THE KEY OF ΠΚΔ

FALL 2011

Message from the President

Gina Jensen - Webster University

Welcome to a new school year! I hope that everyone has had a restful summer. We have a lot of excitement brewing in Pi Kappa Delta. First, some exciting news; we received a grant from the Rupe Foundation for $135, 000 to help us fund a coordinator's position out of the national office. We are also planning to help develop and expand Public Forum Debate on the college level. We intend to offer a training session at NCA and an exhibition debate at the NCT. When the centennial tournament and convention rolls around in March 2013 we will offer public forum for all interested parties. We feel very fortunate to have received the grant and are currently looking for people to fill the coordinator position. If you are interested, contact me at jensen@webster.edu for more details.

Another bit of exciting news from PKD is we are now the official alumni relations partner of the National Forensic League. As a result of this partnership, any former NFL member is invited to join PKD. We have also changed our orders and degrees. As an active member, you can join one of six membership orders: active undergraduate, alumni, instruction, affiliate, attainment, and honorary. There are also ten degrees of membership for people in the categories of active undergraduate, alumni and instruction. The degrees of membership will be determined by our new points system which will be ready for you to begin using by mid-September. This system is voluntary in nature and isn't a requirement for membership. It is simply a way to track one's own progress and move through the degrees. The order of degrees is outlined in the bylaws on our website www.pikappadelta.com. We will also have a point system manual for members to use. Our new orders and degrees replace the old PKD categories and are very similar to those the NFL uses on the high school level. We hope this similarity will encourage people to join PKD even as non-traveling, non-competing members. We also created a formula for alumni and coaches to receive points this year for the number

of years they have been involved and for upcoming freshmen to keep 10% of their high school points. See the website for details.

We have also changed our membership structure. With the passage of our new constitution, we have made it easier to form a chapter. In fact, it can now be accomplished entirely on line. We also have also formed three types of chapters: the undergraduate chapter, the alumni chapter and the national general chapter. The national general chapter allows members to become PKD members on campuses where there isn't currently a chapter. Students enrolling as national general chapter members can earn points in the same way as members of undergraduate chapters, although competition is not a requirement for membership or degree advancement. We expect our new system will allow Pi Kappa Delta to expand onto campuses that do not house active forensic programs by allowing NFL alumni and other interested parties to join us. Help us spread the word.

As you can see, Pi Kappa Delta has made many new and exciting changes. However, we want you to know we are still the PKD that you have always known and loved! We still carry with us a rich history and tradition. We plan to continue the traditions to which you have become accustomed at the biennial conventions and tournaments. We also plan to keep alive and well the camaraderie for which Pi Kappa Delta is known. Organizations must change and adapt if they are to stay alive, and as we stand on the brink of our second century, we stand ready with changes to carry us into the future. At the same time, we will always be the PKD that Shields, Nichols and others helped to build. As a current member of Pi Kappa Delta, you are a part of something very special. We hope to spread this unique opportunity nationwide.

Finally, I look forward to the National Comprehensive Tournament hosted by Metropolitan Community College at Longview. Bill Cue, Sarah Collins and the Longview team are prepared to host what is sure to be another terrific NCT. We will be in Overland Park, Kansas and use the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the Convention Center. Our dates this year are March 15-18th. If you would like to make early reservations, the number to the Sheraton is 913-234-2118. Look for the NCT invite on the website shortly.

Have a great start to the school year! And please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Contact: jensen@webster.edu

President-Elect's Report

Jeffrey Stoppenhagen - Boise State University/Weiser High School

Portland, Points and Pondering our Future

On Portland

Let me begin by first thanking all of you who attended the 2011 Pi Kappa Delta National Convention and Tournament held at Mt. Hood Community College in Portland. It has been over four decades since such a large group of competitors, critics and coaches have assembled to celebrate what is great about our organization! A special thank you goes out to our wonderful hosts: Shannon Valdivia, Director of Forensics at MHCC, and her team of coaches, alumni, faculty and administration that welcomed us to their campus with open arms and outstanding western hospitality! Additionally, the staff at the host hotel, The Red Lion - Jantzen Beach went above and beyond in addressing our every need and provided a beautiful setting for meetings, socials and the banquet. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the top notch work of our Tournament Director Scott Jensen and his efficient tab staff for a job well done! It's a huge job and there is no one better than "Scott and Company" at what they do! It's time we continue the momentum that began in Portland as we head into the celebration of the century when we gather in 2013 in St. Louis to bring to an end our first 100 years! I am honored and privileged to be your President-Elect and commit to you and our organization that I will work as hard as possible to continue the work done by my predecessors in building the strength of PKD. Thank you for your trust. I won't let you down.

