

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 29  
San Marcos, TX 78666

TEXAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
SAN MARCOS

Department of Communication Studies  
601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78655



# Babbling Bobcat

Texas State University-San Marcos

Fall 2006

Forensic Alumni Issue #3 ♦ Editor: Trish Bode

## In This Issue

*Director Honored*.....page 2

*Q & A with Alumnae Leah Chaney*.....page 2

*Student President Optimistic*.....page 2

*Team Highlights*.....page 3

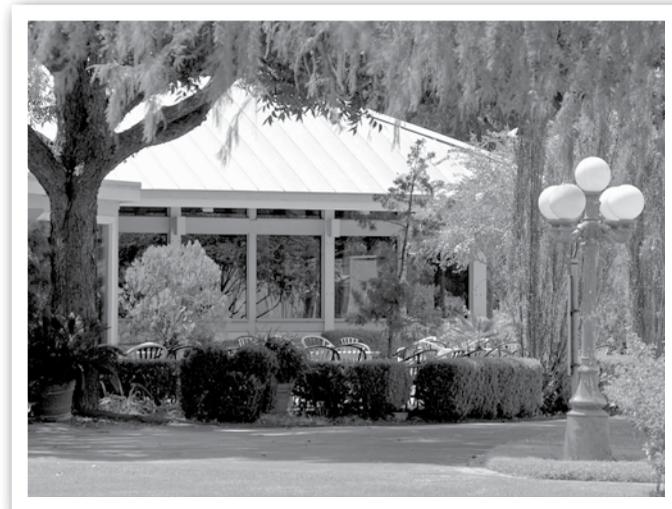
*TSCA Hold Luncheon*.....page 3

*Calendar Events*.....page 3

## We Need Your Help!

*In this newsletter you will find information about events, updates on alumna and the progress of the team. You will also find many stories that bind generations together. We need your help. Tell us your story about competition, your team, your coach, or where you are now and what you are doing. If you have anything you want to share please e-mail Wayne Kraemer at [wk02@txstate.edu](mailto:wk02@txstate.edu)*

## Save the Date! October 20th Celebrating an Evening Under the Stars



*The Conference Center at Aquarena Springs*

The 3rd Annual Alumni and Friends of Forensics Gala "An Evening Under the Stars" will be held October 20, 2006 at the Aquarena Conference Center. The event is being held as a fundraiser the night before the homecoming game.

*continued on page 3*

## Debate & Forensics Teams Honored

Both the LBJ Debate Team and the Elton Abernathy Forensics Team had a good year. The LBJ Debate Team closed out the spring Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association (TIFA) 2006 debates and took one team to National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) in Oregon. The Elton Abernathy Forensics Society also gathered awards on their travels. Candy trophies, cars and valentines aside, trophies brought home include a Pi Kappa Delta Championship in Poetry from Ryan Reyes. Trish Bode won the 81st Annual Battle of Flowers Oratorical Con-

test. Amy Lamb, Samantha Montgomery, Juan Hernandez and Ryan Reyes also qualified events for American Forensics Association (AFA) in Florida. In 2005-06 we took more people and events to AFA than in the recent past. In 2006-07 expect to see our program become more active on campus and anticipate more students in the finals. ☺



*Trish Bode*



## Q & A with Alumni Leah Chaney

**Q: What events were your favorite? and Why?**

A: My favorite event was After Dinner Speaking. It gave the performer the opportunity to be original and creative. Educating the audience and entertaining them with humorous material and visual aids.

**Q: How did speech and debate help you in your career?**

A: Speech and debate helped me in my career and professional life by giving me the confidence to be a good public speaker. Speech and debate taught me how to think on my feet and how to succeed in "the real world." I also got the opportunity to meet new people and to travel all over the world!!!

**Q: What is your favorite debate story to tell?**

A: My favorite debate story to tell took place on my first tournament. It happened to be at Rice University (our rival school), and Wayne and the team decided to initiate me into the group by challenging me to a dramatic display in the courtyard of Rice. Wayne pretended to be my father, and I made a big fuss out of not wanting to go to Rice University, and I told him that I was sick of him running my life. It was awesome! All of the people passing by were totally believing it, and after that I was "in" with my new family. This is probably not the best story to tell to the alumni association, but it was my favorite memory.

