National Debate Tournament

Alumni News

Reporting on the 2022-2023 Season and Celebrating the History of Policy Debate

Greetings from the NDT

The 77th National Debate Tournament (NDT) was hosted in grand fashion by Wake Forest University at a Marriott Hotel in Chantilly, Virginia, during March 31, 2023 to April 3, 2023.

Unique and clever souvenirs promoting the spirit of 77 theme were distributed to all the participants, including stickers, buttons, sunglasses, and bottle openers. The table seating for the "Big Room" was assigned by displaying a large LP record with the name of every school on the front of the record.

This issue of the *Alumni News* reports the results from the 77th NDT, including the announcement of the award recipients for the coaching, service, and distinguished alumni awards for 2023.

It also includes eight memorials to celebrate the lives of prominent NDT alumni that we lost during 2022.

Finally, continuing with past issues, we celebrate NDT history by recounting the events and people who participating in the first NDT in 1947.

NDT Alumni Committee
Adrienne Brovero, University of Kentucky
Dale Herbeck, Northeastern University
John Katsulas, Boston College
Mikaela Malsin, Emory University

Upcoming Tournaments

78th NDT — April 4 to April 8, 2024

Hosted by Emory University, Atlana, Georgia

Contacting the NDT

Information about the NDT, including back issues of *Alumni News*, can be found on our website:
https://nationaldebatetournament.org/

The *Alumni News* is also available on the American Forensic Association's website:
https://www.americanforensicsassoc.org/ndt-alumni-newsletters/

Facebook users are encouraged to follow the NDT:
https://www.facebook.com/National-Debate-Tournament NDT-162782223799263/

Alumni are invited to register their information to receive a copy of the newsletter. Please submit your information using this Google document:
https://forms.gle/hw7SCJsCm9i4TpZq5

Ideas for future stories for the alumni newsletter can be emailed to John Katsulas at: katsulas@bc.edu

Wake Forest Demon Deacons Win the NDT!

Tajaih Robinson & Iyana Trotman defeat the University of Michigan on a 4-1 decision

The Wake Forest team of Tajaih Robinson '24 & Iyana Trotman '24 defeated the University of Michigan to win the 77th National Debate Tournament hosted by Wake Forest University in Chantilly, Virginia, during March 31, 2023 to April 3, 2023.

During the preliminary rounds, Robinson & Trotman compiled a 7-1 record with 20 ballots. Their only loss came against Michigan (Phil & Pierry) in a split decision during round 8.

As the second seed, Wake Forest received a bye in the double-octo finals.

To reach the final round, Wake Forest defeated three teams: Michigan State GM in the octo-finals (4-1 decision), Kansas MS in the quarter-finals (7-0 decision), and Dartmouth SV in the semi-finals (5-0 decision).

The other finalist team, Kelly Phil & Rafael Pierry of the University of Michigan, were the top seed with a record of 7-1 with 21 ballots. They also received a bye in the double-octo finals.

Michigan advanced to the finals by defeating three teams: Iowa CE in the octo-finals (4-1 decision), Wake BD in the quarter-finals (3-2 decision) and Emory GK in the semi-finals (4-1 decision).

The final round set up a contest between the top two seeds. Wake Forest was locked negative as they were on the affirmative side against Michigan in round 8.

Rafael Pierry, the first affirmative speaker from Michigan, began the debate by advocating this plan: The United States should vest legal duties in artificial intelligence that restrict its integration with nuclear systems, including automated launch capabilities.

The affirmative argued that the integration of AI into nuclear systems dramatically increased the risk of inadvertent nuclear war. So, they advocated a plan which prohibited nuclear weapon systems from operating autonomously.

In response, Wake Forest categorically rejected the framework for the debate adopted by Michigan, which presumed the focus of the debate was whether the affirmative plan was desirable. Instead, Wake Forest argued for a counter-advocacy, which called for the judges to embrace their performance of the Black Chorus celebrating the inclusion of Black voices in policy debate.

Wake Forest argued due to the precipitous decline in Black Debater participation and the impending elimination of the Emporia debate program, the final round of the NDT should be about embracing their performance in favor of Black Debate above the instrumentalization of the resolution.

In a 4-1 decision, the judges voted for Wake Forest. The four judges in the majority voted for Wake for three main reasons. First, the judges stated that Wake's claims about Black Debate dying went largely unaddressed by Michigan. Therefore, they believed it was try-or-die to align with Wake's Black Chorus. Second, the judges were not persuaded by Michigan's arguments that they should prioritize teaching portable debate skills over making debate more inclusive for Black Debaters. Third, the judges rejected Michigan's ability to make a permutation as a way to capture the negative's performance.

The dissenting judge, Dallas Perkins, Jr. thought that the negative side did not meet their burden of rejoinder. Perkins suggested that it was possible to embrace a space for Black Debate and still advocate for doing the plan to prevent AI from causing a nuclear war. Perkins was also highly skeptical that Wake's performance would persuade college administrators to support black debate programs.

This is the third time that Wake Forest has won the NDT Tournament. Their first victory came in 1997 (Daveed Gartenstein-Ross and Brian Prestes) and the second was in 2008 (Alex Lamballe and Seth Gannon).

The 2023 victory by Wake Forest is historically significant. This was the first time that a team from the host school won the NDT. Since 1967, the NDT has been hosted every year (except for the 2020 cancellation) by a different college. Over those 55 years, the host school had never won the NDT. In fact, no team from the host school ever made it to the final round. The best performance by a host school debate team occurred at the 1970 NDT hosted by the University of Houston when Mike Miller and Paul Colby advanced to the semi-finals.

The University of Michigan also made history. Rafael Pierry became the first debater to compete in the final round at three NDT tournaments. And, the University of Michigan became the first school to lose in three consecutive final rounds.

*Tajaih Robinson & Iyana Trotman
of Wake Forest University with the
Larmon Trophy awarded to the NDT Champion*

*Rafael Pierry & Kelly Phil
of the University of Michigan with the
Walker Trophy awarded for 2nd place*

77th National Debate Tournament

First-Round At-Large Recipients

There are three ways to qualify for the NDT. At the end of the "regular season," the National Committee extends an invitation to the top sixteen teams. Another forty-six teams are selected through district qualifying tournaments. To fill out the field, sixteen teams that have not qualified received "second round" bids. The teams receiving first-rounds for the 2023 NDT included:

1. University of Michigan (Kelly Phil & Rafael Pierry)
2. Emory University (Eugenia Giampetruzzi & Grace Kessler)
3. Wake Forest University (Tajaih Robinson & Iyana Trotman)
4. Dartmouth College (Arvind Shankar & Tyler Vergho)
5. Wake Forest University (Ana Bittner & Ari Davidson)
6. University of Kansas (Mickey McMahon & Michael Scott)
7. University of Michigan (Joshua Harrington & Giorgio Rabbini)
8. Dartmouth College (Holland Bald & Gabriel Chang-Deutsch)
9. University of Texas, Austin (Het Desai & Arnav Kashyap)
10. California State University, Long Beach (Curtis Ortega & Diego Flores)
11. Georgetown University (Kieran Lawless & Zidao Wang)
12. Emory University (Henry Mitchell & Bella Piekut)
13. Harvard University (Zion Dixon & Leah Yeshitila)
14. Northwestern University (Akash Deo & Timothy Wegener)
15. University of Kentucky (Austin Kiihnl & David Griffith)
16. University of Kansas (Jimin Park & Jet Semrick)

Rex Copeland Award

ABOUT THE COPELAND AWARD

The Rex Copeland Award is presented to the top ranked team in the first-round at-large balloting. Rex Copeland, an outstanding debater at Huffman High School and Samford University, was murdered in 1989.

Coach Aaron Kall and debaters Kelly Phil & Rafael Pierry with the Copeland Award

Grace Kessler and Eugenia Giampetruzzi of Emory University finished second in the Copeland balloting

The 2022-2023 Copeland Award winner is Kelly Phil & Rafael Pierry of the University of Michigan. The vote by the NDT Committee was unanimous.

Phil & Pierry won five tournaments, more than any other team. They won three of the largest tournaments: Kentucky, Wake, and Texas. And, they also won the two most prestigious round robin tournaments, Kentucky and Dartmouth, in dominating fashion as they went undefeated.

In the three tournaments they did not win, Phil & Pierry placed second at Gonzaga, reached the semi-finals at Georgetown, and lost in the octo-finals at the season opener Northwestern tournament (losing to Wake RT who defeated them in NDT finals).

During the 2022-2023 debate season prior to the NDT, the cumulative win-loss record for Phil & Pierry was 72 wins and 7 losses—an impressive 91.1% success rate.

Last year, the Michigan team of Rafael Pierry & Giorgio Rabbini won the Copeland Award. So, by winning the Copeland again in 2023, Michigan became the 5th school to win back-to-back Copeland Awards. The other schools who have done this are Dartmouth (1992-1993), Emory (2010-2011), Northwestern (2014-2015), and Harvard (2016-2017).

Rafael Pierry also joins an elite company of six other debaters who have won the Copeland in consecutive years. The other five debaters who have won the award in back-to-back are Ovais Inamullah & Stephen Weil from Emory, Alex Miles & Arjun Vellayappan from Northwestern, and Hemanth Sanjeev from Harvard.

Michigan has now won the Copeland three times. In 1997, Scott Hessell & Corey Stoughton were the first Michigan team to be ranked as the number one team.

Congratulations to the Michigan debaters and their coaches (Aaron Kall, Kurt Fifelski, Kevin Hirn, Val McIntosh, and Dustin Meyers-Levy) for winning the Copeland Award.

77th National Debate Tournament

District Qualifiers and Second-Rounds

Baylor University (Lawson Hudson & Omar Darwish)
Binghamton University (Harrison Picallo & Eli T. Louis)
Boston College (Christopher Cheek & Louis Gleason)
Dartmouth College (Neo Cai & Jenny Vazquez Torres)
Emory University (Clara Conry & Serena Rupp)
Emporia State University (Brett Krambeer & Savana Reed-Valizan)
Emporia State University (Lyros Cabrera & Niko Sims)
George Mason University (Ankita Bhurtel & Jay Fuchs)
George Mason University (Nicholas Loew & Noah Reed)
Georgetown University (Connelly Cowan & Ben Sayers)
Georgetown University (Ethan Greer & Adam White)
Gonzaga University (Avalyn Renee & Kaelyn Wellman)
Gonzaga University (Nicholas Dawson & Andrea Moreno)
Harvard University (Christian Gines & Oge Ogbogu)
Indiana University (Aryan Jasani & Rahul Penumetcha)
Indiana University (Hattie Hoham & Anekah Fish)
James Madison University (Matthew Conway & Eric Pelletier)
Kansas State University (Daniel Robertson & Rachel Sum)
Liberty University (Jackson Posey & Justice Wallenmeyer)
Liberty University (Melanie Dellinger & Palmer Hamilton)
Macalester College (Sam Price & Ella Williams)
Michigan State University (Ephraim Bennett & David Koster)
Michigan State University (Joanna Gusis & Tony Miklovis)
Michigan State University (Nathan Glancy & Piper Meloche)
Missouri State University (Jake Shew & Connor Burns)
Missouri State University (Samuel Cade & Brenden Lucas)
New York University (Emmanuel Makinde & Vikram Saigal)
New School (Avantika Chaturvedi & Lolo Kaase)
Northwestern University (Nik Stamenkovic Diez & Andrew Subingsubing)
Samford University (Grace Blackwell & TJ Riggs)
Towson State University (Daniel Christ & Nahali Tittle)
Trinity University (William Walker & Avery Wilson)
Tufts University (Matthew Stinson & Elizabeth Li)
United States Military Academy (Dominic Opron & Valentin Shatilenko)
United States Naval Academy (Roy Choi & Jason Santiago)
University of Central Oklahoma (Kyle Wendland & Kade Williams)
University of Central Oklahoma (Zach Huffman & Luke Smith)

