

SPEECH COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE STATE

COLUMBIA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE -- This year speech and drama activities and coursework have been coordinated by Dr. Patricia Hampton and Dr. Gene Touchet Drama productions this year included IMPROMPTU, THE AMERICAN DREAM, and THE LOVELIEST AFTERNOON OF THE YEAR Dr. Hampton presented a paper entitled THE SAXON SCOP; MORE THAN A MINSTREL at the recent SCA convention in Chicago. The paper was part of the program, AN HISTORICAL VIEW OF INTERPRETATION; GREEK AND ANGLO-SAXON Dr. Touchet will be leaving Columbia State this spring for a position in California.

DAVID LIPSCOMB HIGH SCHOOL -- Phil Reagan is in charge of speech and drama activities at Lipscomb High School. He teaches all speech classes, sponsors the Drama Club, directs three major theater productions each year, and is in charge of the forensics program. The fall presentation was a three-night performance of BECKET. The second major production was a musical, BRIGADOON. The final production was a dramatic adaptation of Antoine De Sainte Exupery's novel THE LITTLE PRINCE. Three major productions are again planned for next year The forensics program was inactive much of the year, but will be revitalized next year with several faculty members planning to participate as sponsors Other activities this year included experimenting with choral interpretation. The main piece done was THE LONESOME TRAIN, about Lincoln's funeral train. The work in choral interpretation represented the beginning of preparations for active participation in the bicentennial celebration One new speech course was begun this year, a homiletics class for students interested in serving in the church.

DOBYNS-BENNETT HIGH SCHOOL -- Speech and drama activities and coursework at DBHS are provided by Mrs. Nancy Pridemore, Miss Susan Osborne, and Mrs. Verna Ruth Abbott (Mrs. Pridemore has been on sick leave recently recovering from a serious illness. She is progressing well and hopes to be back teaching soon. Friends may write her at Clinchport, Virginia.) The DBHS Forensics League has been quite active this year. The students began their efforts by attending a fall workshop for debate and individual events held at East Tennessee State University. The debate competitors began their contest season by attending the University of Georgia's invitational tournament. Other tournaments attended included the Thomasville High School tournament (North Carolina), the Wake Forest University High School tournament, the Smokey Mountains Invitational Tournament sponsored by Carson-Newman College, the Tennessee District VII THSSDL tournament, the University of Richmond Invitational tournament, the NFL Carolina District

tournament, and the THSSDL State tournament. Students participating in individual events competed at the Smokey Mountains and the THSSDL district and state tournament. Plans for next year include attending the same tournaments, plus some additional ones. The DBHS students scored many successes this year including the sweepstakes championship at the district seven THSSDL contest One of the highlights of DBHS's HOMEROOM ON TELEVISION program is the DB Student Talent Show which is presented each spring. The show is videotaped and produced by the TV-Speech and Advanced TV-Speech students. These two courses are elective offerings in the Language Arts Department.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY -- ETSU theater productions this year included CANTERBURY TALES, THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES, and THE WINTER'S TALE directed by Jack Peyrouse; THE CAVE DWELLERS directed by Harold Frank; THE LADY OF LACKSPUR LOTION, THE STRONGER, THE HERO, RUZZANTE RETURNS FROM THE WARS, and THE FORCED MARRIAGE directed by students New shops have been constructed for scenery, lights, and costumes. Plans for next year include expanded theater activities in the renovated facilities Interpreters' Theater at ETSU produced several shows this year including JOHN BROWN'S BODY and NURSERY RHYMES AND FAIRY TALES VII, both directed by Robert O. Day. The former production was toured to King College; the children's show was toured to fifteen elementary schools The ETSU Department of Speech sponsored a workshop, a festival, and the THSSDL district VII tournament for high school students in the area. Director of these activities is Professor Robert O. Day The ETSU forensics program broke new ground this year by attending for the first time the Harvard National Model United Nations, held on the campus at Cambridge. The squad also attended a number of traditional and non-traditional debate tournaments. Director of the forensics program is Dr. Richard Dean Professor Robert O. Day is the creator and host of a thirty-part television series on Elementary Oral Language Arts which is being broadcast across the state Thomas F. Headley coordinates broadcasting activities at ETSU. The facilities include WETS-AM and WSJK-TV. WETS is a commercially operated station used for training broadcast major and minors. The station stays on the air eighteen hours a day. Students studying broadcasting produce and direct various kinds of programs for use over WETS-AM, WSJK-TV, and other stations.

