**Greetings WUDC/BP/USU community!**

You are cordially invited to attend the 2014 United States Universities (USU) National Championship Tournament, this April 11-13th 2014. Hosted by the C Richard Petticrew Forum- Purdue University’s Speech and Debate team- this year’s USU will take place on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Please note that we will also be hosting the 2014 America’s Cup on Thursday, April 10th (more details to come).

**General Information**

We have secured more than 55 classrooms for competition purposes, allowing us to offer a total team cap of 220 teams! The one catch is that we will not have access to all classrooms until 5:30pm on Friday. We are still planning on two rounds of competition Friday evening and in order to make the schedule work we will be handling all of the non-competition ‘preliminaries’ (i.e. program representative meeting, voluntary briefing, and mandatory briefing) Friday afternoon at the conference facilities at the Best Western Lafayette Executive Plaza and Conference Center.

For logistical/travel planning purposes, please plan on being in Lafayette, IN by **noon** on Friday, April 11th. We will be leading things off on Friday with the program representative meeting (i.e. what some organizations may refer to as a ‘business’ meeting). Elimination rounds are presently scheduled to run all day Sunday, with the final round taking place Sunday evening.

**Registration**

We are currently working on the feasibility of a stand-alone website. In the meantime, for those looking to get their registration in early, please e-mail your team entries and attending judges/coaches/other observers to: **USUnationals2014@gmail.com**

To better ensure a breadth of programmatic participation, we are capping initial entries to **four** teams per school, with the standard judging obligation of N-1. If there are any team slots remaining once initial entries have been received, we will solicit additional team entries from interested programs at a later date in order to reach the cap of 220 teams.

Registration fees are $60/person (or $120/team) for all participants. There will be an additional fee of $150 for each uncovered team entry. Registration fees are payable by cash or check. Please make checks payable to: C Richard Petticrew Forum. Those looking to have checks mailed in advance may use the following address-

C Richard Petticrew Forum

C/O John Schultz

100 N. University St., BRNG 2114

West Lafayette, IN 47907

**Hospitality**

A significant portion of participant registration fees will be used to cover hospitality-related expenses. At a minimum, we will be looking to provide the following meals:

Friday- lunch (program representatives- one per school), snacks (between rounds 1/2)

Saturday- Breakfast (juice, good coffee, and bagels), Lunch, Dinner

Sunday- Breakfast (juice, good coffee, and bagels), Lunch, Dinner

**Elimination Round Breaks**

Depending on the total number of team entries, we are planning for a *possible* break to partial-octafinals (top-48). The TENTATIVE schedule below reflects that possibility. Again, please note that the following schedule is TENTATIVE and very likely to change.

**TENTATIVE Schedule**

**Friday**

Note: Everything Friday afternoon will take place at the Best Western Lafayette Executive Plaza.

11:00-3:30pm Registration

12:00-3:30pm Program Representative Meeting [Lunch Provided]

Voluntary Briefing

Mandatory Briefing

3:30-5:00 Time for late lunch/early dinner; travel time from hotels to campus

5:00-5:30 Roll Call/Disqualification (in CL50 224)

5:30 Topic Announce- Round 1

7:45 Topic Announce- Round 2

**Saturday**

7:30-8:45 Breakfast (bagels, coffee, juice)

8:15-8:30 Roll Call/Disqualification

8:45 Topic Announce- Round 3

11:00 Topic Announce- Round 4

12:15 Lunch (provided)

1:30 Topic Announce- Round 5

3:45 Topic Announce- Round 6

5:30 Dinner (provided)

**Sunday**

7:30-8:45 Breakfast (bagels, coffee, juice)

8:30-8:45 Roll Call/Disqualification

9:00 Topic Announce- Partial-Double Octs

11:00 Topic Announce- Octafinals

12:00 Lunch (provided)

1:30 Topic Announce- Quarterfinals

3:30 Topic Announce- Semifinals

5:30 Dinner (provided)

6:30 Topic Announce- Finals

**Hotels**

Please reference ‘Purdue Debate’ when making reservations to ensure the block rate. The block rate cut-off date is March 10th 2014. The block rate was secured for April 11-13th, but the hotels have said they will honor that rate for those arriving earlier/departing later.

Best Western Lafayette Executive Plaza and Conference Center 765-447-0575

This will be the designated ‘tournament hotel’ and the location of the non-competition preliminaries occurring Friday afternoon. They also have a small indoor water park. Initial block of 40 rooms at $96/night (plus tax).

Super 8 765-447-5551

Effectively next door to the Best Western. Initial block of 20 doubles at $55/night (plus tax).

Quality Inn and Suites 765-447-9460

Right next to the Super 8. Fun fact- the general manager debated a bit in high school, and has been very enthusiastic about this event. Initial block of 25 doubles at $65/night (plus tax).

Red Roof Inn 765-448-4671

Right next to the Quality Inn. Initial block of 15 doubles at $55/night (plus tax).

Clarion Inn and Suites 765-447-4142

Directly across the street from the Best Western. Initial block of 20 doubles at $95/night (plus tax).

**Transportation Information** (general)

http://www.purdue.edu/visit/navigating/getting\_here.php

**Airport Shuttle Services**

To/from Indianapolis Airport

Lafayette Limo http://www.lafayettelimo.com 765-497-3828

Star of America http://www.soashuttle.com 765-497-3828

To/from Chicago airports

Lafayette Limo http://www.lafayettelimo.com 765-497-3828

Express Air Coach http://www.expressaircoach.com 765-743-3120

NWI-Chicago Connection http://www.nwichicago.com 219-365-1389

**Taxi’s in Lafayette/West Lafayette**

City Cab 765-477-1234

Four Star Taxi 765-742-8400

Twin City Taxi 765-742-5585

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at **purdueforensics@gmail.com****.** We look forward to hosting you here in ‘the heartland’ in April!

Respectfully,

John Schultz

DOF, C Richard Petticrew Forum

(Purdue’s Speech and Debate Team)