

2002

## Volume 4

Liberty University

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## **New Debate Center, Ten National Championships: What's Next?**

As we move into our new debate center in the DeMoss Building addition and celebrate winning our tenth national rankings championship some might wonder what more could Liberty Debate hope to accomplish. However, I believe that the best is yet to come for Liberty Debate as we seek to achieve even loftier goals for our program. The team and I are very grateful for all of you who have contributed to making the new debate center a reality. It is truly the finest facility of its kind and will serve as a platform to help us accomplish these goals (look for pictures on the team's website).

One important and enduring goal for Liberty Debate is the spiritual focus of the team. This year our team is refocusing itself on becoming more spiritually potent to the debate community. The very nature of college debate dictates that the debate circuit will always be fertile ground for our spiritual focus. Each year brings new faces to our team that Liberty Debate can help to

develop and to prepare to face the challenges of being a Christian in their future careers. The national prominence of our program both enables and compels us to be strong advocates for Christianity in the battlefield of ideas in the academy and to make a personal spiritual contribution to the lives of our debaters and debaters and coaches from other programs. I hope that this will be a mission of our team throughout all of its existence.

There are competitive goals as well. Liberty Debate has not yet won the National Debate Tournament, the end-of-the-season varsity national championship tournament. We have never won many of the major national seasonal tournaments such as Wake Forest or Harvard. We have never won the Cross Examination Debate Association National Rankings Championship. All of these competitive goals are good because they push the educational component of our program and allow us to have a legitimate "voice" on the debate circuit through our success. The new debate center will assist in meeting

these goals through more successful recruiting and improved educational and preparation facilities for the team.

There are also financial challenges ahead. While the new debate center is completely paid for (thanks to contributions from our alumni and revenue generated from the Liberty Debate Institute), the technology in the center will need to be updated and replaced consistently and our endowment needs to be expanded to guarantee the perpetual existence of the program. So there are many reasons to look to the future and be excited about what God can accomplish through our program. For now though, we pause to thank God for what he has done for our program and to thank all of you who support our program through your prayers and financial gifts. I hope that you will join us on Homecoming Weekend as we dedicate the new center and thank you personally for helping us to equip it.

-Brett O'Donnell  
Director

## LIBERTY WINS ADA NATIONAL RANKINGS!

The Liberty Debate Team won their 6<sup>th</sup> American Debate Association (ADA) National Rankings in 2002. Finishing first with 384 points, Liberty outpaced 2<sup>nd</sup> place Rochester by 45 points and rival Catholic by 74 points. The ADA National Tournament was hosted by Methodist College in Fayetteville, NC March 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. In Varsity, John Ross was 6<sup>th</sup> speaker while he and teammate Travis Ausland were semi-finalists. In Junior Varsity, Alyce Kraus was 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker and Elisha Nix was 4<sup>th</sup> Speaker. They finished in quarters and Zach Gautier and Jeremy Samek were semi-finalists. In Novice, Samantha Moore won 9<sup>th</sup> Speaker and Josh Autry won 10<sup>th</sup> Speaker. Moore and partner Stephen Lind were in quarters, Autry and Justin Dewberry were in semis, and Brian Aurelio and Jessica Suratt won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the division.

**WELCOME new recruits Andrew Burnham of Virginia Beach, VA, Austin Case of West Des Moines, IA, John Day of Virginia Beach, VA, Cindy Hurt of Reva, VA and Andrew Pope of Watertown NY.**

## Debate Center Homecoming Reception and Tailgate

Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
10:00 am.

Come join us as we dedicate the new center to God and honor our donors!

### 2001-2002 American Debate Association Final Rankings

1. Liberty 384
2. Rochester 339
3. Catholic 310
4. Mary Washington 245
5. West Virginia 232
6. George Mason 218
7. Army 209
8. Pittsburgh 178
9. Wayne State 174
10. Vermont 161
11. Trinity 142
12. Towson 129
13. Clarion 124
14. Navy 116
15. Cornell 111
16. John Carroll 105
17. James Madison 102
18. Boston College 91
19. George Washington 71
19. South Carolina 71



- King's College-Wilkes Barre, PA. Sept 19-22.
- Georgia State-Atlanta, GA. Sept 20-23.
- University of Richmond-Richmond Virginia. Oct 11-13.
- Catholic University-Washington, D.C. Oct 18-21.
- Harvard University-Boston, MA. Oct 25-28.
- US Military Academy-West Point, NY. Nov 1-3.
- Liberty University-Lynchburg, VA. Nov 8-10.
- Wake Forest University-Winston-Salem, NC. Nov 15-18.
- John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH. Dec 5-8.

## THE BACKFILES

**Travis Ausland** (PSYC '02) graduated in May and is attending law school at the University of Texas at Austin.

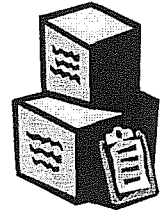
**Dave Gilmore** ('92) is a portfolio manager in Pittsburgh, PA.

**Audrey Rekeczky** lives in Oceanside, CA and works with the Innocence Project based in San Diego, CA.

**Rebekah (Meador) Tilley** (GOVT '02) graduated in May and married **Michael Tilley** (PHIL '00) on July 6, 2002 in Frankfort, KY. Rebekah is a Marketing Assistant for eCampus.com while Michael is pursuing his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Kentucky. They reside in Lexington, KY.

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

## We've Moved!



The Liberty Debate Team is now officially moved into our new 3300 square-foot Debate Center in DeMoss Hall. On March 15<sup>th</sup> all the furniture, boxes, debate tubs and back files were moved and within a week everyone was unpacked. Fortunately we did not have to take much of the furniture from the Teacher Education lab room, thanks to the generous donations of many of our alumni and friends. The new Debate Center is beautifully furnished and facilitates debate work and research in ways we never thought possible. We are blessed to have so much space and technology. Thank you for all your support! Please stop by DeMoss Hall 2172 for a tour.

### LIBERTY DEBATE

**Brett O'Donnell**, Director; **Michael Hall**, Head Coach; **Heather Hall**, Assistant Coach; **Bill Lawrence**, Assistant Coach.

1971 University Boulevard  
Lynchburg, VA 24502  
434-582-2080

[www.liberty.edu/debate](http://www.liberty.edu/debate)

### Liberty High School Debate Institutes!

This year's institute was a great success!

To learn about next year's institute or to order the 2002 evidence or videos visit [www.liberty.edu/debate](http://www.liberty.edu/debate) or call 804-582-2080.

### Prayer Requests

- For the novices and freshmen on the team as they adjust to school and learn debate.
- For the upperclassmen as they lead the team spiritually and competitively.
- For unity and cooperation amongst the debaters.
- 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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

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

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