**Dr. Michael Hester**  
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**Debate Coaching Highlights**

As Director of Debate, coached:

* the Cross Examination Debate Association National Champions (CEDA) in 2000 and 2001 (as well CEDA Nationals runner-up in 1999 and 2013)
* teams to the elimination rounds of the National Debate Tournament (NDT) in 18 of 23 years, including semifinalists (2002), quarterfinalists (1998, 2001, 2008, and 2013), and octafinalists (1996, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2009, and 2010)
* First-Round At Large bids (top 16) to the NDT in 13 of 24 years

First intercollegiate policy debate coach of:

* an all-female national championship team (CEDA 2000)
* an African-American national champion (CEDA 2001)
* an all-African American national champion team in the American Debate Association (2015)

Recognized as:

* George Ziegelmueller Award for Outstanding Career Achievement in Intercollegiate Debate, March 2017
* Ross K. Smith National Coach of the Year, November 2017

**Academic Achievement**

Ph.D., Communications, 2005

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Dissertation: *America's #1 Fan: A rhetorical analysis of presidential sports encomia and the symbolic power of sports in the articulation of civil religion in the United States*

M.A. Rhetoric, 1995

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Thesis: *Wu-Wei Rhetoric: A Comparative Study of Invitational Rhetoric and Taoist Communication*

B.S. Political Science, 1993

West Georgia College, Carrollton, GA

summa cum laude

**Teaching Appointments**

Domestic

Lecturer, August 2017-present

Department of Mass Communications

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

Senior Faculty, Summer term 2010

Cal-Berkeley Debate Institute

University of California-Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Senior Faculty, Summer term 2009

Gonzaga Debate Institute

Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA

Senior Faculty, Summer term 1996-1999

Michigan Classic Summer Debate Institute

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Senior Faculty, Summer term 1994

Arizona Debate Institute

Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

International

Senior Faculty, December 2018

JADE Academy, Jamaican Association for Debating & Empowerment

University of Technology, Kingston, Jamaica

Senior Faculty, May 2019

East African Regional Championships & Workshop

iDebate Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda

Senior Faculty, July 2019

National Speech & Debate Association camp

Hangzhou, China

**Administrative Experience**

Director of UWG Debate, September 1995-present

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

Special Assistant to the Senior Diversity Officer, August 2017 – present

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

Executive Director of Special Programs\*, July 2015 – July 2017

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

\*- “Special Programs” were the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Advanced Academy of Georgia

Dean, Honors College & Trans-disciplinary Programs\*, July 2012 – June 2015

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

\*- “Trans-disciplinary Programs included International Services & Programs, the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Advanced Academy of Georgia

Associate Dean, Honors College & Extended Degree Programs, July 2006 – June 2011

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

Interim Director, Advanced Academy of Georgia, November 2009 – June 2011

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

Assistant Dean, Honors College & Special Programs, July 2001 – June 2006

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA

**Courses Taught**

COMM 1110 Public Speaking

COMM 1110 25H Honors Public Speaking

COMM 1115 Debate Practicum

COMM 3310 Persuasion

COMM 3330 Advanced Communication (taught as Business Communication)

ENGL 4385 Environmental Rhetoric

POLS 4985 Race & the 2012 Presidential Election

XIDS 2002\* WDYKA the Honors College

XIDS 2002\* WDYKA Multicultural Achievement

XIDS 2300\* Rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement

XIDS 2300\* Black Man in the White House: The Obama Presidency

XIDS 2300\* Diasporic Dialogues: Cross-cultural exploration of the Africana educational experience in the Western Hemisphere

(\*- these are courses I created at UWG, developing the curriculum and shepherding their

proposal through the course proposal process)

**Research Interests**

Argumentation

Civil Religion and National Identity

Critical Race Studies

Diversity in Higher Education

Political Communication

Presidential and Sports Rhetoric

**Scholarly Productions**

Publications

“Deans and Diversity: how upper administration can promote diversity and inclusion in faculty hiring, retention, and promotion,” in Helping Faculty of Color, 2016 (Blue Ridge Summit, PA: Rowman & Littlefield)

“Constructing Alumni Networks,” in Navigating Opportunity: Policy Debate in the 21st Century, 2010 (New York: IDEBATE Press)

“Developing Negative Fiat Theory,” in Debater’s Research Guide, 1996 (Winston Salem, NC: Wake Forest University Press)

Presentations

“What Can White Do For You? Strategies for Identifying and Mobilizing Majority Support for Diversity and Inclusion Efforts on Your Campus,” National Conference on Race & Ethnicity, New Orleans, May 2018.

“Conducting town hall events in response to controversies related to diversity and inclusion,” USG Diversity and Inclusion Summit, October 2016.

