



## What's In a Name?

ABT (American Ballet Theatre) & SCR (South Coast Repertory) are Acronyms.



Stoa isn't an acronym.

<http://www.stoausa.org/about/stoa-name>

## Stoa Board Member Prayer

John Eyth

"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Numbers 6:24-26

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:13

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" I Peter 3:15

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Colossians 4:6

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 20:32

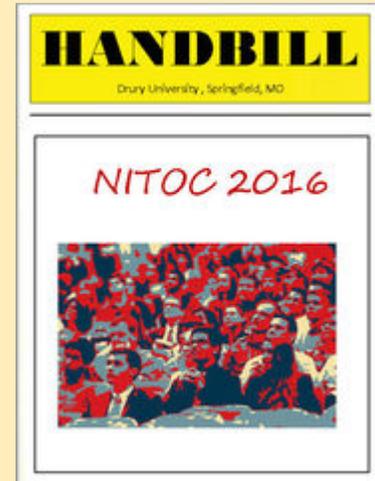
In Christ,  
John Eyth  
Stoa Board Member



## April Handbill

### News-at-a-Glance

- What's In A Name?
- Getting Ready for Opening NIGHT-TOC
- Stoa Board Member Prayer
- Better Than Summer Stock Theater
- More Useful Than Opera Glasses
- NITOC Nuggets
- Next Season is Closer than You Think
- Phantom of the Tournament
- A Word from the Wardrobe Department
- Become a Patron of the Arts



## GETTING READY FOR OPENING NIGHT-TOC

Craig Smith



Have you ever considered all the work behind the scenes of putting on a play? Perhaps you or your students have been involved in shows at your church, or a homeschool Shakespeare company, or a local community theater. If that's the case, then you know how much effort is taking place before the curtain ascends on opening night. Besides the actors who are preparing their roles, there are costumers, set designers, lighting technicians, and sound techs. The production may be a musical, which pulls in musicians, dancers, and choreographers. Beyond these roles are the producers, marketers, box office team – so many details to put together a two-hour show! Likewise, since the NITOC 2016 dates and location were announced last year at Bob Jones University, so much has been taking place behind the scenes to bring you our exciting national tournament in Springfield, Missouri.

We're glad to let you know that the NITOC 2016 website is now open for your perusing! It can be found at

## More Useful Than a Pair of Opera Glasses

MeIRae Ambs

**Bravo! Stoa's gone social!** And we want to hear from YOU!

Download our mobile app for the most up-to-date news regarding NITOC, and share with us on your favorite social media:

Tag us @Stoa\_usa (Instagram)  
or @StoaTweets  
or use #nitoc2016  
or #stoa\_usa

Post Facebook pics at NITOC 2016  
<https://www.facebook.com/stoausa>

Download the Stoa USA mobile app  
<http://stoausa.mobapp.at/>

Questions or problems?  
We can help! Email: [Apps@stoausa.org](mailto:Apps@stoausa.org)



### Please note!!

The mobile app will be our MAIN communication source for NITOC, including announcements and postings. If you plan to attend NITOC, download this app to your smart phone or tablet to stay in the "know".

## NEXT SEASON IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

Craig Smith

Even if you're not planning on participating in NITOC 2016, our next season of speech and debate is not too far away! Keep your eyes open for the Stoa Spring Member Vote coming out on April 15.

As we've done in the past, Stoa members will have two weeks to consider and comment on the proposed

debate resolutions and wild card choices. Our actual voting period is between May 1 and May 15.

We know that for some Stoa families, this season is "closing night." Some of you have



<https://nitoc2016.homeschooldebate.net/>

There are still plenty of "sets to be painted," but we're praying and trusting our gracious God that NITOC 2016 will be a tournament that brings glory and honor to our Lord, and is a time of encouragement and Christian fellowship, in the midst of a competition, for His people. Registration will open mid-April, with an initial wave of invitations that will continue going out as the results from the final tournaments of this season are posted on [Speechranks](#).

