



PARENT

July 2022

PERSPECTIVES

This edition of *Parent Perspectives* comes from our Texas Affiliate. Former Affiliate Director, Cyd Rogers, shares with us her journey through participating in FPSP and includes some reflections by Texas students. Also included are cultures and customs of Texas. Please enjoy!

I have been fortunate to have experienced 24 consecutive International Conferences. My viewpoints have been through the eyes of a coach, an Affiliate Director, a Board of Trustees member, and as an evaluator. Each of these perspectives has given me invaluable insights and vistas. I have seen absolute joy in the faces of my students as they met new friends from around the world. I have seen wonder as the adults I was working with realized we were all attempting to attain the same goals. Those goals were to provide students the unique opportunity to think creatively and critically as we challenged them on an international platform. I have seen motivation as we worked with board members to innovate in order to provide our student participants all that we could possibly provide. I have seen dedication in EVERY person's face I've met as they celebrate student successes.

I have seen ultimate levels of perseverance and tenacity on the faces of our staff and leaders of this program as they tried to achieve challenging and successful competitions and activities for every student participant, which they always do! These experiences have given me such knowledge, compassion, and inspiration to see these immeasurable experiences continue. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to each school, school district, administrator, parent, volunteer and donor for supporting these incredible experiences for your students. I also would like to thank the international office staff--past, present, and future for the perseverance and continued efforts in the evolution of this program that creates futuristic and analytical thinkers.

That said, I would like to challenge each of you to FIND A WAY! FIND A WAY to assist your local program as that in turn assists in the development and progression of FPSP. FIND A WAY to volunteer, to help raise funds, contact your school administrators, and seek financial support.

FIND A WAY for your students to continue their participation in FPS. These students are our future.

The skills that Future Problem Solving provides them gives us hope for that future. A future where these students can become leaders for a better future world. FIND A WAY!

Cyd Rogers, Texas & International Volunteer

Reflections...by Sarah Warzecha

Reflecting on this last international conference for me, I, Sarah Warzecha, think of all the things I have learned the last seven years in Future Problem Solving. I have researched a wide array of topics, worked alongside teammates with unique personalities and skill sets, and competed in many competitions where the constraint of the two-hour countdown never ceased to weigh on me. Yet, as those seven years progressed, the skills I accumulated in FPS began to trickle their way into other areas of my academic life. When writing an English paper or taking a history test, FPS taught me to consider a problem from multiple avenues: politically, economically, environmentally, socially, the list goes on. Consider for a moment a rather simple example. If a cucumber farm goes out of business, FPS taught me to not only consider the possible inability for the farm's workers to provide for their families, resulting in a lack of basic needs but also the potential negative effects the lack of cucumbers could have on the environment, possibly leaving the area's ecosystem in disarray. In any scenario, even one concerning cucumbers, my participation in FPS permanently instilled in me the ability to think critically and to see a singular concept from multiple angles or colored in multiple, varying lights.



Pictured above is Sarah Warzecha, on a Duck Tour boat cruise of Boston- IC 2022

Apart from the intellectual betterment I gained from FPS, I also refined my ability to work through difficult circumstances. My junior year State Bowl experience was virtual due to Covid-19. Though virtual, we still came to school to compete with our teams in person. During breakfast, one of my teammates pulled me aside and let me know she couldn't taste her breakfast. Surprise! She had Covid. An hour before our competition was supposed to start, my teammate had to rush home and join us virtually. Though we started late and had to sit in a corner to be able to hear our "virtual" teammate, my team was able to quiet our nerves and do the best we could, and our efforts earned us 2nd place at State and a place in the international competition! We made the semi-final round of the competition too! FPS not only taught me how to solve problems on paper but also how to work through real and present-day problems.

As I now enter a new season of life, where unforeseen difficulties are sure to arise, I can rest assured that my seven years of Future Problem Solving has adequately equipped me to live my life thoughtfully and analytically, giving me the confidence to embrace adversity and grow from it.

Sarah is a 2022 graduate of Prestonwood Christian Academy, Plano, Texas. Sarah will attend Texas A & M University in the fall of 2022.



