

TODD GRAHAM

Presidential and Intercollegiate Debates, Persuasion, Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking

Department of Communication Studies
Southern Illinois University
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Communication, Arizona State University** 2000
- Interpersonal Communication Emphasis
 - Dissertation: "Inappropriate humor during interpersonal interactions: An analysis of contexts and responses."
- M.A. Speech Communication, Kansas State University** 1990
- Rhetoric Emphasis
 - Thesis: "No joking matter: The hateful rhetoric of Andrew Dice Clay."
- B.A. Communication, Missouri Southern State University** 1987
- Broadcasting Emphasis
 - Communication Graduate of the Year

POSITIONS AND TITLES

- Director of Debate** 2000-Present
Department of Communication Studies, Southern Illinois University
- Responsible for building and maintaining a nationally competitive debate program.
 - Administers budget and determines travel schedule, student scholarships, assistant coach payroll, transportation, and equipment purchases.
 - Hires, trains, and supervises graduate students and assistant coaches.
 - In charge of all coaching. Responsibilities include recruiting students, creating and reviewing research assignments, scheduling and critiquing practice rounds, developing argumentative strategies, and conducting on-site coaching at tournaments.
 - Teaches undergraduate and graduate courses and advises students in the Department of Communication Studies.
- Assistant Debate Coach** 1997-2000
Department of Communication, Arizona State University
- Assisted in coaching the debate team while completing Ph.D.
 - Prepared arguments, assigned research, and traveled to debate tournaments.
 - Coached advanced teams and oversaw development of younger teams.
- Director of Debate** 1990-1997
Department of Language and Communication, Northwestern State University
- Created, formed, administered, and coached the debate team.
 - Sole administrator of program. Budget unit head for \$100,000+ scholarship, travel, and equipment budget. Conducted all recruiting for the debate program.
 - In charge of all administrative duties, including determining travel schedule, securing transportation and hotel reservations, purchasing equipment, balancing budget, etc.
 - In charge of all coaching duties, including assigning partners, determining research assignments, scheduling and critiquing practice rounds, developing argumentative strategies, and all on-site coaching at tournaments.
- Assistant Debate Coach** 1988-1990
Department of Communication, Kansas State University

- Assisted in coaching the debate team while completing M.A.
- Acted as coach of record at many tournaments.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Department of Communication, Southern Illinois University 2000-Present

- Designs and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of public speaking, interpersonal communication, argumentation and debate, persuasion, business and professional communication, and communication and humor.
- Active member of the graduate faculty.

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication, Arizona State University 1997-2000

- Taught the following undergraduate courses: Interpersonal Communication, Speech, and Advanced Speech.

Department of Language and Communication, Northwestern State University, 1990-1997

- Taught the following undergraduate courses: Speech, Argumentation, Debate, Interpersonal Communication, and History of Broadcasting.

Department of Speech and Theater, Kansas State University 1988-1990

- Taught undergraduate public speaking courses.

Other Teaching Experience & Awards

- Instructor, Future Scholars Program for Incoming Minority Students (2005-2009)
- Dean's Award for Excellence, SIU College of Liberal Arts (2002)

M.A. and Ph.D. Committees

- Doctoral Committee Member, Ph.D. candidate Darren Valenta (2020)
- Masters Committee Member, M.A. candidate Mike Selck (2015)
- Doctoral Committee Member, Ph.D. candidate Steve Farias (2014)
- Doctoral Committee Member, Ph.D. candidate Brian Norcros (2013)
- Masters Committee Member, M.A. candidate Kevin Calderwood (2011)
- Doctoral Committee Member, Ph.D. candidate Charles Walts (2006)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS

Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters

1. "Debate across the Disciplines: Structured Classroom Debates in Interdisciplinary Curricula"
with Kevin J. Calderwood and Brandon Merrell
Contemporary Argumentation and Debate, Vol. 37, pp. 57-74, 2017.
2. "Back to its Roots: Accuracy as the Litmus Test for Topicality"
with Brandon Merrell
Parliamentary Debate, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 21-68, 2016.
3. "Contrasting Structures, Conditional Strategies: Designing Format-Specific Theories for Competitive Debate"
with Brandon Merrell
Parliamentary Debate, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 1-37, 2016.
4. "Topicality and Accuracy"

with Brandon Merrell
in *The Parliamentary Debate Prepbook*,
edited by Kyle Dennis, pp. 195-202. Liberty, MO: NPTE, 2015.