University of Georgia (Jack Mruz & Roman Vale)
University of Houston (Nine Abad & Bryce Sheffield)
University of Houston (Kiran Khan & Sripad Yadagiri)
University of Iowa (Ryan Cavanaugh & Maeve Ella)
University of Kansas (John Marshall & Jiyoon Park)
University of Kentucky (Jordan Di & Ariel Gabay)
University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Claude Janvier & Rishi Mukherjee)
University of Michigan (David McDermott & Kelly Skoulikaris)
University of Minnesota (Spencer Anderson McElligott & Mark Kivimaki)
University of Minnesota (J Parish & Caleb Prost)
University of Minnesota (Nolan Johnson & Owen Phoenix-Flood)
University of Oklahoma (Joseph Sullivan & Blaine Teague)
University of Southern California (Kevin Sun & Anish Bhadani)
University of Southern California (Rayeed Rahman & Thomas Reese)
University of Texas, Austin (Ralph Anderson & Isha Bhasin)
University of Texas, Dallas (Storm Lasseter & Hasan Mubarak)
University of Texas, Dallas (Ari Karchmer & Adrian Sendejas)
University of West Georgia (Robin Forsyth & Jordan Keller)
University of West Georgia (Zac Clough & Rose Larson)
University of Wyoming (Jaden Campbell & Kaitlyn Campbell)
University of Wyoming (Lorilei Lassen & Ec Powers)
Wake Forest University (Jazmyn Luckett & Asya Taylor)
Wayne State University (Faith Howard & Irshad Reza Husain)
Wichita State University (Travis Babcock & Thomas Babcock)
Wichita State University (Bobby Phillips & Layne Smith)

NOTE

The University of Mary Washington (Avery Dover & Andrew Hudgins) and Binghamton University (Lilia Guizatoullina & Jeremiah Cohn) qualified for the NDT but did not participate. They were replaced by The University of Minnesota (Spencer Anderson McElligott & Mark Kivimaki) and Dartmouth College (Neo Cai & Jenny Vazquez Torres).

In round 6, Binghamton University (Kate Martin & Jeremy Santora) substituted for the University of Central Oklahoma (Zach Huffman & Luke Smith)

Larmon Traveling Trophy awarded to the NDT Champion

Walker Traveling Trophy awarded for 2nd Place

One of the watches awarded to participants in the final round

77th National Debate Tournament

Elimination Round Seeding

1.	University of Michigan PP (Phil & Pierry)	7-1	21 ballots
2.	Wake Forest University RT (Robinson & Trotman)	7-1	20 ballots
3.	University of Michigan HR (Harrington & Rabbini)	7-1	20 ballots
4.	Emory University GK (Giampetruzzi & Kessler)	6-2	19 ballots
5.	Georgetown University GW (Greer & White)	6-2	18 ballots
6.	Dartmouth College SV (Shankar & Vergho)	6-2	17 ballots
7.	University of Kansas MS (McMahon & Scott)	6-2	17 ballots
8.	Wake Forest University BD (Bittner & Davidson)	6-2	17 ballots
9.	University of Texas, Austin DK (Desai & Kashyap)	6-2	17 ballots
10.	University of Kansas PS (Park & Semrick)	6-2	17 ballots
11.	Dartmouth College BC (Bald & Chang-Deutsch)	6-2	16 Ballots
12.	Georgetown University LW (Lawless & Wang)	6-2	16 ballots
13.	California State University, Long Beach OF (Ortega & Flores)	6-2	15 Ballots
14.	Northwestern University DW (Deo & Wegener)	5-3	17 ballots
15.	University of Wyoming LP (Lassen & Powers)	5-3	17 ballots
16.	University of Iowa CE (Cavanaugh & Ella)	5-3	16 ballots
17.	Wayne State University HR (Howard & Reza Husain)	5-3	16 ballots
18.	Michigan State University GM (Glancy & Meloche)	5-3	15 ballots
19.	University of Kentucky KG (Kiihnl & Griffith)	5-3	15 ballots
20.	University of Southern California SB (Sun & Bhadani)	5-3	15 ballots
21.	University of Michigan MS (McDermott & Skoulikaris)	5-3	14 ballots
22.	Emory University CR (Conry & Rupp)	5-3	14 ballots
23.	University of West Georgia CL (Clough & Larson)	5-3	14 ballots
24.	Emory University MP (Mitchell & Piekut)	5-3	14 ballots
25.	Liberty University PW (Posey & Wallenmeyer)	5-3	14 ballots
26.	Wake Forest University LT (Luckett & Taylor)	5-3	13 ballots
27.	Wichita State University BB (Babcock & Babcock)	5-3	13 ballots
28.	Harvard University DY (Dixon & Yeshitila)	5-3	12 ballots
29.	Harvard University GO (Gines & Ogbogu)	5-3	12 ballots

*The Rex Copeland Award
presented to the top ranked team
in the first-round at-large balloting*

Speaker Awards

1. Eugenia Giampetruzzi, Emory University
2. Rafael Pierry, University of Michigan
3. Iyana Trotman, Wake Forest University
4. Tajaih Robinson, Wake Forest University
5. Tyler Vergho, Dartmouth College
6. Grace Kessler, Emory University
7. Ana Bittner, Wake Forest University
8. Ari Davidson, Wake Forest University
9. Giorgio Rabbini, University of Michigan
10. Michael Scott, Kansas University
11. Kelly Phil, University of Michigan
12. Mickey McMahon, Kansas University
13. Leah Yeshitila, Harvard University
14. Diego Flores, California State University, Long Beach
15. Het Desai, University of Texas, Austin
16. Arvind Shankar, Dartmouth College
17. David Griffith, University of Kentucky
18. Gabriel Chang-Deutsch, Dartmouth College
19. Arnav Kashyap, University of Texas, Austin
20. Holland Bald, Dartmouth College
21. Kiernan Lawless, Georgetown University
22. Asya Taylor, Wake Forest University
23. Joshua Harrington, University of Michigan
24. Akash Deo, Northwestern University
25. Kevin Sun, University of Southern California

*The Ross K. Smith Award
presented to the top speaker
at the National Debate Tournament*

Giampetruzzi Repeats as Top Speaker

Eugenia Giampetruzzi of Emory University with the Ross K. Smith Top Speaker Award

Eugenia Giampetruzzi, a senior and Woodruff Debate Scholar at Emory University, won top individual speaker honors at the 77th NDT. Rafael Pierry from The University of Michigan placed second.

Giampetruzzi became the first female debater to win top speaker honors in consecutive years and just the fourth in NDT history. The other three who won back-to-back top speaker awards were Lyn Robbins of Baylor (1986-1987), Paul Skiermont of Kentucky (1994-1995), and Michael Gottlieb of Northwestern (1998-1999).

Giampetruzzi repeating as the top speaker was not unexpected. During the 2022-2003 season, she won top speaker awards at three tournaments (The University of Kentucky, The University of Texas, and ADA Nationals). She placed second at four tournaments (Kentucky Round Robin, Northwestern, Dartmouth Round Robin, and Georgetown).

Debating at the NDT, Giampetruzzi, and her partner, Grace Kessler (the 6th speaker), were the fourth seed after going 6-2 with 19 ballots. They lost in the semi-finals to The University of Michigan (Kelly Phil & Rafael Pierry).

Prior to the NDT, Giampetruzzi & Kessler enjoyed tremendous success. They earned a first-round at-large bid to the NDT (and finished second in the balloting for the Copeland Award). Giampetruzzi & Kessler placed second at six tournaments (Northwestern, Kentucky, Kentucky Round Robin, Georgetown, Dartmouth Round Robin, & Texas), reached the semi-finals at three tournaments (NDT, ADA Nationals & Gonzaga) and advanced to the quarter-finals at Wake.

Along with being an exceptional debater, Giampetruzzi pursued a rigorous academic program. She conducted undergraduate research at both Emory School of Medicine's Child and Adolescent Mood Disorder program and the Treatment Resistant Depression program while working toward her pre-med psychology degree.

Upon graduation, Giampetruzzi will spend the next two years working on a psychiatric research fellowship with Georgetown University.

Giampetruzzi & Kessler are coached by Dr. Mikaela Malsin, Brian Klarman, and Dr. Becca Steiner.

Rafael Pierry of the University of Michigan with the watch presented to the second best speaker at the NDT

Semi-finalists and Quarter-finalists

Arvind Shanker & Tyler Vergho,
semi-finalists from Dartmouth College

Eugenia Giampetruzzi and Grace Kessler,
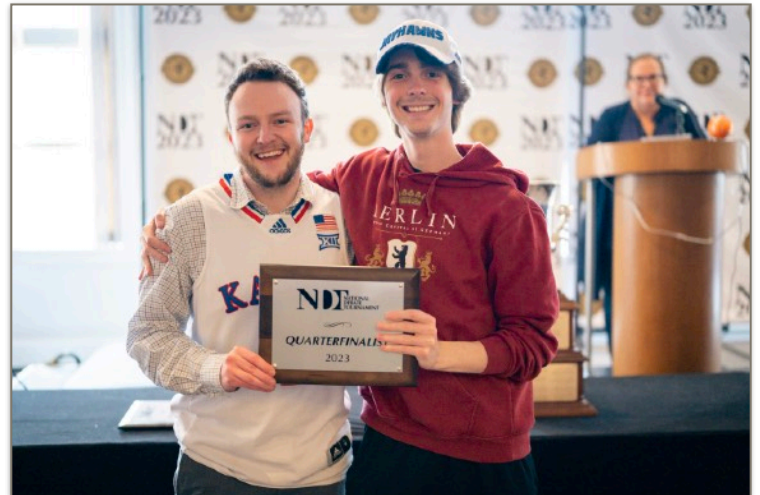*semi-finalists from Emory University*

Kieran Lawless & Zidao Wang,
quarter-finalists from Georgetown University

Ana Bittner & Ari Davidson,
quarter-finalists from Wake Forest University

Joshua Harrington & Giorgio Rabbini,
quarter-finalists from the University of Michigan

Michael Scott & Mickey McMahon,
quarter-finalists from the University of Kansas

Laurence Tribe

Allan Louden presenting the Tribe Award

John Graham accepting the 2023 Tribe Award

John Graham receives the Laurence H. Tribe Distinguished Alumni Award for 2023

The 2023 recipient of the Laurence Tribe Distinguished Alumni Award is Dr. John Graham.

Dr. Allan Louden, a retired professor of communication and the former Director of Debate at Wake Forest, gave the introductory speech.

Louden began his remarks by praising John Graham for being one of the most outstanding debaters in Wake Forest history.

Graham qualified for the NDT three times and reached the quarter-finals in 1976 (debating with Roger Solt) and in 1978 (debating with Ross Smith). Graham won third-place speaker honors in 1978.

After graduating from Wake Forest, Louden said Graham pursued a career in public policy. He received his Master's in public affairs from Duke and his Ph.D. in Urban and Public Affairs from Carnegie Mellon.

During his professional career, Graham held prestigious academic and administrative positions, including serving as Deputy Chair, Harvard School of Public Health (1987-1992); Founding Director, Center for Risk Analysis, Harvard School of Public Health (1989-2001); Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, U.S. Office of Management and Budget (2001-2006); Dean, Pardee RAND Graduate School (2006-2008); and Dean, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University (2008-2019).

Louden noted that, under Graham's tenure as the Dean of Indiana's Master's in Public Affairs program, it was ranked number 1 out of 272 programs by *U.S. News and World Report* in 2016.

Graham is also a prolific scholar. He has authored or co-authored 15 books and written over 200 articles for academic journals and national publications.