**Looking for a really good book?
Check out this one by a former
Texas problem solver!
Portrait of a Thief by Grace D. Li**

Grace Li, a 2013 graduate of Dawson High School, Pearland Texas, has published her debut novel, *Portrait of a Thief* (released on 4/5/2022 <https://www.gracedli.com/>). The New York times called it "engaging and surprising, and the narrative brims with international intrigue...as much a novel as a reckoning."

Grace also attended Berry Miller Junior High, Pearland Junior High South, Roger's Middle school, and Silvercrest Elementary. In her school years, Grace participated in Global Issues Problem Solving, and Scenario Writing.

Grace says, "I'm so thankful for my FPS experience! It expanded my perspective and encouraged me to think creatively, both in writing and my everyday life. Many of my early experiences with creative writing came from thinking through FPS scenarios, their problems, solutions, etc. I can't wait to see what the next generation of FPS students get up to!" Grace is also a graduate of Duke University, where she studied biology and creative writing. She currently attends medical school at Stanford University. Her debut novel, *Portrait of a Thief*, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller, a #1 international bestseller, and is also in development at Netflix.

Portrait of a Thief, a lush, lyrical heist novel inspired by the true story of Chinese art vanishing from Western museums, about diaspora, the colonization of art, and the complexity of the Chinese American identity.

To view a short 20 second TikTok video about Grace's journey as a writer, (made by her sister, Sharon Li) go to: https://www.tiktok.com/@sharonyhl/video/7079889877025705259?is_copy_url=1&is_from_webapp=v1



Grace Li, former FPS-er, Scenario Writer, Duke graduate, Stanford medical student and published best-selling author!

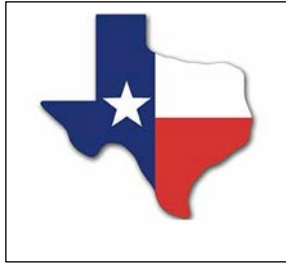


"Decades of Problem Solving"



Texas FPSP Inc. has a 42 Year history in Future Problem Solving!

Texas is known as the Lone Star state!



The Alamo, in San Antonio, is one of the most historic locations in both Texas and US history!

Cultural Corner—Texas

- The Texas Future Problem Solving Program was started in 1980 by an Austin Independent School District (ISD) teacher.
 - Texas FPSP Inc. participates in all competitive components and was the first affiliate program to enter an Individual CmPS project to the International Conference in 2000.
 - The Texas Future Problem Solving Program is the longest running academic competition program in the state of Texas.
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- The designer of the Texas flag is unknown. There was an early image of the flag drawn by Dr. Charles B. Stewart. However, nobody knows who actually designed it. It's a mystery.
 - In 1885, Dr Pepper was invented in Waco, Texas by Charles Alderton. It was first nationally marketed in 1904.
 - The Great Galveston Hurricane of 1900 was the deadliest natural disaster in the U.S. Sadly, 6,000 to 12,000 lives were lost.
 - Texas' Bracken Cave is home to North America's largest known bat colony, which hosts more than 20 million bats.
 - There's a time capsule in Texas that contains a passbook to a bank account. When the capsule is opened in 2968, the bank account is expected to have \$1 quadrillion.
 - Six Flags Over Texas was named for the six countries that have ruled over Texas, which include France, Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States, and the Confederate States of America.
 - The largest state capitol in the nation is the Texas State Capitol building in Austin.
 - Austin, Texas is home to the fastest road in the U.S., which has a speed limit of 85 mph on a 40-mile stretch of road between Austin and San Antonio.
 - With an area of 268,820 square miles, Texas is larger than any European country.
 - Texas is home to three of the top 10 most populated cities in the US; Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio.
 - There have been many famous people born/from Texas. Some of these are: Barbara Jordan - 1st African American congress woman from the deep south, Lyndon B. Johnson - 36th US president, George H. Bush - 41st US president, George W. Bush - 43rd US president, Bessie Coleman - 1st African American woman to earn a pilot's license, and Michael Dell - businessman/philanthropist. Actors, musicians, and athletes: Michael Strahan, Matthew McConaughey, Sissey Spacek, Joan Crawford, Vanilla Ice, Woody Harrelson, Steve Martin, Kelly Clarkson, Renee Zellweger, Tommy Lee Jones, Willie Nelson, Beyonce, Nelly, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Barry White, Sheryl Swoopes, Earl Campbell, George Foreman, Nolan Ryan, and Babe Didrikson Zaharias.