FRAYSER HIGH SCHOOL -- Paulyene L. Palmer is Frayer's speech teacher and all speech activities are her responsibility. Course offerings include basic speech, introduction to theater, elementary and advanced forensics, and acting. Future course offerings will include technical theater, discussion, and, once equipment becomes available, television and mass media Frayser has had another

successful year in forensics competition with attendance at twenty tournaments. In addition, the speech program hosted the Thirteenth Annual L. M. Stevenson Invitational Forensics Tournament. This summer, Ms. Palmer and a colleague will provide a forensics workshop for area students . . . Frayer's pantomime troupe is now in its second year. The students have performed for several groups in the Memphis area this year and participated in the Thespian Conference this spring. Frayer students were also very fortunate to have Stephanie Rich visit the school for several workshops.

GEORGE PEABODY COLLEGE -- Speech activities at Peabody College are supervised by Willard C. Booth and James Crocker. Professor Booth teaches English, Speech, Drama, is the theater director, and the TV studio director. Theater productions this year under Professor Booth's supervision included THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, LYSISTRATA, and a series of one-act plays. Professor Crocker teaches courses in interpersonal communication and supervises the Readers' Theater Program.

KING COLLEGE -- Speech and drama activities and coursework are provided within the Department of English, chaired by Professor G. P. Winship. During the past year, Dr. Ruth Stevenson has had the major responsibility for developing speech activities within the English curriculum. During the interession this past January, Professor Stevenson offered a course in poetry that included oral interpretation and original writing . . . King has one of the few remaining traditional literary societies, the Philothesmian, which devotes its weekly meetings to declamations, orations, and debate. Such organizations were the forerunners of honorary and social fraternities, especially forensic societies. A rival organization at King College, the Athenaeum Society, sponsors dramatics, although the group was inactive this past year.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY -- Major MTSU theater productions this year were GODSPELL, STORY THEATER, ANDROCLES AND THE LION, and COUNT DRACULA. Professor Dorothe Tucker is director of the MTSU University Theater. The technical director is Professor Clay Hawes. Professor Patricia Rucker is the faculty member in charge of costumes and make-up with each major production. Dr. Theora England, on a one-year appointment, coordinated publicity. Professor Anne Petty, on a one-year leave of absence to continue graduate study, will return to the theater faculty next fall The Centennial Theater Company was on campus this year to provide workshops in mime, dance, and auditioning techniques. Stage and television actor Richard Crenna was also on campus to provide a workshop in directing. His appearance was in conjunction with the Tennessee Theater Association Convention which was hosted by MTSU MTSU's drama club, the Buchanan Players, produced many student-directed plays this year, including JOHN BALL IS DEAD, an

