**Arkansas Tech University**

**Debate & Forensics**

1815 Coliseum Drive Russellville, AR 72801

January 16, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

The Arkansas Tech University Debate & Forensics Team is proud to invite you to our beautiful campus in Russellville, AR for the inaugural “Team Me Up” and “TECHnically Speaking” IPDA debate tournaments which will take place during the weekend of February 27th- March 1st, 2015.

As the last tournament weekend in the area before the Team IPDA national Tournament at UCA, we are proud to offer a weekend of competition featuring two full team IPDA tournaments as well as a full Individual IPDA tournament. Please note that due to the flight system we are utilizing at this tournament (a modified version of that proposed by Duerringer and Adkins), those individuals who enter in the Professional Division of Individual IPDA will not be eligible to enter in the Team IPDA divisions.

The “Team me up” tournament will be a Team IPDA debate tournament consisting of 4 preliminary rounds and associated elimination rounds; the “TECHnically Speaking” tournament will feature a second team tournament (again with 4 preliminary rounds and associated elimination rounds) as well as a full (6 preliminary rounds with associated elimination rounds) Individual IPDA tournament.

IPDA rules will be adhered to at our tournament; if you need a copy of the rules for IPDA debate, they are located on the association website at [www.ipdadebate.info](http://www.ipdadebate.info).

The preliminary schedule for our tournament weekend is as follows (elimination round schedules may be adjusted depending on the number of entries per category):

**Friday:**

 **12:00- 1:00 Tournament Registration**

 **1:00- 2:30 Team Me Up, Round I**

 **2:30- 4:00 Team Me Up, Round II**

**4:00- 5:30 Team Me Up, Round III**

 **5:30- 7:00 Team Me Up, Round IV**

 **7:00- 8:30 TECHnically Speaking Team IPDA Round I**

 **8:30- 10:00 TECHnically Speaking Team IPDA Round II**

 **Saturday:**

**8:00- 10:15 TECHnically Speaking Individual IPDA Round I, Team Me Up Quarterfinals**

 8:00- 8:30 Novice/Varsity Strike & Prep

 8:30- 9:00 Novice/Varsity Round I; Pro Strike & Prep

 9:00- 9:30 Pro Round I; Team Me Up Quarterfinals Strike & Prep 9:30- 10:15 Team Me Up Quarterfinals

 **10:30- 12:45 TECHnically Speaking Individual Round II, Team Me Up Semifinals**

 10:30- 11:00 Novice/Varsity Strike & Prep

 11:00- 11:30 Novice/Varsity Round II; Pro Strike & Prep

 11:30- 12:00 Pro Round II; Team Me Up Semifinals Strike & Prep

 12:00- 12:45 Team Me Up Semifinals

 **12:45- 1:15 Lunch Break**

(schedule is continued on next page)

