



Truman Forensic Union

Year in Review, 2015-2016

forensics.truman.edu

Truman is 5th in LD at Nationals

It was another great year for Truman Forensics which culminated in another great year at the NFA Championship Tournament. This year, the team placed 5th in Lincoln-Douglas debate sweepstakes based on a very strong performance from our relatively small squad. Freshman Jack Eames and senior Dillon Laaker made it into double-octofinal rounds and freshmen Tyler Behymer and Johnathan Christy both advanced to octofinals. Laaker also earned special recognition as the 9th best LD speaker in the nation. The team was well-represented at NFA overall. 13 students

traveled to NFA with 20 events, including 6 LD competitors and 14 individual event entries

This makes the 6th year in a row that Truman Forensics has been in the top 5 nationally in LD debate. Laaker, a graduating senior and 2-time national out-round participant, said that he thinks the next generation of students can keep that streak alive. "Watching the freshmen impress the community illustrated that Truman will remain a top team for years to come!"

For Chris Outzen, Director of Forensics, it's all about

the drive of the students. "I watch them at practice not just wanting to win but wanting to know why they win or lose. That's our secret, I think: not just winning but *learning* to win."



2015-2016 By the Numbers

- 21 students actively participated in Truman Forensics
- 7 freshmen joined the team
- 8 tournament weekends attended
- 89 awards earned
- 13 1st place awards and speaker positions
- 8 state championships
- 8-Top 3 Sweepstakes awards
- 6 National Forensic Association awards

Truman Forensics Needs Your Support

Truman Forensics has had a fantastic year, but we couldn't have done it without a lot of support. If you would like to contribute to the Truman Forensic Union, there are several ways to do it. First, consider contributing to our Unrestricted Fund or one of our various scholarship funds. These funds allow our students more opportunities to enhance their skills and world perspectives. If contributing money is not an option for you, Truman Forensics is always looking for volunteer judges. By attending a tournament and acting as a Truman judge, you can give back to both the team and the forensic community.

If you are interested in contributing financially please visit: giveonline.truman.edu or send checks to: Truman State University Foundation Advancement Office, 205 McClain Hall, 100 E. Normal Ave., Kirksville, MO 63501.

If you are interested in judging for Truman Forensics in the future, please contact Chris Outzen at coutzen@truman.edu. Thank you all in advance for your support of Truman Forensics. We couldn't do what we do without you.



Truman Forensics 2nd in Debate, 3rd Overall in Missouri



Truman Forensics has once again proven to be a top forensic program in the state of Missouri, placing 2nd in debate and 3rd overall at the MAFA state tournament.

The team brought home 8 state championships this year. In debate, the team took home 50% of the available debate state championships. Johnna

than Christy and Jonathan Rogers picked up the Novice Parliamentary Debate championship together, Truman's 4th win in a row in this category. Christy also picked up a state championship for Novice Parliamentary Speaker and one for Open LD Debate. Dillon Laaker picked the state championship for Open LD Speaker. In Novice LD Debate, Jack Eames broke through divisions to make it to quarterfinals in open LD, which was enough to earn 2 state championships in Novice LD Debate and Novice LD Speaker. In individual events, Brian Kantanka took home the state championship in Poetry Interpretation.

The state championships were supported by a number of other important awards. In debate, Dillon Laaker joined Eames as a quarterfinalist in Open LD and Johnathan Rogers was 5th speaker in Novice Parliamentary Debate. In Extemporaneous Speaking, Sarah Muir placed 6th and Johnathan Christy earned 3rd and Top Novice. In Afterdinner Speaking, Anson Long-Seabra placed 6th. Long-Seabra also placed 6th in Poetry Interpretation while Mahliyah Adkins-Threats placed 3rd. In Dramatic Interpretation, Tia Frey placed 6th and Brian Kantanka placed 3rd. Finally, in Prose Interpretation Adrien Zambrano placed 4th.

With successes in both debate and IE, the team is truly showing what it means to be a comprehensive forensic program in Missouri.

Mecham Inducted into NFA Hall of Fame

Truman Forensics is very pleased to share the news that one of our alumni, Shane Mecham, has been inducted into the National Forensic Association's Hall of Fame. Out of a pool of 20 nominations, 6 were inducted and Shane was among them.

Shane competed from 1997-2001 and was an extremely successful competitor during that time, including multiple elimination rounds at NFA in LD, limited prep, and public address events. He also won innumerable regional awards and was recognized with the 2001 Genevieve Holm Memorial Award, given to students who demonstrate outstanding contributions and dedication to Truman State University Forensics.

Shane is currently a lawyer in Kansas City, MO specializing in business litigation. He has also worked extensively with the National Football League and the Missouri Brain Injury Advisory Council. On top of his law career, Shane has continued his forensic work as president of Debate-Kansas City, an urban debate league which has brought forensic activities to thousands of students.

We are proud to call Shane one of our own and are thrilled that NFA is recognizing him for his dedication to this activity.

Our Graduating Seniors, 2016

Truman Forensics would like to recognize our graduating seniors of 2016.

Dillon Laaker competed from 2012-2016 in both IE and LD events. Dillon graduated from Truman with a BS in Political Science and a minor in Statistical Methods. Dillon has been accepted to UW-Madison's PhD program in Political Science for this coming fall.

Sarah Muir also competed from 2012-2016 in both IE and LD events. Sarah graduated with a BS in Political Science and a minor in English. Sarah is currently taking time off from school to work as a writer, but plans to return to school.

Finally, Alec Hubbard competed from 2013-2016 in LD debate. Alec graduated

with a BS in Economics with minors in Mathematics and Statistics.

We are very sad to see these 3 talented individuals leave the team, but we are thrilled to see them out in the world and we know they will do great things.



What's Going On at Truman Forensics?

A Growing Library

We are excited to say that Truman Forensics has started to create it's own library of resources which could be used for speech/debate purposes. Right now our library focuses on literature for oral interpretation events and useful books for debate arguments. If you have any titles or suggestions that you think would be useful for the team to have on hand, please

send those suggestions to Chris Outzen at coutzen@truman.edu.

Debate Resolution

We are excited to start working on our LD topic for the coming year! "Resolved: the United States Federal Government should substantially reduce the role of the United States Southern Command in Latin America."

Trophy Archive Project

Truman Forensics has started work to create a digital archive of the awards won



by the program over the years. Currently we are focused on awards currently in the team room. However, if you have any awards at home you would like noted in the archives, please contact Chris Outzen at coutzen@truman.edu. We'd love to hear about your time as a competitor here and your accomplishments as a part of this team.

Alumni Coaching Opportunities

Truman Forensics is full of talented students who are always looking for that next level of success. Our goal is to help them reach that next level and we feel that you can be a part of this. Alumni coaching can be an incredible resource to forensic programs and we would love to begin building that resource with all of you. We

know our network extends well outside of Kirksville, but we are always open to coaching via online platforms. If you have a lecture or discussion on a specific topic you would like to share with us, we would also welcome your thoughts and experiences. If you are interested, just email coutzen@truman.edu.



Contact Truman Forensic Union

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