

THE KEY OF PI KAPPA DELTA

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GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE—GLENDALE, AZ

SCOTT JENSEN, EDITOR

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. Today's issue is our last for Volume 54. I hope you've been informed and entertained with *The Key*. Enjoy your final day of the 2024 Biennial Convention and Tournament—and I'll see you at tonight's banquet and awards ceremony.

Scott Jensen, Editor

Where to Go for Help and Information...

Help Desk
(513) 279-8535

Internet Access
PKD2024!

PKD Website
www.pikappadelta.net

PKD Facebook
www.facebook.com/pikappadelta

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

LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/company/pi-kappa-delta

It's Banquet Night—What Will Happen?

The biennial PKD Banquet and Awards ceremony is unique. Many of you who have joined us this year will attend the banquet for the first time. Here are some things to expect, and a preview of the program...

What Do I Wear and Where's the Camera?

At this point, you probably should wear what you brought from home. There's far too much going on today that you won't want to miss, so no time for shopping. That being said, many individuals tonight will wear clothing that borders on or meets the standards for formal. Others will wear the same things they would wear for a tournament day. Be comfortable, but also don't be surprised that many will seize the opportunity to "dress to the nines." Tonight is also a great opportunity to take individual and team photos. Find your newest friends and get a shot with them as well.

When do we Eat and Where do we Sit?

Doors will open at 6:30 and food will be served after sunset to recognize Ramadan Kareem. There will be several reserved tables in the front of the ballroom. Beyond those tables, chapters and individuals can sit wherever they find open space. Tables are 10 tops.

Who Won Elections?

As is tradition, we will announce winners of our Sunday elections at the beginning of the banquet program. Our newly elected officers will join the head table and be sworn in later as your officers for the next two years.

What is Gonna Happen?

The banquet will include a number of PKD recognitions, as well as tournament awards. The program includes a number of recognitions of alumni and past members who have left us in the past two years. We welcome new “Order of Attainment” recipients and offer a moment of silence for friends who have died. We will also recognize this year’s All-Americans. Among other introductions and acknowledgements of special recognitions that have taken place throughout the weekend, we will also induct our 2024-2026 National Council, including our incoming president, Dr. Amorette Hinderaker from Texas Christian University, who will deliver her presidential address.

And then Awards, Right?

Our tournament awards will be presented for all the events held both at Glendale CC and asynchronously. Awards are in several categories. The primary recognitions are “excellent” and “superior” awards, comprising the top 30% in each event. Awards are presented a hierarchically, beginning with the competitor/team at the 30% mark in their event and moving up to the top student at the superior level—our national champion. There are also awards presented to teams and individuals who earned spots in showcases and elimination rounds. Chapter awards are presented in the same manner, with recognitions of community colleges, as well as all chapters in the three traditional competitive categories—individual events, debate, and overall (entries in both of the other two categories).

If you have any questions at all—please ask. We look forward to seeing you all at our very special close to what has been a very special weekend at Glendale Community College.

Meet PKD’s New Editor

Dr Jack Rogers was confirmed as PKD’s next editor at Thursday’s business meeting. Jack has provided us with his vision for our journal, *The Forensic*, and other matters involving scholarship within PKD.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for confirming my nomination as the incoming editor of the Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta and to introduce myself with a bit more than a ‘stand up and wave’ during the business meeting. I am Dr. Jack E. Rogers, professor emeritus of communication studies and former Director of Forensics at the University of Central Missouri. I retired from active teaching and coaching after 42 years.

I bring a good bit of experience and understanding to the editor’s role. I founded the Southern Journal of Forensics, which became the International Journal of Forensics, that was eventually acquired by the International Debate Education Association to become Controversia: a Journal of Debate and Democratic Renewal. Over the years, I have served as a reviewer on several academic journals including the Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta and panel submissions to NCA.

I am delighted to, once again, take up the challenge of editing an outstanding publication with such a rich academic history. What are some of the things that I hope to focus on during my tenure as your editor? I’d like to streamline the process of submission, review, and final publication. To that end, I hope to follow the lead of several other academic journals and move the Forensic to an on-line format. I also hope to include a forum section, scholarly book reviews, and student publications to increase both our relevance and service to our forensic community.

However, none of this vision comes to fruition without a supportive research community. The ultimate success of the journal rests upon your shoulders. I cannot encourage you enough to join us in partnership by submitting your creative and scholarly work for publication consideration. If you have questions or ideas and seek creative partnerships or a friendly point in the right direction, please do not hesitate to contact me at rogers@retiree.ucmo.edu or (660) 238-0674.

Once again, thank you for your vote of acclimation and future support.

