

A Note from the Editor

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I have been the editor of *Speaker & Gavel* for seven years. Last year Dr. Stephanie Wideman from the University of Indianapolis came on as the associate editor and she has been an invaluable asset. She has worked tirelessly doing all the thankless jobs of the editorial staff (proofreading, formatting, sending out page proofs, etc.). This issue wouldn't have been published without her. I would like to publicly thank her for all her hard work.

Page | 6

This issue has some great articles across a wide range of interest areas: political communication, forensics, and communication education. We are delighted that the journal gets submissions from a broad base. While the journal is borne of forensics, it has long welcomed submissions from across all the communication disciplines. We hope that someday you will have an idea you feel is suited to the readers of *Speaker and Gavel*.

Since the last issue our acceptance rate has been roughly 37%. Our editorial board holds submissions to a high standard. The submissions must bring something new to the conversation. They must be well researched and effectively argued. While we welcome submissions from across all the disciplines, we would like to see more submissions relating to forensics. If you have a paper from a convention that deserves a wider audience, consider submitting it for publication with *Speaker & Gavel*. The practice of forensic competition should not be driven by the observational knowledge of coaches and students who see what wins and attempt to replicate it. It should be drive by theory, pedagogy, and empirical data. The ability to move an audience to tears, to bring new understanding to the minds of the audience, or to cause an audience to change their minds about a topic is a truly powerful ability. For that to happen, we need people who are emersed in the activity to turn their critical eyes to the activity itself and tell us how we can be better.

We live in a world where the very nature of communication is changing. It is our obligation to research it, understand it, and share that knowledge and insight with the world because effective communication is the key to solving nearly all the problems that face our world today.