

RMC HOSTS INVITATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT JAN. 23 & 24

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BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College will host an invitational debate tournament Friday, Jan. 23, and Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009, with colleges from Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Idaho attending.

“We’re excited to have not only Carroll College, University of Montana, and Casper College, but the Air Force Academy is also sending a team,” said Shelby Jo Long-Hammond, assistant professor of communications and coach of the RMC debate team.

Fresh from winning a debate tournament in Hawaii, the RMC debate team hopes to be “very competitive,” Long-Hammond added. As many as 10 teams and 100 students are expected to participate.

There will be six preliminary rounds, all dealing with current political issues. The preliminary rounds will take place in Fraley Lounge in the Bair Family Student Center, beginning from 1 – 8 p.m., and from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Saturday. The final rounds will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in Losekamp Hall. The public is welcome.

“A unique thing about the resolutions that we will debate have to do with Obama's Inauguration,” she explained. “There are many things that are happening that show the direction of his politics. Some topics could include halting all the prosecutions at the military tribunal in Guantanamo Bay. Another could be the torture issue. The new administration has stated that torture will not be in the future of the US interrogations. This is a complete reversal of the last administration’s practice.”

The RMC team humorously call themselves the “Babblin’ Bears,” but it was anything but babble when the RMC debate team won first place at a forensics tournament in Hawaii in October. Among other colleges participating at the Pan Pacific Debate Championship, hosted by Hawaii Pacific University were Loyola Marymount University, Portland State University, Reed University, California State University San Bernardino, Linfield College, University of Hawaii as well as Hawaii Pacific University.

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