In his acceptance speech, Graham credited debate for developing his critical thinking and persuasion skills that were useful in advancing his professional career. He indicated these skills were valuable in winning over undecided Senators to gain his confirmation to the Office of Management and Budget position. Graham was confirmed by a very close vote of 61 to 37. In the Senate, due to the filibuster, 60 votes are required to confirm any nominee. So, Graham won confirmation with two votes to spare.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE LAURENCE H. TRIBE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

2019   Laurence Tribe, Harvard Law School
2020   Ouita Michel, award winning chef and restaurateur
2021   Erwin Chemerinsky, University of California at Berkeley School of Law
2022   David Sutherland, International Care Ministries

Lucy M. Keele

Shunta Jordan and Danielle O'Gorman of the United States Naval Academy, recipient of the 2023 Lucy M. Keele Award

Danielle O'Gorman receives the Lucy M. Keele Service Award for 2023

Danielle O'Gorman of the United States Naval Academy is the recipient of the Lucy M. Keele Service Award for 2023.

Shunta Jordan, a member of the Board of Trustees and the Director of Debate at The University of Georgia, made the presentation speech. In her remarks, Jordan praised O'Gorman for serving the debate community in various roles.

As the president of the American Debate Association (ADA) from 2018-2022, Danielle O'Gorman has provided exceptional leadership in promoting ADA-sponsored tournaments and assisted in planning and administrating four ADA National Tournaments.

Since the establishment of the ADA novice packet, O'Gorman has made significant contributions by writing numerous affirmative and negative case files. The novice packet has been a vital resource to expanding the participation of new and smaller programs in policy debate. O'Gorman has also attended numerous topic meetings and taken on numerous research assignments. Next year, she will serve as the ADA representative to the Topic Committee.

O'Gorman has hosted the annual Crowe-Warken debate tournament. The Navy Tournament is one of the largest regional competitions offering three divisions and is famous for its hospitality.

For many years, O'Gorman has served on the Julia Burke Award Committee. The Julia Burke Award is presented at ADA Nationals (based on voting by all the attendees), which recognizes a debater who displays excellence in and passion for debate and a commitment to helping others. O'Gorman has been instrumental in publicizing the award and soliciting nominations.

O'Gorman is also a highly preferred debate judge who provides insightful and valuable feedback to students. She served as a judge on the NDT final round panel in 2021. Finally, Shunta Jordan praised O'Gorman for her "unmatched enthusiasm" for debate.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE LUCY M. KEELE SERVICE AWARD

1996	Donn Parson, University of Kansas
1997	Brett O'Donnell, Liberty University
1998	Melissa Wade and Bill Newnam, Emory University
1999	George Ziegelmueller, Wayne State University
2000	Bill Balthrop, University of North Carolina
2001	Rich Edwards, Baylor University
2002	Pat Ganer, Cypress College
2003	Frank Harrison, Trinity University
2004	Will Baker, New York University
2005	Allan Louden, Wake Forest University
2006	David Zarefsky, Northwestern University
2007	Stefan Bauschard, Lakeland Schools, NY
2008	Bill Southworth, University of Redlands
2009	Jon Bruschke, California State University, Fullerton
2010	Jim Hanson & Aaron Hardy, Whitman College
2011	Dallas Perkins, Harvard University
2012	Gary Larson, Wheaton College
2013	Tim O'Donnell, University of Mary Washington
2014	Sarah Partlow Lefevre, Idaho State University
2015	John Fritch, Missouri State University
2016	David Hingstman, University of Iowa
2017	Michael Davis, James Madison University
2018	Arnie Madsen and Cate Palczewski, University of Northern Iowa
2019	Adrienne Brovero, University of Mary Washington
2020	John Katsulas, Boston College
2021	Matthew Vega, University of Missouri, Kansas City
2022	David Cram Helwich, University of Michigan

George Ziegelmueller

Brett Bricker of the University of Kansas receives the 2023 George Zeigelmueller Award from Josh Zive

Brett Bricker receives the George W. Ziegelmueller Award for 2023

Dr. Brett Bricker, an Associate Specialist and the Associate Director of Debate at the University of Kansas, is the recipient of the George W. Ziegelmueller Award for 2023.

Josh Zive, a member of the NDT Board of Trustees, a former Kansas debater, and a Partner at the Washington D.C. Law firm of Bracewell LLP, delivered the presentation speech.

In his remarks, Zive commended Bricker for his exemplary accomplishments as a prolific communication scholar, successful debate coach, and excellent teacher.

Zive began by praising Bricker's extensive academic scholarship. Zive noted that Bricker had authored 16 scholarly publications and delivered 12 conference presentations. Bricker has published in prestigious journals such as *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, *Western Journal of Communication*, *Philosophy & Rhetoric*, *Communication Studies*, and *Argumentation and Advocacy*.

Next, Zive noted Bricker's success as a debate coach. While coaching at the University of Kansas, Bricker's teams have received 15 first-round at-large bids to the NDT, won top speaker at the NDT twice (Jacob Hegna, 2019 & Azja Butler, 2021), won the Copeland Award, and won the NDT (Will Katz & Quaram Robinson, 2018).

Additional NDT successes include Kansas teams advancing to the finals in 2016, reaching three semi-finals (2019, 2021, & 2022), and making two quarter-finals (2017 & 2023).

Bricker's teams have won numerous other major tournaments, including Georgia State (2017), Kentucky (2017), Wake Forest (2010 & 2017), Harvard (2019), Gonzaga (2016), and Berkeley (2020 & 2021).

Finally, Zive lauded Bicker for being an outstanding teacher, citing the positive reviews submitted by his students on the Rate My Professors Web site. Some of the courses taught by Bricker include Honors Public Speaking, Argumentation, Fundamentals of Debate, and Environmental Rhetoric.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE GEORGE W. ZIEGELMUELLER AWARD

1999	George Ziegelmueller, Wayne State University
2000	Allan Louden, Wake Forest University
2001	Chester Gibson, University of West Georgia, & Ken Strange, Dartmouth College
2002	Herb James, Dartmouth College, & Karla Leeper, Baylor University
2003	Donn Parson, University of Kansas, & Tuna Snider, University of Vermont
2004	Cate Palczewski, University of Northern Iowa
2005	William Southworth, University of Redlands
2006	Scott Harris, University of Kansas
2007	Scott Deatherage, Northwestern University
2008	Sarah Partlow Lefevre, Idaho State University
2009	Ross Smith, Wake Forest University
2010	Tim O'Donnell, University of Mary Washington
2011	Gordon Stables, University of Southern California
2012	Glen Frappier, Gonzaga University
2013	Ryan Galloway, Samford University
2014	Mike Davis, James Madison University
2015	Jarrod Atchison, Wake Forest University
2016	William Mosley Jensen, Trinity University
2017	Michael Hester, University of West Georgia
2018	Jacob Thompson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2019	Joe Schatz, Binghamton University
2020	Allison Harper, Emory University
2021	Eric Morris, Missouri State University
2022	Amber Kelsie, Wake Forest University

The first Coach of the Year Award was presented by Emory University in 1967; afterward it moved to the University of South Carolina and then to Wake Forest University. In 2021, the NDT assumed responsibility for the award and it was named after Ross K. Smith, a successful coach at Wake Forest University who passed away in 2009.

Ross K. Smith

*Sherry Hall presents the
2023 Ross K. Smith Coach of the Year Award
to Aaron Kall of the University of Michigan*

Aaron Kall receives the Ross K. Smith Coach of the Year Award for 2023

The National Coach of the Year Award is named after Ross K. Smith, the two-time national champion head coach and director of debate at Wake Forest.

This year's Ross K. Smith Coaching Award recipient is Aaron Kall, the Director of Debate at The University of Michigan.

Shunta Jordan, a member of the Board of Trustees and the Director of Debate at The University of Georgia, made the presentation speech.

In her remarks, Jordan praised Kall as one of the most successful debate coaches in the country. Since ascending to the Director of Debate in 2010, she noted that his teams have won every major college debate tournament and round-robin tournaments.

The regular season dominance by Michigan teams is reflected in their receiving 15 first-round at-large bids to the NDT, including winning back-to-back Copeland Awards in 2022 and 2023.

Overall, during the past 13 years, Kall has qualified 25 teams for the NDT. Individually, 14 Michigan debaters have won top ten speaker awards at the NDT.

From 2011-2023, Kall's Michigan teams have placed second five times (2014, 2015, 2021, 2022, & 2023), reached the semi-finals three times (2011, 2016 & 2018), advanced to the quarter-finals twice (2013, 2021), and made it to the octo-finals four times (2013, 2017, 2019, & 2023).

Jordan also mentioned that Kall has served as an analyst for political debates. He is the editor and co-author of three books: *Debating The Donald*, *I Do Solemnly Swear*, and *Mr. Speaker, The President of the United States*.

.

Michael Hester
2017 Coach of the Year

David Cram Helwich
2018 Coach of the Year

Jacob Thompson
2021 Coach of the Year

John Turner
2022 Coach of the Year

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE ROSS K. SMITH COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

1967	Annabel Hagood, University of Alabama
1968	Herbert James, Dartmouth College
1969	George Zieglemueller, Wayne State University
1970	John Lynch, Saint Anselm's College
1971	James Unger, Georgetown University
1972	David Zarefsky, Northwestern University
1973	Thomas Kane, University of Pittsburgh
1974	Daniel Bozik, Augustana College (IL)
1975	Chester Gibson, College of West Georgia
1976	Bill Henderson, University of Northern Iowa
1977	Cully Clark, University of Alabama
1978	No award
1979	Tim Browning, University of Arizona
1980	Donn Parson, University of Kansas
1981	J. W. Patterson, University of Kentucky
1982	Ken Strange, Dartmouth College
1983	Tim Hynes, University of Louisville
1984	Walter Ulrich, Vanderbilt University
1985	William Balthrop, University of North Carolina
1986	Robin Rowland & David Hingstman, Baylor University
1987	Jeff Bile, Southern Illinois University
1988	Allan Louden, Wake Forest University
1989	Daryl Scott, Gonzaga University
1990	Dallas Perkins, Jr., Harvard University
1991	Melissa Wade, Emory University
1992	Glen Strickland, Emporia State University
1993	Alfred Snider, University of Vermont
1994	David Berube, University of South Carolina
1995	Todd Graham, Northwestern State University (LA)
1996	Doug Duke, University of Central Oklahoma
1997	Ross Smith, Wake Forest University
1998	Bill Newman, Emory University
1999	Carrie Crenshaw, University of Alabama
2000	Will Repko, Michigan State University
2001	Joel Rollins, University of Texas, Austin
2002	Scott Deatherage, Northwestern University
2003	Jim Hanson, Whitman College
2004	Jon Bruschke, California State University, Fullerton
2005	Sherry Hall, Harvard University
2006	Scott Harris, University of Kansas
2007	Edward Panetta, University of Georgia
2008	Eric Morris, Missouri State University
2009	Dave Arnett, University of California, Berkeley
2010	Roger Solt, University of Kentucky
2011	Adrienne Brovero, University of Mary Washington
2012	Daniel Fitzmier, Northwestern University
2013	Sam Maurer, Emporia State University
2014	David Heidt, University of Michigan
2015	Ed Lee, Emory University
2016	Jonathan Paul, Georgetown University
2017	Michael Hester, University of West Georgia
2018	David Cram Helwich, University of Minnesota
2019	No award
2020	No award
2021	Jacob Thompson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2022	John Turner, Dartmouth College

Memories of the 77th NDT

NDT host Jarrod Atchison of Wake Forest University welcomes participants to the 2023 NDT

NDT Director Sarah Partlow Lefevre reads the pairings

Debaters and coaches gather in the ballroom for announcements

Swag from the 77th National Debate Tournament

Dallas Perkins of Harvard University; participant, coach, and long-standing member of the NDT community

Gabe Lewis (Georgetown University), Mikaela Malsin (Emory University), Danielle O'Gorman (U.S. Naval Academy), Adrienne Brovero (University of Mary Washington), and David Cram Helwich (University of Minnesota)

Nicole Nave & Devane Murphy, 2017 national champions from Rutgers University, Newark, holding the Larmon Trophy at the 2023 NDT

Wake Forest debaters and alumni at the 2023 NDT

Judges for the octa-final round between Michigan PP and Iowa CE

Cy Smith from Dartmouth College (2nd place, 1981) & Mark Gidley from the University of Kansas (1st place, 1983) holding the Walker Trophy at the 2023 NDT

Mark G. Arnold

August 12, 1948 to August 3, 2022

Mark G. Arnold, an NDT debater from Oberlin College and a prominent appellate lawyer, passed away at the age of 73.

