

As Gallaudet's Academic Bowl Celebrates 10 Years, We Salute Students, Coaches, and Organizers

In 10 years, the Academic Bowl sponsored by Gallaudet University has grown from 12 to 80 teams competing in five regions, with the first and second place teams in each region traveling to Gallaudet to compete against each other in the national competition. In this issue of *Odyssey*, we celebrate the accomplishments of the Academic Bowl, provide a sense of what is involved, and describe strategies that teams can use to prepare for competitions.



Debra Lawson, from Washington, D.C., director of the Academic Bowl since 2001, outlines its purpose and procedures. **Jon Levy**, from California, notes how his school's

involvement has made students feel "it's cool to be smart." **Sarah Dike**, from Wyoming, describes how mainstream students benefit from meeting deaf students and adults from around the region and the many "firsts" that these students experience. **Tyler DeShaw**, a former Academic Bowl participant from Washington who is currently enrolled at Gallaudet, emphasizes the new world that opened up to him through the Academic Bowl competition. **Kitty Love**, from Mississippi, explains how her team learned to analyze and apply results from previous competitions.

Several articles describe strategies for preparing for Academic Bowls. For example, **Charon Feild Aurand**, from Florida, describes collaboration with a local agency to provide coaches and other support while **Kristi Mortensen**, from Utah, shows how students scattered across a state can team up. Fundraising and budgeting strategies are described by **Julie Ekstedt**, from Washington, and **Jim Kelly II**, from Montana, recommends practicing with the technology that is used in actual competitions.

The Academic Bowl is not just about the competition or bringing home trophies and awards. Students learn to cooperate, solve problems, strategize, and set goals. They learn how to win and how to lose with grace.

We salute all of the students over the last 10 years who have participated in Academic Bowl competitions, their coaches, their families, and the fans from their schools. We also appreciate the work of the Gallaudet University Regional Centers that coordinate the regional competitions, and the staff members from Gallaudet who orchestrate the competitions. The excellent teamwork from all of these individuals has made a lasting impact on all those who are touched by the Academic Bowls.

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On the cover: Looking back and moving forward. The National Academic Bowl celebrates its 10th year. Idea from Michael Walton; Photography by John T. Consoli.



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