



STUDENT ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
NOVEMBER 2, 2024

The **UIL/UT-Austin Student Activities Conference** will acquaint students and coaches with the nature and rules of the UIL academic contests. Conference workshops help prepare you for the Spring Meet competitions and provide opportunities to meet state directors and experts for each contest. The conference is free and there is no pre-registration.

BUILDINGS: All academic and speech sessions will be held in the University Teaching Center (**UTC**). One-Act Play sessions will be held in the Winship Drama Building (**WIN**).

INFORMATION DESK: Located in the ground floor foyer of UTC and the lobby of Winship Drama Bldg. Maps and programs for the UIL conference will be available online only.

PARKING: Vehicle parking will be in the UT garages on a self-pay, space available basis. Most garages do not staff a cashier on weekends, however, there are automated pay stations near the garage exits. Vehicles without a UT parking permit that park on campus in areas other than the garage may receive a citation.

SCHOOL BUSES: Bus loading/unloading areas are at corner of W 21st Street and University Avenue or the Winship Circle at 300 E. 23rd St. These areas for unloading/loading only, maximum 15 minutes and the driver must remain with the bus. Buses may NOT park on campus, including the intramural fields at 51st and Guadalupe. If buses park on campus, they will receive a citation. Buses MAY park on a "space available" basis at 1800 Comal Street, south of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

For those attending Theatre, Design and Film sessions in the Winship Drama Building, construction on the UT campus may make it difficult for buses and other large vehicles to travel north on San Jacinto Blvd through the narrow temporary lanes. Buses and other large vehicles can more easily approach the Winship Drama Building traveling south on San Jacinto Blvd from E Deen Keeton St, rather than traveling north from Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

SCHEDULE AS OF 11/2/24.

CARS may park in the UT parking garages at San Jacinto (SJG), Speedway Garage (SWG), Manor Garage (MAG) or Brazos (BRG). Cars may also park in Dobie Parking Garage, 2005 Whitis Ave., east of Guadalupe immediately south of the corner of Whitis Ave. and 21st St.

MAPS: See the UT campus map at:
<http://www.utexas.edu/maps/>

DO NOT PARK in any restricted parking space on campus or you WILL BE TICKETED or TOWED.

For more UT parking information, please go to:
www.utexas.edu/parking/visitor

MAPS: See the UT campus map at:
<http://www.utexas.edu/maps/>

NOTE: In an effort to conserve paper and resources, PDF files of presentation materials (as available) will be posted to a conference web page that will be accessible during and after the event (uiltexas.org/academics/student-activity-conferences). Wi-fi Internet access may be available at some sites but is not guaranteed, and no tech support will be available. Those wishing to access online handouts during the event should plan to use data services available through their own service providers (3G/4G, LTE, mobile hot spots, etc.).

COACHES WAITING ROOM: Available in **UTC 1.118**. Open 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Coordinators, academic coaches and administrators may stop by and have a place to wait for students to complete their sessions.

NEARBY FOOD OPTIONS: There are vending machines on the ground floor of UTC. Starbucks is located in the Target within walking distance of UTC (opens at 8a). Wendy's in Jester Hall is open 24 hours. Panda Express in the Union Building and Chick-fil-A in the Student Activities Building are both open at 11a.

Session times:

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS/COACHES

ACADEMIC COORDINATORS: DR. DAVID STEVENS, UIL DIRECTOR OF ACADEMICS

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 100. **Coordinators and Coaches Update.** This is an overview of how the academic coordinator can ensure a successful UIL academic program. We will cover dates, forms and changes for the year. *Dr. David Stevens, UIL Director of Academics.* **Room UTC 1.104**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 101. **I'm the New Academic Coordinator.** For beginning academic coordinators and coaches. We will cover the basics of getting started and the resources available. *Dr. David Stevens, UIL Director of Academics.* **Room UTC 1.104**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 102. **Survival Tips for the Academic Coordinator and Coach.** A few ideas on balancing coordinator, coaching and teaching duties to provide a great experience for your UIL academic program. *Laurie Stork, La Grange HS.* **Room UTC 1.104**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 103. **From Planning to Victory: Constructing an Academic UIL Powerhouse.** This presentation will focus on how to build a champion UIL Academic team through forming your team, motivating students, and selecting the right events. We will give you actionable steps to strengthen your school's UIL Academic team, helping students reach their highest potential through healthy competition. Academic UIL teams aren't just about winning; they help students grow personally and academically. In today's competitive world, students need an edge, and UIL competitions provide the perfect platform for them to sharpen their skills and showcase their talents. *America Rodriguez and Mark Tibbett, Dilly HS.* **Room UTC 1.104**

A+ ACADEMICS: LISA PARKER, UIL DIRECTOR OF A+ AND ESSAY COMPETITIONS

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session 104. **A+ Academics Discussion.** Are you someone who helps with or manages a UIL A+ Academic program for an elementary or middle school campus? If so, please stop by to get any questions answered or guidance needed for your program as it prepares students for competition throughout their academic career. **Room UTC 3.134**

ACCOUNTING: KAY WHITTON, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session 105. **Accounting Cycle.** From course, to contest, to college, to career. Learn how the accounting contest can reap rewards far beyond the UIL contest. **Room UTC 1.116**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 106. **Accounting Rocks.** Key concepts and hints to help coaches and students learn (and love) UIL Accounting. **Room UTC 1.116**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 107. **Recruiting, Resources, Results.** Kicking off a successful season of UIL accounting competition! For new and experienced coaches and competitors. **Room UTC 1.116**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 108. **Accounting: Q&A.** Share ideas and questions with other coaches and contest director. **Room UTC 1.116**

