

Local



Photo by Mary Anne Snowden

The Texas A&M University debate team shows off a first place trophy from Texas Tech's tournament. Pictured from left to right are Michael Shelby, captain; Ruby Daniels, Wayne Kraemer, head coach; and Bruce Daniel, assistant coach.

# Debate team builds reputation

By CARLA SUTTER  
Battalion Reporter  
Texas A&M University's varsity debate team is working toward the superbowl of debating.  
Mike Shelby and Ruby Daniels have been competing against teams from universities around the country, building a record they hope will get them an invitation to the National Debate Tournament.

The tournament, held at California Polytechnic University in April, has never seen a team from Texas A&M.

Daniels, 19, is a sophomore in communications, and Shelby, 22, is a graduating senior in psychology. Shelby hopes to be accepted into law school in the fall. Both have been debating since high school.

Daniels said there are three ways a team can make it to nationals:

— The NDT Committee awards at-large bids to the top 16 teams in the nation on the basis of win-loss

percentages, quality of competition and consistency.

— The NDT Committee awards five bids to winners at district tournaments.

— Finally, a series of 10 second-round bids are given to highly seeded teams failing to qualify at-large or in their districts.

"Second round teams are often just as fine as other teams that qualify," Daniels said. "It's just a bit nerve racking to pull out a bid at the last minute. It would be like beating t.u. in the last seconds of a game."

This past weekend the varsity team traveled to Baylor where they competed against 64 teams and placed fifth. The junior varsity team placed 19th.

Since September the varsity team has competed in 11 tournaments, placing first at Texas Tech, Oklahoma Christian College and Central State University (Okla.) tournaments; placing second at Emporia

University (Kansas) and the University of Southern California.

Wayne Kraemer, director and coach for the debate team, feels they have finally made it.

Kraemer, along with Bruce Daniels, the assistant coach, spent almost every weekend at tournaments last fall.

"It gets tiresome, but it's worth it," Kraemer said.

Debating is expensive, Kraemer said. One tournament can cost a thousand dollars when plane tickets for three or four people are figured in.

The club has a budget of \$13,000 a year, but this does not include the

evidence they must collect. Between Shelby and Daniels, they have six briefcases, three files and eight notebooks filled with evidence copied on the library's copy machines.

"The budget is not what I'd like it to be," Kraemer said, "but considering history and our growth stage it's adequate. I just hope it meets our needs in the future."

Shelby and Daniels both receive a \$500 scholarship to compensate for the money they spend collecting debate evidence and speaking at tournaments.

Their next tournament is at the University of Houston Feb. 13.

# Students can study abroad at price of studying in states

By RACHEL BOSTWICK  
Battalion Reporter  
Foreign study opportunities are available for Texas A&M University students.

Texas A&M has been selected as one of 80 U.S. universities to participate in the International Student Exchange Program, started by Georgetown University in 1979. ISEP also includes 24 institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Five students will be selected by the International Study Abroad Office, said Cynthia Dessel, informational representative for the Office of International Affairs. Full-time students with at least a 3.0 grade point ratio and junior classification are eligible for this program, she said.

She added that the student must be proficient in the language of the host university. "We are interested in our U.S. students having an international experience," said Dr. Donald Boucher, director of international services.

ISEP makes it possible for students to have a year of study in a foreign university for the same cost as study at home. By paying the ISEP fee based on their regular tuition and fees for a year, Dessel said, they exchange places with students outside the U.S. who have covered the cost of their school. Each student also pays his air fare to and from the host university, Dessel added.

Students get the benefits of their home school, Dessel said. For the length of their stay, they are provided with student services, nine months room and board and medical coverage. "The students are mainstreamed into the whole institution," said Mona Rizk-Finne, Study Abroad advisor.

The ISEP exchanges are for an entire academic year, Dessel said. Most exchanges start in the fall academic term and continue through the spring term. The exact dates and number of terms vary according to the host institution, she said.

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