

Speech and debate takes on the world, places 204th



(Right) (From left to right) Samantha Griffin, Brian Everest, assistant director of forensics, Kelly Brennan, director of forensics, and Kelly Baker-Hughes visited Toronto, Canada, Dec. 27-Jan. 4, for Clackamas' first shot at the World Speech and Debate Tournament. (Below) The speech and debate team as a whole. The remainder of the team stayed behind and supported their teammates while they were away.

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Opinion Editor

During Christmas vacation, two members of Clackamas' speech and debate team were combating harsh weather conditions and even harsher debaters while visiting Toronto, Canada, for the World Debate Tournament held Dec. 27-Jan. 4. Kerri Baker-Hughes and Samantha Griffin were the members of the team chosen to represent Clackamas.

While they were in Toronto, temperatures plummeted to a mere negative seven degrees.

"It was quite amusing. We had everything we could possibly have on, like scarves and hats," said Kerri Baker-Hughes, debater.

Clackamas had never attended the World Debate Competition before.

"This is the first year we attended the Worlds. We've been invited to attend before, but for one reason or another, whether it was economics or

schedules, we weren't able to go," said Kelly Brennan, director of forensics.

Due to the support of various persons and departments they were able to raise enough funds to send debaters to represent Clackamas this year. Jane Rickenbaugh, Kay Slusarenko, and Dr. Earl P. "Joe" Johnson were sources of large support, and they wish to thank them.

"This year, however, through (their) support, we were able to go," said Brennan.

Clackamas competed against the 87 countries that were in attendance, including Israel, Australia and the Netherlands.

According to Brennan, there are 2,742 parliamentary debate teams in the world and 6,000 parliamentary debaters.

Based on how the team did throughout the year and the results of the World Debate Tournament, teams receive a world ranking. Clackamas received a positive ranking at the tour-

namment. In a tournament with over 2,000 teams, Clackamas placed 204th. "We're happy to say Sam and Kerri were 204th throughout the world," said Brennan.

New York University Law School ranked number one at the tournament. Among their members were professionals ranging from professors to attorneys. Baker-Hughes and Griffin were up against people who had a more experience in debating.

"Now, what you have to bear in mind about the world competition is it's unlike any competition in the United States, where you have to be an undergraduate and you only get four years of eligibility. At the World Competition, we have attorneys, teachers and lawyers," said Brennan.

Brennan continued explaining this situation in comparison with the Olympics and professional sports. "Going to the World Competition like

Sam and Kerri was like going against professional sports athletes in the Olympics," said Brennan.

petition. Being the only one may have been to their advantage.

"That did so much for us just in itself because they looked at us differently. I think they expected us to do worse or be at a different level than them," said Baker-Hughes.

The nine-day-long tournament meant that everyone involved had to give up time with families and friends during the holidays to be at this tournament.

"It's a high level of commitment on their part. You can't really explain it," said Brennan.

"Nor could you duplicate it," added Brian Everest, assistant director of forensics.

Clackamas' speech and debate team is continuing on its road to success of the last seven years, and the World Competition was no different. It received a new sense of respect and achievement for being the first speech and debate team at Clackamas to take on the world.

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Director Of Forensics

Clackamas was also competing against people with different ethnic backgrounds. "It's amazing, the level they compete at there. They represent their nation and country and they take that very honorably," said Baker-Hughes.

Clackamas was the only two-year college represented at the World Com-

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