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Novice Debate Team Earns Quarterfinal Spot
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The new USF St. Petersburg Academic Speech and Debate Team sent four members to Georgia State University the weekend of Sept. 20-21 where they earned an eighth-place win at their first collegiate tournament.

First-year students David Trigaux and Erik Brazil won their first three rounds, including a triumph over a debate team from Emory University. Trigaux and Braxil ended the tournament with a 3-3 record, a strong showing for a first-time competition.

Matt O’Brien and Shannon Love, both juniors, ended with the same record, but broke into the final rounds based on speaker points. O’Brien and Love reached the quarterfinals where they lost to Liberty University. O’Brien clinched the success of USF St. Petersburg by earning a fifth-place speaker award in a field of 48.

More than 30 schools competed at the Georgia State University Invitational. The squad will continue to participate in tournaments during the coming year with plans to compete at Emory University, Vanderbilt University, University of Miami, Appalachian State University, University of West Georgia and University of Maryland. The newly formed debate teams has more than 15 members.

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