

LAWRENCE DEBATE UNION UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT



**104 YEARS OF SPEAKING TRUTH TO
POWER**

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM:

Reception

Dinner

Welcome

Video

Special Awards

Annual Prizes

Senior Speeches

Farewell

Edwin Lawrence wanted a banquet to be held at the end of each debate season to celebrate the forensic experience. Every spring we invite a few honored guests and all LDU parents to join us for a good time. A booklet about the year is prepared, seniors say good-bye, there is a minimum of oratory, and the various prizes for debate achievement may be distributed. Substantial cash awards accompany many of these prizes. These awards are distributed based on service to the LDU and others on the team, and achievement in representing the LDU and UVM in analysis and performance. A committee appointed by the coaches gives out these awards.

BRIEF HISTORY OF DEBATE AT UVM: NOW 104 YEARS OLD

Intercollegiate debate at the University of Vermont began in 1899 when Edwin W. Lawrence '01 started the University of Vermont debate team. Throughout the early part of this century debate was a constant part of life at UVM. After the Second World War, a cohesive national level of debate competition began to take shape, and Vermont was an important force. Dr. Robert Huber came to UVM in the late 1940's, and throughout the 1950's and 1960's he led the Vermont debate team to national dominance, including national titles at all levels. During this time, Edwin W. Lawrence gave generously to the University to establish an endowment for the debate team and a professorial chair to teach forensics and work with the team — which became the Lawrence Debate Union. The 1980's replaced the doldrums of the 1970's with a revitalized and successful debate team stressing education, competition, and service. Throughout the 1980's and 1990's UVM has been a consistent top national competitor. Since the award was created five out of the six East Region Debater of the Year awards have gone to UVM students. During this period UVM has national championships in Novice Debate, Junior varsity Debate, and Public Debate, and has placed as high as Third in Varsity Debate and as high as Fifth in the National Sweepstakes race. This is doubly impressive because the vast majority of our opponent schools have extensive scholarship programs for talented high school debaters and a substantially larger budget, while UVM has students with little or no high school experience and very high travel costs. Success is possible through a community of students, staff, faculty, alumni volunteers, and friends.

ORGANIZATION OF THE LDU:

The LDU is an endowed, co-curricular program at the University of Vermont located within the Speech and Debate program of the Department of Theatre. It is directed by the Lawrence Professor of Forensics and coaches hired by the University.

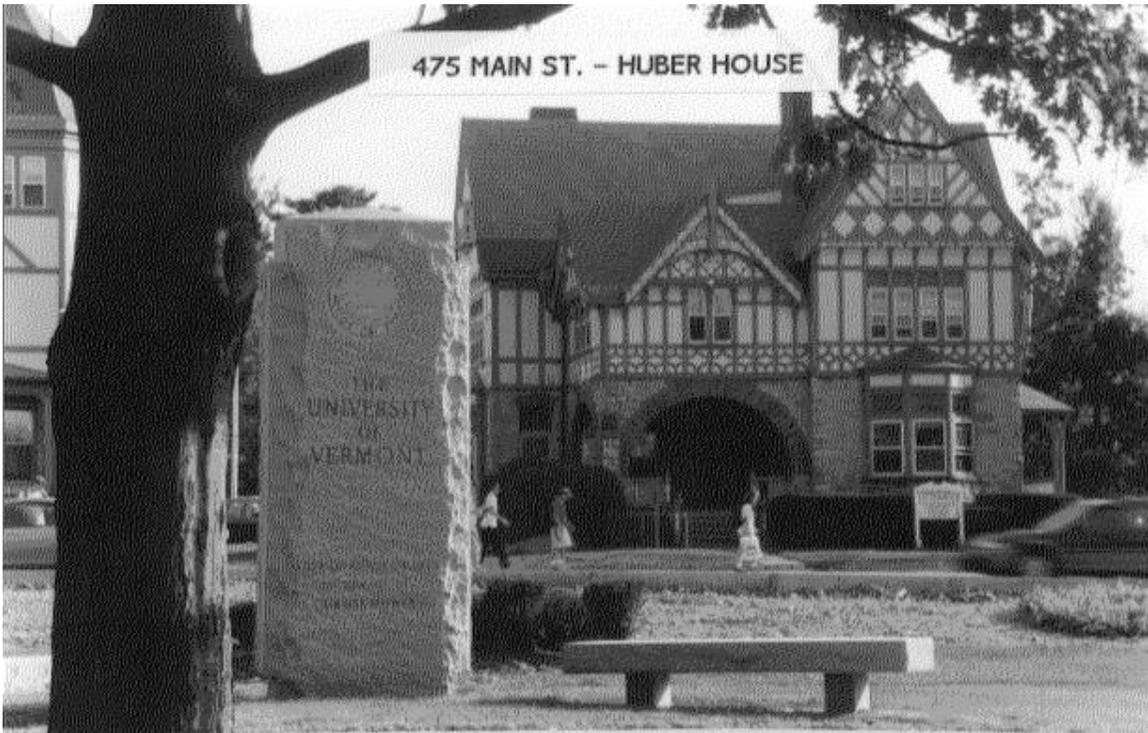
Members of the LDU are UVM students enrolled in at least six hours of undergraduate study per semester and who are working toward a Bachelor's degree. Members are expected to attend meetings, participate meaningfully in one of the three LDU areas of emphasis, provide information to the coaching staff about academic schedules and standing, and follow through on voluntary verbal commitments.

The LDU has active partnerships with the Community College of Vermont, Middlebury College, and Burlington High School.

The coaching staff is composed of debate experts who teach debate, explore issues, and coach students to win in competition and in life. They are overworked and underpaid.

The primary budget for the LDU is the income generated each year by the Lawrence Fund to Encourage and Develop Debating. It is our generous bequest from Mr. Lawrence, and as such, the LDU is responsible for the highest standards of good stewardship. It may or may not be completely spent in any given year, and unspent funds are rolled forward to the next year.

The Student Government Association also sponsors the LDU. A small sum of money each year is used to travel and to promote community debates. For these purposes, the LDU elects a student as S.G.A. Coordinator each year, and these funds are spent as directed by the S.G.A.



DEBATERS 2002-2003

Alexandru Balas
Shana Bryce
Brian Cole
Frank Friel
Julianne Hellmuth
Teresa Hill
Colin Kern
Jennifer Knops
Lana Langsweirdt
Sheila Limplevil
Michael Malone
Jillian Marty
Eric Mates
Kayce Massey
Oliver Mathews
Jake Meany
Lindsey Melander

Sharyani Mukherjee
Nikki Muradian
Ryan O'Connor
Edwin Owusu
Chris Petrone
Sarah Ptalis
Timm Reimer
Cody Rounds
Roy Simpadian
Whitney Smith
Mohira Suyarkulova
Carlos Varela
Leonel Velez
Christine Welch
Jill Witney
...and more!

COACHES

Greta Lockwood, alum
Shane Egizi, student
Aaron Fishbone, alum
Casey Gervais, alum
Claudia Greenman, alum
Charles Hoag, alum
Renee Jackson, supporter
Gordie Miller, alum
Helen Morgan, faculty
Justin Parmett, faculty
Meredith Parmett, alum
Joseph Ramsey, supporter
Alfred Snider, faculty
Matt Sweeney, alum
Abigail Trebilcock, alum
...and others!
L. J. Palardy, Projects Manager