Your Stoa Board: Mark Russell, Angela Childress, John Eyth, MeIRae Ambs, Robert Kwong, David McKinley, and Craig Smith, [Email the Board](#)

## Better Than Summer Stock Theater!

Mary Winther

**It's the Stoa Academy, taking place July 28-30, 2016, in the Gateway City of St. Louis, Missouri!**

If you've attended the academy at one of our past locations (Modesto, Dallas, Denver) you know the value of concentrated coach and parent targeted sessions that allow you to learn how to better equip your speakers and debaters. Treat yourself to this time away and learn at the same time. As parents, you spend a great deal of money on tournaments for your students so that they can gain skills. Think of this as a "tournament for you" to gain the skills you need to be a better instructor, as well as the needed refreshment and re-invigoration, whether a new or long time coach.

We are blessed to be able to hold the academy at the beautiful Pillar Foundation. This facility has state of the art technology in a warm professional environment with multiple rooms for our sessions, a library, and ample areas for conversation and fellowship.

We offer classes for all experience levels across all speech and debate events. Our speakers include coaches, parents, speech and debate committee members, and board members from around the country.



**Included in the cost is a chance for some local fun... a real Riverboat dinner cruise!**

Register today at <https://stoacademy2016.homeschooldebate.net/>

## NITOC Nuggets

been participating for years, and others only enjoyed a short run. Just because your family may be finished with the competitive years doesn't mean that the curtain drops. We know that many Stoa members have discovered the joy of being a Stoa alumni or an alumni family. Being part of a tournament has a whole new feel when you find yourself being able to contribute in ways that weren't possible when competing.

One last note on next season: It's never too soon to start thinking about hosting a tournament. As this season comes to a close next month, over the summer look around your community for possible tournament locations and begin praying to see if your family and club can serve the growing Stoa community by serving as a host for a tournament. Maybe a church in your area or a Christian school is a place where you can plan a Stoa tournament. You, too, can discover the thrill of setting the stage!

## A WORD FROM THE WARDROBE



### DEPARTMENT Craig Smith

(First, there really isn't a Stoa "wardrobe department.") As we near NITOC, it's a good idea to take a look at the tournament wardrobe your students have been wearing and make sure that it complies with the professional and modest look that we desire to project. Some of our competitors have grown in the past few months and hemlines that were once appropriate have crept up past established guidelines (also known as "knees"). Please keep in mind that the Stoa dress code also pertains to what is worn by competitors even when they're not in tournament attire between rounds or after they're no longer competing. For a refresher take a look at the Stoa dress code at:

<http://www.stoausa.org/about/dress-code>.

And don't forget to get to the dry cleaners prior to sprinting to Springfield!

### Joanne Quan

At the beginning of 2016, did you make goals or resolutions for the New Year? What were they? In the areas of speech and debate, what goals were you reaching towards? What steps were you willing to take in order to get there? If you were specific in your goals, it probably helped you keep focused on achieving your goals. It probably helped you not get distracted or discouraged.



Now that a few months have passed, it's time to evaluate your goals. Do your goals align with God's goals for you? Have you sought God's guidance as you reach towards your goals? In the midst of working towards your goals, remember that the journey is just as important as the destination.

**2 Chronicles 15:7 says: "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."**

Throughout this semester, as you practice your skills and compete at tournaments, you will face many challenges in your debate and speech journey.

Whenever you face those challenges, just remember:

- Take time to pray. Prayer will bring you closer to our heavenly Father and draw you close to Him. He will calm your heart and guide you in your pursuits.
- Be committed to your goals. You've set your goals. Now, you can look back at your list and keep your focus on those goals, not allowing anything to distract you.
- Persevere and don't give up. It's during times of challenges that you grow the most.
- Keep your focus on the prize. Keep your focus on delighting our Lord. Keep your focus on Him.
- Finally, give thanks. Enjoy each moment. Embrace each experience. You will be blessed as you bless those around you.

On the StoaUSA homepage, we see the words, "Speaking Boldly. Changing the World for Christ." In order to speak boldly and to make an impact in the world for Christ, our students are "**Training and Running for Christ**", which is our NITOC 2016 theme.

