

## **2005-2006 :: Academic Competitions**

### **1. Mission Statement:**

Intellectual competition teams at UTD serve to enhance our recruiting efforts with the brightest undergraduate students, bring recognition to the university regarding the quality of its undergraduate population, and educate the community to the importance of intellectual pursuits in the lives of educated people.

### **2. Objectives:**

**2.1 Attract highly capable UG students to UTD:** To attract highly capable undergraduate students to UTD by offering them the opportunity to compete in intellectual competitions as a part of their undergraduate experience.

#### **2.1.1 Related Strategic Plan Item(s):**

II-1 The Education of Leaders; II-2 Living-Learning Communities; II-3 Investment in People

**2.2 Publicize the intellectual environment of UTD:** To publicize the intellectual environment of UTD and enhance its academic reputation by competing in intellectual competitions with other colleges and universities across the nation and around the world.

#### **2.2.1 Related Strategic Plan Item(s):**

II-1 The Education of Leaders; II-2 Living-Learning Communities; II-3 Investment in People

**2.2.2 Related Institutional Priority Item(s):** COM-2 Protect Enrollment Gains, Access and Student Quality as part of moving toward Tier One Status; CPT-1 Control enrollment expansion

**2.3 To emphasize the role of intellectual endeavors:** To emphasize the role of intellectual endeavors as a part of the life of educated individuals through outreach activities in the community.

#### **2.3.1 Related Strategic Plan Item(s):**

II-1 The Education of Leaders; II-2 Living-Learning Communities; II-3 Investment in People

**2.3.2 Related Institutional Priority Item(s):** COM-2 Protect Enrollment Gains, Access and Student Quality as part of moving toward Tier One Status

### **3. Measures & Findings:**

**3.1 Evaluation of Intellectual Competition Scholarship:** Evaluation of the number of Intellectual Competition Scholarships Awarded.

#### **3.1.1 Success Criteria:**

A five percent increase in the number of Intellectual Competition Scholarships awarded without reducing the quality of students who receive the awards.

**3.1.2 Related Objective(s):** Attract highly capable UG students to UTD

**3.1.3 Results Related To Success Criteria:** In all, scholarship acceptances increased by 36%.

Intellectual Competition Scholarships are awarded in Chess, Debate, and Destination Imagination.

This year our greatest success was in chess where we had 3 Texas students, 3 US students (Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Minnesota) and three International students (Serbia, Croatia, and Costa Rica) accept scholarships.

We increased the number of Debate scholarships from 4 to 6 with two out-of-state students accepting our offers.

Destination Imagination received an acceptance from the one offer we made in conjunction with the state tournament.

**3.1.4 Achievement Level:** Met

**3.1.5 Further Action:** Yes

#### **3.2 Monitor participation rates:**

Monitoring the participation rates and success of Intellectual Competition teams in state, regional, national, and international competitions.

#### **3.2.1 Success Criteria:**

Success in this area defies a yardstick. The teams will be considered successful if they improve on their record from the previous academic year.

**3.2.2 Related Objective(s):** Publicize the intellectual environment of UTD

**3.2.3 Results Related To Success Criteria:** The chess team just concluded a very successful year. Among the findings:

The team placed first in

1. Southwest Collegiate Tournament

2. US Internet College Chess League

3. US Amateur East

The team placed second in

1. National Collegiate Tournament

2. International Pan-American Tournament

3. The Final Four of Chess

The Debate Team had its highest national finish at 15Th in the country following the 2005-2006 season.

They were named the South Central Regional Champions.

Senior debater Britt Clark was named to the All-American Debate Team.

Three UTD partnerships finished in the top 64 individual teams in the nation.

Destination Imagination fielded four teams this year.

Results include:

Four first place finishes in the state tournament.

Three first-place finishes and one second place finish in the Global Finals at The University of Tennessee

Finished first and second in the Global Finals Super Max Extreme event.

The Model United Nations Team again competed in the 2006 Nationals in Washinton DC.

