



Newsletter of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association

Spring 2017

How to Stay Warm During the Off-Season

By Nick J. Sciallo, J.D., Ph.D. (Illinois College)

Speech and debate don't have much of an off-season, but students will inevitably leave school for the summer, travel, work, and generally avoid campus. Who can blame them? After a season that stretches 8 months, it's time to rest! Yet every coach knows that just as our sports teams engage in official and unofficial workouts in the summer, so too do speech and debate students need to work so that they come back in tip-top shape. Here are a few ideas that I've used with high school and college debaters to make sure they're ready for the fall season:

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Reflection from CSCA

Julie Weishar, President-Elect (Parkland Community College)

This year the Central States Communication Association conference was held in Minneapolis, MN March 16-18. Three panels from ICTA 2016 were featured as State of Illinois Spotlight Panels including Beyond Competition: The Benefits of Forensics, Forensics for the Non-Traditional Student and Teaching Critical and Creative Thinking Across the Discipline. Several ICTA members participated on these panels including Judy Santacaterina from NIU, Richard Jones from EIU, Anna Wright from ISU, Marida Bishop from UIUC, and Lauren Morgan from COD. It was great to see Illinois well represented in the Spotlight panels! Anna Wright is the Chair of the States Advisory Council. Illinois is one of eight states in our region to have a statewide organization like ICTA.

I enjoyed this year's conference as I always do – there were a wide range of panels, papers and sessions that focused on the theme of Create – “new

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1. Speaking drills. Speaking drills are a crucial part of conditioning whether preparing a monologue or learning to speak faster. A good rule is 15 minutes per day, 5 days per week. Obviously, it's difficult to check in on students to make sure they're doing them, but online coaching sessions, online progress reports, and peer meet-ups can all help encourage students to practice speaking well. Furthermore, Students tend to respond well to specific instructions, so if you've encouraged students to "read your monologue tonight" or "do some speed drills tomorrow," you shouldn't be surprised when they report not doing them. 15 for 5 is a reasonable request with a quantifiable deliverable. Give your students a chance to meet your expectations.
 2. Have a summer reading group. Meet with students every other week to discuss an article or idea important to your activity. I've run critical reading groups with my college students over the summer where we use Google Hangouts to discuss literature from Žižek, Heidegger, and the like. They're informal, and the students like reading the material that makes their evidence. It can be as helpful as cutting evidence because it helps students understand the underlying arguments being made in debate rounds even if they're unfamiliar with the specific author cited. You might assign plays, famous poems, or other material so that students are working to appreciate the diverse literature of your activity.
 3. Work on skills development. While there might be ample debate about what direction you'll take in pursuing this year's debate topic or how humorous your HI should be without going overboard, you're still going to need to give effective rebuttals and how to pause for comedic effect. These are skills that can be perfected by redoing speeches from the past year. While the material might be old, it will still help debaters and speech students hone their skills.
 4. Have fun! Debate is a fun space for most students. Think about inviting students and even parents to a BBQ at the local park or a game of laser tag. Sometimes positive team chemistry can dissipate over a busy summer, and it's important that a team do "team things." The specifics of your event will vary according to district size, administration rules, weather, and more, but you should still think about working on team chemistry to promote a positive learning environment for your students.
 5. Hold practice. Depending on the school district or state in which your team participates (and obviously the rules are different in college), hold practices. The whole team doesn't need to be there. A practice every couple of weeks or perhaps more often if you're not vacationing, taking classes, or spending time with family can get students ready to debate at season opening tournaments. Coaches worried about burnout should stress the relaxed nature of these meetings and be sure to include time for fun or spar debates about silly topics. This is also a great time to have novices get introduced into team culture so that they aren't overwhelmed at the beginning of the school year.
- Doing these things will, I promise, help your team as they enter the 2017-2018 school year. I always tell my students that "hard learning is good learning and hard debate is good debate." It's always been true, and a successful summer can be the sort of hard work your students can use to lead the field in the coming year. If you develop a work ethic over the summer, your students will come to school warm for a successful speech and debate season.