After graduating as the valedictorian from Center High School in Kansas City, Arnold attended Oberlin College where he became an outstanding debater.

In 1969, Arnold won the Harvard Tournament and was named the top speaker at Emory. Coached by Daniel Rohrer, Arnold reached the octo-finals of the NDT in 1969 (debating with Roger Connor) and in 1970 (debating with Joseph Misner). He also received top ten speaker honors in both years (8th speaker in 1969 and 10th speaker in 1970).

After graduation, Arnold coached debate at Boston College, where he worked with Daniel Rohrer, his old coach at Oberlin.

In 1973, Arnold was recruited by Laurence Tribe to coach at Harvard, where he immediately achieved success. That year, the team of Charles Garvin and Peter O'Connell received a first-round at-large bid and reached the quarter-finals of the NDT.

Even more spectacular achievements were earned in 1974 during Arnold's second year of coaching. The team of Greg Rosenbaum and Charles Garvin were ranked as the top first-round at-large team and they went on to win the NDT.

Upon his retirement from coaching debate, Mark Arnold enrolled in Washington University Law School in St. Louis, where he served as the Editor and Chief of the law review.

Mark Arnold was a distinguished attorney who practiced law for 44 years for a law firm that is now called, Husch Blackwell. He specialized in appellate work in the Missouri State Courts of Appeal, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, and other state and federal courts throughout the United States.

Arnold received numerous awards, including being named among The Best Lawyers in America, Appellate Practice, Commercial Litigation, 2001-2014; induction into the Missouri Pro Bono Wall of Fame, 2012; and winning The Missouri Bar, W. Oliver Rasch Award for Outstanding Article, 1996.

He authored Volume 17, *Missouri Practice, Civil Rules Practice*, 4th edition, and was a valued member of the Missouri Rules Committee until his death.

Thomas Burkholder

October 16, 1949 to October 26, 2022

Tom Burkholder, an NDT debate coach for Emporia State, The University of Kansas, and Iowa State, passed away at the age of 73.

Burkholder debated at Emporia State, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Education and an M.A. degree. He later earned his Ph.D. in communication from the University of Kansas.

He coached policy debate for 14 years at several colleges, including Illinois Valley Community College, Emporia State University, Iowa State University, and the University of Kansas.

Throughout the 1980s, Burkholder qualified numerous debate teams to the NDT from Emporia State (1980-1983), Iowa State (1983-1984), and the University of Kansas (1986-1987).

After completing his Ph.D. at Kansas, Burkholder taught communication classes at Southwest Texas State.

In 1999, the University of Las Vegas (Nevada) hired Burkholder as an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies. During his time at UNLV, he was promoted to Associate Professor, and he served for two terms as the Chair of the Department of Communication Studies.

Burkholder was a gifted teacher who taught courses on classical and contemporary rhetorical theory, rhetorical criticism, and the history of American Public Address. He also served as the Basic Course Director in public speaking. He retired from UNLV in 2014.

Burkholder's scholarly interests included rhetorical criticism, argumentation and debate, women's suffrage, and the promotion of women's rights.

His publications included *The Rhetorical Act* (2014), with co-authors Karlyn Kohrs Campbell and Susan Schultz Huxman; *Critiques of Contemporary Rhetoric* (1997), with co-author Karlyn Kohrs Campbell; and *Perfecting American Society: The Rhetoric of Nineteenth Century Reform* (2007), with co-editor Martha S. Watson.

Jim Flegle, Jr.

December 3, 1951 to November 21, 2022

Jim Flegle, Jr., an outstanding NDT debater for the University of Kentucky, passed away at the age of 70.

Flegle qualified for the NDT in 1973 and 1974. His debate partner in both years was Ben Jones.

During the 1973-1974 debate season, Flegle & Jones were one of the best teams in the country. They won first place at Butler, second place at Middle Tennessee, and reached the semi-finals at Harvard, Georgetown, Northwestern, and Southwest Missouri State.

Due to their outstanding record, Flegle & Jones were ranked as the sixth best debate team in the first-round at-large balloting.

At the 1974 NDT, Flegle & Jones were the top seed with a 7-1 record with 19 ballots. In the octo-finals, they defeated Southwest Missouri State, and in the quarter-finals, they defeated Wyoming. They were defeated in the semi-finals by Augustana (IL).

As an undergraduate, Flegle was the President of the Student Body, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and he was inducted into the University of Kentucky's Debate Hall of Fame.

In 1977, Flegle earned his law degree from the University of Virginia. While in law school, he won first place in the William Minor Lile Moot Court competition.

Following law school, Flegle joined Bracewell and Patterson, LLP as a commercial trial lawyer. In 2002, he formed his own law firm, Loewinsohn Flegle, LLP, where he continued to practice law until he retired in 2021.

During his long legal career, Flegle was frequently ranked as one of the top lawyers by Texas SuperLawyers, Best Lawyers in America and Best Lawyers in Dallas. He was also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and served as the President of the Dallas Chapter in 2009.

Derek J. Gaffrey

June 24, 1971 to July 9, 2022

Derek Gaffrey, a supremely talented NDT debater for Wayne State, passed away at the age of 51.

Gaffrey qualified for the NDT in 1991, 1992, and 1993 and advanced to the elimination rounds each year.

In 1991, debating with Ilon Lauer, Gaffrey reached the octo-finals after going 5-3 with 14 ballots during the preliminary rounds. In the double-octos, Gaffrey & Lauer upset the 11th seed from Harvard (Howard Chang & Fred Karem).

For the next two years, Gaffrey debating with Toby Arquette, emerged as powerhouse team. In 1992, Arquette & Gaffrey receive a first-round at-large bid (ranked 12th) and advanced to the quarter-finals of the NDT.

After going 6-2 with 16 ballots, Arquette & Gaffrey defeated Georgetown (Scharff & Truett) in the double-octos, and then defeated Texas (McBride & Wyrick) in the octo-finals. In the quarter-finals, Harvard (Karem & Tushnet) defeated Wayne State in a 3-2 decision.

In 1993, Arquette & Gaffrey improved their performance. They again received a first-round at-large bid but their ranking improved from 12th to 3rd. And, they improved on their record at the NDT by going 6-2 with 19 ballots, which made them the 4th seed.

Most importantly, Arquette & Gaffrey improved on their quarter-finals finish in 1992 by advancing to the semi-finals in 1993. As the 4th seed, Arquette & Gaffrey received a bye into the octo-finals where they advanced over the lower-seeded Wayne State team (LaVigne & Stevenson). In the quarter-finals, Arquette & Gaffrey defeated Georgetown (Malani & McCrae).

In the semi-finals, Arquette & Gaffrey lost to the Dartmouth team of Ara Lovitt & Steven Skalver, who were the top seed (8-0 with 22 ballots) and who would go on to win the NDT that year.

At the 1993 NDT, Derek Gaffrey finally won a speaker award, taking 11th place honors.

After debating at Wayne State, Gaffrey completed his Bachelor's Degree from Northern Michigan and earned a J.D. degree from Wayne State Law School.

He focused on supporting non-profits and commercial real estate in his professional career.

Daniel E. Luxemburg

August 28, 1984 to August 19, 2022

Daniel Etkind Luxemburg, a Harvard debater and a three-time qualifier to the NDT, died unexpectedly at the age of 37.

Luxemburg qualified for the NDT in 2004 and 2005, debating with Christine Malumphy.

In 2005, Luxemburg enjoyed his greatest competitive success. He received a first-round at-large bid to the NDT. Luxemburg & Malumphy received a ranking of 14th.

During the preliminary rounds, Luxemburg & Malumphy were 6-2 with 20 ballots. As the 4th seed, they received a bye into the octo-finals, where they defeated Fort Hayes (Bouska & Richardson). In the quarter-finals, Luxemburg & Malumphy defeated Redlands (Steele & Tribble).

In the semi-finals, Luxemburg & Malumphy lost to the Northwestern team of Josh Branson & Tristin Morales, who were the eventual NDT champion.

At the 2005 NDT, Dan Luxemburg earned a 15th place speaker award.

In 2006, Luxemburg, debating with Ralph Paone, qualified to the NDT for a third time. Luxemburg & Paone were 5-3 with 13 ballots and lost in the double-octo finals to Northwestern (Josh Branson & Noah Chestnut).

After graduating from Harvard, Luxemburg moved to New York City, where he entered the world of high-tech startups. Acquiring the necessary skills on his own, he became a talented software engineer and a presenter at national and international conferences and conventions.

Luxemburg worked for various technology startups, including Skedj, Bandwagon.io, Genius, and Glitch. His last employment position was as a Senior Software Engineer at Fastly, a leading cloud computing services provider.

Luxemburg's interests included science and mathematics, literature and philosophy, as well as film and fine arts. He viewed his own work as a creative endeavor and was concerned about the impact of technology on culture and society.

James W. Pratt

March 15, 1944 to November 11, 2022

James W. Pratt, a professor and debate coach at St. Olaf and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and the long-time Executive Secretary of the American Forensic Association (AFA), passed away at the age of 78.

Pratt debated at Macalester College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966. He continued his studies at the University of Minnesota where he earned his M.A. and a Ph.D.

From 1971 to 1977, Pratt taught classes and served as the debate coach at St. Olaf. He moved to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he coached speech and debate for many years. In his later years, he taught courses in marketing communication.

While Jim Pratt never qualified as a debater nor coached a team to the NDT, he provided invaluable service to the NDT community.

From 1976 to 1981, Pratt served as a member of the National Debate Tournament Committee representing District Four. As the AFA President, Pratt attended the NDT in 1991 and 1992, and he presided over the AFA's reception for the tournament participants.

In his role as the Executive Secretary of the AFA for over twenty years, Pratt provided numerous services to the debate community. For many years, before the invention of online tabulation, he supplied paper debate ballots to anyone running a debate tournament. At the annual NCA convention, he organized a reception for all the forensic organizations.

As the financial officer for the AFA, Pratt filed the taxes for the NDT and also enabled teams to pay their NDT dues on the AFA website. And, Pratt always recommended in his annual budget a generous financial contribution to support the NDT.

Throughout his career, Pratt was committed to serving others. Along with supporting the AFA, Pratt served as the Director and Executive Secretary of the Twin Cities Forensics League, Executive Secretary of The International Listening Committee, and Executive Secretary of the Young People's Symphony Concert Association.

In 2017, Pratt retired from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and resigned as the Executive Secretary of the AFA. In 2018, the AFA honored Jim Pratt with a lifetime distinguished service award.

Jack Rhodes

June 5, 1942 to October 10, 2022

Jack Rhodes, a director of NDT debate programs at The University of Utah, Augustana College (SD), and Miami (OH), passed away at the age of 80.

Rhodes received his doctorate in English from the University of Texas and was hired as the Director of Debate at Utah in the fall of 1970. During his 14 years at Utah, Rhodes qualified teams to the NDT in every year but two (1971 and 1974).

At Utah, he had three teams advance to the quarter-finals of the NDT (Beck & Bentley, 1976; Lastrato & Nash, 1977 & 1978) and had three teams earn first-round at-large bids in 1976, 1978 and 1980.

In the fall of 1984, Rhodes left Utah and was hired by Augustana (SD) to succeed Michael Pfau, who coached at Augustana with great success from 1975 to 1983.

In 1985, Miami (OH) hired Rhodes as their Director of Debate, and he served until 1992. He qualified teams to the NDT in 5 of his 7 years of coaching.

Along with being a successful debate coach, Jack Rhodes provided considerable service to the debate community. He hosted the NDT three times: in 1972 at Utah, and in 1989 and 1992 at Miami (Ohio). Additionally, Rhodes served on the NDT Board of Trustees (1987 to 1990), and he was the President of the AFA (1982 to 1984).

