December 5, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

During the Fall of 2009, the Virginia Intercollegiate Forensic Association (VIFA) was created to share ideas about forensics and host an event that would celebrate performances in **Public Address, Oral Interpretation, and Limited Preparation**. This organization aims to bring Universities and Community Colleges together within the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia, no matter the size or affiliation of the program or even if the institution has an “official” forensics program. We congratulate last year’s Community College Champion Wytheville Community College and Open Team Champion Liberty University, as well as our individual student champions listed below.

To continue this celebration and further our mission, VIFA would like to cordially invite you and your students to attend the **5th Annual** Virginia/D.C. Championship on **Saturday, February 15, 2014, but wait, there’s more. THIS YEAR WE WILL ADD A 2ND OPEN TOURNAMENT FOR ALL SCHOOLS ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16 for only the cost to hire judges. That’s right…..no entry fees for Day Two….just uncovered judge fees. So, bring your judges and have a second tournament free**.  Stay with us for both tournaments if you are from DC or VA, but join us on Sunday if you are from any state. The tournaments will celebrate achievements in 11 different individual events and will allow programs to come together and share ideas about forensics and communication. This year’s tournament will take place on the George Mason University campus in Fairfax, VA.

Specifics regarding tournament entries, schedule, and rules can be found below.

Please join us for what will surely be a fantastic educational experience,

Peter Pober, Ph.D

Acting Chair, VIFA

Distinguished Service Professor, George Mason University

**INDIVIDUAL EVENT CHAMPIONS**

**Impromptu Speaking**

2010-Mickey Cox (George Mason University)

2011-Greg Hietala (George Mason University)

2012-Allen Reynolds (Howard University)

2013-Colin Dowd (Liberty University)

**Informative Speaking**

2010-Sam Hopkins (George Mason University)

2011-Kane Kennedy (James Madison University)

2012-Jessie Bur (James Madison University)

2013-Zack Dittami (George Mason University)

**Prose Interpretation**

2010-Anthony Saikin (James Madison University)

2011-Sam Hopkins (George Mason University)

2012-Sachi Barstein (George Mason University)

2013-Juan Fernandez (George Mason University)

**Extemporaneous Speaking**

2010-Michael Watson (American University)

2011-Edwin Bonilla (Blue Ridge Community College)

2012-Allen Reynolds (Howard University)

2013-No champion

**Persuasive Speaking**

2010-Tyler Fruge (George Mason University)

2011-Regan Fallon (George Mason University)

2012-Nick Cox (George Mason University)

2013-AK Komanduri (George Mason University

**Dramatic Duo Interpretation**

2010-Mickey Cox/Nick Cox (George Mason University)

2011-Colin Dowd/Josh Wade (Liberty University)

2012-Sean Cummings/Conner Manning (George Mason University)

2013-Sam Abney/Molly Hoke (George Mason University

**Program Oral Interpretation**

2010-Courtney Hyde (James Madison University)

2011-Colin Dowd (Liberty University)

2012- Landry Ayres (George Mason University)

2013-Shadrack Hick (Liberty University)

**After Dinner Speaking**

2010-Colston Reid (George Mason University)

2011-Josh Wade (Liberty University)

2012-Kate DeNardi (George Mason University)

2013-Rachel Matt (James Madison University)

**Communication Analysis**

2010-Melody Carlisle (James Madison University)

2011-Will Bellows (George Mason University)

2012-Zach Healy (James Madison University)

2013-Danielle Ohrenberger (George Mason University)

**Dramatic Interpretation**

2010-Tyler Dailey (George Mason University)

2011-Regan Fallon (George Mason University)

2012- Angelika Albaladejo (George Mason University)

2013-Kenny Lau (Liberty University)

**Poetry Interpretation**

2010-Sam Sapienza (George Mason University)

2011-Sachi Barstein (George Mason University)

2012-Zach Eisenstein (George Mason University)

2013-Elizabeth Russell (James Madison University)

**Top Speaker Award**

2010-Edward Lyles (Howard University)

2011-Colin Dowd (Liberty University)

2012-Allen Reynolds (Howard University)

2013-Kenny Lau (Liberty University)

