



Dear Colleagues:

The coaching staff and students of the Eastern Michigan University Forensics Program and the School of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts cordially invite you and your team to attend the **51<sup>st</sup> Annual Tower Swing Invitational** taking place on **Saturday, February 1st, and Sunday, February 2nd 2025.**

Both tournaments will offer all 11 NFA Individual Events. Awards will be given to the top six I.E. finalists and to all elimination round participants if needed. We will also be acknowledging the top novice for each individual event on Saturday. Finally, we will recognize the top 5 competitors entered in I.E. individual sweepstakes as well as the top three schools in I.E. team sweepstakes.

Please find attached information regarding the projected schedule, entries, as well as options for lodging and food. We are so excited to see all of you here. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact **Bill Heinze** by either **email** [wheinze@emich.edu](mailto:wheinze@emich.edu) or phone at 630-414-5330.

**Entries are due by 5 p.m. EST, Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** We look forward to seeing you in Ypsilanti!

Sincerely,

Bill Heinze

*Director of Forensics*

Lee Schwab

*Assistant Director of Forensics*

Laura Belec

*Graduate Assistant*

Xavier Smith

*Graduate Assistant*

Eastern Michigan University Forensics Team · Department of Communication, Media and  
Theatre Arts

127 Judy Sturgis Hill Building, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Phone: (734) 487-0320 · Fax: (734) 487-3443

**2025 Tower Invitational Schedule (Saturday)**

8:30 AM      Extemp Prep  
9:00 AM      Round 1 of Flight A (ADS, DUO, EXT, PER, POI, PRO)  
10:00 AM     Extemp prep  
10:15 AM     Round 2 of Flight A (Ext at 10:30)  
11:30 PM     Lunch  
12:15 PM     Round 1 of Flight B (RC, DI, IMP, INF, POE)  
1:30 PM      Round 2 of Flight B  
2:45 PM      Extemp Prep for Finals  
3:00 PM      Final Round of Flight A \*\*  
4:15PM      Final Round of Flight B  
5:30PM      AWARDS CEREMONY

**EMU Alumni Invitational Schedule (Sunday)**

8:30 AM      Extemp Prep  
9:00 AM      Round 1 of Flight A (ADS, DUO, EXT, PER, POI, PRO)  
10:00 AM     Extemp prep  
10:15 AM     Round 2 of Flight A (Ext at 10:30)

11:30 PM Lunch  
12:15 PM Round 1 of Flight B (RC, DI, IMP, INF, POE)  
1:30 PM Round 2 of Flight B  
2:45 PM Extemp Prep for Finals  
3:00 PM Final Round of Flight A \*\*  
4:15PM Final Round of Flight B  
5:30PM AWARDS CEREMONY

**\*\*We will attempt to collapse finals if possible**

**Entries:**

**All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

<http://www.speechwire.com>

Any adjustments made to the entry after Noon on Wednesday Jan 31 will be subject to a \$10.00 nuisance fee, as well as a \$30.00 fee per dropped judge. Any changes at registration will be subject to a \$20.00 nuisance fee and \$100 per dropped judge.

**Entry Limitations:**

Students may enter three events per pattern in both tournaments. Overall school entry is unlimited. Judges will be instructed to allow double/triple entered contestants to perform first.

**Patterns:**

Tower Invitational and EMU Alumni Invitational Tournaments

A: After Dinner Speaking, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Programmed Oral Interpretation, Prose Interpretation

B: Rhetorical Criticism, Dramatic Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Poetry Interpretation

**Judges:**

One judge is obligated to cover six I.E. slots. We appreciate every effort to cover your slots. Additionally, any judge who is an alumnus/alumna of EMU's Forensics Team will cover eight IE slots instead of six. Please designate alumni on your entry form.

**Fees:**

\$6.00 for each I.E. slot

\$15.00 for each uncovered I.E. slot

\$10.00 per drop prior to registration/\$30.00 per dropped judge

\$20.00 per dropped slot at registration

\$100.00 per dropped judge at registration

**Scoring:**

**IE:** Final team sweepstakes placement will be based on team points accumulated according to the table below. Each school's top three speakers in each event will be used for tabulating prelims sweepstakes. Half of the total prelim points will be added to points based on finals placement. Team sweepstakes will recognize the top three IE programs. Individual sweepstakes awards will be given to the top five students entered in at least four individual events.

