



University Interscholastic League  
28<sup>TH</sup> Annual Capital Conference

AT&T Hotel and Conference Center at UT Austin

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*Tentative Schedule- as of June 26, 2024. Check back for updates.*

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**Thursday, June 27**

**8 am – 9 am | Thursday, June 27**

■ **CONFERENCE CHECK IN**

- Upon arrival, check in will be in lobby area of AT&T Conference Center.
- If you have a balance due or are registering on-site, please visit the registration desk first. If you have pre-paid, there will be a kiosk for you to print your badge.
- Please plan to download program prior to arriving or use your personal device and UT guest wi-fi to retrieve electronic program and handouts presenters may share. A QR Code will be printed on your name badge to easily access program.

■ **PROGRAM & ROOM INFO**

■ **CATEGORY**

**Session Number. Session Title.** Session description. Presenter, affiliation. **Room Number**

- Pecos and Guadalupe rooms are in Rowling Hall. Use elevators near Zlotnik Family Ballrooms to access third and fourth floors.

■ **EXHIBITORS DISPLAY; 8 am – 5 pm**

- Zlotnik Family Ballrooms. We encourage you to stop by and visit resource vendors before, between sessions and during lunch. Sales are not permitted, but order forms will be available for you to take with you so you can order later. Exhibitors will be set up outside the Zlotnik Family Ballrooms in Rowling Hall. AT&T first floor leads to Rowling Hall.

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**8:30 am – 8:45 am | Thursday, June 27**

■ **Capital Conference Orientation**

**A Welcome from UIL Academic Staff.** Optional for first-time attendees or anyone wanting to know what to expect and the highlights about navigating this conference. **Room 204**

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**9:00 am – 9:45 am | Thursday, June 27**

■ **ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES**

**Session 100. Surviving as a Novice UIL Academic Coordinator.** Are you a new UIL coordinator who is just starting their first or second year, or maybe more but still feel every year is year one? Let me tell you, finishing year 10 we still learn new things and find new ways to do it every year. Let us share our coordinating experience with you and provide some guidance as to how to get started and how to keep going. Ofelia Garza and Angie Culberson Espinosa, Mission Sharyland HS. **Room 104**

**Session 101. Talking to Social Media.** (For All) In a world where social media has become an avenue for posting our frustrations, the space can become toxic not only personally but professionally. Let's engage in open discourse on educators' wise approach to this medium. Racy Kane, Director of Academic Competitions, Prosper ISD. **Room 201**

■ **ACADEMICS**

**Session 102. Current Issues & Events: Getting Started.** For newer coaches in this contest, we'll go over the form of the contest and tips and tricks for success. We'll also share ideas from winning schools about how to study. Dr. Bradley Wilson, state contest director. **Room 105**

**Session 103. Ready Writing: Getting Back to Basics.** A close-reading and rhetorical approach to reading and writing. Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director. **Room 108**

## ■ STEM

- Session 104. Looking Back at the 2024 HS Calculator Contests.** This session will focus on contest problems from the 2024 tests written by Dr. David Bourell, and how to solve them. Bring your questions about specific problems and we'll attempt to produce a solution for you! Andy Zapata, UIL math consultant. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

- Session 105. A+ Overview and Rules.** There are over 3,000 elementary and middle school campuses enrolled in A+ Academics, UIL's Academic program for students in grades 2-8 that fosters the groundwork of educational excellence. I'll cover the basics of an A+ Academic program and answer any questions you may have. Lisa Parker, UIL director of A+. **Room Pecos RH3**

## ■ SPEECH

- Session 106. Training for the New Speech Coach: Seeing the Big Picture.** For novice coaches. Meet your UIL Speech, Debate and Congress Director to share with you an overview of the UIL speech and debate high school forensic program. Rules and important dates will be reviewed. Share your questions to get the answers you need for a successful start to your coaching career! Jana Riggins, UIL Speech Director. **Room 204**
- Session 107. How to Advocate for Your Speech Program and Curriculum.** For all coaches. Professional methods on advocating before your school board and administration to achieve the results you hope for will be examined. Nicole Cornish, Secondary Curriculum Director/UIL, Athens ISD. **Room 103**
- Session 101. Talking to Social Media.** (For All) In today's climate, social media is often used to vent frustration toward people rather than building relationships and reconnecting with acquaintances in an uplifting way. Participate in this honest discussion of the pitfalls educators can slip into that have far-reaching and unintended negative impacts. Racy Kane, Director of Academic Competitions, Prosper ISD. **Room 201**

## ■ THEATRE

- Session 109. What to Know When You Don't Know Anything.** This session is for those theatre teachers who didn't major in theatre or are just starting their theatre teaching career and not sure where to start. Tips and tricks will be shared for choosing and directing a one act, how to handle contest days, and lesson plans and classroom resources. Haley Hertel and Craig Hertel, Tioga HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 110. Getting Started with the UIL Film Festival.** Are you new to UIL Film? This session will give you a jump start. Get informed about the categories & rules, view examples of past winners, and find the inspiration to use film as a storytelling medium. Paula Rodriguez, UIL Theatre Director. **Room 106**
- Session 111. Theatrical Design: What is it and How to Get Started?** Introducing the basics for beginning teachers and incorporating the contest into your classwork. For those looking to start in the contest and strategies for building a successful overall program. Rachael Gomez, state contest director; Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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10:00 am – 10:45 am | Thursday, June 27

## ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

- Session 150. Leveraging Technology for Efficient UIL Meet Hosting.** Streamline hosting a UIL meet with Google Tools. The strategic use of technology can significantly simplify and enhance the efficiency of event management. Participants will learn how to leverage a suite of Google tools to make UIL meet organization more efficient, from initial registration to event day logistics. Key takeaways will include hands-on experience with Google Sites, Forms and Slides. Bring your laptop or device for a fully interactive session. Abel Zamora Jr. and Kassandra Estrada, La Joya ISD. **Room 105**

## ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 151. Ready Writing: Taking the Composition High Road.** A nuanced, complex approach to higher level thinking and writing in Ready Writing. JR Segundo, Mission Sharyland HS and Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director. **Room 108**

## ■ STEM

- Session 152. Number Sense: Introduction to the High School Contest.** Contest basics, including rules, test structure, strategies, and more. Larry White, state contest director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**
- Session 153. Robotics: Introduction to UIL Robotics.** An overview of program structure, options and guidelines for participation, and more. David Trussell, UIL STEM Director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 6**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

- Session 154. A+ Science Overview.** In this session, an overview of the A+ Science contest will be discussed. In addition, participants will receive coaching hints as well as useful links to help communicate and prepare your team for the contest. Becky Arndt Key, Robinson HS. **Room 116**

**Session 155. A+ Coordinator: Keeping it All Together.** There are 74 UIL A+ events if you do not group any contests. How do you organize coaches, students, and materials, and keep your own sanity? Come learn (and share) some organizational tips for keeping it all together. Kimberly Sloane, Chireno ISD. **Room Pecos RH3**

**Session 163. Theatrical Design: It's Here for A+ Middle School.** Introducing the Middle School Theatrical Design Pilot Contest Prompt and how to get your students ready to compete. Rachael Gomez, state contest director. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

## ■ SPEECH

**Session 156. Learning to Use *SpeechWire* to Manage Your Speech Tournament.** For speech coaches. *SpeechWire* is the official tournament management system of UIL. Gain knowledge of its capabilities and confidence in using it to make your tournament more efficient. Jennifer Adams, Big Spring HS. **Room 103**

