Who We Are

- The John R. Park Debate Society (the speech and debate team) is sponsored by the Department of Communication and has been a campus organization since 1869.
- In 2017, the John R. Park Debate Society won the National Parliamentary Debate Association’s Season-Long National Championship.
- Utah’s Invitational Tournament, the Great Salt Lake Invitational, is one of the oldest and most distinguished tournaments in the Western United States.

What We Do

- **Competition**
  - Lincoln-Douglas Debate – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Forensics Association in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
  - British Parliamentary Debate – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the United States Universities Debate Association (USUDA).
  - Individual Events – We are a member of, and compete in tournaments sanctioned by, the National Forensics Association (NFA).

- **Public Events**
  - Public Debates - Public debates are where intercollegiate debate started. We host a public debate each semester. Past debates have focused on locally relevant public issues, i.e. guns on campus, Utah liquor laws and public safety, immigration, and nuclear waste storage.
  - Election Debates & Forums – Part of our public debate programming is done in partnership with the Alliance for a Better Utah, including an ongoing legislative debate series.

- **High School Outreach**
  - Volunteer Coaching - Our students provide nearly 1,000 hours of support each year for local teams by judging at local tournaments and offering volunteer coaching for teams with limited resources.
  - High School Tournament - Utah Forensics hosts the Beehive Bonanza. This tournament hosts teams from throughout Utah and around the country. Scholarships are awarded to top competitors.

Ways to Join (Choose one):

- **Email**: Contact the Director of Forensics, Dr. Michael Middleton (m.middleton@utah.edu).
- **Enroll in Forensics Practicum**: Enroll in COMM 3270 (fall) or COMM 4270 (spring) which runs concurrently with weekly team practice. These courses often fulfill Upper-Division CW and/or CEL credit requirements. See the most current schedule of classes for confirmation.
- **Attend Practice**: Practices are open to all students enrolled at the University. We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00pm until 9:00pm in the Utah Forensics Squad Room, LNCO 2890.
Reasons to Join:

- **Research & Writing Skills**
  - Speech & Debate teaches students to develop and support sound claims, as well as to hone critical reasoning skills.
  - Speech & Debate teaches students to develop and deliver their ideas and arguments in concise ways.
  - Speech & Debate teaches students effective research practices.
  - Speech & Debate teaches students to “think on their feet” and to present their ideas with confidence.

- **Organizational Skills**
  - Speech & Debate teaches students to organize large quantities of information for effective retrieval and use.
  - Speech & Debate teaches students effective organizational skills through opportunities to judge and help administrate tournaments.
  - Speech & Debate teaches students to organize effectively team efforts to maximize team productivity.

- **Relationships**
  - Speech & Debate offers an opportunity to develop close advising relationships with faculty and instructors in the Department of Communication.
  - Speech & Debate offers an opportunity to travel and develop relationships with students at other campuses in the state and nation.
  - Speech & Debate fosters a sense of camaraderie among teammates that is rare in most college settings.

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**Fall 2020 Competition Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOURNAMENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 14-16</td>
<td>Fall Retreat</td>
<td>SLC, UT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 25-26</td>
<td>Northwest College</td>
<td>Online UT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 16-18</td>
<td>Univ of Central Missouri</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 16-18</td>
<td>Hart House IV</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 6-8</td>
<td>University of Pacific</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 20-21</td>
<td>Cambridge IV</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 4-6</td>
<td>PSCFA (Mandatory)</td>
<td>Online</td>
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