

Blue Raider Debaters Alumni News

Middle Tennessee
State University

Written By: Melissa
Swauncy, Team
Captain

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2011

What We've Been Up To!

This year we had the opportunity to revamp the MTSU debate team and restore it to its former glory. Under the guidance of coach Patrick Richey, we have worked hard to build membership, become known on the debate circuit; and most importantly, become a true team filled with friendship and fun.

At our first tournament of the year, University of Arkansas-Monticello, we had a brilliant showing with Melissa Swauncy going undefeated in preliminary rounds. We received a fourth place team award with only three competing debaters!

At Walter State, Dale Sikema received a fifth place speaker award and we tied for second place sweepstakes.

At Carson-Newman, Sara

Page won fifth place Impromptu Speaking.

At Union University, Melissa Swauncy, Amanda Harris and Hailey Lawson were all octo-finalists. We also had the highest percentage of wins of any team at the tournament.

At Mississippi College, Cassie Smith was a quarterfinalist, Hailey Lawson was an octo-finalist, and Melissa Swauncy and Hailey Lawson both won speaker awards.

We have also begun building community relations with High School debate associations such as the Middle Tennessee Home School Association and Memphis Urban Debate League.

Our next project is team recruitment. We will host a debate between students,



Mississippi College (L-R) Joseph Huckleberry, Cassie Smith, Hailey Lawson, Melissa Swauncy, Kaitlin Wallace, Patrick Richey

team members, faculty, and political representatives based on the Primary Elections.

We also just completed the reinstating of the Pi Kappa Delta Debate Honor Society on campus and will be attending PKD nationals in March!

Be sure to make note of our upcoming events listed below and check out our website (www.mtsu.edu/debate/)!



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Upcoming Events

- UT Knoxville— January 21st-22nd
- University of Central Arkansas—January 25th-26th
- Tennessee Tech— February 18th-19th
- Think Before You Vote Mixed Plate Debate and Silent Auction (MTSU) - February 29th
- Great Debaters Film Showing (MTSU) - March 2012 (Exact Date TBA)
- PKD Nationals (Longview CC Kansas City, MO) —March 16-18
- IPDA Nationals (Sam Houston State, Houston, TX) - April 13-15
- Team Banquet— May 2012 (Exact Date TBA)

Alumni Spotlight: Barbara Reynolds [1964-1968]

Today, Barbara Reynolds runs a seventy-five year old family-started business that sells communion bread. Fifty years ago, however, she was a scholarship debater at MTSU and also participated in the Mock Supreme Court.

Her fondest memories of the team are the coach, Mrs. Cox, and the team traveling. She loved the fact that the team was very close knit and friendly with each other.

She says debate benefitted her by preparing her to stand in front of the classes she taught at MTSU from 1969-1972 and later at Belmont. It also provided her with a job as a student worker, for then forensics director, Lane Boutwell. She

said "I think debate is one of the best things that you could ever do because it makes you think on your feet."

Her hope for the team is that it is restored to its former glory and wins regional, state and even national championships! Even now, she has great memories of the team and hopes that our current and future debaters will have the same. She still remembers her first ever debate resolution: "The non-communist nations of the world should establish a community!"

The Blue Raider Debaters, salute Mrs. Reynolds for her years of participation on the team!



Barbra Reynolds and a few members of Middle Tennessee State University's Mock Supreme Court in the 1964 yearbook.

Why We Debate

"Debate keeps me open minded" - Hailey Lawson, freshman psychology major

"Debate helps me attain information in a lot of different fields" - De'Antwain Moye, senior political science major

"Debate is awesome cause you get trophies!" - Abby Richey, Coach's 4-year-old daughter

"Debate is awesome cause you get trophies!"

"Debate makes you keep up with current events" - Jessica Robinson, senior English major

"I debate because I love my team!" - Melissa Swauncy, sophomore Criminal Justice Major

"I like that it pushes you to speak confidently and get out of your bubble" - Jodi Wunder, sophomore pre-med major

"I debate for the road trips!" - Joseph Huckleberry, junior political science major

Student Spotlight: Sara Page

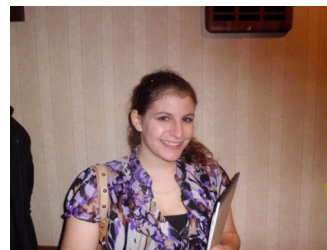
Sara Page is a senior political science major with a minor in International Relations at MTSU. She hopes to enter law school at University of Tennessee Knoxville after which she hopes to practice environmental law; working to help create environmental policy.

Sara has debated for four years; and in February of 2011 she won the State NPDA championships as a maverick

debater.

She is also active in Individual Events such as Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking and Extemporaneous speaking.

