Hofstra is Chosen as Alternate Location to Host the Debate

Although Wright University in Dayton, Ohio was chosen to hold the first presidential debate of 2016, they later announced they were withdrawing as host, citing cost and security concerns.

The Commission on Presidential Debates, the nonpartisan organization that produces the event, informed Hofstra University in July that it was being tapped for the first debate, as we had agreed in 2005 to be the alternate location.

President Rabinowitz- “This is an extraordinary privilege and responsibility. We greatly appreciate the faith shown in us by the Commission on Presidential Debates, and we have begun preparations for a successful debate.”
Hofstra became the first school to host presidential debates in **three** consecutive presidential election cycles. Despite schools usually having a full year to prepare, Hofstra had less than 3 months. This announcement set in motion a remarkable two-month period of mobilization of people and resources, the results of which provided Hofstra University students with a large variety of extraordinary learning experiences.

“Our staff here have spent the last two months, day and night, preparing,” President Rabinowitz told 1010 WINS’ Glenn Schuck. “Usually, you have a year’s notice that you are going to host a debate — we had two months’ notice. But we’re ready. If the candidates are ready, we’re ready.”
Many of the materials generated as a result of the tremendous efforts of the Hofstra community and its supporters, are housed in the Hofstra University Special Collections Department's Debate ‘16 Collection.
The Debate 2016 Collection features items such as brochures, flyers, posters, banners, photographs and print material that chronicle many of the Debate 2016 series events. In addition, this collection contains debate memorabilia such as bags, shirts, silverware, figurines, stationery and campaign signage, specifically designed to mark this unique moment in American presidential politics. Preparatory events held by the University in anticipation of this occasion, the debate, and post-election news were captured in both online and print media form, and are part of the collection.
HOFSTRA ROCKS THE DEBATE!
2016

SATURDAY - 09/24
HOFSTRA USA THEATER - 1 PM
LIVE MUSIC - FREE FOOD
+ STUDENT SPEAKERS ADDRESSING CURRENT ISSUES
The Commission on Presidential Debates

Social Media and Technology Initiatives

Facebook will be on site at the presidential debates. Participants can agree to be able to see Facebook Live event of the event. People on Facebook for the U.S. can watch the debates on Facebook by search engines and participate with their reactions. Facebook.com will be covering each debate live via a “Live Stream.” These Live Stories will allow users on Facebook to experience the debates from the many different perspectives of students from the debate host universities, volunteers, media and many others. These compilations of Snap are designed to encourage the conversation long after each debate is over. (snapchat.com)

PBS NewsHour together with technology partner Microsoft has created an interactive, civic education site that allows users to access every general election debate since 1960, stream entire debates or debate highlights and track how candidates have addressed specific issues in the debates over the years. Users can react to the debates and through a unique interactive experience. (WatchTheDebates.org)

Voter Engagement Projects and Outreach

AARP is hosting expert panel discussions on all four host sites and through their “Take a Stand” initiative, is encouraging volunteers across the nation to discuss Social Security with the candidates through social media, television and radio. (202.626.2266)

C-SPAN’s Campaign 2016 Bus will visit schools, campaigns and universities across the country to engage students, educators and the community through an on-board multimedia technology. C-SPAN will also be gathering visitor’s responses to this year’s election to share via social media as part of “Voices from the Road.” (cspan.org)

Dominican University of California is leading #CollegeDebate16, a non-partisan initiative to empower young voters to identify issues and engage peers in the presidential election. College and university delegates created a College Debate 2016 Platform that was shared with the debate moderators. (college debat16.org)

Join the Debates (JTD) is an initiative designed and led by Apollo in partnership with PBS Education and the National Governors Association. This fall, middle, high school and college students are engaging in peer in substantive and civil conversation on issues important to the U.S. presidential debates and election. Learning to engage with others who think differently is a skill that requires practice to master. Join the Debates provides curriculum, guidance, and discussion topics. JTD highlights this learning, participation, and respect as key elements for responsible citizenship. (jointhedebates.org)
Pre-Debate Program
Light Projections on Dorm Buildings
News Media Campaign Trucks in Broadcast Alley
Behind the Scenes
Debate offers students plethora of experience

"We should all try to be involved when something like this comes to campus..."

Aside from event programming, Hofstra provided about 300 students with volunteer opportunities and others will have the chance to win a ticket into the debate hall through a "random lottery."

"I'm an operations volunteer," Keegan Rogers, a junior biochemistry major said. "I was working in Event Management and my boss told me he worked the past two debates, he was explaining them and it sounded exciting; so I figured I would volunteer to see what it would be like. Plus, honestly it's a resume builder that will look good when applying for just about anything," he said.

Andrea Ascencio, a senior biology major, entered her bid for a chance to see the two leading candidates debate. "I applied for tickets and I think it'll be pretty great to see a debate. We should all try to be involved when something like this comes to campus because we can all vote."

While 15 tickets to the debate hall were given to students of WSU, the remaining tickets allocated by the Commission on Presidential Debate will be awarded to Hofstra students. For students who were not chosen as a volunteer and who will not gain entry to the debate hall, there will still be opportunities to be immersed in debate day.

"The whole campus almost becomes like a civics fair," Connolly said. "The parking lot between the three bears and the Graduated Resident Hall are going to close... the Wednesday before the debate so that Fox, CNN and MSNBC can set up huge broadcast areas so students can go there and watch live television be made."