**Session 157. Prose & Poetry: Where Does a New Coach Begin?** For novice high school oral interpretation coaches. Join us for a discussion of contest rules, fundamentals for turning students into interpretive readers and tips, tricks and timelines for preparation that can make you a confident coach. Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS; state advisory committee member. **Room 104**

**Session 158. Lincoln Douglas Debate: An Introduction.** For novice debate coaches. Getting familiar with value debate, including the format, speaker responsibilities, and case construction of LD Debate. Kenneth Adcock, Ore City HS. **Room 107**

**Session 159. Roundtable: UIL CX and LD Debate.** For varsity coaches. An interactive discussion over strategies for increasing participation, possible judging fee restrictions, as well as your ideas for change. Jana Riggins, UIL Speech Director and Rich Edwards, UIL cross-entry consultant. **Room 201**

## ■ THEATRE

**Session 160. Where/How Do I Begin?** Documentary Filmmaking: Explore the UIL Documentary Film category. Elisabeth Sikes, UIL staff. **Room 106**

**Session 161. Play Selection and Cutting: Your Biggest Battle.** One of the most important decisions a One-Act Play Director makes is the selection of the play and cutting it to fit the contest, publisher restrictions, and their community standards. This session will look at ways to approach this important decision and how to use it to your advantage. Rod Sheffield, Magnolia HS. **Room 115**

**Session 162. Found Objects.** Tips and tricks of how to get creative with your set, props, and staging! One object can become anything you want on stage - suitcases, trunks, umbrellas, ladders, fabric, rope, a beach ball, and more! Haley Hertel and Craig Hertel, Tioga HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**

**Session 163. Theatrical Design: It's Here for A+ Middle School.** Introducing the Middle School Theatrical Design Pilot Contest Prompt and how to get your students ready to compete. Rachael Gomez, state contest director. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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11:00 am – 11:45 am | Thursday, June 27

## ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

**Session 200. Making Friends with *SpeechWire*.** *SpeechWire* is here to stay, so we better make friends with it! Come discuss the *SpeechWire* platform, ask questions, and learn ways to use the *SpeechWire* system as a coordinator without losing your sanity. Leslie Graham, Archer City HS. **Room 101**

**Session 201. Artificial Intelligence: Ethics & Education.** For all coaches. In a seemingly short amount of time, artificial intelligence has ushered in a new era of science, business, and education. This session will cover what artificial intelligence is and how it works, provide examples of how it could impact speech, debate and other UIL contests, highlighting both advantages and pitfalls of the technology. Matthew Murrell, UT School of Law. **Room 204**

## ■ ACADEMICS

**Session 202. Accounting: Secrets of the Contest.** Come discover the secrets hidden in accounting tests and unlock the answers that await in every section. All levels of accounting tests from invitational to state have clues that need to be unlocked to solve the problems. Kay Whitton, state contest director. **Room 104**

**Session 203. Journalism: Headline Writing Basics.** This session dissects the headline writing contest from start to finish, covering the basics, including the types of headlines, count, creativity and how to tell the story. Cindy Berry, Slidell HS. **Room 105**

**Session 204. Spelling: Building Legitimate Logophilic Laureates (Part I).** Strategies for upping your spelling and vocabulary game to improve for contest. Linda Berrey, state contest director. **Room 108**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

**Session 205. Starting From the Bottom.** Join us as we discuss ways to create a strong foundation in your A+ Program. Whether you're starting a brand new program or overhauling an existing one, this session will equip you with the tools to teach your students the skills, habits, and mentalities that will guide them to

success through their elementary, junior high, and high school competition seasons. Michael Donaldson, Connally ISD. **Room Pecos RH3**

**Session 214. Theatrical Design: Vertical Teaming to Build Depth of Success.** How to combine efforts in A+ Middle School Theatrical Design alongside the High School program. Work smart (as well as hard) to create exponential success over 7 years instead of 4. The benefits are real. Rachael Gomez, state contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

#### ■ STEM

**Session 206. Computer Science Coaching Basics.** Tips and strategies for building a successful CS team at your school. Stacey Armstrong, Cypress Woods HS. **Room 106**

**Session 207. Mathematics: High School Overview.** Rules, topics on the test, coaching strategies, and more. Cliff McCurdy, state contest director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**

**Session 216. Robotics – Introduction to RECF-VEX.** Learn about VEX Robotics competition – how it works, what you need, how to get started and strategies for success. Andy Schaafs, RECF and James Jobe, Clear Creek ISD. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 6**

#### ■ SPEECH

**Session 201. Artificial Intelligence: Ethics & Education.** For all coaches. In a seemingly short amount of time, artificial intelligence has ushered in a new era of science, business, and education. This session will cover what artificial intelligence is and how it works, provide examples of how it could impact speech, debate and other UIL contests, highlighting both advantages and pitfalls of the technology. Matthew Murrell, UT School of Law. **Room 204**

**Session 209. The High School Prose & Poetry Literary Categories.** For novice and veteran coaches. Come learn the details of each category and documentation requirements as well as hear explanations of the true intent behind them from those who authored them. M'Liss Hindman, State Contest Director, and members of the state advisory committee. **Room 103**

**Session 210. Extemporaneous Speaking: Start At the Very Beginning.** For novice coaches. What is Informative and Persuasive Speaking and how do you teach your new competitors about them? This session covers the contest rules and procedures, as well as strategies for coaching Extemporaneous Speaking. Ann Shofner, State Contest Director. **Room 116**

**Session 211. Understanding CX Policy Debate (Part I).** For novice coaches. A foundation-level explanation of cross-examination team debate UIL rules, policy terminology, basic theory. Clint Adams, Big Spring HS. **Room 201**

#### ■ THEATRE

**Session 212. No Budget, No Stage, No Degree, No Problem!** An in-depth look at how to build a successful OAP program with little to no resources or support. This workshop is open to all classifications and highly recommended for smaller schools. Please join the discussion with an open mind and a willingness to change. Gary Brister, Hico HS. **Room 107**

**Session 213. Finding Your Footing When You Can't See the Ground: How to Walk Through OAP While Navigating Imposter Syndrome.** An open forum discussion geared towards teachers/directors who may have been "volun-told" to take on OAP, or those struggling with imposter syndrome while leading their programs. Talk with two directors leading a program without a Theatre degree between them. Let us help you determine what "success" can mean for your program and how it can be achieved. Sarah Kouba and Chris Irwin, Barber's Hill HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**

**Session 214. Theatrical Design: Vertical Teaming to Build Depth of Success.** How to combine efforts in A+ Middle School Theatrical Design alongside the High School program. Work smart (as well as hard) to create exponential success over 7 years instead of 4. The benefits are real. Rachael Gomez, state contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

**Session 215. Capitals: Get some tips and tricks to building capitals?** Cardboard? Foam? What is the best glue? How to make them durable for transport? How do I get a specific shape I want? Bring your ideas and we can talk through them. Mel Edwards, state consultant. **Room 115**

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#### 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm LUNCH BREAK | Thursday, June 27

If you pre-purchased a lunch voucher, lunch will be served in the **Tejas Dining Hall**.

