

Paul Quinn Scholars-in-Residence program boasts impressive list

District Attorney and noted pastor scheduled

In 2010, the new year will bring some exciting additions to Paul Quinn College, especially in the classroom. President Michael J. Sorrell Esq. has just announced an impressive list of professionals who will serve as Scholars-in-Residence at Dallas' only historically black college.

"We are thrilled that such distinguished members of the Dallas community will be in our classrooms this semester," said Mr. Sorrell. "As we continue to move towards becoming one of America's great small colleges, it is critical that our students hear from voices such as Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins, my pastor- Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III, Judge Jim Jordan and very popular Professor Steven Denson."

According to President Sorrell, the participants in the Scholars-in-Residence Program will each teach one course that will be open to

students seeking college credit, and also for anyone desiring to audit the class.

Steven B. Denson is an adjunct professor at SMU. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and East Central University, Steven was recently named "Diversity Champion" in the State of Texas by the Texas Diversity Council and he was appointed to a second term as a Trustee of the American Indian College Fund. He has served as Associate Director of Student and Employer Services at the Carnegie Mellon University, H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, in Pittsburgh, PA and was named Outstanding Faculty Member at SMU in 2000.

Jim Jordan is currently the Presiding Judge of the 160th Judicial District and serves as the Local Administrative District Judge for 39 Dallas County District Court Judges. In 1986, when he was only 34 years old, Jim was appointed Presiding Judge of the 44th District Court, Dallas County by Governor Mark White. He graduated from South Garland High School where he was



D.A. Craig Watkins

active in the marching band and went on to college, graduating from Austin College before pursuing his law degree at Texas Tech University.

Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III is the Senior Pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church, a position he has held since 1983, growing the membership from about 500 members to over 12,000 members. A native of San Francisco, California, Dr. Haynes graduated from Bishop College with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and English. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist



Dr. Frederick Haynes III

Theological Seminary and received Honorary Doctorates of Divinity from Paul Quinn College and Texas College. In 2005, he earned a Doctor of Ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation.

In 2006, Craig Watkins became the first African American District Attorney in the State of Texas. In his brief tenure he has already assisted with the exonerations of over 20 wrongfully convicted men through his partnership with the Innocence Project of Texas. A graduate of Prairie View A&M University, he received a jurist doctorate degree from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

Most recently Mr. Watkins was named one of THE EBONY POWER 150 by Ebony Magazine and he has been invited to the White House as a special guest of President Barack Obama.

Pre-registration for the Spring Semester began

December 14 and will continue through December 21, 2009. Registration will resume on January 4, 2010. Paul Quinn is located at 3837 Simpson Stuart Road in Dallas.

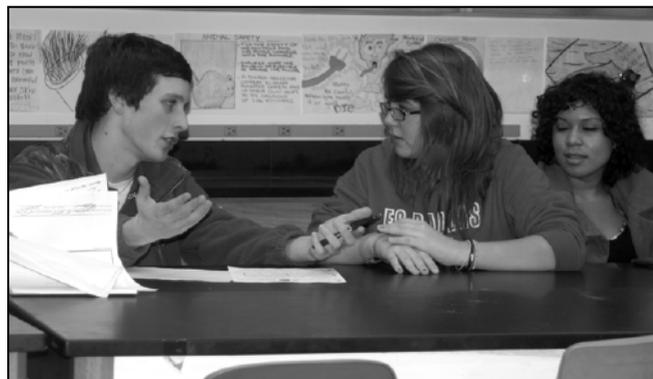
For registration information, call 214-376-1000.

DISD students compete in Urban Debate League

By Antoinette Nevils
Contributing Writer

From literacy, critical thinking, to research, debate enhances skills that can take students to new heights and to new places, including to prestigious colleges. This is why the Dallas Urban Debate League serves about 300 students in helping them excel and succeed in debate programs and tournaments. On December 11 and 12, the debate league held a tournament at Skyline High School, where students put their skills to the test in front of their peers and supporters.

The program has been a part of Dallas ISD for three years in 15 schools, with an average of 80 to 95 students per tournament. DUDL is under the national Urban Debate League serving 24 other major cities in the nation. Kason Kimberley, executive director of the Dallas Urban Debate League, said the goal of the league is to bring debate from the 1960s back to high schools. He said debate is an educational tool that can advance test scores, improve school attendance, and



Luke Strother (left) says about debating: "It's like a cool puzzle; you can arrange the pieces the way you want it to be."

increase engagement and literacy. During the debates, students cover issues such as racism, poverty, health issues, conflicts concerning the right to know, and other topics. Students discuss the pros and cons of issues by spewing facts, research data and dates.