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS: DR. BRADLEY WILSON, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 109. **Keeping it Current.** The Current Issues and Events contest is designed to help students stay informed about more than what is on Twitter, including issues at the local, state, national and international levels. Over time, students become more informed members of society and more culturally aware. Over time, the contest evolves. Discuss this evolution. **Room UTC 3.102**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 110. **Preparing to Write an Essay.** Discuss and learn techniques and examples to write an essay that covers the topic and earns 20 percent of the total score in Current Issues & Events and Social Studies. Review how essay writing is a valuable skill, helping students prepare for college and any work environment. **Room UTC 3.102**

ESSAY CONTESTS: *LISA PARKER, UIL DIRECTOR OF A+ AND ESSAY COMPETITIONS*

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 111. **UIL Essay Competitions.** Did you know you can become a UIL state finalist through one research paper submitted online? Come learn about how to be successful in the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition and the Latino History Essay Competition. These two events invite students to showcase their writing and research skills by exploring and highlighting the contributions of historically underrepresented groups in Texas. **Room UTC 3.134**

JOURNALISM: *ALYSSA BOEHRINGER, UIL DIRECTOR OF JOURNALISM*

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session 112. **Copy Editing 101:** Copy editing means more than spelling and punctuation. It's a skill that prepares students for college and the workforce. Learn different levels of editing from checking grammar and style to assessing the legal and ethical implications of mass media. *Bradley Wilson, state contest director.* **NEW Room UTC 2.102**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 113. **Good News:** Lead with the future event. Then what? In this session, we'll talk about what makes an award-winning news story and see how you can become a successful reporter for "The Leaguetown Press." *Alyssa Boehringer, UIL Journalism Director.* **NEW Room UTC 2.102**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 114. **Feature Comforts:** A powerful lead is everything. In this session, we'll look at how the best feature leads draw the reader into a story — and draw the writer into a successful feature writing contest. *Alyssa Boehringer, UIL Journalism Director.* **NEW Room UTC 2.102**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 115. **Take a Stand:** The Highly Capable and Hardworking Human is in the house as we study the editorial writing contest. Get ready to make your voice heard. *Alyssa Boehringer, UIL Journalism Director.* **NEW Room UTC 2.102**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 116. **It's All in Your Head:** A good headline tells the reader what the story is about and makes them want to read it, too. In this session, we'll show you how it's done. *Kari Reimer, Pflugerville Hendrickson HS.* **NEW Room UTC 2.102**

LITERARY CRITICISM: *MARK BERNIER, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR*

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session 117. **Beginners, Beginners, Beginners.** An overview of the contest with an emphasis on Part 1, items 1-30. **Room UTC 3.124**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 118. **Beginners, Beginners, Beginners, continued.** An overview of the contest with an emphasis on Part 2, items 31-42, and on Part 4's the tie-breaking essay. **Room UTC 3.124**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 119. **Poetry Explication.** Parts 2 and 3 of the test. **Room UTC 3.124**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 120. **Poetry Explication.** Parts 2 and 3 of the test, continued. **Room UTC 3.124**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 121. **One-on-one Conversation with State Contest Director.** Bring all questions about the contest, especially if you are new to the contest. Students are encouraged to ask questions! **Room UTC 3.124**

READY WRITING: *RUBEN RODRIGUEZ, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR*

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session 122. **Preparing for the Ready Writing Contest.** Double Session Part I. A review of UIL rules, the Ready Writing rubric and contest fundamentals and writing strategies. Designed for first-year competitors and beginning coaches. **Room UTC 1.102**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 123. **Preparing for the Ready Writing Contest.** Double Session Part II. A review of UIL rules, the Ready Writing rubric and contest fundamentals and writing strategies. Designed for first-year competitors and beginning coaches. **Room UTC 1.102**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 124. **Champion Essays.** Double Session Part I. A Close Reading and De-Briefing of a 2024 State Winning Essay: Plusses and Pitfalls. **Room UTC 1.102**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 125. **Champion Essays.** Double Session Part II. A Close Reading and De-Briefing of a 2024 State Winning Essay: Plusses and Pitfalls. **Room UTC 1.102**

SOCIAL STUDIES: *ANDY BATES, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR*

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 126. **Introduction to the Social Studies Contest.** Discuss the basics of how to approach the UIL Social Studies Contest. **Room UTC 3.102**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 127. **Social Studies: Advanced.** Review rules, contest format, information related to this year's topic, what type of questions to expect and resources that will prove useful. Learn about this year's topic: The Rise of Factionalism, Partisanship, and the "Vices of Democracy" in the early United States (1795-1850). **Room UTC 3.102**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 110. **Preparing to Write an Essay.** 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). **Room UTC 3.102**

SPELLING & VOCABULARY: *LISA PARKER, UIL DIRECTOR OF A+ AND ESSAY COMPETITIONS*

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 128. **Becoming Legitimate Logophilic Laureates.** Strategies for upping your spelling game. **Room UTC 3.134**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 129. **Strategies for Upping Your Spelling Game.** Applying spelling strategies and taking a practice test. **Room UTC 3.134**

STEM & ROBOTICS

CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS: *DAVE BOURELL, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR*

