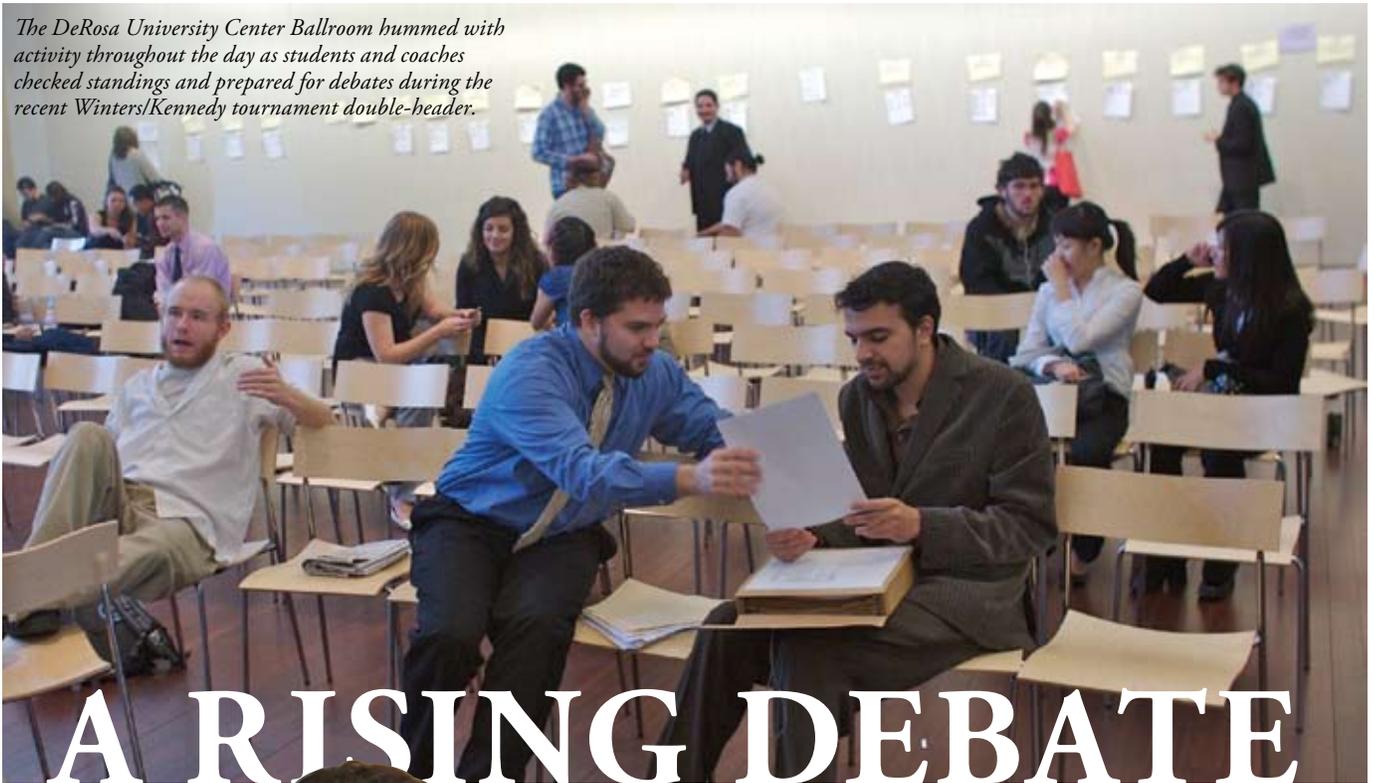


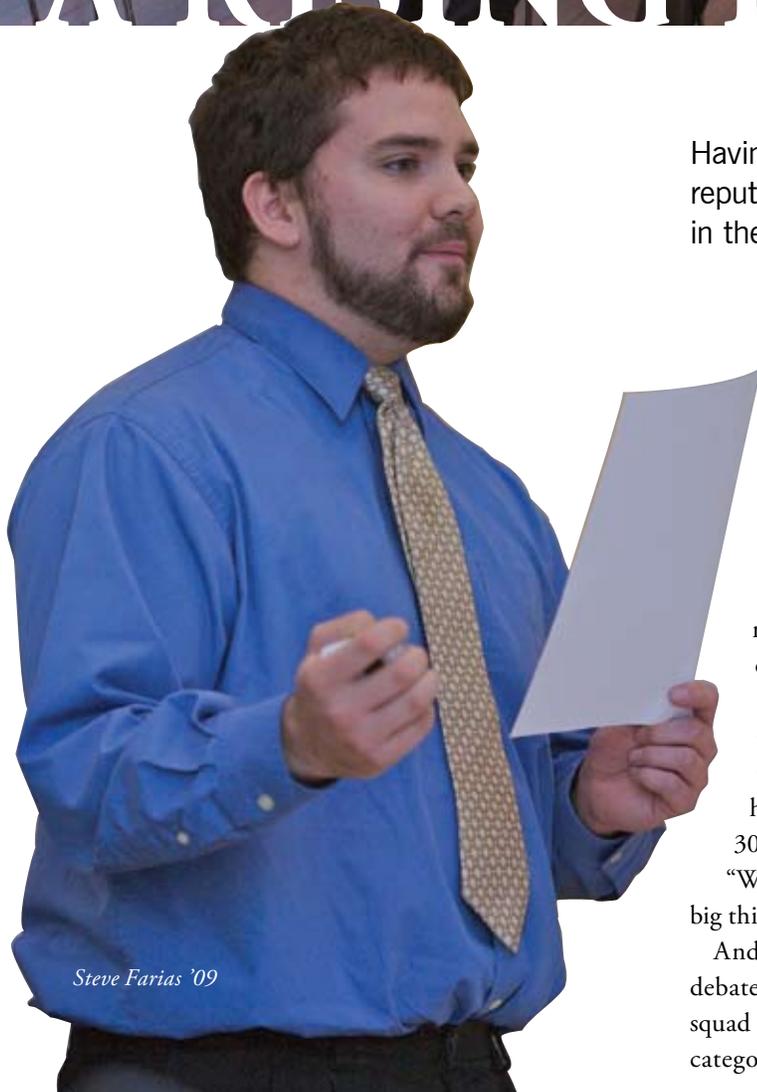
*The DeRosa University Center Ballroom hummed with activity throughout the day as students and coaches checked standings and prepared for debates during the recent Winters/Kennedy tournament double-header.*



