

THE WSU PODIUM

The Newsletter of the Wayne State Forensics Union Alumni

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Ninth Place in the Nation, Quarterfinals at NFA and Novice State Champion Highlight Great IE Season

The Individual Events team had a highly successful 2009-10 season. To finish the season, Junior Arthi Chandrasekaran reached the Quarterfinals in Impromptu of the National Forensics Association (NFA) hosted at Ohio University and the team overall finished nations ranked 9th in Division III, which is a division with schools like Florida State, Indiana University, University of Michigan, New York

University and UCLA. This is an outstanding accomplishment for a team with four students at NFA! At other major national tournament at Bradley (IL) University, junior Patrick Joyce reached the semifinals in Impromptu, putting him in the top 12 out of 99 entries. In addition, freshman Graceann Hardin won a Novice State Championship in MISL novice tournament hosted

at Delta College in February. At the MISL State Tournament in March, Joyce finished 2nd After Dinner Speaking and 3rd in Extemp, Chandrasekaran was 4th in Extemp, and freshman Shay Johnson finished 6th in Prose.

To begin the season, new team members Johnson and Hardin had a strong showing at a novice tournament at OCC- (continued on page 2)

In "Rebuilding" year, Debate Team finishes Top 20 in Nation, Top Finishes in Varsity, Jr. Varsity and Novice

In what should have been a "rebuilding" year after graduating five seniors and three of the four NDT qualifiers from the year before, WSU debate finished the season ranked 18th in national rankings due to strong performances from several freshmen.

At the first tournament of the season at Northern Iowa, the freshmen team of Jacob Justice and Kristen Messina reached jr. varsity finals and finished in 2nd place. The next weekend at Clarion (PA) University, Justice and Messina finished 1st in a very competitive jr. varsity field. Another freshmen, Melinda

Mishark, normally a novice, debated with sophomore Alan Gocha in varsity at Clarion and finished in 2nd place. Gocha also advanced to Octofinals at Northern Iowa with Senior Alex Pasquinelli.

This early success became the norm for our jr varsity and novice teams. In jr varsity, Messina and Justice reached the semifinals at Richmond (VA) University, Quarterfinals at Liberty (VA), and finals (2nd place) at the US Naval Academy. At Illinois State University, freshman Rob Sembarski

and Junior Nick Tabarias reached the finals in jr. varsity. In novice, Mishark and senior partner, Rachelle Ketchum, reached the quarterfinals at John Carroll (OH) University, finals at Augustana (IL) College and finished in 2nd and Octofinals at the Naval Academy.

The freshmen and novice and jr varsity teams were not the only highlights. Open team Junior Harry Singh and sophomore Amrit Singh reached the quarterfinals at Richmond, (continued on page 2)

Debate Team News Continued (from p. 1)



Above: Debate partners Melinda Mishark and Rachelle Ketchem at ADA Nationals in Nashville, TN.



Above: Debate team members Kristen Messina and Amrit Kamboj at John Carroll University



IE team member Patrick Joyce, Shay Johnson, Ashley Moore, Arthi Chandrasekaran, Grace Hardin and Blair Walker at Bradley University (IL)



Walker, Chandrasekaran, Johnson, and Hardin at Ball State University (Muncie, IN)

quarterfinals at Liberty and octofinals at John Carroll, quarterfinals at Richmond, and semifinals at Illinois State. Sophomores Brad Meloche and Marshall Dodson reached the semifinals at Illinois State and octofinals at Augustana. Gocha and senior partner Carlos McMath reached the Octofinals at the University of Missouri-Kansas City tournament in January.

To finish the season, WSU had strong showing at several national championship tournament. At the American Debate Association (ADA)



In photo: Mark Jarrett, Nick Tabarias, Rob Sembarski, Kristen Messina and Jacob Justice at Clarion University

tournament at Vanderbilt (TN) University, Mishark and Ketchum finished in 3rd in Novice as semifinalists, Justice and Messina advanced to octofinals in jr. varsity, and Jarrett and Pasquinelli reach quarterfinals. Overall, WSU finished 4th in overall ADA rankings for the year.

At the Jr Varsity National Championship at Towson University in Baltimore, Messina and Justice reached the Octofinals. Overall, this season's success was driven by a complete team effort, from the novices all the way to the top with the varsity members!

IE Team News Continued (from p. 1)

Orchard Ridge, where Johnson finished 3rd in Prose and Hardin 6th in Impromptu. Also in September, at Purdue University, Joyce was 1st in After Dinner Speaking and 3rd in Extemp, Sophomore Blair Walker finished 5th in Impromptu and Informative, and Chandrasekaran finished 6th in Persuasion. At Akron University, Johnson won 1st place in novice Prose, while Hardin took 2nd in novice Impromptu and 4th in Prose.

