

# THE KEY OF PI KAPPA DELTA

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SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE—GLENDALE, AZ

SCOTT JENSEN, EDITOR

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*The Key* is a newsletter published at each Pi Kappa Delta biennial convention and tournament. The daily publication provides information about the convention and tournament, along with the national honorary. Important news and information, such as candidate statements, tournament and convention updates, and profiles of people and events is standard content. Additionally, I hope you will email me with your own ideas—including stories and news that is fit enough to print...or at least close to fit. There will also be a trivia contest as part of some issues, with winners drawn from the correct entries to receive items from the PKD Store. **IMPORTANTLY**, if you become a candidate for office, please email me your candidate statement. All candidates should have statements (brief please—100-200 words) submitted by **9:00 am Sunday morning**, earlier if possible.

Please help fill each issue with content. Email me at [jensensc@webster.edu](mailto:jensensc@webster.edu). Contributions must be either email text or Word attachments. Enjoy all of the issues of volume 54 of *The Key*.

Scott Jensen, Editor

## Where to Go for Help and Information...

Help Desk  
(513) 279-8535

Internet Access  
PKD2024!

PKD Website  
[www.pikappadelta.net](http://www.pikappadelta.net)

PKD Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/pikappadelta](http://www.facebook.com/pikappadelta)

Instagram  
[@pikappadelta](https://www.instagram.com/pikappadelta)

LinkedIn  
[www.linkedin.com/company/pi-kappa-delta](http://www.linkedin.com/company/pi-kappa-delta)

## Plan to Be Part of Tonight's Business Meeting

The last business meeting of this year's convention will be tonight in the Student Union Ballroom at 6:15—immediately after our last round of the day. Pi Kappa Delta is unique in its responsive to its membership as it makes decisions that will take us into the future. Tonight's agenda includes recognitions of some of our newer and exceptional new PKD students, updates on convention and tournament details, brief speeches from candidates for office, and—of courses—the Roll Call of our chapters in attendance. Schools—get your Roll Call responses ready and come to tonight's meeting.

## Inaugural *Rising Star* Awards to Be Presented at Saturday's Business Meeting

The PKD National Council voted this summer to create the *Rising Star* Award. The first class of award recipients will be announced and honored at tonight's business meeting. The *Rising Star* Award is presented to as many as five active first- or second-year undergraduate students (especially members of community college chapters) who are members of Pi Kappa Delta and exemplify "The Art of Persuasion: Beautiful and Just." Recipients have been nominated and selected based on meeting the following criteria:

- Is self-reflective and introspective, as evidenced by a cover letter of application.

- Is a team-player and dedicated steward for debate and forensics, as evidenced by their dedication to their team and surrounding area colleges.
- Is a successful competitor, as evidenced by their record in forensics competition.
- Is dedicated to their school, as evidenced by their grades and extracurricular commitments
- Is a special person, as evidenced by the recommendations of individuals outside the applicant's school and chapter.

Come join us in acknowledging tonight's winners of this new award.

## PKD's Hall of Fame Welcomes One New Member Phil Voight to be Inducted in a Public Ceremony Sunday

Dr. Phil Voight is a long-standing member of Pi Kappa Delta, having joined in 1990. Dr. Voight's journey in PKD began as a young coach at Gustavus Adolphus. During most of his tenure in Pi Kappa Delta, he has served the membership, beginning as a member of several National Tournament staffs. He joined the National Council in 2005 and served for nearly two decades until 2023 as At-Large Council Member, President, Past President, and most notably Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Voight established the COO position in order to manage the organization more efficiently. During his tenure as COO, he helped Pi Kappa Delta grow stronger fiscally not only by seeking out and overseeing a number of large grants but also by helping our endowment to grow by over 200% and our checking accounts by 225%. Dr. Voight's ability to make sure our organization was fiscally solvent not only allowed Pi Kappa Delta to thrive, but it also sustained us during the tough years of the pandemic. With his leadership, we no longer had to rely on the income from the national tournament for our organization to survive. Beyond his excellent fiscal management, he also re-envisioned Pi Kappa Delta's website which is crucial for survival in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dr. Voight also started NCA socials that brought members together outside convention hotels. Dr. Voight received the PKD Presidential Service Award in 2013, and the LE Norton Award for scholarship in 2021. Phillip Voight is known and will long be remembered for his excellent leadership skills, his financial wisdom and stewardship, and his ability to problem solve and create opportunities.

