

# BU Instructor Travels to the Dominican Republic to Teach Debate



November 6, 2019 10:33 pm Melanie Gulbas

NEWS



Courtesy: Joe Schatz



BU instructor traveled to the Dominican Republic to teach debate

BINGHAMTON (WBNG) — A Binghamton University instructor and director of speech and debate, recently traveled to the Dominican Republic to teach middle and high schoolers about debate and rhetoric.

After Schatz was invited to teach by the Ashton School, he jumped at the opportunity to take his teaching beyond our community.

He has been teaching debate skills for nearly 20 years and now, he is spreading his knowledge far beyond the Southern Tier.

On Wednesday, he said the students enjoyed the workshop and were able to practice debating before they arrive to the United States, to compete in competitions.

“They really loved the activities,” Schatz said. “They loved learning about debate and loved learning about the topic.”

Schatz said he enjoyed teaching students outside of BU.

“It was a great way to sort of get involved and learn what debate can do cross-culturally, in terms of fostering and understanding and spreading educational

practices,” Schatz said.

Returning to the United States, Schatz is now teaching those same skills to elementary schoolers in our area.

“It helps students from their own arguments and beliefs, but do it through a well-researched process,” Schatz said.

He said proper debate is an important skill for not only the classroom, but in life. He said these skills can better help students advocate for themselves.

“Students who start off really shy, but then when given the opportunity to speak, really like all of those ideas that they had in their head, start coming out and sort of gives them the confidence to speak outside of the debate rounds as well,” he said.

He said he hopes the program will only continue to expand.

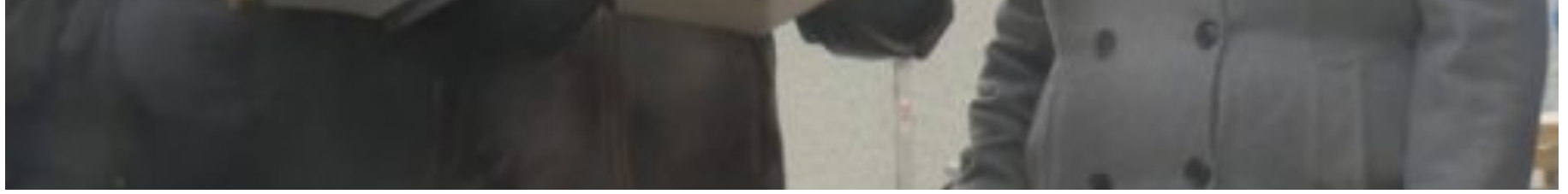
“Our hope is to grow debate beyond the university, but the community and establishes community connections internationally as well, so that way, we are able to have better ways of communicating in politically tense times,” Schatz said.



Melanie Gulbas

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