After retiring from coaching debate, Rhodes served for several years as the Chair of the Communication Department and then became the executive director of the Hamilton University campus. In this role, Rhodes created the first multicultural and diversity office, oversaw the construction of the Harry T. Wilks Conference Center, and launched a local bus service linking Miami's campuses and the county that grew into the Butler County Regional Transit Authority.

Rhodes retired in 2002 and moved to Waupaca, Wisconsin. While living in Waupaca, Rhodes founded a bridge club and served on the board of the Fox Valley Community Foundation.

John Wittig

December 13, 1939 to April 23, 2022

John Wittig, the 1965 NDT debate champion from Carson-Newman, passed away at the age of 82.

Wittig qualified for the NDT in 1964 and 1965. In 1964, Wittig and Joel Moseley became the first team from Carson-Newman to qualify for the NDT.

During the 1963-1964 academic year, Wittig won top speaker honors at Emory, Navy, and Brooklyn College. Wittig & Moseley won several tournaments including the University of Richmond, the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament, Emory, and the University of Kentucky.

While Wittig & Moseley did not advance to the elimination rounds at the 1964 NDT, Whittig won 15th place speaker honors.

The following year, Wittig was paired with Barnett Pearce. During the 1964-1965 academic year, Wittig & Pearce won the Emory tournament, placed second at William and Mary, and reached the quarter-finals at Ohio State.

While Wittig and Peace were a good debate team, Carson-Newman winning the NDT in 1965 was somewhat of a surprise. After all, Carson-Newman was a small Baptist school located in Jefferson City, Tennessee, with an enrollment of only 1,400 students. This was only the second time that the school even qualified for the NDT.

But, they had one big advantage going for them: Forrest Conklin was their coach. By all accounts, Conklin was a wily competitor and an experienced debate instructor.

After going 5-3 with 15 ballots during the preliminary rounds, Wittig & Pearce were the 9th seed. On their path to the final round, they defeated San Fernando Valley, MIT, and Miami (FL).

In the final round, Carson-Newman, debating on the affirmative, defeated Northeastern State University (David Johnson & Glenn Strickland) in a 6-1 decision.

After graduating from Carson-Newman, Wittig earned a Master's degree from the University of Florida, where he also coached the debate team. He obtained his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University in 1981.

For the next 41 years, Wittig taught in the communication studies department at the University of Alabama (Birmingham). He was the founding and associate director of the UAB's Center for Communication Research.

The 1st National Debate Tournament (1947)

The competition known as the National Debate Tournament (NDT) began as a tournament operated by The West Point Debate Council. In 1947, it was called the West Point National Invitational Debate Tournament.

West Point became interested in hosting a national tournament after it held a sixteen-team tournament in April of 1946. While the tournament was attended by schools from the east coast, the participation by colleges from the midwest, such as The University of Chicago, Ohio State, and the University of Iowa, gave rise to the belief that a large national tournament might be feasible.

Shortly after the 1946 tournament, the West Point Debate Council began exploring hosting a national tournament. For advice on how to do this, they sought out suggestions from the prominent debate coaches of that period, including A. Craig Baird of the University of Iowa, G. M. Musgrave of Des Moines, Alan Nichols of the University of Southern California, E. R. Nichols of the University of Redlands, and Joseph F. O'Brien of Pennsylvania State University.

Based on their feedback, the West Point Debate Council started planning the first national tournament. They began by dividing the country into seven geographical regions. Then, based on the results from a nationwide survey asking schools to name the leading debate experts in each region, West Point appointed seven regional nominating committees having three members.

The chairs of the nominating committee included E. R. Nichols, University of Redlands; W. H. Veatch, State College of Washington; Ray Rucker, Texas Christian University; T. B. Fest, University of Colorado; Glen Mills, Northwestern University; Wayne Eubank, University of Florida; and Joseph F. O'Brien, Pennsylvania State University.

These nominating committees were solely responsible for deciding the method for selecting which teams would be invited. Most often, they based their determinations on past or current tournament performances.

The number of invitations allocated to each region depended on the extent and quality of debate activity, ranging from three to six teams. Regions Five (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin) and Seven (Maine to Maryland) received six invitations.

For the first NDT, thirty-two schools were invited, but only twenty-nine attended. The University of Nebraska and Nebraska Wesleyan University declined their invitation due to scheduling issues. Dr. Leroy Laase, the University of Nebraska Speech Department Chair, indicated that neither school would attend due to the lateness in the school year. For unknown reasons, the University of Florida withdrew at the last minute.

Given the challenging travel conditions in 1947, locating a replacement team for Florida was impossible. Therefore, the NDT had to cope with an uneven number of teams. To avoid giving byes to five teams, the tournament staff scheduled an additional round where the four teams who were scheduled to receive byes debated against each other. That resulted in only one team, Texas Christian, receiving a bye in round 5.

Compared to contemporary tournament scheduling, the first NDT used unorthodox methods. The tournament held only five preliminary rounds. The tournament manager preset five rounds with the proviso that no school would debate any other school closer than five hundred miles. Only one judge heard debates during the five preliminary rounds. Three judge panels were employed in the

elimination rounds, except for the final round, which had a five judge panel.
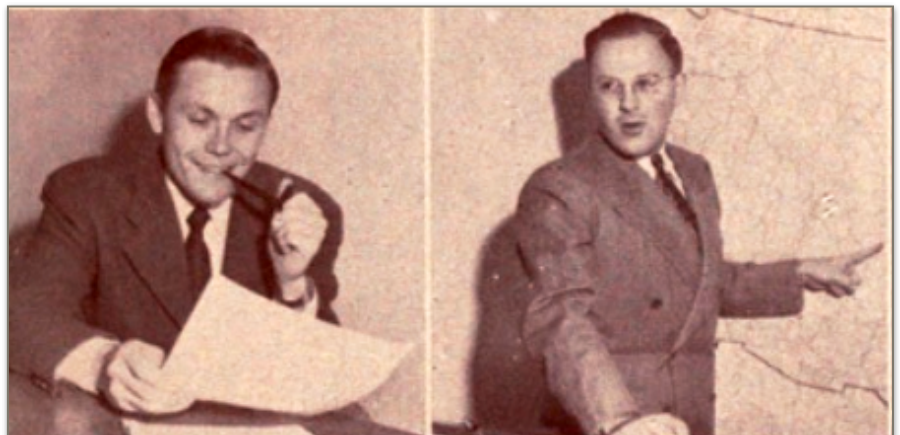
The first NDT was held over three days from May 2nd to May 4th. On Friday, May 2nd, three preliminary rounds were held beginning at 2 pm. Then, on Saturday, May 3rd, the final two preliminary rounds were completed, followed by three elimination rounds being completed by 9: 15 pm. On Sunday, May 4th, the day began with church services, followed by a banquet at 1: 15 pm. The final round began promptly at 2 pm.

Two other observations are worth noting about the first NDT. First, the students competing at the 1947 NDT were considerably older than the typical undergraduate. Due to World War Two, many men delayed their studies while they served in the military. So, it was more common for the age of a senior debater to be twenty-four, instead of twenty-one. (Only two women, Leona Fox from Vermont and Janice Loschen from Washington State, competed at the first NDT.)

Second, few teams competing in the 1947 NDT had previously debated against each other. This was because most teams competed regionally, and large national tournaments did not exist. Scott Nobles later recounted that Southeastern State had debated only two of the twenty-nine teams. Not pairing any school within 500 miles of another school assured that most teams faced new competitors, at least during the presets.

The Preliminary Rounds

At the 1st annual National Debate Tournament (NDT), occurring over May 2-4, 1947. Southeastern State, located in Durant, Oklahoma, defeated the University of Southern California (USC) to become the first NDT debate champion.

From left to right: Scott Nobles and Gerry Sanders of Southeastern State receive the Larmon Trophy at the culmination of the 1947 NDT; yearbook photos of Potter Kerfoot and George Grover of the University of Southern California

The debate topic for the 1947 NDT was *"Resolved: That labor should be given a direct share in the management of industry."*

Even though there were only twenty-nine teams competing, the tournament went ahead and cleared a full octo-finals. Therefore, two schools with losing records (USC and St. Thomas) advanced to the elimination rounds.

The Southeastern team of W. Scott Nobles & Gerald Sanders were seniors. During the 1946-1947 year, Nobles & Sanders won five regional tournaments, including the East-Central Invitation, the Mid-South Tournament at Arkansas State, the Northwestern Louisiana College Debate Tournament at Natchitoches, Baylor, and the Savage Forensic Tournament at Southeastern State.

They ventured outside their region to attend the Phi Kappa Delta (PKD) Tournament held in Bowling Green, Ohio. This tournament was held on April 10, 1947, only three weeks before the NDT. There were 79 teams competing, and it was an 8 round competition with no elimination rounds. There were three teams with 8-0 records: Baylor, Nebraska Wesleyan, and Wake Forest. Nobles & Sanders were 7-1.

According to Nobles, prior to the NDT, Southeastern had won 57 out of 59 debates, including, at one point, winning 48 consecutive debate rounds.

During the preliminary rounds at the 1947 NDT, Nobles & Sanders achieved a record of 4-1. That made them the 4th seed and the team with the highest speaker total from among the other three teams (Virginia, Louisiana, and Notre Dame) with 4-1 records. Three of their four wins were against Northwestern, Ohio State, and Gonzaga. The other team they defeated remains unknown.

In his remembrance of the first NDT (published in the 50th NDT booklet), Scott Nobles recounted why they lost round one. He said their train from Oklahoma to New York City had been delayed, which caused them to be 15 minutes late in arriving on campus. Behind schedule, they competed in round one unshaven and without formal attire. Nobles claims the judge voted for the better dressed team (who finished with a 1-4 record) and wrote on the ballot that Southeastern lacked proper respect for the activity.

The USC team who advanced to the final round, was a senior, George Glover, and a junior, Potter Kerfoot. They were the prime example of the unfairness of pairing the five rounds randomly.

The 2-3 record by Glover & Kerfoot was skewed by their having to debate against four teams who were among the top sixteen. USC defeated two teams who made the elimination rounds (Yale and Virginia) and lost to two teams (Wake Forest and Augustana (IL), who were among the top sixteen.

For comparison's sake, the Vermont team, who were 5-0, faced only one team (Louisiana College) who advanced to the sweet sixteen. The other four teams that they debated were Texas Christian University (2-3 with a bye), Gonzaga (1-4), Washington (1-4), and Ohio State (2 -3).

During the 1946-1947 year, the USC squad won three tournaments. Kerfoot & Grove won first place at the Caltech debate tournament in February 1947 and won a tournament held in Compton, California. Kerfoot, debating with Eph Konigsberg, won first place in the Western States Tournament held in San Jose.

The Elimination Rounds

All the elimination rounds, except for the final round occurred on Saturday, May 3rd.

To reach the final round of the first NDT, Southeastern State defeated the 13th, 12th, and 1st seeds.

In the octo-finals, Southeastern faced the 13th seed from Yale. The team of Richard E. Shapiro '48 & Holt Bradford Westerfield '47 was the only Ivy League team competing at the first NDT.

There is little information available about the debate record for Shapiro & Westerfield for that year. But, in all likelihood, they competed more often against parliamentary teams than policy teams. A *Yale News* story from May 2nd, which announced the qualification of the Yale team, mentions only that Shapiro & Westerfield had recently argued against Harvard and Princeton in debates unrelated to the labor topic.

Given their lack of policy experience debating the labor resolution, Yale was no match for Nobles & Sanders.

In the quarter-finals, Nobles & Sanders met the University of Mississippi team of Charles Brinkley Morton & Jesse Boyce Holleman who had upset the 5th seed from the University of Virginia team in the octo-finals.

Morton & Holleman received their invitation to the NDT based on winning the Azalea Debate Tournament hosted in Mobile, Alabama in February 1947.

