

"LIFE IS WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU WHILE YOU'RE BUSY MAKING OTHER PLANS." - John Lennon

Debate team will represent America

Corey Drummond
PRINT EDITOR

Next year, the LSU Shreveport debate team, led by director Trey Gibson, will take part in an international debate tournament representing the United States of America against the United Kingdom.

The team was invited by Dr. Jack Rogers, professor of communication studies at the University of Central Missouri. Rogers is also the director of the debate team at UCM, and has participated in the Montgomery Cup every year for the last seventeen years.

Gibson is excited to be a part of this international event.

"If it can get LSUS on the international stage, I'm all for it," Gibson said.

This isn't the first year LSUS' team has participated in the tournament. Before Gibson, Mary Jarzabek coached the team for a number of years. Jarzabek and the team went to the competition twice.

Rogers described the Montgomery Cup and how the competition began.

"The teams that participate are largely based upon the 17-year history of the [Montgomery] Cup. When Treavor



Photo by Corey Drummond

The LSUS Debate Team will participate in the Montgomery Cup in the UK next year

Sauther, then the Debates Convenor of the English Speaking Union, and I set the tour up I was responsible for organizing the U.S. team and he would organize the British teams," Rogers said.

The organization of these teams is decided by Rogers and the success of each university's debate team.

"Over the years, the university that I represent has always sent teams to the event. I have invited members from LSUS, Arkansas-Monticello, Arkansas State University, and Evangel College in Kansas," Rogers said. "Any school with a recognized extra curricular debate team is eligible for the Cup; however, I tend to be highly selective in whom I invite."

In Roger's invitation to the LSUS debate team, he praised the team's success in recent years, specifically under Gibson's reign.

Rogers recognized LSUS' string of five national IPDA season championships in the last seven years and three IPDA National Championship Tournament titles in the last six years as reasons LSUS was given this honor.

In the last seven years, LSUS has earned nearly three-dozen national championship titles in the International Public Debate Association. The team placed second at the IPDA National Championship Tournament last April.

The teams from the United Kingdom vary from year to year. Treavor Sauther chooses the teams like Rogers chooses the teams for America. Once again, next year's teams come from a wide swath of Europe.

"The British have always included Glasgow, St. Andrews, and recently Durham. However, we have debated against numerous colleges and universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland," Rogers said. "This year we have scheduled debates against: Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh; Durham and London Imperial, England; St. Andrews, Glasgow, and Stirling, Scotland."

The debate team did need to fund this trip to the UK to participate, but Gibson said that it has been taken care of. Money from his personal scholarships and programs have allowed LSUS to join in the tournament. The Red River Classic tournament is a major contributor.

"That is really what the Red River Classic tournament is for. It is for special events. A lot of times we use the funds to travel to the Interstate Oratory Nationals, but we are just making a choice this year not to do Interstate Oratory Nationals. We are going to Scotland instead," Gibson said.

The debate team is heading to the tournament with Colby Walker, Madelyn Snead, and Elizabeth Kemp.



Photo courtesy of Brooke Rinaudo

Trey Gibson, director of the LSUS debate team

Mayor awards proclamation to debate team

Corey Drummond
PRINT EDITOR

Mayor Cedric Glover declares Friday, November 7, 2014 "LSUS Debate Team Day" on account of the team's extensive history of success at LSU Shreveport.

In the proclamation, Glover emphasizes the team's 40th anniversary of the Red River Classic debate tournament, which brought together competitors from around the nation.

Trey Gibson, director of the debate team, discussed how the proclamation came to be awarded to the team for its success.

"Kevin Flowers at the Shreveport-Bossier tourism bureau has been our hero, our menstral. He has been working on getting that. He made contact with Youlanda McCoy, who was supposed to be getting the proclamation done," Gibson said.

Before the debate team was sure it was getting a proclamation from the city, Gibson discussed what it would be like.

"We are excited about it, that would be a great honor

for the city, and it says LSU Shreveport on our nameplate. Having Shreveport recognize the team for all it's done would be wonderful," Gibson said.

"On behalf of the team and LSU Shreveport, we are deeply appreciative and humbled by this honor and would like to thank Mayor Glover and all of those at the Tourism Bureau who have supported us over the years," said Madelyn Snead, president of the debate team.

The debate team has a long, successful history at LSUS, which Snead also mentioned.

"It is equally important, we would like to thank all of the faculty, staff, students, administrators and debate team alumni who came before us that made an honor like this possible," Snead said.

Mary Jarzabek, former director of the debate team, said that this was the first proclamation in the team's history in her recollection.

The LSUS Debate Team was established in 1970 with Dr. Frank Lower as the first coach. At that time the team was a student club sponsored by the Communications Department.



Image courtesy of Trey Gibson

Proclamation by Mayor Cedric Glover



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2014 Midterm Election Coverage:

How do news organizations choose what to tell you?

News outlets decide election coverage

Corey Drummond
PRINT EDITOR

News publications around the country are highlighting the growing evenness between the Democrats and Republicans in the midterm elections. CNN, The Washington Post, and The Shreveport Times are putting focus on different elements of the election.

The Washington Post, as the central hub of politics in the U.S., focuses on the informational side of the race. Factual details and poll numbers adorn the publication's website. However, in a helpful move for readers, they have put together a crash course guide of the senator race for every state.

