2015 INVITATION

to attend

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY’S

Thirteenth Annual

Tournament of Champions

in

Extemporaneous Speaking

May 1st – 3rd, 2015

This invitation, along with any additional and updated information, is available at

http://www.toc-extemp.com
I. Introduction

Welcome!

The Northwestern University Speech Team and the Northwestern University School of Communication are pleased to announce the thirteenth annual Tournament of Champions in Extemporaneous Speaking, to be held Friday, May 1st, 2015 through Sunday, May 3rd, 2015, on Northwestern University’s campus in Evanston, Illinois. This tournament will continue its tradition of offering an unparalleled challenge to extemporaneous speakers across the country: the opportunity to compete against the best speakers in the nation in an environment that showcases the event of extemporaneous speaking. We hope you will join us for this celebration of Extemp and forensics.

2014 Extemporaneous Speaking Results

The TOC Extemp tournament committee would like to congratulate all who qualified for and attended last year’s tournament. We would like to extend special recognition to our finalists:

1st Place: Lily Nellans – Des Moines Roosevelt
2nd Place: Chase Harrison – Millburn High School
3rd Place: Miles Saffran- Trinity Preparatory School
4th Place: Joshua Wurtel – Lake Braddock Secondary School
5th Place: Arel Rende - Tulsa Washington High School
6th Place: Sydney Walter - Salado High School
II. Tournament Details

Extemp Overview

Standard NFL rules for extemporaneous speaking, available on the NFL website (www.nflonline.rog), will apply: contestants will have thirty minutes to prepare and seven minutes to deliver the speech addressing one of three topics. Once a student’s speaking time reaches 7:00, they will be given a 30 second grace period as per standard NFL convention. Each round will be themed; topic areas will be posted to the TOC Extemp website on April 21st, 2015. All questions will be taken from newspapers and magazines starting January 1st, 2015 through the day of the event.

Laptops will be allowed in the prep room. To ensure fairness, all laptop users must comply with the following rules:

1. Students using computers must do so in the prep room; computers may not be used to prepare in other locations.
2. No Internet access is allowed at any time in the prep room. Computers are not allowed to network to other computers.
3. Printec are not allowed in the prep room.
4. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches that have been written prior to their draw time.
5. Any student using a computer must be prepared to show prep room staff what they are accessing at any time.

The TOC Extemp reserves the right to disqualify any student that is found in violation of these rules or that resists a reasonable request by prep room staff. Schools using computers are encouraged to provide one for each student, as multiple students from the same school may draw at the same time. Speaking order will not be adjusted to accommodate computer use.

Preliminary Rounds

Competitors are guaranteed six preliminary rounds. Rounds I through IV will be randomly assigned, while rounds V and VI will be seeded. Each round will be evaluated by two judges, each of whom will rank competitors 1st through 5th. The lowest ranking for each contestant will be dropped and the top contestants will advance to elimination rounds. Advancement will be based on (1) best cumulative rankings, (2) reciprocals, and (3) the best cumulative rankings after dropping each lowest ranking.

Elimination Rounds

The first elimination round will be either quarterfinals or semifinals, as tournament attendance dictates. Those contestants advancing to the first elimination round will be announced on Sunday morning. Elimination rounds will be seeded, and sectioning will not be broken to avoid placement of contestants from the same school in the same rounds. The tournament reserves the right to include cross-examination in elimination rounds. Quarterfinal and semifinal rounds will each be evaluated by at least five judges. The top three contestants in each section will advance to the next round. Each break is clean; no previous results will be considered except in the case of an otherwise unbreakable tie. The final round will be evaluated by seven judges and will be open to the entire tournament and the Northwestern community.

Impromptu Overview

Additionally, we will be hosting impromptu as a secondary event on the second day of the tournament. Students are entered in impromptu by default, and have to opt out. There will be no entry fees for impromptu. In this event, contestants will have seven minutes to both prepare and deliver a speech improvised from a provided prompt. Topics will vary by round and section, and each speaker in the same section will speak on the same topic. There will be two preliminary rounds, and the top six contestants will advance to a final round.
III. QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

There are four ways to qualify for the Tournament of Champions in Extemp:

1. TOC Extemp 2014 Elimination Rounds

Any student who advanced to quarterfinals, semifinals or finals in extemporaneous speaking at the 2014 TOC Extemp is automatically qualified for this year’s tournament.