“The Thrill of the Climb and the Agony of the Fall or Competitive Co-Curricular Activities and Retention of Underperforming and at-Risk Students: The Case of Debate,” National Collegiate Honors Council, 2014 conference

“Mutually Preferred Judging” (roundtable discussion), National Communication Association, 2013 conference

“Honors & Policy Debate: creating a new culture” (roundtable discussion), National Collegiate Honors Council, 2013 conference

“Nature’s Footprint: the environmental symbolism of the search for Sasquatch,” Western States Communication Association, 2011 conference

“One Struggle, One Fight: The Free Trade Area of the Americas Protests in 2003 Miami,” National Communication Association, 2005 conference

“Winning the War on Terrorism One Championship at a Time: Presidential Sports Encomia following 9/11,” National Communication Association, 2005 conference

“Reagan’s Presidential Sports Encomia: Responding to the ‘Foot Race’ Metaphor,” North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, 2004 conference

“Presidential Sports Encomium: America’s #1 Fan and the Politico-Sports Spectacle,” National Communication Association, 2003 conference

"Ambivalent Empire: Clinton's Kigali Address and the Development of International Apologia,” Southern States Communication Association, 2003 conference, \*Awarded Top Student Paper, Public Address Division\*

“Successful Communicative Strategies for Faculty Training Sessions,” Distance Learning Administration, 2002 conference

“Debate Program Decision-Making and the Topic Area Selection: Student Influence on Topic Voting,” National Communication Association, 2000 conference

“Intrinsic Value: The Evolution of Permutation as a Response to Counterplan Development,” National Communication Association, 2000 conference

**Campus leadership experience**

Presidential Committee on Campus Inclusion, 2014-present

President’s Advisory Committee, 2004-2017

President’s Innovation Squad Committee, 2014-2017

University Strategic Planning Committee, 2012-2014

Provost Search Committee (twice), 2011-12, 2013-14

Founder, Association of Black Faculty and Association of Black Staff, 2014

UWG representative at USG Diversity Summit, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016

Creator, Office for Undergraduate Research, 2010

Chair, Mascot Committee, 2003-2005 (charged with recommending whether UWG should change its “Braves” mascot/emblem)

Faculty Senate parliamentarian, 1999-2001, 2008-2017

**Additional Campus Service**

MLK Program Committee, 2015 – present

General Scholarship Committee, 2012 - present

Honors College Committee, 2002-2015

Commencement Speaker Committee, 2010-2014

Academic Advisement Committee, 2004-2010

Retention/Recruitment Committee, 2004-2010

**Professional leadership experience**

Chair, Cross Examination Debate Association National Topic Committee, 2016 – present

Chair, District VI of the National Debate Tournament, 2009 – 2018

**Other Distinctions/Awards**

Advisor of the Year, presented by The Black Project, UWG, 2017, 2018

Honors College Professor of the Year 2006, 2009, 2015 (only 3-time winner)

District VI Debate Coach of the Year, 2003 (youngest recipient)

Southern States Communication Association Student Paper of the Year, Public Address Division, 2003 (for research as a PhD student at Georgia State University)

Cross Examination Debate Association National Championship Coach, 2000, 2001

Georgia Board of Regents Special Recognition, 2000

Distinguished Service Award, State University of West Georgia, 1998 (youngest recipient)

Graduated with highest honors, 1993 (West Georgia College, BS), 1995 (University of Georgia, MA), 2005 (Georgia State University, PhD)

**Campus Service for students**

Faculty Advisor, Love Travels, 2018-present

Faculty Advisor, Models and Business, 2018-present

Faculty Advisor, College Girls Rock, 2016-2018

Faculty Advisor, Zeta Phi Beta sorority, 2016-2018

Faculty Advisor, Phi Mu sorority, 1997-2015

Advisor for National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 2011-2013

College Student Inventory advisor, 2005

Model UN advisor, 1997, 1999-2001, 2013-2014

Host of “West Georgia Roundtable,” UTV public/campus affairs show, 1996-1998

College Bowl advisor, 1996-1997

Organizer and Moderator for Campus Presidential Debates (College Democrats/Republicans), 2000, 2004, 2008

**Accomplishments of Mentored Students**

* While overseeing the Honors College student research efforts, UWG recognized as having the largest number of accepted research presentations of any college or university at the National Collegiate Honors Council annual conference six of seven years, 2001-2003, 2005-2007
* As chief advisor for students applying for national scholarships, UWG students received the Barry Goldwater Scholarship for Math, Science, and Engineering three of six years, 2003-2009

**Grants/Endowments** (led the effort to establish/acquire these)

$130,000 grant for MDRC-AAMI program assessment

$50,000 debate scholarship endowment from Cary Ichter, UWG alumnus

$25,000 grant from Lumina Fund for Racial Justice & Equity

$20,000 endowment from Thomson-Hines law firm to run the UWG college tournament, 2009; and the Ichter-Thomas law firm, 2012.

$4000 annually from the Richard B. Russell Foundation as the Director of the Russell All-State Debate championships (for high schools), 1995-2009

**Community Service**

Faculty, Live-To-Learn summer enhancement program for middle and high school females, 2007.

NAACP, Carroll County branch, Unity Through Diversity Committee, 2007

Moderator of Town Hall Meetings concerning Wolf Creek Development project, 2005

Faculty, Young Scholars Institute, summer enhancement program for high school students, 2004

Analyst for Atlanta Journal Constitution coverage of Presidential Debates, 2004

Moderator, House of Representatives District Seven candidate debates, 1998, 2000