

PARENT PERSPECTIVES

This issue of *Parent Perspectives* contains a historical timeline of the 42-year history of FPSP compiled by Jennine Jackson of Arizona FPS.

Also included are reflections gathered from some of the participants at the 2016 International Conference. Enjoy!



As parents, you have often heard that Future Problem Solving “prepares students for the future.” Alumni have validated this repeatedly. Dr. E. Paul Torrance, an expert in creativity from the University of Georgia, had two deep concerns: the decline of creativity among Americans and a lack of interest in the future; thus the Future Problem Solving Program was created by combining the Creative Problem Solving process developed by Alex Osborn and Sidney Parnes for the business world with short scenarios projected 20-30 years into the future.

Originators Paul and Pansy Torrance: 1974-1978

- FPS began as a curriculum unit at Clark High School in Athens, Georgia. Because of the overwhelming acceptance, the Torrances expanded the program through their graduate students.
- By 1978, FPS was in 26 states. A bowl was held at the University of Georgia with awards presented for team problem solving, individual problem solving, Scenario Writing, and presentation of solutions.

Executive Director: Anne B. Crabbe 1979 –1991

- University of Nebraska hosted the National Bowl from 1979-1981.
- FPSP moved to Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA in 1981.
- The “Zippy” logo was created.
- The State Directors' meeting was called the Advisory Council. FPSP was incorporated in Iowa and obtained 501(c) (3) status in 1984.
- In 1985, the National Bowl and Advisory Council became the National FPSP Advisory Council. The program moved to St. Andrews College, Laurinburg, NC.
- Community Problem Solving (CmPS) became a formal component and 3 teams were invited to IC.
- In 1988, the FPSP song was adopted. Pansy Torrance died that November.
- In 1989 a Javits Grant for \$432,000 was awarded to FPSP for a three-year period.
- Victoria, Australia, joined the FPSP family, making FPS an International Program.
- Alternates Team Problem Solving Competition was added at the International Conference in 1990. The Advisory Council formed an Executive Committee to advise Anne Crabbe.

Executive Director: James Alvino 1991 - 1993

- A new structure was voted on at the Advisory Council in June to include a Board of Trustees as part of the governing structure.
- Australia and New Zealand attended IC as Affiliates.
- In 1993, the Governing Council passed the Amended Articles of Incorporation, new Bylaws, and Strategic Plan.

Executive Director: Bonne Jensen 1993 - 1997

- The BOT approved a contract with Dr. Donald Treffinger and the Center for Creative Learning to design a new training workshop linking Creative Problem Solving and Future Problem Solving through the P2 project (program and process).

Executive Directors: Dawn Schewach and Cory Kiner 6/1997 – 3/1998

- A BOT structure change extended the term of BOT President to a two - year term.

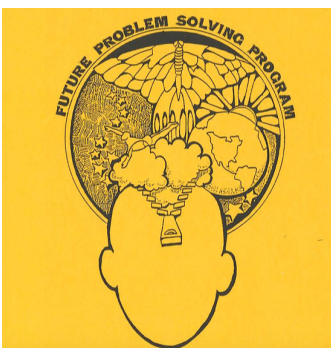
Executive Director: Katherine Hume 1998 - 2005

- Fuzzy Situation was changed to Future Scene to reflect the “what if” in the topic scenarios set in the future.
- Dr E. P. Torrance addressed the FPSP attendees at the IC Opening Ceremony and viewed the CmPS projects during the CmPS Fair at University of Georgia.
- Dr. Torrance attended IC in 2001, but did not make a presentation.
- In July 2003, Dr. Torrance passed away in Athens, Georgia.