Nick J. Sciallo is Assistant Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Studies and Director of Debate and Forensics as well as Affiliate Faculty to the Gender and Women's Studies Program at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois.

Consider a Life Membership

By Anna Wright (Executive Secretary & Illinois State University)

ICTA offers a life membership option. The \$500 payment can be made via a single payment or five \$100 payments. Once the \$500 membership fee is fully paid, the member no longer pays a membership fee and if they choose to attend the convention, do so at a reduced convention rate.

If you wish to begin a payment option for the 2016 year and attend the 2016 convention, you would pay \$260. That amount gets you current membership (\$60), convention attendance (\$100), and your first payment (\$100) accomplished. Once all five payments are completed, then you would only need to pay the \$100 convention fee or whatever convention fee is imposed at that time. Members who are considering long term commitment to the Association will find this option to be money saving.

Reflection from page 1

ideas, setting goals and thinking big.” (Shawn Wahl, CSCA President). The size of this conference is also very nice – this year there were about 700 attendees with interest groups that included the basic course, communication education, community college, and performance studies/theatre.

Some of the big takeaways from the conference included great ideas to bring to the classroom such as using storytelling as a way to engage students and help them discover their own voices, and to put the theories and concepts they are learning in context. One great idea for a presentation assignment was the “I Bet You Didn’t Know” speech. Students are asked to do some research about the college and focus on something they didn’t know that they think would be interesting to their audience. Telling stories is a great way to build community through sharing experiences, introduce a topic in a way that captures attention, illustrate a learning goal, and engage the reluctant learner.

Another great takeaway included ideas for engaging students in online courses – asking students to go on a virtual scavenger hunt to find an artifact – Youtube video, song, picture etc. to illustrate a theory or concept. Also, breaking larger classes into smaller groups for discussion in the discussion forum and then having those group report out to the entire class. One way to make sure that students are reading the feedback you provide online is to require a response to the feedback or a short reflection about the feedback they received.

We heard from Communication scholars such as David Zarefsky who remarked, “The person teaching a class has a responsibility to be interesting, well-organized and clear.” It is a great opportunity to hear from professionals across the discipline to learn from each other and share ideas. It makes me look forward to our ICTA conference in September when we will focus on the theme Resilience!

Call for Panels

By Julie Weishar, President-Elect (Parkland Community College)

**ILLINOIS COMMUNICATION AND
THEATRE ASSOCIATION
87TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017
EMBASSY SUITES RIVERFRONT HOTEL
100 CONFERENCE CENTER DRIVE, EAST PEORIA, IL 61611

“RESILIENCE!”

On behalf of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association, I would like to invite you to present a workshop, panel discussion, poster or GIFTS session at the 2017 convention. ICTA is *the* professional organization in Illinois for communication, theatre, debate, forensics and media for secondary and higher education. Our members include distinguished educators from across the state, and our affordable convention rates for adjunct faculty as well as undergraduate and graduate students help to ensure *everyone* across our disciplines has an opportunity to attend convention close to home.

This year’s theme is “RESILIENCE!” Webster’s New World College Dictionary defines resilience as, “The ability to recover quickly from illness, change or misfortune.” But I believe the most critical aspect of resilience lies in the ability to thrive, not just survive the challenging events or situations we face. It is positive growth through the difficult times that makes resilience so important. With resilience the toughest challenges make us better, not bitter.

Our theme invites us to explore ways to build resilience in our students, in our disciplines, in our organization, and in ourselves to thrive and become better, smarter, and stronger. As Winston Churchill is reported to have said, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” In these challenging times it is particularly important to seek ways to foster resilience and to build it into our disciplines.

