

## RMC HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL RIMROCK CLASSIC DEBATE TOURNAMENT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – The 5th Annual Rocky Mountain College Rimrock Classic Debate Tournament will be hosted on the RMC campus Friday, Feb. 5 and Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010. As many as 10 colleges from Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, South Dakota and Montana are expected to participate.

“We’re hoping to have about 120 participants from colleges in the region,” said Shelby Jo Long-Hammond, RMC assistant professor of communication and director of forensics.

“We will debate about regional issues, like the death penalty and euthanasia, and national issues, like campaign finance reform. We will use the tournament to raise awareness about the tragedy in Haiti,” Long-Hammond added.

Tournament costs were reduced so the Rocky team could make a donation to a Haiti relief fund, Long-Hammond said.

It is important to be aware of world events but to be an active participant for change,” she said.

The tournament will feature individual events (IE), parliamentary debate, and world style debate competition. There are 12 individual events that include dramatic reading of a play or poetry, to short preparation events, and/or memorized speaking. Those events are separate from the debate formats.

A new addition to the tournament is the British Parliamentary debate, which is a style that is used by universities all over the world. Four teams compete in a single round and ranked on their public persuasion and analysis of the issues.

“I am excited to introduce this style of debate to the region.” Long-Hammond said.  
“Collegiate debate expands far beyond Montana and even U.S. borders.”

The tournament will take place from 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. Feb. 5, and all day Feb. 6, with the final round in Losekamp Hall at 4:30 p.m.

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