5. “Conditionality and Advocacy Status”
with Brandon Merrell
in *The Parliamentary Debate Prepbook*,
edited by Kyle Dennis, pp. 213-219. Liberty, MO: NPTE, 2015.

Presidential debate expert for CNN.com. Analyzed American presidential primary debates and general election presidential and vice presidential debates (2011-present)

1. Graham, T. (October 23, 2020) “Debate Coach: Biden barely passed, but Trump failed.”
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/23/opinions/biden-trump-last-debate-coach-graham/index.html>
2. Graham, T. (October 8, 2020) “Debate Coach: Pence offers tour through upside-down world.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/08/opinions/pence-harris-debate-coach-graham/index.html>
3. Graham, T. (September 30, 2020) “Debate Coach: Why this debate went terribly wrong.”
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/30/opinions/why-the-debate-went-terribly-wrong-graham/index.html>
4. Graham, T. (September 25, 2020) “Trump-Biden moderators face a huge challenge.”
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/25/opinions/2020-trump-biden-debate-moderators-huge-challenge-graham/index.html>
5. Graham, T. (September 23, 2020) “The best debate advice Joe Biden will ever get.”
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/23/opinions/debate-advice-for-biden-graham/index.html>
6. Graham, T. (June 24, 2020) “The solution is simple: Mandate face masks.”
<https://www.smerconish.com/news/2020/6/24/the-solution-is-simple-mandate-face-masks>
7. Graham, T. (March 23, 2020) “The pandemic needed more hype, not less.”
<https://www.smerconish.com/news/2020/3/23/the-pandemic-needed-more-hype-not-less>
8. Graham, T. (March 16, 2020) “Debate coach: Biden had his best night to date.”
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/16/opinions/biden-sanders-march-debate-opinion-graham/index.html>
9. Graham, T. (February 26, 2020) “Debate coach: In South Carolina, an underdog came out on top.” <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/26/opinions/south-carolina-debate-grades-opinion-graham/index.html>
10. Graham, T. (February 20, 2020) “Debate coach grades the feistiest debate yet.”
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/20/opinions/las-vegas-debate-todd-graham/index.html>
11. Graham, T. (February 8, 2020) “Debate coach: Buttigieg’s missed opportunity.”
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/08/opinions/new-hampshire-democratic-debate-graham/index.html>
12. Graham, T. (January 15, 2020) “Debate coach: This candidate gets an F.”
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/15/opinions/debate-coach-iowa-graham/index.html>
13. Graham, T. (December 20, 2019) “Debate coach: Women won the night.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/20/opinions/december-democratic-debate-opinion-graham/index.html>