They finished with three Outstanding Delegation Awards, three Outstanding Delegate Awards, and the Outstanding Position Paper Award. UTD won more awards than any other university in the competition.

The Legal Mediation Team participated in the 2005 National Mediation Tournament held at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

UTD finished third behind Boston College and Gonzaga. Three UTD students were selected as Intercollegiate All-American Mediators.

#### **3.2.4 Achievement Level:** Met

#### **3.2.5 Further Action:** Yes

### **3.3 Monitor the outreach activities:**

Monitoring of the outreach activities of Intellectual Competition Teams, particularly in the areas of chess, debate, and Destination Imagination.

#### **3.3.1 Success Criteria:**

Active participation on the part of student groups who plan community outreach as a part of their team functions.

#### **3.3.2 Related Objective(s):** To emphasize the role of intellectual endeavors

#### **3.3.3 Results Related To Success Criteria:** The Chess Program has been very active this year. They created a Scholastic Affiliates Program for visiting school children who are interested in chess.

This year 19 schools visited the chess program with an average attendance of 18 for a total of 342 children.

Chess held its second summer `Chess Camp` for school-aged children. Over 250 children attended the two-week camps.

Destination Imagination held two workshops for children and local team coaches that attracted over 300 participants from the community.

UTD also served as the site for the regional Destination Imagination Competition which drew over 500 partipants.

Team members also spent considerable time within our local region helping manage elementary and secondary teams.

In debate, UTD held its third intercollegiate tournament which included 73 teams from more than 25 schools around the nation.

Chris Burke, Director of Debate, was selected as a judge for the final round of the National Debate Tournament.

College Sports Television chose the UTD Debate Team to be featured in its documentary film of the National Debate Tournament.

#### **3.3.4 Achievement Level:** Met

#### **3.3.5 Further Action:** Yes

## **5. Closing the Loop:**

### **5.1 Monitor the students progress & set new goals:** This was a very successful year for intellectual scholarhsips.

The progress of these students is monitored on a semesterly basis by the Undergraduate Compliance Officer who evaluates student progress for both athletics and intellectual competitions. The annual report of each intellectual competition team is evaluated by the Dean of Undergraduate Education and new goals are set in conjunction with the

coaching staff of each team.

**5.1.1 Related Objective(s):** Attract highly capable UG students to UTD

**5.1.2 Related Measure(s):** Evaluation of Intellectual Competition Scholarship

**5.1.3 Responsible Person:** UG Dean

**5.1.4 Priority:** Low Priority

**5.2 Follow up students plan and their annual goals:** It was a very successful year for Intellectual Competitions.

Each coach submits a final report and holds an annual meeting with the Dean of Undergraduate Education to review the year's accomplishments and plan for the coming year. In addition, team meetings occur on a periodic basis in which the students plan and revise their annual goals.

**5.2.1 Related Objective(s):** Publicize the intellectual environment of UTD

**5.2.2 Related Measure(s):** Monitor participation rates

**5.2.3 Responsible Person:** Undergraduate Dean

**5.2.4 Target Date:** Summer 2006

**5.2.5 Priority:** Low Priority

**5.3 Host events:**

The teams meet each semester to refine their goals for community involvement and outreach. The annual report of each intellectual competition team is evaluated by the Dean of Undergraduate Education and new goals are set in conjunction with the coaching staff of each team. For 2006-2007 Destination Imagination will host the State of Texas Tournament which will draw about 7,000 participants to campus. The UTD Debate Team, along with Harvard University, will host the National Debate Tournament in Dallas in the spring of 2007.

**5.3.1 Related Objective(s):** To emphasize the role of intellectual endeavors

**5.3.2 Related Measure(s):** Monitor the outreach activities

**5.3.3 Responsible Person:** Undergraduate Dean

**5.3.4 Target Date:** 2006 Academic Year

**5.3.5 Priority:** Medium Priority

## 6. Analysis:

### 6.1 Program/Unit Strengths:

**6.1.1 Objectives/Outcomes Exceeded or Met:** The chess team just concluded a very successful year. Among the findings:

The team placed first in

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2. US Internet College Chess League
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They were named the South Central Regional Champions.

