

# FPSPI Celebrates 45th Anniversary in 2019



In 1983 Dr. E. Paul Torrance, founder of FPSPI, declared these thoughts, still relevant today:

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“The most basic skill that can be taught in today’s schools is **problem solving**, especially skills in solving future problems. In fact, the teaching of future problem solving skills may really be the **key** to the successful teaching of other basics such as reading, writing and arithmetic.

Many children are not motivated to master these basics unless they can **see the connection** between them and their future lives.”

*Handbook for Training Future Problem Solving Teams*, Torrance, J.P., Torrance E. P., and Crabbe, A.B.; Future Problem Solving Program, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA, 1983.

The Future Problem Solving Program grew out of a month long curriculum unit created by E. Paul Torrance for a class at Clark Central High School in Athens, home of the University of Georgia. This new program combined two pressing education concerns of Dr. Torrance—the **decline of creativity** and the **lack of interest** in the future by Americans.

Today FPSPI is an international organization with Affiliate Programs in 45 states and countries.



## The 70's

FPSP began in 1974 as a curriculum unit designed by Dr. E. Paul Torrance for an Athens, GA, highschool class. By 1978, it involved **300** schools in **26** states.

The first National Bowl was held at the **University of Georgia** with awards for outstanding work going to team and individual problem solving, scenario writing, and solutions selling.

FPSP moved to the **University of Nebraska** with **Anne B. Crabbe** as Director.

Dr. and Mrs. Torrance served as advisors.

The University of Nebraska hosted the National Bowl from 1979-1981.

## The 80's

In 1980, the program had **18** State Directors and an Open Division for teams in areas not served by state programs.

The "Zippy" logo was created.

By 1986, **800** FPSers, coaches, and chaperones attended the International Conference (IC) at the University of Michigan.

Community Problem Solving (CmPS) was introduced in 1984.

For the 15th anniversary in 1989, **1,200** FPSers, attended IC at the University of Michigan.

**Australia** was the newest Affiliate at IC 1989.

FPSP received a federal Javits Grant for \$432,000.

## The 90's

An Alternate Team Problem Solving competition was added in 1990.

**New Zealand** became an Affiliate in 1994.

The Fuzzy Situation was changed to Future Scene to reflect the "what if" in the topic scenarios set in the future.

The first FPSP mission statement was adopted.



# The 2000's



Dr. Torrance addressed the IC attendees at Opening Ceremony at the University of Georgia. He also viewed the CmPS projects.

Dr. Torrance passed away in 2003 in Athens, GA.

2006 brought a name change— Future Problem Solving Program (FPSP) became **Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI)** to reflect the global expansion of the program into areas such as Singapore, Japan, and Korea.

2008 launched the Creating the Future Scholarship!

Team Problem Solving was changed to **Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS)** in 2009.

# The 2010's

The Alternate Competition became the **Multi Affiliate Global Issues Competition (MAGIC)** in 2013.

In 2014, FPSPI celebrated its **40th Anniversary** with a new logo and song.

**Scenario Performance** was added as a new component in 2015.



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FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM  
INTERNATIONAL



# 45 YEARS OF FUN FACTS



At **IC 2018** there were **183** GIPS teams, **85** GIPS individuals, **75** CmPS teams, **12** CmPS individuals, **21** Scenario Writing Teams, **34** Scenario Performers, and **179** volunteers. **9** Countries were represented.



Over the last 44 years, the **National Bowls** and now **International Conferences (IC)** were held at **14** different colleges or universities from the Rockies (CO) to the Eastern Seaboard (MA, CT, RI).



Since 1978, there have been **7** National Bowls and **35** International Conferences (IC).

**Eight** Executive Directors have served the program.

In 2018, the estimated worldwide FPSPI registered competitors was **23,905**.



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