14. Graham, T. (November 21, 2019) "Debate coach: Buttigieg and Yang stole the show." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/21/opinions/buttigieg-yang-stole-the-show-debate-opinion-graham/index.html>
15. Graham, T. (October 16, 2019) "Debate coach: A star emerged from the Democratic Debate." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/16/opinions/debate-coach-graham-democratic-debate/index.html>
16. Graham, T. (Sept 13, 2019) "Debate coach gives Beto O'Rourke the top grade." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/13/opinions/debate-coach-graham/index.html>
17. Graham, T. (August 1, 2019) "Debate coach: Surprise winners of the debate." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/01/opinions/detroit-debate-night-two-grades-opinion-graham/index.html>
18. Graham, T. (July 31, 2019) "Debate coach: Elizabeth Warren gets an A+." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/31/opinions/debate-grades-warren-wins-opinion-graham/index.html>
19. Graham, T. (June 28, 2019) "Debate coach grades night two debaters." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/28/opinions/debate-coach-night-two-graham/index.html>
20. Graham, T. (June 27, 2019) "Debate coach grades the Democratic debaters." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/27/opinions/democratic-debate-night-one-grades-opinion-graham/index.html>
21. Graham, T. (June 22, 2019) "Debate coach: Smile. Look energized. Don't blow it." <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/22/opinions/debate-coach-democratic-candidates-2020-graham/index.html>
22. Graham, T. (March 11, 2019) "The Democrats were right, and the Democrats were wrong." <https://www.smerconish.com/news/2019/3/11/the-democrats-were-right-and-the-democrats-were-wrong>
23. Graham, T. (September 20, 2018) "Paul Manafort: His crimes, ties to Trump, and beyond." <https://www.smerconish.com/politics/paul-manafort-his-crimes-ties-to-trump-and-beyond/>
24. Graham, T. (August 25, 2018) "Trump's worst day: Everything you need to know about the Manafort and Cohen trials." <http://www.smerconish.com/politics/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-manafort-and-cohen-trials/>
25. Graham, T. (January 31, 2018) "A Tale of Two Speeches." <http://www.smerconish.com/politics/tale-two-speeches/>
26. Graham, T. (January 15, 2018) "Who is lying about "Shithole"?" <http://www.smerconish.com/politics/lying-shitholes-graham/>
27. Graham, T. (October 20, 2016) "Debate coach: Trump's strategy mistakes too serious to overcome." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/20/opinions/debate-coach-grading-third-presidential-debate/>

28. Graham, T. (October 10, 2016) "Debate coach: Trump's constant hyperbole is starting to work against him. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/10/opinions/debate-coach-grading-the-town-hall-debate-graham/>
29. Graham, T. (October 5, 2016) "Debate coach: Defending Trump? Too much for Pence." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/05/opinions/debate-coach-pence-kaine-graham-opinion/>
30. Graham, T. (September 27, 2016) "Debate coach: Trump simply couldn't stand being criticized." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/27/opinions/debate-coach-clinton-trump-debate/>
31. Graham, T. (September 26, 2016) "Debate coach: Expect Clinton vs. Trump to be an Olympic battle of wits." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/25/opinions/debate-coach-compares-clinton-trump-graham/>
32. Graham, T. (April 15, 2016) "Debate coach: Bad night for Bernie." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/15/opinions/debate-coach-democratic-debate-graham/>
33. Graham, T. (March 11, 2016) "Debate coach: Who won the GOP debate?" <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/11/opinions/debate-coach-gop-miami-graham/>
34. Graham, T. (March 10, 2016) "Disappointing performances from Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/10/opinions/debate-coach-democratic-miami-graham/>
35. Graham, T. (March 7, 2016) "Debate coach: Who won the Flint Democratic debate?" <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/07/opinions/flint-democratic-debate-graham/>
36. Graham, T. (March 4, 2016) "Debate coach: Kasich gets a 'B+', but Trump scores an 'F' in GOP debate." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/04/opinions/debate-coach-fox-trump-graham/>
37. Graham, T. (February 26, 2016) "A lesson in taking down Trump." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/26/opinions/debate-coach-texas-gop-opinion-graham/>
38. Graham, T. (February 14, 2016) "Debate coach: A shameful Republican debate." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/14/opinions/gop-debate-grading-candidates-graham/>
39. Graham, T. (February 12, 2016) "Do voters want the dream or the details?" <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/12/opinions/democratic-debate-wisconsin-debate-coach-graham/>
40. Graham, T. (February 7, 2016) "Debate coach: Only one candidate got an A." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/07/opinions/republican-new-hampshire-debate-coach/>
41. Graham, T. (February 5, 2016) "Clinton, Sanders battle over 'gods' and 'devils'." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/05/opinions/progressive-clinton-sanders-debate-graham/>
42. Graham, T. (January 29, 2016) "Debate coach: Sorry Donald Trump, you lose." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/29/opinions/iowa-gop-debate-graham/>
43. Graham, T. (January 18, 2016) "Debate coach: Who flunked debate 101?" <http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/18/opinions/graham-democratic-debate-graded/>
44. Graham, T. (January 15, 2016) "Debate coach: Cruz got crushed." <http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/15/opinions/graham-republican-debate-reaction/>
45. Graham, T. (December 20, 2015) "Just the facts, please, candidates." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/20/opinions/graham-democratic-debate/index.html>

