

*Since the hosting of the third National Debate Development Conference at Wake Forest University in 2009, several notable directors of debate and forensics have passed away. This book is dedicated to those directors who worked tirelessly in their service as debate educators.*

**Dr. Craig Cutbirth** (73, 1948–2022). Director of forensics and graduate studies at Illinois State University. Prior to ISU, he taught and coached debate at the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh and Bradley University. He was an instructor at many speech and debate workshops around the country. He was a respected and published scholar in political communication and communication criticism, with two textbooks and essays in several journals.

**Dr. Joseph W. Wenzel** (88, 1933–2022). Emeritus professor and director of debate at University of Illinois. He also founded a debate program at Hunter College (NY) before joining Illinois. He was an active argumentation scholar, receiving scholarly awards from the AFA and Midwest Forensic Association. At Illinois, he served as associate department head and director of graduate studies. He also coached the undergraduate mock trial team late in his career.

**Dr. Charles Willard** (76, 1945–2021). Highly successful director of forensics at Dartmouth College (1974–1982). He also taught at Slippery Rock State College (PA), the University of Pittsburg, and the University of Louisville, where he was a long-serving department chair. He was a highly published and foundational argumentation theorist, who helped found the AFA-NCA Alta Argumentation Conference and the International Society for the Study of Argumentation conference. In 1999, he received an AFA Golden Anniversary Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship award, just one of the many awards he earned in his long career.

**Dr. Nick Burnett** (65, 1956–2021). Director of debate from 1987 to 1996, emeritus professor of communication studies and emeritus associate dean, Sacramento State University. His teams won many regional and national awards, reaching quarterfinals at CEDA Nationals in 1988 and 1989. After coaching for ten years, he moved on to chair the communication studies department for five years, then retired as associate dean for the College of Arts and Letters in 2012. He was an active member of the AFA, CEDA, and NCA.

**Gary Horn** (81, 1919–2021). Taught communication courses and debate at both the high school and college level for over 40 years. He was an instructor and coach at Southwestern College (Mooreland, OK) from 1974 to 1985 and Ferris State University (Big Rapids, MI) from 1985 to 2005. He coached several national champion teams. He was president of Pi Kappa Delta (1985–1987) and recipient of the organization's E. R. Nichols Award for outstanding contributions to the forensics discipline. In 2005, he was inducted into the PKD Hall of Fame and, in 2012, to the Kansas Speech Communication Association Collegiate Hall of Fame. In 1994, he cofounded the National Educational Debate Association (NEDA).

**Dr. Donal Stanton** (80, 1941–2021). Prominent coach and professor at Southwest Missouri State (now Missouri State University). In his seven years as director, Stanton qualified teams to the NDT each year, with teams in the elimination rounds in three consecutive years. In 1973, his team reached the semifinals of the NDT. In 1974 and 1974, his teams reached octofinals. Outside of debate, Dr. Stanton was a gifted educator, winning numerous awards for his instruction. He earned his doctorate in 1972 from Ohio State University.

**Dr. Larry Richardson** (86, 1935–2021). Successful and longtime director of forensics at Western Washington University. He joined the faculty in 1970, after serving as a debate coach and band director at the high school level. He provided a great deal of service to the intercollegiate debate community, with leadership roles in the NDT, CEDA, Pi Kappa Delta, AFA-NIET, and NCA. He also was a noted scholar in debate theory and the rhetoric of the civil rights movement.

**Dr. Lee Polk** (79, 1941–2021). A debate legend in both high school and intercollegiate debate communities. Polk became the director of forensics and debate at Baylor University in 1970, leading a team to an NDT championship in 1975. As director of the Baylor high school debate institute, he oversaw the training of thousands of students. He coauthored and founded the famous *Baylor Briefs*, which was one of the most popular high school debate handbooks. In 1978, Polk became chair of the Baylor Department of Communication, retiring in 2003.

