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## Volume 1

Liberty University

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March 1, 1999

Dear Friends and Parents,

Welcome to the first edition of *Liberty Frontlines!* *Liberty Frontlines* is the biannual newsletter of the Liberty University Intercollegiate Debate Team and is our way of keeping you connected to the team. To read about the victories of the current team turn to our section called **3NR**. The 3NR is the non-existent third negative rebuttal which would give negatives the final word. Our column accounts recent tournaments where Liberty has had the "final word." This edition's 3NR is a synopsis of the whole season up to this point. **On the Road** is our traveling schedule. If we travel to a tournament near you, we would love for you to come visit! **Check Rankings** to see how our team compares overall to the other teams listed in the ADA and NDT debate associations. We have also created a section called **The Backfiles** to reunite you with former Liberty debaters. Finally, the **Strategy Session** gives you opportunities to participate in the team's success through spiritual and financial support.

*Liberty Frontlines* is our way of saying "Thank you" for supporting the debate team and encouraging you to keep us in your prayers.

I hope you enjoy reading about the team's progress as much as I enjoy being a part of it.

Heather Holter Hall  
Editor and Assistant Coach

## Liberty Debate: A Hub of Activity

Its hard to believe how God has blessed the Liberty Debate Team and how the activities and success associated with our team have increased in such a short time. Since 1994 Liberty has won six national championships in debate, reached the elimination rounds of the National Debate Tournament, won numerous varsity, junior varsity, and novice tournaments, started a high school debate institute, hosted the National Debate Tournament and the American Debate Association National Tournament, hosted one of

the largest annual college tournaments in the country, successfully bid to begin hosting the Virginia State Debate Championships, produced students who have graduated from major graduate and law schools, and produced several debate coaches. Along the way we have impacted and developed the lives of the students on the team while reaching members of the debate community for Christ.

I am proud to be associated with our program because of its unique vision as a Christian debate team that is as competitive as the top universities in the country. I am also proud of our alumni who

continue to represent Liberty Debate across the country in an outstanding way in both their professional and private lives. I hope that you will continue to pray for our team that God will continue to bless us and that He will provide the necessary resources for the team and send us individuals like yourself to carry on the fine tradition of Liberty Debate. In the future we are planning alumni gatherings for past team members in association with Liberty's Homecoming and our college debate tournament.

--Brett M. O'Donnell  
Director of Debate

The Liberty University Intercollegiate Debate Team is about to conclude a very successful season. Though

# 3NR

young, the team is only four points behind the highly competitive Emory University squad in the nationwide NDT rankings, while ranking first place in the ADA district with only three tournaments remaining in the season.

Liberty's skilled debaters have worked hard winning the Varsity Division at the George Mason University Tournament. The Junior Varsity squad was represented in the final round at eight out of nine tournaments and won five Junior Varsity Divisions at Cornell University, the US Naval Academy, the US Military Academy, John Carroll University, and the University of Richmond.

Shanna Twigg tops Liberty's JV squad winning two First Place individual speaker awards with Devin Chwastyk winning one. Liberty's novice squad has also performed well winning six Novice Divisions at George Mason University, the US Naval Academy, the US Military Academy, John Carroll University, the University of Richmond, and King's College. Top Novice speakers include David Cooper who has won three First Place individual speaker awards and Rebekah Meador and Julie Sorge who have each won one.

Keep up with the team's progress online at [www.Liberty.edu/debate](http://www.Liberty.edu/debate)

With three tournaments remaining, including two national tournaments, the team is gearing up to finish the season hoping to finish first in both rankings. Please keep us in your prayers. --HHH

**Spread the Word!**  
 The Debate Team is looking for intelligent, hardworking, Christian students who are interested in debating while in college. We offer opportunities for students of all experience levels with scholarships offered to qualifying advanced debaters.  
 If you know any students who fit this description, have them e-mail Brett O'Donnell at [bodonnell@liberty.edu](mailto:bodonnell@liberty.edu), or call (804) 582-2080.

**ON THE ROAD**

- Towson State University in Towson, MD March 5-7.
- ADA Nationals at Mary Washington College, Fredricksburg, VA March 11-14.
- The NDT at Wayne State, Detroit, MI March 24-30.

