

F.A.D.S. Quarterly

All About Friends

Welcome to F.A.D.S.! This is our first official newsletter, and we are happy to have you as a Friend of Alberta Debate and Speech. Whether you are a former or current debater, coach, judge, parent, volunteer, or supporter, we will keep you up to date on what is happening in Debate and Speech in Alberta, and more importantly, on how you can stay involved. Though we will highlight exciting developments in the debate and speech world, this newsletter will not provide details and results of past events. Those can be found on the website of our friends the Alberta Debate and Speech Association (ADSA) <http://www.albertadebate.com>. We will be providing you with exciting information about clubs, events, and initiatives that can benefit from this network.

This fall, FADS was successful in partnering a former debater with a brand new home-school debate program. Our volunteer attended their first monthly meeting, intro-

ducing the basics of debate, and plans to continue to work with the group. Alberta was also the host of this year's Canadian Student Debate Federation National Debate Seminar hosting students and coaches from nine provinces and the Northwest Territories. The event was a great success, but not without the help of over two hundred volunteers.

Alberta's Talented Young Students!



No one likes to re-invent the wheel so if you or your organization is planning an event, FADS has members who are experienced in running events, and volunteers with experience ranging from coaching, judging, Chief adjudicating, statistics programming and compiling, to

volunteer coordinating, budgeting, hosting, and PR. Please contact us if you would like to find someone who has expressed interest in sharing these skills.

Many of us already know each other through the debate and speech community in Alberta. We look forward to expanding our network through FADS, and to our future friendships.

-Elisa Frank, President



FADS

**FRIENDS OF
ALBERTA DEBATE
& SPEECH
ASSOCIATION**

FADS is looking for:

- Judges! We are always looking for new and experienced judges.
- Hosts. Is your school or organization interested in hosting a tournament next school year?
- FADS volunteers. Would you like to be a part of our team? We are looking for a communications coordinator, newsletter contributors, and more.
- Donations. One of the largest obstacles for students and clubs is financing, if you or your organization can help. Please do! Ask us how.

Email us at: friendsofdebate@gmail.com

Join Now by following this link: <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pSaHK7XcWI2ZnXQBqGHCDow&email=true>

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RISING STARS IN ALBERTA DEBATE

Alberta has a strong history on the Canadian National Team. This year, two former debate partners from Alberta are trying out with the National Team to compete at the World Schools Debate Championships in Qatar next February. We asked them to share their debate careers with us. Good luck to both of you!

Veenu Goswami



My name is Veenu Goswami and I've been debating since Grade 7. At my old school (the Calgary Science School), debate class was mandatory for

all students up till grade 7. My debate teacher, Mrs. Peace, suggested that I join the debate club at the school and I did. After two or three tournaments with different partners and a few medals, I went into a tournament in Aberhart with Keenan as my partner. We got first in the tournament and for the next three years, we debated together. We won provincials for three years in a row, regionals twice, and got second and eighth in nationals in Grade 8 and 9 respectively.

In Grade 10, however, we went to different schools. Keenan went to William Aberhart and I went to Webber Academy. At Webber, my new partner was a friend of mine from CSS who had also debated in Grade 7, Pardeep Dhaliwal. We ended up going undefeated that year in every tournament

before nationals, winning both regionals and provincials. In Grade 11, I went with Pardeep again but before we attended a tournament in Calgary, we went to quite a few outside the city. At the Western Seminar Debate Tournament in Langley, B.C, me and Pardeep both placed in the top three speakers in the tournament (there were no team awards), with Pardeep getting third and me getting first. Then, at the North American debating championships in Winnipeg, we placed in the top 10 and were the highest ranked team from Alberta.

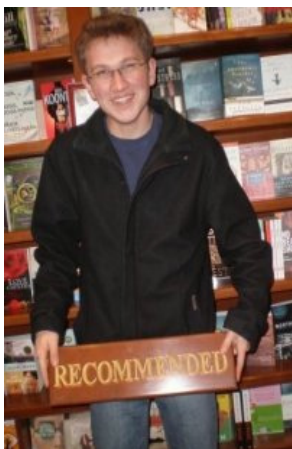
That year, tryouts for the Canadian national team were held at the Hope Lutheran Church in Calgary. People from all over the country attended, and of them all, only 9 would make the next cut. There were 8 rounds of debate on a variety of topics, plus interviews. At the end of it all, I made the list of 9, as did Keenan. That remains my biggest achievement in debate thus far.