**Rodger Biles** (67, 1953–2021). Longtime assistant director of debate at Emporia State University. Led ESU to a CEDA national championship in 1993. Prior to coming to ESU, he was head debate coach at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and University of Texas–Arlington. He later transitioned into a career in information technology.

**Dr. Steven B. Hunt** (74, 1946–2021). Professor emeritus of communication and director of forensics at Lewis & Clark from 1973 to 2009. He was past president of CEDA and editor of Pi Kappa Delta's *The Forensic*. He earned his PhD from the University of Kansas and JD from Northwestern School of Law. He enjoyed a long career as a coach, training several nationally competitive teams.

**Dr. Geoffrey Klinger** (54, 1966–2021). Professor of communication and director of forensics at DePauw University (2003–2021). Debating as an undergraduate at DePauw, he later received his PhD from the University of Iowa in 1998. He then taught and directed at St. Johns, Hanover College, and the University of Utah.

**Dr. James Roper** (82, 1938–2020). Professor of philosophy and the first and longest-serving director of debate at Michigan State University (1984–2000). He led the team to the octofinals of the 1988 CEDA National Championship. His teams later finished in second place in 1994, 1997, and 2000 and won a CEDA National Sweepstakes Points Championship in 1996. In 1998, his team reached the semifinals of the NDT and finals in 2000. He founded the Spartan Debate Institute in 1992.

**Dr. Thomas F. Freeman** (100, 1919–2020). Coached debate for 64 years (1949–2013) at Texas Southern University, a historically Black university in Houston, Texas. He led a highly successful team with over 2,000 awards, and his former students include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Barbara Jordan, the gospel star Yolanda Adams, and generations of Texas public officials. He ran a debate boot camp for Denzel Washington and the rest of the cast of the 2007 movie *The Great Debaters*.

**Tony Allison** (73, 1947–2020). Taught for more than 40 years and coached speech and debate for 21 years at Cameron University (OK). He was the

department chair from 1983 to 2013. As a coach, he led his teams to two national championships and several state championships. He served as the director of Cameron's summer speech and debate camp. He was inducted in Pi Kappa Delta's Coaches Hall of Fame in 2005.

**Dr. Martin "Marty" Feeney** (71, 1948–2020). Enjoyed a long coaching and teaching career, teaching at Monmouth College (IL), Central College (IA), and Simpson College (IA). He was an associate professor of communication at Central from 1986 to 2007. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. After his military service, he earned a master's and doctorate degree at Bowling Green State University (OH).

**Dr. George W. Ziegelmüller** (88, 1930–2019). Distinguished professor and director of forensics at Wayne State University from 1957 to 2006. His students won several regional and national tournaments and appeared in 20 elimination teams at the NDT, including teams in the finals in 1966 and 1967. His teams qualified to the NDT for 39 years, 28 years in a row from 1977 to 2005. In 1999, he hosted the NDT, and in the same year, the NDT Board of Trustees' George W. Ziegelmüller Award was founded to recognize a faculty member who has distinguished themselves in the communication profession while coaching teams to competitive success in the NDT. He was awarded the NDT Lucy Keele Award in 1999 for service to the NDT. He was a coauthor with Charles Dass and Jack Kay of the widely used textbook *Argumentation: Inquiry and Advocacy* (Allyn and Bacon). Ziegelmüller was president of the American Forensic Association from 1966 to 1968 and edited its journal, *JFAA*, from 1973 to 1977. He was also president of Delta Sigma Rho–Tau Kappa Alpha and the Michigan Association of Speech Communication.