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session 200. **Beginning- Introduction to the Contest, Format, Scoring, Types of Problems.** **Room UTC 3.112**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 201. **Intermediate- State of the 2025 Contest and Scaling Problem Workshop.** **Room UTC 3.112**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 202. **Intermediate - Significant-Digit Stated Problems.** **Room UTC 3.112**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 203. **Advanced - Taking and Scoring a Full Contest.** **Room UTC 3.112**

COMPUTER SCIENCE: *DR. SHYAMAL MITRA, STATE CONTEST ADVISER*

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session 204. **Computational Thinking.** The foundation of Computer Science is computational thinking. It is a powerful approach to problem-solving with or without computers. Ours will be a gentle introduction to computational thinking using puzzles. **Room UTC 3.104**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 205. **Syntax of Java.** We will cover the basic syntax of Java, including object-oriented programming concepts that will allow you to write powerful programs. We will discuss strategies for mastering the written test. **Room UTC 3.104**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 206. Basic Algorithms. Algorithms are step-by-step solutions to computational problems. Most algorithms are composed of some critical components. We'll cover basic algorithms and classes of algorithms, including recursion and data structures, which are helpful in the programming contest. **Room UTC 3.104**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 207. Computing Resources. We will survey the resources that are available for self-study or used in a school curriculum to produce world-class programmers. **Room UTC 3.104**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 208. Computer Science Contest Rules. This session is for first-time contestants and coaches. We will review the contest's structure and the basic rules for the written and the programming parts. We will share some tips on how to do well in both. **Room UTC 3.104**

MATHEMATICS & NUMBER SENSE: *CLIFF MCCURDY AND LARRY WHITE, STATE CONTEST DIRECTORS*

9:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 209. Mathematics Contest. Overview of the UIL Mathematics contest. Take and grade the NEW 40 min-60 question SAC 2024 Mathematics test followed by Q&A to discuss/answer questions from the test. **Room UTC 4.102**

10:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 210. Number Sense Contest. Review guidelines, rules, resources, practice materials, etc. Take and grade the NEW 10 min-80 question SAC 2024 Number Sense Test followed by Q&A to discuss/answer questions from the test. **Room UTC 4.102**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Session 211. Number Sense & Mathematics Q&A. **Room UTC 4.102**

SCIENCE: *DR. DAVID BIXLER AND DR. BRIAN ANDERSON, STATE CONTEST DIRECTORS*

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session 212. The Big Picture. An overview of the Science contest, how to prepare your students and what to expect from the test writers. **Room UTC 3.132**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 213. Physics Deep Dive. Deconstructing the Science test, with insights into how Physics section is developed. **Room UTC 3.132**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 214. Chemistry Deep Dive. Deconstructing the Science test, with insights into how Chemistry section is developed. **Room UTC 3.132**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 215. Coaches' Roundtable. A discussion among science coaches and director about recruiting, motivating, and preparing students for the UIL Science competition. New coaches as well as veteran coaches are invited to attend. **Room UTC 3.132**

ROBOTICS: *DAVID TRUSSELL, UIL DIRECTOR OF STEM*

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 216. Introduction to UIL Robotics. Double Session Part I. An overview of program structure, options and guidelines for participation, recommended resources, and more. **Room UTC 1.132**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 217. Introduction to UIL Robotics. Double Session Part II. An overview of program structure, options and guidelines for participation, recommended resources, and more. **Room UTC 1.132**

SPEECH, DEBATE AND CONGRESS

ORAL INTERPRETATION: M'Liss Hindman, state contest director

9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m.

Session 300. Prose and Poetry: Let's Start at the Very Beginning. For novice competitors. Starting at the very beginning is a very good place to start if you're new to oral performance in high school. This workshop introduces novice and new prose/poetry coaches to the contest rules and procedures. *Ann Shofner, UIL consultant. Room UTC 4.104*

Session 301. Advanced Interpretation: Less is More. For varsity competitors. A deep dive into exploring themes and characters without going "over the edge." *Aimee Kasprzyk, Fine Arts Director, Corsicana ISD; Larry Bailey, Director of Forensics, Judson HS. Room UTC 2.112A*

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 302. Categories for 2024-25. For novice and varsity competitors and coaches. Don't "miss the boat" this season! Walk through the revised prose and poetry categories including a discussion of the true intent of Category A and B performers should understand when planning their performances. *Jana Riggins, UIL Speech Director; Aimee Kasprzyk, Corsicana ISD; Larry Bailey, state committee, Judson HS. Room UTC 2.112A*

10:50 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

Session 303. The Challenge: Searching for the "Unique". For novice and varsity competitors. How to discover performance pieces that reflect the **true** intent of both UIL categories – true joy and positive societal change. *Aimee Kasprzyk, Fine Arts Director, Corsicana ISD; Larry Bailey, Director of Forensics, Judson HS. Room UTC 2.112A*

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 304. Prose and Poetry Performance Showcase: Recognizing Joy. This session features performances to demonstrate **Category A: Recognizing Joy**. Be inspired by performances followed by oral critiques by experienced judges that share insight into what this category is all about. *Maribeth Harlow, Medina HS; Aimee Kasprzyk, Fine Arts Director, Corsicana ISD; Larry Bailey, Director of Forensics, Judson HS. Room UTC 2.112A*

12:40 p.m. — 1:25 p.m.

Session 305. Prose and Poetry Performance Showcase: Inspiring Change. This session features performances to demonstrate **Category B: Inspiring Change**. Be inspired by performances followed by oral critiques by experienced judges that share insight into what this category is all about. *Maribeth Harlow, Medina HS; Aimee Kasprzyk, Fine Arts Director, Corsicana ISD; Larry Bailey, Director of Forensics, Judson HS. Room UTC 2.112A*

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING: ANN SHOFNER, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR

9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m.