Submissions from Student Scholarship Competitors Still Being Accepted

One of our events at this year’s tournament is Student Scholarship. This asynchronous event asked students to submit a pre-recorded 10 minute speech of a paper or research project they have created. Projects can be anything done for a course or other purpose. There is an additional element to this event that allows students to submit completed papers for review by the outgoing and incoming editor, along with other scholars, many who review manuscripts for *The Forensic*. This additional opportunity is intended to identify outstanding manuscripts that may appear in a special student scholarship issue of our peer-reviewed journal, likely as part of an issue that includes other items from this year’s biennial convention and tournament. We will still accept those manuscripts. If interested, create a manuscript with a detachable

cover page that identifies your name and affiliation. The paper should be 25 pages or less and formatted in adherence to the current APA style manual. Email your submission to jensensc@webster.edu. We would like to receive these by Monday, March 19th in order to send them for review.

Star in *Girl Talk* Featured in Tournament and Convention Events

One of Friday night's convention events was a viewing of *Girl Talk*, a documentary featuring a high school debate team and the issues facing young women, including those featured in the film. Hanna Phan is one of the high school debaters featured in the film. Her journey took her from her years in high school, to Harvard, and most recently to self-reflection and a commitment to making a difference in the world.

Intergenerational Debate Showcase Round Today

Intergenerational debates were held Sunday afternoon between six teams, representing a range of debaters from current undergraduate students to PKD members who last debated in the early 1980's. The teams also consisted of educators and their current or former students, teammates, and individuals from different chapters. Two teams emerged from Sunday's preliminary round as the participants in this afternoon's showcase debate. Ryan Louis, our current president and PKD member from his undergraduate chapter at Webster University pairs with Elizabeth Royappa, an undergraduate student at University of Central Florida. The second team includes Scott Jensen, our current editor and PKD member from his undergraduate chapter at The School of the Ozarks paired with Kiefer Storrer, our incoming president-elect and member from his undergraduate chapter at Kansas Wesleyan University. They will debate in a traditional parliamentary-style debate at 2:30 with a discussion to follow.

Thanks to Our Hosts from Glendale Community College

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Glendale Community College, and in particular our local host Angelica Grigsby. Our facilities have been fantastic with buildings relatively close and easy to find, and a Student Union that has been able to accommodate teams gathering and convention events scheduled to make them convenient for all our attendees. This is Glendale's spring break and the rule in their county is that *everyone* is on spring break. This means Angelica had to work to arrange for things like maintenance of our rooms and facilities, campus security, and other aspects of physically hosting an event like this. No tournament—and especially no large, comprehensive tournament—escapes the dreaded locked room or misnumbered room or some other unpredictable hiccup. Those surprises were few and far between, largely because of our host's care to make sure all was in place when we arrived. Thank you so much, Angelica and Glendale CC. We appreciate you and all you have done to make this 52nd biennial convention and tournament a success.

Meet Your Tournament Director—and Thanks!

Dr. Jessica Furgerson is a faculty member at University of Cincinnati, and the PKD Tournament Director since 2019. She is originally from Texas and is the only person in her entire family that does not still live there. She has a one year old daughter named Charlie who she describes as "a ham." She met her husband doing Crossfit—and they still workout together several times a week. When asked what motivates her to serve PKD, Dr. Furgerson explains, "I have been involved with forensics since I was 11 which is over 25 years now and I can't imagine it not being a part of my life in some capacity because it quite literally changed my life in so many ways. I love being able to put on a fantastic tournament experience for students and helping them create life-long memories." Her favorite PKD moment was from 2017 when she tricked her students into thinking they had to debate each other in LD quarterfinals. She explains, "the judges were in on it too and we let them think it was real right up until the start of the 1AC. The look on their faces was priceless."

Notes from the Tournament Director

Dr. Jessica Furgerson

(From the Editor...)

Hats off to our Tournament Director and her staff. Since 2019 your national council placed their trust in Jessica Furgerson and never looked back. We've enjoyed a tournament that (1) is the most comprehensive of any forensic tournament in

the country, (2) managed its wide array of events in a way that balanced commitments each day for all competitors, and (3) ran efficiently throughout the weekend. As we move through showcase and debate elimination rounds, we offer our thanks and congratulations to Dr. Furgerson and her staff for a job well done!

We are so excited to announce....our 2024 PKD Showcase Participants! Please see postings under Files for Download!
We have 9 Total Showcases. These include:

- 3 Showcases of Champions - these students are the national champions in these events.
- 5 Showcases of our IE Events which showcase students in the top 30% of an event while promoting regional diversity among schools represented in showcases and ensuring no school has more than 7 showcase participants.
- 1 Special Showcase of our Top 5 Discussion speakers

Please see the attached postings (available in a SpeechWire blast and on PKD's social media) for the times, speakers, and facilitators for our showcases. Facilitators are not judges - they are there to facilitate a conversation about the showcase. There are no ballots nor ranks offered. Rooms will be posted on this page tomorrow, so stay tuned.

