

Edward Lee

As the Director of Debate, Ed is currently one of the top five intercollegiate debate coaches in the United States, one of only four nationally ranked African Americans.

In his years at Emory, Ed has been one of the nation's top ranked judges, receiving the southeastern U.S. Critic of the Year Award, designating him as a judge for the final round of the Cross Examination Debate Association's national tournament an unprecedented six times. He has been elected to the topic committee of CEDA and is one of twelve national representatives to the National Debate Tournament

In 2007, Ed became the first African American to win the Ovid Davis Award for coaching the National Debate Tournament national champions, Emory students Aimi Hamraie and Julie Hoehn, who were also the first all female team to win the NDT in its 61-year history. Emory students have benefited greatly from his research skills, argument theory instruction, and innovative coaching strategies.

Ed has personally attracted over 40 top high school students to debate at Emory, but has also overseen grant initiatives from the Arthur Blank Foundation to build a debate program in the New Schools at Carver, a Gates Foundation initiative serving seriously at-risk students. Ed has also supervised and attracted Emory undergraduates to work for the New Schools at Carver program.

Ed has recently overseen the conversion of Emory's debate research from paper based to a paperless system, saving the use of 9 tons of paper and over \$9,000 for excess airline baggage fees when transporting paper research to intercollegiate tournaments. Under Ed's leadership, Emory is one of only 10 universities developing curriculum to teach this radical innovation in tournament practice.

Ed is unable to be here to accept the award tonight, for a good reason – he is in California at the National Debate Tournament, receiving the James J. Unger Award in recognition of his exceptional coaching of Emory's top-ranked debate team, juniors Stephen Weil and Ovais Inamullah.