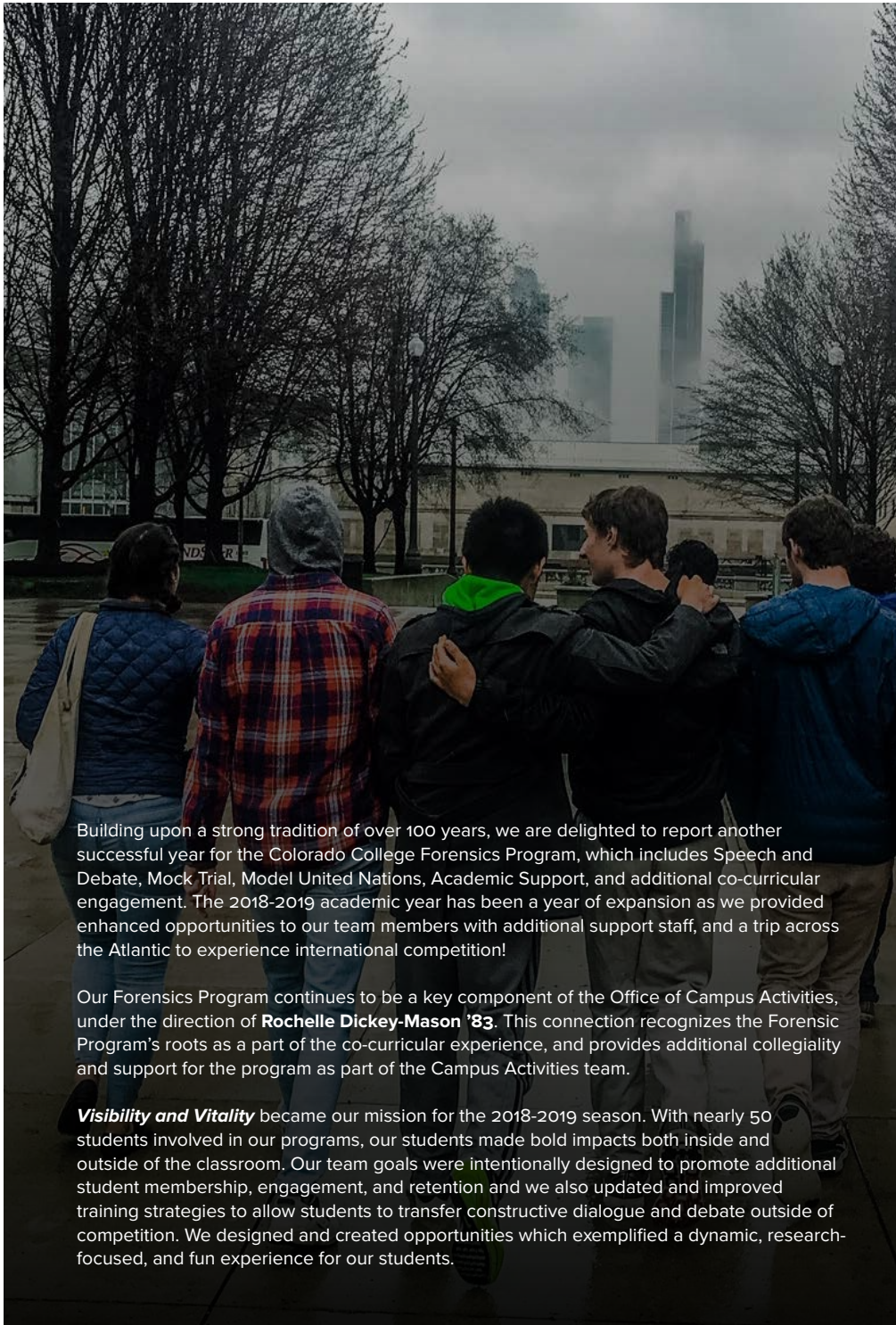


Impact Report

Forensics Program 2018-2019



**COLORADO
COLLEGE**



Building upon a strong tradition of over 100 years, we are delighted to report another successful year for the Colorado College Forensics Program, which includes Speech and Debate, Mock Trial, Model United Nations, Academic Support, and additional co-curricular engagement. The 2018-2019 academic year has been a year of expansion as we provided enhanced opportunities to our team members with additional support staff, and a trip across the Atlantic to experience international competition!

