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NEWS RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USD HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH TOURNAMENT

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--The University of San Diego's second annual Christmas Classic Speech and Debate Tournament will bring on campus high school students from California, Nevada and Texas.

The tournament begins at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, with an assembly at the USD College for Men. The final event will be the Awards Assembly at 8:30 p.m. Saturday in More Hall, USD School of Law.

The various events are open to the public, said Richard Lott, USD director of forensics. The events include, in addition to debate, extemporaneous and impromptu speaking, oratory and dramatic interpretation. Directions to any scheduled event will be available at the information booth in the main foyer of the College for Men.

Participating schools have been invited on the basis of previous records, Lott said. Many of those selected are among the outstanding high school speakers in the nation. Competing at the last tournament, Lott said, were debate teams that eventually placed first, second and third in the United States.

The top speech teams entered in the tournament are from Tustin (Calif.) High School, Jesuit (Dallas, Tex.), Damien (La Verne, Calif.), and Valley (Las Vegas, Nev.).

Carolyn Erwin, from Tustin, entered in debate and extemporaneous speaking competition, is expected to lead the field among individual contestants, Lott said. Miss Erwin is ranked first nationally by the National Forensic League among more than 100,000 high school speech students.

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