Dear Community,

Welcome to the first installment of the CSU-Pueblo Forensics Team’s newsletter, “The Impact.” We chose this name because it grasps the essence of what forensics represents; it serves as a powerful mechanism for students to make a difference both in their lives and that of their community. It’s not just about the environmental or economic impacts we talk about in parliamentary debate practice; Forensics is a life changing academic program for the students it serves.

Forensics is meant to make an impact, and that’s what we as a team plan to do.

The CSU-Pueblo Forensics team is back in action. After being reinvigorated, the team is now fully institutionalized to foster the initiatives of CSU-Pueblo: to promote recruitment, retention, and graduation.

For those of you whom I have not yet had the chance to meet personally, I am Kathryn Starkey, the newly appointed Director of Forensics here at CSU-Pueblo. I began my career in forensics as a competitor at Jackson Hole High School in Jackson, WY. I competed in Parliamentary Debate at the University of Wyoming throughout my tenure as an undergraduate, and for the past three years, I coached parliamentary debate at Texas Tech University prior to arriving in Pueblo. I am very excited to work with our Forensics community to grow our program and bring back the legacy that was CSU-Pueblo Forensics.

As a team, we hope you enjoy the first edition of The Impact as we strive to make our own impact in both the lives of our community and in forensics history.

With sincere regards,

Kathryn Starkey
Director of Forensics
Meet the Team!

Here are some of the team’s accomplishments during our 2014-2015 competitive season:

**James “Al” Johnson Memorial Speech and Debate tournament held at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO, October 24—26**

- Eliana Taylor placed 6th in Poetic Interpretation
- Read the press release here: [November 2014](#)

**Trapper Rendezvous held at Northwest College in Powell, WY, November 7—8**

- Nalene Ayala placed 5th in Persuasion
- Trenton Bridwell was 18th Speaker in Novice Parliamentary Debate

**Lambda Pi Eta Showdown held at Metropolitan State University of Denver in Denver, CO, January 23—24**

- Dami Ogunbayode placed 3rd in Poetic Interpretation

**Raider/Wildcat Swing held at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, February 6—8**

- Zeta Poulin was 18th Speaker in Open Parliamentary Debate
- Dami Ogunbayode was 20th Speaker in Open Parliamentary Debate

**AFA-NIET District 9 Qualifier held at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO, February 28—March 1**

- Dami Ogunbayode placed 5th in Poetic Interpretation, qualifying to the American Forensics Association NIET at Lewis & Clark College

**National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship Tournament held at Kansas City Community College in Kansas City, MO March 15—19**

- Read the press release here: [March 2015](#)
- CSU-Pueblo Today press release: [March 8, 2015](#)
Debate: Creating Cross-Cultural Bridges

Forensics is a means for students from different backgrounds to come together and express their ideas. This semester, we witnessed this collaboration and community development through those who joined the team. Narumol Puangpimol, who we know as Violet, is an exchange student from Bangkok, Thailand. She came to CSU-Pueblo to study biology and found an interest in Forensics.

Dami Ogunbayode, an international student from Lagos, Nigeria and team president, interviewed Violet to obtain her perspective on competing in Forensics. He aspired to gain the perspective of a Forensics competitor whose first language was not English. Violet noted, “I am not a native English speaker, so to be on [the] debate team helps myself to improve my English skills.”

She truly showed her passion for this activity during her tenure here at CSU-Pueblo. During tournaments, Violet competed in three events: persuasion, poetry, and parliamentary debate. When brainstorming her persuasive piece, Violet aimed to debunk the stereotypes surrounding Thai women. With a humorous flair, she convinced her audiences that the misconceptions about individuals from Thailand ought be avoided. She focused on her cultural roots during her poetry program as well, selecting pieces by Thai authors, which she translated, to show her audiences the fascinating aspects of her customs and traditions.

Violet told us, “You cannot deny yourself that you debate every day. But to be on [the] debate team, you will prove [to] yourself that you have to use reason to debate other people.” Each practice became an opportunity for her to challenge herself, learning argumentation and the intricacies of debate and reason. Violet made a lasting impact on the team while here at CSU-Pueblo.

The Communication Corner

With the hard work and dedication of Dr. Yvonne Montoya and the support of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, CSU-Pueblo witnessed the unveiling of a new minor in Fall 2014, communication and rhetoric. Forensics and the new minor have a symbiotic relationship with the shared goals of the current CSU-Pueblo initiative: recruitment, retention and graduation.

In each issue of our newsletter, we hope to feature a segment called the “Communication Corner.” Since many of the students on the Forensics Team are working towards a minor in communication and rhetoric, during each installment of the newsletter, we will spotlight one of these students to learn about their experiences and goals.

Student: Gene Wilson

Majors: Political Science and Foreign Language—Spanish

Hometown: Born in El Paso, TX. Raised in Fountain, CO.

Expected Graduation Date: May 2016

Career Aspirations: To become a lawyer.

Favorite Facet of Forensics: I like the real life application of political science to the activity. This is important to help me apply what I know. I also like that it has allowed me to break down my barriers and be better at public speaking. With this, I will be able to get up in front of any of my classes and give a presentation better than before.

Where Forensics will Benefit us in the Future: This is a great experience; I believe the ability for us to think on our feet will benefit us no matter what.