Session 306. A Toolkit for Extemporaneous Speaking. For experienced speakers. The economic way of thinking provides a toolkit for making sense of complex issues often addressed in informative and persuasive speaking questions. Economic discussion about top issues of energy, inequality, globalization, and labor mobility. *Greg Rhemke, Economic Thinking. Room UTC 4.122*

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 307. An Introduction to Extemporaneous Speaking. For novice competitors. Gain insight about the rules, draw room procedures and strategies for competing in Informative and Persuasive Speaking. *Ann Shofner, state contest director. Room UTC 4.104*

10:50 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

Session 308. **Listen, People to What I Say!** For novice and varsity speakers. Hear an experienced competitor deliver an extemporaneous speech and then we will examine the choices the speaker made. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions about preparation, topic choice, organizational structure and other important elements demonstrated in the speech. *Ann Shofner, moderator, state contest director; Margaux Brutin, Westlake HS.* **Room UTC 4.104**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 309. **Working for the Weekend.** For novice and varsity competitors. What does it take to be ready to excel at tournaments? How do you make your electronic files work for you? A discussion about prepping for tournament weekends. *Barb Ixba, Westlake HS.* **Room UTC 4.134**

Session 310. **A Toolkit for Extemporaneous Speaking.** For experienced speakers. (repeat session) The economic way of thinking provides a toolkit for making sense of complex issues often addressed in informative and persuasive speaking questions. Economic discussion about top issues of energy, inequality, globalization, and labor mobility. *Greg Rhemke, Economic Thinking.* **Room UTC 4.122**

12:40 p.m. — 1:25 p.m.

Session 311. **Do You Want to Know a Secret?** For novice and varsity competitors. What do judges look for in Informative and Persuasive Speaking rounds? Using the UIL Extemporaneous Speaking ballots for analysis, learn the keys to what a successful speaker can do verbally and nonverbally to rank high in their round. Tips on what makes a speaker stand out as the champion in the round. *Ann Shofner, state contest director.* **Room UTC 4.104**

DEBATE: DR. RICH EDWARDS, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR

9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m.

Session 312. **The Basics of Lincoln Douglas Debate.** For novice competitors. Familiarizes beginning students with value debate. Learn LD Debate format, speaker responsibilities and case construction. *Emily Huber, Bandera HS.* **Room UTC 4.110**

Session 313. **Advanced Lincoln Douglas Debate: Concepts and Strategies.** For varsity debaters. This workshop will explore effective arguments and strategies for varsity LD debaters. *Noah Recker, La Vernia HS.* **Room UTC 4.124**

Session 314. **Cross-Examination Debate. - Part I: Step up to the Podium!** For beginners. Come listen to CX debate made user-friendly. Learn the contest format, speaker responsibilities and understand basic terminology. *Mark Tribett, Dilley HS.* **Room UTC 4.134**

Session 315. **Advanced CX Debate: Judge Adaptation.** For varsity debaters. A discussion of the critical element in debate of adapting to your judge, understanding their paradigm and specific ways debaters can frame arguments to satisfy different judge paradigms. *Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL debate consultant.* **Room UTC 4.132**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 316. **Lincoln Douglas Debate: The Science, Economics and Ethics of Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture.** For novice and varsity debaters. Discussion focusing on both the affirmative and the negative sides of the UIL Fall LD Debate agriculture topic. *Greg Rhemke, Economic Thinking.* **Room UTC 4.122**

Session 317. **Cross-Examination Debate – Part II: From First Speech to First Win!** For novice competitors. A continued discussion on the basics of understanding CX team debate. *Mark Tribett, Dilley HS.* **Room UTC 4.134**

10:50 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

Session 318. **Lincoln Douglas Debate: Case Writing for the Affirmative.** For novice and varsity LD debaters. A review of the important elements necessary in an LD **affirmative** case and how to write a competitive one. *Emily Huber, Bandera HS.* **Room UTC 4.110**

Session 319. **Lincoln Douglas Debate: The Science, Economics and Ethics of Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture.** For novice and varsity debaters. (repeat session) Discussion focusing on both the affirmative and the negative sides of the UIL Fall LD Debate agriculture topic. *Greg Rhemke, Economic Thinking. Room UTC 4.122*

Session 320. **CX Debate Topic Analysis: The Affirmative.** For novice and varsity debaters. The author of the *Policy Debate Quarterly* will examine the **affirmative** position providing great information and insight into this year's policy debate topic. Common affirmative cases will be discussed. *Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL Debate consultant. Room UTC 4.132*

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 321. **Lincoln Douglas Debate: Case Writing for the Negative.** For novice and varsity LD debaters. A review of the important elements necessary in an LD negative case and how to write a competitive one. *Emily Huber, Bandera HS. Room UTC 4.110*

Session 322. **CX Debate Topic Analysis: The Negative.** For novice and varsity debaters. The author of the *Policy Debate Quarterly*, which is the first and most authoritative research released on the policy topic each year, will examine the **negative** position of this year's policy debate topic. *Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL debate consultant. Room UTC 4.132*

12:40 p.m. — 1:25 p.m.

