringing THREE original poems to compete.

***The Three-Minute Rule*** *-* No performance should last longer than three minutes. The time begins when the performance begins, with the statement (or a similar equivalent): “My poem is entitled (called, named, etc)…” No other introduction is necessary.Judges will provide time signals. Performances lasting longer than three minutes and ten seconds should not be ranked first in the round.

**Table Topics:** To encourage development of true impromptu speaking skills, all contestants shall receive the same topic, which shall be of a general nature, and shall speak for two-three minutes. Judges will provide time signals.The topic shall be of reasonable length, shall not require a detailed knowledge and should lead to an opinion or conclusion.All contestants except the first shall leave the room. The topic is then read to the first contestant, who shall then speak on that topic for two-three minutes with no prep time.

Examples of topics:

If you could be any age again for one week, what age and why?
Most memorable meal

Toast your favorite teacher who is now deceased

Earth Day

**Audition Monologue**: Students present a 2-3 minute monologue from a published play.  Tournaments may designate if the monologue should be humorous, serious or classical and whether the performer should perform one or multiple monologues for the contest.

Auditions will be evaluated using the following criteria:

•  Ability to urgently pursue strong, clear objectives. (Has the actor identified a strong goal or task to pursue in the scene and are they consistently in "high stakes" pursuit of that task)?
•  Ability to make varied, specific and bold acting choices. (Is the actor employing different tactics in pursuit of the overall task, are those tactics clear, interesting and specific? Is the actor avoiding the traps of generalizing, emoting, indicating, and playing a single character "color" or "quality" throughout the scene)?
•  Mastery of an expressive and flexible vocal and physical instrument. (Does the actor have vocal and physical control? Can they be heard and understood throughout the audition? Is the audition free of superfluous energy or tension vocally or physically)?
•  Demonstration of facility with language and a clear understanding of the text. (Has the actor met the specific demands of the language in the text? Do the actor's choices seem grounded in, and informed by a broader understanding of the entire play)?
•  Demonstration of range and contrast.

Given the above criteria actors are strongly encouraged to select and prepare material for auditions that will demonstrate the above competencies, and to avoid material designed to demonstrate the actor's cleverness as an end in and of itself.

Actors and coaches are also strongly encouraged to remember that all auditions will be evaluated primarily on an actor's ability to demonstrate the acting competencies listed above, whether the material selected is from contemporary drama, rock opera, musical theatre, Shakespeare, Moliere or Christopher Durang. Actors are expected to illuminate the truth of a character within the context of the world the playwright has created in keeping with the stylistic demands of the play, rather than use the material as a vehicle solely to illuminate their own beautiful singing voices, their dazzling sense of comedy and style, or their ability to entertain an audience. The advice below is particularly useful in helping the actor find and frame material that meets those expectations.
•  Find material that you could be cast in today.
•  Use material that is within your age range, your vocal range (especially if you're singing), your emotional range, and within the scope of your movement skills.
•  Avoid material that requires a dialect.
•  Choose material has a clear beginning and moves to a conclusion.
•  Use material that focuses on (or showcases) your character.
•  Avoid material that you have performed in a complete production.
•  Make certain that you select clearly contrasting material.

Choose material in which you have faith, and that which allows you to gain confidence as you rehearse.

**Pecha Kucha:** A “Pecha Kucha” or 20×20 presentation contains 20 slides, with each slide shown for 20 seconds, for a presentation of exactly 6 minutes, 40 seconds.

The advantages of the Pecha Kucha format for a conference or a class are clear. Within a given time slot, more presentations can be scheduled and the schedule is predictable. In addition, the atmosphere in a Pecha Kucha session is usually very engaging. Once the “clock starts ticking”, the audience is on the side of the presenter, willing them to succeed. This is a wonderful atmosphere for both new and experienced presenters.

For more information on this event, please see: <http://cmmr.usc.edu//Pecha_Kucha_TipsResourcesExamples.pdf>