

COMMUNICATOR

November 2006

Kathy Ligon Inducted in the Hall of Fame

The Fall 2006 THSSDL conference saw the induction of Dr. Kathy Ligon of Cookeville High School into the THSSDL Hall of Fame. In front of approximately 50 colleagues, she accepted the prestigious award, with touching presentations from former students and fellow teachers. They shared how she impacted their lives and what an inspiration she has been. THSSDL is honored to have such dedicated teachers working to enrich the lives of our students.

Our Fall conference also featured three sessions presented by high school and college level teachers. One session focused on the role of ethics and forensics. Coaches, teachers, and college professors explored the role of ethics in relation to cutting choices, coaching assistance, and the use of material in different events. All of which stimulated concerns, ideas, and strategies related to forensics. We had good attendance this year and look forward to even more people joining us at the next conference, so please plan to attend.

THSSDL would like to thank Belmont University for the use of their facilities for the Fall Conference, as well as the Belmont faculty members who gave presentations. Their hospitality helped to make the conference a great success.

Important Changes

The Board of Directors in consultation with a significant number of member schools has voted to allow for both a male and female alternate to be included on the registration form for the District and State Tournament for both One Act Play and Interpreter's Theatre. Schools will now be permitted to substitute competitors when the qualifying competitors are unable to participate.



Kathy Ligon

Panel Session

Panel Session

New Regional NFL Office

National Forensic League has opened up a regional office at Western Kentucky University, home of national and international champion speech and debate teams. The NFL regional and international office will provide assistance and support to high school students and coaches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and southern Illinois. The forensic program includes the Kentucky High School Speech Center. "The organization wanted to put an office in this region to help students prepare for and advance to the national tournament," said Tyler Billman, director of the NFL regional office.

The first annual NFL regional Leadership Conference will be held on December 9th, 2006 in conjunction with the Kentucky High School Speech League Hilltopper Classic tournament. The goal of the conference is to prepare new coaches for their upcoming season and to give seasoned coaches a fresh perspective on their coaching methods. While some workshops focus on student learning, this conference is for coaches, led by coaches, with a goal of preparing and revitalizing. The NFL Regional Office understands that a lot more than practice goes into a winning speech and debate team.

The goal of the workshops are to rejuvenate and strategize methods of recruitment, fundraisers, and administrative tactics to help your team in reaching its optimal potential. It will additionally feature sessions into the following: HI/DI/Duo; Limited Prep; Lincoln Douglas Debate; Oratory; and Limited Prep. All sessions will be led by speech/ debate professionals as well as past NFL finalists.



2007 THESPIAN CONFERENCE

Student delegates to the 2007 TN Thespian Conference who have applied for admission to the TN Governor's School for the Arts in Theatre will be allowed to audition at Cordova High School during the Thespian conference in Memphis. The audition date will be Saturday, January 13, 2007. This will only apply to fully registered TN Thespian Conference delegates who are in attendance at the conference.

Please tell students who desire to come to the conference and who also want to apply for Governor's School (in Theatre), that on their Governor's School application form they need to check that they want to audition in Memphis at the conference. If for some reason this option is not on the application form, they should just write it in.

Please make note that the only audition date for Governor's School for Theatre this year will be January 13, 2007. Originally the auditions were only scheduled to be in Murfreesboro. We have worked out this special arrangement so that students who want to come to the Thespian Conference can still have the opportunity to audition and not have to make a choice between the two activities. To ensure fairness, all auditions in Memphis and Murfreesboro will be video taped so that judges in both cities can review and compare the work presented by each student.

If you need clarification or have questions please contact:

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TECHNICAL THEATRE

Technical Theatre Event (Design and Costume) will be continued at the State Tournament for 2007. The competition plays are: *Guys and Dolls*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Imaginary Invalid*.