In a handy list form, The Washington Post outlines the two most popular candidates in each state and details their stances on political issues and platforms in a simple, unbiased manner. It's

useful for American citizens that haven't paid much attention to the race in the days leading up to the election.

This compilation of candidates stems from a research poll initiated by the Pew Research Center that determined that only fifteen percent of Americans are paying attention to the 2014 midterm elections.

In contrast to The Washington Post's more generalized perspective of the midterm race, CNN is focusing on the attitude of the Democratic party in the evening of the election. They are publishing stories frequently based around popular Democrats' reaction to the closeness of the election.

Recently, CNN discussed this particular point with Vice President Joe Biden in an exclusive interview.

"I don't agree with the oddsmakers," Biden said. "I predict we're gonna...keep the Senate."

They also talk with other Party leaders about their thoughts, and it seems to be the biggest focus for CNN as the election nears the end.

The Shreveport Times have a much smaller focus on the election. One of the major articles on its website details the extent of the mudslinging operation between the senate candidates.

This focus brings a personal touch to the election, and highlights for casual readers a dirty side of political races they may not be informed about. It's an important topic to discuss, and the audience deserves to be aware of the intricacies of mudslinging.

The 2014 midterm election is sweeping the headlines of major publications. A few news organizations located in bustling, busy cities have not had to cover this material due to the wealth of news happening at every moment. These stories about the election have taken over the nationwide publications whole-heartedly.

Election lab generates results

Emily Wright
STAFF WRITER

The CNN article, "Vice President Joe Biden: Democrats will keep Senate," by Kevin Bohn and Brian Rokus, was aimed at Biden's belief that the Democrats will in fact win the election. Biden said that he also didn't believe the Republicans could regain control of the Senate.

However, he stated that if the Republicans do actually take over the Senate, that this change would not influence the administration's goals.

The article, while focused on the upcoming elections and which party will have control of the Senate, the writers also delved into the question of Biden's thoughts and feelings about being President and the 2016 elections.

Also, the story explains that the dip in the polls concerning voters' personal feelings toward Washington, including, anger and frustration.

This voter upset may actually cause a blow to the elections.

On the contrary, the Washington Post article, "The Senate will go Republican, the election models say," by Chris Cillizza, was directed toward the seven in ten chance that Republicans can gain control of the Senate.

While the CNN article incorporated quotes and material from the Vice President about the elections, future elections, and voters' feelings, the Washington Post article focused on very informative material concerning data polls about the predicted wins of the elections.

Moreover, another contrast is that the Washington Post article contained links to the Washington Post's Election Lab model, and other models from The New York Times and Nate Silver's FiveThirtyEight.

This article also mentions the estimation that the Republican Party will take control of the

Senate.

The link for the Washington Post's Election Lab model showed a page of the model of the United States and the likelihood of either the Republicans or Democrats winning majority votes.

A paragraph describing the model stated that the information if based off of previous voting elections and is then predicted for this year's elections' results.

The paragraph also mentioned that the previous elections outcomes were based off of the elections of 1980 through the elections of 2012.

As the writers for both CNN and the Washington Post obviously focused on the 2014 elections for their articles, each chose to take a different venue to discuss information related to the elections, whether through an interview with the Vice President or an Election Lab model created by a newspaper publication.

Demographical info muddies predictions

Malva Chintakindi
STAFF WRITER

The CNN article titled "Let the second-guessing begin: Some Dems question 'avoid Obama' strategy" explains the strategies being followed for the mid-term elections. One of them is second-guessing a losing election strategy before what is expected to be a stinging defeat in Tuesday's midterm elections according to the article. What we observe here is a pre-conceived notion or rather a prediction about the victory or loss of the Democratic Party.

The article mentions about how Obama's competency or incompetency will determine the election's outcome. But the article also throws light on many reasons as to why the white house can be justified for its many actions.

The article also favors Obama in a subtle way regarding his actions of keeping away from public statements regarding elections or how he pushed Democrats to vote in the elections in or-

der to uphold democracy. The underlying implication of the article is more or less inclining towards Democratic Party being the right choice for people to vote. There was not much information about the Republicans side or their actions which makes this article subjective in many levels.

The Washington Post article titled "The Senate will go Republican, the election models say" is more derivative in nature. The article lays out statistics and demographics which makes it practical to an extent. The Washington Post's Election Lab model casts the Republican takeover as the most probable outcome, giving it a 96 percent chance of occurrence. Nate Silver's FiveThirtyEight model says Republicans have a 73 percent chance at the majority, while LEO, the New York Times model, marks it at 68 percent.

The article has demographical information relevant to the voting process which makes it more understandable. Though Democrats are not ahead in their race when it comes to Arkan-

sas, Colorado and Louisiana, the article's analysis indicates that the Democrats are optimistic about a favorable result.

A series of The Washington Post articles also mention about how some other conservative media would handle news, which makes them not a very reliable source either since there is scope for partiality. But, the article laid out gives population percentages and political inclinations, which makes it more credible in terms of the analysis though it is all open to perception. This pre-emptive assumption about the election makes it more confusing overall though the information seems spot-on.

But the three forecasts in the article point to Republicans unifying their control of Congress this year. Hence, it is evident that there is no clear way to predict the result of election but since Democrats are ahead in other states expect the three states mentioned earlier, it appears that the Democrats may have a victory in the long run.



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