During the preset rounds, Mississippi defeated three teams (Purdue, Oregon, and Colorado) who each had won only one debate during the NDT. Another example of a team receiving a very favorable draw.

Nevertheless, the Mississippi debaters were skilled, experienced, and extremely intelligent. They put up a strong fight in the quarter-finals, but lost in a split decision to Southeastern.

In the semi-finals, Southeastern met the top seed from West Point, who was undefeated and had the highest speaker points among the other two undefeated teams.

The West Point team of John J. Lowry & George M. Dell were seniors. Information about their prior debate record for that year is sparse. Lowry & Dell did compete at the Boston University round robin tournament during March 29, 1947. In that tournament, they were defeated by Navy and Rutgers, who participated and advanced to the elimination rounds at the NDT.

More telling, though, is that West Point defeated Northwestern in the quarter-finals of the NDT. Going into the NDT, many believed that Northwestern may have been the favorite. James McBath & Fred Zeni won five debate tournaments that year, including the Big Ten Championship and the Indiana State Teacher's College Tournament. So, West Point knocking off the Wildcats of Northwestern proved they were a formidable team.

But, the Black Knights of West Point were no match for Nobles & Sanders, who defeated them in the semi-finals.

To reach the final round of the NDT, Grove & Kerfoot of USC defeated the 3rd, 6th, and 7th seeds.

In the octo-finals, Grover & Kerfoot debated against the undefeated team from the University of Vermont.

Leona Felix & W. Norman Vercoe were juniors, and had defeated TCU, Gonzaga, Washington, Louisiana, and Ohio State during the presets. Among that group, only Louisiana had a winning record and made the elimination rounds.

Prior to the NDT, Felix & Vercoe had gone undefeated at a tournament hosted by Vermont in early 1947. However, the vast majority of debate rounds for Vermont that year consisted of scrimmages against groups of schools. They were not battle tested during actual tournaments. Therefore, USC defeating Vermont in the octo-finals could hardly be called much of an "upset."

In the quarter-finals, USC met Louisiana College who had defeated Texas in the octo-finals. H. A. Hunderup & Chandler Clover had defeated two outstanding teams, Wake Forest and Notre Dame, during the presets. So, even though they had lost to Vermont during the presets, the Louisiana team were a formidable opponent for Grover & Kerfoot.

1947 NDT concluded

Prior to the NDT, Hunderup & Clover had competed in six tournaments. They finished in first place at the Heart of the Ozarks (Springfield, MO) and took second place at Baylor. At the very competitive PKD tournament before the NDT, they were 5-3. On the season, they had 33 wins and 9 losses.

But, the Trojans of USC came out on top and defeated Louisiana College.

That set up a semi-final debate between USC and the fighting Irish of Notre Dame. During the 1946-1947 year, Notre Dame had a record of 42 wins and 7 losses.

The Notre Dame team was a sophomore, Frank Finn '49, and a senior, Tim E. Kelley '47. During the presets, they had defeated three very weak teams, Gonzaga, Penn State, and Utah, who were each 1-4. Notre Dame's sole loss during the presets was to Louisiana College.

However, the Notre Dame team defeated two very good teams prior to the semi-finals. In the octo-finals Finn & Kelley beat a Wake Forest team, Sam Behrends & Henry Huff, that was 8-0 at the PKD tournament. Behrends & Huff also won the South Atlantic Tournament held in Hickory, North Carolina in March.

And in the quarter-finals, Notre Dame upset Navy, who had gone 5-0. The Navy team of Jack F. Jones & Robert H. Miller had won the Boston University tournament in late March.

Despite the prowess of the Notre Dame team, Grove & Kerfoot won the debate and earned a final round appearance. Given modern practice, this will be the only time in the history of the NDT where a team with a losing record advanced to an NDT final round.

The Final Round:
Southeastern State v. USC

The Southeastern State debaters competing in the final round were seniors. Gerald Sanders, from Tyler, Texas, and W. Scott Nobles, from Sulphur, Oklahoma.

One USC debater, George Grover, was a senior. Grover was born in Aspen, Colorado, but he grew up in Glendale, California. Potter Kerfoot, a junior, was born and lived in Shawnee, Oklahoma, until his parents relocated to Alhambra, California.

Little information about the 1947 final round has survived. There is no transcript of the debate, but USC was on the affirmative.

We know for certain that Nobles & Sanders won the debate on a 3-2 decision. There is no information regarding who judged the debate.

We do know, however, that both teams had legendary coaches.

Southeastern State was coached by T. A. Houston, a revered professor who was the head of the History Department. In 1930, Houston established the Theta chapter of Phi Kappa Delta and Southeastern began fielding debate teams on a regional and national level. Houston retired in 1951.

USC was under the direction of Alan Nichols, a professor who took over the Trojan Debate squad in 1921. He authored numerous influential books on argumentation and debate. His tenure spanned four decades, and he retired in 1956.

For winning the NDT final round, Nobles & Sanders became the first recipients of the Sigurd S. Larmon Trophy, which was shipped to Southeastern State in mid-June and placed in the trophy display case in the library.

On May 7th, Nobles & Sanders returned on a train to Durant, Oklahoma. They immediately became legends at the school, as their debate championship was the first national championship earned by the college.

On their return to the college campus, the student body held an hour-long celebration of their victory. Then at 4 p.m., Nobles & Sanders appeared on radio station KSEO, along with the President of Southeastern State, T. T. Montgomery, to talk about their debate achievements.

In late May, another celebration was held to honor the NDT champions and their coach. Several local Durant merchants purchased and presented gold watches to Nobles, Sanders, and Houston.

Nobles & Sanders also became the first recipients of the Linscheid Speech Trophy. This award was created by Lt. General Ira Eaker, the former deputy commander of U.S. Army Air Force, who debated at Southeastern in 1917. Linscheid was Eaker's speech and debate coach during his time at Southeastern.

From left to right: T. A. Houston of Southeastern State; Alan Nichols of the University of Southern California; Scott Nobles and Gerald Sanders at the 50th National Debate Tournament in 1997
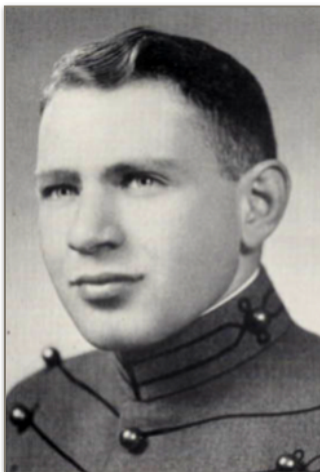
1st National Debate Tournament

Teams Qualifying for Elimination Rounds

Seed	Record	School	Debaters	Coach
1	5-0	West Point	John J. Lowry & George M. Dell	Major Lawrence J. Legere, Jr.
2	5-0	Navy	Jack F. Jones & Robert H. Miller	Commander Johnson
3	5-0	Vermont	Leona Felix & W. Norman Vercoe	Robert B. Huber
4	4-1	Southeastern (OK)	W. Scott Nobles & Gerald Sanders	T. A. Houston
5	4-1	Virginia	Jack E. Jenkins & William N. Pierce	H. Hardy Perritt
6	4-1	Louisiana College	H. A. Hunderup & Chandler Clover	E. O. Woods
7	4-1	Notre Dame	Frank Finn & Tim E. Kelley	Leonard Sommer
8	3-2	Northwestern	James McBath & Fred Zeni	Glen Mills
9	3-2	Augustana (IL)	Harold A. Brack & John Swenson	Martin J. Holcomb
10	3-2	Wake Forest	Sam Behrends & Henry Huff	A. Lewis Aycock
11	3-2	Texas (Austin)	Harold Barefoot Sanders & Jack Skaggs	Edgar G. Shelton
12	3-2	Mississippi	Charles Brinkley Morton & Jesse Boyce Holleman	Paul Brandes
13	3-2	Yale	Richard E. Shapiro & Holt Bradford Westerfield	John Chester Adams
14	2-3	USC	H. Potter Kerfoot & George C. Grover	Alan Nichols
15	3-2	Rutgers	Milton M. Anapol & Donald B. Yawitz	David Potter
16	2-3	Saint Thomas	Thomas Ticen & Martin Haley	Richard Krueger

Note: The seeds for USC and Rutgers were switched to preclude the repairing of preliminary rounds in the octos.

Non-Advancing Teams (in alphabetical order)

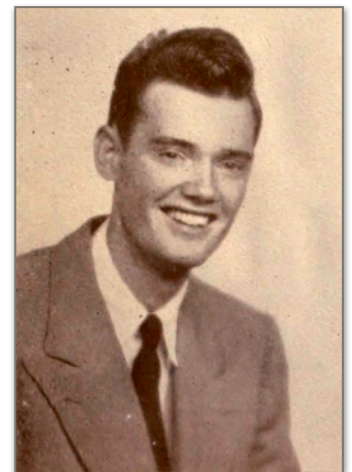| Record	School	Debaters	Coach
0-5	Arizona State	Eugene Turner & Howard Thompson	W. L. Strausbaugh
1-4	Colorado	Roger Dotens & Robert Polkinhorn	Thorrel B. Fest
1-4	Gonzaga	Thomas S. Foley & Don Sheahan	Rev. John Leary, S.J.
1-4	Indiana State Teachers College	Ellis Anderson & Gene Moore	Robert Masters
2-3	Ohio State	William Holleran & Charles Vernon	Claude Sifritt
2-3	Oklahoma Baptist	Eugene Craighead & Dean Emery	James Ralph Scales
1-4	Oregon State	Donald Rowland & Donald Dimick	Paul X. Knoll
1-4	Penn State	Peter Giesey & Fred Keisler	Joseph O'Brien
1-4	Purdue	Archie Colby & Norris Sample	Paul Emerson Lull
2-3	Washington State	Dick Downing & Janice Loschen	W. H. Veatch
2-3	Texas Christian	Charles Matthews & Bob Hearn	Ray Rucker
1-4	Utah	Adam Mickey Duncan & Wallace Bennett	George Adamson
2-3	Wheaton (IL)	Roy Fanoni & David Howard	Clarence Nystrom

George Dell (Army)

Mickey Duncan (Utah)

Brinkley Morton (Mississippi)

Harold Barefoot Sanders (Texas)

Careers of the Finalists

William Scott Nobles

After graduating with a B.A. from Southeastern State, Nobles received his M.A. from Case Western Reserve in 1948, and his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 1955.

His education was twice interrupted by tours of duty in the Navy during World War II and Korea.

From 1955 to 1969, Nobles taught communication courses and coached debate at the University of Oregon. He enjoyed great success as the debate coach at Oregon, qualifying teams to the NDT from 1960 to 1969. Two of his teams advanced to the octo-final round in 1965 and 1969.

In the fall of 1969, Nobles became the Dewitt Wallace Distinguished Professor of Speech Communication and the Director of Forensics at Macalester College. In 1971, Macalester hosted the NDT.

As the debate coach at Macalester, Nobles regularly qualified teams to the NDT. He coached teams to the octo-finals in 1973, 1975, 1977, and 1978. Nobles also coached the Macalester team of Paul Benson & Molly McGinnis to win the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) national championship in consecutive years (1986 and 1987).

Nobles was twice selected to coach the U.S. debate teams who competed internationally in Japan (1983) and the Soviet Union (1984).

As an expert on debate and political persuasion, Nobles was recruited by local and national media to serve as a judge to analyze Presidential debates.

From 1974 to 1976, Nobles served as President of the American Forensic Association (AFA). In 1993, he received the AFA's Distinguished Service Award.

While at Macalester, he created the Law & Society interdepartmental program and twice served as president of the faculty.

Nobles retired from Macalester in 1993 and passed away on December 24, 2008, at the age of 85.

Gerald H. Sanders

While he was an undergraduate at Southeastern State, Sanders had the job as the play-by-play announcer for the Savage football team. So, when he graduated, he began his career in radio, not academia.