Join us at for the ceremony Sunday evening from 8:00 – 9:30 at Fleming's Steakhouse—9712 West Northern Avenue, Peoria AZ. Food and a cash bar will be provided.

## Alumni and Chapter Fun

In Friday's issue of *The Key* I asked for contributions about chapters and alumni—fun facts and updates, reflections on reunions this weekend, or anything else that is fit (or maybe even *not* fit—I'm pretty flexible!). Please, **please** send me items I can include in *The Key* over the next couple of days. I have a couple things for this second issue.

### **Webster University**

We have been blessed to have several alumni members join us this weekend, some for just a day and others for the entire convention and tournament. A group of us enjoyed a reunion Thursday night after Province Meetings. Among the many things we learned and reflected upon was one kernel of insight that confirmed what I have always known—Gina Jensen is the inspiration and influence in *The Jensens*. Some of the students reflected on choices made during undergraduate days—of course, choices never while at a forensic tournament or event. In response to fear of Gina seeing one or two of these choices, some of our members said “We never wanted to disappoint Gina. Never!” Of course this was said outside of Gina's earshot—but directly to me. Ya know—it is what it is! I never want to disappoint her either.

### **Heidelberg College**

(Shared by Dan Higgins—thanks, Dan!) In 1921 Heidelberg University chartered the Ohio Beta Chapter of PKD. One of the original signing members was Willis Mathias ('Berg class of 22). He is the great-uncle of PKD alum Dan Higgins ('Berg class of '93) and Heidelberg's Director of Forensics. Dan followed in his father, Clarence "Clip" Higgins, Jr.'s legacy at the 'Berg where Clip was a PKD member and a National Debate Champion. PKD ties run deep in the Heidelberg family!

## Intergenerational Debate Rounds Scheduled for Sunday and Monday

Eight teams of PKD students, coaches, and alumni will be part of intergenerational debates Sunday afternoon. As described by President Ryan Louis...“As an organization that proudly identifies itself as one advancing discourse, this event means

to show how specifically convening multiple perspectives might be well suited to accomplish that goal. The idea was sparked by a partnership between the Senior Debate Association and Pi Kappa Delta. The founder of SDA - Dr. Bensen - passed away last year; and hosting it in Arizona is our way of honoring his vision. Dr. Tomeka Robinson, former PKD President, knew Dr. Bensen well and sat on the Board of the SDA."

Two "rounds" will be held--a Sunday preliminary consisting of four debates, and a Monday showcase featuring the top two teams. Please encourage teams, alumni, friends and *more* to come along. At the "final" showcase we will have a brief discussion afterwards about how our experiences with debate and in the world shaped the differing styles and approaches to debate. Debates will follow "traditional" Parliamentary style format. Participants reflect many levels of experience. Many are debaters, some are interpers. some are undergrads, and some haven't debated in 40 years!

## Meet Your National Council

Each of the three issues of this year's *The Key* will feature a brief profile of members of the national council. You will learn a bit about each featured member...information you probably would not otherwise know. Today we feature are our five elected non-presidential members.

### *Jonathan Conway—At-Large Member*

Jonathan is originally from Portage Michigan, but landed at University of Central Florida in 2014 after earning his Master's degree from Ball State University in Communication Studies. He felt called to be on council during COVID. As Jonathan explains, "as forensics was segmented and forced to reorganize I found myself playing a key role in innovation and community development in online environments. PKD's focus on building community and support for all forensics activities aligned with my mission and values." Jonathan's fun fact is he spends his time away from forensics writing science fiction/fantasy novels. While he has nothing published, he completed a full novel last summer. His favorite PKD memory was hosting at UCF in 2022. He reflect, "watching everyone adjust back to in person competition and being such a key part in that process was really special."

