Nov. 8, 2013

Sac State Debate Team invited to Reagan Library event

Two members of Sacramento State’s Debate Team – senior Rebecca McDonnell and sophomore Brandon Garcia – have been invited to represent the University on Friday, Nov. 8, in debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum’s Presidential Learning Center in Simi Valley.

This is the second in a series of debates about presidential war powers (http://bit.ly/19Tp4Ny) and will focus on “Presidential Authority for Targeted Killings.” McDonnell and Garcia will join teams from five other universities – Arizona State, CSU Fullerton, Pepperdine, Stanford and the University of Southern California.

The Debate Team is housed in the Communication Studies Department. Team members are enrolled in the Debate Research Practicum, which is researching and debating presidential war powers this semester.

McDonnell is a Criminal Justice major in her third year on the Debate Team. Garcia is in his second year on the team and has a double major in Government and Communication Studies.

“I am very honored that our team has been invited to be part of this prestigious event,” says Sac State Director of Debate Kristen Tudor.

The War Powers Debates series features focused public debate and discussion on the authority of the president to authorize and engage in a range of military actions.

The debate at the Reagan Library centers on the presidential war power authority to authorize targeted killings. Examples of targeted killings include drone strikes, assassinations and so-called signature strikes. Controversies surrounding presidential war powers have become more frequent since The Miller Center’s National War Powers Commission released its recommendations in 2007.

The debates are sponsored by CEDA, an organization that helps govern collegiate academic debate; and The Miller Center, a nonpartisan affiliate of the University of Virginia that specializes in presidential scholarship, public policy and political history.
The event will be moderated Dr. G. Thomas Goodnight, professor and director of doctoral studies in the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California.

For more information on Sacramento State’s debate program, you may call Kristen Tudor at (916) 278-5489. For media assistance, call the University’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Craig Koscho

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