Our Forensics Program continues to be a key component of the Office of Campus Activities, under the direction of **Rochelle Dickey-Mason '83**. This connection recognizes the Forensic Program's roots as a part of the co-curricular experience, and provides additional collegiality and support for the program as part of the Campus Activities team.

Visibility and Vitality became our mission for the 2018-2019 season. With nearly 50 students involved in our programs, our students made bold impacts both inside and outside of the classroom. Our team goals were intentionally designed to promote additional student membership, engagement, and retention and we also updated and improved training strategies to allow students to transfer constructive dialogue and debate outside of competition. We designed and created opportunities which exemplified a dynamic, research-focused, and fun experience for our students.

OUR TEAMS

Speech and Debate

The Speech and Debate team, known as **The Talking Tigers**, experienced a ground-breaking year in expansion, retention, and competitive success, under the able instruction of our full-time Speech Coach **Sarah Hinkle**. Our staff and students alike were excited at the integration of IPDA (International Public Debate Association) debate into our competitive options, thanks to the addition of an Occasional Debate Coach, **David Trevithick '17**, a successful alum of our Speech and Debate Program. IPDA debate is a one-on-one debate format that emphasizes research, organization, logic, delivery, and refutation. This more basic style of debate is easy to learn, works well with the rigor of the Block Plan, and develops research and argumentation skills in and out of competition.

The Talking Tigers experienced their strongest competitive season since 2013! Our students advanced into finals rounds in multiple events at all seven regional tournaments during the open season, took overall school sweepstakes awards in three tournaments, and received numerous breaks in debate, meaning they advanced to elimination rounds.

Congratulations to these outstanding competitors:

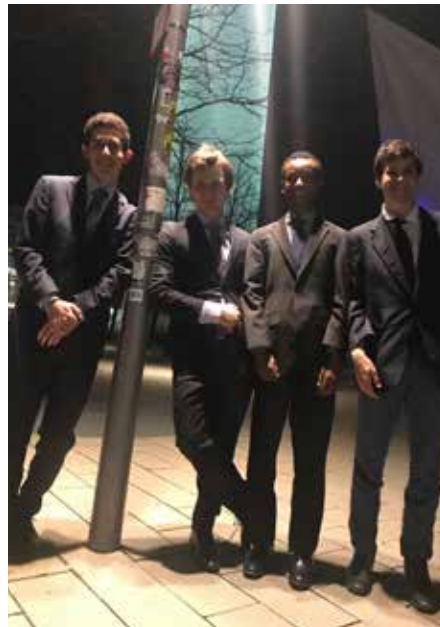
- **Stephen Sigman '22** was our top winner for Outstanding Speaker awards in Competitive Debate
- **Deksyos Damtew '22** advanced into a final round of Extemporaneous Speaking at the American Forensics Association National Individual Event Tournament
- **Russell Skorina '19** took first place at five different tournaments and earned an individual sweepstakes award for competing and advancing in five separate events and IPDA debate





The Annual **James “Al” Johnson** Memorial Tournament each fall continues to be a long-standing hallmark of our Forensics Program here at Colorado College. James Alan “Al” Johnson was a much-loved and well-regarded economics professor and debate coach at the college, and we considered it an honor to once again host this annual tournament which bears his name.