On Points

Dictionary.com defines "recognition" as: "the acknowledgment of achievement, service, merit". It is with this definition in mind that our organization celebrates the ability for competitors and coaches to continue to be able to reward, recognize and publicize the outstanding work being done by Pi Kappa Delta members. In conjunction with our ongoing partnership with the National Forensic League, members of PKD will soon have the ability to record participation in competition, service and scholarship and receive, in return, the awarding of advanced degrees in our organization.

Members of your National Council have been working with web designer Danny Cantrell to develop a user-friendly site that you will be able upload your contributions from competition, service projects and scholarship work in an effort to record and recognize your dedication and success. As you achieve established point levels you will attain new degrees of recognition. This is another example of how Pi Kappa Delta

continues to work to promote the value that its' members contribute to our specific community and to society in general. In this way, recognition works to further the "art of persuasion, beautiful and just".

Pondering Our Future

As PKD prepares to celebrate our first hundred years, I believe it is a good time to stop and take stock in what our association with Pi Kappa Delta really means. I was recently interviewed by a reporter with The Arbiter, Boise State University's student paper. In that interview, the reporter asked me about why I am involved in PKD and what do I expect to "get out of it". After pondering for a moment, I realized it isn't what we get out, but what we contribute back to the organization is what makes us unique. No other forensics organization, in my eyes, works to try and be as inclusive as possible in all aspects of what we do. The NCT works to bring other organizations together with us to celebrate what is great about forensics. The recent Pi Kappa Delta National Convention and Tournament welcomed a record number of community colleges to our biennial celebration. Our convention involves and solicits student input into policies, procedures and administration of our organization.

As the interview proceeded, Bryce told me he had been on the speech and debate team at his college in Southern California but that they did not have a PKD chapter on his campus. His next comment caught me off-guard. He stated, "If we had a chapter, I would have been even more involved as I like the idea of giving back instead of just competing." Wow. I wonder how many other students, coaches and critics involved in forensics across our country feel the same way as Bryce. My guess; many. So, as we look to St. Louis in 2013, let's remind ourselves why we are involved in this thing called forensics. For me, personally, it allowed me time to really think about what I have received and how I can work to give back to an organization that has done so much for me. I challenge all of you to think about what it is we can proactively do on our campuses, in our classrooms, and in competition to continue to make Pi Kappa Delta the prominent forensics organization for years to come.

Contact: jstoppen@u.boisestate.edu

National Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Michael Bartanen, Ph. D. – Pacific Lutheran University

Welcome to another school year! This also marks the beginning of a number of significant changes in how Pi Kappa Delta operates which resulted from the positive votes on the Constitution and by-law changes last April. I want to use this section of the *Key* to alert you to the changes you will see when you receive your dues statement in late September.

Chapter Dues: $60. We will no longer collect province dues along with national dues. Your chapter dues support the on-going service and programming activities of Pi Kappa Delta. For information on forming a chapter at a college or university, please contact the National Office.

Individual Membership Fee: $35. An individual membership is a lifetime membership open to any enrolled college or university student, and entitles the member to the benefits of PKD membership including the opportunity to apply for scholarship support; enter and track points in the PKD points system to advance through the various orders and maintain a record of competitive, service and scholarship activities. Individual membership is classified into either chartered undergraduate chapter membership or national general chapter membership. If an individual applies for membership in an existing chartered chapter their membership is dependent upon meeting any additional membership requirements of their chapter. If an individual applies for membership while attending a college or university without a chartered chapter they become members of the national general chapter. These members may transfer to a chartered chapter at a later time. **Only paid individual members may enter and track degree points in the Pi Kappa Delta database.**

