

NEWSLETTER

And the Winners are...

Winners of Area 25 Fall 2009 Speech Contests



Congratulations to our winners at the Area 25 Fall 2009 speech contest! Our very own Nigel Reed (pictured above) won second place in the evaluation contest. One of our newer members, Sri Thiagarajan (pictured on next page), also won

second place in the humorous speech contest. Great jobs guys! Keep it up!

Jay Herring from Speak-Up Frisco won first place in both the evaluation and humorous speech contest. Go root for Jay at the

Cont. next page

Editorial

Along with the release of my very first club newsletter, I want to mention that there is much more to come for our club!

Along with a regular quarterly newsletter, I'm also working on a new Preston Persuaders website. Lots of planning was done to ensure that we include the most important information for new members and guests. Once the new site is launched, we'll also be working on adding additional resources for existing members.

Stay tuned for more information about the new website!

Jeff Whitfield
VP of Public Relations



WHAT IS TOASTMASTERS?

No, we don't make toasters!

From a humble beginning in 1924 at the YMCA in Santa Ana, California, Toastmasters International has grown to become a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience. The nonprofit organization now has nearly 250,000



members in more than 12,500 clubs in 106 countries, offering a proven – and enjoyable! – way to practice and hone communication and leadership skills.

Visit www.toastmasters.com for more information about Toastmasters International.

WINNERS OF AREA 25 FALL 2009 SPEECH CONTESTS (CONT.)

Frontier Division speech contests coming up on October 16th!

Nigel did a fantastic job (as usual) in the evaluation contest. You can learn a lot from Nigel on how to give a good evaluation. He has a very structured style and does well to emphasize on what the speaker did very well at and what improvements the speaker can make. But what makes Nigel's evaluations good is that he makes them personal and it's clear that he enjoys giving good evaluations.

Sri presented an absolutely hilarious speech at the humorous speech contest. It was so funny that I bet she made it really difficult for the judges to decide who was more funny. What is incredibly impressive is that this is only Sri's third or fourth speech! While she has a natural talent for speaking, it's clear that she worked hard and practiced her speech. Her delivery was near flawless and she appeared to be quite relaxed.

As mentioned earlier, mark your calendars and be sure and attend the Frontier Division speech

contests on October 16th. This is a great opportunity to see other members from different clubs and see other styles of speeches. Contact me or Doris for more information.



FENIA CHANG IN CONCERT



On July 25, our very own Fenia Chang performed at Encore Pianos in the Shops of Willow Bend. Myself (Jeff Whitfield), Sarah Whitfield, and Doris Fuellgrabe all attended.

Fenia is a concert pianist by trade and, let me tell you, she is a fantastic pianist. I play piano myself but I'm not nearly as good as she is. She plays with such intensity and virtuosity that I doubt there is any classical piano piece she couldn't play.

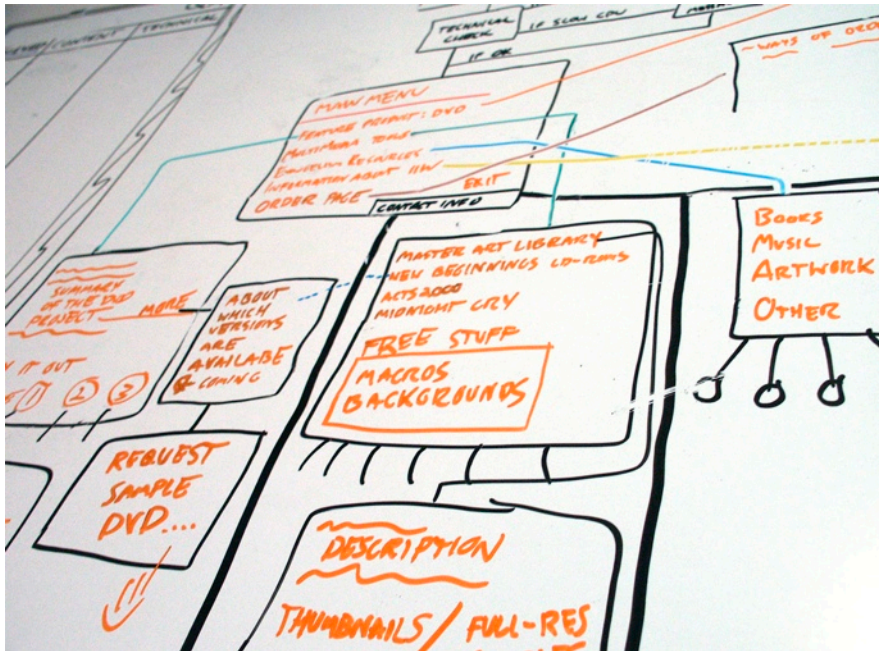
After the concert, I tried to convince her to play one of my favorite Beethoven piano sonatas (piano sonata #21 (Waldstein) for those who want to know). I'm not sure if I was convincing enough but maybe one of these days I'll get her to play it for me.