Executive Director: Marianne Solomon 2005 - Present

- In 2006 FPSP became FPSPI and a new logo was created to include “International.”
- The IC Senior Forum was launched in 2007.
- FPSPI Scholarship fund became a reality through the efforts of devoted individuals.
- FPS continues to award scholarship funding to selected seniors each year.
- Program Evaluation was undertaken during 2010-2011 by three groups.
- In 2014, a new logo was designed for the 40th anniversary and a new song composed by an FPSer was unveiled.
- During 2015-16, the BOT worked on a new structure for FPSPI. At the Advisory Council, a new BOT was elected and members were no longer required to be FPS Affiliate Directors.
- Scenario Performance was added as a new component in 2015.
- The 2016 IC at Michigan State University had over 2,000 attendees and eleven countries were represented.

The goals of FPSPI are still as viable as they were 42 years ago and Affiliate Programs around the world continue to “Teach students **HOW** to think, not **WHAT** to think,” using both creative and critical thinking.



Logo circa 1982



Logo circa 1995



Logo circa 2009

REFLECTIONS...

Below is a collection of reflective responses from students, coaches, evaluators, and Affiliate Directors at the 2016 International Conference!

My Favorite thing about IC or FPS is....

"I love learning about new topics that I may never have been exposed to."

Kendall Bentley - Wisconsin Competitor

"My favorite part of IC was the Scavenger Hunt because it was a good opportunity to walk around the campus and visit important buildings."

Inés Pereira - Portugal Competitor

"My favorite part of FPS is seeing the reactions of a well-prepared GIPS team come out of the competition room after working hard for two hours without any adult assistance, notes, or resources, knowing that they have done their best and being so proud of themselves for their hard work on their booklet."

Argen Hicks - Georgia Affiliate Director

"My favorite memory at IC is meeting people from all around the globe."

Arnav Shah - Michigan Competitor

"I love coming up with and presenting skits because each one is unique and fun!"

Mike La Bella - Connecticut Competitor

"My favorite part of IC is watching the students interact with others from the United States and all over the world! IC is a great experience for all involved!"

Paula Fippinger - Texas Coach

"My favorite part of IC is coming together with Affiliates from around the world to share ideas, solve problems, and make a difference. We all have different perspectives and insights, but we work together to come to a consensus that allows us to move forward. It's a process."

Sandy Horton - North Carolina Affiliate Director

"My favorite part of IC as an Evaluator is seeing all the creative, innovative ideas the students come up with!"

Connie Nugent - Texas IC Evaluator

"As an FPS alumnus, my favorite part of the International Competition is the total immersion in the Future Problem Solving culture. Teams and individuals spend the year learning about the topics by themselves or with their teams. At the Affiliate Bowls, you see other teams and individuals from schools around your state; however, at the International Conference, you see people from around the world! There is a sense of validation that what you are doing is important, that the skills you are learning can make a real difference on a global level. My passion about the program stems from the idea that the 6-step process teaches students how to think, not what to think. We are enabling generations of passionate problem solvers to employ their intellect and unique experiences in a way that creates sustainable change for the future.

What could be more awesome than that?!" **David Conner - Alabama Affiliate Director**

"My favorite part of IC is the sharing of ideas. I always come home energized and excited about the next year of FPS."

Karen Castiglione - Connecticut Affiliate Director

"My favorite part of IC is getting to know lots of people from different cultures and countries."

Madalena Pedro - Portugal Competitor



“Collecting the individual packets and seeing the looks of satisfaction and relief on every competitor’s face!”

Anne Wolfe - Colorado Affiliate Director

“Honestly, my favorite part of IC is the trading. It was so fun meeting people from so many places - plus, I got a cowboy hat!”

Zoe Wolfe - Florida Competitor

“FPS encourages me to be a life-long learner. Since I began working with FPS in 1978, I have been challenged to learn about a variety of topics. I cherish the friendships I have with students and adults world-wide because of FPS.”

Janet Fite - Missouri Affiliate Director/IC Evaluator

“My favorite part of IC is getting to know a lot of people from other countries and sharing this amazing experience with my friends. I really enjoyed it and I totally recommend it.

Francisca Strecht Ribeiro - Portugal Competitor

“My favourite part of IC is to see so many young kids with the will to change the world in the same place with amazing projects that sometimes even complement each other.”