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#### 1:15 pm – 2:00 pm | Thursday, June 27

#### ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

**Session 250. Hosting a Tournament and Making your Tournament Website.** Hosting a tournament can be an overwhelming ordeal. This session will provide important steps to hosting a great tournament including creating a tournament website that will provide all the information your tournament guests will need in

one location. Bring your laptop and get started designing your tournament website the same day. Racy Kane, Proser ISD. **Room 101**

## ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 251. Journalism: Coaching Tips.** A veteran coach will share what she teaches her students for each contest as well as resources she uses to be successful in UIL Journalism. Carol Cox, Archer City HS. **Room 105**
- Session 252. Spelling: Building Legitimate Logophilic Laureates (Part II).** This is a continuation of strategies for upping your spelling and vocabulary game to improve for contest. Linda Berrey, state contest director. **Room 108**

## ■ STEM

- Session 253. Computer Science: Algorithms and Data Structures.** A 90-minute in-depth session, from basic to advanced. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop with Java 20 and an IDE installed ([IntelliJ](#) preferred). Stacey Armstrong, Cypress Woods HS. **Room 106**
- Session 254. Mathematics – Breaking Down the High School District Test Part 1.** Bring your calculator and we will work through problems 1-30. Cliff McCurdy, state contest director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**
- Session 255. Robotics- Introduction to FIRST.** A guide to FIRST Robotics competition, including FTC and FRC – the basics you need to know, helpful resources, and the benefits for your students and school community. Jason Arms and Jess Jankowitsch, FIRST in Texas. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 6**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

- Session 256. Get Into the Groove: Preparing for the Music Memory Contest.** Nancy Garza, Pflugerville ISD. **Room Pecos RH3**

## ■ SPEECH

- Session 257. Understanding CX Policy Debate (Part II) and Policy Debate Teacher Tools.** For novice and veteran coaches. A continuation of policy debate discussion from Part I, including teacher resources. Clint Adams, Big Spring HS. **Room 201**
- Session 258. Documentation Made Simple (and Fun!)** For all coaches. Why do I have to document? Don't make documentation requirements harder than they should be! Eliminate the confusion as your presenter walks you through how easy prose and poetry documentation can be. Valuable instruction about digital documentation procedures used at region and state will be included. Gary Brister, Hico HS, state documentation reviewer. **Room 107**
- Session 259. Congress 101: Understanding the Contest.** For novice coaches. A discussion that focuses on the structure, rules and mechanics of the Congress contest. Jimmy Smith, Collinsville HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 5**
- Session 260. Roundtable: Speech – Oral Interpretation & Extemporaneous Speaking.** For veteran coaches. Join your state director and interp and extemp consultants in casual but meaningful conversation about contemporary issues in these events. Share your thoughts and concerns. Jana Riggins, UIL Speech Director; M'Liss Hindman, Prose & Poetry consultant; Ann Shofner, Extemporaneous Speaking consultant. **Room 116**
- Session 261. Teaching Debaters to Adapt to Their Judge.** For novice and veteran coaches. Understanding the formal role of the judge can make you a better coach. This session discusses paradigms and how to teach your student debaters the significance of how those paradigms impact their choices of strategies during the debate. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University, UIL Debate consultant. **Room 103**

## ■ THEATRE

- Session 262. Filling the Empty Canvas.** A workshop for the "rookie" director on easily creating stage pictures in the OAP process. This workshop is geared for those "new" directors who are looking for simple "rules" for creating interesting visuals in their OAP production. Travis Poe, retired theatre teacher from Barbers Hill HS. **Room 104**
- Session 263. So, You Need Good Acting.** Join us for a basic acting workshop for ways to coach your young actors to tell compelling stories. Annie Dragoo and Billy Dragoo, recently retired, Austin HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 264. Capitals: Get some tips and tricks to building capitals? Repeat session** Cardboard? Foam? What is the best glue? How to make them durable for transport? How do I get a specific shape I want? Bring your ideas and we can talk through them. Mel Edwards, state consultant. **Room 115**
- Session 265. Theatrical Design: The Contest Prompt Axoloris 2024-25 (Part I).** Dig into what this year's prompt is all about and focus on communicating it through writing and design. We will share strategies for how to explore the prompt with your students and help them to build their design voice. Rachael Gomez, state contest director. (Double Session 1:15 pm-3:00 pm) **Room Guadalupe RH4**

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm | Thursday, June 27

## ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

- Session 300. Building a Dedicated Team for Academic UIL Success: Strategies and Best Practices.** This session will focus on the essential steps and strategies for creating a dedicated team to excel in academic UIL competitions. We will explore team-building techniques, effective communication, and leadership skills necessary to foster a cohesive and motivated team. Attendees will learn how to identify and recruit talented students, develop a supportive environment, and implement practices that drive team success. Ivan Silva, La Joya Jimmy Carter Early College HS; Luis Alaniz, La Joya Jimmy Carter Early College HS. **Room 115**

## ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 301. Literary Criticism: Absolute Beginners. (Repeated).** This is the absolute basics of the contest. Mark Bernier, state contest director. **Room 116**
- Session 302. Social Studies: Introduction to Contest.** Discuss the basics of how to approach the UIL Social Studies Contest. Andy Bates, state contest director. **Room 105**

## ■ STEM

- Session 303. Computer Science: Algorithms and Data Structures, continued.** *Continuing from 1:15.* Stacey Armstrong, Cypress Woods HS. **Room 106**
- Session 304. Mathematics: Breaking Down the High School District Test Part 2.** Bring your calculator and we will work through problems 31-60. Cliff McCurdy, state contest director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

- Session 306. The UIL Test Writer's Perspective in Writing Junior High/Middle School Calculator Applications Tests.** We'll look at the A+ Junior High/Middle School Calculator Applications Contest and discuss the various problem types of problems (Number Crunchers, Stated and Geometry). We should also discuss your queries as to perhaps shortcuts for solving various problems from the past year of UIL tests. Don't forget to bring your calculator! Andy Zapata, state consultant. **Room Pecos RH3**
- Session 307. Learning How to Play and Teach Chess.** This fun session has two primary objectives: 1) to provide to you a brief overview of how to play the game and 2) to introduce you to tools that will help you more effectively teach chess to your students. We will cover the basic rules, but also touch on the two most commonly misunderstood moves in the game: castling and en passant. Finally, you will learn some of the basic principles which will help your students improve their play more quickly and efficiently. Dr. Jeff Day, Texas Tech Chess. **Room 107**

## ■ SPEECH

- Session 308. Coaching in a Small School: Facing the Challenges and Experiencing the Joy!** For Conference 1A, 2A, 3A novice and veteran coaches. This discussion examines the special challenges small schools face when fielding competitors for UIL and how to address these issues with positive results. Kimberly Sloane, Chireno HS. **Room 201**
- Session 309. Year One of the Categories: Was it a SLAM! DUNK! or Did We Miss the Boat?** For novice and veteran coaches. We'll review examples of actual performances this season and if they did or did not meet the true intent of the categories. Bring your questions and we'll share perspectives on how to not miss the boat. Jana Riggins, UIL Speech Director, M'Liss Hindman, state contest director, and advisory committee members. **Room 204**
- Session 310. Congress: Approaches to Coaching and Activities to Strengthen Competitive Skills.** For novice and veteran coaches. A sharing time of ideas on how to engage students in this exciting event, coaching methods and activities that make your congressional representatives stand out in the chamber. Jennifer Adams, Big Spring HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 5**
- Session 311. Informative & Persuasive Speaking: Oh, The Games People Play!** For novice and veteran coaches. Make Extemp fun! Learn some games that will help your speakers with current events. Let's Play! Ann Shofner, UIL Extemp consultant. **Room 101**
- Session 312. Why Debate? Testimonials.** For all coaches and coordinators. Competitive debate is challenging and requires a dedication to research, analysis, persuasive skills and certainly a commitment of time. When contemporary students are already schedule-driven and those drawn to the activity are enrolled in demanding AP, Dual Credit and Honors courses, why invest their time in UIL Debate? Why should **you** want to coach Debate? Listen to testimonials of the impact of participating in debate. Presenters Nicole Cornish, former UIL CX Debate State Champion; Dr. Rich Edwards, former HS Debater and collegiate coach. **Room 103**