46. Graham, T. (December 19, 2015) "Finally, Jeb Bush fights back at Trump." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/16/opinions/graham-gop-vegas-debate/index.html>
47. Graham, T. (November 16, 2015) "Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders: Here's how to improve." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/16/opinions/graham-second-democratic-debate/index.html>
48. Graham, T. (November 11, 2015) "Debate coach: Trump wants 'Operation Wetback'?" <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/11/opinions/graham-fox-biz-debate/>
49. Graham, T. (October 30, 2015) "Debate coach: CNBC's atrocious debate." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/29/opinions/graham-gop-debate/index.html>
50. Graham, T. (October 14, 2015) "Debate coach: Hillary Clinton, a woman among boys." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/14/opinions/graham-democratic-debate/index.html>
51. Graham, T. (September 19, 2015) "Debate coach: Trump's autism claim a disgrace." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/17/opinions/graham-cnn-debate/>
52. Graham, T. (August 7, 2015) "Donald Trump was terrible." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/07/opinions/graham-trump-was-terrible-debate/index.html>
53. Graham, T. (August 5, 2015) "If you didn't make the cut for debate, forget about being president." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/05/opinions/graham-gop-debate-second-tier/index.html>
54. Graham, T. (October 23, 2012) "Debate coach: Romney walked into 'bayonets' line." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/23/opinion/graham-third-debate/index.html>
55. Graham, T. (October 17, 2012) "Debate coach: Why Obama was stellar this time." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/17/opinion/graham-debate-coach/index.html>
56. Graham, T. (October 12, 2012) "Debate coach: It's the Biden show!" <http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/12/opinion/graham-vp-debate/index.html>
57. Graham, T. (October 5, 2012) "Debate coach: Obama, heat up; Romney, stay cool." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/04/opinion/graham-presidential-debate/index.html>
58. Graham, T. (October 3, 2012) "Debate coach: Obama, Romney are top performers." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/02/opinion/graham-presidential-debate/index.html>
59. Graham, T. (February 23, 2012) "For Santorum, debate could have been even worse." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/02/23/opinion/santorum-debate-loss/index.html>
60. Graham, T. (January 27, 2012) "Romney beats Gingrich at his own game." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/27/opinion/graham-debate-florida/index.html>
61. Graham, T. (January 24, 2012) "Romney does some damage." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/24/opinion/graham-florida-debate/index.html>
62. Graham, T. (January 20, 2012) "Santorum was debate's real winner." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/20/opinion/graham-santorum-debate/index.html>
63. Graham, T. (January 17, 2012) "Debate audience, or whooping football crowd?" <http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/17/opinion/graham-south-carolina-debate/index.html>

64. Graham, T. (January 9, 2012) "Why Romney dominates debates." <http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/08/opinion/graham-romney-edge-debates/index.html>
65. Graham, T. (December 16, 2012) "At debate, Bachmann does some damage." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/16/opinion/graham-iowa-gop-debate/index.html>
66. Graham, T. (December 12, 2011) "It was Romney's debate to lose, and he did." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/11/opinion/graham-debate-romney/index.html>
67. Graham, T. (November 23, 2011) "Who can you believe at GOP debates?" <http://www.cnn.com/2011/11/23/opinion/graham-gop-debate-credibility/index.html>
68. Graham, T. (November 10, 2011) "An 'oops' that could mean 'over' for Perry." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/11/10/opinion/graham-debate-perry/index.html>
69. Graham, T. (October 19, 2011) "Candidates let the punches fly in debate." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/18/opinion/cnn-debate-opinion-roundup/index.html>
70. Graham, T. (October 18, 2011) "What to watch for in tonight's debate." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/18/opinion/graham-debate-guide/index.html>
71. Graham, T. (October 12, 2011) "Romney wins debate cross-examination." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/12/opinion/graham-gop-debate-analysis/>
72. Graham, T. (September 23, 2011) "Timing is everything, and Perry didn't have it." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/09/23/opinion/graham-debate-gop/index.html>
73. Graham, T. (September 8, 2011) "Perry's night of 'duck the question.'" <http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/09/08/graham.debate.gop/index.html>
74. Graham, T. (August 12, 2011) "Debate coach on GOP: Fun dust-ups, missed opportunities." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/08/12/graham.iowa.debate/index.html>
75. Graham, T. (June 14, 2011) "Romney and the 6 V.P. contenders." <http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/06/14/graham.gop.debate/index.html>