The Johnson Tournament was a busy time as we ran four events in three days, including National Parliamentary Debate, International Public Debate, and two Individual Events (Forensics) tournaments. The Talking Tigers competed against nine intercollegiate schools from across the country, and more than 150 participants. Our team represented well and earned the following awards: 1st IPDA (International Public Debate



Association), 1st Informative Speaking, 2nd Extemporaneous Speaking, 3rd Top-Ranked Speaker Award, 3rd Dramatic Interpretation, 3rd Impromptu Speaking, 3rd Top-Ranked Speaker Award, 6th Top-Ranked Speaker Award. Our students considered it an honor to place so well at the home tournament named for our own Al Johnson.

Lastly, we were very pleased to take an audition-only team to the international stage to participate in a rigorous competition hosted by the International Forensics Association in Berlin, Germany, March 10-12, 2019. Each selected team member had to be an active competitor in both Speech and Debate events, be in academic high standing, and submit an essay to a panel of three coaches. The Berlin tournament hosted 23 colleges and universities in Parliamentary and International Debate formats as well as Individual Interpretation of Literature, Limited Preparation, and Platform Speaking events. The Talking Tigers excelled in competition, bringing home 2nd Place in IPDA (International Public Debate Association) Debate, 2nd Place in Extemporaneous Speaking, and placed in the semi-finals in Impromptu Speaking events. Our team members selected to compete in this highly prestigious conference worked extraordinarily hard to balance academics and competitive forensics this season:

IFA (International Forensics Association) Competitive Team

- **Russell Skorina '19**
- **Deksyos Damtew '22**
- **Stephen Sigman '22**
- **John Michael McCann '21**

Congratulations to the entire team for their impressive performance this past season! We are excited to plan for the upcoming season and set our goals for next year's IFA competition in Narin, Japan, in March 2020. And, our team advanced to Semi-Finals and placed 5th overall at the World Schools Debating Championships in Thailand; go, Talking Tigers!



Mock Trial

Regina Walter '80 finished her fifth season leading our Mock Trial Team, which experienced an active and successful year, traveling and competing in five tournaments and co-hosting the Regional Competition here at Colorado College.

Our team also received a very important recognition as they were honored with the Spirit of AMTA (American Mock Trial Association) Award at the Boulder Battle. This prestigious award, given to teams which best exemplify AMTA ideals of civility, justice, and fair play, was a first for our Mock Trial team and we are incredibly proud of them!

We congratulate the following students on their great success as Mock Trial participants this past year:

- **Lauren Porter '22** - Outstanding Attorney-University of Arizona competition
- **Max Pil '20** - Outstanding Witness-University of Nebraska competition
- **Danielle Richardson '21** - Outstanding Attorney-Regionals
- **Emma Gorsuch '21** - Outstanding Attorney-Regionals
- **Eric Ohlund '20** - Top Witness with perfect ranks on defense and plaintiff -Regionals

Colorado College co-hosted Regionals in February 2019, in partnership with the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) at the Terry Harris Judicial Complex here in Colorado Springs. Our CC and USAFA teams competed alongside teams from 13 other institutions February 22-24, 2019 and 89 local judges and attorneys scored the rounds. After the success of this and past Regional tournaments hosted by Colorado College, the American Mock Trial Association recommended that Colorado College host the Opening Round Championship Series or Nationals in the future; we're looking forward to that, as well as to hosting future Regionals.



Model United Nations

Model UN became the third competitive component of our Forensics Program during the last academic year. Now in its second year under the leadership of Speech Coach **Sarah Hinkle**, our Model UN team attended two conferences this year: the 9th Annual Session of the Santa Barbara Intercollegiate Model United Nations Conference from November 16 -19, 2018 and the ChoMUN Conference, hosted by the University of Chicago, April 18 - 21, 2019.

One of the hallmarks of CC's Model UN team is the widespread focus on engagement, whether this be with other students, the CC community, the environment, or beyond. Model United Nations is unique in its provision of the opportunity to partake in aspects of engagement and public policy. Model UN provides the tools for students to translate the needs of a broader community into substantive policy solutions, and advocate for these solutions to be implemented through diplomacy, compromise, and debate.