## ■ THEATRE

- Session 313. Floor/Ground Plans: Using the Stage Effectively.** Join us to get ideas of how to tell your story using your space. Annie Dragoo and Billy Dragoo, recently retired, Austin HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**

- Session 314. Tricks of the Trade.** Preparing for your OAP Site Rehearsal: Come learn some tricks for making your official OAP site rehearsal easy and smooth for you and your students. Amy Jordan and BK Goodman, Texas Thespians. **Room 108**
- Session 315. Surviving and Thriving in a Small School.** Craig and Haley Hertel have spent most of their careers in 1 and 2A theatre programs, where they got very familiar with all the problems small school directors face: lack of space, funding, kids, time. This workshop is all about how to combat those problems and embrace what is great about small schools. Haley Hertel and Craig Hertel, Tioga HS. **Room 104**
- Session 316. Theatrical Design: The Contest Prompt Axoloris 2024-25 (Part II).** Dig into what this year's prompt is all about and focus on communicating it through writing and design. We will share strategies for how to explore the prompt with your students and help them to build their design voice. Rachael Gomez, state contest director. (Double Session 1:15 pm-3:00 pm) **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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**3:30 pm – 4:15 pm | Thursday, June 27**
**■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES**

- Session 350. Running a Tight Ship: Tips and Tricks for Running an Efficient UIL Meet.** Learn organizational tips and tricks about how to organize, plan, pay for and run a great UIL Invitational or District Meet from a veteran District and Region Director. This session is perfect for anyone that wants to tighten their procedures or is new to hosting. Kendra Willeby, Foster HS. **Room 115**

**■ ACADEMICS**

- Session 351. Literary Criticism: Using the Handbook to Literature.** Tips of how to prepare for the contest using the Handbook to Literature. Mark Bernier, state contest director. **Room 116**
- Session 352. Current Issues & Events and Social Studies: Preparing to Write the Essay.** Learn how to have your students study for, practice, and write quality essays. Andy Bates and Dr. Bradley Wilson, state contest directors. **Room 105**

**■ STEM**

- Session 353. Number Sense: NO TRICKS. (Part I)** 90-minute in-depth session demonstrating and discussing problem types and shortcuts from the HS sequence chart #1-40. Participants encouraged to bring problems from each section they would like to discuss. Larry White, state contest director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**
- Session 354. Robotics- Introduction to BEST.** 90 minutes. Learn the basics and benefits of BEST robotics competition, including the fall season structure, available resources and opportunities to engage your school community. Johannes Starks, BEST of Texas. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 6**

**■ A+ ACADEMICS**

- Session 355. Chess Drop-In Session: Come and Go.** This informal session will provide us an opportunity to talk in greater detail about how you can more effectively start, run, and grow a chess club / program in your school. We can talk about the various chess resources that are available to you that will help your kids learn more about the game and, of equal importance, become stronger players. Dr. Jeff Day, Texas Tech Chess. **Room 107**
- Session 356. The UIL Test Writer's Perspective in Writing Elementary/Junior High/Middle School Number Sense Tests.** We'll look at the A+ Elementary/Junior High Number Sense Problem Sequencing and discuss the various problem types with matching sequencing arrangement. We should also discuss your queries as to perhaps shortcuts for solving various problems from the past year of UIL tests. Andy Zapata, state consultant. **Room Pecos RH3**

**■ SPEECH**

- Session 357. Judge Awareness Training.** For all coaches and those who judge speaking events. It is critical for speech and debate judges to be aware of their implicit biases within the context of expectations of student competition so that tournaments can guarantee a safe, inclusive space. In addition, the ballots judges write need to provide strong educational learning experiences. This workshop will explore those concepts and actions judges can take to ensure these benefits occur. Jana Riggins, UIL Speech Director. **Room 104**
- Session 358. Effective Coaching Techniques for Oral Interpretation (Part I).** For novice and veteran coaches. Through a variety of brief performance demonstrations, watch an outstanding interp coach explain techniques to draw the best out of your students' abilities to perform. M'Liss Hindman, Director of Forensics, Tyler Junior College; Kailee Huston, TJC. **Room 204**
- Session 359. Congress: Teaching Parliamentary Procedure.** For novice and veteran coaches. The workshop will discuss strategies and fun activities to engage students in the art of proper parliamentary procedure. Jennifer Adams, Big Spring HS. **Room 106**
- Session 360. Extemporaneous Speaking: Do You Want to Know a Secret?** For novice and veteran coaches. Participate in an open discussion of what judges look for in Informative and Persuasive Speaking rounds. Ann Shofner, UIL speech consultant. **Room 101**



- Session 361. CX and LD Debate: The Importance of Flowing in the Current Technological World.** For novice and veteran coaches. As debate shifts to include more and more technology, students are increasingly sending documents back and forth electronically during the round. Because they have those documents at their fingertips, debaters have stopped flowing. The result has been reduced clash because, without flows, debaters aren't envisioning how the arguments interact with each other. Join our discussion of how flowing remains essential to good debate. Nicole Cornish, Athens ISD. **Room 201**

## ■ THEATRE

- Session 362. Please Don't Call it a *Festival*.** Directing the UIL A+ One Act Contest Play. This is an A-Z, Nuts and Bolts session for directors of the junior high/middle school contests. Paula Rodriguez, UIL Theatre Director. **Room 108**
- Session 363. Finding Your Footing When You Can't See the Ground: How to Walk Through OAP While Navigating Imposter Syndrome.** An open forum discussion geared towards teachers/directors who may have been "volun-told" to take on OAP, or those struggling with imposter syndrome while leading their programs. Talk with two directors leading a program without a Theatre degree between them. Let us help you determine what "success" can mean for your program and how it can be achieved. Sarah Kouba and Chris Irwin, Barber's Hill HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 364. Theatrical Design: Tools of the Trade.** Supplies and resources for success and program building. Learn from experienced Theatrical Design coaches; what has worked for them and where they turn for ideas and inspiration. Rachael Gomez, state contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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4:30 pm – 5:15 pm | Thursday, June 27

## ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

- Session 400. Don't Just Hope to Retire; Plan for It!** Teachers are very rarely taught about TRS, its benefits and limitations, how TRS and Social Security work together (or don't) and how to plan for retirement. Too often we are left to wander in the dark with no real path to retirement and financial dignity. This session covers the basics of TRS, different rules for retirement eligibility, how to plan for retirement using supplemental savings such as a 403b, different options for saving for retirement and the best strategies to build your retirement funds. Jonathan Price, ValuTeachers. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 5**
- Session 412. Little Fish in Big Ponds.** You may feel that UIL Academics is a minnow in the sea of extracurricular activities. Come review some tips and tricks to creating a successful program from a coordinator on a large campus. What bait is needed to bring in the right coaches, competitors and land those elusive administrative attaboys? Let's discuss! Teresa Haby, Northside Brennan HS. **Room 108.**
- Session 401. Where to Start: Pocket Coach Academy.** A simple introduction to the world of Academic Coaching. If you are new to the realm of Academic Coaching it can feel very overwhelming. What to do, when to do it and how to get there are impossible questions to ask. In this session we help outline expectations and map out what you can expect in your first-year teaching by providing resources and systems to ease the stress of your first year. Cody Morris, Pocket Coach Academy. **Room 115**

## ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 402. Accounting: Coaches Roundtable.** Sharing ideas, suggestions, and coaching secrets benefits us all. Come share your successes and offer thoughts as to what resources you'd like to have available to become a better facilitator and coach. Kay Whitton, state contest director. **Room 103**
- Session 403. Journalism: Leaguetown High School Population You.** Welcome to Leaguetown — where the people are strange, and the school board is active. In this session, we'll introduce the News, Feature and Editorial journalism contests and give you the tools you need to coach a successful journalism team. Bring lots of questions and maybe one day you'll earn your very own Hometown Hero Award from the mayor herself. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL Journalism Director. **Room 105**
- Session 404. Literary Criticism: Explicating Poetry-The Sonnet. (Repeated).** We will focus on the sonnet. Mark Bernier, state contest director. **Room 116**

## ■ STEM

- Session 405. Number Sense: NO TRICKS. (Part II)** Larry White, state contest director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**
- Session 406. Robotics- Introduction to BEST (continued).** Learn the basics and benefits of BEST robotics competition, including the fall season structure, available resources and opportunities to engage your school community. Johannes Starks, BEST of Texas. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 6**

## ■ SPEECH

- Session 407. Positive Ways to Prevent Problems at Your District Meet.** For all coaches and district meet officials. Many times, issues would not arise during a meet if proactive steps had been taken prior to the district meet. This discussion encourages specific steps that can make your district meet a positive experience for all. Jana Riggins, UIL Speech Director. **Room 104**



- Session 408. Meeting in the Middle: Navigating Community Standards.** For all oral interpretation coaches. While respecting the voices of your students and their desire for their views to be heard, coaches must work with administration and within a volatile political climate in the guidance of selecting performance material to use for competition. Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS. **Room 106**
- Session 409. Middle School Participation in Debate.** For all. Discussion of a modified version of Debate designed for middle school students. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University, UIL Debate consultant. **Room 201**

#### ■ THEATRE

- Session 410. OAP/TTAO Roundtable: Adjudication Organization and Best Practices.** Meet and ask questions of three highly successful adjudicators/directors. A UIL and TTAO collaboration. Rebecca Walters, TTAO Adjudicator. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 411. Theatrical Design: How to Evaluate Your Students' Work Like a Judge.** Learn what the judges are looking for to better assist your students. What makes a truly successful design presentation of the highest level. Knowing the goal makes it easier to obtain! Rachael Gomez, state contest director, Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

#### 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Thursday, June 27

#### ■ ALL CONFERENCE RECEPTION

- For all conference attendees. Located in **Tejas Dining Room**. Cash bar and hor d'oeuvres.
- UIL Sponsor Excellence Award Winners will be recognized.

#### Friday, June 28

#### 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Friday, June 28

#### ■ CONFERENCE CHECK IN

- No check in is needed for day two unless you did not check-in on day one.

#### ■ EXHIBITORS DISPLAY; 8 am – 1 pm

- Zlotnik Family Ballrooms. We encourage you to stop by and visit resource vendors before, between sessions and during lunch. Sales are not permitted, but order forms will be available for you to take with you so you can order later. Exhibitors will be set up outside the Zlotnik Family Ballrooms in Rowling Hall. AT&T first floor leads to Rowling Hall.

#### Friday, June 28

#### 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | Friday, June 28

#### ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 500. Write On: Navigating the UIL Essay Contests.** Not every academic event occurs during the district contest window. Come find out how you can use the UIL essay contest in your school to reach a new group of students, providing them an opportunity to learn research and academic writing skills during the process. JP Fugler, Lindale HS. **Room 105**
- Session 501. Coaching and Coordinating: Small Schools Can Do All.** Working in a small school requires tremendous time management skills. While prepping for seven different classes daily, we somehow successfully coordinate and coach academics with students who are doing every other spring activity offered in our school. We will share a few tips on how we do it. Lory Zimmerman and Rebekah Trevino, Knippa HS. **Room 204**
- Session 515. Journalism Coaching for English Teachers.** This is the story of two English teachers who decided to try coaching Journalism. We will share how we learned the ins and outs of the five Journalism events and how the specialized knowledge of an English teacher actually works to the advantage of a Journalism coach (you just have to be willing to give up the Oxford comma!). Come join us to see how English teachers are a natural fit for training Leaguetown staff writers. Gail Herman and Madison Millsap, Sulphur Springs HS. **Room 116**

#### ■ STEM

- Session 502. Science: The Big Picture.** An overview of the Science contest, how to prepare your students and what to expect from the test writers. Dr. David Bixler, state contest director. **Room 103**
- Session 503. Computer Science: File Input.** From basic to advanced. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop with Java 20 and an IDE installed ([IntelliJ](#) preferred). Stacey Armstrong, Cypress Woods HS. **Room 106**
- Session 504. Number Sense: Still No Tricks!** A 90-minute in-depth session demonstrating and discussing problem types and shortcuts from the HS sequence chart #41-80. Participants are encouraged to bring problems from each section they would like to discuss. Larry White, state contest director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

- Session 505.** **The UIL Test Writer's Perspective in Writing Junior High/Middle School Mathematics Tests.** We'll look at the A+ Junior High/Middle School Mathematics and discuss the various problem types of problems. We should also discuss your queries as to perhaps shortcuts for solving various problems from the past year of UIL tests. Andy Zapata, UIL A+ Consultant. **Room Pecos RH3**
- Session 506.** **To Read or Not to Read.** An in-depth look at A+ Oral Reading selections and their benefits for HS interp as well as connections with Impromptu and MO. Gary Brister, Hico ISD. **Room 107**

## ■ SPEECH

- Session 507.** **Working From a Blank Canvas: Creating a Speech/Debate Program.** For all coaches. This session will cover recruitment, funding and sustaining a speech and debate program in a small rural school district. We will share our story of how our program was created from a completely blank canvas around the students. Mark Tribett, Principal, Dilley HS. **Room 115**
- Session 508.** **Effective Coaching of Interpretation: Part II.** For novice and veteran coaches. A continuation of demonstrating coaching methods that draw the best performance out of your students. M'Liss Hindman, Director of Forensics, Tyler Junior College; Kailee Huston, TJC. **Room 201**
- Session 509.** **Roundtable: Congress.** For veteran coaches. Join in meaningful dialogue as we explore rule and procedure changes, and ways to make this event even better. Moderator Jana Riggins, UIL Speech Director and state advisory committee members Ryan Lovell, Amarillo Tascos HS; Dawn Stubblefield, Sinton HS. **Room 108**
- Session 510.** **CX Debate Topic Analysis: A Focus on the Affirmative Position.** For novice and veteran coaches. Hear an comprehensive introduction to this year's policy debate resolution, including a discussion of the terms in the topic and potential affirmative cases. Resource materials provided. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University. **Room 101**