Session 323. **Lincoln Douglas Debate: Topic Analysis – Where to Start?** For novice and varsity debaters. When a new topic is released, where to start? We will combine traditional analysis with the proper (and improper) use of generative Artificial intelligence (AI) programs such as ChatGPT. *Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL debate consultant. Room UTC 4.132*

Session 324. **Critical Issues CX Debaters Need to Know about Intellectual Property.** Highlights of this discussion include ownership of ideas, songs, technologies, fair use, tradeoffs, and contracts. *Greg Rhemke, Economic Thinking. Room UTC 4.122*

CONGRESS: JANA RIGGINS, UIL DIRECTOR OF SPEECH, DEBATE AND CONGRESS

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Session 325. **An Introduction to Congress.** If this is your first experience competing in Congress or coaching the event, come learn about this exciting contest – we'll cover the rules, legislation, and chamber roles. *Jonathan Albor, Incarnate Word University; Maribeth Marlow, Medina HS. Room UTC 4.112*

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 326. **Congress: Writing Effective Legislation.** For novice and varsity competitors and coaches. The better the bills and resolutions, the better the debate in the chamber. This year, writing strong legislation is even more important since the number of legislative pieces that will be debated at State Congress will be reduced so legislation will need to be exceptional to make the docket. This session will review what you need to do to make your legislation strong. *Barb Ixba, Westlake HS. Room UTC 4.134*

Session 327. **Navigating Parliamentary Procedure.** For novice and advanced congress competitors. This session will provide a focus on using parliamentary procedure correctly and to your advantage as a representative within the chamber. *Jonathan Albor, Incarnate Word University; Maribeth Marlow, Medina HS. Room UTC 4.124*

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 328. **Getting Answers and Training for the Presiding Officer.** For novice and varsity competitors and coaches. Bring your questions about Congress rules and procedures for a Question & Answer period, and a discussion about being a successful Presiding Officer for the chamber. *Noah Recker, State Clerk, La Vernia HS. Room UTC 4.124*

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

- Session 329. Unlocking the Door to Success.** A review of the keys to success in Congress competition with advice on how to prepare and strategies within the chamber to make legislators more competitive. *Noah Recker, State Clerk, La Vernia HS. Room UTC 4.124*

SPEECH COACH SESSION: JANA RIGGINS, UIL DIRECTOR OF SPEECH, DEBATE AND CONGRESS

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

- Session 330. UIL Speech In a Nutshell.** For coaches. A complete review of all the opportunities open through speech and debate for high school students and the benefits that can be reaped by participation. *Jonathan Albor, Incarnate Word University; Maribeth Harlowe, Medina HS. Room UTC 4.112*

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

- Session 331. Let's Talk All About Speech and Debate!** For coaches. Need clarification on rules or contest procedures? Dates and deadlines? Want to share a creative idea for state meet or a potential contest rule change? Need to get "up to speed" for the spring season? Join your state speech and debate director and let's dialogue! *Jana Riggins, UIL director. Room UTC 4.112*

THEATRE, DESIGN AND FILM

ONE-ACT PLAY: PAULA RODRIGUEZ, UIL THEATRE DIRECTOR

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

- Session 400. Games Exchange.** Bring your favorite theatre games and prepare to learn new ones in this interactive-games exchange workshop! *Creative Drama students, UT Theatre and Dance. Room Payne Lobby*
- Session 401. Let's Start from the Very Beginning. (Double Session)** For teachers. UIL One Act Play Rules, Planning, Updates and Questions. For ALL OAP Directors. *Paula Rodriguez, UIL State Theatre Director. Room WIN 1.108*
- Session 402. The Physical Voice.** This session will explore vocal freedom and clarity for the actor. Please be prepared to move. *Alison Vasquez, Assistant Professor of Practice, Acting and Voice, UT Theatre and Dance. Room WIN 2.120*
- Session 403. The Eight Efforts: Laban Movement.** In this session, you will grow your movement vocabulary through learning about what Rudolf Laban theorized about human movement in a combination of discussion and active exercises. We will play with direction, weight, speed, flow and see how each component is associated with the words: wring, press, flick, dab, glide, float, punch, and slash. Being familiar with Laban can help an actor transform their body, walk, and posture into a character! *Mia Hindman, UT Undergraduate. Room WIN 2.116*
- Session 445. Getting Out of Your Mind and Into Your Body. (Theatre Games)** In this workshop, you will learn exciting games that help you let go of your "civilian brain" and focus on your body in the moment! See how games are beneficial for rehearsal or classroom spaces. *UT Theatre Education Undergraduate Students: Rylie Wilson, Lucy Webb, Alyssa Conchas. Room WIN 1.172*

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

- Session 404. Games Exchange.** Bring your favorite theatre games and prepare to learn new ones in this interactive-games exchange workshop! *Creative Drama students, UT Theatre and Dance. Payne Lobby*
- Session 405. Let's start from the very beginning. (Double Session)** For teachers. UIL One Act Play Rules, Planning, Updates and Questions. For ALL OAP Directors. *Paula Rodriguez, UIL State Theatre Director. Room WIN 1.108*
- Session 406. The Physical Voice.** This session will explore vocal freedom and clarity for the actor. Please be prepared to move. *Alison Vasquez, Assistant Professor of Practice, Acting and Voice, UT Theatre and Dance. Room WIN 2.120*
- Session 407. The Eight Efforts: Laban Movement.** In this session, you will grow your movement vocabulary through learning about what Rudolf Laban theorized about human movement in a combination of discussion and active exercises. We will play with direction, weight, speed, flow and see how each component is associated with the words: wring, press, flick, dab, glide, float, punch, and slash. Being familiar with

Laban can help an actor transform their body, walk, and posture into a character! *Mia Hindman, UT Undergraduate. Room WIN 2.116*

