2008

Official Debate '08 Booklet

Belmont University

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The 2008 Presidential Debates

COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES
The Second Presidential Debate

John McCain
Barack Obama

Belmont University
Nashville, Tennessee
October 7, 2008

Sponsored by
The Commission on Presidential Debates
The Commission on Presidential Debates

The Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) was established in 1987 to ensure that debates, as a permanent part of every general election, provide the best possible information to viewers and listeners. Its primary purpose is to sponsor and produce debates for the United States presidential and vice presidential candidates and to undertake research and educational activities relating to the debates. The organization, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) corporation, sponsored all the presidential debates in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004.

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- Tom Brokaw
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- Craig Wisniewsky
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Belmont University

From here to anywhere...

“From here to anywhere” is more than a motto at Belmont University—it’s an attitude of endless potential that’s emphasized to students from their first moments on campus. With alumni crafting speeches in the White House, writing travel guides in Southeast Asia and performing for millions around the world—not to mention current students serving and studying everywhere from Cambodia and Australia to Africa and Ireland—it’s also a statement that consistently rings true.

History

Belmont University occupies 75 historic acres two miles southwest of downtown Nashville, Tenn., a thriving metropolis known worldwide as Music City USA. In the mid-1800s, the land the university now inhabits was known as the Belle Monte estate, the home of one of the country’s wealthiest women, Adelicia Acklen. In 1890, the first of a succession of educational institutions was established on the grounds, culminating in the creation of Belmont College in 1951. Since becoming Belmont University in 1991, Belmont has grown in both size and quality. The mansion, gardens and statues of Belmont’s historic past now sit side-by-side with state-of-the-art facilities equipped with the best technology and teachers to prepare today’s students for real world success.

Growth and Academic Excellence

A fast-growing community of 5,000 students, Belmont seeks to be a leader among teaching universities, bringing together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service. With more than 75 areas of study, 12 master’s programs and three doctoral degrees, there is no limit to the ways Belmont can expand an individual’s horizon.

In the past eight years, enrollment has increased by more than 60 percent with students hailing from almost every state and more than 25 countries. As the campus population steadily rises, so too does the quality and diversity of each new class. Freshmen entering Belmont last year scored an average of 26 on the ACT and one-third ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, including 30 valedictorians and 12 salutatorians.

Belmont’s mission is to provide an academically challenging education that empowers these men and women to engage and transform the world. Recent accolades indicate that mission is being accomplished with rankings in the top 10 of US News and World Report’s Best Master’s Universities in the South. Numbers, however, can’t fully convey the committed intentions of every member of Belmont’s faculty and staff: to help students explore their passions and develop their talents to meet the world’s needs.

Notable Alumni

Located in the heart of Music City USA, many Belmont success stories come from its world-renowned music and music business programs, though those certainly don’t represent the university’s only claims to fame. Here are just a few of Belmont’s notable alumni:

- John H. (Jack) Williams, vice chairman of the board and former CEO of Stein Mart, Inc.
- Grammy winner Gordon Kennedy (1996 Song of the Year, 2006 Best Pop Instrumental Album)
- Gospel artists Steven Curtis Chapman and Ginny Owens
- Composer Carlos Colon-Quintana
- National Book Award finalist Harvey Hix
- White House speechwriter Troy Senik
- Andrew DeVoe, CEO and President, Apollo Health Street (AHS) Group
- Gospel artists Steven Curtis Chapman and Ginny Owens
- Composer Carlos Colon-Quintana
- Grammy winner Gordon Kennedy (1996 Song of the Year, 2006 Best Pop Instrumental Album)
- Jim Adkins, Vice President of Engineering, PCP Corporation
- Damon Hininger, President and COO, Corrections Corporation of America

Debate08

Belmont has planned a variety of speaker series, visual and performing arts programs, and special activities for the 2008-09 academic year, providing numerous opportunities for students and the community at large to benefit from the 2008 Town Hall Presidential Debate. The Debate08 lead sponsors deserve tremendous credit for making the debate and programming plans possible, and the University is grateful for their significant commitment and generosity. Their contributions ensure that Debate08 will be an extraordinary experience for Belmont, Nashville and the state of Tennessee.

Hospital Corporation of America
Jack C. Massey Foundation
The State of Tennessee
The Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County

HCA

For more information, visit www.belmontdebate08.com and www.belmont.edu.
2008 Educational Projects

Internet: In 2007, the CPD started working with BBH New York to design a web-based initiative that would engage more citizens in watching and learning from the debates. The result of the collaboration is MyDebates.org, a website operated by MySpace, one of the CPD’s voter education partners. At MyDebates, users can make scorecards of issues important to them and track these issues throughout the debates using videotapes and transcripts in both real time and archival fashion.

Debate sponsorship: Hundreds of civic groups, schools and media organizations across the country sponsor the congressional, gubernatorial, mayoral and city council debates that occur on a regular basis. The CPD consults with these debate sponsors on production, format and logistical issues, and works with educators to integrate debates into curriculum materials.

International: Citizens around the world watch the U.S. presidential debates live – many believe that debates are integral to the democratic process. Groups in dozens of other countries have approached the CPD to ask how to establish their own debates. For many years, the CPD has teamed with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) to provide technical assistance to emerging democracies and others, using meetings in Washington, video conference calls abroad, or small teams of experts who travel on-site to help inaugurate debates. Recently, the CPD and NDI have worked with representatives from Argentina, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Poland and Zimbabwe.
The Commission on Presidential Debates

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