

## LI Students Take Home Debate Gold



By Grant Waters

This spring break WU Debate competed at the annual National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) Championships and National Parliamentary tournament of excellence in Colorado. At the NPDA



Championships, Washburn broke all six of its attending teams to single-elimination rounds, which began with triple octafinals. This included LI students, Grant Waters, Brooke Manny, and Ryan Kelly. Ryan and his partner Kaitlyn Bull emerged from preliminary rounds as the top seed in the tournament.

The duo byed through triple octafinals and then rattled off wins against Concordia Irvine, Pacific and Lewis & Clark, setting up a Final Four (semifinal) showdown with University of California Berkeley. Ryan and Kaitlyn won their semifinal round on a 5-2 decision. This advanced them to the final round in which another Washburn team was waiting, Quinton Brown and Will Starks. The two partnerships were thus named co-champions! The National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence concluded similarly with Ryan and Kaitlyn capturing the championship on a 5-2 decision over the University of California Berkeley. The team will finish their season in Colorado at the U.S. Universities Debating Championship in Denver, Colorado. Congrats and good luck to the LI students competing!

## SLC 101: The Art of Leadership

By Ryan Kelly

On Tuesday, March 14th, the Leadership Institute held a fantastic, engaging event for the first time ever. Known as SLC (Student Leadership Council) 101, members of the SLC got together to have a jeopardy night that was aimed to inform interested parties about all the positions that the council has to offer. Alexis Yelland, Leadership Learning Community Resident Assistant, put together the excellent program, and she hopes that it is continued on an annual basis.

Students who were interested in applying for positions were able to come together with current members, ask questions, compete on jeopardy teams, and, of course essential with any event, eat some snacks. It was a very fruitful opportunity, as it led to many students being able to apply for council with more confidence. During the end of March and the beginning of April, the Leadership Institute is conducting interviews for the next Student Leadership Council. These positions will be announced at the Spring Banquet, which is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact leadership@washburn.edu if you have any questions.

## Leadership Learning Community Truly a Home Away From Home

By Jack Van Dam

For the residents of the Leadership Learning Community, they are more than just a group of residents with a shared interest, they are a family. Freshman, Social Work Major Sydney Masters described living in the hall: "The Leadership Institute brought us all together, and from there, we became more than we thought we could. We have all challenged each other and pushed each other to grow. I feel as though I gained more knowledge and experienced more diversity in my first four months here at Washburn University than I had my whole entire life."

Masters illustrated how close her hall has become by showcasing how her friends stay up until 2am working together on homework, watching Harry Potter every Sunday, and being each other's stylists. Having the opportunity to live in the Leadership Learning Community has helped these students not only get heavily involved in the Leadership Institute, but has truly created a strong sense of community these students will have for the rest of their lives.

## Jack's Journal

By Jack Van Dam

As we return from spring break, our tans fade, we dust our books off and we start studying once again. This time of the year can be difficult as spring break was a little bit of a tease for what summer will be in seven weeks, but remember why you're here. Push through, set time aside to study, but most importantly take care of yourself.

As a Senior getting ready to graduate in May, don't wish your days away and want to fast forward to the summer or through life, take a second to stop and smell the roses or look at the super pretty trees blooming all over campus. My four years at Washburn have been absolutely tremendous, and I would not trade it for anything in the world, enjoy every day that you have at Washburn! Keep calm and study on!

## Pals in the Community program heads full force into Spring

By Abraham Pfannenstiel

Approximately 25 students, faculty, and community members met at HHB BBQ for the second Pals in the Community social on February 9.

At the social, students had the opportunity to network with members of the community who all work in a variety of different fields. This was a great chance for our students to learn more about Topeka, the job fields they want to go into, and even the opportunities that exist in their community.

The Pals in the Community program is designed to give students who have taken or are currently taking LE 300, or are a member of the Student Leadership Council, the opportunity to connect with a leader on campus or in the community. The goal is to allow both members of the pair to find time to reach out, connect, talk about their similar career interests, and even discuss what leadership looks like in their particular field of interest.

Seventeen students have been paired this year for this unique learning experience. All in all, the social was a great chance to reconnect and kick off the second semester on a high note.

## Monthly Student Spotlight



Name: Abby Price

Position: Programming Student Director and Orientations Team Leader

Why did you join the Leadership Institute?: I joined WULI because I came to scholarship interview day my senior year of high school and everyone was so friendly and outgoing and seemed really driven to do good things!

How has it assisted you in your involvement in other programs on campus?: WULI has helped me in my campus involvement in so many ways. I never would have the time management skills and motivation I do without the institute!

How do you see yourself using leadership skills you've learned later in life?: As I plan on going into higher education administration and organizational leadership, gaining leadership experience has been an awesome opportunity looking towards my future.

What have been some of the greatest challenges of your current Leadership Institute position?: My greatest challenge was making sure Sarah didn't lose her mind :) hehe just kidding, it's really been finding a time that everyone can come to programming meetings. We are all so busy that schedules are hard to match!

What has been your favorite leadership course thus far?: I have really enjoyed each of the LI courses for different reasons!! I'm currently enrolled in LE300, which has been the most applied Leadership class I've been in, so that has been cool to put leadership in action.

## WU MonthLI Updates:

- SLC Meeting: April 6
- LI Spring Celebration: April 18th
- LE Showcase: April 27, 9:30-10:45, Washburn B