Session 408. Preparing for a Theatre Career and Telling Your Family. Description: Do you know about available jobs in the theatre field? This interactive discussion focuses on the multitude of jobs out there for this career path, and you'll learn things you can be doing right now to get a head start. Additionally, we'll discuss how to communicate this kind of decision with family who prefer you somewhere else. *Brian Nguyen, Senior Educator Program Manager, Paramount Theatre. Room WIN B.202*

Session 409. Devising 101: Creating Plays from Scratch Part I. (Double Session) Join teen artists from Creative Action and The SAFE Alliance to experience the process of devising a new play, from ensemble building, storytelling, and dramatic improvisation, to group writing and performance. We hope you'll walk away with some new exercises and games for your own work, and an understanding of how a collective of theatre artists can work together to create something incredible and unique! *Jacqui Calloway, Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble, CLYTE Director. Room WIN 2.180*

Session 410. I've Never Seen a Lighting Console Before! This workshop is designed for students who lack access to a sound console at their schools. Participants will learn essential sound techniques to prepare for competitions, focusing on using sound to enhance performances. We will explore the fundamentals of sound mixing and creative use of available resources to incorporate background music and sound effects. By the end of the session, students will have practical skills and confidence to tackle sound challenges, ensuring they are ready for their upcoming competitions. *Chuck Harris, TTAO-Adjudicator, Texas State University. Room WIN 1.134*

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Session 411. Devising 101: Creating Plays from Scratch Part II. (Double Session) Join teen artists from Creative Action and The SAFE Alliance to experience the process of devising a new play, from ensemble building, storytelling, and dramatic improvisation to group writing and performance. We hope you'll walk away with some new exercises and games for your own work, and an understanding of how a collective of theatre artists can work together to create something incredible and unique! *Jacqui Calloway, Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble, CLYTE Director. Room WIN 2.180*

Session 412. Bringing Plays to Life Through Reading Them. Presenters, all Theatre Education students, will engage participants in dramatic literature. Learn about their favorite plays and read some aloud together! Hands-on, fun, and meaningful. *Theatre for Young Audiences Students and Dr. Roxanne Schroeder Arce, UT Austin Theatre and Dance. Room 1.108*

Session 413. Representation Matters: Stanislavsky and Anzaldua. This session will be an on your feet exploration of the actor's storytelling through physical action, bridging impulse and text. *Alison Vasquez, Assistant Professor of Practice, Acting and Voice. Room WIN 2.120*

Session 414. I've Never Seen a Sound Console Before! This workshop is designed for students who lack access to a sound console at their schools. Participants will learn essential sound techniques to prepare for competitions, focusing on using sound to enhance performances. We will explore the fundamentals of sound mixing and creative use of available resources to incorporate background music and sound effects. By the end of the session, students will have practical skills and confidence to tackle sound challenges, ensuring they are ready for their upcoming competitions. *Chuck Harris, TTAO-Adjudicator, Texas State University. Room WIN 1.134*

Session 415. Preparing for a Theatre Career and Telling Your Family. Do you know about available jobs in the theatre field? This interactive discussion focuses on the multitude of jobs out there for this career path, and you'll learn things you can be doing right now to get a head start. Additionally, we'll discuss how to communicate this kind of decision with family who prefer you somewhere else. *Brian Nguyen, Senior Educator Program Manager, Paramount Theatre. Room WIN B.202*

Session 416. Introduction to Dialects. Students will learn the fundamentals needed to learn any dialect: speech sounds vs. spelling, lexical sets, key words, and identifying shifts. Text will be provided for you. *Kate Glasheen, Head of Acting and Voice, Texas State University. Room WIN 2.136*

Session 417. Embodied Choices: Finding Freedom in Movement for the Stage. This workshop invites participants to explore the relationship between relaxation, movement, and making intentional choices on stage. Through guided relaxation exercises and movement techniques, students will learn how physical freedom can inspire emotional authenticity and enhance their performance decision-making. *Gabriel Arias, Theatre Director, Hempstead ISD. Room WIN 2.116*

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 418. Reimagining the "Value" in "Production Value". Artist-educators from India, Nigeria and a Texas share their collective experience with and commitment to creating theater that is meaningful,

beautiful, and achievable on modest budgets. While it's valuable to inspire young artists with grand productions, we argue that there is even greater value in showing that you can even use everyday objects to create your own worlds and magical experiences. Participants will devise short scenes touching on topics relevant to youth, then utilizing a selection of everyday objects to artistically create the world of the scene, including whatever items they happen to have on them. Join us in creating magic out of the mundane! *Ishu; Annase Raji; Kanea MacDonald, UT Graduate Students, Theatre and Dance. Room WIN B.202*

