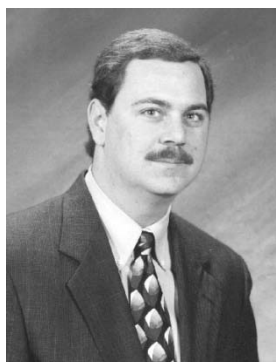
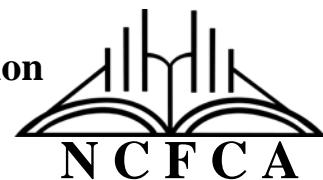


**National Christian Forensics & Communications Association**  
**President's Letter ♦ August 2009**



Dear NCFCA Affiliate Families,

Last month I took the opportunity to consider the highest purpose of NCFCA, which is to train students to engage the culture. Even though competition brings with it winners and awards, we must not lose sight of the purpose that competition serves within NCFCA. With that as a reminder, I'd like to move on to discuss the subject of academic integrity. I Corinthians 10:31 gives this exhortation, *“Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* The exhortation is clear, that we must pursue God's glory in everything we do, and pursuing integrity in competition should be a given for each and every competitor, family, coach, and club.

Over the past several years, many discussions have been held and much work has been done to increase the academic integrity of league events. Many dedicated volunteers have worked to further the goal of academic integrity in the NCFCA speech and debate programs, and these efforts have resulted in a number of program changes with a continued focus for the coming years. Please know that these changes are not arbitrary but are a purposeful part of improving the program offerings.

Major revisions have been made to the script submission requirements over the past few years. **NCFCA rules for Individual Events are intended in part to help speakers learn to maintain academic integrity when speaking, especially when using the intellectual property of others.** Part of the life lessons learned through this activity involve respecting that intellectual property and giving credit when another person's material is used consistent with their copyright. The stricter script submission requirements are meant to increase academic integrity, but it also serves the purpose of forcing all of us to grapple with these issues without taking integrity for granted. Left unchallenged, there had been a tendency in the past for some students to abuse the author's intellectual property. Competitors should always seek to be clear where their words end and the author's words begin, and care must be exercised when using copyrighted material. The current rules and script submission requirements are intended to move the NCFCA further along the road of academic integrity.

I have been quite encouraged as I've had conversations with Affiliate families across the country that understand and appreciate the direction the league is taking and the progress which has been made. Many competitors are fervently pursuing what is right in the context of competition. This is part of the pursuit of excellence which accompanies fair and honest competition, and prepares our competitors for whatever God has in store for them. May God add His blessing to these efforts to pursue academic integrity.

Grace & Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Larimer".