Back in Calgary, Pardeep and I were given a rude awakening when we lost the very first debate we did in the city. However, we improved and ended up getting second at a tournament held at

the University of Calgary attended by teams from B.C and Alberta.

There are quite a few tournaments left in the year, with regionals, provincials, and nationals all coming up, as well as a training camp for the 9 people who made the cut at the Canadian national team tryouts in Calgary. After this training camp, there will be a tournament in Scotland which all the 9 people will attend. After this tournament, 5 people will be selected to represent Canada at the Worlds Debating Championships in Qatar in 2010. Making this team is something I would love to do.

Debate has been an important part of my life for 5 years now and has allowed me to meet many wonderful people as well as learn a lot about topics affecting all of us around the world. I've always loved to argue, so debate comes pretty naturally to me. I've also been fortunate to have been supported by my family, my debate partners, and my coaches: Mr. Hoyt-Hallet and Ms Peace from Grades 7-9, and Mr. Sam Burke in Grades 10 and 11. Debate is something I'm glad to have been a part of and hope to continue to do for a few years to come.



Keenan MacNeal

Keenan, a born and raised Calgarian, has been debating since he learned the English language, competitively since Grade Seven.

During his five years of debating, Keenan has placed in both the Regionals and Provincials competitions four times, and has made the quarter finals in all three National debating

championships he has competed in.

Many of his debating achievements were completed with his long-term Junior High partner Veenu. Keenan, along with Veenu, has recently made the Canadian National Debate Team, and is currently trying to make the World's Team, to compete in Qatar

in 2010.

Outside of debate, Keenan enjoys volleyball, stand up comedy, science of all sorts and various card and board games. He plans to take science journalism or neurolinguistics in university.

MAGNIFICENT DEBATE MOMS

Peggy "PR" Buzzard



Peggy Buzzard. Debate Mom/Public Relations Wiz

Peggy was an essential part of the planning team for the North American Debate Championships in the fall of 2007, as well as the National Championships last spring, and the National Debate Seminar this past November. She took care of all of the PR, took care of the V.I.P.'s, and helped out wherever she could. We asked Peggy about her involvement with debate. It sounds to us like she's a lifer! Here's what Peggy had to say:

"I got involved in debate in high school. I did

some public speaking in junior high when my family lived in Fort McMurray. When we moved to Victoria the high school I attended was brand new. It did not have a debate club, so I started one. I was also involved in British Columbia Youth Parliament for six years.

I started teaching debate to home school students about six years ago. I coached a home school debate team for four years. After they graduated, I stayed involved by volunteering to help with some of the major competitions that were held in Calgary over the past two years.

I like debate because it is so much more than a competition. Students learn the obvious lessons like current events, poise, and self confidence but there is so much more to learn that applies to life. Lessons like losing and winning graciously, people can disagree and still respect each other and even develop a friendship, and though you may be unfairly judged, that does not change who you are. I still have friends whom I met during my high school debate years.

I enjoyed my time as a coach because it allowed me to get involved in debate again and to share it with a new group of young people. I was blessed to be a part of their lives and watch them grow.

Even though debate can be very frustrating sometimes, I would encourage young people to stay involved. Only one team can walk away from a competition with the trophy but the trophy is not the real prize. The real prize you will discover when you look back on the years you were involved in debate and see how it helped prepare you for greater things. I would encourage adults to get involved with debate because it is an investment in the future. It also sends a strong message to our young people that they are valued and we are happy to invest in them.

I am the mom of two amazing young men. One of whom has already discovered the value of the time he spent debating and public speaking."

Peggy also tells us that she enjoys making quilts in her "other" free time. Check out the one in the photo!