The league is sponsored by business and legal organizations in Dallas. Lawyers from sponsoring firms come to tournaments to judge, distribute awards, and interact with students. Kimberley said this is great way to connect the legal and business community to schools. He said this shows students that there is "actual concrete" to their possibilities and goals.

"It's a model of success," Kimberley said. "It's a good introduction to their future."

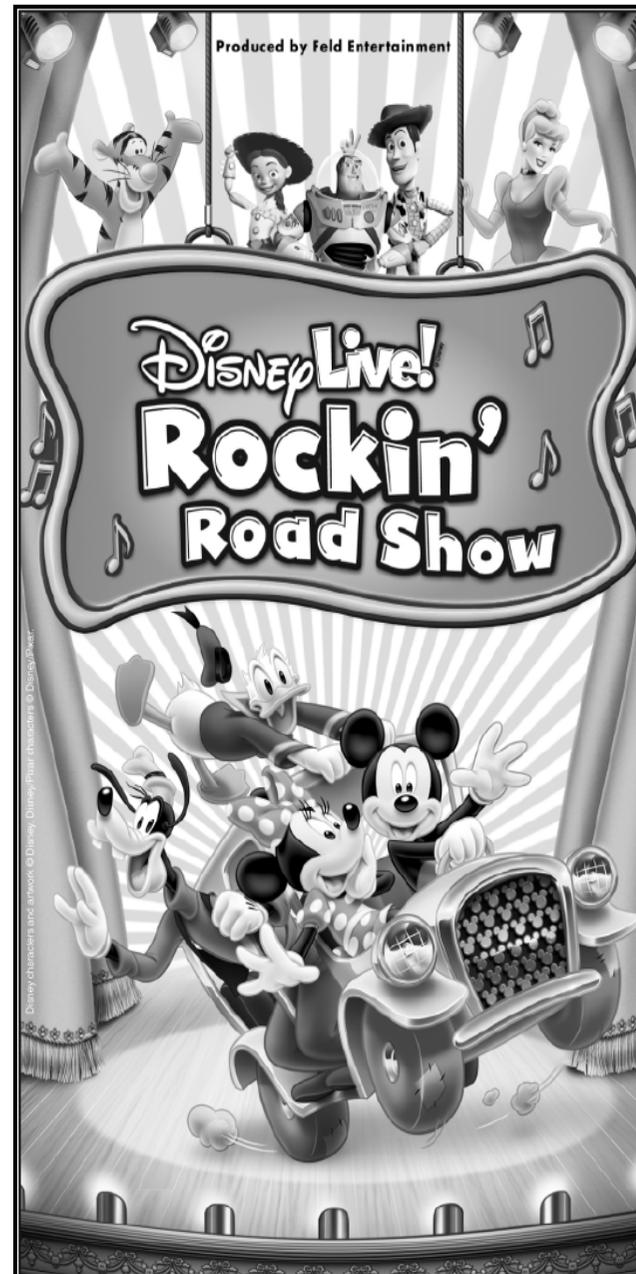
One of the sponsors in attendance at the Skyline tournament was Tobias Smith from the Strasburger law firm. Smith said the program gives his firm an opportunity to get involved, and allows him to have a direct, positive impact on students. He said the league gives students an opportunity to excel at something, and was honored to see students' skills put to use in a competitive, tangible way.

Adamson, Sunset, Skyline, and James Madison high schools are just some of the schools involved with the debate league. These

programs open up doors to scholarships to those who win tournaments and are involved in the league. A sophomore student debater in the tournament, Luke Strother, said he has friends in the league that received scholarships to colleges such as Southern Methodist University (SMU). Strother is a first year debater on the novice team, who enjoys debating because it is fun and is a great extracurricular activity. He said almost anyone can play sports, but to be in debate requires fast thinking, wits, and competitiveness.

"Debating is like a cool puzzle," Strother said. "You can arrange the pieces the way you want it to be."

Another sophomore student debater, Arturo Perez, said he joined the debate league because he enjoys arguing and was inspired by one of his teachers to join. He said his teacher told him the benefits of debate outweigh joining sports, and that it will look good on his resume to colleges. Perez said he also enjoys learning more about current events and political issues.



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