



Date: September 22, 2014

To: Dr. Renee Kilmer, Interim Vice President of Academic Services
Dr. Don Miller, Dean Arts, Letters, and Social Science

From: Janet Brehe Johnson, Director of Forensics *JB*
Timothy Heisler, Assistant Director of Forensics *T.H.*

Re: Forensics – International Travel

The 2014/2015 Forensics Team is planning (with permission!) to attend the prestigious International Forensics Association Tournament, scheduled to be held in Barcelona, Spain from March 6-14, 2015.

The Las Positas College Talk Hawks have participated in this competition six times in the past:

- 2006 in Prague, Czech Republic
- 2007 in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2009 in Montreal, Canada
- 2012 in Rome, Italy
- 2013 in Antwerp, Belgium
- 2014 in Paris, France

In 2006 and 2009 LPC had the International Champion in Informative Speaking. In 2007 LPC finished as the top two-year institution at the tournament. In 2009 LPC finished 2nd Place overall at the competition. In 2012 LPC had three students finish in the top-five in their competitive categories.

The purpose of this trip is to expose our students to the highest caliber of competition from both the United States as well as European institutions. Our second-year (returning) students are ready for the challenge. It has been our experience that the learning and cultural exposure that comes from participation at these international competitions far outweighs the educational opportunities that are provided from similar tournaments held here in the Bay Area. Four of the individuals from our 2014 team changed their majors and career plans *because* of their participation at this tournament. Typically the best Forensics Programs in the country attend this event so this is also an opportunity for Las Positas College to be exposed/showcased to the top speech and debate institutions around the world.

Presently, the students and coaches are planning to pick up all of the costs for the transportation that will be associated with this trip. The current airfare rates are \$1200 for a round trip ticket and we'll need approximately \$100 more for shuttle and transportation services once in Barcelona. This will be paid for by the individual participants. We plan to use the Forensic Team's co-curricular funds for lodging expenses – as they would be used for any stateside competition. Barbara Baron, president of the International Forensics Association, has offered a

discounted rate for the entry and registration fees for our school. This generous offer was made due to LPC's past success at the tournament and because she wishes to make it as financially feasible as possible for a school with the competitive caliber of LPC to attend the event. We are one of only a few West Coast institutions to regularly participate at this tournament and the discounted rate helps to offset some of our travel expenditures.

We project that the amount of money that we will ultimately spend from our co-curricular funds will be equivalent to what would be spent at the State Championship Tournament, the competition that we are replacing with the IFA trip.

We continue to actively seek donations from local clubs, organizations, family members and friends. We will be having a Speech and Story Night fund-raising event in December and another similar event in February to help offset transportation expenses. Additionally, we will be going to the LPC Foundation to beg on our knees for funds. All of this raised money would be used to help offset our costs for both the IFA tournament AND our National Championship Tournament scheduled during the spring semester.

We fully expect to be able to cover the operational expenses for our International Tournament as we have done every year in the past. And again, each student and coach will be paying roughly \$1300 out of his/her own pocket in order to participate in this event. For many of our students this is an opportunity of a lifetime. They are willing to make the sacrifice of fronting their own money to cover a majority of the expenses that are associated with this tournament. Our continued fund-raising efforts will help to alleviate some of that personal sacrifice.

More about the IFA organization can be learned by visiting the following link:
<http://sites.brookdalecc.edu/home/arts-communications-division/speech-communication/ifa/>

Please contact us further if there are additional questions/concerns about these plans. It is our hope/desire/goal to embody Las Positas College at the highest level of Forensics Competition and give nothing less than the highest quality of representation.

CHABOT-LAS POSITAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
FIELD TRIP REQUEST (Las Positas College)

Print Form

INSTRUCTOR NAME: Janet Brehe Johnson

DIVISION/AREA: AL&SS Division

COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER: Speech 46

SECTION(S): V01

DESTINATION: Hilton - Barcelona, Spain +34-93-4957777

PLACE OR FIRM

Avenida Diagonal 589-591, Barcelona, 08014 Spain

Barcelona, Spain

STREET ADDRESS

CITY OR AREA

PURPOSE
(Be Specific)

For the Las Positas College Speech & Debate Team to compete and participate in the International Forensic Association's 2015 Championship Speech Tournament. Please refer to attached document for additional rationale, justification and history of our participation in this activity.

DEPARTURE DATE: Friday March 6 2015 7:00 a.m.