"Debate Mom" Miko

Debra Miko was also a part of the planning committees for North Americans, Nationals, and the National Seminar. All hosted in Alberta in the last year and a half. Debra did some incredible fund raising as well as hands on tech support, billeting, and day-to-day coordination. We interviewed Debra about her life in debate:

When did you get involved in debate?

When we moved David [her son] from Public School to Private in grade 6, he needed to be involved in an extra curricular activity... in Grade 7, he pushed for a Debate Team at his school. His teacher and coach Mrs Val Doll (Recipient of the John Baty Award in 2006) needed help with the team and so I was the parent volunteer.

How have you been involved? [David's first year] I helped with tournaments and getting sponsorship for the Regional Tournament. In my second year, third and fourth years of being involved I coached the first Junior High Beginner Team for Clear Water Academy which in my last year I coached my younger son Sean. When David began grade 10, we were required to have a judge for each team and so I began judging and got to know the infamous Martin Poirier. I traveled with him to Halifax when David tried out for Team Canada in Grade 10[...] Mr. Poirier asked me

to judge world style debate at the CSDF National Seminar. [...] The next year we were



Debra Miko: Debate Super-Mom

back at the CSDF Nationals in Ottawa, where he asked me to be a chaperone as his Alberta Team was large enough to need two. David then made Team Canada and I learnt that Mr. Poirier did so much on his own time and expenses that I wanted to be a Debate Mom ... Not the kind you have in Hockey but a real team support mom [...]. After all, Mr Poirier was the expert and me well, I did whatever I could to make life easier for the team. [I] hosted two of the National Team members for the summer Camp[,] I hiked to the Lake Louise Tea house with the team in the summer of 2007 and travelled with them to Germany, Peru and Washington as a Judge.

What do you like about it debate? It was a great way for me to spend time with my son David and to stay connected with him in his teenage years [...] It gave me an opportunity to assist coaches and to make sure that judg-

ing was fair. For the students, I was able to build rapport and trust throughout the six years of David's debating and some of these kids are now in University and still in touch with me. It was great to see the kids evolve into teenagers and then on to adults.

A favourite experience or story? This would definitely have to be Peru ... wow the first wonder of the world and I got to see it with some pretty smart people. Also, shopping in Cusco's Market with Chris McMillan when he tried to convince me a really scary looking dog was a giant rat and I believed him.

Why would you encourage others to stay involved in debate? If your kids are just starting out it will keep you connected to them through those terrible teen years. Once they are off to University it gives you an opportunity to share your experiences and expertise with some great kids.

Debra also shared that when she first got involved she wasn't sure if she could do it on top of being an executive for a retail operations company, having four kids, and being heavily involved at her church, but she donned her life jacket and thought: "well here goes Swim or Sink, I am in it for the long haul!" And still sporting that life jacket, she's still with us today. Thanks Debra!



Please forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested in keeping in touch with Debate or Speech in Alberta.

If you have not yet joined our database, follow this link to fill in the registration form now!

(We promise only to contact you about things you tell us you're interested in on the form)

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/>

Check out our Web Page!

<http://www.fadsa.net/>

F.A.D.S.A.'s registered business address is:

#15, 10 Tuscany Valley View NW
Calgary AB T3L 2J6

Speech and Debate Events to get involved with this Quarter!

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in being a part of any of these activities

Mar. 13/14 Calgary—**Debate Provincials** @ Wm. Aberhart - Judges and volunteers needed!

Apr. 3/4 Edmonton - **Sommet de Debate Tardif (French "Nationals")** – Campus St.-Jean. (Ashvin Singh & Danusia Moreau) Open to all Alberta as well as out-of-province French students. The rounds are exclusively in French. There will be 6 rounds of debate followed by a semi- final of the 4 best ranked teams. The Final will take place after the Banquet in the evening. The style used will be Canadian National Parliamentary with times of 8-8-8-8-4-4. Two workshops will be held on the Friday preceding this tournament. - French Speaking Judges Welcome.

We have clubs who are looking for coaches and schools who are interested in starting up new debate programs. Please get in touch with us if you are interested in getting involved for next year.