**NDT RANKINGS**

As of February 15, 1999

1-Emory University	577
2-Liberty University	573
3-Wake Forest University	428
4-University of Southern California	425
5-University of Kansas	401
6-Cornell University	398
7-University of Texas, Austin	391
8-US Naval Academy	385
9-University of Alabama	381
10-Boston College	369

**ADA RANKINGS**

As of December 17, 1998

1-Liberty University	224
2-US Naval Academy	176
3-University of Pittsburgh	158
4-Catholic University	132
5-George Mason University	124
6-Cornell University	106
7-University of West Virginia	104
8-Boston College	86
9-University of Rochester	84
10-Mary Washington College	83

# THE BACKFILES

Heather Holter Hall (ENGL '96) is an Assistant Debate Coach at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA where she lives with her husband Michael (COMS '92).

Michael P. Hall (COMS '92) is an Instructor and Head Debate Coach at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA where he lives with his wife Heather (ENGL '96).

Lisa C. Kanak (Lundquist) (COMS '90) is President of the The Kanak Group, a direct response marketing company in Ft. Smith, AR where she lives with her husband Shaun A. Kanak, a financial consultant at Merrill Lynch. They are expecting their first child in August.

Brett M. O'Donnell (COMS '86) is an Associate Professor and Director of Debate at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA where he lives with his wife Sally (EDUC '88), a part-time teacher and full-time mother of their three-year old daughter, Madison.

Abe Pafford (GOVT '96) is a third year law student at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where he is an editor for the law review and a legal clinic participant.

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If you would like to be included in The Backfiles, e-mail [bodonnell@liberty.edu](mailto:bodonnell@liberty.edu) or call 804-582-2080.

**Endowment Campaign Successful--**The Liberty Debate Team initiated a fund drive to start the Liberty University Debate Endowment Fund. I am pleased to announce that the goal of raising \$30,000.00 to start the fund was exceeded as we raised \$35,000.00 through alumni and corporate support. The entire amount was deposited into an endowment account strictly for the benefit of the Liberty Debate Team under the management of Fidelity Investments. This fund will eventually underwrite scholarships for members of the debate team and in the distant future underwrite a substantial amount of the operational budget for the team.

## Thank You!

Initially, all revenue generated by the fund is being reinvested to produce rapid growth of the account. All future donations (unless otherwise earmarked), L.U. Debate Alumni Association membership fees, and corporate donations will be deposited into this fund. Additionally, our growing summer high school debate workshop (The Liberty Debate Institutes) will produce revenue that will be deposited into the fund. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE ENDOWMENT DRIVE!!! --B.O.D.

**Liberty High School Debate Institutes!**  
The best place for high school students  
to learn debate!

June 20-July 10, 1999.

For more information visit  
[www.liberty.edu/debate](http://www.liberty.edu/debate)  
or call 804-582-2080.

### Liberty Debate Alumni Association Officially Launched

With this first edition of *Liberty Frontlines*, we are also launching the Liberty University Debate Alumni Association (LUDAA). The membership fees from the association (100%) will be deposited into the debate endowment account to help underwrite scholarships for future debaters. Scholarships are critical to the competitiveness of our program as we use them to recruit against other major universities for advanced high school debaters and to reward debaters for their hard work at Liberty. Membership fees allow us to make regular deposits into the endowment account in addition to our special fundraisers.

# STRATEGY SESSION

In order for you to be a part of the LUDAA we are offering several levels of giving including Regular, Varsity, Honorary Coach, and Honorary Director as detailed on the membership form below. As an Honorary Coach you will receive an official Liberty Debate T-shirt, while as Honorary Directors you will receive an official Liberty Debate hat in addition to the T-shirt. Plus, anytime we travel to a tournament near you, Honorary Directors are invited to take Brett's place! Seriously, these are small tokens of the enormous gratitude we feel to all of you who support us, and you will all be named as contributors in our next edition. Your giving provides incredible competitive and educational opportunities for aspiring debaters. So, fill out the membership form below and join the Liberty Debate Alumni Association today!

### Prayer Requests

Please pray for physical and mental strength for important national tournaments in March and for spiritual strength as we interact with the debate community.

**Yes, I want to join the Liberty Debate Alumni Association!**

- Honorary Director—\$100.00 (T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_)
- Honorary Coach--\$75.00 (T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_)
- Varsity Member--\$50.00
- Regular Member--\$25.00

**I am unable to join now, but please keep in touch with me!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check payable to *Liberty University Debate* and Mail to:

Liberty University Debate Team  
1971 University Boulevard  
Lynchburg, VA 24502

Yes, you may make my information available to other debate alumni who would wish to contact me for personal reasons only.

Other alumni I know who would like to receive *Liberty Frontlines*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP FORM