



FORENSICS SEASON RESULTS (‘20-’21)

God’s goodness surrounded the Patrick Henry College (PHC) forensics program this year, enabling our students and coaches to achieve remarkable success as we responded in faith to the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. All three forensics events competed “virtually” this year, which meant that in addition to learning the new season cases and resolutions, students had to quickly develop skills for effectively presenting arguments over Zoom. All rose to the challenge as our forensics program coaches – many of them alumni – guided our students in developing godly character and winsome communication through moot court, mock trial, and civic debate. We celebrate His care and give Him the glory for the blessings He bestowed:

In **Moot Court**, PHC maintained its position as the best overall Moot Court program in the country, earning top recognition in Oral Advocacy and, for the first time, in Brief Writing as well.

In Oral Advocacy, 46 PHC students competed at moot court regionals this year (23 two-person teams). Due to the virtual nature of the 2020-21 competition and reduced travel costs, our teams were able to compete “at” ten different regionals, winning two and finishing in second place at six more. In all, PHC teams earned **13** bids to the National Championship – five more than the maximum allotment of eight! Our Nationals teams put on a strong showing in the AMCA National Championship Oral Advocacy competition, with six of eight advancing to elimination rounds. Simon Sefzik and Tyler Dunning advanced to the “Sweet Sixteen,” and two teams advanced to the Quarterfinals: Isaac Bock / Hope Turner, and Adam Rauhauser / Joshua Schumacher.

In addition, 30 PHC students submitted briefs for the Brief Writing competition. Three of our teams finished in the top ten: Ben Phibbs / Cole Reynolds earned 3rd place Respondent brief, Elijah Parkhurst / Anna Fox earned 6th place Petitioner brief, and Emma Shipe / Luke Argue earned 9th place Petitioner brief.

Kudos to our moot court students and coaches, Head Coach Peter Kamakawiwoole and Assistant Coaches Jenna Lorence and Ben Sayre, on an outstanding season.

In **Civic Debate**, PHC achieved noteworthy success in a variety of events, including the Social Justice debates, Schuman Challenge, Transatlantic Dialogues, Lafayette National Championship, and the International Public Debate Association National Championship. Twenty-seven students represented the college in civic debate this year, nearly three-quarters of them freshmen or sophomores.

FORENSICS SEASON RESULTS

(page 2)

Debate events were also held virtually this year, and the number of competitions was reduced from prior years due to logistical challenges. To ensure that PHC debaters had opportunities to showcase their skills, Coach Ryan McDonald hosted invitational tournaments in both the fall and spring seasons. This year's debaters dealt with a range of timely issues: Social Justice debates examined whether "Social Justice Movements should make police abolition their top priority," while both the Lafayette Debates and the Transatlantic Dialogues challenged students to scrutinize whether "Governments should impose civil and/or criminal penalties on social media companies providing platforms for violent extremism."

In the Transatlantic Dialogues, PHC students earned First and Second Place as members of three-person teams comprised of students from different universities across the U.S. and Europe. Also in March, senior Noah Farley and junior Emma Shipe took Finalist honors in the IPDA National Championship, JV Division. Finally, Patrick Henry College students shut out the competition, including several Ivy League institutions, to bring home both the gold and silver in the Lafayette Debates U.S. National Championship! PHC underclassmen Calvin Huh and Nicholas Storz won top honors, and upperclassmen Noah Farley and Emma Shipe finished in second place – a feat that has never before been achieved in this very prestigious event!

We're thankful for the civic debate program's success this year, and we're confident that Head Coach Ryan McDonald and Assistant Coach Tyson Langhofer will continue to raise our growing Civic Debate program to new heights in 2021-22.

Last but not least, our **Mock Trial** program achieved its most successful season to date, earning third place overall at the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) National Championship! PHC again fielded six teams this season (more than 50 students in all). Due to the virtual nature of this year's competition, all six teams "attended" fall invitational tournaments hosted by other schools, where they enjoyed the opportunity to compete in four trial rounds against schools from across the nation.

In the spring, four of our top teams perfected their presentations at January invitational tournaments prior to Regionals. Five PHC teams competed at AMTA Regionals, with four of the five earning bids to the Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) – two more slots than the maximum allotment of two ORCS teams per school!

By God's grace, both of our ORCS teams advanced to the highest level – the NCT, or National Championship Tournament – the first time the PHC mock trial program has achieved such a feat! Both teams excelled: our top team earned second place in its division and third place overall out of the 48 NCT teams, while our second team earned seventh in its division and thirteenth place overall. In addition, three PHC competitors earned "All American Awards" for their performances at Nationals: David Bainbridge and Benjamin Crosby as All-American Attorneys, and freshman Caleb Knox as All-American Witness!

FORENSICS SEASON RESULTS

(page 3)

We're thankful for the mock trial program's accomplishments this year and are excited to see what the next season holds as Varsity Team Coaches Elizabeth Ertle, Mackenzi Ehrett, Kyle Ziemnick, and Cooper Millhouse lead the program to even greater success. We're also enthusiastic about our plans to accommodate the growing interest in mock trial by placing experienced and inexperienced students together on "unstacked" teams for our internal Sentinel Showcase fall tournament, during which the most experienced students will mentor their peers. This program reorganization will enable the program to continue to grow while ensuring that each student receives personalized coaching and attention.

The world took an unexpected turn in the spring of 2020 – unexpected to us, but not to our Lord. We were encouraged to see His faithfulness as we transitioned to virtual competitions and new methods of interaction, and we are confident that He will guide us in the coming year. Soli Deo Gloria! We look forward with expectation as Patrick Henry College continues to seek His will, doing our utmost *"for Christ and for Liberty!"*