Sara is true lover of the art of persuasion. Even



Sara Page at the Porch Swing Tournament

after she graduates, she will continue to support college debate and she plans to remain active on the state circuit and return as a judge.

Her biggest dream is to be Secretary of State!

Blue Raiders Need Your Assistance!: Debate Display Case

We are currently working on promoting the team on campus. We have decided that one of the best ways to do this is to show the rich history of the team over the past 100 years. In order to do this, we will need your help.

We are asking that all alumni submit memorabilia so that we can put it on display in a Debate Team Case in the school library. Copies of pictures will be fine and all hard memorabilia (Trophies, team pins, etc) will be returned at the end of the semester. For submissions/questions contact Pat Richey (prichey@mtsu.edu) or Jacqueline Smith (jes6v@mtmail.mtsu.edu)



Nancy Fletcher-Stubblefield & Jim Brooks (1969)



Melissa Swauncy & De'Antwaine Moye (2011)

The Lane Boutwell Award

As stated in our upcoming events, we will have our team banquet in May. At this banquet, we'd like to honor not only current debaters, but those who have come before us.

We'd like to do this by honoring two alumni who stood out during their time on the MTSU debate team and made lasting contributions. This award will be presented at our banquet in May.

"We'd like to do this by honoring two alumni who not only stood out during their time on the MTSU debate team; but also made lasting contributions. "

One alumni will be picked by the team. The second alumni, however will be picked by his/her peers! We are asking

that everyone send in their nominations after which we will host a vote for the top alumni. Please email nominations to Melissa Swauncy (mes5r@mtmail.mtsu.edu). Please include your contact information, the nominee's name, and quick description of why you think they deserve the award. Nominations should be in by March first, 2012.

Blue Raiders Need Your Assistance!: Staying In Contact

As we rebuild are team and draw upon its rich history; we would like to include all alumni in our efforts. You are as much of a part of the team as we are!

We would like each of you to stay in contact with the team and we will, in turn, stay in contact with you and keep you informed of our program.

Please make sure our records of contact info are up to date by submitting any

changes in emails, addresses and numbers to our office.

Also, feel free to inform any other alumni that we may have missed about the program and send their information to us as well.

Together we will see a brand new era of Blue Raider debate; one that is inspired by the eras of before!



Walter State Tournament (Top L-R) Cassie Smith, Melissa Swauncy, Joseph Huckleberry, De'Antwaine Moye & Dale Sikkema. (Bottom L-R) Jacqueline Smith, Mary Choate

Middle Tennessee State University

Patrick Richey
Middle Tennessee University
Keathley University Center
Room 312

Phone: 615-898-2273
E-mail: prichey@mtsu.edu
Www. MTSU.edu/debate

VENERATIO PRO VICTORIA!

The mission of MTSU debate is to make you a better thinker, scholar, and speaker. Through well rounded and balanced argumentation you also will become a better citizen. The ultimate goal of this team is not victory in the round but victory in life. Victory in life will bring many victories in rounds. The team looks to the past for guidance for a better future.

Blue Raider Debaters Need Your Assistance: Scholarships and Funding

We are now working to rebuild our scholarship fund in order to reward our debate students for their hard work and help them combat the costs of tuition, books and other school fees.

We are also trying to increase funding

to our travel budget, so that we may attend more state and national tournaments and, hopefully, The Worlds University Debating Championship.

We will be hosting a Silent Auction Fundraising event on February 29th,

2012 at MTSU. Please support our efforts by attending the auction and/or donating items. More information to follow soon.



Blue Raider Debate Officers (L-R) Jessica Robinson, Melissa Swauncy, Sara Page, Mary Choate & Jacqueline Smith

Update on Russell Church:

We'd like to take some time to recognize one of our former Blue Raiders during their time of ill health. Russell Church was the MTSU debate coach during the 90s. Dr. Church first came to MTSU as a debate coach and later became chair of the department. He retired due to health issues and recently moved to the Northside Health Care Center. He would love to hear from you. Cards and letters can be sent to him at the following address:

Professor Russell Church
Northside Health Care Center
202 E. MTCS Road
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

A Message From Our Officers

As we embark on a new journey with the team; we would like to take time out and thank you, our alumni, for paving the way for us.

MTSU debate is the oldest organization in the history of the school; existing for as long as the University itself, a full 100 years.

We fully applaud your work and realize that there would be no team if not for

all of your hard work over the years.

We hope to continue your work and never stray from the path you have set. We vow to keep true to the ideals set by you and focus on debating as a life skill and not just a win. "Veneratio Pro Victoria" (Honor/Integrity before Victory).

Happy holidays to you and your families!

With great thanks,
your team officers,

Melissa Swauncy—Captain
Sara Page—Co-Captain
Mary Choate—Secretary
Jessica Robinson—Treasurer
Jacqueline Smith—Historian