**Kenneth "Ken" Strange** (69, 1949–2019). Director and debate coach at Augustana College (IL) for six years, Dartmouth College for 35 years, and Wake Forest for two years. A legendary coach, Strange's Dartmouth teams won the NDT three times (1984, 1988, and 1993), finished second five times (1981, 1983, 1987, 2003, and 2008), and reached elimination rounds at the NDT in 30 consecutive years from 1981 to 2010. He was also one of the most widely respected judges in the community, ranked in the top five judges of the decade for the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Beyond his impact at the

collegiate level, Strange started the Dartmouth Debate Institute, which training thousands of high school students. In 2001, Strange's impressive career was recognized with the NDT's George W. Ziegelmüller Award.

**Dr. Holt "Spike" Spicer** (91, 1928–2019). Famed director of debate at Missouri State University (then Southwest Missouri State) from 1952 to 1965, who continued to coach and travel with team, winning the CEDA national championship in 1992. After high school, he served in the US Navy in 1946, caring for wounded soldiers during World War II. While attending the University of Redlands, he won NDT twice as a debater in 1951 and 1952. In addition to serving as the director of debate, he served as department chair and dean of College of Arts and Letters. The Missouri State Debate Forum is named after Spicer in his honor.

**Dr. Robert Weiss** (92, 1926–2019). Professor emeritus of communication and director of forensics for 42 years. Before joining DePauw, he coached debate at Wayne State and Northwestern Universities. He coached several national champion teams and, in 1962, coached the champions of the nationally televised *GE College Bowl*. He was president of Delta Sigma Rho–Tau Kappa Alpha and secretary-treasurer of the American Forensic Association. He received the Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award from the National Educational Debate Association and the E. R. Nichols Award for "outstanding contributions to the furtherance of the forensics discipline" from Pi Kappa Delta. In 1999, Weiss was recognized by the American Association of University Professors for his "long and distinguished membership" (50 years), at the organization's annual convention in Washington, DC. That same year, the National Communication Association recognized Weiss with its highest honor, the Presidential Award.

**Dr. Gerald H. Sanders** (93, 1924–2018). First NDT champion with W. Scott Nobles for Southeastern State College in 1947. Sanders was department chair and debate coach at the College of Wooster (OH) and Miami (OH) University, serving as chair at Miami from 1981 to 1992. He was a Marine Corps colonel who served in World War II and the Korean War. Sanders was heavily involved in the AFA. He was president for two terms, 1978–1980 and 1980–1982, and received the AFA Distinguished Service Award in 1991. He also served on the NDT Board of Trustees.

**Michael Dugaw** (72, 1946–2018). Taught and directed debate at Lower Columbia College for almost four decades, retiring in 2012. He started coaching at LCC in 1973 and firmly established the program. His teams received two national Gold Awards from the Northwest Forensics Conference and several individual national championships.

**Dr. Arnold "Arnie" Madsen** (59, 1958–2017). Prominent debate coach who taught and coached at Illinois State University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Northern Iowa. He provided a tremendous amount of service to the intercollegiate debate community, including hosting a large season-opening tournament at UNI and helping manage the operation of the NDT for several years. In 1987, he hosted the NDT at Illinois State. He held several service roles in the ADA and NDT.

**Dr. James "Chester" Gibson** (75, 1941–2017). Highly regarded educator and coach. He taught and coached championship teams at the high school level before joining the University of West Georgia, where he built the debate program into a nationally recognized program. He was later named the chair of the Department of Mass Communication and Theater. He retired in 2000. He received many local and national awards in his long career, including the NDT George Ziegelmüller Award in 2001.

**Roy "Skip" Eno** (71, 1946–2017). A senior lecturer and director of debate (1982–2017) at the University of Texas–San Antonio. During his tenure, UTSA earned several regional and national championships. He was named Coach of the Year by the Southern Speech Association and All-Star Coach by the CDA South-Central Region in 1996. He received CEDA's Brownlee Award for lifetime excellence in 2009, the Amy Fugate Leadership Award in 2010, the Dick Stine Coaching Award in 2011, and the Jeff Jarman Debate "Person of the Year."