Teammate Joyce won After Dinner Speaking, 4th in Impromptu and 5th in Extemp. Walker was 6th in Impromptu. In November, at Bowling Green State University, Hardin won 1st place in Novice

Impromptu and Top Novice in Extemp and Chandrasekaran finished in 4th place in Varsity Impromptu.

At the Fall MISL Tournament, the team finished 4th overall. Individually, Joyce finished in 1st place in Impromptu, 2nd in Extemp and 2nd in After Dinner Speaking. Chandrasekaran was 2nd in Persuasion, 5th in Extemp and 3rd in Individual Sweepstakes. Finally, Johnson finished 4th place in Prose.

To finish off the Fall semester, the team traveled to Ohio State where Hardin finished 4th place in Novice Impromptu. Johnson was 5th in Novice Dramatic Interpretation and

5th in Novice Prose. Joyce reached semi-finals in Open Impromptu. In February, the team traveled to EMU and Joyce finished 1st place finish in After Dinner Speaking and 2nd place in Impromptu.

Chandrasekaran placed 2nd in Persuasion and 5th in Poetry. With only 3 students, the team placed 3rd in overall sweepstakes--an impressive feat! Overall, the team had an incredible season and all of the team members return next season for what should be an incredible season!



WSU Outreach to Urban Debate, Hosts Several Tournaments

WSU speech and debate continues its long term commitment to outreach to speech and debate communities in the greater Detroit and Michigan area.

We have hosted several Detroit Urban Debate League training seminars, coaching sessions, and tournaments, including the City Championship and the qualifying tournament to the National Association of Urban Debate League (NUADL) National Championship (at Nationals, Northwestern High School reached the Quarterfinals and Life Skills Center students won a public debate and a

\$1250 scholarship!

Thanks to the excellent work of new Executive Director of the league, Holly Reiss and help from us and the University of Michigan, the league has grown substantially and has produced a much more educational and competitive product! We are very excited about what the future holds for the league!

In addition, we continue to host the Edward Pappas high school tournament, the James A. McMonagle debate training seminar and the Motor City Classic College Tournament. At

the Pappas tournament in October, we had 41 teams. For the Motor City, also in October, we hosted 13 universities and approximately 120 guests for 3 days.

Over the last few years, we have hosted the MIFA Spring Middle School speech tournament, which brought 28 schools from around the state and over 500 students, parents and coaches to campus for one day of competition.

We look forward to hosting these tournaments and some MSIL college speech tournaments next year.

George Update!

George has had many former students, friends and debate colleagues visit him during the year. In November, the National Communication Association (NCA) conference was in Chicago and George came to the Communication Department's Reception.

In February, the debate team visited George on our way to Northwestern University. We went out to dinner with him and he got to meet several of the new members of the team that had never met George before. George gave us several important tips for competition and wished us well!

Overall, George is doing very well! When we visited him, he was jovial, speaking rather well and making several of his famous jokes! Of course, he wanted to know how the team was doing and several details about the program. For a few years, he's been working on updating his Advanced Debate textbook. Currently, he is fascinated with Obama's rhetoric and is working on some research about this subject.

Physically, George is continuing rehabilitation near his Sunrise of Lincoln Park complex. He still has very limited or no use of his left arm and leg. They have injected Botox into these limbs to help give him more

flexibility. George has taken to calling this his plastic surgery!

But overall, George is George, which is all that any of us can ask for!

We encourage you to contact George at his Chicago address:

George Ziegelmuller
Sunrise of Lincoln Park
2710 N. Clark St Unit 213
Chicago, IL 60614

Or call him on his cell at: 773-425-8520

See Our New Website for Updates, Photos and History!

This summer, I designed a new website for the WSU Forensics Union. I encourage all of you to check it out at:

www.wsuforensics.org

The new site contains:

- News and Tournament Results
- Information about the coaches and students
- History of the Program (Under "About Us", where you can find James Irwin and Donald Ritzenhein's histories of the program)
- Photo Galleries (including scanned copies of most of the yearbook/scrapbooks from over the years. Alumni can post photos and add galleries.
- Update your contact information
- Banquet and other event updates and announcements

We are also on **Facebook!** Search for "Speech and Debate Team at Wayne State." The page provides tournament updates and news.

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New WSU Forensics on the
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www.wsuforensics.org

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Generous Contributors to our Program, We Thank You for Your Support!

*This list includes donations of \$1 or more made to the forensics program (below \$2499 range is not exhaustive, but limited due to space. Every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact CFPCA Assistant Director of Development, Kelly Cronin, ay2912@wayne.edu and 313-577-5336 with corrections. * denotes deceased.*

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