



# Stoa

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE



## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021

# LETTER *from the* PRESIDENT

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*“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10*

The 2020–2021 season required our Stoa community to rely more than ever on our God’s right hand. Through His strength and the resilience of our talented and creative volunteers and staff, we were blessed with an amazing season, culminating in NITOC 2021. Our in-person NITOC at Union University was a gift straight from the hand of our Lord. It was a joyful celebration!

Resilience is defined as “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.” I was so encouraged to witness the resilience of Stoa this year. With the COVID-19 pandemic still in full swing, Stoa pivoted to virtual tournaments. These online events supplemented many safe, creative in-person tournaments, resulting in a near-normal slate of competition opportunities for our students. Through careful budgeting, the success of virtual tournaments, and the generosity of our Stoa families and friends, Stoa ended the year with a healthy balance sheet.

Stoa enters the 2021–2022 season from a healthy place and with a renewed focus on growth—growth in the quality of our product and growth in numbers. There are many homeschoolers in our nation yet to experience the power of Christ-centered speech and debate. With a substantial increase in marketing and advertising efforts, we look forward to welcoming many new families, clubs, and states into the Stoa community in the coming year.

Stoa’s vision is to develop world-class communicators who speak boldly and change the world for Christ. With God’s blessing, we are doing just that.

***Greg DeJager***

Stoa Board President, 2019–2021



# STOA *through the* YEARS

2009

## STOA FOUNDED

- Board of Directors established
- Speech and Debate Committees established
- Rules and ballots created
- 10 speech events
- 2 debate events
- Speechranks launched

2010

- 1st NITOC: San Diego, CA
- 354 competitors from 12 states
- 1st Coaches Academy at NITOC
- Parliamentary Debate introduced at local tournaments

2011

- NITOC: San Diego, CA
- 1st *StoaByte* published
- 1st Wild Card: Original Interp
- 1st Parliamentary Championship

2012

- NITOC: Colorado Springs, CO
- Electronic script submission tested at local tournaments
- 1st NITOC vendor fair

2013

- NITOC: Siloam Springs, AR
- Parliamentary Debate joins NITOC
- Electronic Extemp at NITOC

2014

- NITOC: San Diego, CA
- Mars Hill added as an ongoing NITOC event
- Marketing Committee established

“

*Brilliant kids doing positive work.*

Community Judge



“

*The speeches... touched my heart.*

Community Judge



## 2015

- NITOC: Greenville, SC
- Annual Stoa Academy launched
- Founder's Award created
- Electronic script submission used at NITOC
- "Speaking Boldly. Changing the World for Christ" coined

## 2016

- NITOC: Springfield, MO
- StoaTraX tested at local tournaments
- StoaUSA.org redesigned
- 1st alumni NITOC event

## 2017

- NITOC: Jackson, TN
- StoaTraX used at NITOC
- Venue Search Committee established

## 2018

- NITOC: San Diego, CA
- Training & Development Committee established
- *Tournament in a Box* published

## 2019

- NITOC: Dallas, TX
- Celebrated 10th NITOC
- Executive Director hired
- *Club in a Box* published
- Alumni, Communications, and Tab Committees established

## 2020

- Virtual Celebration
- Servant Heart Award created
- Internship program created
- 1st *Alumni Post* published
- Virtual Stoa Academy

## 2021

- NITOC: Jackson, TN
- Virtual tournaments implemented
- Community Connection webinars developed
- Stoa Alumni LinkedIn established
- Stoa Merch launched



“

*Getting to see the future of America do great things.*

University Admissions Officer



“

*A strong community of people committed to debate and dialogue.*

Community Judge



# Taking Volunteerism to New Heights

## AN ARMY *of volunteers in action*

We are grateful to all of you who volunteer and give your time and talent to serve with excellence in committees, clubs, and tournaments. You are the undergirding of our operations, and you strengthen our community. Your efforts help Stoa grow and further its mission. Thank you!





# Stoa

OUR REUNION AT UNION · NITOC · 2021

Stoa's premier event of the season, the National Invitational Tournament of Champions, hosts the top speakers and debaters from across the nation for the pinnacle of excellence in forensics competition. NITOC 2021 certainly fulfilled that expectation. After the cancellation of NITOC 2020, we wanted to make "Our Reunion at Union" even more memorable. Returning to the beautiful campus of Union University was a clear choice because of the remarkably supportive campus staff. The convenient on-campus housing was a blessing, as well as the multitude of community judges willing to serve.

What a joy it was to host 446 competitors from 25 states and spend time together in friendly competition, fellowship, and devotions, praising our Lord each day. We enjoyed seeing new and continuing friendships grow among students and parents. Every night we took time to fellowship in fun and creative outdoor socials that included entertaining activities and delicious treats.

