
10-29-2020

Speech Team Thinking “Inside the Box” for Virtual Competitions

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases



Part of the [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Weinstein, Mark D., "Speech Team Thinking “Inside the Box” for Virtual Competitions" (2020). *News Releases*. 1202.

https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases/1202

This News Release is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@cedarville.edu.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 2020

CONTACT: Mark D. Weinstein
Executive Director of Public Relations
[937-766-8800](tel:937-766-8800) (o)
[937-532-6885](tel:937-532-6885) (m)
Mweinstein@cedarville.edu
[@cedarvilleneews](https://twitter.com/cedarvilleneews)

Speech Team Thinking “Inside the Box” for Virtual Competitions

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Professor Eric Mishne, assistant professor of communication and coach of the Cedarville University speech and forensics team, used to encourage his students to think outside of the box as they prepared for competition. But COVID has changed things.

“Now we have to think inside the box — literally, the box of the screen,” said Mishne. “Everything a speaker does must fit inside the frame of the camera.”

Instead of traveling to university campuses across the country and speaking in front of audiences and judges, the speech team must record and submit speeches online.

Even with these constraints, the Cedarville team is having a successful season, with Paul Miller, a junior broadcasting and digital media major from Des Moines, Iowa, placing first in poetry interpretation and Alex Boesch, a sophomore communication major from Champaign, Illinois, earning first place in impromptu speaking at the Oklahoma T-Town Swing, which was hosted by Tulsa Community College and North Eastern State University on Sept. 23-26. Maren Moses, a freshman nursing major from Columbus, Ohio, also won the top novice honor in persuasion and impromptu at the Oklahoma T-Town Swing.

According to Mishne, this online video format has stimulated creativity from his students. “They have embraced different performance styles, found literature that is uniquely suited for a virtual performance and learned to be patient with technology,” said Mishne.

From videos that record without sound to recordings that playback with random loud noises, the team has gracefully adapted to many frustrating situations throughout the semester.

“Once, when I tried to edit one of my speeches together, the video file was corrupted,” said Boesch. “It showed me doing every movement three times, all fast and static-like.”

Even though competing online has presented challenges for members of the speech team, they are continuing to sharpen their skills. Individual coaching sessions via Zoom have equipped students to excel in competition, regardless of the limitations presented by COVID.

“This has been a very stressful semester for all of us, and the dedication of the team to this activity is commendable,” said Mishne. “They are doing an outstanding job growing in their skills in ways they would not have otherwise because of this pandemic.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,550 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic

Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including the [Bachelor of Arts in Communication](#) program, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Written by Tessa Landrum