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History

September 21, 1904 – Formation of the **Ciceronians** one of the oldest (if not the oldest) historical reference to academic debate at this campus (go to the second page to find the story).

May 9, 1955 – **Pi Kappa Delta** fraternity installed on campus.

Live Chat

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Speech and Debate

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BHSU Forensics Program

April 2nd

Congrats to Jay Page and Damian Beartusk who competed in a debate meet with South Dakota School of Mines & Tehcnology on the BHSU campus.

Jay and Damian won their Final Round competition against SDM&T on a unanimous 3-0 decision by the judges.

March 23

Our thanks to the Philosophy Club for participating in our latest Debate Challenge event. Both sides debated well.

Feb 25-26

Congrats to Jay Page, Damian Beartusk, and Melissa Rogers who competed at the 2011 Bunny Bop Forensics Tournament in Brookings, SD. Jay and Damian took First Place after winning in the Final Round of Open Parliamentary Debate. Melissa Rogers earned 6th place finishes in After Dinner Speaking and Dramatic Interpretation.

February 16th

Our thanks to the Secular Student Alliance for participating in a Debate Challenge event. Both sides debated well.

Jan 30th

Congrats to Amanda Rule, Damian Beartusk, Jay Page, and Nicole Faas who competed at the Flat Land Fiesta at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY (Jan. 27-30).

Our two novice debate teams advanced from Quarterfinals to Semifinals to Finals ("closing" the final round because there was no one left at the tournament for BHSU to defeat). Jay Page was awarded 4th Place Speaker for Novice Debate.

Nov 13th

Congrats to Jay Page and Nicole Faas who competed in a debate competition with South Dakota School of Mines & Tehcnology on the BHSU campus.

Jay and Nicole won their final round competition against SDM&T on a unanimous 3-0 decision by the judges.

Nov 7th

Congrats to Melissa Rogers, Andrea Haugen, Amanda Rule, and Nicole Faas who competed at the 40th Annual Trapper Forensics Tournament at Northwest College in Powell, WY (Nov. 4-7).

Melissa Rogers was awarded 1st place in After Dinner Speaking, 1st Place in Program Oral Interpretation, 3rd Place in Dramatic Interpretation, and 3rd place in Dramatic Duo with Andrea Haugen.

Andrea Haugen was awarded 3rd place in Dramatic Duo with Melissa Rogers (this was Andrea's first tournament).

Amanda Rule and Nicole Faas broke to the Quarterfinal Round of Novice Debate. Nicole was awarded 4th Place Speaker for Novice Debate.

As a whole Black Hills State University was awarded 3rd Place for Overall Sweepstakes at this tournament.

October 23rd

Congrats to Rebecca Piroutek who was one of four featured speakers at the first official session of the Black Hills Collegiate Debating Union. Rebecca spoke succesfully against the motion to eliminate the federal income tax and replace it with a consumption tax. Check out official KOTA coverage of the event here.

October 16th

Congrats to Amanda Rule and Nicole Faas who only lost one round (on a split decision) at BHSU's debate competition with South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

Our sincere thanks go out to Tim Steckline, Pam Carriveau, Ahrar Ahmad, Rich Hauk, and Tim Martinez for judging at this event.

Special thanks to Epic Coffee (barbara@epiccoffeeonline.com) for donating pastries for competitors and judges.

October 10th

Congrats to Melissa Rogers, Amanda Rule, and Brittney Seitz who competed at the Pioneer Trails Forensics Tournament which was held at Casper College (Oct. 7-9).
Melissa Rogers brought home the second place trophy in the category of Speech to Entertain.

Amanda Rule and Brittney Seitz advanced to Quarterfinals in Novice Parliamentary Debate.

Amanda Rule earned 7th Speaker Overall in judge rankings for Novice Parliamentary Debate.

All students who traveled to this tournament advanced to a final round.

Forensics (Speech and Debate)

Forensics at BHSU is strictly co-curricular and exists as an adjunct to the academic program. The team meets in **Plato's Cave** (Jonas 208A) and is open to all BHSU undergraduate students. As the team budget is limited, travel is restricted to students demonstrating the appropriate effort, aptitude, and reliability. Student competitors must also be in good academic standing (a cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required for travel eligibility).

Learn more...

- **Meeting Times**
- **Competition**
- **Events**

Non-Tournament Competition

Alternatives to traditional tournament competition are available in the form of school-to-school competition,

campus-centered events, and the new **Black Hills Collegiate Debating Union**. In part, this effort is directed at cultivating alternative formats, norms, and goals for debate. This includes developing local debate programs where they do not yet exist and working with existing forensics programs.

Intercollegiate Tournament Competition

Parliamentary debate is a limited preparation speech event. In overview, the teams proceed to their rooms where the speaker of the house (judge) announces the proposition. The government team (affirmative) has 10-15 minutes to prepare the case. We do not require that our debaters have previous experience.

Individual Events include prepared and limited preparation events sanctioned by the American Forensics Association (AFA). These events include, Persuasive Speaking, Informative Speaking, Speech to Enertain, Communication Analysis, Prose, Poetry, Impromptu Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Dramatic Duo, Dramatic Interpretation, and Program Oral Interpretation.

On-Campus Events

The BHSU Speech and Debate Team is proud to continue hosting **Socrates Café** events on campus. Also see the academic calendar to attend our next **Debate Challenge**.

Facebook

Check out our page on **Facebook**

Contact

If you are interested in the program and/or have any questions, feel free to contact the forensics director:

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