

Fall 2002

## Volume 5

Liberty University

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### Recommended Citation

Liberty University, "Volume 5" (2002). *Liberty Frontlines – Newsletter of the Debate Alumni Association*. 1. [https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/deb\\_front/1](https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/deb_front/1)

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Membership form

Yes, I want to join the Liberty Debate Alumni Association

<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Director	\$100	(T-shirt size _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Coach	\$75	(T-shirt size _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Varsity Member	\$50	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member	\$25	

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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*: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer Requests**

- For the novices and first year debaters on the team as they adjust to school and learn debate.
- For the JV and Varsity team members as they lead the team spiritually and competitively.
- For unity and cooperation among the debaters.
- For health and physical strength for the team and coaching staff.
- For wisdom for the coaching staff as they guide the team spiritually, strategically, and emotionally.
- For the people on the debate circuit that they will be open to the love of God.
- For the entire team and coaching staff that they will be full of God's boldness and grace as they interact with the debate community.



**Looking Back, Looking Forward** The 2002-03 debate season was a historic one as we won two national rankings championships (our fifth National Debate Tournament rankings championship and our first Cross Examination Debate Association rankings championship) and our novice and JV teams won more tournaments than any previous Liberty squad. Our twelve national rankings titles tie us with Northwestern for the most national championships in college debate and make us the only debate team to have won all three national rankings titles in policy debate.

**We thank God for the tremendous season last year and his blessings.** First, Michael Hall, Heather Hall and Bill Lawrence did an outstanding job preparing and coaching the team. Second, our new debate center made a significant difference in our ability to prepare for tournaments. The expanded computer, work, and instructional facilities created an environment where successful preparation and coaching could occur. I want to again thank all of you who contributed to the center. Also, the team grew spiritually and expanded our ministry to the debate and local communities and we thank God for all he was able to accomplish through our team.

**I am excited about the coming season.** We have five outstanding high school recruits and the largest group of novices in the program's history attended our camp at the beginning of school. There is still much for our program to accomplish and our team has prayerfully set very high competitive goals for the coming season which I believe we have the potential to fulfill. The team is also expanding its spiritual outreach this year. Already, members of our team have volunteered at a local soup kitchen and assisted two local children with school supplies. Please pray for our team as we share God's love with the debate and local communities.

Our team is also reaching out to the home school debating community. This spring (June 1-5, 2004), Liberty will host the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association National Tournament. Over two thousand competitors, coaches, judges, parents and family members will be on our campus for this five-day event. The home school debate circuit is fertile recruiting ground for our university and team and is a chance for us to assist a Christian debating organization as they attempt to grow. Additionally, we will host our annual fall debate tournament (November 7-9, 2003) and the Virginia State Debate Championships in the spring (April 23-24, 2004) as well as assist in starting three local high school debate programs. This spring our "team" will also grow as Heather Hall is expecting twins in March. I am very excited for Michael and Heather and happy to have the class of 2021 already recruited.

**I appreciate all of your support through your prayers and contributions.** Our alumni and friends are extremely important to our team and there are many ways you can continue to assist us. If you know of prospective debaters, please send us their names and addresses and recommend our summer debate institute to high school debaters (there is information on our website and in this newsletter). The high school workshop generates revenue and is an excellent recruiting tool for the team. Because assisting the Virginia state debate tournament and local programs stretches our resources very thin, we have to raise money from outside sources just so we can travel our full tournament schedule. In the coming year we also need to update some of the computers in the lab and to grow our endowment to provide scholarship support for our debaters. While the teams costs have risen substantially over the last several years, our scholarship and travel budget has not. Your financial contributions, membership in the debate alumni association, or one-time gift to the team helps greatly.

**I hope that you will stay in touch with us.** You are invited to our alumni gathering during our debate tournament, November 7-9, 2003 or to visit us at a tournament when we are in your area. Your connection to the current team provides an invaluable contribution to team tradition. Your presence shows our students the long-term benefits of debate through your success. Also, please send us information we can print in future newsletters so your past team members will know where you are and what you have been doing. I take great pride in learning of all of your successes and the part that Liberty Debate may have played in your lives. I look forward to seeing you soon.

--Brett O'Donnell, Director of Debate

**Welcome New Recruits!**

Laura Jewel from Good Shepherd HS in Austin, TX; Nate Milton from Tallwood HS in Virginia Beach, VA; Rodger Padgett and Corey Yarbrough from Booker T. Washington HS in Norfolk, VA; and Aaron Weisburg from Cave Springs HS in Roanoke, VA.