<b>Placing</b>	<b>Prelims – IE</b>	<b>Finals – IE</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	3 pts	12 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 pts	10 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 pt	8 pts
4 <sup>th</sup>		6 pts
5 <sup>th</sup>		4 pts
6 <sup>th</sup>		2 pts

**Event descriptions:**

Event descriptions for all eleven NFA events can be found at [www.nationalforensics.org](http://www.nationalforensics.org).

## **Limited Preparation Events:**

### Impromptu Speaking

In the spirit of topic areas for the 2025 NFA, we may include prompts other than traditional quotations. Schema will be published the week of the tournament.

### Extemporaneous Speaking

Free WIFI will be available through the universities guest login system. It will issue a temporary access. It does take a few minutes to set up an account so please factor this in when preparing for the event. Additionally, while we are confident that this service will be available, we cannot guarantee it.

**\*\*\*Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association\*\*\***

**Directions:** Judy Sturgis Hill Building, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

If you're on US-23, take exit 37A Washtenaw Avenue East. Continue on Washtenaw, and take a left onto Hewitt (there should be a Walgreen's on the corner). You should pass the football stadium on your right. Take a right onto Huron River Drive. Stay on Huron River, it will take you past a McDonald's and the North Campus Lots and will take a right curve and turn into a one-way street. Stay in the right-hand lane, and take a right at the light onto Jarvis. The Alexander Pay Lot will be on your left. Sturgis Hill is the building on the left with the circle drive.

If you're on I-94, take exit 183, Huron River Drive (There should be signs indicating it as the EMU exit). Go north on Huron River Drive, and continue past Cross Street (Michigan Firehouse Museum) and past Forest Ave. Just after you pass Forest make the first left turn onto Jarvis. If you get to the gas station Kampus Korner than you have gone too far. Turn onto Jarvis and go through the light at Lowell St. to get onto campus. Your first left will be the Alexander Pay Lot. This is the best place to park and Judy Sturgis and Pray Harold are the building right next to the Alexander Music Building. Sturgis Hill is the building with the circle drive.

### **Parking:**

The university has made a significant shift in its parking policy. The university has privatized parking on campus. Thus, while in the past parking was open on the weekends, this year the only options for parking are in the designated pay lots. The closest is the McKenny Guest Pay Lot located to the southwest corner of Mark Jefferson off of Oakwood Street. The daily max rate is \$12.00. Please also find the ParkEMU website where you will find more information <https://www.parkemu.com/visitors/parking-rates/>. If you have further questions or concerns please feel free to contact Lee Schwab.

### **COVID Policy:**

To ensure the health and wellness of everyone attending during the winter season, we ask for everyone to take a rapid test or PCR prior to traveling. If a student tests positive and/or is displaying symptoms, we will be more than happy to drop them without penalty. If you are at high risk for severe illness, consider wearing a mask indoors in public. We will be updating these policies closer to the actual tournament date.

### **Open Door Policy:**

Eastern Michigan University is committed to providing safe performance spaces for all competitors and judges. We acknowledge the art of performance may be a healing process and/or opportunity to speak on important topics. As a performer, it is impossible to know all the ways in which content or a performance may unintentionally harm or trigger members of our audience. To better serve our competitors, we will be honoring the NFA's open door practice during rounds this weekend. An "open door policy" means competitors and other audience members may choose to leave or stay in a room when a performance negatively impacts their wellbeing. Competitors may discreetly leave the room (e.g., before, during, or after someone's performance) even when not double-entered, without question or penalty. Competitors may disengage from a performance (e.g., actively dissociate, put their head down on a desk, cover their ears). If competitors need to leave a round due to physical (e.g., uncontrollable coughing, vomiting) or spiritual (e.g., Salat times) needs, they may also excuse themselves without question or penalty. Judges may also take steps to protect their well-being and will be asked to read the open door policy at the beginning of every round to reinforce the norm-change emphasizing mental and physical well-being over community norms.