Affiliate Membership Dues: $50, annual, or $300 lifetime. Any person may choose to become an affiliate member of Pi Kappa Delta. By becoming an affiliate member, a person affirms their support for the mission and activities of Pi Kappa Delta. Affiliate membership entitles the member to receive regular updates about the activities of the organization; and, upon request, receive electronic copies of the *Key* or printed copies of *The Forensic*, which is the scholarly journal published by the Honorary. **Anyone may become an Affiliate member, even if you have previously joined as an undergraduate member. Affiliate membership demonstrates your commitment to the ideals and programs of our Honorary.**

Paying chapter dues and applying and paying membership fees may be done either on the PKD website: pikappadelta.com, or by mail directed to the National Office. Pi Kappa Delta accepts credit cards, checks or purchase orders.

As always, PKD continues to run smoothly due to the fantastic efforts of Lisa Vossekuil, the office manager. She stands ready to answer your questions and process your dues and memberships.

Contacts: bartanmd@plu.edu (Michael Bartanen)
pkdnationaloffice@gmail.com (Lisa Vossekuil)

Immediate Past-President's Report

Phillip Voight, Ph. D. – Gustavus Adolphus College

I wanted to begin with a note of thanks for allowing me to serve as President for the past two years. It was an honor and a pleasure. As with most projects, it ended up being much more work than I had originally planned, but I feel great about what we were able to accomplish and I can honestly say that the work was the most rewarding of my entire career.

For the next year, I will still be responsible for implementing several of the remaining items in my portion of the strategic planning portfolio. Here is a brief update on some of the projects that are already underway or will have been substantially completed by the time that you receive this message:

- Grant and Scholarship and Professional Development Opportunities: The National Council met immediately before the Portland Tournament and authorized the first-ever set of PKD-sponsored grant opportunities. By mid-October, grant application guidelines and submission forms will be posted on the website. The Council has authorized:

    - $2,500 (5 awards of $500.00 each) in professional development support for Pi Kappa Delta members of the Order of Instruction;
    - $2,500 (5 awards of $500.00 each) in scholarship assistance for Pi Kappa Delta members of the Order of the Undergraduate – with at least one of the awards being dedicated to a community college graduate who attends college at a school with an active PKD Chapter;
    - Up to $5,000 (5 awards of $1,000 each) in Provincial special project grants. Some of these awards will be designed to target strategic priorities identified by the National Council, but at least one will be open-ended.

- In addition to the ordinary process of updating the website, we are undertaking several significant revisions that will make the site more functional and user-friendly. These changes include:

    - The addition of two new buttons on the left navigation menu that will link directly to the Pi Kappa Delta store and to the Pi Kappa Delta credit point

entry database. These two links will simplify the process of ordering PKD logo-wear and supplies and entering points at the conclusion of each tournament;
    - An expanded instructional resources section that includes event descriptions, coaching notes, advice for competitors, judging instructions, sample ballots, and instructional videos for each of the speech and debate events that we offer at our National Tournament. The instructional resources section should be completed by early October, and will allow student-run programs and international partners to obtain sound coaching and judging advice.

- We have created a new international service learning opportunity with Visthar – a partner organization based in Bangalore, India. Information about the program, as well as applications to participate will be posted on the website throughout the Fall. In addition, we are exploring similar partnerships with NGO's in South Africa and China.

- Grant-writing and corporate-sponsorship work continues. As you know, we have already received a $135,000 grant from the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation that includes a $25,000 sponsorship of the 2013 Tournament and Convention, and $30,000 in scholarships for students and programs that would be otherwise unable to attend the tournament. Our objective is to locate at least two additional significant corporate sponsors for 2013. In terms of grant-writing, our next three goals are: 1) To secure funding to create PKD chapters on the campuses of all 22 tribal colleges in the United States; 2) To create a similar program on the campuses of historically African-American colleges and universities; and, 3) To create a joint membership partnership with one or more of the National Service Clubs. If you have not done so, please write a brief thank-you to the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation.

