

# Marian University Speech Team

Speaking from the heart

Did you compete in speech and debate in high school? Did you love it? Is there still more you'd like to achieve? Want to be a part of a speech family again? The Marian University speech team is a growing forensics program with a reputation for excellence.

## Faith and Forensics

Marian University is one of a small number of Catholic universities with an active speech team. The team's approach to forensics emphasizes self-expression, community building, and horizon-broadening as paths to spiritual maturity among diverse religious traditions. Students often describe the close-knit team as a family. They practice together, travel across the Midwest together, and stand shoulder to shoulder to say a prayer together before each tournament.

We know that the heart of a champion competes for reasons more noble than collecting trophies. Our students speak from the heart about important issues of justice and peace. They perform literature that expresses their core values and have

fun! The coaches also value education over competition, teaching rhetorical strategies and connecting forensics to the real world.

## State Champions

Since its inception in 2007, the team has quickly earned a reputation for excellence. In 2010, the Marian University speech team placed first overall at the state tournament. The last two years, the team has qualified students for the National Forensic Association's Championship Tournament—the largest intercollegiate speech tournament in the world. Last year, the team placed 10th overall in a small-school division. Competing regularly against the top programs in the country, the Marian University team is committed to the highest levels of excellence.

## Scholarships

Students who attend Marian University and compete on the speech team are eligible for a Faith and Forensics Award, typically worth \$5,000 and renewable each year. The award requires strong potential for academic excellence and dedicated participation in



*"The greatest lesson I have learned is to use the art of communication to be a voice for those who have no one to speak for them. That's what I intend to do for the rest of my life."*

**Caitlin Johns '11, Communication Major, Senior Class President, Member of the Speech Team**



Marian University Speech Team

the activity. The award is called "Faith and Forensics" because we hope that competing on the team provides you with an opportunity to explore your own faith or core values by stretching your intellectual gifts and speaking skills. To apply for the scholarship online, visit [www.marian.edu/forensics](http://www.marian.edu/forensics). Candidates must also be admitted to the university and schedule an interview with Dr. LaMaster.

The university covers all costs associate with travel. A limited number of need-based "dress for success" stipends are also available for purchasing proper attire.

---

### What We Do

The speech team travels to approximately 12 tournaments each year, plus a week-long trip to the National Forensic Association's Individual Events Tournament in April. Students compete at tournaments in several of the 11 different individual events such as impromptu speaking, persuasive speaking, and dramatic interpretation. We also participate in a service project each semester, host a high school tournament, and plan social events for the team.

### Who Are the Team Members?

The speech team is a diverse group of students whose majors range from communication to nursing to theology. They are committed first and foremost to achieving academic excellence in the classroom. Outside of class and competition, team members' activities include intramural sports, community service, and student government. Like a sports team, we practice and travel together. Like a fraternity or sorority, we socialize together. Like a family, we value each other.

### Meet the Coaches

The Marian University speech team's coaching staff is truly distinguished. Both coaches hold doctoral degrees in communication, anchoring the forensics experience in intellectual vitality and educational purpose. Moreover, both coaches are former national champions in competition.



Dr. George LaMaster



Dr. Bryan McCann

Known to students as Dr. George, LaMaster directed the forensics program at Indiana University, Bloomington, before joining the Marian University faculty in 2004. He is a former national champion in persuasive speaking and a member of the National Forensics Association Hall of Fame.

A former national champion in impromptu speaking and another member of the National Forensics Association's Hall of Fame, McCann coached at two of the top five programs in the country before joining the Marian University team.

### Want to know more?

For more information on the speech team, contact Dr. George LaMaster, director of forensics, at [george@marian.edu](mailto:george@marian.edu) or 317.955.6215.

---

On the move and making history!

**MARIAN UNIVERSITY**

3200 Cold Spring Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46222-1997

[www.marian.edu](http://www.marian.edu)  
[admissions@marian.edu](mailto:admissions@marian.edu)  
317.955.6300 or 800.772.7264

Marian University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.



SEP 2010

Marian University does not discriminate in enrolling students on the basis of age, race, sexual orientation, creed, national or ethnic origin, or disability.