### *Kiefer Storrer—At-Large Member*

Kiefer's forensic career was launched in Kansas as a high school and collegiate competitor who considers one of his most important coaching influences to be his dad as his Little League coach. As Kiefer reflects, "his instruction of the basics and fundamentals as backbones to any successful competitor instilled lifelong lessons for my own coaching success. A combination of coaching at the graduate student, two-year school (our host, Glendale Community College!), and four-year program level has prepared him for where he "truly feels at home"—Whitman College. He is a fan of pop culture and gaming, a writer who has published a novel and streams on Twitch, and what he describes as "the debate and forensics version of Ted Lasso." Kiefer values the impact he can have as an educator, observing, "I like teaching. I love coaching. Helping college students find their voice, speak truth to power, and gain cultural enrichment through this amazing activity is what makes this career worth it." He also feels an equal adoration for his mother—and evidently he appreciates the Jensens as well..."I just need to take some space to talk about how lovely, amazing, and supportive my mom is, and how her and my dad rival The Jensens in how they truly are relationship goals."

### *Kaila Todd—Community College Representative*

Kaila Todd is a professor at Johnson County Community College. She found forensics education while completing her Master's degree at University of Central Missouri, and both teaching and helping coach their forensic program. She explains, "at that point, my goal was not to teach, but to finish my degree and find a corporate job. However, semester after semester during my graduate program, I found an unexpected joy and fulfillment in the classroom and in college forensics and debate. Now that I'm six years in, I can't imagine doing anything else." Outside of the classroom, Kaila also loves to garden, lift weights, practice yoga and meditation, play disc golf, and travel. Kaila's family provides a fun fact about her. She explains, "I am the oldest of 5 girls, and we are all peculiarly spaced apart in age. My parents are a year and a month apart, my next youngest sister and I are a year, a month, and a day apart, and my youngest sisters are a year, a month, and a week apart in age." As she continues teaching at a non-PKD school, Kaila remains committed to her service to PKD. "Speech and debate changed my life and helped me find my voice in the world. When I founded the team at State

Fair Community College, I realized that community colleges have unique needs and struggles. While I am no longer an active coach, I am finding my niche giving back and helping other community college coaches.”

### *John Wallis—Graduate Student Representative*

John has spent his entire forensic career in Missouri—from a small Southwest Missouri high school to coaching at Webster University and the University of Missouri-Columbia. He attended his PKD tournament in Nashville in 2018, and was elected to the National Council in 2019 as the Undergraduate Student Representative. Reflecting on his coaching a revived team at MU, “it has not only solidified my desire to teach and coach in this field, but it has renewed my commitment to fighting for forensics and advocating for this event in everything that I do. That is what motivates me to serve PKD, and it fuels my desire to keep serving this organization and its members.” All of John’s favorite PKD moments have happened outside of the round. He confidently credits PKD as “an organization that has greatly enriched my life, and I am so much better for having joined this organization. The easiest decision I ever made was to come to a PKD school and join their team. PKD is my home, and I am so happy to meet the new members of this family in Phoenix this week!”

### *Anja Waugh—At-Large Student Member*

Anja grew up in Indianola, Iowa and is a member of the PKD chapter at Simpson College. She is studying English and secondary education, with hopes of pursuing a career in either public education or educational law. When she’s not practicing and competing in her many forensic events, she plays both the violin and viola. Anja also loves movies about historical figures and events, with some of my favorites being *The King’s Speech* and *The Imitation Game*. Anja is “motivated to serve PKD to ensure it continues to function as an organization that serves all students.” She also has a favorite PKD moment—“the catered bagels a few years ago during the student caucus! It was a great event with great turnout, and it was fun to get to know fellow competitors!”