- We are continuing to develop new communication tools and technologies. If you have not already done so, please subscribe to the Pi Kappa Delta blog (you can find the subscription details by clicking on the link at the bottom of our homepage). If you are a coach, please encourage each of your students to subscribe to the key directly by clicking on the "Subscribe to PKD" button on the left side of the homepage and entering their email addresses. At the meeting this past summer, the National Council also discussed new ways of keeping in touch with current and alumni members, including a re-vamped Facebook page, and a messaging system similar to Constant Contact.

- We are putting together a series of webinars on subjects of interest to the entire forensics community. For a very nominal fee, PKD could produce webinars on topics such as “Risk Management and Liability Reduction,” “Fundraising and Development,” “Best Practices in Recruiting and Squad Management,” “Controlling Travel Costs,” or “Measuring and Assessing the Outcomes of Forensic Participation.” These webinars could then be archived and distributed to members at cost or free of charge. If you have an idea for a webinar that you would like to see us do, please drop me an e-mail.

- During the next 24 months, serious planning will begin that is focused on improving alumni relations. Please attend the session at NCA that is designed as a preliminary collective-brainstorming meeting around this and other strategic planning issues.

I am convinced that Pi Kappa Delta’s best future still lies before us, and I know that the organization is much stronger and more resilient that it was 25 years ago. I thank each of you for your support and involvement, and I look forward to seeing you during the year ahead.

Contact: pvoight@gustavus.edu

Historian's Report

Susan Millsap, Ph. D. – Otterbein University

In preparation for the Centennial I am updating the PKD History and creating banners that reflect the founding of Pi Kappa Delta and what it is today. To accomplish this I am requesting any historical pictures that you would like to contribute to the display. I especially need pictures of students completing service projects. Please scan the pictures and send them to me as jpg files. Send to smillsap@otterbein.edu. The Centennial should be a memorable event!

Contact: smillsap@otterbein.edu

Professional Development Report

David Bailey, Ph.D. – Southwest Baptist University

The other day I was sitting at my computer and, as is often the case, I was in a hurry. Actually, I was in a hurry because my three-year-old son was in a hurry to show me the latest online game he had discovered. (Yes he is three and already comfortable with basic technology. He will no doubt be designing his own software by the time he is six.) We sat there for several moments while the computer was "thinking." This caused my son to ask: Daddy, why do computers need to think? Being an educator and a former forensics competitor I generally relish the opportunity to explain things, but I will confess that I was having a hard time coming up with a good answer for this one. "Well son" I said putting my best professional face forward "the computer is busy thinking because there are lots of things going on behind the scenes." I'm not sure this answer entirely satisfied him, but the notion of lots of pieces being in motion behind the scenes reminds me very much of where Pi Kappa Delta is at this crucial moment in its history.

It is truly an honor to be a member of Pi Kappa Delta at this critical juncture of its history. We are an organization that is proud of its past, but is not chained to it. With a new points system, new opportunities for scholarship and service abroad, and the new look and enhanced functionality of our website it is easy to see that PKD is not only changing, but becoming the very best of the national forensics organizations. There is much going on both behind and in front of the scenes.

As the Professional Development Coordinator I want to take a moment to mention two initiatives I have begun working on. As part of PKD's commitment to foster education in communication and performance we on the national council are committed to developing a certification program for forensics educators, especially those for whom a terminal degree is impractical or inappropriate. In this era of shrinking forensics budgets and the relative ease with which many programs are dispensed with, it is important for us as an organization to stand behind our forensics educators by providing an accessible program for certification in forensics education. This idea is in development at the present but soon you will be able to see more details about our proposed certification program and offer feedback as to how it can best address your needs and those of the organization.

Of course, a major component of our jobs in the current environment is to serve as advocates for forensics itself and the programs that are involved within it. Part of this advocacy should be the development of materials that program directors, students, or others interested in the growth, expansion, or preservation of intercollegiate forensics can share with decision-makers on their campuses and within their communities. Again, this project is in its early stages, but I would welcome any preliminary feedback that you may have and would encourage you to help us on the national council to think of innovative ways to serve as advocates for the activity we all love.

Much like my computer was several days ago it would be most accurate and appropriate to say the PKD is busy right now. It is busy becoming a more professional organization of educators and students each dedicated to becoming the best communicators they can be and fostering the growth of others as well. Our organization-wide dedication to this ethic of innovation and new achievements grounded in the past makes me very proud to be a part of the organization.

