Dear Community,

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the second installment of The Impact. We are excited to show you our accomplishments this season and share our goals for the future. In this issue, you’ll see our students are excelling in and out of competition and trying to make their mark on our communities.

Each year, there are two national debate tournaments, one of which exemplifies intense competition, as teams must qualify to the tournament. The Forensics Team made their first appearance at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence (NPTE) this past March. Eliana Taylor and Max Groznik qualified to the NPTE in just three tournaments with their competitive success, receiving a First Round Bid to the tournament. It was quite an exciting opportunity for these students, who narrowly missed advancing to elimination rounds at the tournament held at El Camino College.

We are happy to announce that we will be hosting the NPTE in March of 2017. Being on the NPTE Board, I encouraged the selection committee to choose CSU-Pueblo as its host site, as Colorado College was selected for the NPDA National Tournament. The team is very excited about this upcoming opportunity.

Nicole Grider, Instructor of Communication and Rhetoric, took our Individual Events (IE) Program to a new level this season. She was instrumental in recruiting new members to participate in IE’s and helping them and former team members cut, perform, and perfect their speeches for competition. In addition to team growth, Nicole was responsible for the Forensics Team being showcased at the first annual SOCO Conference and the Student Works Symposium at CSU-Pueblo this past April. Several team members performed, “Tempered Voices,” a script adopted from student works in Tempered Steele, a student literary magazine produced by Juan Morales, Professor in English and Foreign Languages.

We are sad to say goodbye to Nicole and four seniors this year: Keith Karnes, Dami Ogunbayode, Zeta Poulin, and Gene Wilson. We wish them the best of luck!

I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone who helped make our successes this season possible. Thank you to Nicole Grider, Jeremy Weaver, JT Seymour, Alyssa Sambor, Jordan Cohen, and Mitch Molinaire for their volunteer coaching, and to everyone in the CSU-Pueblo and local community for their help and unwavering support.

We hope you enjoy this installment of The Impact.

With sincere regards,

Kathryn Starkey
Director of Forensics
Student: Eliana Taylor

Major: English

Minor: Communication & Rhetoric, Political Science, Honors

Hometown: Longmont, CO

Expected Graduation Date: Spring 2018

Career Aspirations: Professor or Attorney

Favorite Facet of Forensics: “One of my favorite things about Forensics is the rush you get when you run out of the prep room with less than a minute to get to your assigned room and tell your partner the strategy for the topic you received only 20 minutes earlier. The speed of debate is not only a lot of fun, but also allows for students to achieve a higher level of processing and critical thinking, which helps in debate but also in other realms like class and work.”

Where Forensics will benefit us in the Future: “Forensics is such a powerful experience that has so many benefits that students can use outside of the activity. Specifically, the quantity and quality of research that debate demands can create a set of skills that can’t be acquired anywhere else.”

Why COMR: “The COMR minor allows students to delve into a deeper understanding of rhetoric, while also enhancing their communication skills. I chose the COMR minor because I wanted to better my skills in research and persuasion.”
Last July, students and coaches from Texas, Wyoming, Montana, California, and Colorado gathered in Pueblo for the first annual Rocky Mountain Cooperative. Debate co-ops provide a unique opportunity to provide students with an affordable debate education in a collaborative, encouraging environment.

Not only did students learn the art of debate from some of the best debate minds in the country, students made long-lasting friendships with those from other teams, which will help to make our region stronger.

The second RMC is slated to run June 25-July 1, 2016 here at CSU-Pueblo. Committed coaches hail from UC Boulder, Palomar College, Concordia University-Irvine, Texas Tech University, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Utah.

Students Told Us....

Sarah-Grace, TTU – “Being around such a diverse coaching staff, both literally and in how they consider debate is SO invaluable and enriching- not just in terms of how it’ll show in competitive success, but also how it helped my understanding of how debate works and what purpose it serves.”

Graham, UT-Tyler “Although words can’t thank them enough, hopefully a successful collegiate debate career will show how thankful I truly am.”

In September 2015, the CSU-Pueblo Forensics team joined with Colorado College and the USAFA Forensics Teams to host the Major General Harold “Pete” Todd Memorial Speech and Debate Tournament on the CSU-Pueblo campus.

Over two days, almost 300 competitors and judges from 22 different colleges and universities participated and adjudicated dozens of debate rounds and speech events, culminating in an awards ceremony Sunday evening joined by President Lesley Di Mare, who addressed the students, congratulating them on their success throughout the tournament.

This was the first collegiate speech and debate tournament hosted on our campus since the early 1990’s, according to our archival research. Because of its success, the Major General Harold “Pete” Todd Memorial Speech and Debate Tournament was selected as the Event of the Year at the Student Engagement & Leadership Awards Ceremony this past April.