### *Trent Webb—At-Large Member*

Professor Webb found high school and collegiate forensics in Texas before moving to New York in 2001. He spent 20 years coaching on the community college circuit and taking on various leadership positions with speech and debate organizations before becoming Hofstra University’s Director of Forensics and Director of the Speech & Debate Team in 2022. A fun fact about Professor Webb is that he owns over 30 prints, pictures and figurines of giraffes because, as he says, “I think they’re the most beautiful animal!” Webb values PKD and its leadership role within the forensic community. As he notes, “I continue to believe in its mission and culture of inclusiveness and scholarship.” Webb’s favorite PKD moment? “Honestly, it was when PKD became the first forensics organization to go back to an in-person nationals experience at UCF!”

## Notes from the Tournament Director

### *Dr. Jessica Furgerson*

Thank you for an excellent first day of PKD 2024! We know the first day of nationals always comes with the unexpected, but we finished the first tournament day by 7:00 pm, which we are counting as a win! Some reminders for this weekend to keep things on track:

#### Judging Reminders

- Please click “Start Ballot” when you begin your round.
- Please monitor Speechwire alerts and stay near the Student Union when you aren’t slotted to judge. We will always need to push some ballots, so having people at the ready will keep us on time.
- Debate Judges- Remember that we post Debate Schematics and Judge Assignments 30 minutes before each round start and/or draw time. As such, please stay on site and monitor your judge assignments.

#### Student Reminders

- Be sure to check Speechwire regularly for the most up to date room changes. If you find yourself somewhere that doesn’t seem right, double check Speechwire before contacting the Help Desk.
- Please wait at least 10 minutes before alerting the Help Desk of a judge missing. Judges are working hard and may be running between rounds.

As another note to everyone, if you haven't already located it, please note that the Student Union has a gender neutral bathroom.

Judges and students - thank you for your flexibility as we work to make this an excellent PKD!

## Notes from the Convention Coordinator

*Professor Gina Jensen*

We hope you are enjoying your time in Arizona! Be sure to check out our conventions events! Tomorrow is the last day of our graduate and transfer fair. Be sure to grab lunch at noon and come see our Professional Developmental Panel. Students and Coaches are all welcome. The topic that will be discussed is Inclusive Practices for Supporting Neurodivergent Coaches and Competitors. Be sure to end your day at the Business Meeting at 6:15 in the Student Union where we will hear the nomination speeches for the At Large Council positions and the Rising Star Awards will be announced. The Convention is a special part of our time here so be sure to take advantage of it! We hope to see you there!!

## 2024 Biennial Convention and Tournament Chapter Trivia Contest

### *Mascots*

For each chapter listed below, identify the mascot at that school. Email your answers (school name and mascot) to Scott Jensen at [jensenc@webster.edu](mailto:jensenc@webster.edu) by no later than **Sunday morning at 8:00 am**. Winners will be randomly selected from correct entries and announced in Saturday's issue of *The Key*. Two winners will receive an item from the PKD Store.

Arizona State University  
Carson-Newman University  
John Carroll University  
Maricopa Speech and Debate  
Newbury College  
Sterling College  
University of West Florida

Bowling Green State University  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
Kansas Wesleyan University  
Missouri Valley College  
Otterbein University  
Texas Christian University  
Webster University

## 2024 Biennial Convention and Tournament Chapter Trivia Contest

### *THE ANSWERS...City & State*

Appalachian State University  
*Boone, NC*  
Cameron University  
*Lawton, OK*  
Cleveland State Community College  
*Cleveland, TN*  
Heidelberg University  
*Tiffin, OH*  
McNeese State University  
*Lake Charles, LA*  
Seton Hall University  
*South Orange, NJ*  
Transylvania University  
*Lexington, KY*

Butler University  
*Indianapolis, IN*  
Capital University  
*Bexley, OH*  
Duquesne University  
*Pittsburgh, PA*  
Marian University  
*Indianapolis, IN*  
Murray State University  
*Murray, KY*  
Simpson College  
*Indianola, IA*  
Weber State University  
*Ogden, UT*

***Congratulations Mariangel Morales!***

***Grab your prize at the PKD Store—and thanks for playing!***