## ■ THEATRE

- Session 511.** **Cues, Trigger, and Key Words.** Join us to explore how to pull authenticity from your actors Annie Dragoo and Billy Dragoo, recently retired, Austin HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 512.** **Get the Gear – Securing Grants for Audio, Video, and Lighting Upgrades.** In the "Get the Gear" workshop, participants will learn how to secure grants for upgrading audio, video, and lighting equipment. The session covers identifying funding sources, understanding grant requirements, and writing strong proposals. Practical advice on budget planning and post-grant reporting was also provided. By the end, attendees were equipped with the knowledge to successfully advocate for essential technical upgrades. Katie Cross, Brett Butler and TJ Edwards, Covenant Communications. **Room 104**
- Session 513.** **Contest Manager Session for the OAP Director.** What I've learned by working State Meet? Presentation of photos from past State Meet contests showing set designs, technical tricks, and theatrical elements. Ask questions and get some answers. Amy Jordan and BK Goodman, Texas Thespians. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 5**
- Session 514.** **Theatrical Design: Set.** Skill building for everything you need to know about the Set Design category and all of its elements. Rachael Gomez, state contest director; Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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10:00 am – 10:45 am | Friday, June 28

## ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

- Session 550.** **Hosting a UIL Academic Meet.** Wanting to Host an Invitational Meet? Don't know where to start? Hosting a UIL Academic meet might seem like a monumental task. With over ten invitationals, district, and a virtual meet under our belts, we would love to share some words of wisdom about how you can run a successful UIL Academic Meet at your high school. Ofelia Garza and Angie Culberson Espinosa, Mission Sharyland HS. **Room 204**

## ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 551.** **Current Issues and Events: Beyond the Basics.** For those who have been coaching CI&E for a while, we'll share ideas on how to study and how to keep with all that's going on in the world. We'll also look at some data from past tests to see how this might impact how students prepare. Dr. Bradley Wilson, state contest director. **Room 105**
- Session 552.** **What Makes a Winning Journalism Paper?** Come for a discussion of the "Tops in Texas" News, Features and Editorials papers from the 2024 Academic State Meet. In this close reading of successful Journalism papers, attendees will recognize the characteristics of a winning paper and receive tips for helping their own students emulate these practices, including evaluating a story's lead, establishing flow and selecting appropriate quotes. Gail Herman and Madison Millsap, Sulphur Springs HS. **Room 116**

## ■ STEM

- Session 553. Computer Science: How Do I Make it to State? (Part I)** A 90-minute in-depth session providing answers to that question with a systematic approach to preparation that will help you guide and coach your students. Dr. Shyamal Mitra, state contest advisor. **Room 106**
- Session 554. Number Sense: Still No Tricks, continued.** *Continuing from 9:00.* Larry White, state contest director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**
- Session 564. So much Biology, Where to Start?** For all science coaches. There is so much biology content to cover. Come gain some helpful tips on where to begin building your team's biology knowledge. Also, some general advice on strengthening your science team. Desarae Good, Argyle HS. **Room 103**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

- Session 555. Cultivating a Culture of Excellence for your UIL Team.** Everyone can achieve excellence in UIL, but what does it take? In this session I'll share ideas to grow your UIL program's numbers, build an image, recruitment strategies, boost morale, and get coaches and students motivated to participate in UIL. David Amador, Sharyland ISD. **Room 107**
- Session 556. Learning How to Play and Teach Chess.** This fun session has two primary objectives: 1) to provide to you a brief overview of how to play the game and 2) to introduce you to tools that will help you more effectively teach chess to your students. We will cover the basic rules, but also touch on the two most commonly misunderstood moves in the game: castling and en passant. Finally, you will learn some of the basic principles which will help your students improve their play more quickly and efficiently. Dr. Jeff Day, Texas Tech Chess. **Room Pecos RH3**

## ■ SPEECH

- Session 557. CX Debate Topic Analysis: A Focus on the Negative Position.** For novice and veteran coaches. This session will explore additional topic discussion beyond what was covered in the CX Topic Analysis session, Part I with an examination of negative positions on the new topic. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University. **Room 101**
- Session 558. Making the Most of After-School Practice.** For novice and veteran coaches. Not having class time to practice UIL and sharing students who are involved in multiple activities presents a huge challenge for coaches. Learn some tips on how to make what time you do have with them count. Wendy Glaze and Shanna Peugh, Grady HS. **Room 115**
- Session 559. Lincoln Douglas Debate: Making the Most of Rebuttals.** For novice and veteran coaches. Rebuttals are crucial to having success in the debate round. This discussion will focus on strategies to gain the advantage. Cody Morris, Mt. Pleasant: Chapel Hill HS. **Room 201**

## ■ THEATRE

- Session 560. Attention to Details: The Key to Successful Storytelling.** Join us for a unique way to look at design for the UIL OAP. Annie Dragoo and Billy Dragoo, recently retired, Austin HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 561. Digital Scenery.** Get ready for an informational webinar on utilizing Digital Scenery with Projectors, hosted by the Covenant Education Team! They'll spill the secrets on turning stages into visual wonders using top-notch projection tech. Let's dive into creating epic visual experiences. Don't miss this exploration of tech and art in stage production!" Katie Cross, Brett Butler and TJ Edwards, Covenant Communications. **Room 104**
- Session 562. Training Actors Through Music and Movement.** Unlocking body awareness and soft focus through stretching, and ensemble movement. This workshop will discuss methodologies and cover the process. No need to prepare for movement. Matt Wasson, Deer Park HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 5**
- Session 563. Theatrical Design: Rethinking Realized and Rendered Costume Designs.** How to capitalize on your student's abilities to make the most of their options within the Costume Contest including realized designs. Rachael Gomez, state contest director; Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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11:00 am – 11:45 am | Friday, June 28

## ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

- Session 600. Building a Unified UIL Academics Program: Strategies for Vertical Alignment from Elementary to High School.** This session is designed to empower educators, coaches, and UIL coordinators with the tools and strategies needed to create a cohesive and vertically aligned UIL program spanning grades 2 through 12. This session will provide practical tips and proven methods to ensure that students at every level are supported and inspired to excel in their UIL activities. Join us for this engaging and informative session to learn how to create a seamless and supportive UIL experience for all students, fostering a love for learning and competition from elementary through high school. Abel Zamora Jr. and Dr. Cristina Saldaña, La Joya ISD. **Room 204**

## ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 601. Accounting Cycle: Contest to College Major to Career.** The Accounting contest offers rewards that can lead to success far beyond a state medal. Come learn how you can aid your students in finding lifelong fulfillment starting with a simple accounting cycle. Kay Whitton, state contest director. **Room 108**
- Session 602. Literary Criticism: Explicating Poetry-Open and Closed Form.** We will be focused on open-form and closed-form poems. Mark Bernier, state contest director. **Room 115**
- Session 603. Social Studies: Advanced.** Analyze the specifics of the 2024-25 UIL Social Studies Topic: The Rise of Factionalism, Partisanship, and the "Vices of Democracy" in the early United States (1795-1850). Andy Bates, state contest director. **Room 105**

## ■ STEM

- Session 604. Science: Physics Deep Dive.** A demonstration of how the contest director comes up with questions, an overview of what to expect in the 2024-2025 UIL season including the new book, and a Q&A session on 2024 contest problems. Dr. David Bixler, state contest director. **Room 103**
- Session 605. Computer Science: How Do I Make it to State? (Part II) Continuing from 10:00.** Dr. Shyamal Mitra, state contest advisor. **Room 106**
- Session 606. High School Calculator-Motion Problems.** In this session we'll look at a select variety of motion problems, from simple to more challenging, written by Dr. David Bourell over the past five years of contests. Bring your questions about particular motion problems and we'll attempt to produce a solution for you! Andy Zapata, state consultant. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