Conference Papers

1. Graham, T., and Morr, M.C. (February, 2000). "Reactions to flirtation in the presence of a romantic partner." Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association (WSCA), Sacramento, CA.
2. Graham, T. (November, 1998). "We agree: A rationale for agreement in competitive debate." Paper presented at the National Communication Association (NCA), New York, NY.

Notable press, invited speeches, and media appearances

- Presidential debate expert and regular contributor for CNN Opinion for the past ten years. Wrote a recurring column on CNN.com after all presidential primary and general election debates (2011-2020)
- Keynote Speaker, Chicago Council on Global Affairs (October 23, 2020)
- Interviewed hundreds of times worldwide across media outlets from television to print and radio (2011-2020)

2011-2020:

Television: CNN Smerconish, CNN Newsroom with Brooke Baldwin, CNN Newsroom with Poppy Harlow and Jim Sciutto, CNN Newsroom with Fredricka Whitfield, CNN Newsroom with Ana Cabrera, MSNBC The Week with Joshua Johnson, CSPAN Pre-Debate Coverage, BBC World News Television, Al Jazeera's The Listening Post, Al Jazeera's London Evening Newscast, Sky News London (Leaders' debates), CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), CBC Power & Politics, CTV News (Canadian Television), BT Canada Worldwide (Breakfast in Toronto), Fox News, KABC (ABC7) Los Angeles and Southern California, KTTV (Fox11) Los Angeles, KMOV4 (CBS) St. Louis, CLTV Chicago's Politics Tonight, WGN Television, WSIL Television's Talking Politics, WSIL Television, WSIU Television, RNN TV, NewsNow, France24 (France), WTTV Chicago, WMAQ Chicago, WTTW Chicago PBS

Print Interviews: The Associated Press, US News and World Report, Politico, The Guardian, The Chicago Tribune, MSNBC.com, EFE (Spanish news service), El País, Griot.com at NBC News, NBC News Universal, Monday Morning (Mandag Morgen Copenhagen), Correio Braziliense, Folha de São Paulo, CBC.ca news (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), EFE news services Spanish newswire, Fox News.com, The Boston Herald, The Washington Examiner, 20 Minutes (France), The Independent (UK), Les Echos (France), Australian Broadcasting Corporation, VnExpress (Vietnam), The Nikkei (Japan), El Universo (Mexico)

Radio: BBC World Service, Associated Press Broadcast, CSPAN, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), RCN Radio (Columbia), Peter Tilden with KABC Los Angeles, Michael Smerconish for the POTUS Channel on Sirius XM, WBBM News radio Chicago, WGN Radio, WWL New Orleans, KNX Los Angeles, KTAR Phoenix, KMOX St. Louis, River Radio Southern Illinois, CKWR (Ontario CA), KCBS San Francisco

1992-2011:

Interviewed dozens of times as a national debate expert during all presidential debating cycles by regional outlets.