2. State Finals/National Elimination Rounds

Students that advance to the final round of the open division of their qualifying state tournament in extemporaneous speaking will automatically qualify for the TOC Extemp. Because many states hold their state tournament after our entry deadline, please note the following rule: “Qualifying state tournaments” are defined as (a) any 2015 state tournament that takes place before April 4th, 2015; and (b) any 2014 state tournament if your 2014 state tournament takes place after April 2nd, 2014.

Additionally, individuals who have broken to elimination rounds at either CFL Nationals 2014 or NFL Nationals 2014 are qualified for the TOC Extemp.

All tournament entry fees will be waived for any 2015 State Champions in Extemporaneous Speaking. However, in order to waive the fee, verification of the state tournament results must be included with the registration form.

If this applies to you, please contact our tournament coordinators daramcgreel2016@u.northwestern.edu or tralonwilliams2015@u.northwestern.edu for more details on how your specific fee schedule will be structured.
3. Qualifying Tournaments

A student can automatically qualify by getting “legs” or "bids" at 2 of the following tournaments:

**Automatic Qualifications**
2014 TOC Extemp Elimination Rounds

**Quarter-Final Level Bids**
Berkeley (CA)
George Mason University (VA)
Glenbrooks (IL)
Harvard (MA)
NSDA National Tournament 2014 (KS)
Saint Joseph’s University- Villager (PA)
Stanford University (CA)
Sunvitational (FL)
Yale (CT)

**Semi-Final Level Bids**
CFL National Tournament 2014 (IL)
Emory University (GA)
Florida Blue Key (FL)
James Logan HS (CA)
St. Mark’s (TX)
Schwan Speech Spectacular (MN)
University of Texas- Austin (TX)

**Final Level Bids**
Apple Valley HS (MN)
Bradley University (IL)
Cypress Bay (FL)
Dowling (IA)
Isadoore Newman (LA)
Nova High School (FL)
Princeton Classic (NJ)
Winston Churchill (TX)
University of Pennsylvania (PA)
Wake Forest Early Bird (NC)
*A final round at a designated state tournament counts as one bid if the tournament is held prior to April 1st.*

**Top 3 Bids**
Arizona State University
California State University – Fullerton
Chanhassen High School (MN)
Columbia University (NY)
Downers Grove South (IL)
Durham Academy (NC)
Lamar Consolidated (TX)
Ridge (NJ)
Plano West Senior HS (TX)
Saint Mary’s Hall (TX)
4. **Bid Application Acceptance**

Any student who does not or cannot qualify through one of the above methods may submit an at large TOC bid application. If your state tournament occurs after the bid entry deadline, we encourage you to send in an at large bid noting that fact. Bid applications may be submitted by mail to the address provided below.

1. The applicant or the applicant’s coach must submit the Bid Application.

2. The bid application must be postmarked by **April 4th, 2015** and sent to:

   Tournament of Champions  
   Attention: Ryan Lauth  
   Department of Communication  
   Studies Northwestern University  
   1815 Chicago Ave  
   Evanston, IL 60208

**IV. ENTRY PROCEDURES & FEES**

**Tournament Entry/Registration**

1. Coaches may submit all school and competitor entry information via mail. Forms can be submitted beginning **March 1st, 2015**. Tournament registration forms can be found at: [http://www.toc-extemp.com](http://www.toc-extemp.com).

2. Registration and fees must be sent to:

   Tournament of Champions  
   Attention: Ryan Lauth  
   Department of Communication  
   Studies Northwestern University  
   1815 Chicago Ave  
   Evanston, IL 60208

   a. Check must be made payable to “Northwestern University”

   b. Check must indicate the school and student(s) for whose application(s) the check covers. One check may be written to cover multiple applications from the same school. Do not include any other information other than payment.

   c. Checks should be for the exact amount indicated during your online registration. If there is a discrepancy or if you need to change your entry, you must send us an email at daramcgreal2016@u.northwestern.edu or tralonwilliams2015@u.northwestern.edu

   d. **Payment must be postmarked by the Registration Deadline, April 21st, 2015.** Under no circumstances are we able to accept applications with late and/or missing payment.

3. Upon receiving complete payment, we will confirm your entry via email and officially welcome you to the TOC Extemp. If you do not receive email confirmation within five business days of sending payment, please get in contact with us.
Entry Deadlines

We encourage competitors to submit their entries as soon as they become qualified for the tournament.