ESTIMATE RETURN: 8:00 PM, March 14, 2015
(TIME) (A.M.-P.M) (AND DATE)

ASSEMBLY POINT:

- Las Positas
Chabot
Destination
Other (identify) SFO Airport

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 10

TYPE OF TRIP
CHECK ONE
Class I (On Campus)
Class II (In District)
Class III (Out-of-District)
Class IV (Out-of-State)
CLASS I - Field trips are ON-CAMPUS activities limited to College campus. Authorization is granted through the administrator in charge.
CLASS II - Field trips are IN-DISTRICT activities off campus, but limited by boundaries of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Union City, Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol).
CLASS III - Field trips are IN-STATE, OUT-OF-DISTRICT activities extending outside boundaries of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. Requests must be submitted at least ONE MONTH prior to the date of the trip.
CLASS IV - OUT OF STATE, activities conducted outside the state of California. Requests must be submitted at least SIX WEEKS prior to the date of the trip.

VEHICLE NEEDED*: Van (15 passenger) Bus (25 passenger) Rental Vehicle Other (District Vehicle)

*Check Box if a District Vehicle/Gas Card Request Form has been submitted to M&O Dept.:

10-2-14 (DATE)

Janet Brehe Johnson (INSTRUCTOR SIGNATURE)

DIVISION DEAN
10/06/14 (DATE)

APPROVAL
VICE PRESIDENT
10/20/14 (DATE)

PRESIDENT (Class III & IV)
10.31.2014 (DATE)

Account Number

- 1. Rescheduling of field trip from approved date indicated above must be approved by the Office of Academic Services.
2. Requests for chartered bus transportation will be confirmed by the Office of Administrative Services.
3. Arrangements for van transportation shall be made by instructor with Maintenance & Operations Department.
4. A college first aid kit must be in the possession of the instructor while on a field trip.

Reset Form



INTERNATIONAL FORENSICS ASSOCIATION

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August 20, 2014

Forensics Friends:

In March of 2015, The International Forensics Association (IFA) will be celebrating **25 years** of our offering an international experience and a competitive forensics tournament for students, coaches and friends of the IFA. Thanks to the vision and the founding of our organization by Professor Harry M. Strine from Bloomsburg State University, Professor Cathy Blackburn from Brookdale Community College, and Professor Clark D. Olson from Arizona State, we have continued our tradition and goal of meeting outside of the United States, providing wonderful opportunities to experience diverse cultures, views exceptional architectural and artistic wonders, and to sample culinary delights.

The tournament will be held on Monday, March 9 thru Thursday, March 12, 2015. We have reserved a block of rooms for the entire week, and we have added additional rooms for those traveling earlier or later. (Travel information is included on the next pages) The tournament will be held one week earlier this year, as discussed at our coaches meeting in Paris. Tim Heisler (International Liaison) and I are working together to include a special meeting or a dinner reception for awards to honor our 25th Anniversary. That said, there might be a small additional fee per person for the ceremony.

Regarding Barcelona:

Barcelona is the capital and largest city of Catalonia and Spain's second largest city, with a population of over one and half million people (over five million in the whole province).

This city, located directly on the northeastern Mediterranean coast of Spain, has a rich history, having been under Roman, then Frank law before declaring its independence.

In 1992, Barcelona gained international recognition by hosting the Olympic games, which brought a massive upturn in its tourism industry.

This had the effect of changing the city in ways that are still felt today with neighborhoods renovated (and in some cases leveled) and the intense focus of modern design permeating all aspects of life in Barcelona from public buildings to something as simple as a park bench or an event poster.

For visitors, this has translated into the very modern, yet incredibly old city you see now in the 21st century, where the new elements work to both preserve and celebrate the ancient.

This beautiful city is full of what European cities are known for (outdoor markets, restaurants, shops, museums and churches) and is fantastic for walking with an extensive and reliable Metro system for more far-flung destinations. The core center of town, focused around the Ciutat Vella ("Old City") provides days of enjoyment for those looking to experience the life of Barcelona while the beaches the city was built upon provide sun and relaxation during the long periods of agreeably warm weather.

For the past four years, all participants have arranged for their own travel. With the advent of the Internet, there are no incentives offered by airlines. We do strongly request that all participants book their hotel space through the IFA website link that is listed in the travel section of this letter. Our rate includes an American breakfast, and all applicable taxes. The rate you are charged will surpass any that you may find online. Should there be a large shift

in currency exchanges, we can negotiate with our representative at the hotel to adjust the rates. We cannot provide that service for those who do not book through our site.

