



**PI KAPPA DELTA**

The Art of Persuasion, Beautiful and Just

**Province Coordinator's Report  
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2011 NCA Business Meeting**

During this semester as I outlined in my article for the Key, I have been hard at work on a number exciting projects. These projects include webinars/teleconferencing, digital tournament software, and a green tournament guide. I am happy to report that all of these projects are going exceptionally well and will be ready for release to the general membership in the very near future.

The first project is that of hosting Pi Kappa Delta webinars. I have been working with my husband in exploring all of the possibilities for Pi Kappa Delta to enter into the world of webinars/teleconferences. There are a number of possibilities that are available, so I have asked him to provide a complete technological report for the membership. The full report and the cliff notes version are available. In addition to hosting webinars available for the general membership, there is also the potential for hosting digital meetings for the executive council and province officers where meeting participants can engage in voice and video conferencing from multiple platforms (computer, iPads, iPhones, and other mobile devices), edit and share documents in real time, and a host of other options. Once we decide which format we wish to explore, the technical side of our webinars can be available for launch in December. Here is where the membership comes in! We need speakers that are willing to facilitate webinars and we also need to begin advertising the webinars to get people to log in. There can be two different types of webinars. The first would be for non-Pi Kappa Delta members to introduce all of the benefits of membership, rituals, and etc. The second type would be for current Pi Kappa Delta members that can go into more detail about the points system, hosting green tournaments, and etc.

The second thing that we have been working on is exploring the possibility of creating digital tournament software. I participated as a judge for the USC Digital Debates and was very impressed with the way that the tournament was conducted. However, where I think we can improve on their idea is to make things real time including judging. The way the USC Digital Debates were done was that participants had to upload pre-recorded videos to the designated YouTube channel. For the next two years with the support of the membership, I would like to explore the possibility of developing software that allows for real time competition and judging digitally. We would love to launch 2-3 events for the Pi Kappa Delta Centennial Celebration. This is something that I have an interest in for a number of reasons. First, with the costs of forensics travel and the massive cuts that many programs have started to experience, this is a more cost effective way for teams to compete. Second, by moving to the digital realm it opens up the possibilities of more global interactions and education. The move to fostering global forensics education is a part of our strategic plan and something that I am very excited about working on. Additionally, another goal that we have set is to explore innovative technologies that provide alternatives to traditional tournament experiences. This is just that type of project. Third,

my husband is a software engineer that has created programs for Hewlett Packard, Department of Treasury, Department of Defense, Department of Labor, United States Air Force, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. So, by partnering with him, we would have an experienced developer that can guide us through the entire process.

The last project I have been working on is the hosting green tournament guide. Being more environmentally friendly is something that is near and dear to my heart and it also fits nicely into our organizational goals of creating and implementing benchmark goals for reducing the carbon footprints of PKD programs and tournaments on an on-going basis. There are a number of simple things that programs can do both during travel and tournament hosting that can make their program more eco-friendly. Some of these include: reducing the size of ballots to half sheets, providing large coolers of water instead of bottled water for teams, posting schematics instead of providing schematics to each individual competitor, and etc. The guide is almost complete and should be ready to be loaded onto the PKD website by the New Year. The Marietta Forensics program implemented a number of these practices into our tournament in early November and was given special recognition by the Students for Environmental Awareness Organization on campus. Being greener doesn't have to be hard or expensive and can be easily incorporated into all of our programs.

It is my goal to continue working on each of these projects and find even more ways to serve the membership of Pi Kappa Delta. Some of my future objectives include continuing to explore more ways to increase our visibility and outreach and investigating the possibility of hosting a national day of service for all PKD chapters.