We hope to host a tournament annually to showcase our students’ talents and our beautiful campus to the entire Forensics community.
On October 10, 2015, the CSU-Pueblo Forensics Team hosted the first annual Tailgate and Debate during the campus-wide Homecoming festivities. This year, two current team members, Nalene Ayala and Gene Wilson, were pitted against two Forensics Alumni, James Croshal, local attorney, and Steve Henson, Managing Editor for the Pueblo Chieftain.

The two teams debated the topic, “Standardized testing in Pueblo City Schools ought to be abandoned.” The alumni were on the affirmative, arguing that standardized tests do not help students in our local community. The students attempted to defend standardized testing, but by an audience vote margin of 15 votes, the alumni were victorious.

This event marked the first opportunity for our team to reconnect with our alumni, as several alumni also came as spectators to the debate.

Also featured at the debate was the culmination of our archival research on our alumni. Attendees witnessed decades of Forensics history on this campus through both an exhibit and a video, created with the help of Makayla Miller, our team secretary.

Mark your calendars for our second Tailgate & Debate, to be held on October 15, 2016 during Homecoming.

During the fall semester, Forensics Alumni Jim Campbell, paid a visit to the team. He shared with us the role Forensics has played in his life, telling us stories about his opportunities to use his speech skills to help others.

“So for me to come here today and to see your faces is to allow me to go back into those moments when I was just beginning to savor words and poetry... And I want you to know what it means to be back here, among those who understand that. Because this is the richest of gifts. The richest of gifts.” Jim Campbell
2015-2016 Season Accomplishments

During the 2015-2016 season, the Forensics Team traveled to 14 tournaments in 10 different cities across the country. Here are their accomplishments:

**Georgia B. Bowman Invitational at William Jewell College, September 16-18, 2015**
- Fourth, First-Year Speaker, Parliamentary Debate: Max Groznik
- Double-Octafinalists, Parliamentary Debate: Eliana Taylor/Max Groznik

- Third Speaker, Parliamentary Debate & LD Debate: Max Groznik
- Third Place, Parliamentary Debate: Eliana Taylor/Max Groznik
- Third Place, LD Debate: Max Groznik

**Steve Hunt Classic at Lewis & Clark College, October 9-11, 2015**
- Double-Octafinalists, Parliamentary Debate: Eliana Taylor/Max Groznik

**James "Al" Johnson Memorial Speech and Debate Tournament at Colorado College, October 23-25, 2015**
- Second Place, Parliamentary Debate: Eliana Taylor/Max Groznik
- Fifth Place, Impromptu: Max Groznik

**Paul Winters Invitational at the University of the Pacific, November 6-8, 2015**
- Quarterfinalists, Parliamentary Debate: Brianna Heifner/ Makayla Miller
- Eighth Speaker, Parliamentary Debate: Makayla Miller
- Tenth Speaker, Parliamentary Debate: Brianna Heifner

**Mile High Swing at the University of Utah, January 8-10, 2016**
- Double-Octafinalists, Parliamentary Debate: Eliana Taylor/Max Groznik
- Triple-Octafinalists, Parliamentary Debate: Eliana Taylor/Max Groznik

**Red Raider/Wild Cat Swing at Texas Tech University, January 22-24, 2016**
- Third Speaker, Parliamentary Debate, First Half: Max Groznik
- Third Speaker, Parliamentary Debate, Second Half: Eliana Taylor
- Fifth Speaker, Parliamentary Debate, Second Half: Max Groznik
- Seventh Speaker, Parliamentary Debate, Second Half: Brianna Heifner
- Quarterfinalist, Parliamentary Debate, Second Half: Brianna Heifner/Taylor
- Fifth Seed, Parliamentary Debate, Second Half: Briana Heifner/ Eliana Taylor

**National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship, March 19-21, 2016**
- Triple-Octafinalists, Parliamentary Debate: Eliana Taylor/Max Groznik
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What's Next:

ThunderWolves Forensics Institute: July 25-29, 2016, the CSU-Pueblo Forensics Team will offer a high school speech and debate camp for the first time in more than two decades. We plan to teach Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas, and IE’s to high school and middle school students from across the region with an engaging curriculum taught by some of the best speech and debate minds around.

Summer Public Speaking Initiative: What better way for us to give back to our community than to teach the art of public speaking. Thanks to Gene Wilson’s hard work and dedication, we have developed a fun and engaging curriculum aimed at teaching public speaking to children. Our goal is to offer the courses this summer to organizations around Pueblo.

2016-2017 Travel Schedule:
- September: William Jewell College, USAFA
- October: Lewis & Clark College
- November: Washburn University, Northwest College
- December: Western Wyoming Community College
- January: University of Utah, Texas Tech University
- February: CSU Long Beach, Casper College
- March: NPTE at CSU-Pueblo, NPDA at Colorado College

Save the Date: October 15, 2016 at 9:30am in the OUC Hearthwell Lounge is the second annual Tailgate & Debate. We hope to see you there!