Sanders first worked as a sports announcer and salesman at radio station KSEO-FM in Durant, Oklahoma.

In 1949, a new radio station, KEVA, located in Shamrock, Texas, hired Gerald Sanders as the assistant manager and program director.

Over the next several years, Sanders began acquiring ownership stakes in several radio stations in Texas, including KDAV and KSEL in Lubbock, KERB in Kermit, and KZZN in Littlefield. The KSEL deal included future President George H. W. Bush as a part-owner.

In the mid-1960s, Sanders sold his interest in the radio stations and a newspaper that he owned. He used the money to pay for his graduate studies in Communication.

In 1967, the College of Wooster hired Sanders as its debate coach. In 1970, his Wooster team, Mindy Pierce & Ron Ruskan, won the DSR-TKA national debate tournament.

Sanders took a leave of absence to complete his graduate work. In 1974, Sanders earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and he returned to Wooster to become the Chair of the Communication Department. He retained his role as the Director of Forensics.

In 1981, Sanders became Chair of the Communication Department at Miami University (Ohio). He remained in this role until his retirement in August of 1992.

Sanders was active in the American Forensic Association (AFA) during his academic career. He served as President of the AFA for two terms (1978-1980 and 1980-1982 and received the AFA's Distinguished Service Award.

Having served in the Marine Corps during World War Two and the Korean War, Sanders remained active in the Marine Corps Reserve and retired with the rank of Colonel in 1984.

On February 6, 2018, Sanders passed away at the age of 93.

George C. Grover

Grover graduated in 1947 and went on to earn his law degree from USC, where he was the editor of the law review.

Grover became one of the foremost legal authorities on water rights. He developed this expertise from his first job when he served as a deputy to California Attorney General Pat Brown. In that position, he was assigned by Brown to work on water dispute cases. He achieved a major legal victory by reversing a trial court judgment that gave the federal government all available water rights near Camp Pendleton.

When Pat Brown became Governor, he recalled Grover's expertise in water issues and appointed him to California's Public Utilities Commission. He served for six years and became the president of the Commission from 1962 to 1963.

Returning to his private law practice, Grover litigated several major water cases. For example, he represented Los Angeles in a case against the city of San Fernando. In 1975, Grover won a state Supreme Court judgment that gave Los Angeles the rights to nearly all of the water flowing out of the San Fernando Valley.

In 1976 when Pat Brown's son, Jerry Brown, became governor, he appointed Grover to a newly created position on the Riverside Superior Court. He served as a Superior Court Judge until he retired in 1990.

On January 22, 1997, Grover died at the age of 74.

H. Potter Kerfoot

Potter Kerfoot was a junior in 1947, and he returned to debate in 1948 with Milton Dobkin. Unfortunately, Kerfoot & Dobkin did not reach the elimination rounds. However, Kerfoot became the first top speaker in NDT history.

In 1948, Kerfoot received a B.S. degree in mechanical and aeronautical engineering and then earned his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in mathematics from USC in 1953.

After completing his studies at USC, Kerfoot joined the U.S. missile program, working at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico and the U.S. Missile Command in Huntsville, Alabama. His expertise was in developing missile and flight control systems.

In 1953, Kerfoot joined Lockheed Missiles & Space Co. in Van Nuys, California, and transferred to the Bay area in 1961. He became the manager of flight science. In 1972, he was promoted to Vice-President and assistant general manager of the Missiles and Space Division. In 1975, he was promoted to General Manager and a Vice President of the Lockheed company.

Kerfoot retired in 1985 as a Lockheed Corporate Officer and Executive Vice President & General Manager of Advanced Systems Division (LMSC) in Sunnyvale.

During his career, Kerfoot led the development of many of the U.S.'s most classified military assets in addition to more publicly celebrated civil space programs.

On April 27, 2004, Kerfoot died at the age of 81.

Eight Distinguished Alumni from the 1947 NDT

George Martin Dell

West Point (soldier, attorney, and Superior Court Judge in California)

West Point debater, George Martin Dell, reached the semi-finals of the 1947 NDT, losing to Southeastern State.

At the age of 18, he joined the Army and fought in World War II. He earned an appointment to West Point and served in the Army from 1943 to 1950.

After graduating from West Point, Dell served for three years as an Air Force Officer. He was commissioned as a lieutenant, and serve in the Air Force Reserves after leaving active service in 1950.

In 1953, he earned a law degree from USC, where he was a moot court champion.

Dell worked for eight years (1953 to 1961) as lawyer for the law firm, Mitchell, Silberberg and Knupp.

In 1961, Dell was appointed to the Superior Court of Los Angeles as a Commissioner. Governor Edmund Brown elevated him in 1963 to be a Los Angeles Municipal Judge, where he served until 1966.

In 1966, Governor Brown appointed Dell to the Superior Court of Los Angeles, where he served for seven years. As a judge, he heard preliminary motions in the Charles Manson murder trial and presided over the Black Panther conspiracy trial.

As a Superior Court Judge, Dell invalidated California's law that made oral sex between consenting adults illegal. Even though his ruling was overturned on appeal, the California legislature later repealed the statute.

In 1973, Dell was transferred to Santa Monica where he served on the Superior Court.

From 1966 to 1985, Dell served as a Superior Court judge in Long Beach, Santa Monica, and downtown Los Angeles.

He retired from the bench in 1985 and spent the balance of his legal career in private dispute resolution.

George Dell passed away in 2013 at the age of 88.

Adam Mickey Duncan

University of Utah (Utah legislator, attorney, and civil rights champion)

Adam Mickey Duncan, a University of Utah debater who went 1-4 at the 1947 NDT, became a prominent legislator, attorney and civil rights leader.

As a young man, Duncan served a Mormon missionary in South Africa during the 1940s where he witnessed tremendous racial injustices. This was a formative experience that motived him to fight for civil rights for his entire life.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Duncan earned a law degree from the University of Utah. He clerked for Justice Henri Henroid of the Utah Supreme Court.

Duncan founded the Utah branch of the American Civil Liberties Union in 1953 along with establishing a Utah affiliation with the NAACP.

In 1956, Duncan was elected as the youngest member to the Utah State House representing District 8 as a Republican. He served for two terms from 1957-1961.

As a Utah legislator, Duncan was a staunch advocate for fiscal disciple and advancing civil rights. He sponsored a bill that would have forbidden Utah businesses to deny service based on gender, race or religion. After delivering an impassioned floor speech that brought many of his colleagues to tears, the bill passed the House but then failed in the Senate.

After serving in the Utah House, Duncan pursued a successful career as a trial attorney for 43 years and as a civil rights leader.

Duncan chaired the Governor's Commission on Civil Rights from 1964 to 1975 and served on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In 1966, he was elected as President of the Utah Association for the United Nations.

In 1995, Duncan retired to Coronado, California and the ACLU established an award in his name to honor those attorneys who share Duncan's commitment to civil liberties.

On May 22, 2000, Duncan passed away from complications from late-stage Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease.

Thomas S. Foley

Gonzaga (Congressman and Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives)

Thomas S. Foley debated for Gonzaga at the 1947 and 1948 NDTs and achieved a 1-4 record both times. He transferred to the University of Washington, where he earned his B.A. degree in 1951, and a law degree in 1957.

He joined the Spokane county prosecutor's office, taught constitutional law at Gonzaga's law school, and worked in the Office of the Attorney General of Washington State.

In 1960, Foley joined the staff of Sen. Henry M. Jackson as his chief counsel and worked with him on the staff of the Senate Committee on the Interior.

In 1964, Foley defeated an 11-term Republican incumbent (Walt Horan) to win a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Foley was elected Speaker of the House on June 6, 1989, when James Wright resigned due to an ethics investigation over alleged gifts that he received from a Fort Worth developer.

As House Speaker, he helped President Clinton advance his agenda including passing a budget with tax increases, enacting a ban on assault weapons, and ratifying the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In the 1994 mid-term elections, Foley lost his House seat and became the first Speaker since the Civil War to be voted out of office in his own district.

After leaving Congress, he served as Chair of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board from 1995 to 1997. Foley then served for 3 years as U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

In 2000, Foley returned to Washington, DC, where he practiced law at the prestigious firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Field.

In 2013, Foley died at the age of 84 from complications after suffering several strokes.

Jesse Boyce Holleman

University of Mississippi (politician, lawyer, and actor)

Jesse Boyce Holleman of the University of Mississippi advanced to the quarter-finals of the 1947 NDT, where he lost to Southeastern State.

During his professional career, Holleman achieved success in three fields: as a Mississippi legislator, district attorney, and actor.

After earning his B.A. in 1947, Holleman remained at the University of Mississippi to earn his law degree in 1950.

In 1947, while still a law student, Holleman was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives at the age of 23, and served until 1953. Holleman resigned from Mississippi House in 1953 when he won election to become the District Attorney for the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

During his tenure as District Attorney, he undertook some controversial court cases and even survived an assassination attempt by the Dixie Mafia. He was re-elected five times as District Attorney, retiring in 1972, to return to the private practice of law.

In Gulfport, Holleman practiced law and established his own law firm named, Boyce Holleman and Associates.

In 1969 and 1970, Holleman was elected President of the State bar association in Mississippi. In 1995, he received the Outstanding Achievement in Law Award from the Mississippi State Bar Association.

In 1975, Holleman began an acting career, which led him to perform on stage, in movies, and in television series. He starred in many stage productions and portrayed Mark Twain and noted attorney Clarence Darrow in his one-man shows.

His television appearances included "In the Heat of the Night" (episodes in 1993 & 1994), "I'll Fly Away" (1991), The Mississippi series (1983), "Rascals and Robbers: The Secret Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn" (1982), and "American Playhouse" (playing a store owner in 1987).

His movie credits include appearances in *Stone Cold* (County Judge, 1991), *A Simple Twist of Fate* (politician #1, 1994), *The Secret Passion of Robert Clayton* (Judge Forsythe, 1992), *Sister Island* (Judge Ladner, 1996), *The Beast Within* (Doc Odom, 1982), and Eudora Welty's *The Ponder Heart* (Grandpa Ponder).

On November 21, 2003, Holleman died at the age of 79.

James H. McBath

Northwestern (debate coach and communication professor)

James H. McBath, debating for Northwestern, reached the quarter-finals of the 1947 NDT, where he was defeated by West Point.

After graduating, McMath remained at Northwestern to complete his Master's and Ph.D. in Communication. While a graduate student, he also coached the debate teams.

In the Fall of 1950, the University of New Mexico hired McBath as its Director of Debate. He quickly elevated the competitiveness of the debate program by reaching the octo-finals of the NDT in 1951 and advancing to the semi-finals in 1952.

McBath left New Mexico in 1953 and accepted an assistant professor position at the University of Iowa. A year later, McBath left Iowa to teach advance public address in the overseas communication program run by the University of Maryland.

In 1956, the University of Southern California (USC) hired McBath as its Director of Debate. Under his coaching, the Trojan Debate team enjoyed great success. The team of Mike Miller & Paul Sonnenberg advanced to the semi-finals of the NDT in 1958.

McBath achieved national prominence in 1960 with his election as the President of the American Forensic Association (AFA) and for serving as the moderator for "Championship Debate," a series of televised debates among college debate teams. A story about this series appears in the 2020 issue of the *NDT Alumni Newsletter*.

From 1956 to 1963, McBath served as the Director of Forensics of the USC Trojan Debate Program.

For the remainder of his professional career, McBath remained at USC and served as the Chair of the Department of Communication and taught as a Professor of Communication.

McBath carried out many prestigious roles, including editing *The Journal of the American Forensic Association* (1967-1969), and serving as president of the Western Speech Communication Association (1969) and Association for Communication Administration (1975). McBath also became the President of the Faculty Senate at USC.

On January 20, 1992, soon after giving a lecture on argumentation theory to USC students, McBath died of a heart attack at the age of 69.

Charles Brinkley Morton

University of Mississippi (lawyer, politician, and Episcopal bishop)

Charles Brinkley Morton, debating for the University of Mississippi, advanced to the quarter-finals of the 1947 NDT.

