



SMSU
FORENSICS

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

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2017-2018 Team Roster

Moshood Agboola

Wyatt Albers

Cole Angelo

Kristen Barnhardt

Benjamin Blee

Marlen Cervantes

Christina Collins

Michael Dombrowski

Doria Drost

Liz Elliot

Crystal Enga

Michael Everett

Kyla Gundvaldson

Dan Halverson

Dalton Hauglid

Brianna Holmquist

Chanelle Helmers

Laura Huebert

Amanda Linville

Liam Lopez

Sirrina Martinez

Allison Odens

Elly Osland

Jesutofunmi SegunAlao

Tahj'ee Smith

Katelyn Toner

Snowflower Yang

Crystal Yearous

These are the students who have engaged with the coaching staff and used team resources to further the goals of SMSU Forensics. As with many organizations, some members are more active than others.



Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a permanent record of the activities and performances of the SMSU Forensic Team during the 2017-2018 academic year. This report also serves as means of informing others of the program's activities throughout the year. The Forensics program serves SMSU students in a wide variety of ways. Specifically, the program has three developmental goal areas: academic, social, and personal.

Academically, forensic participation is a requirement of students pursuing the Communication Studies and Communication Education majors. Other students desire forensic activities on their transcript to show prospective employers that they have developed and honed their communication skills. Forensic participation provides students with a rich educational experience that give individuals skills they can use for a lifetime.



Forensics also fulfills a social function as it is a recognized SMSU student club/organization. Students come together to talk about new literature and/or public speaking topics that they are considering using in competition. They encourage one

another for upcoming tournaments or congratulate each other on past tournament performances. Students also engage in community service projects and participate in local events. The students support each other and form friendships that can last a lifetime. Team members also have an opportunity to polish their leadership skills by serving as officers of the organization. Organizational activities such as holiday parties, fundraisers, high school and collegiate

tournaments, community service projects and showcase performances help to fulfill the social function of the Forensics Team.

Personal developmental goals are also fulfilled through Forensic involvement. The poise and confidence gained are irreplaceable, as are the reasoning, listening, researching, and speaking skills one acquires in Forensics. An integration of these areas-academic, social, and personal-is a valuable goal of any club or organization. The SMSU Forensics Team takes pride in knowing that members have the opportunity to make strides in each of these areas.

The Forensics Team has goals, not only in educating the students of SMSU, but also in preparing them for the “real world.” Through the SMSU Forensics program, students:



- (1) develop knowledge of logic and reasoning skills.
- (2) learn the skills required to deliver an effective presentation or speech.
- (3) learn to weigh two sides of an argument objectively and sensibly.
- (4) learn to build poise and confidence, especially in front of large groups.
- (5) become exposed to intercollegiate speech and debate tournaments.
- (6) overcome any communication obstacles.
- (7) share with others what they have in common-interest in communication.
- (8) learn to research topics in depth.
- (9) learn to listen critically.
- (10) learn to form personal opinions and logical conclusions more readily.
- (11) increase their efficiency in communication.

Students have the opportunity to become involved in all areas of competitive discourse: Debate, prose, poetry, program oral interpretation, drama, dramatic duo interpretation, persuasive speaking, extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, communication analysis, after-dinner speaking, and informative speaking. Any SMSU student, regardless of previous experience, can take part in forensic activities. Students may receive academic credit.

The forensics program is funded, in part by the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee (SAFAC). These funds supplement the fundraising done by the team and are used to offset the cost of travel, registration fees, supplies and materials.



Forensics received the 2017-18 Core Co-Curricular President of the Year (Crystal Enga) and Advisor of the Year (Ben Walker) Awards

Competition Events

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 a comic monologue. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. 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, campaign, etc., through the use of theatrical principles. Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Duo Interpretation: 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.

Dramatic 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.

Extemporaneous Speaking: Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events, will choose one, and will have 30 minutes to prepare a speech. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Notes are permitted. Students will speak in listed order. Posting of topics will be staggered.