Senior debater Britt Clark was named to the All-American Debate Team.

Three UTD partnerships finished in the top 64 individual teams in the nation.

Destination Imagination fielded four teams this year.

Results include:

Four first place finishes in the state tournament.

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Finished first and second in the Global Finals Super Max Extreme event.

The Model United Nations Team again competed in the 2006 Nationals in Washinton DC.

They finished with three Outstanding Delegation Awards, three Outstanding Delegate Awards, and the Outstanding Position Paper Award. UTD won more awards than any other university in the competition.

The Legal Mediation Team participated in the 2005 National Mediation Tournament held at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

UTD finished third behind Boston College and Gonzaga. Three UTD students were selected as Intercollegiate All-American Mediators.

## 6.2 Program / Unit Weaknesses:

**6.2.1 Objectives / Outcomes Partially or Not Met:** This was a very successful year in academic competitions. We met or exceeded all of our goals. For the coming year, our primary concern will be attracting more staff assistance in support of the various legal intellectual competition teams.

## 7. Report:

### 7.1 Executive Summary:

The intellectual competition teams at UT Dallas finished one of their most successful years in history. The chess team, long a power house in collegiate chess, won several regional and national championships while finishing second in the major international competitions. They also enjoyed one of their best recruiting years.

Debate finished with their highest national ranking (15th) in their history. Several debaters won regional and national recognition for their performance. The team qualified for the national championship tournament for the third year in a row.

Destination Imagination teams completed more community service than ever before and won both the regional and state tournaments. They went on to record three first-place and one second-place finish at the World Finals.

The Model United Nations Team again competed in the 2006 Nationals in Washington DC. where they finished with three Outstanding Delegation Awards, three Outstanding Delegate Awards, and the Outstanding Position Paper Award. UTD won more awards than any other university in the competition.

The Legal Mediation Team participated in the 2005 National Mediation Tournament held at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. UTD finished third behind Boston College and Gonzaga. Three UTD students were selected as Intercollegiate All-American Mediators.

**7.2 Top 3 Program/Unit Accomplishments:** The chess team just concluded a very successful year. Among the findings:

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**7.3 Research Activities or Publications:** Does not apply.

**7.4 Instructional/Training Activities (presented or received):** Does not apply

**7.5 Public Service:**

Our primary community service came through chess camps which drew over 250 students to the campus over the summer of 2006.

A second activity was the Instant Challenge Workshop. The Destination Imagination teams held two such workshops this years with each of the weekends drawing about 200 elementary and secondary students from the community.

**7.6 Other External Activities:** There were only two international competitions our teams entered this year.

The Chess Team finished second in the International Pan-American Chess Championship

The Destination Imagination group finished with three first-place and one second-place trophy at the World Global Finals of Destination Imagination.

**7.7 Contributions to UTD:**

Once again, intellectual competitions brought attention and notoriety to the institution. The national championships in chess and Destination Imagination call attention to the character of students at UT Dallas and the importance of intellectual pursuits. The local contributions of Destination Imagination called attention to the role of students in the community and the local legal community took notice of our success in legal mediation, mock trial, and moot court. The pre-law group believes that this increased attention has resulted in more internship and practicum experiences within the legal profession in our community and the state.

**7.8 Top 3 Program / Unit Challenges:**

Our continual challenge is to secure adequate funding for the teams. The Student Fee Committee has agreed to take over more of the funding for Intellectual Competitions but their own budget constraints have limited its ability to fulfill that promise. The central administration has, so far, taken up the slack but we cannot expect that to continue. We also struggle to provide adequate staffing to travel with so many teams. We do not pay staff for their work with these teams and, many times, the requirement to be away from home for extended time and manage a group of young people in a strange city, is more than many staff are willing to endure.