- Session 419.** **The Eight Efforts: Laban Movement.** Description: In this session, you will grow your movement vocabulary through learning about what Rudolf Laban theorized about human movement in a combination of discussion and active exercises. We will play with direction, weight, speed, flow and see how each component is associated with the words: wring, press, flick, dab, glide, float, punch, and slash. Being familiar with Laban can help an actor transform their body, walk, and posture into a character! *Mia Hindman, UT Undergraduate. Room WIN 2.116*
- Session 420.** **Acting Beyond Very Demure, Very Mindful- A Monologue Workshop Part 1. (Double session)** It's time to master that monologue for your next audition or class project. Discover new strategies to help work and polish your scene. Students should have a 1 to 2-minute monologue from ANY contemporary play or screenplay or television script. Wear clothes that are easy to move in. *Laura Lane, Texas State University, Professor of Acting. (Limited to 20 participants) Room WIN 2.180*
- Session 421.** **Shakespeare Masterclass: Pitch and Parallelism.** Students will analyze a Shakespeare piece for meaning and parallel construction. They will learn to use pitch to draw an aural map of the text for the audience with their voices. *Kate Glasheen, Head of Acting and Voice, Texas State University. Room WIN 2.136*
- Session 422.** **I've Never Seen a Unit Set Before!** This workshop will provide an overview of the basic elements of the UIL One Act Play unit set, focusing on its design, functionality, and safe use. Participants will learn about the key components of the unit set, including its modular design and how it can be adapted for various productions. We will discuss safe movement practices, emphasizing techniques for handling set pieces and ensuring the safety of all participants during performances and rehearsals. Through hands-on demonstrations and practical exercises, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively and safely navigate the unit set, enhancing their overall performance experience. This workshop aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to utilize the UIL One Act Play set confidently and responsibly. *Chuck Harris, TTAO-Adjudicator, Texas State University. Room WIN 1.134*
- Session 423.** **Bringing Plays to Life Through Reading Them.** Presenters, all Theatre Education students, will engage participants in dramatic literature. Learn about their favorite plays and read some aloud together! Hands-on, fun, and meaningful. *Theatre for Young Audiences Students and Dr. Roxanne Schroeder Arce, UT Austin Theatre and Dance. Room WIN 1.108*
- Session 446.** **Getting Out of Your Mind and Into Your Body. (Theatre Games)** In this workshop, you will learn exciting games that help you let go of your "civilian brain" and focus on your body in the moment! See how games are beneficial for rehearsal or classroom spaces. *UT Theatre Education Undergraduate Students: Rylie Wilson, Lucy Webb, Alyssa Conchas. Room WIN 1.172*

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

- Session 424.** **Breathing Techniques & Mindfulness Practices for Dancers".** Prof Zoe will discuss the history and science behind certain breathing and mindfulness techniques and then give participants the chance to practice the techniques, under her guidance. Students will gain an understanding of how to control and expand their breath, quiet and focus their minds, and use positive thinking to change their mindset. *Zoe Mantarakis, Asst. Prof of Practice, UT Department of Kinesiology and Department of Theater and Dance. Room Payne Lobby*
- Session 425.** **Acting Beyond Very Demure, Very Mindful- A Monologue Workshop Part II. (Double session)** It's time to master that monologue for your next audition or class project. Discover new strategies to help work and polish your scene. Students should have a 1 to 2-minute monologue from ANY contemporary play or screenplay or television script. Wear clothes that are easy to move in. *Laura Lane, Texas State University, Professor of Acting. (Limited to 20 participants) Room WIN 2.180*
- Session 426.** **Tour the Bass Concert Hall.** The tour will last between 45-60 minutes in length. Stand on the very stage that world-class performers have graced since 1981. From our lobby, into the house, and more- join us for an exclusive backstage experience. *Eric Vera, Education Program Manager, Texas Performing Arts (max 60 participants). Room Front Lobby of Bass Concert Hall*

- Session 427.** **Representation Matters: Stanislavsky and Anzaldua.** This session will be an on your feet exploration of the actor's storytelling through physical action, bridging impulse and text. Alison Vasquez, Assistant Professor of Practice, Acting and Voice. **Room WIN 2.120**
- Session 428.** **Reimagining the "Value" in "Production Value".** Artist-educators from India, Nigeria and a Texas share their collective experience with and commitment to creating theater that is meaningful, beautiful, and achievable on modest budgets. While it's valuable to inspire young artists with grand productions, we argue that there is even greater value in showing that you can even use everyday objects to create your own worlds and magical experiences. Participants will devise short scenes touching on topics relevant to youth, then utilizing a selection of everyday objects to artistically create the world of the scene, including whatever items they happen to have on them. Join us in creating magic out of the mundane! *Ishu; Annase Raji; Kanea MacDonald, UT Graduate Students, Theatre and Dance.* **Room WIN B.202**
- Session 429.** **The Eight Efforts: Laban Movement.** Description: In this session, you will grow your movement vocabulary through learning about what Rudolf Laban theorized about human movement in a combination of discussion and active exercises. We will play with direction, weight, speed, flow and see how each component is associated with the words: wring, press, flick, dab, glide, float, punch, and slash. Being familiar with Laban can help an actor transform their body, walk, and posture into a character! Mia Hindman, UT Undergraduate. **Room WIN 2.116**
- Session 430.** **Becoming a Theatre Teacher.** Can you see yourself becoming a theatre teacher? Seniors in the UT Austin Theatre Education BFA program will lead an interactive workshop designed for students considering careers as theatre teachers. Come learn about what it's like to study theatre education in college! Theatre Education BFA Seniors, UT Theatre and Dance. **Room WIN 1.108**
- Session 447.** **Getting Out of Your Mind and Into Your Body. (Theatre Games)** In this workshop, you will learn exciting games that help you let go of your "civilian brain" and focus on your body in the moment! See how games are beneficial for rehearsal or classroom spaces. *UT Theatre Education Undergraduate Students: Rylie Wilson, Lucy Webb, Alyssa Conchas.* **Room WIN 1.172**

THEATRICAL DESIGN: *RACHAEL GOMEZ, STATE CONTEST DIRECTOR*

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

- Session 431.** **The Basics: What is the Theatrical Design Contest?** For those looking to enter the contest for the first time or would like a refresher on expectations. Because the challenge is different every year, it's important to update as you start your competition year. If you have never participated but would like to, hopefully this session will inspire you to compete in what promises to be our best year ever. *Rachael Gomez, State Contest Director.* **Room WIN 2.138**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