**1 Timothy 4:8 says "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." (New Living Translation)**

Thank you for working hard towards your goals. Thank you for not giving up. Thank you, especially, for praying and keeping your focus on Jesus Christ as you pursue excellence for Him. You are

## Become a Patron of the Arts and Get \$100

John Eyth



Stoa has partnered with Christian Community Credit Union to make this special offer available to Stoa members. Open a free checking account and get \$100 deposited free to your account. CCCU makes a \$50 donation to Stoa! Open a Certificate of Deposit and make 5% interest guaranteed the first year.

As you set your students up with checking accounts for college (etc.), consider this wonderful offer for Stoa members!

<http://www.stoausa.org/supplemental-information/credit-union-offer>

## Stay Connected



Website: <http://www.stoausa.org>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stoausa>  
Twitter: [@StoaTweets](https://twitter.com/StoaTweets)  
Instagram: [@Stoa\\_USA](https://www.instagram.com/Stoa_USA)  
Stoa Mobile App (for iPhones and Androids): Visit <http://stoausa.mobapp.at/landing/Desktop> or the App Store for your device

Yahoo Groups:  
Subscribe to either or both of these groups by sending an email to the address below and telling us your name and the name and location of your club (or where you compete, if you are not affiliated with a club).  
For Stoa Coaches: [stoacoachsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:stoacoachsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

training and running for Christ so you are equipped to speak boldly and change the world for Him!

In His Service,  
Joanne Quan  
NITOC 2016 Tournament Director



## Phantom of the Tournament

Craig Smith

Why do we in Stoa do what we do? Our mission is to speak boldly and change the world for Christ. Our key verse is Romans 11:36 says "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

In the midst of this endeavor of Christian speech and debate we sometimes get more caught up in the activity than the reason we should be doing it in the first place. The highest value for Stoa is glorifying God. Period.

We choose to do this by building our communication skills and holding tournaments to hone and improve our abilities, but ultimately we do this for Him and through Him. Our value isn't about our sons and daughters debating and speaking or winning the most awards. Our value isn't about running a tournament on time. Those are only aspects of this exercise. We in Stoa desire behavior that matches our goal of glorifying God. Those modeling this behavior include our families, our competitors, and our tournament leaders.

We have learned of at least one tournament during this season that for noble motivations made an ignoble decision. In the pursuit of what was thought to create a fair and on-time tournament, a choice was made before a round to nullify a paneled judge's ballot and instead substitute a "ghost" judge on the panel during an outround.

Doing such a maneuver is strictly forbidden by Stoa. This tactic should never take place during a Stoa tournament. It runs contrary to our value of glorifying God. This act of poor judgment, while done without the intention to harm, became harmful to the unknowingly negated judge and wasn't fair to the debaters who weren't made aware of this situation. Simply put, it was deceptive and dishonest.

There are six Stoa core values. This decision violated three of them:

- We are committed to following established process and structure
- We promote a transparent culture of servant hearts
- We promote integrity and honesty in every situation



In "The Phantom of the Opera," a mask is used to cover an unsightly face. We know that no mask can cover our sinful nature, but as Christians we are dependent on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. It's our prayer that all of us in Stoa will learn from this

For Tournament Coordinators: [stoac-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:stoac-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

These Yahoo Group forums are a fantastic repository of information about all things Stoa. These are not official "Stoa" sites, but many of Stoa's best coaches and tournament coordinators participate on the sites to offer counsel and advice. Contact [MelRae Ambs](#) if you need help or have questions.

## Your Stoa Board



Mark Russell, Angela Childress, John Eyth, MelRae Ambs, Robert Kwong, David McKinley, and Craig Smith, [Email the Board](#)  
Debbie Snyder (Speech Chair) [Email the Speech Committee](#)  
Mary Winther (Debate Chair) [Email the Debate Committee](#)

*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.  
Romans 11:36 (NASB®)*

incident and strive to serve God in a way that brings Him glory in every situation.

## REGISTRATION OPENS THIS WEEKEND!

LOOK for your INVITATION then!!!



Contact: [apps@stousa.org](mailto:apps@stousa.org)