**Q: Anything else you want to add?**

A: Some of my best memories of college came from my experiences on the Speech and Debate team. I was the president my senior year, and my current boss told me upfront that my involvement in Speech and Debate is what made my resume stand out in a stack of resumes. The rewards of being involved in such a wonderful program have been great, but the best part of it has been being a part of the history of Texas State and the team. The best gift you could give to new students starting out at this University is to point them in the direction of the centennial building and tell them to sit in on a speech and debate practice. It could change the rest of their lives. ☺



## What a Director!

Texas State Speech and Debate has a lot to be proud of, including their Director Wayne Kraemer. He received the Brownlee Award, a national award given by the National Cross Examination Debate Association for outstanding service and scholarship in debate, and received the prestigious Presidential Award of Excellence in 2005. He was also selected as the Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association Educator of the year in 2006. ☺

*In Loving Memory . . . Alumna Debbie Winkler lost her husband David Winkler this year. He accompanied his wife to many of the Alumni events. We will miss him and his sincere smile.*

## Babbling Bobcat

is published annually by Speech & Debate at Texas State. Communication Studies Dept. Texas State University-San Marcos, 601 University Drive., San Marcos, TX 78655 512-245-2165

www.finearts.txstate.edu/commstudies

Editors: Wayne Kraemer & Trish Bode  
Graphic Designer: Sondra Howe

Texas State University-San Marcos is a member of the Texas State University System.



Samantha Whalen

## Student President Samantha Whalen Optimistic about Upcoming Year

As newly elected president for the 2006-07 year, I am very excited about getting started and showcasing Texas State across the nation. Our debate team is already getting ready for the first tournament. Our schedule this year includes the World Tournament in Vancouver, Canada and a trip to England. In October, we will host the annual gala for alumni, an event to benefit speech and debate. Proceeds will help send us to tournaments and provide scholarships.

With alumni like Lyndon B. Johnson stemming from our program, we know we have potential. As president, I plan to ensure that we fulfill that potential and soar beyond expectations. ☺



## Under the Stars (cont.)

a light reception at 6:30 p.m. will begin the evening's events followed by dinner, silent auction, hall of fame induction and alumnae Leah Chaney (featured 2nd season Last Comic Standing) proving entertainment. All proceeds will benefit an endowment for speech and debate programs at Texas State. The evening's activities will end at 10 p.m. The fun continues on Saturday with tailgating and other activities before the big game. If you plan to attend the game, please secure your tickets for the game through the athletic department.

In 2004, the first gala, The Centennial Celebration was enthusiastically attended by more than 100 people. In 2005, it was held out at the Freeman Ranch with a country western theme, "Pioneering to the 2nd Century." Guest enjoyed outside scenery, a country band, barbecue, and cowboy stories, especially one of modern day cowboy-Director Wayne Kraemer. In addition to an evening of food and dancing, a silent action was held.

At Texas State the tradition of excellence continues. Alumni and the Friends of Forensics have joined together with the today's students of the speech and debate to increase awareness. Perhaps another US president will emerge from the program. And, the galas, our only fund raiser, will help us continue this tradition of excellence. ☺

## Team Highlights & Congrats!

Joe Orozco, team member since 2000, graduated in the Spring of 2006. Joe excelled in many events including impromptu, informative, persuasion, and parliamentary debate. He was well respected among his team and competitors and it is with a little sorrow that we see him and his guide dog "Gator" go onto the next stage in life. Joe is the first visually impaired debater to advance to the elimination rounds at the National Parliamentary Debate Association national competition. Joe credits his success in life to his speech and debate experience and he plans to pursue his Master's at St. Edwards University.

In addition we also graduated assistant coaches Amy Arellano and Trish Bode in Spring 2006. Both earned their MA degrees. ☺

## TSCA Holds Alumni Luncheon

The Texas Speech Communication Association (TSCA) Alumni Luncheon was held October 6, 2005 at the Moody Gardens Hotel. Alumni from TSCA and from the Galveston/Houston areas were in attendance. The event provided the opportunity to see people from the past and also proved to be a great networking opportunity. This year the TSCA Alumni Luncheon will be held in Amarillo Texas on October 5 at the Ambassador Hotel. Lunch and dessert will be provided. You bring conversation. ☺



Texas State Alumni in Galveston October 2005



Guests enjoy events at the 2005 gala.

## Calendar of Calendars!

**September 22-23**

Friday: Hill Country Swing, On-Campus Tournament; Saturday: Finals & Awards

**October 4-7**

TSCA Convention in Amarillo Texas

**October 5**

TSCA Texas State Alumni Luncheon

**October 17**

Campus Debate in G02 at 6 p.m.  
Resolution: This House Believes that dissent in the public sphere should be an essential guardian of democracy.

**October 15-18**

British Debate Team Visits

**October 20**

"Evening Under the Stars," 3rd Annual Alumni & Friends of Forensics Gala. Proceeds will benefit the endowment & support the speech & debate program.

**October 21**

Tailgating begins late afternoon. Homecoming Game: SE Louisiana vs. Texas State Bobcats at 6 pm

**November 3-5**

TIFA Tournament on campus.  
Friday and Saturday: Preliminary rounds  
Sunday: Finals and Awards