

Wisconsin Love Fest

Sponsored by
UWEC Forensics and UWEC Alumni

Dear Colleague,

The **UWEC Forensics Program** and the **UWEC Association of Blugold Forensics Alumni** (ABFA) cordially invite you to the Wisconsin Love Fest, hosted on the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus! This swing will feature two tournaments:

Grace Walsh Individual Events Tournament (G.W.I.E.T.): Saturday, February 10th
We Love 4n6 Alumni Tournament: Sunday, February 11th

Registration for both tournaments will be through Speechwire. Both tournaments will feature two preliminary rounds and final rounds of competition in all eleven NFA events. Additionally, the tournament will include preliminary and final rounds of oratory for Wisconsin students competing to represent the state at the Interstate Oratorical Contest. We will recognize the top five teams competing. Team sweepstakes and quadrathon awards for the swing as a whole will also be awarded on Sunday.

Additionally, we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with our traditional "love" activities, including our Valentine card fundraiser and the crowning of the "**Love Champion**" and "**Cupid Brigade**". All of the proceeds from our love festivities will go to a UWEC chosen charity. More details on how to participate in these activities will be forthcoming!

And, as always, we will continue the traditional GRACE WALSH AWARD -- be sure to read and complete the special insert attached to this invitation.

We would *love* to have you join us for "Love Fest." For the love of forensics, come join us in Wisconsin where the weather is cold, but the people are warm.

See you in February,

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2024 Wisconsin Love Fest

UWEC Forensics and UWEC Alumni
February 10-11, 2024

Entry Information: A Quick Overview

Deadline for entries: *Monday February 5th at 8:00 P.M. CST*

Fees are assessed on *Wednesday, February 8th at 12:00 noon CST*

Drops made after this time will be charged a drop fee.

TO ENTER: <http://www.speechwire.com>

The tournament schedule is set to Central Standard Time (CST)

Grace Walsh Individual Events Tournament		We ♥ Forensics Alumni Tournament
8:00am	Registration/Check-In	Registration/Check-In for Sunday-Only Schools
8:30am	Extemp draw	Extemp draw
9:00am	Round 1A	Round 1A
10:15am	Extemp Draw	Extemp Draw
10:45am	Round 2A	Round 2A
12:00pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
12:45pm	Round 1B	Round 1B
2:00pm	Round 2B	Round 2B
3:15pm	Extemp Draw for Finals	Extemp Draw for Finals
3:30pm	Finals A	Finals A
5:00pm	Finals B	Finals B
ASAP	Awards	Awards

Schedule subject to change based on entry numbers in each event. Final rounds will be collapsed as appropriate using best judgment of the tournament director.

Rules for all Individual Events are consistent with NFA rule descriptions. Patterns are as follows:

Pattern A: Extemp, Persuasion, POI, Poetry, ADS, DUO

Pattern B: Impromptu, Informative, Prose, DI, CA, Oratory (Wisconsin only; Sunday only)*

Because Wisconsin does not currently have a state tournament, Sunday's tournament will feature rounds for Wisconsin competitors in Oratory to serve as a qualifier for the Interstate Oratory Contest in April. Competitors in this category must present an original speech from this competition year which is no more than 1800 words. There is no time limit on the delivered speech. Dependent upon number of entries, Oratory will have two preliminary rounds and a final round. The top two students will serve as representatives of Wisconsin at the Interstate Oratory Contest, with subsequent placings serving as alternates.

ENTRIES

Event entries per team are unlimited, though teams entering large numbers in certain events might anticipate competing against teammates in prelims. No student may be entered in more than six events, with no more than three events per flight. All entries will be made online at <http://www.speechwire.com/>

Each judge provided by a team will cover six entries. Uncovered entries will be \$10.00 each. **Please do your best to cover your entries.**

UWEC students may compete in the We ♥ Forensics Alumni Tournament, but will predominantly serve as hosts for the G.W.I.E.T.

LIMITED PREP

In Impromptu Speaking, we will pull from the NFA 2023 prompt schema:

G.W.I.E.T. - Round 1 Quotations, Round 2 Single Word, Final Round Proverb

Alumni - Round 1 Quotation, Round 2 Questions, Final Round Quotation from UWEC Alumni

In Extemporaneous Speaking, we will tentatively use the following for question categories:

G.W.I.E.T. - Round 1 US Politics, Round 2 International Hotspots, Final Round US Economics

Alumni - Round 1 US Social, Round 2 International Politics, Final Round International Economics

AWARDS

We will recognize finalists in all events. Team sweepstakes recognition will be given to the top five schools. Sweepstakes points will be given for points accumulated in final rounds only. Quadrathon awards will be given to the top five students. A student may enter a quadrathon by entering any combination of four events.

FEES

Fees are \$8.00 per entry. Each judge will cover six (6) slots. Uncovered slots are \$10.00 each. Entry Fees will be assessed as of Wednesday, February 8th at 12:00 noon. Drops made after noon on February 8th will be assessed \$10.00 per dropped slot. Dropped judges will be \$50.00.