In addition to our usual high-quality sessions from (and for) specific groups within our organization, we are also seeking sessions in which we will learn from each other across disciplines. Please consider facilitating a skill-building workshop (teaching particular techniques and demonstrating how those can be applied in participants’ settings), or a panel discussion (focusing on a particular topic, question, issue or challenge), or presenting your research results in a digital poster presentation, or leading a GIFTS (Great Ideas For Teaching Students) session.

GIFTS topics that connect to the theme of resilience might include:

- Promoting resilience in the classroom
- Managing difficult conversations
- Overcoming adversity
- Communicating resilience across disciplines
- Assessing resilience in students

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Name of submitter, affiliation and e-mail address
2. Title of session
3. Type of presentation (panel, paper, workshop, GIFTS, poster, etc.) Send research papers as a Word or PDF attachment. Indicate if the paper is student authored.
4. Names, affiliations and e-mail address of additional presenters (if applicable)
5. Session abstract (30 words max). This abstract will be used in the convention booklet.
6. Session description (150 words max). Summarize content (importance, impact), specify target audience (who would benefit from attendance), and highlight what attendees will learn.
7. Technology needs
8. Internet access needs

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SUBMISSIONS:

Digital Posters: Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students can submit a digital poster proposal. Digital posters will be presented on laptops (submitters should plan to use their own, or may request one in the technology request described in 7 above) using PowerPoint during scheduled session. Presenters will be available to discuss their projects with attendees during this time period. Submit your research paper as described above

Monetary prizes and certificates will be awarded for submission in various categories: for example, Top Faculty Submission, Top Undergraduate Student Submission, top Graduate Student Submission. Any format will be considered for these prizes: papers, panels (the award would go to the organizer), or digital posters.

SEND PROPOSAL SUBMISSION TO:

Higher Education and Poster Sessions: Rich Jones (rgjones@eiu.edu)

Secondary Education: Kenny Knox (kknox@spoon-river.k12.il.us)

Individual Events: TJ Kahriman (tkahriman@olchs.org)

Theatre: Patrick Santoro (psantoro@govst.edu)

GIFTS: Higher Ed. - Rich Jones rjones@eiu.edu

Secondary Ed. - Kenny Knox knox@spoon-river.k12.il.us

IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal submission deadline: April 21, 2017 (Still accepting Secondary Panels AND GIFTS)

Presenters notified of decision on proposal: May 26, 2017

Deadline for presenters to confirm their participation: July 7, 2017

Early Bird Convention Registration Deadline: September 1, 2017

Hotel reservation deadline - to ensure the group rate: September 4, 2017

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact me, Julie Weishar, President-Elect and Convention Planner at jweishar@parkland.edu

Speech and Debate Results

February and March are a time for the end of winter, the beginning of spring, and end of season tournaments for speech and debate teams at the high school and collegiate level. A summary of results can be found below:

IHSA Speech I.E. Tournament:

Team Champions: Downers Grove South High School - Coach: Justin Matkovich

Full Results: <https://www.speechwire.com/r-tournament.php?tournid=6053>

IIFA State Tournament:

Team Champions: Bradley University - Coach: Ken Young

Full Results: <https://www.speechwire.com/r-tournament.php?tournid=6027>

ICTA JV/Novice Debate Tournament:

JV Public Forum Champions: Dylan Patel and Andrehyu Allen from Urbana High School

Novice Public Forum Co-Champions: Echo Allen and Hanna Lipman AND Elis Johnson and Eleanor Ward from Evanston High School

JV Lincoln-Douglas: Katherine Macakanja from New Trier High School

Novice Lincoln-Douglas: Elieen Peng from William Fremd High School

IHSA State Debate Tournament:

Full Results: <http://www.joyoftournaments.com/il/ihsa-deb/info.asp?p=7>

IHSA Drama & Group Interpretation:

Drama: Reavis High School performing *A Life Extra Ordinary*

Group Interpretation: Southland College Prep Charter performing *Hidden Figures*

Full Results: <https://www.speechwire.com/r-results.php?tournid=6154&groupingid=0&round=F>

Best of luck to the 2 and 4 year teams competing at their various national tournaments including Pi Kappa Delta, AFA-NIET, Phi Rho Pi, and NFA over the coming weeks. Best of luck to those that will compete at the NSDA National Tournament in Birmingham, AL in June as well!

Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting

By Kacy Ablen, President (College of DuPage)

ICTA members called for it, ICTA members joined it and now ICTA members are doing it!!

The ICTA Advocacy Subcommittee was formed after the Town Hall Meeting at the 2016 Convention in Lisle, IL last September. As an organization, ICTA was, and continues to be, united in our belief that Communication and Theatre Education is necessary in Illinois. We believe that Communication should be taught by certified, credentialed educators in their corresponding fields. The Advocacy Subcommittee is working on behalf of ICTA members to spread the word and advocate for our community. The Advocacy Subcommittee will meet in May to discuss the numerous issues ICTA members face and how to best invoke change through our committee work.

Our most pressing topic is to discuss the state of Communication Education in Illinois. Currently, high school teachers can be highly qualified to teach Speech and Communication courses at the high school level without taking a single course in communication. The reality is that most content areas require that a teacher has at least 18 hours in a given content area to teach it.

If you have any issues you think The Advocacy Subcommittee should be discussing and/or have any ideas on how ICTA can advocate for Communication and Theatre, please contact Kacy Ablen at abelnk@cod.edu. The more voices we hear, the more ICTA members who are involved, the more change we can invoke. Let's keep up the momentum and advocate for our community!

Getting excited about the 2017 Convention in East Peoria (September 28-30)?

Spread the word and refer a New Member for a chance at a Raffle Prize!! Enter to win a chance at a prize just for bringing your colleagues to convention!! Referrals must be new to the organization and must be an associate or full member. Both you and the new member will be entered to win a prize! The more people you refer; the more chances you have to win!

Call for Board Nominations

By Tina Winings (Executive Vice-President)

We need your help! The following positions on the ICTA Executive Board need to be filled at this fall's convention. **If you know someone who would be a good fit for any of the positions, please contact Tina Winings (Executive Vice President) at twinings@charleston.k12.il.us by May 15 with the person's name and contact information.** Self-nominations are welcome! All nominations will be referred to the nominating committee, and that group will make the final selection in instances where there are multiple nominations.

Vice-President –Nominees for this office must have been ICTA members for at least five years. The Vice President becomes President Elect, President, & Past President as part of a total four-year cycle.

Executive Vice President – Nominees for this office must be past presidents and have been ICTA members for 15 years or more. The Executive Vice President serves a three year term.

Secretary – Nominees for this office may be any member of ICTA. The Secretary serves a three year term.

Newsletter Editor – Nominees for this office may be any ICTA member. The Newsletter Editor serves a three year term. The primary responsibilities of the Newsletter Editor are the following:

Media Committee Chairperson/Webmaster- Nominees for this position may be any ICTA member with media/computer/social media expertise. The Media Chair serves a three year term.

Secondary Education Chair –Nominees for this position may be any ICTA member who has a background in secondary education. The Secondary Education Chair serves a three year term.

Secondary Forensics Commission Chairperson- Nominees for this position may be any ICTA member who has a background and interest in secondary forensics (speech) individual events and group events competition. The Secondary Forensics Chair serves a three year term.

Please see your email for additional responsibilities of each of these offices.

Questions for a specific interest group can be directed to the persons below:

Higher Education & GIFTS: Rich Jones
(rgjones@eiu.edu)
Secondary Education & GIFTS: Kenny Knox
(kknox@spoon-river.k12.il.us)
Secondary Individual Events: TJ Kahriman
(tkahriman@olchs.org)
Higher Education Forensics: Judy Santacanterina
(jsantaca@niu.edu)
Theatre: Patrick Santoro (psantoro@govst.edu)

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