**Dr. Bill Henderson** (83, 1932–2016). Semifinalist at the 1954 NDT for Central State College of Oklahoma. He served two years in the US Army Signal Corps and coached high school debate, most notably at Bellaire High School, where he coached national champions in debate, extemporaneous speaking, and original oratory. After completing his doctorate, he joined the University of Houston in 1973 as the director of debate, regularly coaching

teams to elimination rounds at national tournaments. In 1976, he left Houston for the University of Northern Iowa, serving as the director of forensics until 1995. He was widely published in such journals as *Argumentation and Advocacy*. He served as treasurer of the AFA, as a member of the NDT Board of Trustees, and as host of the NDT in 1993. He was included into the NFL Hall of Fame in 1983, received the AFA NIET Distinguished Service Award in 1995, and received Outstanding Coach Awards from Emory University and the University of Utah.

**Michael "Bear" Bryant** (58, 1958–2016). A nationally competitive debater at Morehead State University, he later coached debate at Wayne State University, Eastern Illinois University, West Georgia College, and Weber State University. He coached many teams to late elimination rounds at national tournaments.

**Dr. Russell T. Church** (69, 1946–2016). Director of debate at the University of Tennessee, John Carroll University (OH), and Middle Tennessee State University. His teams were highly successful at both regional and national competition. He served as president and treasurer of CEDA. He was an author of argumentation and debate essays and one textbook. He was recognized for his coaching and service excellence with the CEDA Brownlee Award in 1997. After debate, Church was the chair of the speech and theater department at MTSU from 1998 to 2006.

**Dr. Valgene "Doc" Littlefield** (90, 1925–2016). As an undergraduate, he debated at Northeastern State College (OK). After college, he served in the 24th Infantry Division during post–World War II occupation of Japan. After his service, he completed his graduate study and served as debate director at NSC for 28 years. He was a highly respected coach and educator. He had many teams compete at the NDT, with teams qualifying for elimination rounds in seven consecutive years.

**Dr. Alfred "Tuna" Snider** (65, 1950–2015). University of Vermont Edwin W. Lawrence Professor of Forensics and internationally regarded debate theorist and director. Finished in third place at the 1972 NDT for Brown University. After earning his PhD from the University of Kansas, he became the director of the Lawrence Debate Union at the University of Vermont,

serving in the position for over 40 years. Throughout his career, he promoted the value of debate as an alternative to violence and conflict across the world. He coached nationally competitive teams at the national championship tournaments hosted by CEDA, NDT, and IDEA. He served as director of the World Debate Institute, training students from over 40 countries. He was a frequently published scholar, and his work theorizing debate as a game has influenced debate scholarship ever since its publication.

**Dr. Neil Berch** (55, 1960–2015). Professor of political science and director of debate at West Virginia University. He was regarded as an expert on West Virginia state and local politics. He started coaching debate in 1997. He was a respected coach who trained many successful teams. He was highly involved in his CEDA region, the ADA, and high school Urban Debate Leagues.

**Dr. Jack Kay** (63, 1951–2015). An undergraduate competitor at Wayne State University in the 1970s who later returned to complete his doctorate there. He later moved to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln to serve as an associate professor and director of debate and forensics. At Nebraska, he coached a team to the semifinals of the NDT. In 1990, he returned to WSU to become chair of the communication department, later serving as an associate provost. He was a true communication educator and scholar, extensively published in the fields of argumentation, rhetoric, and political communication. His coauthored textbook with Dr. Ziegelmüller, *Argumentation: Inquiry and Advocacy*, was a widely used college debate textbook. He later moved to the University of Michigan–Flint to serve as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs and later as interim chancellor. He then moved to Eastern Michigan University to become provost and executive vice president. He was a past president of the Central States Communication Association and Delta Sigma Rho–Tau Kappa Alpha.

