

2014 Pan American Universities Debating Championships

Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the University of Miami Debate Team and the University of Miami School of Communication, we are pleased to invite you to participate in the Pan American Universities Debating Championships, to be hosted on our campus in Coral Gables, Florida on Friday, January 24 through Sunday, January 26, 2014. College and University student debaters from the western hemisphere are invited. The tournament will use the rules and format of the World Universities Debating Championship. These can be found, in both Spanish and English, at http://debate.uvm.edu/dcpdf/WUDC_CMUDE_rules.pdf

The tournament will have six preliminary debates and an appropriate number of elimination debates leading to Pan American champions in two divisions, Spanish language and English language.

The tournament is sponsored by the World Debate Institute (<http://debate.uvm.edu/debateblog/wdi/>) and co-sponsored by the debate programs at the University of Miami (<http://debate.miami.edu/>), Florida International University (<http://comm-arts.fiu.edu/debate-team/index.html>), and Miami Dade College (<http://www.mdc.edu/kendall/english/speechlab.asp>).

The tournament will be administrated by Conveners David L. Steinberg and Randall Martinez of The University of Miami. The Chief Adjudicators will be Alfred Snider, Univ. of Vermont (English) and Arlan Narvaez, Universidad Central de Venezuela (Spanish). The Motion Committee (Spanish & English will debate the same motions at the same time) and tabulation staff is to be announced.

Registration will occur online. Universities may enter more than one team, with a preliminary cap of four teams. Debaters must be enrolled in the university they represent at the undergraduate or graduate level. No hybrid teams will be allowed. Judging must be provided at the N-1 level (1 team, 0 judges; 2 teams, 1 judge; 3 teams, 2 judges; etc.). Judges should have debating experience but may be undergraduate students. All judges must take an adjudication test online before the tournament. Please try to provide judges fluent in the language that you are entering teams in.

FEES: \$100 per participant (including debaters, adjudicators, and observers). We can accept your credit card payment or cash. To pay by credit card, please contact Marcia Sierra at 305-284-5106.

AMMENITIES: Participants will receive dinner and a party on Friday, Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday and Sunday, Awards Dinner on Sunday, and snacks and water throughout the tournament, and hotel to campus shuttle.

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HOTEL: Lodging is expensive in Miami, especially during the high season. We have arranged a reasonable rate under the circumstances (\$129). Contact Hotel Indigo Miami Dadeland. You can make your reservations directly through their Booking Link:

<http://www.hotelindigo.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=in&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=MIAKD&PMID=99801505&GPC=PAU&blpu=true>

Our contact person at the Hotel Indigo is:

Diane Rodriguez

Area Director of Sales - Miami

Hotel Indigo Miami Dadeland

Direct: (305) 938-5824 / Cellular (305) 298-7435

Email: diane.rodriguez@oplhoteles.com

This is a suburban hotel close to Dadeland Mall, numerous restaurants and shops, and the Miami Metrorail. If you prefer to explore other more exotic hotels (at Miami Beach, Coconut Grove, etc...) feel free to contact David Steinberg for local information. For somewhat less expensive lodging close to campus, we can recommend the Best Miami Hotel (<http://thebestmiamihotel.com/>).

TRAVEL VISAS:

In keeping with its commitment to global exchange, the University of Miami establishes an International Observership Program. A foreign national wishing to participate in the International Observership Program (hereinafter referred to as "Participant") shall be responsible for obtaining a B-1 (Visitor for Business) or B-2 (Visitor for Tourism) non-immigrant visa from the appropriate authorities or for entering the United States under the VWB (Visa Waiver for Business) or VWT (Visa Waiver for Tourism) Program, and for maintaining and complying with all legal requirements of such status during the entire duration of a Participant's observership. A participant must be in the possession of an unexpired, valid passport and maintain the validity of such passport for the entire duration of the Participant's observership. Any and all costs incurred in obtaining or maintaining a Participant's visa status shall be borne by the Participant. A Participant may use the invitation letter or other materials regarding the International Observership Program given to the Participant by the Department in support of the Participant's application for a B-1/B-2 visa or to enter in VWB/VWT status, but the University shall not be required to sponsor or otherwise support the application of a Participant for such visa or status.

Please contact David Steinberg to receive a personalized letter of invitation for each visitor. As each letter requires a set of signatures, there may be 2-3 week delay between your request and receipt of the letter.

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Tentative Schedule (times approximate)

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Arrivals

Friday, January 24, 2014

9:00 am-12:00 pm Registration, Francis L. Wolfson School of Communication Courtyard

<http://www.com.miami.edu/directions>

1:00 pm Training sessions (optional)

4:00 pm Opening session

5:00 pm Round I

Saturday, January 25, 2014

10:00 am Roll Call & Breakfast

10:30 am Round II

1:00 pm Round III

1:30 pm Lunch (provided by UM)

4:00 pm Round IV

6:30 pm Round V

Sunday, January 26, 2014

10:00 am Roll Call & Breakfast

10:30 am Round VI

12:30 am Quarterfinals

2:30 pm Lunch (provided by UM)

3:30 pm Semifinals

5:30 Finals

7:00 pm Awards and Closing

Questions? Contact Alfred Snider at alfred.snider@uvm.edu or David Steinberg at dave@miami.edu, or (in Spanish), Randall Martinez at debatemartinez@gmail.com .

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