



# Maverick Forensics News

Volume 1.1—Spring 2011

## Intercollegiate Competitive Speech and Debate Team

### Helpful Links:

- Have an update on an MSU forensic alum? Please email information to [Leah White](#).
- MSU Communication Studies Department [Homepage](#)
- College of Arts and Humanities [Homepage](#)
- [Speech Team](#)
- [AFA-NIET](#)
- [NFA](#)

### How to Donate:

Your donation helps our program in so many ways and is greatly appreciated by our current and future competitors. There are many ways to donate. You can begin by clicking [Here](#) and designating your donation to the Larry Schnoor Forensic Endowment (account 055237).

### Greetings from the DOF:



Hello. My name is Leah White. I have been the Director of Forensics at Minnesota State University, Mankato since 2003 when I replaced Dan Cronn-Mills who stepped down as DOF to become Department Chair. Prior to arriving at MNSU I was the DOF at The University of Northern Iowa. I am, however, a native Minnesotan. I competed on the Concordia College (Moorhead) Forensic Team 1988-1991. I earned my M.A. in Speech from Kansas State University and my Ph.D. from Arizona State University. I am very happy to be back in MN and proud to call Mankato home.

Welcome to the first Maverick Forensic Newsletter. I am pleased to finally begin regular correspondence with our strong Alumni Network. I plan to distribute the newsletter once per semester as a means to keep you informed about the accomplishments and needs of the current team. I also want to help all program alums stay connected with each other. Please forward news items to me so I can include them in future newsletters.

I encourage you to visit the links listed to the left to find more detailed information about the program.



### Meet a Recent Alum:

Ariel Klugman ('11) joined the team her first year at MNSU without any prior high school forensic experience. She was the 2010-2011 recipient of the Truman and Reta Wood Scholarship (pictured here at the award presentation ceremony with speaker Senator Al Franken). The \$4000 scholarship is for MSU students involved in political science, both in class and in their community. "I am incredibly appreciative to be a recipient of the award," Klugman said. "The Woods Scholarship is a demonstration that I am doing something here at MSU that people are proud of". Ari will begin the Masters of Public Administration City/County Leadership Program, Intern Option at Kansas University June 2011.

### Alums in the News:

**Heather Kaiser Diersen ('04)** published an article titled "No-Fault Income Loss Claims in a Bad Economy" in the Minnesota Defense Lawyers' Spring 2011 publication. She is a litigation staff attorney with State Auto Insurance Companies in Minneapolis, Minnesota and a speech coach for Benilde-St. Margaret high school.

**Matthew Collie ('06)** currently works for the Minnesota Department of Health within the Office of Legislative Relations, where he was recently promoted to Legislative Liaison.

**Emily Kofoed ('07)** will begin her Doctoral program in Communication Studies at Georgia State University this fall. She completed her MA at Kansas State University and spent the past 2 years teaching and coaching speech at Tennessee State University.

### Contact Us:

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**Meet a Recent Alum:**

Suzanne Lumberg ('11) from Woodbury, MN (pictured above with ADOF Jim Dimock) finished her college forensic career by advancing all but one of her events to elimination rounds at the national tournaments. She was a quarter-finalist at the AFA-NIET in prose interpretation and program oral interpretation as well as a quarter-finalist at the NFA National Tournament in rhetorical criticism and after dinner speaking. Her most exciting accomplishments were placing 2nd in Informative Speaking at NFA and 3rd at the Interstate Oratorical Association National Tournament in Harrisonburg, VA. Suzanne will start the M.A. program in Communication Studies at Illinois State University fall 2011.

**Decade Review of Program Highlights:**

**National Tournaments:**

- In 2005 Matt Collie ('06) placed 5th in Pentathlon at the NFA National Tournament .
- In 2006 the team Placed 19th at the AFA-NIET and 8th the NFA National Tournament.
- In 2006 Matt Collie ('06) placed 19th in Individual Sweepstakes at the AFA-NIET and 4th in Pentathlon at the NFA National Tournament.
- In 2009 Grant Anderson ('09) placed 2nd in Persuasive Speaking at the NFA National Tournament and 5th at Interstate Oratory.
- In 2011 Suzanne Lumberg ('11) placed 2nd in Informative Speaking and Skylar Carlson ('13) placed 6th in Persuasive Speaking at the NFA National Tournament. Lumberg also placed 3rd at Interstate Oratory.
- Team members have consistently broken into elimination rounds at the national tournaments since 2005.

**Honors:**

- In 2010 DOF Leah White received the AFA-NIET Distinguished Service Award, marking the 3rd time a MNSU DOF has received the award.
- The following team members have been selected for the AFA-NIET All-American Team which recognizes excellence in forensic, academics and community service: Seth Michael Smith ('01), Chad Kuyper ('03), Heather Kaiser ('04), Matthew Collie ('06), Emily Kofoed ('07), Jason Reisch ('10), Suzanne Lumberg ('11)

**Other Notable Highlights:**

- Minnesota State University, Mankato is host of the 2007 AFA-NIET
- The team maintains an average GPA of 3.4
- Program participants maintain a strong record of placement into graduate and law schools.



**Schnoor's Corner:**

*In September Larry had a letter to the editor published in the USA Today opinion section...*

USA TODAY Facebook fan Sandy Knowles Smith states that some individuals come to the USA just to give birth so that their children gain citizenship. However, she provides no proof except to say that she has "seen documents with detailed directions on where to stay, what hospital to use, where to buy food, and how to fast track the Social Security number, passport and other documents" ("Not just birth citizenship, but residency, too," Letters, Sept. 3). Her statement is nothing more than hearsay that likely would not be accepted as evidence in a court. Our country was founded on the principle of being a haven for people who are oppressed and seeking free-dom. The inscription on the Statue of Liberty states: "Give me your tired, your poor. ... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me." All of us — even our forefathers — are actually visitors to this great land. We took it from the Native Americans. What right do we have to refuse others from joining us today?

**Upcoming Events:**

January	February	March
April	May	June
July	August	September
October	November	December

**Consider Joining Us For:**

- August 26-27: Fall Team Retreat in Apple Valley
- October 15: Larry Schnoor Invitational (on campus)
- January 14: High School Workshop (on campus)
- February 25: High School Tournament (on campus)

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