Why Communication and Rhetoric: I choose this minor because I wanted to be better at communicating in every aspect of my life, and I wanted to be able to get better at public speaking. I really enjoy the way we can relate the things we learn from within the minor to my real life experiences outside of the classroom.
My View of the Sport

Dami Ogunbayode

For me, debate is a thrill. It is a thrill as much as it is a workout; a workout that keeps both your mind and your emotions fit. Over my year of participating in debate, I have gained invaluable skills. These skills have helped shape what I am today. Debate is a very unique sport in that it builds participants from the inside out. Beyond speaking skills, breathing exercises and speed drills, debate makes a better communicator and analyst of everyone. It gives you perspectives to national and global issues you might have never seen before. It improves your ability to come up with arguments on the fly. It creates in you the ability to spot out flaws in strategies. Cruxes of arguments become more evident, and counter arguments with better solvencies and more analysis become easier to access.

I have strived and worked and stressed and cried, and spent sleepless nights trying to become a better debater, trying to win trophies, trying to perfect my poetry and prose pieces. I have numerous times lost hope in success and the possibility of actually being good, good enough to win. I have seen myself in the sport just for the heck of it. I have lost traction over and over again with why I really joined debate: the love for the sport.

But when I do remember, everything is awesome again—everything being my perception of everything. It never really matters whether you win or lose (okay maybe a little) but what you can say you have acquired or become that truly counts.

In a lot of sports and competitive activities, people get so engrossed in participation and winning that they forget why they chose to participate in the first place. They forget the knowledge acquisition that comes with it, and forget to pay attention to the community and teamwork that is being built.

As the president of the team, I have aimed to ensure we all master this sport, gaining knowledge and a sense of community along the way.

The Rocky Mountain Co-Op

This summer, we are pleased to announce the inaugural Rocky Mountain Debate Cooperative held on CSU-Pueblo’s campus, July 7th-13th. Students from across the region will participate in an intensive parliamentary debate camp coached by some of the best minds from across the country.

Thank You!

Our success this season would not have been possible without all of the support we have received.

We would like to first thank our administration, President Di Mare, Dr. Kreminski, Dean Folkestad, Dr. Cindy Taylor, and Dr. Yvonne Montoya for their unwavering support.

We are also very grateful for everyone in our campus community and the encouragement, resources, and guidance they have given us throughout the year.

A very special thank you goes to Dorothy Heedt, lecturer in the Department of English and Foreign Languages, for her help in perfecting our interpretive pieces for regionals and nationals this year. Her support and encouragement has truly been incredible.

Another thank you goes to Joey Donaghy, CSU-Pueblo admissions counselor, for his time spent watching practice debates and teaching our students the “ins-and-outs” of argumentation.
Bringing the Pack Back

For each installment of our newsletter in the future, I want to feature our alumni. Without your successes and experiences, the team would not exist today. But this is where I need your support. I want to document as much of the team’s history as possible, and I am asking you to aid me in this quest. What did you value about your experience in Forensics? Who was on the team? Where did the team travel? Any and all information, photos, news articles, and the like that you can send me would be greatly appreciated! We want the history of the team to enlighten us as we continue on our journey.

Featured: Yvonne Centa, USC Today, February 6, 1985

The Trophy Project

When I arrived on campus, I was told that there were some former forensics trophies in the storage area of the Art and Music building. What I found was a myriad of artifacts that depicted a legacy of success. Right now, 165 trophies rest in my office, and for each of which, I am seeking to find the owners.

One of the facets of the debate community that saddens me is the lack of institutional memory. Students entering the community do not know who won nationals a couple of years ago, let alone the years I was a competitor. When we watch professional sports and other events, the announcers continually recount the history of the team, the player, the event, making comparisons throughout the event’s history. This is absent in the forensics community. The trophies in my office tell a story, and it’s one I am determined to uncover. The forensics community has an amnesia that I want to ameliorate, and I need your help to do so.

The following is a link to a Google Document where a copy of the trophy spreadsheet is located. If you know any information about the owner of any of those trophies, please place the name in the spreadsheet.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bY_RBFaiSdHx_l18iktWF9JkBnDu22e1I3HxpMhBcM/edit?usp=sharing

Each trophy is a puzzle piece that works to recount the legacy of CSU-Pueblo forensics, and I wish to complete it.
2014-2015 Team Officers

President:
Dami Ogunbayode

Vice President:
Gene Wilson

Secretary:
Nalene Ayala

Contact Information

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Website: http://chass.csupueblo.edu/MinorAcademicPrograms/CommunicationRhetoric/ForensicsTeam/Pages/default.aspx
PackLink Student Organization Website: https://csupueblo.collegiatelink.net/organization/Forensics

Where we go from here...

Next season, we have several recruits coming to join us as we continue to build our program. Here is a list of some the tournaments we plan to attend next season. If you live in any of these areas, we would be thrilled if you came to watch us compete!

2015-2016 Tournament Travel Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Jewel Swing</td>
<td>William Jewel College, Liberty, MO</td>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springs Swing</td>
<td>Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Hunt Classic</td>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark College, Portland, OR</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>James “Al” Johnson Memorial Speech and Debate Tournament</td>
<td>Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Top City Classic</td>
<td>Washburn University, Topeka, KS</td>
<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mile High Swing</td>
<td>University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT</td>
<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunset Cliffs Invitational</td>
<td>Point Loma University, San Diego, CA</td>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Raider/Wildcat Swing</td>
<td>Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX</td>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loyola Nationals Warm-Up</td>
<td>Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL</td>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPDA National Championship</td>
<td>California State University-Long Beach Long Beach, CA</td>
<td>March</td>
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