### **Quiet Room:**

The tournament will have a designated quiet room to be used to decompress from rounds, work on school work, or just to have a place to relax outside of the competition environment.

### **Ethical Treatment of Others:**

Eastern Michigan University is fully committed to a safe and healthy educational, work and competition environment that is free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. As such, we prohibit discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, race, disability, religion and other lawfully protected categories. This prohibition includes sexual assault and misconduct, and stalking. Should you experience a Title IX violation while attending our Tournament, please report the violation to your coach or someone you trust, and the tournament host. The tournament host will ensure that the Title IX officers from the host institution, your home university/college, and from the institution of the perpetrator are notified so that investigative procedures can begin. Please report behavior that is not in line with our stated anti-harassment policy. If, at any point in time, behavior is reported that is antithetical to a positive learning environment for any tournament participants, it will be handled accordingly. Directors, please remember, you are responsible for the people that you bring to our campus.

### **Judge Strikes:**

We ask that if your students have any conflicts with judges for non-competitive reasons that you let us know so we can block the judge from judging the student. Examples of when this could happen might include: the student is a family member/close friend of the judge, a student was

harassed/assaulted by a judge, a student was a teammate of the judge, a student was coached by the judge. We respect the privacy of these decisions. We hope that if a judge has participated in improper behavior that the tournament director will be notified so that, if necessary, the judge can be removed from the judging pool before interacting with students. Students can inform us through their coach or inform the tournament director (Lee) directly at 317-640-9480. The tournament director will not ask for details and do not expect any; we trust in the decision of the student. We will provide a full list of judges to all coaches the week of the tournament.

**Gender/gender-neutral restrooms on campus:** <https://www.emich.edu/dci/lgbtrc/resources/navigating-campus.php>

**Local emergency information:** <https://www.emich.edu/publicsafety/emo/procedures/index.php>

### **Emergency Contact:**

Lee Schwab

317-640-9480

lschwab1@emich.edu

### **Possible Lodging Options**

3.2 miles from campus: *Ann Arbor Regent Hotel and Suites*, 2455 Carpenter Rd. Ann Arbor, MI, 48108; 734.973.6100.

3.3 miles from campus: *Days Inn*, 2380 Carpenter Rd, Ann Arbor, MI, 48108; 734.971.0700.

3.4 miles from campus: *Comfort Inn*, 2455 Carpenter Rd, Ann Arbor, MI, 48108; 734.973.6100.

8.9 miles from campus: *American Best Value Inn Suites*, 3505 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI, 48108; 734.665.3500.

8.9 miles from campus: **Residence Inn**, 800 Victors Way, Ann Arbor, MI, 48108; 734.996.5666.

9.1 miles from campus: **Holiday Inn Express**, 600 Hilton Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI, 48108;  
734.761.2929.

9.1 miles from campus: **Marriot Courtyard**, 3205 Boardwalk Dr., Ann Arbor, MI, 48108;  
734.995.5900.

9.4 miles from campus: **Motel 6**, 3764 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI, 48108; 734.665.9900.

9.8 miles from campus: **Red Roof Inn**, 45501 N. I-94 Service Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111;  
734.697.2244

10.1 miles from campus: **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites**, 46194 N. I-94 Service Drive,  
Belleville, MI, 48111: 734.857.6200.

10.2 miles from campus: **Hampton Inn**, 46280 N. I-94 Service Drive, Belleville, MI, 48111;  
734.669.2424

**Food Options both on and off campus**

<b>Cross St.</b>	<b>Carpenter Drive</b>
<b>Jimmy John's</b>	<b>Bob Evans</b>
537 W Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.484.2700 Hours Fri 10am-3am	2411 Carpenter Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 734.971.2220 Hours Fri 6:30am-9pm



