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## State Champion, Division II National Champs and Semifinalists at Nationals for IE

At the Michigan Interscholastic Speech League (MISL) State Championship at Hillsdale College in February, Patrick Joyce won a state championship in Impromptu speaking. This is the second MISL champion WSU has had in the last three years.

In March, the team traveled to the University of West Florida to compete at Novice Nationals. Individual, Joyce reached the semifinals in

Impromptu, Impromptu Sales and Extemporaneous speaking. Teammate Arthi Chandrasekaran also advanced to the semifinals in Extemporaneous speaking. Due to these performances, the team was recognized as the champion in Division II schools in the nation.

Overall, the team had an outstanding year. In addition to these late season accomplishments, the team

also did extremely well in regional tournaments. For instance, at the Central Michigan/WSU tournament, Jeff Kepes placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Impromptu. At Oberlin, Joyce finished first in Impromptu and persuasion. Also, at Purdue, Kepes and Chandrasekaran finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Duo interpretation.

During the off-season, a primary goal will be to recruit more members to the team.

## Debate dominates area tournaments, 69<sup>th</sup> qualifier to the NDT

The debate team won two regional tournaments, had seven Top 10 speakers and qualified its 68<sup>th</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> teams to the National Debate Tournament (NDT) at Fullerton, CA. In doing so, WSU qualified for its 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive appearance and 43<sup>rd</sup> overall. Additionally, the team maintained a top 20 ranking in the NDT throughout the season and finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the American Debate Association (ADA) National rankings.

At ADA Nationals, the team did extremely well. After defeating teams from the University of Georgia and

Harvard, Sydney Pasquinelli and Bruce Najor reached the Semifinals. Teammates David Rancilio and Baldomero Gonzalez and Frank Esposito and Jason Pearsall reached Quarterfinals.

During the regular season, WSU had the top 2 teams to close-out the Miami, Ohio tournament. Pasquinelli and Najor and Dustin Greenwalt and Pearsall met in the finals after defeating two teams from Michigan State. Najor was top speaker at the tournament.

At Northwestern's regional tournament, Pasquinelli and Najor won the tournament. Again, Najor was the top speaker at the tournament.

At John Carroll University, the team dominated the elimination rounds as all four of its varsity teams advanced. In the end, Greenwalt and Pearsall finished second, while Najor & Pasquinelli reached Semifinals, Rancilio and Gonzalez reached Quarterfinals and Geneva Hackler and Michelle Kesling reached Octofinals.

## WSU Hosts Middle School State Championship



Above: The NDT Qualifiers and Coaches. Front Row, Left to Right: Ron Stevenson, Erika Thomas, Dustin Greenwalt, Jason Pearsall, Sydney Pasquinelli. Back Row: Bruce Najor, Donny Peters, Neil Butt and Kelly Young.

On April 19 for the third year in a row, WSU forensics hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association (MIFA) Middle School state championship tournament.

The tournament brought 35 schools and approximately 700 competitors and students to our campus. Competition was held in Manoogian, Old Main, Science and State Halls.

Linda Martini, an alumna of the program and executive director of MIFA, told the *Detroit News* that, "It was a beautiful day to go around

Wayne's campus, the kids had fun. Everything went smoothly."

Along with support from the Communication Department, the Admissions Office, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and Honors Program provided logistical and financial support to help host the tournament.

We decided to host this tournament three years ago because we felt we could host the tournament better than the previous host location. In doing so, we want to expose these middle school students to

the campus and the programs that Wayne State has to offer. Hopefully, the experience they have at our tournament will translate into strong recruits for both the university and our forensics program.

As faculty member and alumna of the program, Shelly Najor explained to the *News*, "This event brings over 1,000 potential Warriors and their parents to Wayne's campus -- it is our chance to shine," said Shelly Najor.

Shelly also coached St. Hugo's team at the tournament.



Above: Geneva Hackler prepares for an upcoming trip.



Kelly Young and Admissions Counselor Allison McMahon coordinating before the tournament



Parents and students wait for the awards ceremony outside of Manoogian Hall



Ron Stevenson and David Rancilio manning a ballot table for the MIFA Middle School tournament.



Student and parents at the awards ceremony in General Lectures.



MIFA officials Linda Martini (right) and Richard Elias announce the winners at the awards ceremony

## WSU Hosts DPS Debates, Works to Bolster League

In 2008, WSU forensics hosted two workshops and five league competitions for the Detroit Urban Debate League. The league includes Detroit Public Schools Cody, Detroit International, Henry Ford, Northwestern, Osborn and Renaissance.

In competition, approximately 40 urban high school students competed in 3 round competitions once a month on Wayne's campus.

Students debated the topic, Resolved: The United States federal government should

substantially increase its public health assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Additionally, we are working with the National Urban Debate League offices in Chicago to get local corporate partners to develop partnerships to formally institutionalize and garner more financial support for the Detroit league. Specifically, we are approaching Ron McNeil, Detroit native and former executive for Allstate and current Board of Governor for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, to help us gain the support

we need.

The Detroit urban debate league is a very important program to us because it offers the valuable benefits of debate training and education to urban students. In addition to hosting monthly competition, Wayne has offered coaches, training seminars, summer institutes and research and supplies.

Now we are seeking assistance to ensure that the DPS provides crucial support such as busing and a formal coordinator for the league.

## Special Thanks to Alumni and our Supporters!

The success and educational opportunities our program offers our students could not occur without the incredible support of our university and alumni.

In the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, we would like to thank Dean Sharon Vasquez for all of her support and interest over the years. Additionally, we would like to thank Assistant Dean Joan Ferguson, Assistant to the Dean Lezlie Hart and Dana Moore and Kelly Cronin in Development.

At the University level, we would like to thank President Irvin Reid and the Board of Governors for all of their support and recognition over the last few years.

We also thank our department chair, Dr. Matt Seeger, for the dozens of things he does to support us. Also within the department, we thank our academic officer Vicki Dallas, faculty Shelly Najor and secretaries Helen Friedman, Deborah Moore and Angela Jay for all of their help and support.

Last but certainly not least, we thank all of you, our amazing alumni. Your support has remained strong over the years and

we encourage you to maintain your support. Specifically, we would like to thank MIFA executive director Linda Martini for all of her help with the tournaments we host.

For outstanding support in almost everything we do, we give special thanks to Paul and Sue Nine. We literally could get little accomplished without them.

We also would like to thank Frank Greco, Millie and James Irwin, Dave and Peggy Getto, Don Ritzenhein, Deborah Stavis and Arthur and Mary Voison for their outstanding financial support over the years.

## New Way to Stay in Touch— Wayne State Forensics Online

In order to help all of us stay in closer contact and to share news, pictures and updates in a more timely fashion, we have created the Wayne State Forensics Message Board and Chat Group on MSN Groups.

The board can be found at:

<http://groups.msn.com/WayneStateForensics>

At the site, you will be prompted to enter your MSN/Hotmail account information or to create a new free membership.

Please feel free to post any news, updates or photos at the website. The site will be restricted in membership to just WSU Forensics alumni.

If you have any problems with the site, please contact Kelly Young at [Kelly.Young@wayne.edu](mailto:Kelly.Young@wayne.edu) or at 313-577-2953.

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WSU Forensics on the  
Web! See us at:

[www.comm.wayne.edu/  
forensics.php](http://www.comm.wayne.edu/forensics.php)

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