- Session 432.** **Contest Prompt. Double Session Part 1.** Our contest this year is based on the musical, *Axoloris*, by Sean Mendelsohn. The design challenges are exciting and offer some new project opportunities within the different categories. We will dig into many possibilities of themes to explore and how to express them within your designs. *Rachael Gomez, State Contest Director.* **Room WIN 2.138**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

- Session 433.** **The Contest Prompt. Double Session Part 2.** Our contest this year is based on the play, *Axoloris*, by Sean Mendelsohn. The design challenges are exciting and offer some new project opportunities within the different categories. We will dig into many possibilities of themes to explore and how to express them within your designs. *Rachael Gomez, State Contest Director.* **Room WIN 2.138**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Session 434.** **Small School, Big Theatrical Design Dreams: Part 1.** Hands-on student workshop. Students will learn how to break down the *Axoloris* script for design analysis. We will discuss themes/ symbols from this year's theatrical design play. *Alicia Green, Theatre Director, Rogers High School.* **Room WIN 2.138**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

- Session 435.** **Small School, School, Big Theatrical Design Dreams: Part 2.** Students will learn how to create a concept statement for this year's prompt and will learn how to criticize artwork to help pick their inspiration. We will discuss what tools/apps/hacks/shortcuts to use for those that are not artistically inclined. *Alicia Green, Theatre Director, Rogers High School.* **Room WIN 2.138**

FILM: PAULA RODRIGUEZ, UIL THEATRE DIRECTOR; RODRIGO SANCHEZ, FILM ADVISOR

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

- Session 436.** **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. *Rodrigo Sanchez, UIL Film Contest Consultant, Midland College.* **Room WIN 1.164**
- Session 437.** **Acting for the Camera Part I. (Double Session)** Action! What happens when the camera rolls and how does an actor prepare before it does? This session will explore the similarities and differences between acting in front of a camera for a film and acting on stage in a play. Participants will receive useful tools in understanding subtext and physicality, and even reluctant actors will be introduced to a way to create a character by observing the world around them. *Vanessa Mokry, Film Instructor, Austin LASA HS.* **Room WIN 1.148**

9:55 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

- Session 438.** **The Five Keys: Getting Started in the UIL Film Contest.** A Student-centered workshop that outlines how to create a successful short film. Based on *Filmmaking for Teens* by Troy Lanier and Clay Nichols, this session provides essential tips and strategies for students aiming to start in the UIL Film Contest. (for students) *Rodrigo Sanchez, UIL Film Contest Consultant, Midland College.* **Room WIN 1.164**
- Session 439.** **Acting for the Camera Part II (Double Session).** Action! What happens when the camera rolls and how does an actor prepare before it does? This session will explore the similarities and differences between acting in front of a camera for a film and acting on stage in a play. Participants will receive useful tools in understanding subtext and physicality, and even reluctant actors will be introduced to a way to create a character by observing the world around them. *Vanessa Mokry, Film Instructor, Austin LASA HS.* **Room WIN 1.148**

10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

- Session 440.** **Scripted in Advance: A Student-Centered Workshop Designed to Help Create and Develop Ideas for Short Films.** Based on *Filmmaking for Teens* by Troy Lanier and Clay Nichols. Participants will learn how to move from the dream phase to actual production. Ideal for those looking to enter the UIL Film Contest but unsure where to start, this session offers practical guidance and inspiration. You will need something to write with to start brainstorming! *Rodrigo Sanchez, UIL Film Contest Consultant, Midland College.* **Room WIN 1.164**
- Session 441.** **Make it Cinematic Part I. (Double Session)** How do student crews prepare and work through the stages of a production? This session will focus on student directors and producers working with actors to get an authentic performance. It will also outline working with a crew of peers while also developing a style and perspective on the story with the camera. We will discuss key decisions a director must make AND how to hold it all together for the sake of your crew! If you are coming from a Theatre only background, we will also discuss things to consider when transitioning to film. *Vanessa Mokry, Film Instructor, Austin LASA High School.* **Room WIN 1.148**

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Session 442.** **The 5 Keys: Getting Started in the UIL Film Contest. (repeat session)** A student centered workshop that outlines how to create a successful short film. Based on *Filmmaking for Teens* by Troy Lanier and Clay Nichols, this session provides essential tips and strategies for students aiming to start in the UIL Film Contest. (for students) *Rodrigo Sanchez, UIL Film Contest Consultant, Midland College.* **Room WIN 1.164**
- Session 443.** **Make It Cinematic Part II. (Double Session)** How do student crews prepare and work through the stages of a production? This session will focus on student directors and producers working with actors to get an authentic performance. It will also outline working with a crew of peers while also developing a style and perspective on the story with the camera. We will discuss key decisions a director must make AND how to hold it all together for the sake of your crew! If you are coming from a Theatre only background, we will also discuss things to consider when transitioning to film. *Vanessa Mokry, Film Instructor, Austin LASA High School.* **Room WIN 1.148**

12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

- Session 444.** **The Three-Day Shoot.** A student-centered workshop focused on completing principal filming for a short film. Participants will learn strategies for keeping actors committed, managing time effectively, and avoiding schedule overruns. The session includes practical tips to help students navigate the challenges of a fast-paced film shoot. *Rodrigo Sanchez, UIL Film Contest Consultant, Midland College.* **Room WIN 1.164**