As good as Fenia is, she is surprisingly humble. I told her that I wished I could play as well as she could for which she replied, "Well, I wish I could speak as well as you."

Whether you're playing piano or speaking in front of a crowd, one thing is for sure: *practice makes perfect*. Granted, perfection is almost impossible to achieve but with practice you can certainly improve your abilities at whatever task you're working on. For Fenia, she has had years of practice and hard work to achieve the level of skill she has at the piano. The same applies to speaking; you have to practice to improve.



A PLAN FOR SUCCESS



by. Ed Meissner ACB, CL

One of my professors told us many times during the semester that “If you fail to plan you plan to fail”. While not everyone who fails to plan fails at what they want to do, it does help to plan if you want to reach your goals. Most people know what they want, but do not create plans to achieve it. They end up wandering aimlessly without a specific way to get to where they want to go. A plan is a map of how to get to where you want to go and achieve the things you want to achieve. A plan can not only help you to reach your goals, but in many cases can help you reach them faster and easier. Just what does a good plan encompass? A good plan will have the following things:

1. It is intentional

Every good plan is developed with intent towards success and the achievement of specific things. This means that plans are created with deliberate thought. Time is

taken to ensure that the plan is a good one that will succeed providing the desired outcome set forth in the plan.

2. It is specific

A complete plan starts with the general desired outcome and then breaks down the general outcome into specific desired outcomes with goals designed to achieve each level of the plan resulting in the success of the overall plan if each goal is achieved. The plan will list not only the goals to be achieved, but the desired result if the goal is achieved. There will be specific actions listed that if completed will achieve the specific goal listed.

3. It is attainable

Every plan should have goals that are not only challenging but achievable. To set any goal that is not achievable only sets up the plan for failure. However to set goals that are too easily achievable doesn't achieve what the plan can

do and what the benefactors of the plan deserve.

4. It is measurable

Every good plan lists the desired results in measurable quantities (i.e. we will complete the manufacture of 400 widgets by January 4th with a minimum yield of 87%, a cost of \$20 each, and Jan and Dean are responsible for this goal). This goal has four measurable quantities and lists those responsible for championing the success of the goal. The number of widgets, the date by which they will be completed, and the manufacturing yield which is a specification of the number of bad widgets produced out of every 100 good ones produced. By providing a way to measure the results you will be able to track your progress and determine the level of your success, and plan for your future beyond this success.

5. It tracks results

A Good plan will also track the results to ensure that the plan is on track and doing what it is supposed to do. By tracking the results if the plan is off schedule or not providing the proper results this feedback can be used to adjust the plan by adding more goals or adjusting the goals to ensure that the plan will get back on track.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



If you haven't met them yet, be sure and introduce yourself to some of our new members. Here's a list of our new members from the past few months:

July 2009

- Uday Shanmugam
- Matt Taylor
- Mohand Lounis

August 2009

- Patricia Webster
- Daniel Kao

September 2009

- Tina Cheng
- Dwayne Meissner
- Jeremy Thompson

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

Mohand Lounis

Mohand joined Preston Persuaders in order to hone and improve his communication skills. His goal is to complete the ten speeches required to achieved a Competent Communicator status.

Mohand enjoys cooking and eating. He is currently taking

classes to complete a Bachelor's degree. He currently works as a sous chef within the culinary arts field. He spends a lot of time with his family and also enjoys running.

Udayakumar Shanmugam

Uday joined Preston Persuaders to improve his communication and leadership skills, as well as conquer stage fright by speaking in front of an audience. His goals include improving his self confidence, becoming a better speaker, and express his opinions clearly and concisely.

Uday finished his masters at NCSU and is currently working for Bank of America. He loves to play tennis and likes reading books.

Note: If you are a new member and wish to let others know a little more about you, contact Jeff Whitfield with answers to the following questions:

1. Why did you join Toastmasters?
2. What do you hope to achieve? What are some of your goals?
3. What would you like fellow Toastmasters to know about you? (ie. careers, hobbies, family, etc.)



Upcoming Birthdays

October 1st, 2009

Brett M. Sheffield

October 18th, 2009

Udayakumar Shanmugam

November 4th, 2009

Todd N. Richardson, CC

November 13th, 2009

Iddah M. Wangondu

November 17th, 2009

Hemavathy Loganathan

December 1st, 2009

Sarah A. Whitfield

December 17th, 2009

Vidyaraman Meenakshisundaram