Every school is responsible for a competition room in the hotel at the rate of 1 room per 10 entries. While you may find better rates nearby at an inferior hotel, in order to keep the tournament affordable for all schools to attend, we strongly advise that you make reservations at the tournament hotel. It is unfair for some schools to subsidize the costs of the tournament while others do not. While we appreciate the budget constraints that nearly all schools have, we have worked diligently to find a hotel that is affordable for all. In order to continue the IFA, if a substantial number of contestants do not use the tournament hotel, we will be forced to change our per slot room requirement and/or increase the per person fee for those not staying at the hotel. We cannot stress the importance of this for the sustained viability of the tournament.

On a final note... this year we are required to re-establish our affiliation with the National Communication Association (NCA.) Part of our agreement includes that our Officers remain current with their membership. NCA also encourages all participants to attend the NCA Convention (this year marks their 100 year Anniversary and will be held in Chicago) and to keep current with your membership. If you are attending NCA, please make every effort to attend our Business meeting.

We expect a large tournament in Barcelona; the inquiries so far have been tremendous. We hope that you are able to join us for what we know will be a wonderful experience for all. Details for the hotel and our travel agent are included in the following pages of this letter. Come celebrate 25 years of the IFA with us in Barcelona! Can't wait to see you there....

Best regards,

Barbara S. Baron ~ President for the IFA

Please see the following pages for Travel Details and Ideas for things to do in Barcelona...

IFA 25th ANNIVERSARY TOURNAMENT **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

2015 marks the 25th Anniversary of the IFA! We will have this Silver-Anniversary tournament at the Hilton Barcelona on March 9 & 10, 2015.

ROOM RATE:

- 150 EUR for one person
- 170 EUR for two people

While VAT tax is included, these rates *do not* include the city tourist tax of 1.21 EUR per person per night.

Rate includes breakfast in morning and wi-fi in the guest rooms.

The hotel will honor this rate until January 20th. However, there is a limited block of rooms at this rate. Please note that while you have to provide a credit card to hold the rooms you do NOT have to pay a deposit. As long as you cancel any rooms within 7 days of arrival, you will not be charged. So, if you know you will be attending, it would be a good idea to reserve your rooms sooner rather than later. If you don't know the names of students that will be in the rooms, you can put the rooms under the name of the school and then provide the names at a later date.

You can reserve rooms 2 ways:

1. Use the weblink below:

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/B/BCNHITW-GIFA-20150306/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

2. Reach out to Experient coordinator, Jill Kraatz,

Jill.Kraatz@experientselect.com who can help you secure large blocks of rooms. If you plan on reserving more than 5 rooms, please consider confirming your rooms soon so you can be guaranteed the rate on the all of the rooms. This hotel is very popular for business travelers so it will likely sell out. We have the guaranteed lowest rate in the hotel until Jan 20th but due to demand, the hotel may not extend the rate past that date. They will be more willing to add additional rooms to the block now, if necessary, rather than in January.

Things to do in Barcelona

Barcelona has an endless number of things to do!

If you want to take in the city in a short amount of time, Hop-On/Hop-Off bus tours are available throughout the city.

MUSEUMS/ARCHITECTURE:

Museo Picasso – The best place in the world to explore the works of Picasso, who is known as Barcelona's Adopted Son www.museupicasso.bcn.cat

Miro Museum - This art gallery has a wide range of Miró's work dating back as far as 1914. This artwork collection not only includes his paintings but also a good selection of sculptures, tapestries and early sketches. A wonderful collection of Miró's work.

Gaudi Buildings – Peppered throughout Barcelona are buildings created by architect Antonio Gaudi. Of particular note are the Sagrada Família, a giant basilica that has been under construction since 1882 and the La Pedrera Building

Museo d'Historia de la Ciutat - Interesting excavation of the historic centre below the Plaça del Rei showing how the Romans lived in Barcino (Roman Barcelona) and how Christianity came to Barcelona.

MNAC - The National Museum of Catalan Art - Its medieval collection is only surpassed by the Vatican's collection, and besides it has a stunning Thyssen-Bornemisza collection with works of Fra Angelico, Daddi, Cranach and others. In the renaissance, baroque and modern collection you are able to see works of Valazquez, Picasso, Dalí and others.