**Dr. David Matheny** (82, 1931–2014). After receiving his PhD in rhetoric from the University of Oklahoma, Matheny coached debate at Texas Christian University and Emporia State University. He was a past president and inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Kansas Speech Communication Association. Beyond his support for ESU debate, he was active in the Kansas Humanities Council and ESU Theatre.

**Greg Simerly** (53, 1960–2014). Nationally prominent debate coach and director at Southern Illinois University, Missouri State University, Saint Louis University, Idaho State University, and Middle Tennessee State University. At SIU, he coached two CEDA national sweepstakes champion teams (1986, 1987) and a CEDA National Tournament champion in 1996. At Idaho State, his team was named the national “New Program of the Year.” He coached debate for over 25 years. He served a term as the executive secretary of CEDA.

**Dr. Paul Winters** (89, 1924–2014). Beloved professor and mentor who led the University of the Pacific’s debate team to national prominence. Before attending college, he was drafted into the Army Air Force during World War II, where he achieved the rank of corporal. After earning his PhD from Stanford, he taught and coached at San Joaquin Delta College. He went to the University of Pacific in 1956 to serve as a professor and forensic coach. He coached there until 1980. In 1964, he led his team to an NDT championship. The team also won the televised Collegiate Championship Debates, sponsored by the AFA and American Student Foundation. He won many awards during his career, including the National Coach of the Year Award in 1964 from the NFA.

**Dr. Ted Jackson** (84, 1929–2013). Longtime and successful coach at the University of Wisconsin, Michigan State University, and Illinois State University. Before coaching, he served for three years in the 3rd Coast Guard District Headquarters in New York City.

**Dr. Thomas Kane** (70, 1943–2013). Associate professor emeritus of communication and former director of the William Pitt Debating Union at the University of Pittsburgh. Kane taught at Pittsburgh from 1965 to 1999 and coached the Pitt debate team to an NDT national championship in 1981. He served as department chair from 1982 to 1988 and retired from the university in 1999. He coached the US debate team that traveled to the Soviet Union in 1980 and was named National Coach of the Year by Emory University in 1973 and Georgetown University in 1981.

**Dr. James Alan “Al” Johnson** (82, 1930–2013). Respected economics professor and debate coach at Colorado College, former director of the NDT

from 1990 to 1992, and cofounder of CEDA and NPDA. He was awarded the AFA Golden Anniversary Outstanding Contribution to Service Award in 1999 and AFA Distinguished Service Award in 2001. His career at CC lasted almost 50 years.

**Dr. Mark DeLoach** (46, 1963–2010). Former associate professor and director of debate at the University of North Texas. DeLoach was known as an expert in debate and campaign communication. He served as a political debate analyst and was a member of the International Society for the Study of Argumentation. After coaching several nationally successful teams at UNT, he left in 2000 to become a principal with the Leadership Research Institute.

**Dr. John “Jack” Lynch** (89, 1921–2010). Coach at St. Anselm College (NH) for 46 years and founded the St. Thomas More Debate Society. Due to his coaching success, he was named the national collegiate debate coach in 1970. He authored over 30 handbooks on national college debate topics.

**Dr. G. Allan “Al” Yeomans** (89, 1921–2010). Member of the Samford University faculty from 1954 to 1968, he founded the university’s communication studies department and the debate team. He also taught at the University of Mississippi, the University of Southwestern Louisiana–Lafayette, the Mississippi University for Women–Columbus, and the University of Tennessee. He was an active communication scholar published in several journals. He was executive secretary of the Southern Speech Communication Association and president of the Alabama and Tennessee Speech Communication Associations. He was named Tennessee’s Speech Teacher of the Year in 1984. He also served as a communication consultant to several organizations.

**John Lehman** (81, 1938–2010). Former debate coach at Emporia State University. He was the director of the NDT from 1971 to 1972. He was a professor of communication and theater at ESU for over 40 years. Lehman received the ESU Service Citation Award in 1993 and was very active in the Emporia Arts Council. He served as a member of ESU Foundation Board of Trustees.