# ARISING DEBATE

BY PATRICK GIBLIN

Having earned a stellar national and international reputation, Pacific's Speech and Debate team is in the top five in the nation.



*Steve Farias '09*

Pacific's Speech and Debate team is known for sharpening students' presentation and argumentation skills, preparing them for careers in courtrooms, boardrooms and the political arena. It's a program that draws students from all over the nation.

"I transferred specifically to Pacific because of the Speech and Debate Team," says Emily Sheldon '09, who is majoring in political science and gender studies. "It is one of the powerhouse teams."

What makes Pacific's team work is that the University supports the team with funds and a full-time coach, Sheldon says. Coach Marlin Bates says the team practices four hours, three times a week and is in tournaments 20 out of 30 weekends in the school year.

"We are always competing, practicing and working on the next big thing," he says. "That got us to where we are today."

And where are they? Last year the team's Lincoln-Douglas debaters ranked in the top 32, and the Parliamentary Debate squad was in the top seven with 400 competing schools in both categories. Final scores put Pacific at 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation — in

the top two percent of all speech and debate teams. With all of his team members returning, Bates is fielding a more experienced team this year, and they are training harder than ever.

Traditionally the top debate teams are from Ivy League institutions, so Pacific's place among the elite is drawing national and international attention. Pacific has been chosen to host the Irish National Debate Champions for the past three years, an honor normally reserved for the Ivy Leagues and rarely in sequential years.

Another reason Pacific is on the must-watch list is that the University will host one of the largest debate tournaments in the country in 2009 — the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) Championship — from March 26–30. The event will



*“I transferred specifically to Pacific because of the Speech and Debate Team.”*

— Emily Sheldon '10

draw more than 1,000 students from nearly 100 of the nation's top universities. It has been 40 years since Pacific last hosted the national tournament.

Pacific's annual Paul Winters Invitational Tournament in November also drew teams from many top-ranked schools coming to “check out the competition,” Bates says. The Winters Tournament is held simultaneously with the Mustang Invitational and the Pat Kennedy Round Robin. Even with 59 schools competing, Pacific debaters dominated the weekend, capturing 25 percent of all the possible points, almost twice as

many as the nearest competitor.

An audio interview with Dr. Bates can be found online at [go.Pacific.edu/PacificReview](http://go.Pacific.edu/PacificReview).

## Judging Debate



*Hugh Linstrom '91 serves as judge*

The Paul Winters/Pat Kennedy speech and debate tournament in November attracted hundreds of students from colleges across the nation and brought back more than a dozen alumni to work as judges and organizers.

Hugh Linstrom '71 said he volunteered as a coach because his time on Pacific's speech and debate team under legendary coach Paul

Winters helped guide him to a successful career as an attorney. “Being able to research, organize your thoughts, speak to a group, put things together in a persuasive manner — that's my bread and butter,” Linstrom says.

Volunteering for the tournament is a way for him to stay in touch with Pacific and to give back, he said. “Everyone has a little teaching in them,” Linstrom says. “Plus, you want to cheer the students on.”

Douglas Pipes '64 also was on the speech and debate team under Winters. “I was recruited from Fresno State's team by Paul,” Pipes said. “We ended up winning the national championships in 1964, as well as the nationally televised debate tournament held in Chicago that year.”

Pipes served as a judge advocate general in the Air Force, was in private practice and then prosecutor for Contra Costa County for 31 years.

David Hurst '91 volunteered in order to reconnect to his alma mater. “I was involved in my high school debate team, and we competed on the Stockton campus one year,” he says. “I didn't know much about Pacific before I came but got acquainted with the campus and the University as a whole through the speech and debate program.”

There will be another opportunity to help with the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championships this spring.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Dr. Bates at [mbates@pacific.edu](mailto:mbates@pacific.edu) or 209.946.3049.



*Doug Pipes, Coach Paul Winters and Raoul Kennedy accept the National Debate trophy in 1964*