Guest lectures, speeches, and presentations to local groups:

- Guest Speaker, Learning in Retirement. "Championship Debate, Southern Illinois University, and Reaching Your Goals" (2015)
- Presented for the SIU Board of Trustees. "A Peek into the inner workings of a national champion debate program: the (not-so) secrets of our success" (2014)
- Guest Speaker, Lions Club. "Winning Debate" (2014)
- Guest Speaker, Kiwanis Club. "Why have presidential debates?" (2013)
- Guest Speaker, Rotary Club. "Debate and its value in society" (2013)
- Led workshop, Continuing Legal Education and presented lecture at the Jackson County Bar Association. "The art of persuasion: Tips for crafting and developing an effective argument" (2013)
- Guest Speaker, Carbondale Chamber of Commerce. "SIU debate: Why we win" (2013)
- Presented for the SIU Board of Trustees on the SIU debate team. "What debate has done for our students" (2012)
- Spoke to SIU Board of Trustees, honored by Board of Trustees for 2008 NPTE National Championship of Parliamentary Debate (2008)
- Spoke to the Louisiana Board of Regents and Board of Trustees (1994)
- Presented the debate team to both houses of the Louisiana state government and the Governor (1994)
- Regularly presented to Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, and Toastmasters clubs (1992-1997)
- Presented during Natchitoches City Council meetings (1992-1997)

Stories and public relations pieces about the success of the SIU and NSU debate teams and their respective universities:

- Interviewed in over 100 positive stories and public relations pieces about the success of the SIU Debate Program and SIU overall in the Alumni Magazine, The Daily Egyptian, The Southern Illinoisan, WSIU, WSIL, The Saluki Times, and The Carbondale Times
- Invited to Illinois State Capitol along with debate team members to celebrate 2008 NPTE National Championship. Met with state politicians, received declarations by the Illinois House and Illinois Senate, and Lt. Governor's office (2008)
- Interviewed for many stories about the Northwestern State University debate team for the Natchitoches Times, Alexandria Daily Town Talk, Shreveport Times, and the NSU Current Sauce. Honored by Louisiana State House and Senate. Lunched with and met Governor Edwin Edwards (1991-1997)

NOTABLE DEBATE COACHING RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Coaching Awards and Honors

- National Debate Coach of the Year, presented by the William Jewell Debating Society (2016)
- Lifetime Debate Coaching Award for service and dedication in academics and teaching, The Quintilian Award, presented by Point Loma Nazarene University (2015)
- National Debate Coach of the Year, presented by Washburn Debating Union (2013)
- Ross K. Smith National Coach of the Year, presented by Wake Forest University (1995)
- Brady Lee Garrison Newcomer Award for best new debate program in the country (1991)

Records and Cumulative Results

- Coached Southern Illinois to more tournament wins, including four national championships, during the 2007-2016 time period than any other debate program in the country
- Final Four of a National Championship Debate Tournament for nine consecutive years, a record for any university in American debate history (2008-2016)
- Coached an individual team to a National Championship of Debate for three consecutive years, a feat never before accomplished in American debate history (2013-2015)
- Teams cleared to elimination rounds and won awards at more than 300 policy or parliamentary debate tournaments (1990-2016)
- Coached Northwestern State University to more wins during the 1991-1996 time period than any other university in the country.

National Championships and Major Tournament Awards

- NPTE National Debate Champions: 2015, 2013, 2008
- NPDA National Debate Champions: 2014, 2013
- NPTE Top Speaker / Debater: 2015, 2013
- NPDA Top Speaker / Debater: 2008
- #1 U.S. Debate Team— NPTE Season Rankings: 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010
- CEDA Overall National Champions (cumulative wins over the season): 1994

Additional Top-Ten National Tournament Results

- Second Place, NPDA National Championship: 2016, 2015
- Third Place, NPDA National Championship: 2014, 2010, 2008
- Fifth Place, NPDA National Championship: 2008
- Ninth Place, NPDA National Championship: 2007

- Second Place, NPTE National Championship: 2009
- Third Place, NPTE National Championship: 2012, 2011
- Fourth Place, NPTE National Championship: 2012, 2010