Maria Pinto - Portugal Coach

“My favorite part of IC is meeting new people and new cultures.”

Justin Esdale - Michigan Competitor

“My favorite part of IC was all the bad puns!”

Calum O’Connell - Wisconsin Competitor

“My favorite part of FPS has been the many diverse topics I’ve become educated about through the program.”

Patience Eiting - Wisconsin Competitor

“What I love about IC is the momento exchange and the variety show practice which gives the opportunity to kids to get to know each other better and to learn more about each culture.”

Serife Uzmez - Turkey Coach

“Kids who want to change the world with inspiration, intelligence, and innovation remind us all of the hope and promise in this world. Watching and interviewing CmPS teams and individuals ages 9-18 from all over the world as they seek to make their communities and countries better reaffirms the belief that we as humans can do anything if we pull together.”

Cindy Tochtermann - Texas IC Evaluator



“My favorite part of IC is that it is not just a problem solving competition, but also a lesson in humanity. I am always amazed how in just a few short days, coaches and students from throughout the world create a community where differences are not just accepted, but celebrated and it is easy to see all that is still good in the world.”

Scott Sexton - Kentucky Coach/Adult Competitor

The booklet always has a fun intensity to it, and the skits are always a blast because of the ridiculousness of paper towel and foil clothes in the best possible way.”

Jack Caplan - Connecticut Competitor

“One of my favorite parts of IC is the Opening Ceremonies. I get chills during the flag procession! As I look around the auditorium I realize just how many problem solvers around the world that we are developing! Seeing these excited, creative, and critical thinkers gives me hope for our future!”

Cyd Rogers - Texas Affiliate Director

“My favorite part of IC is seeing the happiness on the students’ faces as they enjoy everything the IC experience has to offer them.

Julie Styann - New Zealand Affiliate Director



"I honestly love how many people I've met from around the world through FPSPI IC."

Kevin Donnelly - West Virginia Competitor

"My favorite part of IC is knowing that I got to spread the message of our Community Project internationally and that I got to represent my country while living this fantastic experience!"

Margarida Completo - Portugal Competitor

"I am a graduated senior and I really appreciate the opportunity to come to IC. I loved being able to trade items with students from other countries and also explore the college campus."

McKenzie Smith - Florida Competitor



"Evaluating at IC is exciting, energy-filled and FUN with a certain amount of stress built in! It has to be everything the participants feel!"

Deb Woythal - Iowa Long-Time IC Evaluator

"My favorite part of IC is seeing students from all over the world get together to think creatively and solve problems, but also socializing, getting involved, and celebrating their success."

Joana de Sousa - Portugal Coach

Welcome and Congratulations to the 2016-17 Board of Trustees!

Through many hours of work, discussion, and careful consideration, a newly formatted structure for the Board of Trustees was recently developed. At the 2016 Affiliate Council meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve on this vital team:



Janet Fite, Missouri - President

Argen Hicks, Georgia - Vice President

Erwin Hosono, California - Finance Chair

Jason Navarino, New Jersey - Policy Chair

Justin Lightfoot, Iowa - Personnel Chair

Karen Castiglione, Connecticut - Accreditation Chair

Beverly Squire-Wiggins, Florida

Matt Boyas, Massachusetts

Lisa Quintana, Texas

We appreciate your willingness and dedication to serve in this important capacity!

We would like to recognize and thank the following outgoing members of the previous Board of Trustees. Together they have volunteered their time, expertise, and efforts totaling over 50 years of dedicated service!

Martha Barlow, Wisconsin - 12 years

Brenda Darnell, Kentucky - 6.5 years

Sara Hepner, Alaska - 6 years

Jennine Jackson, Arizona - 11 years

Laurel Petersen, New Jersey - 4 years

Cyd Rogers, Texas - 8 years

Barb Sailors, Washington - 11.5 years



THANK YOU!