2006 THSSDL State Winners

After Dinner Speaking

- 1st Wells - Ravenwood
- 2nd Shropshire - Center for Creative Arts
- 3rd Herlihy - Ravenwood HS
- 4th Landers - Morristown West HS
- 5th Salyer - Dobyys Bennett HS
- 6th Richardson - Dickson County HS

Extemporaneous Speaking

- 1st Kumbroch - Collierville HS
- 2nd Masengill-Dickson County HS
- 3rd Bishop - Dickson County HS
- 4th Magee-Collierville HS
- 5th McPherson - Dickson County HS
- 6th Dixon - Collierville HS

Original Oratory

- 1st Miselem - Merrol Hyde Magnet
- 2nd Kubis - Morristown West HS
- 3rd Gray - Morristown West HS
- 4th Palmer - Dobyys Bennett HS
- 5th Miller - Collierville HS
- 6th Issak - White Station HS

TV Broadcasting

- 1st Guerrero - Upperman HS
- 2nd Martin - Dickson County HS
- 3rd White - Ravenwood HS
- 4th McCullough - Jefferson County HS
- 5th Weathersbee - Collierville HS
- 6th Parker - Northeast HS

Storytelling

- 1st Wadlington - Morristown West HS
- 2nd French - Soddy Daisy HS
- 3rd Leslie - Ravenwood HS
- 4th Sierra - Ravenwood HS
- 5th Johnson - Center for Creative Arts
- 6th Matherly - Science Hill HS

Humorous Interpretation

- 1st Dalton-Morristown West HS
- 2nd Davis - Morristown West HS
- 3rd Cooper - Science Hill HS
- 4th Eckstein - Brentwood HS
- 5th Yontz - Ravenwood HS
- 6th Colvin - St. Cecilia Academy

Dramatic Interpretation

- 1st Williams-Dickson County HS
- 2nd Wood-Collierville HS
- 3rd Tudor - Ravenwood HS
- 4th Barber - Morristown West HS
- 5th Fulghum - Center for Creative Arts
- 6th Hernandez - Rossvieview HS

Prose Interpretation

- 1st Grimm - Center for Creative Arts
- 2nd Meggs - Knoxville West HS
- 3rd Dean - Dickson County HS
- 4th Overstreet - Center for Creative Arts
- 5th Smith - Jefferson County HS
- 6th Pratt - Henry County HS

Poetry

- 1st Romeo - Brentwood HS
- 2nd Martin - Merrol Hyde Magnet
- 3rd Biaconi - Knoxville West HS
- 4th Arnett - Overton HS
- 5th Flemister - Center for Creative Arts
- 6th Forsman - Science Hill

Pantomime

- 1st Daniels - Morristown West HS
- 2nd Burrett - Overton HS
- 3rd Monroe - Overton HS
- 4th Gillespie - Center for Creative Arts
- 5th Peace - Dobyys-Bennett HS
- 6th Mertes - Dickson County HS

Solo Acting

- 1st Kumah - Collierville HS
- 2nd Oliver - Overton HS
- 3rd Smith - Soddy Daisy HS
- 4th Cupp - Farragut HS
- 5th Bardin - Center for Creative Arts
- 6th Torti - Ravenwood HS

Duet Acting

- 1st Miller/Stegall - Ravenwood HS
- 2nd Harley/Wheeler - Sullivan East HS
- 3rd Jordan/Torres - Center for Creative Arts
- 4th McCarty/Schafer - Farragut HS
- 5th Klossner/Castro - Centennial HS
- 6th Martin/Chapman - Dickson County HS

Duo Interpretation

- 1st Hickey/Sizemore - Science Hill HS
- 2nd LaViers/Hall - Jefferson County HS
- 3rd Andrews/Marotta - Ravenwood HS
- 4th Grimes/Gwock - Brentwood HS
- 5th McCray/Drew - Morristown West HS
- 6th Bennie/DiGiorgi - Brentwood HS

Interpreter's Theatre

- 1st Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life
Morristown West HS
- 2nd Pirate Pete - Ravenwood HS
- 3rd A Piece of My Apple
St. Cecilia Academy
- 4th A 'Sort of History' of the U.S.
Science Hill HS
- 5th The Secret Garden - Soddy Daisy HS
- 6th The Little Prince - Knoxville-West HS

One Act

- 1st The A Train Plays
Brentwood HS
- 2nd Scenes and Revelations
Farragut HS
- 3rd Talking With
Jefferson County HS
- 4th Complete Work of William Shakespeare
Cordova HS
- 5th Sylvia
Henry County HS