- Sixth Place, NPTE National Championship: 2009
- Eighth Place, NPTE National Championship: 2014
- Ninth Place, NPTE National Championship: 2010, 2008
- Third Place, CEDA National Tournament: 1993
- Fifth Place, CEDA National Tournament: 1994
- Ninth Place, CEDA National Tournament: 1997, 1993, 1992

Regular-Season Parliamentary Debate Championships

- California State University, Long Beach Tournament: 2011, 2008
- Colorado College Mile High Swing: 2013
- Creighton University Debate Tournament: 2007
- Drury Alumni Debate Tournament: 2010
- Drury Joe McAdoo Tournament: 2010
- I70 Cup for Best Team at Midwest Tournaments: 2015, 2014
- Loyola University National Warm-Up: 2015
- Northern Arizona University Tournament: 2011
- Point Loma Nazarene University Sunset Cliffs Classic: '15, '14, '12, '11, '09, '08
- Point Loma Nazarene University Tournament of Champions: '15, '14, '13, '12, '09, '08
- Texas Tech University Tournament: 2011
- University of California Berkeley: 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009
- University of the Pacific Pat Kennedy Round Robin: 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010
- University of the Pacific Paul Winters Invitational: 2014, 2012, 2009, 2008
- University of Utah Great Salt Lake Invitational: 2016, 2015, 2012, 2011
- Washburn University Top City Classic: 2013
- William Jewell College Bowman Classic: 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009, 2005
- William Jewell College Gina Lane Classic: 2014, 2013, 2012
- Willamette University Debate Tournament: 2007

Regular-Season Policy Debate Championships

- District Qualifiers for the National Debate Tournament: 2003
- Kansas State University: 1993
- Marist University: 1993
- Lewis & Clark College: 1996
- Long Beach State University: 1992
- Middle Tennessee State University: 1993
- San Diego State University: 1994
- Towson State University: 1993
- University of Central Oklahoma: 1993
- University of South Carolina: 1993
- University of Southern California: 1993
- University of Utah: 1992
- Wichita State University: 1992

DISCIPLINARY AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Departmental Organizational Committees

- Graduate Committee – SIU Communication Studies
- Undergraduate Committee – SIU Communication Studies
- Planning / Development Committee – SIU Communication Studies
- Chair, Topics Committee – NPTE (2013)
- Member, Site Committee – NPDA (2006)
- Member, Topic Creation Committee – CEDA/NDT (1995)
- Representative, South Central Region – CEDA Executive Council (1993)
- Search Committee, Language & Communication – Northwestern State University (1996)

- Search Committee, Linguistics – Northwestern State University (1996)
- Search Committee, School of Business – Northwestern State University (1994)

Memberships

- National Communication Association (25 years)
- National Parliamentary Debate Association (12 years)
- National Debate Tournament (6 years)
- American Forensic Association (10 years)
- Cross Examination Debate Association (13 years)

Community Service

- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about impeaching President Donald Trump (2019)
- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about the constitutionality of the Mueller investigation (2018)
- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about the 6th amendment, underfunding public defenders (2017)
- Hosted Southern Illinois University's political discussion about the presidential election for the community called pizza and politics with over 200 people in attendance (2016)
- Featured large public debate for the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute about who would be the best president for the Southern Illinois region (2016)
- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about the 5th amendment eminent domain clause (2016)
- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about the 5th amendment due process clause (2015)
- Featured large public debate for the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute about the minimum wage in Illinois (2014)
- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about the 4th amendment right to privacy (2014)
- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about gun control (2013)
- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about the electoral college. (2012)
- Featured on-campus public debate celebrating Constitution Day for the Morris Library about freedom of the press (2011)
- Hosted the Irish National Debating Champions in an on-campus event that drew over 250 audience members (2007)
- Organized and hosted on-campus debate about the academic reputation of SIU between members of the city council, student government association, faculty association, university administration, and Greek council (2001)
- Held on-campus Presidential debates between members of the campus republicans, democrats, and greens (2000)
- Asked to Judge the Natchitoches Christmas Festival Great Chili Cook-Off (1994)
- Hosted the British National Debate Team (1993)