Contact: dbailey@sbuniv.edu

Province Coordinator's Report

Tomeka Robinson, Ph. D. - Marietta College

Greetings from the Province Coordinator! I am very excited about the opportunity to serve this great organization in the capacity of Province Coordinator. I am in the process of working on a number of items that will be of interest to the body including a guide for how to run more environmentally friendly tournaments, coordinating webinars for coaches and students, developing software for digital tournaments, a social media plan with Ryan Louis and Jeff Stoppenhagen, and a host of other activities. But these things cannot happen without your support. If you have any ideas or wish to get involved with any of these exciting ventures, please contact me at tomeka.robinson@marietta.edu.

It is also my desire to continue the work of my predecessor, Jeff Stoppenhagen, in strengthening our Provinces. I am in the process of creating a list of all Province Officers, so that we can communicate about best practices for Province Tournaments and Activities. One of the major ways that we can become stronger is to encourage other programs in your area to join Pi Kappa Delta and participate in Province activities. Another way is to promote the benefits of having an active Pi Kappa Delta Chapter on all campuses. If every chapter recruits just one more chapter, we can and will be the strongest intercollegiate forensics organization. If you are a Provincial Officer, please contact me, so I can add you to my contact list.

I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans!

Contact: tomeka.robinson@marietta.edu

Charter and Standards Report

Ryan Louis – Ottawa University

I am honored to be a member of the Centennial Council and feel welcomed by the touching show of support I've received so far. Meeting and greeting with individual chapters in Portland was a dream come true—which is an obvious statement, really, considering how beautiful the city, facilities…well…*everything* was. Though several people have offered their multitudinous thanks already, I want to take a moment to officially thank all the members of the Great West who supported and implemented the Convention and Tournament.

This year has already begun with a bang. Pi Kappa Delta is growing fast. I feel empowered by the network we're building together (so many new chapters and faces!). My mission as councilmember is to help nurture that growth. Usually people talk about facilitating growth. And true, that's a good phrase and goal to purport. I think, though, that it doesn't completely capture my vision. I see my role in the organization twofold: as a new member, I understand that a large part of serving an organization involves acute observation. Thus, observation—gathering data and listening to the myriad chapter voices will steer me in a direction of fortuitous representation—is my first job. Second, I believe powerfully in this metaphor of nurturing growth. In addition to TLC, I believe that support-systems are key to progress. As a councilmember, my goal is to help bridge gaps. I hope to accomplish this in a few ways, particularly in cultural and information exchanges: lectures, webinars, volunteer & service projects. This also involves outreach: social media and direct involvement with individual chapters.

As we prepare for a new season—one season away from our Centennial Celebration!—I wish you all the happiest of tidings. Good luck. And if you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Contact: ryan.louis@ottawa.edu

Student Representative's Report

Adam Schneider, Webster University & Sean Kohloff, Central Michigan University

The student representatives have asked that if you have something to share with them, please contact them personally. They are hoping you will forward them ideas for the Centennial Tournament & Convention to be held in 2013 in St. Louis, MO.

Contacts: theadamcrivello@gmail.com (Adam Schneider – Webster University)
kolho1sj@cmich.edu (Sean Kolhoff – Central Michigan University)

Editor's Report

Nina-Jo Moore, Ph. D. - Appalachian State University

The next issue of *FORENSIC* is almost at the printer. Thank you for your continued patience as I get caught up trying to seek out articles for our journal.

As you know, we are seeking persons who might be interested in serving as the Editor of *THE FORENSIC* and *THE KEY*. If you are interested, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please forward your name (or their names) to me. We will be asking the candidates to serve as "Guest Editor" for an issue in order to see if they really wish to do this job. Please send as quickly as possible, as we would like to discuss this at NCA.

I continue to accept articles for *The FORENSIC*, and want to remind you that I do accept them as electronic submissions; indeed, I prefer them that way. Just send them to: moorenj@appstate.edu

Please be sure that you have them saved as "blind copies," but that you also include a cover page so that I can contact you one a decision is made by readers.

Have a great semester, and watch for the next KEY in the Spring of 2012!

Contact: moorenj@appstate.edu