After receiving his undergraduate degree, Morton enrolled in the University of Mississippi Law School and earned his law degree in 1949.

While still enrolled in college, Morton (at the age of 21) was elected to represent Tate County as a Democrat in the Mississippi House of Representatives and served from 1948 to 1952. He was then elected to represent the 36th District in the Mississippi State Senate, and served from 1952 to 1956.

While serving in the state legislature, Morton also maintained a successful law practice from 1949 to 1956.

In 1956, Morton changed careers and enrolled in the School of Theology at Sewanee, The University of the South. He graduated in 1959 with a doctorate in divinity.

Morton became an Episcopal priest. He served as a pastor to several congregations, including the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. From July 1, 1959, to May 31, 1962, Morton served as vicar of the Church of the Incarnation on the academy grounds.

After that, Morton served as Rector of Grace to St. Luke's Episcopal Church from 1962 to 1974. He later became the rector and first Dean of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, Alabama.

In September 1982, Morton was elected the Bishop of San Diego. Under his leadership, the diocese, which includes San Diego, Imperial, and parts of Riverside counties, added seven new missions.

Suffering from poor eyesight due to diabetes, he retired in 1991 and returned to Memphis, Tennessee. He died on July 13, 1994 at the age of 68.

Harold Barefoot Sanders

University of Texas (politician, U.S. attorney, and federal judge)

Harold Barefoot Sanders, debating for the University of Texas, advanced to the octo-finals of the 1947 NDT, where he was defeated by Louisiana College.

Even though "Barefoot" was his real middle name (Barefoot was the maiden name of his paternal grandmother), Sanders never went by that name (instead, he called himself H.B.) until he ran for student body president in 1947.

To publicize his candidacy, Sanders, and his fraternity brothers, used stencils that depicted bare feet, which they plastered on the campus sidewalks with white images of bare feet. It was an ingenious idea and it won him the election.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Sanders attended law school at the University of Texas, where he earned his J.D.

From 1953 to 1959, Sanders served in the Texas House of Representatives.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Sanders the U. S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas, a position he held until 1965. From 1965 to 1967, Sanders served as the Assistant Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General in the U. S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. In that role, he was instrumental in securing the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

With Nixon's election in 1968, Sanders returned to his private law practice.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Sanders to a new seat on the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. The Senate confirmed him and he served as the chief judge for that federal court from 1989 to 1995.

As a federal judge, Sanders wore a gold footprint pin on his judicial robes. His cases included overseeing the desegregation of the Dallas schools.

On September 21, 2008, Sanders died at the age of 83.

Holt Bradford Westerfield

Yale (political science professor)

Holt Bradford Westerfield, who lost in the octo-finals to Southeastern State, graduated from Yale in 1947 and became one of the most influential political scientists in the United States.

Westerfield received his graduate degrees in political science from Harvard, earning a Ph.D. in 1952.

He served for one year as an assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago before returning to his alma matter. Westerfield taught political science at Yale from 1957 until his retirement in 2001.

Over his career, he taught political science to more than 10,000 students. Notable students included President George W. Bush, Senators John Kerry and Joseph Lieberman, Vice President Richard Cheney, two directors of the CIA, a director of the NSA, a Secretary of Defense, and many accomplished journalists.

Dick Cheney credited Westerfield for his hard-line approach to foreign policy. However, Westerfield said his uncompromising anticommunist views had changed and he believed that the Bush-Cheney foreign policy, including the war against Iraq, went too far.

Westerfield was one of the first professors to teach classes on intelligence and covert operations. His signature courses were Introduction to International Relations and Intelligence and Covert Operations (known to students as "Spies and Lies").

Westerfeld's many publications include *Foreign Policy and Party Politics: Pearl Harbor to Korea* (1955), *The Instruments of America's Foreign Policy* (1963), *The Poverty of Theory and Other Essays* (1972), *English Prisons and Local Government* (1981), and *Inside the CIA's Private World: Declassified Articles from the Agency's Internal Journal* (1995).

In 2008, he died from complications of Parkinson's disease at the age of 79.

Postscript: Corrections to the 1947 Records

While doing research for this story, four mistakes were discovered. The most significant error concerned the wrong name for one of the debaters from the University of Virginia. Based upon a story in *The Debater's Magazine* published before the NDT, the current records identify Charles Ide as the debate partner for William N. Pierce.

However, after locating two newspaper articles from a few days before the NDT that claimed Quinnan Hodges was Pierce's partner, serious doubt was created about the accuracy of Charles Ide as his partner.

Given the lack of results sheets or ballots for the 1947 NDT, a post-NDT story in the student newspaper, *The Cavalier*, was thought to be the best hope for resolving this mystery. Unfortunately, digital copies for the newspaper for May 1947 were not available.
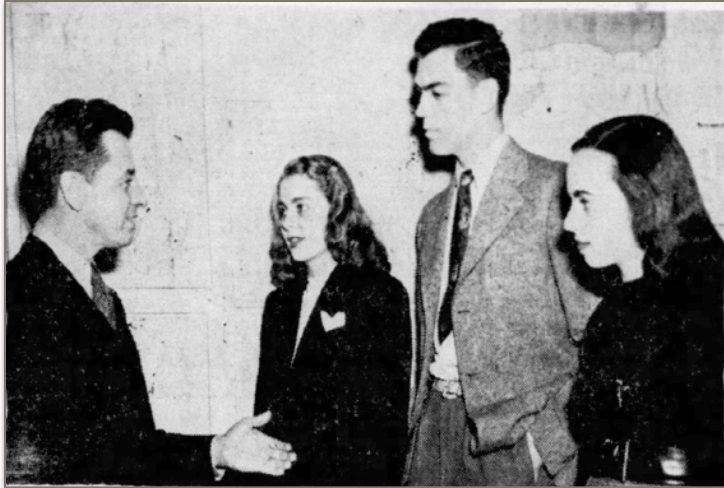
On the Thursday morning of this year's NDT, John Katsulas traveled to the University of Virginia and examined paper copies of *The Cavalier* for the entire 1946 to 1947 academic year.

Much to his surprise, Charles Ide and Quinnan Hodges were the wrong names. In the May 6th issue of *The Cavalier*, there was a story recounting Virginia's success at the NDT. According to H. Hardy Perritt, who was the Director of Debate and who traveled to West Point with the team, the name of Pierce's partner was Jack E. Jenkins, Jr.

Perritt explained that four debaters went on the trip to New York City: William Pierce, Jack Jenkins, Fred Dabney and Quinnan Hodges. For unexplained reasons, Pierce & Jenkins were sent to West Point, and Dabney & Hodges traveled to Long Island where they defeated Hofstra in a public debate.

Three typographical errors were discovered while researching this story. One of the Gonzaga debaters, Don Sheahan, had his last name incorrectly spelled as, Shahan. The Augustana (IL) debater, Harold Brack, is incorrectly identified as Harold Brock in the records for 1947 and 1948. H. A. Hunderup, a Louisiana College debater, is mistakenly identified as H. A. Munderup.

Photos from the First NDT (1947)

Dr. Robert Huber, Mary Jane Farnham, Norman Vercoe (NDT team), and Leona Felix (NDT team) of the University of Vermont

Rev. John Leary, S.J., Don Sheahan, and Tom Foley of Gonzaga University boarding their flight to the NDT

Fred Zeni (NDT team, left) and James McBath (NDT team, third from left) of Northwestern University

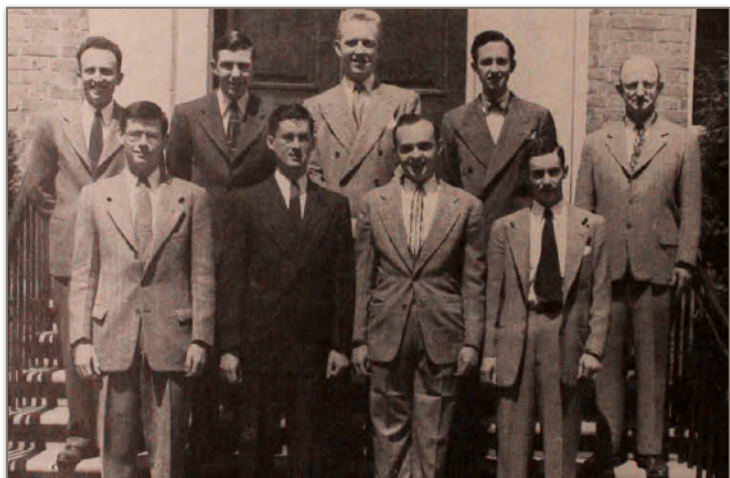*Don Dimick (NDT team), Dave Vineyard, and Don Rowland (NDT team) of Oregon State*

Officers of the Notre Dame Debate Team (left to right): Jim Beymer, Al Sommer, Frank Finn (NDT team), Leonard Sommer (coach), and Tim Kelley (NDT team)
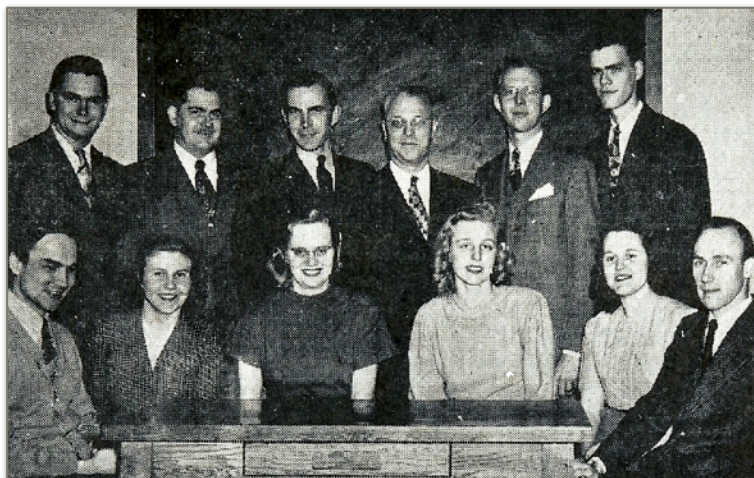

H. A. Hunderup, Dr. E. O. Woods, and Chandler Clover, of Louisiana College

More photos from the First NDT (1947)

Wake Forest Debate Team of 1947; Sam Behrends (NDT team; front row, second from left) and Henry Huff (front row, third from left). Professor A. Lewis Aycock (coach; back row, first from right)
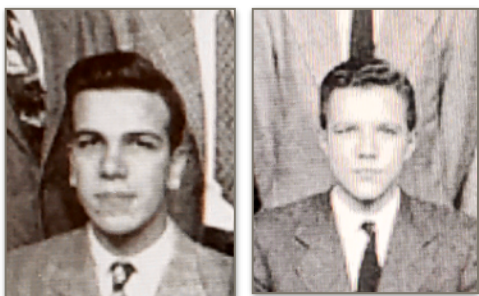

Augustana College Debate Team of 1947; Harold A. Brack (NDT team; front row, first from right). Back Row: Dr. Martin J. Holcomb (coach; back row, fourth from left), John Swenson (NDT team; back row, first from right).
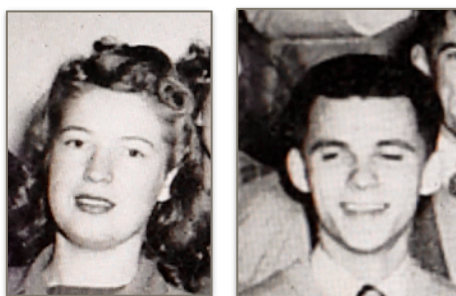

Coach Richard Krueger, Martin Haley, and Thomas Ticen of St. Thomas

Wallace Bennett & Adam Mickey Duncan of the University of Utah

Richard Shapiro & Holt Westerfield (Yale)

Janice Loschen & Dick Dowling (Washington State)

Eugene Turner & Howard Thompson (Arizona State)