Impromptu Speaking: An impromptu speech, serious in nature, with topic selection varied round by round, section by section. Topics will be of a proverb nature. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes and may use the time at their own discretion. Notes are permitted. Each speaker in a given section will have the same topic.

Informative Speaking: An original, factual speech by the student on a realistic subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Visuals 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. Notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Parliamentary Debate: Parliamentary Debate is a formal contest of advocacy which theoretically occurs in a House of Parliament. Participants are the Government and Opposition teams, and the moderator is Madam or Mister Speaker of the House. A motion or resolution is a sentence or phrase which provides the subject of debate. The Government Team has a limited amount of time, usually fifteen minutes, to prepare a case centered around this topic. Published materials, or other resources for the debater's use in the round, may not be brought into the debating chambers.

Persuasive Speaking: An original speech by the student designed to inspire, reinforce, or change the beliefs, attitudes, values, or actions of the audience. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Notes are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

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.

Program Oral Interpretation: A program of thematically-linked selections of literary merit, chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive 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. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. Different genre means the material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., A poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre). Only one selection may be original. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

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.

Coaches



The forensic team is coached and managed by the Director of Forensics, Ben Walker and Assistant Director of Forensics, Julie Walker. In addition, seniors Michael Dombrowski and Crystal Yearous served as a volunteer coaches for the team. This was Professor Ben Walker's 2nd year as the full-time DOF, succeeding Professor Mark Fokken's 21 years as the director of the program. This was also Professor Julie Walker's 2nd year as the full-time ADOF. Both Professor Ben Walker and Professor Julie Walker are full-time faculty members within the Communication Studies Program. As coaches, they work with students individually to prepare for intercollegiate

competitions and travel with the team to contests. While at contests, in addition to supervising students on the team, they serve as adjudicators of competitors from other schools. The coaching staff is also responsible for managing the travel arrangements of the team, accounts, team activities, hosting tournaments, fundraisers and the co-curricular aspects of the team.



Season Highlights

The competitive season for college speech runs the entire academic year, with competitions starting in early October and finishing in March. SMSU Forensics had another fantastic year. Here are some of the competitive highlights from the season:

- Freshman Doria Drost breaks into Persuasive Speaking finals in her first college tournament.
- Freshman Chanelle Helmers is named Top Novice in Dramatic Interpretation at the Larry Schnoor Invitational.
- Junior Crystal Enga takes 4th in Individual Sweepstakes at the St. Cloud State University Icebox Classic.
- Doria Drost takes 1st in Individual Sweepstakes at the St. Cloud State University Icebox Classic.
- SMSU Forensics places 5th at the St. Cloud State University Icebox Classic.
- Junior Kristen Barnhardt wins the Minnesota State Championship in After Dinner Speaking.
- Crystal Enga takes 6th in Informative Speaking at the Minnesota State Championship.
- SMSU Forensics places in the top 3 for small teams in Minnesota for the 4th straight year.
- Doria Drost (ADS, Imp) and Crystal Enga (DI) qualify for and compete at the American Forensics Association-National Individual Events Tournament in Colorado Springs.



Campus and Community Events

This year, beyond the 16 different tournaments the students competed in across two semesters and the activity fairs, team meetings, and parties attended, forensics also organized the following events:

- **Mock Tournament (9/23)**

To kick start the year, we invited the UM-Morris speech team to come learn with us at a mock tournament. SMSU Communication professors gave feedback to students on both teams and novices learned how to conduct themselves at a tournament. It was a great learning experience!



- **Mustang Stampede (10/21)**

We hosted the 3rd annual Mustang Stampede at MSU, Mankato. We partnered with the Mavericks to host one of the premier fall speech weekends in the region. While running a tournament on someone else's campus was difficult, the Mankato team was very supportive. The benefits are clear: we serve the community looking for another tournament, and SMSU Forensics becomes associated with a prestigious tournament weekend in Mankato. We look forward to partnering with MSU, Mankato for years to come.

