

2013

Editor's Note

Randy Richardson
Berry College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/nfj>



Part of the [Performance Studies Commons](#), and the [Speech and Rhetorical Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Richardson, R. (2013). Editor's Note. *National Forensic Journal*, 31(1). <https://doi.org/10.56816/0749-1042.1054>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works for Minnesota State University, Mankato. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Forensic Journal by an authorized editor of Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works for Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Editor's Note

With the issuance of this inaugural edition, it is my hope and my expectation that we have only just begun a journal that will continue long into the future to respond to the ever-changing enterprise of forensics. ... This journal reflects the expansion of forensics into fields of individual events as well as the dedicated professionalism of directors of forensics across the country. (Kelley, 1983, p. 63- 64)

These words inaugurated the *National Forensic Journal* in the Spring of 1983. Three decades later they remind a community of its identity, echo a founding purpose, and rearticulate challenges and opportunities inherent in the “ever-changing enterprise of forensics.” In 2013, it may be difficult for many who have never known a professional landscape that did not include individual events to fully appreciate the formulation of the idea that individual events competition is worthy of scholarly inquiry. An academic professional journal implies that a profession exists and that it can support and be supported by academic research. As we move into a fourth decade, the evidence for the existence of a forensic enterprise is overwhelming, but the degree to which that enterprise reflects an engaged community of academic scholars is debatable. The *National Forensic Journal* owes its very existence to the belief that forensic education spawns worthwhile scholarship. *NFJ* will continue to perpetuate this heuristic ideal.

To that end, the articles published here engage areas of research and pedagogy central to the appraisal and advancement of forensic education. Cronn-Mills and Croucher begin the process of evaluating the often maligned but rarely studied issue of the breadth of forensic research. Their study serves as a valuable next step in assessing forensic scholarship and as another warning regarding the widening gap between forensic programs and the communication discipline. Duncan revives “the old man eloquent” and places Isocrates at his rightful place—the philosophical center of contemporary forensic practice. A reconsideration of the philosophy, practice and pedagogy of Ancient Athens’ foremost teacher promises to enrich the contemporary forensic enterprise. A close examination of Isocrates’ writing, in particular “Against the Sophists,” may cause one to see Isocrates’ teaching as more of a warning to contemporary forensic practitioners than Duncan’s well-articulated defense of forensics. The debate would certainly benefit the forensic community, forcing it to re-examine foundational principles from the past in light of contemporary purposes and practices. Walker and Walker wed contemporary leadership theory with team management practice in an enlightening piece that offers specific, practical direction in developing leaders. With a renewed emphasis in leadership training on campuses across the country, this study provides guidance in placing forensic teams, forensic directors and forensic student leaders at the heart of leadership discussions. Carmack and Holm’s study of forensic director burnout focuses on an issue that is vital to the development of the forensic enterprise as a professional enterprise. Burnout and associated issues of physical and mental health diminish the benefits of forensic competition and threaten its professional status. So many professional issues introduced in the Sedalia and Northwestern National Developmental Conferences on Forensics have disappeared from view. Carmack and Holm serve the profession well by visiting the problem of burnout.

Another decade of forensic scholarly engagement begins. Thank you, authors and reviewers, for your contributions. Special thanks to Dr. Bruce Wickelgren, previous *NFJ* editor, and Dr. Michael Dreher, *NFA* webmaster, for their numerous contributions to the “ever-changing enterprise of forensics.” Also, special thanks to Amber Chiang, Bakersfield, for additional editorial review of these manuscripts.

Randy Richardson
Co-Editor