

## Speech team's hard work a labor of love and learning

## By Amy Moss

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Some people would rather die than give a speech, but for members of the University forensics team it is second nature - in fact they love it.

The members of the team shared their enthusiasm for the art with high school students last week by hosting a speech tournament at the University. More than 75 schools attended the competition, which is an annual event. Last year, 60 schools competed at the University.

"Forensics is growing," says David Long, a senior in rhetoric and communications who placed third last month at the national competition. "I think a lot more high schools are competing in forensics - it can be a very attractive extra-curricular activity for high school students."

Long says he was first introduced to the University by participating in a high school tournament held at the University. He decided to attend the University because the forensics program is so highly rated, he says.

David Frank, director of forensics at the University since 1981. is proud of the team and the many awards members have received throughout the years.

"This team is clearly among the top 10 in the nation." Frank. says. He attributes the success of the team to the hard work of its members.

"The students are dedicated, self-motivated, highly intellectual and moral with a vision of what should be," Frank says. "I just kind of sit back and watch these people excel?"

The team, which has 55 members who compete on a regular basis, placed fourth out of 80 schools last year at the national tournament in Reno, Nevada;

At the national competition at UCLA last month, the team also did well. Rick Peacor placed second and Dave Long placed third as overall speakers.

"It's a real credit to the success of the students here;" Frank savs

The University forensics program is considered the largest in. the Northwest, second-largest on the West Coast, and one of the largest in the nation, says Long. "All of these people are here because they know it is a great place." he adds.

Long and his debating partner, Peacor, debated whether or not. the media coverage of terrorist activities should be restricted. All the debators in the competitions must debate the same topic and must support both affirmative and negative viewpoints.

They spend as much time studying for a debate as they spend studying for classes, Long says.

"I think we live in the library." Peacor jokes:

Peacor and Long say they enjoy debating because it helps them improve their research skills as well as learn about controversial topics. The competition also is very enjoyable. Peacor says.

"When you are debating a case you have written, it's like defending your own kid," Peacor says. "You spend weeks conceiv-ing it and then you don't want anything to happen to it."

Peacor and Long say they plan to attent graduate school and eventually teach speech at the college level.

'When it comes right down to it, we love it, and that's why we're here," Peacor says.



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