

## ○ Who We Are

- Utah Forensics (the speech and debate team) is sponsored by the Department of Communication and has been a campus organization since 1869.
- Utah Forensics is one of only three schools to host the National Debate Tournament, the oldest, longest running, and most prestigious college debate tournament, twice (a distinction we share with Miami University of Ohio and West Point).
- Utah's Invitational Tournament, the Great Salt Lake Invitational, is one of the oldest and most distinguished tournaments in the Western United States.
- The University of Utah placed 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally in 2002. Teams from Utah placed in late elimination rounds in 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2011.

## ○ What We Do

### ➤ *Competition*

- Parliamentary Debate – we are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Parliamentary Debate Association, college debate's largest intercollegiate debate organization.
- Lincoln-Douglas Debate – we are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Forensics Association.
- Individual Events – we are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Forensics Association.

### ➤ *Public Events*

- Public Debates - These are a particularly important part of our team's character. Public debates are where intercollegiate debate started. Debates focus on locally relevant public events, i.e. guns on campus, Utah liquor laws and public safety, immigration, and nuclear waste storage.

### ➤ *High School Outreach*

- Volunteer Coaching - Our students provide support for local teams by judging at local tournaments and offering volunteer coaching for teams with limited resources.
- High School Tournament - Utah Forensics hosts the Beehive Bonanza and Championship Round Robin every October. This tournament hosts teams from throughout Utah and around the country. Scholarships are awarded to top competitors.
- High School Debate Institute - Beginning in Summer 2011, Utah Forensics will host high school students and coaches from throughout the United States at the Beehive Forensics Institute. The Institute offers an intensive two to three week program in which top college and high school coaches offer individualized training for high school speech and debate students.

## ○ How to Join

- Email: Contact the Director of Forensics, Dr. Michael Middleton ([m.middleton@utah.edu](mailto:m.middleton@utah.edu)).
- Enroll in Forensics Practicum: Enroll in COMM 3270 (fall) or COMM 4270 (spring) which runs parallel to weekly team practice. These courses often fulfill Upper-Division CW and/or Service Learning credit requirements. See the most current schedule of classes for confirmation. Each course offering may be taken up to twice for credit.
- Attend Practice: Practices are open to all students enrolled at the University. We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5pm until 7pm in the Utah Forensics Squad Room, LNCO 2890.

○ **Reasons to Join:**

➤ ***Research & Writing Skills***

- Speech & Debate teaches students to develop and support sound claims, as well as to hone critical reasoning skills.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to develop and deliver their ideas and arguments in concise ways.
- Speech & Debate teaches students effective research practices.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to “think on their feet” and to present their ideas with confidence.

➤ ***Organizational Skills***

- Speech & Debate teaches students to organize large quantities of information for effective retrieval and use.
- Speech & Debate teaches students effective organizational skills through opportunities to judge and help administrate tournaments.
- Speech & Debate teaches students to organize effectively team efforts to maximize team productivity.

➤ ***Relationships***

- Speech & Debate offers an opportunity to develop close advising relationships with faculty and instructors in the Department of Communication.
- Speech & Debate offers an opportunity to travel and develop relationships with students at other campuses in the state and nation.
- Speech & Debate fosters a sense of camaraderie among teammates that is rare in most college settings.

○ **Some Famous Speech & Debate Participants:**

- Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General
- Oprah Winfrey, talk show host
- Ann Richards, former Governor of Texas
- Stephen Breyer, Supreme Court Justice
- Harry Connick, Jr., Singer/Songwriter
- Bill Clinton, former President of the United States
- Karl Rove, former advisor to President George W. Bush, debated in UT
- Johnny Cochran, famed defense attorney
- Michael Stipe, lead singer of REM
- Ted Turner, founder of CNN

***DON'T DELAY!!! JOIN TODAY!!!***