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April 22, 2014

Debate team closes season at championships

GROVE CITY, Pa. – The Grove City Debate Team completed their season on April 13 at the United States Universities Debating Championships.

The tournament, which represented the national championship for the British Parliamentary style of debate, pulled 180 debate teams and both of the Grove City College teams that attended finished in the top 40. The results were particularly satisfying because the team did not concentrate on this form of debate this year.

Grove City finished as the top Christian school, beating teams from The King's College and Patrick Henry College. Along the way, they beat teams from a variety of schools including Yale University, Cornell University, Bates College, California Polytechnic Institute, University of Alaska, University of Denver and Clemson University.

Seniors Dan Pugh and Allen Scheie finished in the top 16 at the tournament. Pugh and Scheie eliminated a Yale University team ranked fourth in the tournament's preliminary rounds. Pugh and Scheie represented the best preliminary showing and tied the best outrounds showing that Grove City has ever had at the USU Nationals.

Senior Sam Williams and sophomore Ryan Brown also had an excellent performance. Though they did not progress to the elimination rounds, Williams and Brown finished 39th, ranking higher than any Grove City team finished at last year's USU championship.

The tournament was the last chance for Williams, Scheie and Pugh to compete for the debate team. All were valuable members of the team for four years. Dan Pugh will retire as the most decorated debater in Grove City history having won three different national titles in his four years here and with three different partners (Kyle Marchini, Allen Scheie and David Weix). He has captained the team for the past two years and his leadership of the squad has been invaluable.

The squad debated a variety of topics, including how conservatism meshes with feminism, the role poverty should play in judicial sentencing, whether assassination is a legitimate tool of war, whether to consume art made by deeply immoral people, how pre-nuptial agreements affect family life, and how religions objections to vaccinations should be handled by doctors.

This release is available for download at www.gcc.edu/news, where subscribers can also sign up for RSS feeds. Media may contact Ross Wyszomierski at rbwyszomierski@gcc.edu or (724) 450-4002 for further details. This email address and phone number should not be used in print.

Founded in 1876, Grove City College stands on its founding ideals of faith and freedom, made possible by an unwavering commitment to Christian principles and rigorous academics at a price within the reach of families with modest means. The College, located 60 miles north of Pittsburgh, Pa., has an enrollment of 2,500 students and teaches the liberal arts, sciences and engineering. It is an advocate of the free market economic system and accepts no federal funding. Tuition is about half the national average for private colleges. Grove City College has been named the Top Value in Private Liberal-Arts Schools by Consumers Digest Magazine. The Intercollegiate Studies Institute has named

the College one of 50 All-American Colleges, ranking it high for increasing students' civic literacy. Grove City College has been named a Best Value and one of the best colleges in America by Princeton Review and U.S. News & World Report. The Young America's Foundation calls Grove City College one of the Top Conservative Schools in the country.