



Blue Raider Debate Starting Strong

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In the Beginning...

by Jordan Nickell

The school year started off with the first IPDA tournament of the season at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. A two-day tournament with 11 schools competing, with MTSU entering with 5 competitors.

The weekend ended with first place medal in Varsity speaks by senior Abbey Barnes and a quarterfinalist plaque in Varsity awarded to senior Skye Irish. A hard-fought tournament that was the perfect opportunity to break in the season and shake off the rust, as well as introduce brand new debaters to the tournament scene.

Shortly after University of the Cumberlands, practice sessions

got into full swing as the team settled into its permanent practice room. New team captain, senior Alex Fingeroot, began by breaking in the new team members with practice rounds of their own.

After 5 weeks of learning and growing, the team ventured to the Walters State Community College NPDA tournament with a van full of novice teams ready to show what they were made of.

The tournament, only one day, ended with a lockout in Varsity finals between MTSU teams Skye Irish & Jordan Nickell and Abbey Barnes & Michael Ketzner. Irish and Nickell tied for 4th place Varsity speaks and Barnes took 7th place Varsity speaks.



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In the Beginning... (cont.)

by Jordan Nickell

One novice team came close to breaking and ultimately everyone left the tournament feeling satisfied (the team meal at Steak and Shake didn't hurt either).

The novice teams came away feeling a new appreciation for debate and an urge to win. When asked how they felt about their first tournament, most of them were eager to respond with how it had been a learning experience for them.

With at least one tournament under almost everybody's belt, the team is now honing in on the



University of Southern Mississippi, which will take place October 20th-22nd. One thing is for sure, the MTSU Blue Raider debate team is ready.

PICTURED

The MTSU debate team after a successful tournament at Walters State.

State Honors



Earlier this semester, the debate team was honored with a formal recognition by the Tennessee state senate. Senate Resolution 407 honored the 2016-2017 iteration of the MTSU debate team for a successful overall season and a strong showing at Nationals of that year.

PICTURED

Back: Assistant Coach Natonya Listach, Katelyn Brooks, Skye Irish, Coach Patrick Richey

Front: Jordan Nickell, Alex Fingerroot

Alumni Spotlight:

Ed Anderson and Dr. Gordon DeFriese

Ed Anderson first became involved with the MTSU debate team in 1981. During his time with MTSU debate, the team had about 10 active members on it who traveled to tournaments together and overall enjoyed themselves.

When asked why he was first drawn to debate, Anderson answered that it was the words and the competition that appealed to him.

Anderson now works as an attorney for a shipping company based out of Leer, Germany. When asked if his time spent debating has endowed him with any skills that he now uses in life, he answered, "Absolutely..." focusing on the skills of analysis and organization.



When asked about any advice he had for current MTSU debaters, Anderson had this to say: Always understand that the relationships you are cultivating in any experience are going to be with you a long, long time. Value them at the time you are having them and the probability will you have something to do with them at a later date. "The world is round so we always meet twice."

Before Dr. Gordon DeFriese became an advisor to the Israeli Ministry of Health, he was a part of the MTSU debate team in 1961.

DeFriese first became interested in the debate team due to his majors in Political Science and Speech. AS a debater, DeFriese and his partner won numerous tournaments while he also participated in Individual Events doing Extemporaneous Speaking.

During the end of his time with the MTSU debate team, DeFriese helped to create a debate team at Murfreesboro Central High School, saying thathe "put together a group of the most talented sophmores, juniors, and seniors..." and that within a year the group had won the Southeast regionals in Mississippi.

DeFriese noted that debate has been very important to his life as it has given him useful skills when it comes to speaking on boards, panels, or even internationally, citing the ability to stand up and take an argument apart and put it back together again.

DeFriese's advice to debaters was to "Learn how to take each side, don't invest yourself in one side or other, remain flexible. Learn as much as you can."



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