TOURING THE CITY:

Poble Espanyol “Spanish Village” - The Poble Espanyol is an architectural [museum](#) placed in one of the most emblematic areas of [Barcelona](#), just a few meters far from the Fountains of Montjuïc. It is one of the biggest attractions of the city because of a single set featuring about [contemporary art](#), [architecture](#), [crafts](#) and [gastronomy](#) in a quiet, safe and peaceful environment. The museum consists of 117 full-scale buildings, which make a real Iberian village with streets, houses, parks, theater, school, restaurants and artisan workshops.

Las Ramblas - is a street in central Barcelona, popular with tourists and locals alike. A tree-lined pedestrian mall, it stretches for 1.2 kilometres (0.75 mi) connecting *Plaça de Catalunya* in the centre with the Christopher Columbus Monument at Port Vell. La Rambla forms the boundary between the quarters of *Barri Gòtic*, to the east, and *El Raval*, to the west

The Gothic Quarter “Barri Gotic” is the centre of the old city of Barcelona. It stretches from La Rambla to Via Laietana, and from the Mediterranean seafront to Ronda de Sant Pere. It is a part of Ciutat Vella district. Despite several changes undergone in the 19th and early 20th century, many of the buildings date from Medieval times, some from as far back as the Roman settlement of Barcelona. Remains of the squared Roman Wall can be seen around Tapineria and Sots-Tinent Navarro to the north, Avinguda de la Catedral and Plaça Nova to the west and Carrer de la Palla to the south. El Call, the medieval Jewish quarter, is located within this area too. The Barri Gòtic retains a labyrinthine street plan, with many small streets opening out into squares. Most of the quarter is closed to regular traffic although open to service vehicles and taxis.

Waterfront Area - The Waterfront area is considered the jewel of Barcelona. The harbor at the waterfront is very spectacular with its port hosting cruise ships, lined-up golden sandy beaches, luxury hotels and restaurants. It is the area of leisure activities and entertainment.

Muntanya de Montserrat - A magnificent mountain, situated to the north of Barcelona, in the area of Catalonia. The peaks are gorgeous, pointing to the sky like fingers. One of the most famous attractions in the mountain is the Abbey, built there in the 16th Century. The monastery keeps the 12th Century Romanesque statue of the Virgin. According to legend, a shepherd found the statue of the Virgin in a cave there and that was why the church and monastery on the mountain were built. The Virgin was black, and that was why it was called La Moreneta (the dark one). There is a special religious service held in her honour on April 27. The statue is believed to have powerful energy and people come from all over Catalonia to have their religious wishes fulfilled. The monastery has a museum with some wonderful Renaissance and Baroque paintings by Italian, Spanish and Flemish masters. There is also a Museum of Modern Painting with works of Catalan artists. Very impressive is the Montserrat Boys Choir singing the Salve Montserratina and the Virolai - daily at 1:00pm and 7:20pm. The mountain is a great destination for a day trip outside Barcelona.

Flamenco Show – A popular dance from Spain which features singing, dancing and hand-claps. On November 16, 2010 UNESCO declared flamenco one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

TAKING THE TRAIN/SUBWAY

Madrid – Madrid is a 2.5 hour picturesque train ride from Barcelona. For those who want to get an early start, they can spend an afternoon in Madrid

Village of Sitges – a 20 mile train ride away. Sitges is a one of the jewels of the Mediterranean. A small fishing village located just 20km (12 miles) southwest of Barcelona, it is a scenic town along the costa brava. Sitges was once one of the most important fishing villages on the east coast of Spain. With long beaches, clear waters, a deep history and a newly populated urban center, Sitges has become an important tourist destination. Its unique bay is shielded from the mediterranean. This feature creates a sort of micro-climate that allows Sitges to remain significantly warmer than even Barcelona.

Penedes - Penedes is a famous wine-making region situated in Catalonia, Spain to the south-west of the city of Barcelona. It is surrounded by the coastal hills of the Garraf, the higher inland mountains which skirt the Central Depression. Penedes is known as one of the best wine-producing regions in Spain, but it is also one of the most ancient viticultural areas in Europe. The most popular is the production of Cava, a sparkling wine; that is why the growing of white grape dominates in the area. The region also produces some highly-regarded, oak-aged reds. There is some archaeological evidence showing that the producing of wine in Penedes has ancient origins. It dates back to the Phoenician introduction of Chardonnay vines during the 6th Century BC. The town was known as a large export market even through Moorish occupation in the Middle Ages. Later, Penedes was devastated by the phylloxera plague. As a result, a large-scale change in the predominant grape types happened, from red to almost exclusively white, which in turn led to the first Cava production in 1870