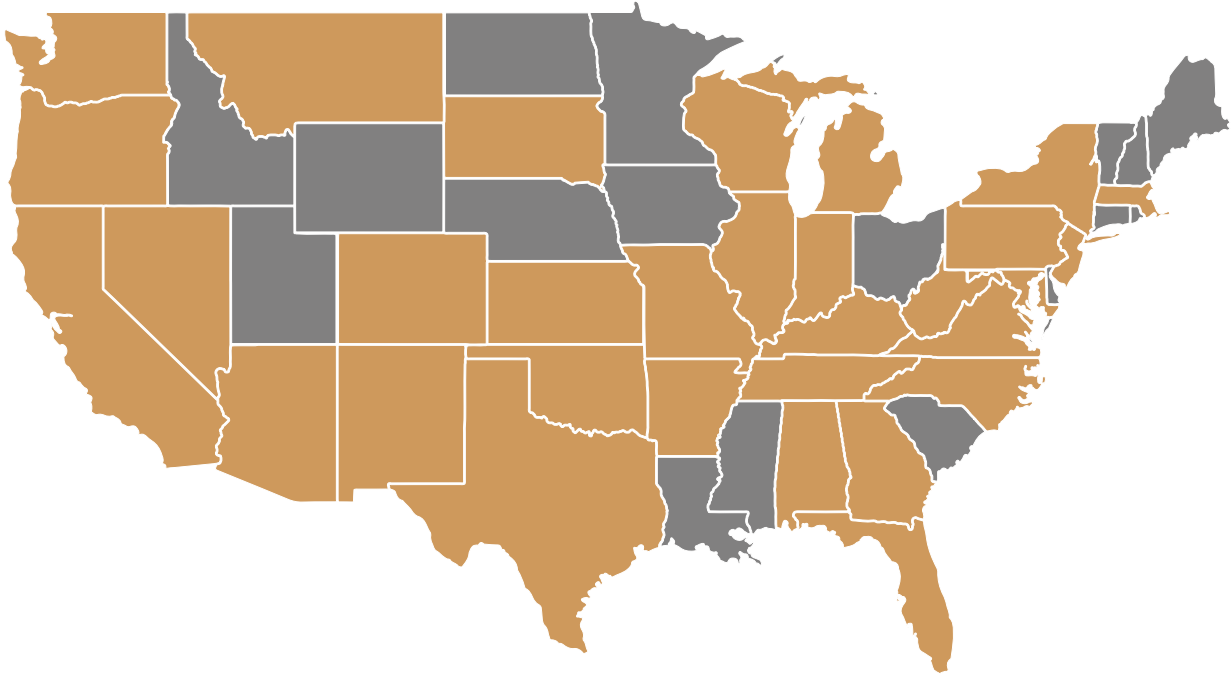
At NITOC 2021, the pinnacle of excellence in forensics competition met the pinnacle of unrivaled hospitality and service to our community.



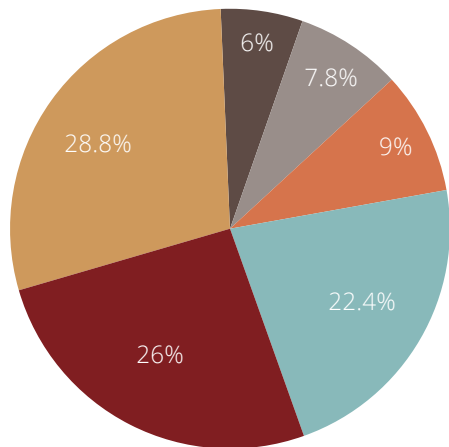
*"For from him and through him  
and to him are all things.  
To him be glory forever. Amen."  
Romans 11:36*

# 2020-2021 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## States with Stoa Members



## REVENUE SOURCES



- Virtual Tournaments
- Registrations
- Membership Dues
- Donations
- Partners
- Supplemental\*

\*Club website, LexisNexis, insurance, t-shirts and merch, advertising, and interest.

## FINANCES

### Income

\$307,807.45

### Expenses

\$268,044.34

### Net

\$39,763.11

Stoa Leadership is committed to being a fiscally responsible steward of the resources entrusted to us. Stoa families, donors, and sponsors have generously given and provided for Stoa. Thank you to each of you who supported Stoa this year!



Seattle, Washington provided everything anticipated and more: 16 hours of sunlight, beautiful weather, fabulous food, and sightseeing opportunities, but most importantly, an incredible Stoa Academy.

We had 32 workshop sessions by speech and debate experts, filling our venue with Stoa members from across the country. It was wonderful to learn from one another and with one another. For those unable to attend, we also provided the Digital Pass, which gives access to recordings of all the sessions.

We are committed to providing high-quality leadership training, skills development, and networking opportunities to equip members and strengthen local clubs through our annual Stoa Academy.