Best Actress: Ashley DiGiorgi

Brentwood HS

Best Actor: Andrew Felts

Farragut HS

All-Star Cast

- Lauren Shaeffer - Farragut HS
Lisa Laviers - Jefferson County HS
Chad Hay - Cordova HS
Jennifer Webb - Farragut HS
Rachelle Davis - Jefferson County HS
Whitney Tipton - Jefferson County HS
Rebecca Bennie - Brentwood HS
Caitlin Eckstein - Brentwood HS

Technical Theatre

- 1st Finley - Center of Creative Arts
- 2nd Mann - Ravenwood HS
- 3rd Martin - Upperman HS
- 4th Boyd - Wooddale HS

Costume Design

- 1st Hollingsworth - Maryville HS
- 2nd Smith - Dickson County HS
- 3rd Allen - Ravenwood HS
- 4th Crawford - Independence HS
- 5th Argodale - Ravenwood HS
- 6th Williams - Overton HS

LD

- 1st Polavarapu - Brentwood HS
 - 2nd Linville - Battle Ground Academy
- Semi-Finalists:
Daly - McCallie
Stevens-Battle Ground Academy

Public Forum

- 1st Manning/Gray - Morristown West HS
- 2nd Martin/Drew - Morristown West HS
- 3rd Kaczmarek/Stern - Brentwood HS
- 4th Ogle/Norris - Seymour HS

Congress

Senate:

- Lourdes Craft - Northeast HS
Presiding Officer
Chris Black - Morristown West HS
Superior Speaker
Stephanie Keyes - Ravenwood HS
Outstanding Speaker

House:

- Cheri Tinney - Morristown West HS
Presiding Officer
Cheri Tinney - Morristown West HS
Superior Speaker
J.J. Sims - Morristown West HS
Outstanding Speaker

Scholarship Recipient:

- Brian Sullivan - Dickson County HS

Public Forum Debate

THSSDL will continue to offer Public Forum Debate (PFD) at the state tournament. Districts will offer debate if interest dictates. PFD is a rising method of argument and discussion throughout many NFL competitions. This event is also known as Crossfire Debate, Controversy Debate or the Ted Turner Debate, and is fairly new to many high school leagues.

PFD consists of a One-Day tournament with a total of four rounds of argument and a Two-Day tournament with a total of six preliminary rounds. This type of debate is evaluated by judges with no prior experience. Interest in this type of debate is increasing with every tournament and the upcoming topic for December is "Resolved: Colleges and Universities in the United States should end their early admission programs."

Art Commissson Grants!

More Grants are available from the Tennessee Arts Commission! Interested applicants must apply for the 2008 fiscal year. With the introduction of the commission's eGrant system in 2006, the application process has been condensed, and made into a well-organized and capable procedure. Applications and detailed guidelines are now available on the Web site at www.arts.state.tn.us. The commission is also accepting applicants through eGrant system for majors in Cultural Institutions, Arts Project Support, Rural Arts Project Support, and Arts Access. In addition, Arts Education grants are available in the areas of Mini Grant and Teacher incentive, Artist-in-Residence, Community Learning and Teacher Training, and Funds for At-Risk Youth. Individual Artist Fellowships are available in Dance, Music, Theatre, Literary Arts, Media, Visual Arts and Crafts.

University Spotlight



**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

Middle Tennessee State University has an exciting Theatre program, offering majors and focused minors in both performance and technical areas. It allows students to participate in all aspects of the performance and technical production of shows in a diverse theatre season every academic year. Two theatres are available for productions. Tucker theatre provides a 1,000 seat venue and the Studio Theatre provides a performance space for more intimate productions. Theatre majors are well trained for many careers here. Students have found careers in both professional and educational theatre, as well as the entertainment industry and regulated fields. Additionally, students interested in graduate school are well prepared by this program. Numerous scholarship opportunities are also available to students who have chosen MTSU's Theatre major. For more information check out www.mtsu.edu

SCHOLARSHIPS

THSSDL awards up to three \$500 scholarships each spring to outstanding graduating seniors. Scholarships from THSSDL are used to help students pursue their college career. Please encourage qualified seniors from your program to apply.

An application form is attached (copies can be made). Applications must be postmarked by February 5, 2007.