Please make checks for both tournaments payable to Pi Kappa Delta. Checks may be mailed to:

**Chris Outzen, Director of Forensics
Communication + Journalism Department
Hibbard Humanities Hall 152
124 Garfield Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701**

TRIGGER/CONTENT WARNINGS - Open Door Policy: The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is committed to providing safe performance spaces for all competitors and judges. We acknowledge the art of performance may be a healing process and/or opportunity to speak on important topics. As a performer, it is impossible to know all the ways in which content or a performance may unintentionally harm or trigger members of our audience. To better serve our competitors, we will be honoring the NFA's open door practice during rounds this weekend. An **“open door policy”** means competitors and other audience members may choose to leave or stay in a room

when a performance negatively impacts their wellbeing. Students should be allowed these accommodations without questions or penalty. Judges may also take steps to protect their well-being and will be asked to read the open door policy at the beginning of every round to reinforce the norm-change emphasizing mental and physical well-being over community norms.

ETHICAL TREATMENT OF OTHERS: The University of Wisconsin Eau Claire is fully committed to a safe and healthy educational, work and competition environment that is free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. As such, we prohibit discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, race, disability, religion and other lawfully protected categories. This prohibition includes sexual assault and misconduct, and stalking. Should you experience a Title IX violation while participating in our Tournament, please report the violation to your coach or someone you trust, and the tournament host. The tournament host will ensure that the Title IX officers from the host institution, your home university/college, and from the institution of the perpetrator are notified so that investigative procedures can begin. Please report behavior that is not in line with our stated anti-harassment policy. If, at any point in time, behavior is reported that is antithetical to a positive learning environment for any tournament participants, it will be handled accordingly. Directors, please remember, you are responsible for the people that you bring to our campus.

Teresa O'Halloran, Affirmative Action Officer (715-836-2387 and ohallote@uwec.edu) , is the Title IX Coordinator for UWEC. O'Halloran has the primary responsibility for coordinating Title IX compliance efforts, including oversight of implementation and monitoring of Title IX policy; coordination of training, education and communications; and administration of grievance procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

The NFA Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity committee has created several useful resources that may also be of use. Please visit the EDI Page on the NFA Website to access the documents.

JUDGE CONFLICTS:

We ask that if your students have any conflicts with judges for non-competitive reasons that you let us know so we can block the judge from judging the student. Examples of when this could happen might include: the student is a family member/close friend of the judge, a student was harassed/assaulted by a judge, a student was a teammate of the judge, a student was coached by the judge. We respect the privacy of these decisions. We hope that if a judge has participated in improper behavior that the tournament director will be notified so that, if necessary, the judge can be removed from the judging pool before interacting with students. Students can inform us through their coach or inform the tournament directors. The tournament director will not ask for details and do not expect any; we trust in the decision of the student.

QUESTIONS: For questions regarding the GWIET, contact Chris Outzen at (715) 836-2626 or e-mail at outzencp@uwec.edu. For questions regarding the We ♥ 4N6 Alumni Tournament contact Maddy Wrasse at hinze.maddy@gmail.com

THE GRACE WALSH AWARD

Few individuals have made as many contributions to the field of forensics as Miss Grace Walsh. Not only was she the sole force behind the national reputation of forensic excellence at UW-Eau Claire, but she also had a profound influence on both high school and collegiate forensic activities

throughout the upper Midwest and the Nation. The Grace Walsh Award, therefore, is an opportunity for the forensic community to reward a coach who has made contributions to the field of forensics or who exemplifies leadership and dedication to forensics beyond competitive success.

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

1984	Larry Schnoor	2005	Penni Pier
1985	Joel Hefling	2006	Richard Paine
1986	Mike Nicolai	2007	Ken Young
1987	Larry Weiss	2008	Judy Santacatarina
1988	Steve Collie	2009	Leah White
1989	Cindy Carver	2010	Megan Koch
1990	Cindy Larson Casselton	2011	Rebecca Buel
1991	Joyce Carey	2012	Megan Orcholski
1992	Roger Aden	2013	Jon Carter
1993	Bucky Fay	2014	Lisa Roth
1994	Bryant Alexander	2015	Justin Helmley
1995	Gaye Bloom	2016	Sade Barfield
1996	Karen Piercy Morris	2017	Katie Brunner
1997	Tom Workman	2018	Bill Heinze
1998	Dan Smith	2019	Najla Amundson
1999	Bruce Wickelgren	2020	Justin Rudnick
2000	Susan Collie	2021	Julie Walker
2002	Deano Pape	2022	Andrea Carlile
2003	Michael Kirch	2023	Vance Pierce
2004	Kelly Jo Wright		

YOUR TEAM (as a whole) HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOMINATE TWO PEOPLE FOR THIS AWARD. EACH INDIVIDUAL AT THE TOURNAMENT WILL VOTE FROM A BALLOT OF NOMINEES.

*Nominations will be accepted through Registration on Saturday during the G.W.I.E.T. Each school can make two nominations. Schools **may not** nominate someone from their own institution. A list of nominees will be posted and ballots will be distributed **Saturday** before noon. Each student, coach, and judge is allowed one vote. The winner will be announced at awards on **Saturday**.

Only nominations from entered schools may be considered.

The nomination ballot is provided on the next page of this invitation. You do not need to submit this ballot exactly, but please use it as guidelines for how to structure your emailed nomination. Thank you!

**NOMINATION BALLOT
GRACE WALSH AWARD**

School_____

NOMINATION I_____

Reasons for

Nomination:_____

NOMINATION I_____

Reasons for

Nomination:_____

Please submit nominations to Chris Outzen via email at outzencp@uwec.edu or at registration on Saturday.