Dear Colleagues,

Minnesota State University – Mankato is pleased to invite you to the Larry Schnoor Invitational Tournament, hosted by Jim Dimock and the MSU-Mankato Speech Team held on the MSU-Mankato campus Saturday October 17th. Please note that Dr. Leah White is on sabbatical this semester, so all questions concerning the tournament should be directed to Assistant Director of Forensics Jim Dimock (james.dimock@mnsu.edu).

**Competitive Event Offerings:**
The Larry Schnoor Invitational will offer two preliminary rounds in one open division of all 11 AFA-NIET events. Semi-finals will be held if more than 50 students are entered in an event.

Events will be offered in 2 conflict patterns.

Pattern A: persuasion, extemporaneous, duo, program oral interp, prose, communication analysis
Pattern B: informative, impromptu, dramatic interp, after dinner, and poetry

Students may enter a maximum of **THREE** events per pattern. **Students who triple enter in a pattern are responsible for getting to all events during the scheduled time period.**

**Competitive Standards:**
We will follow AFA-NIET rules and request attending teams to familiarize themselves with Article II of the AFA Code of Forensic Program and Forensic Tournament Standards and the AFA-NIET Ethical Use of Literature Policy.


**Host Practices:**

*MSU Student Competitors:*
As hosts, the Minnesota State University, Mankato forensic program will enter MSU students at our tournament who are in their first semester of college competition. We engage in this practice because we have plenty of experienced competitors to assist with tournament management, and have found that competing on our own campus in early fall has been an effective and nonthreatening way to introduce novices to college forensics.

*Hired Judges:*
Our hired judge pool consists primarily of alums from our own as well as other regional programs and the Communication Studies Graduate Teaching Assistants. The graduate assistants received a judge training session where they are informed of event descriptions and rules, as well as methods for writing effective ballots.
Tab Room:
The tab room will be run by the MSU coaching staff. We use the program designed by Dan Cronn-Mills which is also used at the AFA-NIET.

Tournament Observers:
Many of the instructors in our department choose to offer students extra credit for observing competition rounds at our tournament. The faculty and graduate students have been informed that they should discuss proper audience etiquette with their students prior to the event.

Awards:
We will continue to offer our annual Larry Schnoor themed trophies. As usual, the theme will not be revealed until the tournament. Awards will be given to finalists in each individual event. Additionally, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies will be awarded in both Team Sweeps and Individual Sweeps. Individual Sweeps includes all students entered in 4 events. Sweepstakes awards will be given using the following point system: In prelims 3pts for every 1st and 2pts for every 2nd and 1 pt for every 3rd. In finals 1st place = 10 points, 2nd place = 8 points, 3rd place = 6 points, 4th place = 4 points, 5th place = 3 points, and 6th place = 2 points. Any non-advancing semi-finalists in IEs will receive 2 points.

The Larry Schnoor Invitational also includes a Team Quality Award (team sweep pts. divided by number of entries). Each year, MSU- Mankato names the quality award after distinguished individual(s) in forensics who have shaped the activity on either a regional or national scale. The designees are nominated and chosen by current students involved with the MSU forensic program. Previous designees include Brian Halleen, George Armstrong, Grace Walsh, Guy Yates, Joel Hefling, Susan and Stephen Collie, Mike Wartman, Mark Fokken, Kelli Jo Wright, Dan Cronn-Mills, Michael Dreher, Penni Pier, Craig Brown, Brian Klosa and Kittie Grace.

Fees:
Entry fees are $7.00 per slot. One judge covers 6 IE entries. The cost per uncovered IE slot is $10.00. Fees are assessed as the entry stands on Noon, Wednesday, October 14th. A fee of $10.00 is assessed for each drop or add after this time. All judges are expected to be available for final rounds. All judges are considered “clean” for final rounds.

Hotel Information:
The Best Western in North Mankato has generously offered teams competing in the Schnoor Invitational special rates:

$79.99 for 1-4 people per room.
Complimentary Continental Breakfast Included
Largest Pool in Mankato area
Onsite Restaurant and Lounge
Catering for Group Meals Available
Call 507-625-9333 for reservations.
Ask for the Speech Tournament Rate.

Teams competing at Gustavus Adolphus College on Sunday, October 18th will be offered the same rate for Saturday night.

If you choose not to stay at the Best Western, you might consider other hotels in our area. The following link will bring you to a list of hotels in the Mankato area. Please contact the hotels directly for reservations.

http://www.mnsu.edu/admissions/visit/hotels.html
Please note Minnesota State Mankato is hosting Family Weekend the same weekend as our tournament, so make your reservations soon.

Entries:

Entry Deadline: 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 13
Fees Assessed: Noon, Wednesday, October 14

Please check flighting carefully and then send entry to James.Dimock@mnsu.edu. If you have questions you can call Jim’s Office at (507) 389-5533

Schedule

Saturday October 17th

8:00 – Registration and Breakfast (Armstrong Hall 102)
8:30 – Draw
9:00 – Rd 1 A (ext, per, duo, poi, ca, prose)
10:15 – Rd 1B (imp, info, poet, ads, di)
   District IV Committee Meeting
11:15 – Lunch
11:45 – Draw
12:15 – Rd 2A
1:30 – Rd 2B
3:00 – Draw
3:15 – Finals A and Semis A/B
4:30 – Remaining Finals
6:00 – District IV Meeting
6:30 - Awards