- Session 600. Building a Unified UIL Academics Program: Strategies for Vertical Alignment from Elementary to High School.** (For HS and A+ Academic Coordinators) This session is designed to empower educators, coaches, and UIL coordinators with the tools and strategies needed to create a cohesive and vertically aligned UIL program spanning grades 2 through 12. This session will provide practical tips and proven methods to ensure that students at every level are supported and inspired to excel in their UIL activities. Join us for this engaging and informative session to learn how to create a seamless and supportive UIL experience for all students, fostering a love for learning and competition from elementary through high school. Abel Zamora, Jr., La Joya ISD. **Room 204**
- Session 608. Chess Drop-In Session: Come and Go.** This informal session will provide us an opportunity to talk in greater detail about how you can more effectively start, run, and grow a chess club / program in your school. We can talk about the various chess resources that are available to you that will help your kids learn more about the game and, of equal importance, become stronger players. Dr. Jeff Day, Texas Tech Chess. **Pecos RH3**
- Session 609. OAP: The Junior High OAP Process.** From pre-production to the final bow. I will share ways to organize yourself before, during and after you compete in OAP. First time directors and veteran directors are welcome. Come and take some of "my" ideas for your own JH OAP program. David Amador, Sharyland ISD. **107**

## ■ SPEECH

- Session 610. Starting Interp Students on the Right Track.** For novice and veteran coaches. Suggestions of how to get your students on the positive track of developing a good work ethic will be discussed. Tried and true exercises for focus, developing characters and book work will also be discussed as well as overcoming anxiety and stress. Bring your questions and be ready to be positive! M'Liss Hindman, UIL Oral Interpretation consultant, Tyler Junior College. **Room 201**
- Session 611. Building a Debate Program in a Small School Setting.** For novice and veteran coaches. A coach shares his strategies for building a strong debate program while facing the many challenges unique to small schools. Kenneth Adcock, Ore City HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 6**
- Session 612. Extemporaneous Speaking: Working for the Weekend!** For novice and veteran coaches. Find the secrets to managing students' focus on final preparation before the weekend tournament. Ann Shofner, UIL Extemporaneous Speaking State Contest Director. **Room 101**
- Session 613. Lincoln Douglas Debate: Advanced Argumentation.** For veteran coaches. Building solid strategies in varsity LD Debate is essential. A successful coach will share argumentation strategies for your advanced debaters. Cody Morris, Mt. Pleasant: Chapel Hill HS. **Room 104**

## ■ THEATRE

- Session 614. Hold Please: How to Train a Student Stage Manager.** For directors to provide resources and tools to help cultivate future organized and confident Student Stage Managers. Abe Ramirez, San Antonio College and Teatro Audaz San Antonio. **Room 116**
- Session 615. OAP Season Begins Now.** Don't let the ceaseless pace of your school year overwhelm you. We will discuss setting your own deadlines, selection process, Cutting, Auditions, More Cutting, Clinics, Preparing for Travel, and the ever-important Deciphering Feedback. Matt Wasson, Deer Park HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 5**

- Session 616. Forget the Hardware.** Setting up your students for OAP success through these tried and tested rehearsal techniques. Join me in my innovative theatre workshop, where we delve into my rehearsal techniques that guarantee a stellar performance and program success for years to come! There will be time at the end for Q&A! Laura T. Garza, Theatre Coordinator and Faculty Instructor at San Antonio College and the Founding Executive Artistic Director of Teatro Audaz San Antonio. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 617. Theatrical Design: Rethinking the Schematic, Realized and Rendered Designs of Hair/Makeup.** The Hair/Makeup contest has been restructured to accommodate best practices in the industry as well as keeping it consistent with our other contests. Learn how to master this approach! Rachael Gomez, state contest director; Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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1:15 pm – 2:00 pm | Friday, June 28

■ **ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES**

- Session 650. Mastering *SpeechWire* to Manage Your UIL District Meet.** For Academic Coordinators & Speech. If you're running your district meet or serve as a coordinator, let's deep-dive into *SpeechWire* tournament management system to make your district meet a breeze to run! Jennifer Adams, Big Spring HS. **Room 204**

■ **ACADEMICS**

- Session 651. CIE and Social Studies: Judging the Essay.** Discuss the rules guiding judging and the best practices for how essays should be scored from Invitationals to State. Dr. Bradley Wilson and Andy Bates, state contest directors. **Room 105**
- Session 652. Literary Criticism: Explicating Poetry-The Sonnet. (Repeated).** We will focus on the sonnet. Mark Bernier, state contest director. **Room 115**
- Session 653.**

■ **STEM**

- Session 654. Computer Science: Common Programming Problem Categories. (Part I)** A 90-minute in-depth session with plenty of Q&A covering the types of problems in the UIL CS packets and how to help your students prepare. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop with Java 20 and an IDE installed ([IntelliJ](#) preferred). Stacey Armstrong, Cypress Woods HS. **Room 106**
- Session 655. Need help with Chi-Squared (Statistics lists)? Then this is your session!** Join this in-depth session on mastering the Chi-Squared statistic. This hands-on workshop will guide you through calculating the Chi-Squared statistic, determining the contribution of specific cells to the Chi-Squared value, computing expected values, and computing the p-value. Please bring a graphing or scientific calculator with which you are familiar, as we will be inputting lists. This session promises to enhance your statistical analysis skills and provide valuable insights. Teresa Wilcox, Brock HS. **Room 103**

■ **A+ ACADEMICS**

- Session 656. Competition Hosting 101.** Running UIL competitions can be daunting and overwhelming. Competition days can be rough. This session will help coordinators think through all the steps and timelines to host a smooth and successful competition. Samples and templates will be provided so coordinators have a strong foundation to kick start preparations for hosting your next UIL competition. This session will also include templates for all coordinators to use for operating their own campus program. Charlie Anderson and Audestia Patton, Hutto ISD. **Room 107**
- Session 657. Going "Old School" with Dictionary Skills in Today's World.** Tips and Strategies to help your students be successful on the Dictionary Skills test as they learn techniques to quickly and efficiently find AND retrain accurate information using a print dictionary in today's "just Google it" world. Chuck Thompson, Virtual Challenge Meets. **Room Pecos RH3**

■ **SPEECH**

- Session 658. Mastering *SpeechWire* to Make Managing Your District Tournament a Breeze!** For district tournament officials and coordinators. *SpeechWire* is the official online tournament system for UIL. Get comfortable with it and see just how easy it can make running your district. Jennifer Adams, Big Spring HS. **Room 204**
- Session 659. The Keys to Selecting Literature for Performance.** For novice and veteran coaches. Success in Oral Interpretation comes from carefully selected literature by each performer and the coach's role in assisting students to choose selections that meet standards of literary merit and strong performance opportunities is crucial. Let's deep-dive into the qualities that can potentially catapult competitors to high ranks and superior ratings in the round. M'Liss Hindman, Director of Forensics, Tyler Junior College. **Room 201**

- Session 660. Extemporaneous Speaking: *Walk this Way!*** For novice and veteran coaches. Let's examine an extemp speech from the non-verbal aspect: posture, gestures, and "the look". Ann Shofner, UIL State Contest Director. **Room 101**
- Session 661. Congress: Writing Unique, Engaging and Effective Legislation.** For novice and veteran coaches. Far too often, congressional legislation is submitted that is stale and overdone yet the quality of legislation has a huge impact on successful debate in the chamber. Examining the characteristics of effective legislation will be discussed. Kimberly Sloane, Chireno HS. **Room 104**