Applications for at-large bids must be received: April 4th, 2015
Entries must be received: April 21st, 2015
At-large applicant will be notified of acceptance: April 12th, 2015

Entry Fees

Entry forms must be accompanied by a check covering all required fees. All entry forms are available from the invitation page on our website. Once entered, fees cannot be refunded under any circumstance.

Extemp entry fee -- Covered by judge ................................................................. $125/slot
Extemp entry fee -- Not covered by judge ........................................................... $200/slot

Drop Fees and Missed Ballots

The following fees will be accessed. Schools must pay any fees in full before entry to a subsequent TOC Extemp is accepted. These fees apply to all events: extemp, extemp commentary and impromptu. In order to minimize the costs to you, we encourage you to contact us at daramcgreal2016@u.northwestern.edu or tralonwilliams2015@u.northwestern.edu as soon as you can if you will need to drop an entry.

If you drop…
Before April 26th, 2015 ................................................................. Loss of entry fees plus $20/slot
From May 2nd through May 9th, 2015................................. Loss of entry fees plus $100/slot
On the day of the tournament ................................................. Loss of entry fees plus $200/slot
Missed ballots by a school judge ......................................................... $100/round

V. JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

Judging Commitments

All judges and coaches will be required to attend a short informational meeting on Saturday, May 2nd. More details will be provided at the reception.

Each school is asked to provide one judge for every two students entered. Judges are obligated to judge throughout the entire tournament, even after their students are eliminated.

SCHOOLS with an odd number of students may share a judge as long as that judge covers no more than 2 total students. Any shared judge must be through a prior arrangement by both schools and must be noted on each school’s entry form. Judge sharing will not be allowed after entry forms are received, and the TOC will make no attempt to match judges that are not clearly noted on both schools’ entries. Every judge is only allowed to cover a maximum of 2 entries. Any uncovered slots will incur fees as described in the fee schedule above.

Hired Judges

The TOC Extemp encourages teams to provide their own judges. If this is not possible, competitors may still enter the tournament, but at a higher fee. This increased fee for uncovered entries will allow the TOC Extemp to hire experienced judges to complete the judging pool.

Missed Ballots

If a judge fails to pick up ballots for any given round, the associated school will be assessed a $100 missed ballot fee. Any such fees must be paid in full before the schools’ contestants are allowed to advance and before the school is allowed to enter future TOC Extemp tournaments. Due to the importance that the TOC Extemp places on judging, this rule will be strictly enforced.
VI. **Extemp Conference**

In order to further enhance the educational experience of the TOC Extemp, there will be a series of speakers on **Friday**, starting at **7:00pm** after registration. Speakers, including Northwestern Faculty, will make brief comments on important current affairs and offer their academic insights into specific topic areas. Please visit the competition website for more details closer to the date.

VII. **Adult Supervision**

All students attending the tournament must be supervised by an adult -- a parent, teacher, team coach, or coach from another school. This chaperone should have all required school and parental authorization for travel and medical leases. Neither the Tournament nor Northwestern University can assume responsibility for any emergencies or expenses.

VIII. **Contact Information**

The TOC Extemp encourages you to contact us with any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of this tournament. Our website also includes a plethora of Frequently Asked Questions that may help clarify any questions you may have.

Tournament Website: [http://www.toc-extemp.com](http://www.toc-extemp.com)

Dara McGreal, **Tournament Coordinator**.................daramcgreal2016@u.northwestern.edu  
Tralon Williams, **Tournament Coordinator**..............tralonwilliams2015@u.northwestern.edu  
Ryan Lauth, **Faculty Tournament Advisor**....................... r-lauth@northwestern.edu

IX. **Hospitality Information**

**Tournament Location**

Northwestern University is located in Evanston, Illinois, a suburb just minutes north of Chicago on Lake Michigan. Please see the visitor’s section on Northwestern’s homepage at www.northwestern.edu for additional information. Saturday’s and Sunday’s rounds will be held on campus.

**Reception**

On **Friday Before the Extemp Conference**, in conjunction with registration, the TOC Extemp will hold an informal reception. Join your fellow competitors and coaches for some refreshments and social time before competition begins on Saturday.

**Tournament Hotel**

Details about the tournament hotel will be posted on the tournament website. Schools are welcome to stay elsewhere. Hotels in surrounding communities, including Skokie, are viable alternatives for those who will have a means of transportation.