At each conference, students were expected to enact solutions to real-world issues such as democratization, decolonization, and women's suffrage within the frame of a simulated committee. In addition to formulating public policy designed to amplify the greater good, students had to address unexpected 'crises' that tested their abilities to think on their feet and best serve the needs of the people despite having incomplete knowledge.

At the Santa Barbara Conference, each student represented a country and was a member of the General Assembly and/or the Legal United Nations Human Rights Council during the conference. The General Assembly committees collaborated and debated complex issues facing the international community, including cyber security and global climate change. The students honed their interpersonal diplomatic skills and gained valuable leadership experience over



the duration of the conference. The Model UN experience is yet another way in which our students address important issues on a broader scale, and we congratulate our team on their great performance!

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ADDITIONAL CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT

Academic support and additional co-curricular engagement continue to be integral components of our Forensics Program here at Colorado College and effective public speaking continues to be an integral component of the Liberal Arts experience. Speech Coach **Sarah Hinkle** employed her considerable skills and talents to great use outside of the competitive teams through collaborations with several academic departments and other offices to build and improve upon existing programs which bolster confidence in public speaking. Whether she was working with students to hone their interviewing skills in partnership with the Career Center, working with faculty and students on classroom presentations, or providing performance coaching to students presenting their Keller Family Venture Grant experience to donors, Sarah helped students gain tremendous knowledge and confidence in effective oral communication. She also taught a January 2019 Half-Block class, “Finding your Power: On Networking,” another successful collaboration with the Career Center.

Our students continue to be engaged learners outside of competition and connect with each other in unique ways. Members of our debate team were invited by fellow students to participate in “Ballots and Burritos” a mock mid-term election debate. Three of our debaters, **Russell Skorina '19**; **Sakina Bhatti '22**; and **Stephen Sigman '22** took turns presenting and then debating the different sides of the issues.

The “Just Show You Know” Showcase, which took place in October 2018 in Tutt Library, was a wonderful opportunity for Speech and Debate to coordinate with existing groups on campus



who have similar mission statements of advocacy through performance. The Talking Tigers collaborated with Speak Easy (Slam Poetry group) to display their arguments through the medium of poetry, public address, and monologue performances in the Data Viz Wall space in Tutt Library, which served as a great exploration of interactive academic and performative spaces. Performers ranged from first-years to seniors and each gave engaging presentations on topics ranging from struggling with your identity to coping with losing a parent.

Colorado College has named equity, inclusion, and anti-racism as an institutional priority and our Speech and Debate Program has also focused on these issues not only through innovative programming such as the Showcase mentioned above, but by also providing Professional Development Workshops open to all students on inclusive communication incorporating personal identities.

As we wrapped up the academic year and entered Summer Session, we also had another item of great note; **Mike L. Edmonds**, vice president for student life and dean of students, a legendary name in the forensics field and long-time champion of the Colorado College program, was inducted into the National Speech and Debate Association Hall of Fame at ceremonies held in June 2019 in Dallas, Texas. We are very proud of Dean Edmonds and his continued involvement with, and support of, our Colorado College Forensics Program!



In partnership with the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) and presented by the Alben W. Barkley Forum for Debate, Deliberation & Dialogue, Colorado College hosted the NSDA Conference August 7-8, 2019. As part of the conference, selected NSDA members had a tremendous opportunity to participate in “Courageous Conversation”, a workshop facilitated by the Pacific Educational Group, Inc. The workshop taught a protocol for discussing race in productive, insightful, and generative ways, to include helping participants strengthen their critical consciousness of race, and imparting strategies for identifying and addressing the policies, programs, and practices that negatively impact student of color achievement and serve as barriers to all students receiving a world-class education. We were equally as delighted that one of the keynote speakers for the conference was Colorado College’s own **Ryan Haygood '97**, acclaimed Civil Rights lawyer and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