16

HOURS *of*  
FELLOWSHIP

32

UNIQUE  
WORKSHOPS

12th

ANNUAL  
STOA  
ACADEMY

*"I am so grateful for the faith and faithfulness of the Stoa community. It impacted me greatly this weekend... keep doing what you are doing."*





# LOOKING AHEAD

Through God's grace, Stoa adjusted and thrived during the pandemic. We inspired each other to overcome obstacles and innovate to meet the needs of our students and community. With the development of new methods, resources, and ways to stay connected, including Virtual Tournaments, the Stoa Visual Library, various webinars, and online Community Connection meetings, God's vision for each of us came to life. We inspired each other to reach God-sized goals and concluded the season with a joyful NITOC 2021.

Our operational vision for the new season is to aspire to excellence, achieve our goals, and advance our mission. As we aspire to excellence, the tools and techniques learned in Stoa help us achieve our goals. As we achieve those goals, we impact others in unique, multifaceted ways. As we advance Stoa's mission through new ways of communicating, serving, and connecting, we change the world for Christ.

As a supporting ministry and resource for homeschool families and alumni, we advance our operational vision by offering Stoa families easy access to resources. We reach new families through homeschool conventions, social media, and broader connections. Additionally, we are establishing a long-term financial plan, developing repeatable processes for ongoing Stoa operations, and seeking donors and sponsors to enhance our visibility and provide financial support for projects and operations.

Looking forward to a new season, we are optimistic that God has the best ahead for Stoa.



# The IMPACT Stoa made...



“

*God is looking out for me and will give me courage and strength when I start new experiences.*

Isabelle Clausen  
Class of 2017



“

*I cannot think of any activity that would have prepared me for my career better than speech and debate.*

Branden Yeates  
Class of 2014

“

*Whatever else I ended up doing in life, I knew an education in Christian apologetics would serve as a really good foundation for it.*

Kasey Leander  
Class of 2012



“

*Instead of praying for success, we prayed that we would be a witness to someone in the room.*

Denise Sprimont  
Class of 2016



“

*Remember that God is big enough to handle your doubts and strong enough to calm your fears.*

Isabella Chow  
Class of 2016



“

*It used my competitive drive to fuel a deeper understanding of my faith and sharpened my ability to communicate with winsomeness.*

John David Logan  
Class of 2016

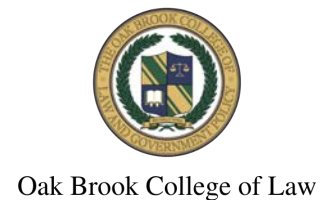
# STOA PARTNERS

Our Stoa partners see the value in Stoa Christian Homeschool Speech and Debate and the impact Stoa makes on young people. They are like-minded and want to support and encourage the next generation toward excellence in their Christian walk. Stoa has been blessed this year with outstanding partners, and we are grateful to let our Stoa membership learn more about each one.



*Click to learn more about becoming a Stoa partner.*

**PARTNER WITH STOA**



# KEY CONTACTS

We are here to help. *That's why we volunteered!*

## Board of Directors

stoa.board@stoausa.org



Ronette Bakke  
Board Member



Maggie Carabelos  
Board President



Jeff Eschen  
Board Member/Treasurer



Sharon Nagatani  
Board Member



Lynda Sloneker  
Board Member/Secretary



Steven Vaughan  
Board Member



Mary Winther  
Board Member

## Executive Director

angela@stoausa.org



Angela Childress  
Executive Director

Maggie Carabelos, President      Term 2017 – 2023

Jeff Eschen, Treasurer      Term 2020 – 2024

Lynda Sloneker, Secretary      Term 2020 – 2024

Ronette Bakke      Term 2017 – 2022

Sharon Nagatani      Term 2018 – 2022

Steven Vaughan      Term 2021 – 2025

Mary Winther      Term 2021 – 2025

# KEY CONTACTS

## Committee Chairs



Alicia Stunkel  
*Speech Committee*

speechcommittee@stoausa.org



Colleen Enos  
*Debate Committee*

debatecommittee@stoausa.org



Kate Creecy  
*Alumni Committee*

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Katja Randall  
*Communications Committee*

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Stephanie Dropping  
*Fundraising Committee*

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Shelley Dejager  
*Marketing Committee*

marketing@stoausa.org



Mike Diaz  
*Tools & Tabulation Committee*

mike@stoausa.org



Kimberly Farley  
*Training & Development Committee*

kimberly@stoausa.org

**DONATE TODAY**

## SUPPORT STOA. SUPPORT OUR MISSION.

Join us and make a difference in the lives of students across the nation. Contribute to our mission of training homeschool students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ.



 **Stoa**  
CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE

**SPEAKING**  
**BOLDLY**  
 **CHANGING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST**

[www.stoausa.org](http://www.stoausa.org)