**1:15- 3:30 TECHnically Speaking Individual Round III, Team Me Up Finals**

 1:15- 1:45 Novice/Varsity Strike & Prep

 1:45- 2:15 Novice/Varsity Round III; Pro Strike & Prep

 2:15- 2:45 Pro Round III; Team I Finals Strike & Prep

 2:45- 3:30 Team Me Up Finals

**3:45- 6:00 TECHnically Speaking Individual Round IV, Team Round III**

 3:45- 4:15 Novice/Varsity Strike & Prep

 4:15- 4:45 Novice/Varsity Round IV; Pro Strike & Prep

 4:45- 5:15 Pro Round IV, Team Round III Strike & Prep

 5:15- 6:00 Team Round III

 **6:00- 6:30 Dinner Break**

**6:30- 8:45 TECHnically Speaking Individual Round V, Team II Round IV**

 6:30- 7:00 Novice/Varsity Strike & Prep

 7:00- 7:30 Novice/Varsity Round V, Pro Strike & Prep

 7:30- 8:00 Pro Round V, Team Round IV Strike & Prep

 8:00- 8:45 Team Round IV

**9:00- 10:30 TECHnically Speaking Individual Round VI**

9:00- 9:30 Novice/Varsity Strike & Prep

 9:30- 10:00 Novice/Varsity Round VI, Pro Strike & Prep

 10:00- 10:30 Pro Round VI

 **Sunday:**

**8:00- 10:15 TECHnically Speaking Individual Octafinals, Team Quarterfinals**

8:00- 8:30 Novice/Varsity Octafinals Strike & Prep

 8:30- 9:00 Novice/Varsity Octafinals, Pro Strike & Prep

 9:00- 9:30 Pro Octafinals, Team Quarterfinals Strike & Prep

 9:30- 10:15 Team Quarterfinals

 **10:30- 11:30 Awards**

**11:45-2:00 TECHnically Speaking Individual Quarterfinals, Team Semifinals**

 11:45- 12:15 Novice/Varsity Quarterfinals Strike & Prep

 12:15- 12:45 Novice/Varsity Quarterfinals; Pro Strike & Prep

 12:45- 1:15 Pro Quarterfinals; Team Semifinals Strike & Prep

 1:15- 2:00 Team Semifinals

**2:15-4:30 TECHnically Speaking Individual Semifinals, Team Finals**

 2:15- 2:45 Novice/Varsity Semifinals Strike & Prep

 2:45- 3:15 Novice/Varsity Semifinals; Pro Strike & Prep

 3:15- 3:45 Pro Semifinals; Team Finals Strike & Prep

 3:45- 4:30 Team Finals

 **4:45- 6:15 TECHnically Speaking Individual Finals**

4:45- 5:15 Novice/Varsity Finals Strike & Prep

 5:15- 5:45 Novice/Varsity Finals; Pro Strike & Prep

 5:45- 6:15 Pro Finals

Thank you in advance for your support of our initial tournament offerings; we look forward to a great weekend of debate competition!

Sincerely,

Gabriel L. Adkins, Ph.D.

Director of Debate and Forensics

Assistant Professor of Communication

Arkansas Tech University

**Lodging:**

 The following Hotels in Russellville and Clarksville have agreed to offer discounted rates for our tournament. Additional lodging options (if needed) can be found in the nearby towns of Morrilton, AR and Clarksville, AR (both are within 30 miles of our campus)

 **Hampton Inn**

(479) 858-7199 Negotiated rate: $92.00 plus tax (2 Queen beds)

 **Fairfield Inn & Suites**

(479) 967-9030 Negotiated rate: $89.00 plus tax (2 Queen beds)

 **Best Western**

(479) 967-1000 Negotiated rate: $84.95 plus tax (2 Queen beds)

 **Clarion Inn & Suites**

(479) 968-4300 Negotiated Rate: $80.00 plus tax (2 Queen beds)

 **Holiday Inn Express & Suites** (Clarksville, AR)

(479) 705-7600 Negotiated Rate: $85.00 plus tax (2 Queen beds)

**Entry Deadlines, Fees, and Judges:**

1. The entry deadline will be noon on Tuesday, February 24th, 2015. Changes will be accepted at no charge until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25th, 2015. Any additional changes or drops after that time will be charged a fee of $10.00 per alteration.
2. Entries should be sent to gadkins@atu.edu. PLEASE TITLE the subject line of the e-mail “Debate Entry Fees”!!!
3. Entry Fees are as follows:
	1. Team IPDA entries: $35.00 per tournament ($70.00 per team for entry into both Team IPDA tournaments)
	2. Individual IPDA entries: $25.00 per
4. One judge will cover 2 IPDA Teams (for both team tournaments) AND 4 Individual IPDA entries.
	1. Judges (and eliminated competitors if needed) will be expected to be available for judging one round past the round in which all of their squads competitors are eliminated.
	2. Uncovered entries will be charged a $20.00 judging fee.

**Special Notes:**

1. The tournament prep area will be in the Young Ballroom. It is located in the building adjacent to the University Bookstore.
2. Parking is available next to the Tucker Coliseum.
3. The Tab Room will be closed to competitors during the tournament. Coaches who are not competing (i.e. in the Professional Division) will have access to the Tab Room throughout the tournament.
4. All IPDA rules will be adhered to throughout the tournament, including those rules regarding the use of evidence. Please prepare your squads accordingly. You are also encouraged to familiarize your judges with the standard “back of the ballot” guidelines found on page 6 of the following document from the IPDA website: <http://www.ipdadebate.info/uploads/4/9/8/1/4981933/guide_to_a_typical_ipda_tournament.pdf>
5. The 30 minute strike and prep time will be enforced. This time will start as soon as the last strike sheet for the round is distributed. Competitors will be expected to be AT THE ASSIGNED ROOM AND READY TO BEGIN THE DEBATE by the end of the 30 minute strike and prep period.
	1. If competitors are not at the room within 5 minutes of the end of the prep period, they will forfeit that round to their competitor(s) and be assigned zero speaker points (if Team IPDA, this will apply to both forfeiting competitors) for that round.
	2. The competitor(s) on the receiving end of the forfeit will accordingly be assigned speaker points based on the average of their speakers points in their other rounds (again, this will apply to both competitors in a Team IPDA round) for any rounds forfeited to them.
	3. Exceptions to the above will be considered by the Tournament Director on a case-by-case basis if needed. Exceptions to the forfeit rule will only be considered in extreme and uncontrollable circumstances.
6. Points and will be assigned in accordance with the IPDA Constitution and Bylaws. Tournament Sweepstakes (for both tournaments) will be awarded based on preliminary round performance.
7. If possible (based on competitor availability), outrounds on Sunday will be accelerated and/or condensed. It is our goal to conclude the tournament as quickly as possible to get all of the travelers on their way home as soon as possible.