

Subject: EM: Join the Debate Union

Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 at 4:05:02 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Inform

From: Meany, John

JOIN THE 5-C DEBATE UNION!

The **Claremont Colleges Debate Union (CCDU)**, a 5-C co-curricular organization centered at **CMC**, is among the largest and most successful college debate societies in the world. The Debate Union offers 3 major programs – intercollegiate debate competition, professional communication training and events, and educational and debate outreach. Students may participate in any or all of them. All programming is national and international. No prior experience is required (about half of CCDU members had no previous speech or debate training).

Intercollegiate debate competition

The CCDU attends about 30+ tournaments annually, including British Parliamentary/WUDC and Social Justice formats. Debaters have finished first or second 12x at the national championship, won a dozen top team and speaker awards among scores of awards at national invitational events in 2024-25, and recently traveled to Oxford, Morehouse, McGill, Cambridge, Cornell, Middlebury, Seattle, Yale, Panama, Miami, British Columbia, USC, Colgate, Vanderbilt, Dartmouth, and Berkeley to compete against the world's best.

Professional communication events

The Debate Union sponsors lectures, roundtable discussions, town hall meetings, broadcast productions, advocacy training seminars, international student/faculty exchanges, and poetry slams. For example, the Debate Union has sponsored a series of Presidential DebateWatches for more than 20 years, hosted the first poetry slam in the former Yugoslavia, and is organizing a *Conference on Nuclear Policy* in Spring 2026.

Educational and debate outreach

Each year, the CCDU sponsors secondary school debate, public speaking, argumentation, and civic engagement programming for many tens of thousands of students and teachers in 46 countries. In the past year, the Debate Union initiated and expanded programming in Uganda, South Africa, Ethiopia, and the US.

For More Info and to Join, Attend Any One of the Following:

ORIENTATION/INFO SESSION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Friday, August 29, 3:00-3:30 PM, Bauer 22, CMC

Tuesday, September 2, 8:00-8:30 PM, Bauer Forum, CMC

Tuesday, September 9, 8:00-8:30 PM, Bauer Forum, CMC

Questions? Unable to attend one of the sessions?

CONTACT John Meany, Director of Forensics, CMC, john.meany@cmc.edu