**Welcome New Assistant Coach John Ross!**

John is a 2003 graduate of Liberty and former varsity debater who has deferred admittance to UVA Law for a year to help out the team!

**On The Road**

**Sept 19-22** Georgia State--Atlanta, GA  
**Sept 25-28** King's Col.--Wilkes-Barre, PA  
**October 10-13** University of Richmond--Richmond, VA  
**October 16-19** Pepperdine--Los Angeles, CA  
**October 17-20** Catholic University--Washington, DC.  
**October 24-27** Harvard--Boston, MA  
**October 31-November 2** US Military Academy--West Point, NY  
**November 7-9** Liberty University--Lynchburg, VA  
**November 14-17** Wake Forest University--Winston-Salem, NC  
**December 4-7** John Carroll University--Cleveland, OH  
**December 27-January 4** California Swing  
**January 9-12** West Georgia College--Carrollton, GA.  
**January 15-18** George Mason University--Fairfax, VA.  
**January 29-February 1** US Naval Academy--Annapolis, MD.  
**February 6-9** Northwestern University--Evanston, IL.  
**February 5-8** West Virginia University--Morgantown, WV.  
**March 4-7** ADA Nationals--George Mason University--Fairfax, VA  
**March 11-14** Towson Univ. --Towson, MD.  
**March 18-22** CEDA Nationals University of Louisville--Louisville, KY.  
**April 1-5** NDT--Catholic University--Washington, DC.

You are invited to an alumni reception with Dr. Falwell the evening of Saturday November the 8th during the Liberty Tournament.

You are also welcome to come for the weekend and try your hand at judging or just observe a few rounds. We look forward to seeing you!

**Liberty High School Debate Institutes!**

We had another great institute this year!

To learn about next year's institute (June 20-July 10th) or to order the 2003 evidence or videos visit [www.liberty.edu/debate](http://www.liberty.edu/debate) or call 434-582-2080.

**Liberty University Debate Team**

*Director*  
Brett O'Donnell

*Coaches*  
Michael Hall, Heather Hall, and John Ross

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If you would like to be included in *Backfiles*, e-mail [bodonnell@liberty.edu](mailto:bodonnell@liberty.edu) or call 434-582-2080

**The Backfiles**

**Sherry (Smith) Bohnenkamp** (COMS '91) works for Cooper-Booth Wholesale Company as a Sales Representative. She and husband Mike have a son Justin Thomas born Feb. 9, 2002. She also has two step children--Christina (14) and Michael (10).



**Scott Jones** (ACCT '03) and **Amber House** (GOVT '03) were married July 26, 2003 and they currently reside in the Tucson, Arizona area.

**Bill Lawrence** (GOVT '03) is attending law school at Detroit Mercy Law School in Detroit, MI. He and Brynn Austin are engaged to be married December 27th, 2003.



**Abe Pafford** (GOVT '95) and his wife Allison are the proud parents of Olivia Rose born August 19th. Abe has also been offered a clerkship in the US Federal Circuit Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit in Altoona, PA.

**Jeremy Samek** (GOVT '03) and Sarah Speers (COMS '03) were married August 9th in Charleston, SC. They will reside in Pittsburgh, PA where Jeremy will attend law school at Pitt.

**Shanna (Twigg) Slovinsky** (HIST '01) and her husband Marty live in Oklahoma City, OK where Shanna volunteers as a child advocate at the Mary Abbott Children's Home and Marty is a Naval E3 pilot.

**NDT Rankings**

1. Liberty Univ.-589
2. Catholic Univ.-545
3. Northwestern-542
4. Emory-533
5. Michigan State-528
6. Rochester-496
7. California-Berkeley-485
8. Dartmouth-483
9. Cornell-440
10. Whitman-424

**CEDA Rankings**

1. Liberty Univ.-160
2. Emory-158
3. Northwestern-158
4. Michigan State-154
5. Catholic-150
6. Berkeley-148
7. Dartmouth-139
8. Rochester-132
9. Whitman-121
10. Vermont-116

**ADA Rankings**

1. Catholic Univ.-505.5
2. Liberty Univ.-499.5
3. Mary Washington-302.5
4. Rochester-282
5. John Carroll-243
6. George Mason-211
7. West Virginia-201
8. Army-194.5
9. Cornell-194
10. Richmond-188