According to Connolly, this space, formerly called "issue alley," will be known as "broadcast plaza" and will also host different advocacy organizations such as C-Span, AARP and the ONE Campaign. These organizations will bring interactive displays for students to experience such as a White House bounce castle that is expected to be presented by the ONE Campaign, and a virtual reality art display that MTVU will reveal in the Sonstra and David S. Mack Student Center.

"There will be a performance of living history called 'Democracy in Performance' in a tent in one of the intramural fields," Connolly said. "There will be live television being shot all around campus... and there will be the live watch parties at night."

Opportunities to witness major media organizations and be interviewed by them will not be hard to come by. According to Connolly, when Hofstra hosted its second presidential debate in 2012, campus was flooded with approximately 3,500 members of the media.

"Each major outlet brings a couple hundred people, including everyone from on-air talent to those who pull cables in the media filing center. I don't know how many outlets will be here, if you look at New York, every outlet is coming."

Other outlets expected to make their way to campus this week include: Politico, Telemundo, Associated Press, Agence France-Presse (AFP) and more.

As a professor, Bosse's goal leading up to the debate is to allow students to make the most of the experience.

She said, "I think hosting a debate is a unique experience and it's a way to really bring the presidential race home to students, faculty, community, in a way that watching it from a distance just doesn't achieve."
Student Involvement
Students Walking into the David S. Mack Center to Watch the Debate
Hofstra Mascots - Kate and Willie
Debate 2016 - The First Presidential Debate
Hofstra University hosted the first 2016 Presidential Debate on September 26, 2016 at the Mack Sports & Exhibition Complex.
Trump & Clinton on the Stage
**How Will Suggested Policies Impact the International Scene?**
The Hofstra Cultural Center's International Scene Lecture Series and the Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives will host a panel discussion that will evaluate the impact of the presidential candidates' suggested policies on the international scene.
Panelists include:
- Professor Carolyn Eisenberg, Department of History, Hofstra University
- Emilie Back, Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives Peace Fellow
- Natasha Rappazzo, Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives Peace Fellow
The panel discussion will be held in the Guthart Cultural Center Theater, Axinn Library, South Campus, from 12:45 to 2:10 p.m. This event is free and open to the public with registration.

**International Opinion: Student Roundtable on Global Governance**
Join moderator Professor Kara S. Alaimo, Department of Journalism, Media Studies, and Public Relations in the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication in a discussion with international students about the global perspective on the American political scene.
Sponsored by the Center for Civic Engagement, Hofstra University Honors College and International Student Affairs, this discussion will be held in the Guthart Cultural Center Theater, Axinn Library, South Campus, from 2:20 to 3:45 p.m. This event is free and open to the public with registration.

**Teaching the 2016 Elections**
Join Dr. Andrea Libresco, Professor of Social Studies Education and Director of the Minor in Civic Education at Hofstra University, for a workshop that explores strategies and discussion about how to teach up to and beyond the elections in your elementary and middle school classes – grades 4-8. Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives Peace Fellows Emilie Beck and Natasha Rappazzo will speak at the workshop.
Sponsored by the Hofstra Network of Elementary Teachers, this event will be held in 006-007 Hagedorn Hall from 6:30-8 p.m. The workshop is open to the Hofstra community.

**America's Role in the Global Arena: A Foreign Policy Analysis of the First U.S. Presidential Debate**
Join us for a panel discussion among foreign diplomats and decision-makers who will discuss their perspectives on the candidates' remarks about American foreign policies and actions abroad. The discussion will be moderated by Jason Isaacson, Director of Government and International Affairs, American Jewish Committee.
Panelists include:
- David O'Sullivan, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States
- Helga Flores, Principal External Relations Advisor, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Carolyn M. Dudek, Professor of Political Science and Director of European Studies, Hofstra University
This panel discussion will be held at the Guthart Cultural Center Theater, Axinn Library, South Campus, at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public with registration.
Hofstra Magazine - The Year in Review 2015-2016
The most recent presidential election inspired a notable amount of accessorizing, with hats, T-shirts, and pins as impassioned voters literally wore their positions.
Shirts and Bag- Debate 2016
Trump and Clinton Bottle Openers
Bobble Heads

Trump-isms

ON HEALTHCARE.GOV WEBSITE:
“We have a 5 billion dollar website. I have so many websites... I hire people and it costs me three dollars.”

ON JOBS:
“I will be the greatest jobs president god ever created.”

ON FREE TRADE:
“Free trade can be wonderful if you have smart people. We have stupid people.”

ON FUNDRAISING:
“I’ll use my own money. I’m REALLY rich.”

Trump-Knows

“Think BIG! You are going to be thinking anyway, so think BIG!”

“Anyone who thinks my story is anywhere near a ‘rags to riches’ is sadly mistaken.”

“I love the fact people come into the country... but they have to come in legally.”

Hillary-isms

ON MAKING NEWS:
“If I want to knock a story off the front page, I just change my hairstyle.”

ON BILL CLINTON:
“If I didn’t kick his ass every day, he wouldn’t be worth anything.”

ON POWER:
“In my White House, we all know who wears the pant suit.”

Hillary-Knows

“We must stop thinking about the individual and start thinking about society.”

“Don’t confuse having a career with having a life.”

“There is a sense that things... if you keep positive and optimistic about what can be done, do work out.”

“Human rights are women’s rights, and women’s rights are human rights.”
Other Memorabilia
Visit the Debate 2016 Collection Finding Aid at: