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UA68/3/2 Potter College of Arts & Letters Communication Student Organizations

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Recommended Citation

WKU Archives, "UA68/3/2 Potter College of Arts & Letters Communication Student Organizations" (2014).
WKU Archives Collection Inventories. Paper 403.
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Western Kentucky University
UA68 Potter College of Arts & Letters
Series 3 Communication
Subseries 2 Student Organizations

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Administrative History: The debate team was known at various times as the Western Debaters, Debate Squad, Intercollegiate Debate Team, Western Debate Association/Associates, Forensic Union, and the William E. Bivin Forensic Society. Since 2006, it has been the WKU Forensic Team.

Competitive debate began for Western at the precursor institution, Ogden College, in the 1870s. In 1919, the Congress Debating Club was established at the Western Kentucky Normal School. Debate and oratorical skills were practiced at CDC meetings and members often participated in competitions as individuals and as part of a debate team. During World War II, scarce resources ended debating for a while, but returned in the late 1940s. Women had their own debating clubs (ex. Girls Debating Club, formed 1928) and contests (sponsored by the AAUW and SNEA), but were not prominent in debate competition in the 1930s and 1940s. They were allowed to join the Congress Debating Club and returned to competitive debate in about 1950.

The debate team was administered by the English department until Speech and Theatre was separated into a new department in 1968 and became its new home. WKU first awarded debate scholarships in 1963. Speech and Theatre became Communication and Theatre in 1976.

The forensics program was once again discontinued in the early 1980s, but was reestablished in December 1987 by the Regents as the William E. Bivin Forensic Society and was the "responsibility of the Department of Communication and Broadcasting." Forensics stayed with Communication when Broadcasting was moved to the School of Journalism & Broadcasting in 1999.

After a decade of advocacy, Judy Woodring was able to convince the administration that a forensic team was a good investment. Between 1999 and 2003, she was able to increase the coaching staff and establish a more professionalized approach to forensic competition. Deadlines for writing drafts of speeches and performance of a piece for a coach before being scheduled to compete are two examples.

In 2004, the forensics program established the Elizabeth McWhorter Harden Forensics Alumni Association, named after a 1956 graduate, former debate team member, and first woman president of the Congress Debating Club. In 2008, Forensics was separated from Communication and now reports directly to the office of the Provost.

The WKU Forensics Team is unique among its competitors because it competes successfully in both speech (dubbed individual events) and debate.

"Our program has won more national forensics titles in the last ten years than any other team in the country. WKU is the only team to win the American Forensic Association national title, National Forensic Association national title, NFA debate national title and the International Forensic Association title all in the same year, a benchmark the team has set six times." Ganer Newman, 2015, <https://www.wku.edu/forensics/>

Congress Debating Club faculty sponsors/advisors:

Finley C. Grise approx. 1919-1929

L.Y. Lancaster

William Jenkins, Dean, College of Commerce (1965)

Girls' Debating Club sponsors:

Hallie Gaines 1929-

Debate Team coaches:

Raymond L. Cravens (as a graduate assistant)

Frances Dixon 1948-

Randall Capps (1965)

Larry Caillouet (1978)

Sources:

Board of Regents meeting minutes, December 1987

Chandler, Chris, Email re: Forensic Team Context Statement, 1/15/2016, UA12/2/28

Wilson, George, Western Debate as Old as the Hill, CHH 04/21/1965

WKU Speech Program Starts Alumni Group, PCDN 07/14/2004

Wood, Willson, History of the English Department 1907-1972, UA68/6/1

Description: Student organization records created by the Communication Department and the WKU Forensics Team.

Dates: 1973-present

Extent: 4 folders, oversize

Subject Analytics:

Art (WKU)

Debates and debating

Debating societies

Forensic orations

Forensics Team (WKU)

Potter College of Arts & Letters (WKU)

Student organizations

Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Communication

Speech and Rhetorical Studies

Accession Information: These records transferred to the WKU Archives from WKU Communication in accordance with the records retention schedule.

Access Restrictions: none

Allied Materials:

Preferred Citation: UA68/3/2 Communication Student Organizations, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory created 2014, revised 2019.

Finding Aid Report

11/01/2019

UA68.3.2	Records	Date
Level	Subseries	Linked toUA68.3
Title	UA68 Potter College of Arts & Letters	
Collection	Series 3 Communication	
Scope & Content	Subseries 2 Student Organizations	
	WKU Archives	
	Student organization records created by the Communication Department and the WKU Forensics Team.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
Box 1	1	Forensics Team (WKU)	1973-2008	Forensics Events
Description	Entry forms and broadsides for debate tournaments, public forums, and informational meetings hosted at WKU. Also, a small booklet and memos reporting various awards and titles won.			Subjects
	1973-1974 Forensics at WKU season summary, D2571 https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_org/46			Awards
	Abortion			Broadsides
	American Forensics Association			Debates
	Back, Kerry			Forensic orations.
	Balance, Jo Ann			Forums (Discussion & debate)
	Bird, John			Speeches, address, etc.
	Brasfield, Ashley			Student organizations
	Brasfield, Chris			Tournaments
	Bussell, Judy			
	Butchko, John			
	Caillouet, Larry			
	Childress, Ronnah			
	Class of 1974 (WKU)			
	Darby, Dorothy			
	Davis, William L.			
	Debate on Open Dorms broadside D110			
	Delta Sigma Rho			
	Forensics at WKU broadside D2570			
	Harrison, Carol			
	Harrison, Margaret			
	Hart, Becky			
	High School Invitational Tournament			
	Horne, Richard			
	Howell, Michael			
	Howell, Ryan			
	International Forensics Association			
	Jackson, Tom			
	Jeffries, Byron			
	Jenkins, Teresa			
	Jones, Saeed			
	Kentucky Colonel Classic Forensic Tournament			
	Levy, Marc			
	McKinney, Greg			
	Melton, Courtlann			
	Memo from Sally Ray to all faculty re: WKU Forensics Wins National Championship 04/10/2008			
	Memo from Judy Woodring to all faculty re: World Champions 03/14/2007			

Memo from Sally Ray to all faculty re: WKU Forensics Team Wins NFA National Championship 04/19/2006
 Memo from Sally Ray to all faculty re: WKU Forensics Team Captures Seventh World Title 03/15/2006
 Memo from Sally Ray to all faculty re: WKU Forensics Team Wins International Championship! 03/17/2005
 Metz, Jill
 Mignerey, James
 Nance, Melayna Brown
 National Forensics Association
 National Forensic League District Finals
 Nelson, Lydia
 Ohio Valley Conference Forensic Tournament
 Pendleton, Doyle
 Public Forum on Abortion D111
 Reber, Terry
 Romerhausen, Nick
 Routson, Ron
 Rutherford, Kathy
 Simms, Rebecca
 Sintek, Natalie
 Stout, Richard
 Travis, Karolle

Box 1	2	Forensics Team (WKU)	1974, 1996-2004	Brochures	
Description	Forensic Society Alumni Association Board of Directors 07/09/2004 Forensics at Western Kentucky University brochure D2570 Western Kentucky University Forensics sticker (2) Western Kentucky University William E. Bivin Forensic Society Alumni Association brochure, ca. 2003 William E. Bivin Forensic Society, includes image of 1996 team William E. Bivin Forensic Society, 1998 WKU Forensics Union, 1974 World Champions postcard, 2003, D2581			Subjects	Awards Student organizations Postal cards Stickers

Box 1	3	Forensics Team (WKU)	2003	Banquets	
Description	2003 team banquet program including haiku and quotes from team members and photos of the team from throughout the season. Alderdice, Corey Allen, Drew Au, Elizabeth Au, Margaret Bernaugh, Stacey Blackford, Chris Blaser, Keith Brasfield, Chris Bruenderman, Grace Burns, David Class of 2003 (WKU) Class of 2004 (WKU) Corum, Jenny Courtney, Ashley Cress, Justin Damico, Tony Day, Joe Estenfelder, Nicole Gerbig, Matt Gibson, Raegan Grove, Chris Hawk Nicole Henze, Adam Hertweck, Kate Howell, Ryan			Subjects	Awards Banquets Poetry Quotations Student organizations

Lux, Jace
 McDonald, Bonny
 Mory, Doug
 Nave, Lindsey
 Peregoy, Jacob
 Purcell, Jenni
 Reliford, Hannah
 Robertson, Greg
 Rogers, Alex
 Romerhausen, Nick
 Silvera, Evelio
 Simms, Rebecca
 Smith, Courtney
 Smith, Joel
 Sparks, Sarah
 Taylor, Jen
 Tyree, Katie
 Wadlington, Jordon
 Williams, Caleb
 Woodring, Judy
 Woods, Jeff
 Wright, Courtney

Box 1 4 Forensics Team (WKU) 1994 Kentucky High School Speech League

Description KHSSL was housed at WKU from 1988-2009 and was administered by Forensics Team and Communication (WKU) staff between 1993 and 2009. Refer to UA68/17/1 and UA12/2/28 for more information regarding KHSSL outside this date range.

Almand, David F.
 Chandler, Chris
 Communication (WKU)
 Digges-Elliott, Hannah Reliford
 Gifford Blyton Book Award
 Gish, Stacy
 Lux, Jace
 Medina, Chris
 Pigg, Jaime
 Ponananta, Alisa
 Ray, Sally
 Robertson, Greg
 Turner, Jim
 Woodring, Judy

Subjects Awards
 Debates
 Forensic orations.
 High school student activities.
 Student organizations
 Tournaments

OS Box 38 17 Forensics Team (WKU) 1977 Posters

Description Western vs. Murray in a Public Debate D2582 Subjects Debates
 Posters

OS Box 48 9 Forensics Team (WKU) 1977 Posters

Description The Gilmore Question, Public Debate, 1977 D2572 Subjects Posters
 Debates

Communication and Theatre (WKU)
 Delta Sigma Rho
 Tau Kappa Alpha
 WKU Forensic Union