<p>Sat 10am-3am</p> <p>Sun 10am-12am</p> <p><b>The Wurst Bar</b></p> <p>701 W Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p> <p>734.485.6720</p> <p>Hours Fri 11:30am-2am</p> <p>Sat 11:30am-2am</p> <p>Sun 12pm-12am</p> <p><b>Gora's Grill (VEGAN/VEGETARIAN)</b></p> <p>533 W Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p> <p>734.544.9707</p> <p>Hours Fri 11:30am-8:30pm</p> <p>Sat 11:30am-8:30pm</p> <p>Sun CLOSED</p> <p><b>STUFD</b></p> <p>505 W Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p> <p>734.340.6952</p> <p>Hours Fri 11:00am-12:00am</p> <p>Sat 11:00am-12:00am</p> <p>Sun 11:00am-12:00am</p>	<p>Sat 6:30am-9pm</p> <p>Sun 7am-9pm</p> <p><b>Red Robin</b></p> <p>3797 Carpenter Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p> <p>734.794.2000</p> <p>Hours Fri 11am-11pm</p> <p>Sat 11am-11pm</p> <p>Sun 11am-10pm</p> <p><b>Applebee's Grill &amp; Bar</b></p> <p>3819 Carpenter Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197</p> <p>734.973.7440</p> <p>Hours Fri 11am-1am</p> <p>Sat 11am-1am</p> <p>Sun 11am-12am</p>
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<b>Downtown</b>	<b>Depot Town</b>
<p><b>Red Rock Downtown Barbecue</b></p> <p>207 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.340.2381</p> <p>Hours Fri 11am-11pm Sat 11am-11pm Sun 12pm-9pm</p>	<p><b>Sidetrack Bar &amp; Grill</b></p> <p>56 E Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 734.487.1035</p> <p>Hours 11am-2am</p>
<p><b>Bobcat Bonnie's</b></p> <p>200 W Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.879.0663</p> <p>Hours. Fri 12pm-11pm Sat 10am-11pm Sun 10am-8pm</p>	<p><b>Aubree's Pizzeria &amp; Grill</b></p> <p>39 E. Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 734.483.1870</p> <p>Hours 11am-2am</p>
<p><b>GO! Ice Cream</b></p> <p>10 N. Washington St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.219.7484</p> <p>Hours Fri 12pm-9pm Sat 12pm-9pm</p>	<p><b>MAIZ Mexican Cantina</b></p> <p>36 E. Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 734.340.6010</p> <p>Hours Fri 11am-1am Sat 11am-12am Sun 12am-10am</p> <p><b>Ollie Food &amp; Spirits</b></p> <p>42 E. Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198</p>

Sun 12pm-9pm	734.482.8050  Hours Fri 11am-12am  Sat 8am-12am  Sun 8am-12am
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**Student Union Food Court**

<b>Sona Latin Cantina</b>  734.487.3838  Hours Sat 11am-4pm  Sun 3pm-9pm	<b>Lobby Shop</b>  734.487.2328  Hours Sat 9am-9pm  Sun 12pm-9pm	<b>Starbucks</b>  734.487.9612  Hours Sat 9am-10pm  Sun 12pm-10pm
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**IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC RESTAURANT, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO E-MAIL US BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT OR ASK ANY TEAM MEMBER DURING THE TOURNAMENT.**

**Miscellaneous & Fun**

<p><b>Walgreens Pharmacy</b>  2170 Washtenaw Ave,  Ypsilanti, MI 48197  734.485.3899</p>	<p><b>Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum</b>  100 E Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198  734.482.5200  <b>Michigan Firehouse Museum</b></p>
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<p><b>CVS</b></p> <p>2151 Washtenaw Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.483.8900</p>	<p>110 W Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.547.0663</p>
<p><b>Meijer</b></p> <p>3825 Carpenter Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.973.1200</p>	<p><b>The Rocket Gifts, Toys and Candy</b></p> <p>122 W Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.483.2291</p>
<p><b>Kroger</b></p> <p>2010 Whittaker Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734.547.1790</p>	<p><b>Brick &amp; Mortar Modern General Store</b></p> <p>21 E Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 734.340.2343</p>
	<p><b>Cinemark Ann Arbor 20 + IMAX</b></p> <p>4100 Carpenter Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48197</p>

Manager contact information

**Bill Heinze**

Email address: [wheinze@emich.edu](mailto:wheinze@emich.edu)

Phone number: 630.414.5330

Mailing address

127 Judy Sturgis Hill Building  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197