- **Valley Forensics League Tournaments #1 and #2 (12/1-12/2)**

These tournaments were held on the first Friday/Saturday of December and brought in over 11 college speech and debate teams to compete on our campus. It was a bit chaotic, but we enjoyed hosting and look forward to future hosting opportunities!





- **Bake Sale (12/11-12/12)**

We ran our annual bake sale near the end of fall semester. The team set up tables in the BA/CH link and sold cookies, bars, and other holiday treats. This has been a tradition established by Prof. Fokken and we were delighted to continue the bake sale. Several faculty and staff stopped by in anticipation and students purchased goodies as they prepared for their final exams.

- **Theater of Public Policy (1/18)**

The team invited the [Theater of Public Policy](#) to visit Marshall, MN to engage in a discussion with the community about “Economic Development in Rural Minnesota”. The group interviews local individuals who are well versed on the subject-at-hand and like to be part of a lively conversation, then they perform skits based off what they find to enlighten the audience about the issues. The show started 6:30pm at the Lyon County Public Library (Marshall). The group has received rave reviews as it made a tough political discussion fun and engaging!



- **Marshall High School Speech Spectacular (1/26-1/27)**

The Marshall High School speech team hosts one of the largest speech tournaments in the region at the end of January. Teams come from all over Minnesota and some from other states. As we have done in the past, we helped host the tournament by opening the doors of SMSU and had students compete in the rooms here on campus. The team posted signs and directed students to where they needed to go.

- **Hosting College Speech National Qualifier (3/9-10)**

These tournaments were held on the second Friday/Saturday of March and brought in over 11 college speech and debate teams to compete on our campus. On Friday, SMSU Forensics ran the tournament (Cider Frostbite) for the benefit of the speech community, and then on Saturday we simply provided space for the AFA-NIET District 4 to host the national qualifying tournament. Many people came away impressed with our campus and service to the community.

- **SMSU Relay for Life (3/23)**

Team members donated time and raised money to help battle cancer. We painted faces at the event even though attendance at the event was low due to lots of snow. The team had a great time and it was all for a good cause!



- **New Horizons Crisis Center Help (on going in spring semester)**

Our community service project this year was helping the New Horizons Crisis Center. The New Horizons Crisis Center works with individuals and families who have been victimized by crime, while also providing preventative and educational services. Every Monday at 2pm, we have a team member go to the New Horizons Crisis Center and help sanitize their offices. This volunteer work helps the organization maintain their facilities which help many local community members.



- **Library Week Performances (4/11)**

For national library week, we performed some oral interpretation in the Whipple Gallery for the public. The performances were well attended and it was a great way to finish out the year!

- **Recruiting at the High School State Speech Tournament (4/20-21)**

For the first time ever, SMSU Forensics actively recruited at the Minnesota High School State Speech Tournament. This year, it was at Apple Valley High School. Prof. Walker took flyers and candy and spoke with many high schools students and coaches about SMSU and college speech.



Cancelled Events Due to Weather

Our annual SMSU High School Speech Invitational, our annual Team Showcase, and our hosting of the Section IIIA High School Speech Contest were all cancelled due to the harsh winter weather. We look forward to putting on these events next year.

Forensic Team Cumulative Statistics

Year	Tournaments Attended	Students Involved	Trophies & Awards
1968-2017	760	1,675	2,292
2017-18	16	28	31
Total 49 Years	776	1,703	2,323

Rounds of Individual Events and Debate Competition

Year	Oral Interpretation	Public Address	Limited Prep.	Misc. Events	Total Individual Events	Debate Rounds
1968-2016	11,563	7,366	4,358	356	22,682	1,518
2017-18	175	85	16	6	282	0
Total 49 Years	11,738	7,451	4,374	362	22,964	1,518



States Traveled in 2017-2018 Season

Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Colorado