**Community College Team Sweepstakes**

2010-Wytheville Community College

2011-Blue Ridge Community College

2012-No champion

2013-Wytheville Community College

**Open Team Sweepstakes**

2010-George Mason University

2011-George Mason University

2012-George Mason University

2013-Liberty University**EVENTS**

**Impromptu Speaking**: An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Limited notes are permitted.

**Informative Speaking**: An original, factual speech by the student on a realist subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

**Prose Interpretation**: An original or selections of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

**Dramatic Duo:** A cutting from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc, are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

**Extemporaneous Speaking**: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current event, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the student. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Limited notes are permitted. Student will speak in listed order. Postings of topics will be staggered.

**Persuasive Speaking**: An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**Program Oral Interpretation**: A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three genres of interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

**After Dinner Speaking**: An original, humorous speech by the student, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic, coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforced the message. Minimal notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**Communication Analysis**: An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

**Drama Interpretation**: A cutting that represents one or more characters from a play or plays of literary merit. The focus of this event is on the development of characterization. This material may be drawn from stage, screen, or radio. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

**Poetry Interpretation**: A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

**ENTRY INFORMATION**

* **Saturday Tournament is closed to Virginia and D.C. schools only; Sunday is open to EVERYONE!**
* **Each team may only enter 4 entries per event on Sat., but unlimited entries per event on Sunday.**
* Students may enter a maximum of 3 events per bracket; 2 duos count as 2 events.
* The deadline for entry is Wednesday February 12 at 5pm eastern.
* Entry fees are $8 per event slot on Saturday and ZERO DOLLARS per slot on Sunday.
* Please provide a qualified judge for every seven event slots.
* Hired judges are available at $10 per uncovered slot.
* Drop fees are original entry fee plus $10 penalty after entry deadline; plus $20 if on Saturday or Sunday.
* Dropped judges after the entry deadline will each be assessed a $150 fee in addition to standard judge fees.
* To register (in all cases we will confirm): go to Speechwire.com under VIFA Closed Day One and VIFA Open Day Two

**SCHEDULE: (same both days on George Mason University Fairfax Campus)**

8:00am - 8:30am    Registration (Lobby of Robinson B facing the Mason Pond Pkg. Deck)

8:30am     Extemp Draw

9:00am     IA (Extemp/POI/Duo/Per/Informative/Pro)

10:15am   IB (Impromptu/DI/ADS/CA/Poetry)

11:45pm  Extemp Draw

12:15pm IIA

1:30pm    IIB

2:30pm    Extemp Draw

3:00pm Finals A

4:15pm Finals B

ASAP Awards

**COMPETITION AND AWARDS**

* Each Tournament will offer 2 rounds of preliminary competition and a final round.
* We will offer an award for the top six entries in each individual event (two awards for duos).
* The top three open and community college schools will each receive an award.
* We will use AFA-style rules and tabulation.
* The tournament will feature a cross-examination period in the extemporaneous speaking final. After each extemporaneous speech, a fellow contestant will have three minutes to question the speaker in any manner they so choose. The questioning period is open, and similar to the AFA style of cross-examination used in the final round- the questions and answers will continue back and forth until either the questioner chooses to stop or three minutes have elapsed. The questions can be about anything from issues that the speaker failed to consider, clarification of the speech, analytical/logical questions, etc...: it is up to the questioner to decide his or her own objectives and goals for the questioning period. Some logistical notes:
* When 1st speaker is ready to perform, both 1st and last speaker will go to the competition room. After 1st speaker performs, last speaker will question the first speaker. At the conclusion of the questioning period, the last speaker will return to the preparation room, and 1st speaker will stay to question the 2nd speaker. The 2nd speaker will question the 3rd speaker, etc…
* Questioners may take notes while listening to the speeches that they will eventually question. However, they may not use those notes during the questioning period itself.
* It is up to the judges to decide how the questioning period plays into the ranking and evaluation of the round.
* The time limit on the questioning period is 3 minutes. Time signals will be given. Once three minutes have elapsed, the speaker should be given a small amount of time to complete the response that they are currently giving.

**This questioning period only pertains to the final round of Extemporaneous Speaking.**