## ■ THEATRE

- Session 662. Sights & Sounds: How to Use Audio and Visuals to Your Advantage.** Where and how to find the best audio for your productions, and how to use Social Media to promote your program and productions and what programs work best! Abe Ramirez, Instructor, San Antonio College. **Room 116**
- Session 663. UIL Champions.** Current and past state OAP champions share tips, trends strategies and advice for directors of all levels with Annie and Billy Dragoo, Craig Hertel, Travis Poe, Rod Sheffield, Laura Garza, and Matt Wasson. Moderated by Philip Taylor, AISD Fine Arts Director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 664. Theatrical Design: Marketing.** Zero in on building a strong marketing entry and designer could pitch to a production team. How to address the requirements and let your designers flex their muscles! Rachael Gomez, state contest director; Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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2:15 pm – 3:00 pm | Friday, June 28

## ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

- Session 700. High School Academic Coordinators and Coaches Update.** This is an overview for the academic coordinator for creating a successful UIL Academic program. New and experienced coaches are welcome to join in the conversation. Dr. David Stevens, state academic director. **Room 204**

## ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 701. Ready Writing: Trends, Tips, and Toolkits.** Ready Writing requires a wealth of unique supports and creative approaches to prompt interpretation for success. Adequate preparation of examples presents a challenge itself, but even prepared students can struggle with translating their conceptual toolkits into compelling expositions with the requisite nuance and originality for placing. We'll dive into methods of cultivating effective example toolkits before analyzing recent trends—positive and negative—in contestants' entries. Final thoughts will comprise tips for transforming ideas into high-scoring writing and how to avoid common pitfalls. Cameron Hurta, state judge. **Room 107**
- Session 702. Literary Criticism: Absolute Beggins. (Repeated).** This is the absolute basics of the contest. Mark Bernier, state contest director. **Room 115**
- Session 653. Journalism: Beyond Commas.** Teaching editing — and competing in the UIL copy editing contest — is more than teaching about commas. It involves everything from media law and ethics to math and geography to grammar, spelling, punctuation and Associated Press Style. Come learn some effective techniques for teaching editing across the curriculum and competing in the copy editing competition. Dr. Bradley Wilson, state contest director. **Room 105**

## ■ STEM

- Session 704. Computer Science: Common Programming Problem Categories. (Part II)** *Continuing from 1:15.* Stacey Armstrong, Cypress Woods HS. **Room 106**
- Session 705. Need help with Chi-Squared (Statistics matrices)? Then this is your session!** This hands-on workshop will guide you through calculating the Chi-Squared statistic, determining the contribution of specific cells to the Chi-Squared value, computing expected values, and computing the p-value. Please bring a graphing or scientific calculator with which you are familiar, as we will be inputting matrices. Teresa Wilcox, Brock HS. **Room 103**

## ■ A+ ACADEMICS

- Session 706. A+ Roundtable Discussion.** Please stop by or stay for the whole session to get your questions answered or to share advice/suggestions to other coaches and coordinators and to the UIL office. Lisa Parker, UIL A+ Director. **Room Pecos RH3**

## ■ SPEECH

- Session 707. CX Debate: Meet the Experts for a Question-Answer Session.** For novice and veteran coaches. Gather to ask questions of individuals who have expert knowledge of Intellectual Property Rights and can offer insight to coaches on guiding debaters through next season's CX Debate topic. Hear from the UIL topic writer who successfully defended his research that developed into the 2024-25 national debate topic, a lawyer who spent over a decade arguing cases on the subject, and the author of the *Policy Debate Quarterly*, a national publication of in-depth research over the debate resolution. Preston Stotle, Winston Churchill HS; Matthew Murrell, UT School of Law; Dr. Rich Edwards, author for the NFHS. **Room 104**

- Session 708. Teambuilding.** For all coaches. *“Teamwork makes the dream work!”* Relationships and belief in the squad as a whole are the magic that produces success and makes the journey along the way fun! Session provides activities that build a cohesive team. Jimmy Smith, Collinsville HS. **Room 108**
- Session 709. Congress: Judging the Event.** For novice and veteran coaches. This session focuses on the role of the judge, the rubrics for scoring competitors in the chamber, and how to evaluate the Presiding Officer effectively. Dawn Stubblefield, Sinton HS. **Room 101**

#### ■ THEATRE

- Session 710. OAP Rules, Updates and Starting the Season Strong.** (Double Session 1:15-4 pm) UIL Calendar of events and updates to the contest. This session is for all levels. Followed by a Q&A. Paula Rodriguez, UIL Theatre Director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 711. Theatrical Design: Group Design.** Introduce Prop and Lighting Option now offered within the Group Category. This session will tell you everything you need to know about it so you can decide what works best for your group. Rachael Gomez, state contest director; Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**

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3:15 pm – 4:00 pm | Friday, June 28

#### ■ ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND ALL ATTENDEES

- Session 750. Recruiting Students and Coaches to your Academic Program.** A two-way discussion of potential challenges and opportunities to build a UIL Academics program at schools with limited resources and smaller programs. Session addresses items such as building administrative support, recruiting students, team member engagement, and working with limited budgets. Robert Blain, G. W. Carver Magnet HS. **Room 101**
- Session 751. Academic Coordinator Advisory Committee Roundtable.** A think-tank of coordinators who would like to have more voice in UIL Academic processes. Everyone is welcome. Dr. David Stevens, Director of Academics and committee members. **Room 204**

#### ■ ACADEMICS

- Session 752. Journalism: Lessons Learned in Building a Robust Program.** Join experienced educators Ivan Silva and Luis Alaniz as they share valuable lessons learned from establishing successful journalism programs. Session covers planning, resource allocation, curriculum development, student engagement, and best practices. Designed for coaches, administrators, and UIL coordinators, this presentation offers practical advice and shared experiences to support and enhance student journalism. Attendees will leave with actionable insights to foster vibrant journalism programs that promote student creativity and engagement. **Room 108**
- Session 753. Planting Seeds for Success in STEM.** This session will highlight activities for the younger grades that can serve as a pipeline for your high school STEM program, including UIL contests, robotics competitions, and more. David Trussell, UIL STEM director. **Room 103**

#### ■ SPEECH

- Session 754. G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Speech).** For novice and veterans. An annual favorite, small groups carousel from one presenter to another as they share innovative lesson plans, classroom activities, and coaching techniques. Take home new ideas to jumpstart or rejuvenate your curriculum and coaching practices. Audience participation and having fun is required! Ann Shofner, facilitator; Cody Morris, Pocket Coach Academy; Kenny Adcock, Ore City HS; Gena Lea Smith, Van Vleck HS; Jimmy Smith, Collinsville HS. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 4**

#### ■ THEATRE

- Session 755. OAP Rules, Updates and Starting the Season Strong.** (Continued from 1:15 pm) UIL Calendar of events and updates to the contest. This session is for all levels. Followed by a Q&A. Paula Rodriguez, UIL Theatre Director. **Room Zlotnik Ballroom 3**
- Session 756. Theatrical Design: Incorporating Technology Responsibly in Design.** How do we integrate all of the tools available using best practices in the industry? We are on a journey to embrace the future with integrity and artistry as our priority. A conversation on positive implementation of technology into design. Rachael Gomez, state contest director; Jacqueline Zepeda, PSJA North HS. **Room Guadalupe RH4**