

For Immediate Release
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Ferris debaters meet international debaters in demonstration

BIG RAPIDS – Fresh from their award-winning performance at the Pi Kappa Delta (PKD) forensic honorary national tournament in St. Louis, members of the Ferris State University Debate Team will face two international student debaters in a demonstration debate on April 7 at 7 p.m. in the Rankin Center Founders' Room.

Coached by Kristi Gerding, department of humanities/communication, four Ferris debaters received awards at the PKD national tournament. The novice team of Jennifer Lindensmith and Kyle Webster advanced to the final round and claimed second place in National Parliamentary Debate. The junior varsity team of Ross Saur and Rita Ellison moved to the quarter finals before being eliminated. For their team effort in preliminary rounds, the debaters earned an award of Excellence in NPDA debate for the tournament.

This is the first year Ferris has competed in parliamentary-style debate. This debate requires a team to analyze a resolution and prepare arguments from their general knowledge in a 15 minute period immediately before debating a team on the opposing side. Debaters prepare by doing extensive research in current events and discussing theories that support value positions on controversial issues at practice sessions.

The international debate tour is sponsored by the Council on International Debate and Discussion. Each year student debaters from several European countries are selected to visit host schools in the United States.

The two international debaters who will demonstrate parliamentary-style debate with the Ferris team are Mladen Petkov from Bulgaria and Dan Cristea from Romania. Petkov, 26, is a student in Bulgarian and English Language at Plovdiv State University. He will attend Sofia State University next year where he will major in Psychology. He is a debate coach in seminars organized by the National Debate Association in Bulgaria.

Cristea, 20, is a student at UBB University of Cluj Napoca in Transylvania where he majors in law and public relations. He has been a Romanian national debate champion twice and has earned honors at several European debate tournaments.

The demonstration debate will be followed by a question and answer period. More details or special assistance in attending is available from Gerding at 591-3505.