

No. R-502. Joint resolution honoring the competitive accomplishments and international educational outreach of the University of Vermont's Lawrence Debate Union.

(J.R.S.64)

By Senator Campbell,

Whereas, debate is a defining characteristic of Vermont at the dinner table, in the classroom, during a traditional town meeting, and in the legislative chambers of the state house in Montpelier, and

Whereas, for over a century, University of Vermont (UVM) students have mastered the fine art of debate through participation in the Lawrence Debate Union (LDU), which ardent student debater Edwin W. Lawrence founded in 1899 and then helped to establish an endowment to perpetuate this most civilized form of verbal fisticuffs for future generations of UVM Catamounts to enjoy, and

Whereas, the LDU has distinguished itself among collegiate debate programs by earning an astounding International Debate Education Association global ranking of seven, immediately behind Oxford and Cambridge Universities in Great Britain and surpassing Harvard and Stanford, and

Whereas, this highly commendable evaluation resulted from LDU members winning debates across the globe against top competitors, and

Whereas, at the 2012 U.S. Universities Debating championship held in Oregon, three UVM debaters—Paul Gross (sixth), Jessica Bullock (seventh),

and Drew Adamczyk (ninth)—were ranked among the top ten debaters in the United States, and no other competing school matched this feat, and

Whereas, at this same event, the UVM debating duo of John Sadek and Jessica Bullock reached the semifinal round of the national championship, and

Whereas, the members of the LDU are goodwill ambassadors for both UVM and our nation as they have conducted debating workshops since 1999 throughout the United States, in rural areas and inner cities, and abroad in Bangladesh, Chile, China, Estonia, Finland, Japan, Greece, Iraq, Latvia, Malaysia, Montenegro, Qatar, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela, proving that debaters are skilled diplomats, and

Whereas, the LDU is fortunate to have Professor Alfred Snider, affectionately known as Tuna, as its director, and outstanding faculty coaches David Register and Mary Nugent lend their expertise to the training of these truly talented and dedicated debaters, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the competitive accomplishments and international educational outreach of the University of Vermont's Lawrence Debate Union, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Professor Alfred Snider at the University of Vermont.