Looking Ahead

As of July 2019, our Forensics Program has a new location, and we couldn’t be more excited! We have just completed the move from our location of the past two years in the garden level of the Glass House (multicultural theme residence on campus) to a spacious house located at 822 N. Weber Street. Our newly named **Competitive Communications House** joins the Student Opportunities and Advising Hub and the Interfaith House as part of our expanding campus, and our collection of houses on Weber will provide our students with more opportunities for exposure, expansion, interface, and collaboration. This beautiful Victorian house has undergone extensive renovation to turn it from a private residence into a location that provides plenty of practice and office space for Speech and Debate, Mock Trial, Model United Nations, and other academic and co-curricular engagement. We’re also excited that this new house provides a tremendous naming



opportunity to honor donors and others who have contributed to the ongoing success of the Forensics Program at Colorado College.

Visibility and Vitality will continue to be our goals in the year ahead; our new home will foster these goals, as will our energetic and successful engagement opportunities which positively impact the lived experiences of our students.

Funding Impact

The Colorado College Forensics Program has enjoyed generous support from donors over the years, and this support has been impactful in positive ways for the program and our students:

1. **The James Al Johnson 1956 Endowed Debate Fund** offset considerable expenses as we once again hosted the Annual James “Al” Johnson Memorial Tournament.
2. The Johnson Debate Fund also lent support to new opportunities for our students to travel and compete, most notably at the International Forensics Association competition in Berlin, Germany, in March 2019.
3. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of some of our long-standing donors and former debaters, most notably key alumni from the Class of 1967, we have a newly established **James “Al” Johnson Endowed Scholarship**. When fully endowed, this scholarship will provide need-based support on an annual basis for students actively participating in the Forensics Program at Colorado College.
4. **The Apollonian Club Prize** is another component of our endowed funds, which allows us to award a cash prize each year to the outstanding student in our Forensics Program. **Russell Skorina '19** was a proud recipient of the 2019 Prize at Honors Convocation in May 2019.
5. **Our new Competitive Communications House** is a very visible and vital naming opportunity for a donor to make a lasting impact at Colorado College.

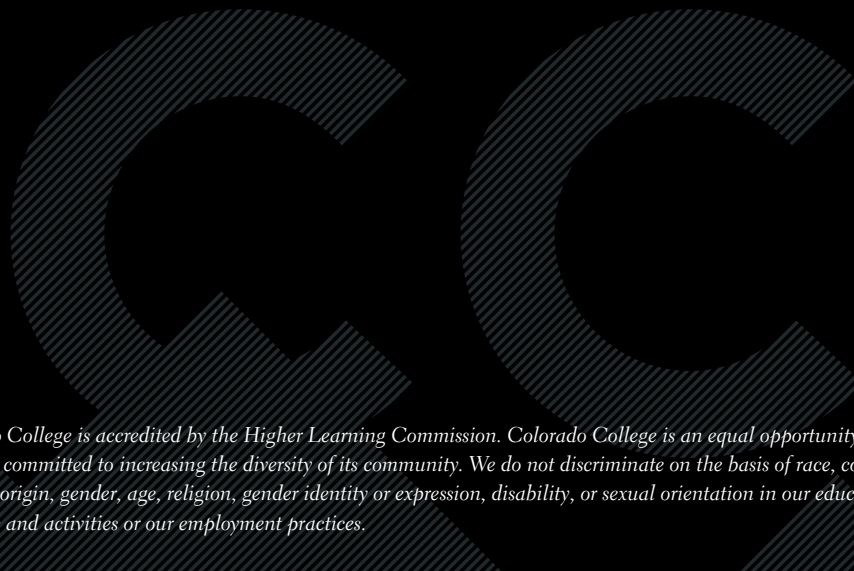
As we anticipate increased team membership, continued successful competition and advancement, including a place on the international stage, and our new Competitive Communications House, Colorado College is grateful to our generous supporters, whose donations provide necessary support as our students engage, learn, and grow.

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