

MARCH 2021

UNT

The University of North Texas

UNT DEBATE AND SPEECH SPRING NEWSLETTER

"Debate is a positive tool to train participants in problem solving, fact finding, and conflict resolution." - Virgil Vahlenkamp. "80

While 2020 brought many new changes to debate procedures, the UNT Debate Team worked diligently to make the most out of the competition season. The team quickly shifted to new online platforms by not only participating in various tournaments but also hosting public, virtual events. The team worked hard to make sure the University of North Texas was well represented throughout the academic season by bringing home various awards. We would like to take the time to congratulate and highlight team accomplishments throughout the previous season. Overall, the team had 4 Championships, 3 Semi-finalists, 2 Quarterfinalists, and 12 Speaking Awards. We are optimistic that the team will continue to strive for excellence and bring home many victories in the upcoming tournaments.

The UNT Debate Team is one of the most welcoming communities I have been a part of. Every day is an opportunity to learn and discover new ways to advocate. Coaches are always available to help members reach their highest goals, and the immense support from the team encourages people to show up and commit themselves to self-improvement. Being on the UNT Debate Team has allowed me to fulfill my goals and set new aspirations that I feel confident I will be able to achieve. Attending college during the middle of a pandemic is not something most people can say they have experienced, but it seems even more rare to have the support of a group as enthusiastic, passionate, reassuring, and accepting as the UNT Debate Team.

- Alaina Snell, Freshman, Double Major in English Literature and Economics

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

PUBLIC EVENTS IN A PANDEMIC

Despite COVID-19's elimination of in-person events, 2020 was a banner year for public events sponsored by UNT Debate. We started the Fall off with a never before 3 schools public debate involving UNT, Whitman College, and UT-Tyler. We followed that with a series of Presidential Debate Watches co-sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates. In November, UNT was invited to participate in the LIBJ Library's public debate, and in December we hosted iDebate Rwanda for a virtual international debate.



TEAM RECAP

The team participated in almost a dozen tournaments in which they had great success. Various tournaments and accomplishments included: Southwest Baptist University, Lewis and Clark University, Fall Texas Interscholastic Forensic Association, Illinois State University, Diablo Valley College Webster University- The Gorlock, Spring Texas Interscholastic Forensic Association, Missouri Association of Forensic Activities- Crowder College, University of Nebraska, and many more!



MOVING FORWARD

Thank you to the supporters that have made the competition season possible. The UNT Debate Team is grateful for the continual support from Debate alumni, The University of North Texas, and members of the Denton community. UNT Debate hopes to continue participating in local and national tournaments for many years to come. The team is looking forward to finishing the year strong. We want to hear from you. Send us your stories at UNTDebate@unt.edu
Go Mean Green!