original play by MTSU student Randy Brown For MTSU's Speech and Theater Day, Dr. Theora England directed THE WORLD OF CARL SANDBURG New departmental courses developed this year include Speech Communication in the 1970s, Methods in Teaching Speech, and Seminar in Speech Education The MTSU Forensics Program is coordinated by Dr. Jim Brooks and Dr. Jay Conner. The MTSU debaters attended more than twenty tournaments in all parts of the country and won more than forty trophies for their efforts. Included in their wins was the state intercollegiate forensics championship MTSU Forensics hosted the Polish debate team for an on-campus public discussion on the issue of cooperation between the USA and the government of Poland MTSU Forensics hosted two debate tournaments this year. The Eighth Annual MTSU Earlybird Varsity Invitational Debate Tournament attracted two hundred and fifty student and faculty participants from seventeen states. The Seventeenth Annual MTSU Junior Varsity Debate Tournament drew one hundred and twenty-five student and faculty participants Last September, the Speech Communication Division hosted the second annual TSCA workshop/convention The Speech Communication Division recently organized the MTSU Speech Communication Association for departmental faculty members and student majors Dr. David Walker published the DIRECTORY OF HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS OF SPEECH IN TENNESSEE, 1974 The MTSU Campus Forum had another successful year. A forensics program project, the Forum provides on-campus public debates on issues of interest to students, faculty, and community members Planning is underway by Dr. Ralph Hillman to host in 1975-76 an oral interpretation festival featuring a guest critic MTSU will host the state THSSDL contest in 1976 The state tournament of the Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensic Association will be held at MTSU in 1976. Dr. Brooks is serving as president of the organization The Speech Communication Division will sponsor this summer a workshop on interviewing for students and area industry personnel.

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL - KNOXVILLE -- Stanna Sloan coordinates speech and drama activities at South High. Although the program is now very limited, Ms. Sloan hopes for expansion in the future. She produces and directs the plays which are supported solely by money raised by the Drama Club. This year the drama club produced a number of one-act plays and one major production, THE STAR SPANGLED GIRL.

SOUTHERN MISSIONARY COLLEGE -- Speech activities and coursework are provided by the Communication Department, chaired by Professor Don Dick. A degree in communication is offered with emphasis available in speech, communication media, or journalism For the first time, courses in interpersonal communication are being offered. Dr. Jerry Lien is the instructor in this area The broadcasting area has been particularly busy this year.

A new audio-vidio studio was opened in McKee Library. In addition, a number of new classes are being planned for next year, including Station Operation which will provide students with lots of "hands on" experience in Southern Missionary's 100,000 watt stereo FM station, WSMC-FM Jim Hannum is now teaching full time in the Speech and Broadcasting areas of the Department. Don Self is the new WSMC-FM station manager. Greg Ramsey has joined the station as the music director. David Brooks is the station's new director of development. The station recently became the recipient of a \$59,000 grant from the Bingham Foundation. The funds will be used to re-equip the station with new studio equipment Professor Don Dick will be on sabbatical for academic 1975-76.

TULLAHOMA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL -- Mrs. Donna Benek is the coordinator of speech and drama activities and coursework at Tullahoma High. Mrs. Rebecca Chunn has recently retired. A new faculty member this year is Ms. Debbie Pittenger, a speech communications major from MTSU The major theater production this year was BOYS AND GIRLS TOGETHER. Mrs. Benek directed the play with help from other faculty members Miss Virginia Woodall and Miss Trellis Northam. Two former teachers also provided assistance. Mrs. Peggy Burton helped with music and Mrs. Beverly Long with choreography Plans for course offerings in 1975-76 include Dramatics I and II, Speech, Journalism, and Debate. These courses will carry both English and Speech credit.

WEST HIGH SCHOOL - KNOXVILLE -- Speech communications activities at West High School are coordinated by Ms. Betsy Mashburn West High has had a very active theater program this year. OUR TOWN was presented by the West High Players Company (the school drama club) and directed by Ms. Mashburn. LI'L ABNER was presented by the music and drama students and directed by Ted Ross, a student teacher in drama. STAR SPANGLED GIRL and THE BEAR were also produced by the West High Players Company and directed by Ms. Mashburn The forensics program, also under Ms. Mashburn's direction, had a very successful year. Attending six tournaments, the forensics team won three first-place sweepstakes trophies, one second place, and one third place. Including individual trophies, they have won twenty-seven awards this year. Fourteen new members have been added to the National Forensic League roster Ted Ross and Betsy Mashburn together directed this year's readers theater production of THE ETERNAL BOXING MATCH.

Publication Information

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