

Media Release

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Towson University's Debate Team Places 2nd in National Tournament *Top Two Teams Advance to Dallas, Texas*

The Mass Communication and Communication Studies Department at Towson University is pleased to announce **Towson University's Debate team of Fernando Kirkman and Ben Crossan placed 2nd in the nation** at the **Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) National Debate Tournament** in Binghamton, N.Y. The Towson team lost to Kansas State on a 6-3 decision late in the evening on March 22, 2011. One hundred and thirty nine teams from 50 colleges nationwide competed in the tournament. Competitors speak at the rate of 400 to 500 words a minute to squeeze as many arguments as they can into set time frames. The emphasis is on logic and research, not presentation. In addition, out of 276 competitors, Towson University individual debaters received top speaker awards with all members contributing to the team's success.

The individual results are as follows:

Ben Crossan	6 th place
Ben Morgan	7 th place
Fernando Kirkman	13 th place
Ignacio Evans	23 rd place
Jasmine Owens	56 th place
Jean Michel Habineza	99 th place
Lucas Oliveira	143 rd place
Sofi Martinez	155 th place
Jessica Connor	170 th place
Joy Kacyira	183 rd place

Towson University's top two teams travel to Dallas for the exclusive National Debate Tournament (NDT) which is determined by national competition rankings during the regular season. The University of Texas at Dallas will host the **65th annual National Debate Tournament (NDT) March 24-28, 2011**, at the [Westin Park Central Hotel](#) in North Dallas and the UT Dallas campus in Richardson. Competition takes place Friday, March 25 through Monday, March 28. All rounds are open to the public.

Founded in 1971 as the Southwest Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) is the primary national association promoting policy topic intercollegiate academic debate.

In cooperation with the National Debate Tournament Committee and the American Debate Association, CEDA formulates the annual intercollegiate policy debate topic used in tournament competition throughout the nation. CEDA acts as a tournament sanctioning agent, providing through its Constitution and By-Laws a framework for normalizing tournament practices and procedures. Throughout the tournament season, CEDA calculates the National Sweepstakes Standings, the national and regional rankings of member institutions based on compiled tournament results. The association hosts an annual National Championship Tournament that brings together over 200 individual debate teams from across the nation to compete for a national team championship.