Some reminders for everyone:

- Debate Draw is in MA -119 tomorrow.
- EXT students in the showcase should get their topics from the Help Desk in the Student Union 3. A list of judges obligated for the 9 am Debate Round is posted under Files for Download on Speechwire

Congratulations everyone! Have fun!

Notes from the Convention Coordinator

Professor Gina Jensen

(From the Editor...)

Kudos to our Convention Coordinator for a job well done. The PKD Biennial Convention and Tournament is a different experience for many of the individuals who joined us this weekend. Organizing convention events is challenging enough, but doing so in a way that celebrates tradition and promotes PKD requires heart, awareness, and knowledge of our honorary. As we look ahead to tonight and an awards banquet that brings together unique ritual with traditional celebration of competitive forensic excellence, we extend our thanks and appreciation to Professor Jensen for a memorable convention experience!

Our final day features a number of exciting convention opportunities, some scheduled around and others concurrently with tournament showcase and elimination rounds. Please consider making time for some of these unique opportunities. Events available, each to be held in the Student Union Ballroom, include...

- 10:00 Professional Development Panel #3—*Building a Brand—PR and Fundraising for Forensic Teams*
- 11:00 Discussion Showcase and Talkback session
- 2:30 Intergenerational Debate “Final” and Talkback
- 6:30 Biennial Banquet and Awards—Hilton Resort at The Peak

Many thanks to the several individuals who have helped organize convention events this year. Our goal is to create a convention and tournament experience that brings together all the excitement and benefits of a competitive tournament with the social and educational benefits of convention programming. In the end, we want you to appreciate PKD for all that makes it unique and special—excellent competition, tradition, personal and team growth and enrichment, and a home that can continue to connect forensics with all that each of you does in your academic, professional, and personal lives.

Enjoy your last day, see you at the banquet, and safe travels when you head home!

My Final Thoughts

I want to offer some final thoughts as the out-going Editor and editor of *The Key* for three biennial tournament and conventions. Forensics is special—I can't imagine my life had I not found the debate team after a knee injury took away my high school athletic career of bench-sitting and playing when we had a lead that was statistically insurmountable. I learned that my voice matters, and that words are both our world's most dangerous weapons and the ways we make things better. When I walked into the debate coach's office as a freshman and asked to join his team, his handshake changed my life. I became a member of Pi Kappa Delta. I attended a small provincial tournament in Columbia, Missouri—and then my first nationals at Estes Park. It was weird...no final round? A nice banquet and all these evidently important people sitting at a head table? An induction ceremony and a handshake? I played along...and kept playing along until I directed my own college program and had to make choices about how we would approach forensics. We approached it through the pillars of PKD—seeking to advocate, serve, and perform in a way that was “beautiful and just.” Fast forward—I ran for an at-large council position during the 1991 biennial at University of Puget Sound and never looked back. I have been an at-large council member, a president, editor, and the director of 15 national tournaments. I was also blessed with my greatest professional honor in 2015 when I was inducted into Pi Kappa Delta's Hall of Fame. It's been a journey that has defined me as not only an educator—but as a person. And now I step away. After editing my last issue of *The Forensic* later this year I will likely close the book on elected service to PKD. I mention this because my years in this honorary have been special, and I want you to know you have found a home if you want to step inside and pull up a seat...for life. I stepped away from full-time forensics eight years ago when I was given the opportunity to create a BA degree in sports communication. (Teach and talk about and read papers about sports each semester? Why yes, thank you.) I also wanted to be a dad and watch my kids dance, cheer, and play ball. Now I want spoil my granddaughter and make sure she grows up bleeding Cubbie blue. So I'll be at national tournaments, conventions, and other PKD events, but I will do it as an annoying judge and volunteer for whatever needs to be done. I won't miss PKD events—because when I'm with PKD, I am home. Please consider this final plea...

PKD does things differently. We listen to *all* our members—and we act on their ideas. We offer opportunities that extend forensics beyond the traditional tournament round and awards assembly; we incorporate high-impact activities that make forensics real in lives. For students—I hope you will think about what you hear in meetings, opportunities you are afforded as a scholar and competitor, and the generations of people who make themselves available to you as mentors and models. Coaching and teaching colleagues—I hope you will continue to make PKD your program's home, and share what it offers with your students. I also hope you will seek out opportunities to serve in our leadership, publish in our journal, and network with your colleagues from across the country. I hope we will continue to see all of you at our national tournaments each year, and wearing your PKD pin during your invitational tournament season. My life has been enriched over these past 40 years with my best friends, my models for scholarly and teaching excellence, and constant training in what it means to be a *citizen-orator* who is able and willing to use words to make our world a little better. Thanks for reading—and thanks for letting me share this weekend with you.