

# THE FULTONIAN

## Fulton Wins West Point

*Sabre returns to BC for the 4th time*



*Harrison Kenner and Fisher Pressman holding the West Point sabre*

Harrison Kenner '18 and Fisher Pressman '17 won the varsity division of the 50th annual West Point Debate Tournament held during 7-9 October 2016 at the United States Military Academy in Highland Falls, New York.

Despite losing their first two preliminary debates, Kenner & Pressman rallied to win three of their next four debates, barely qualifying for the elimination rounds as the 10th seed.

In the octa-finals, Kenner & Pressman met a formidable opponent in Cornell (2017 CEDA National finalist). Debating on the affirmative, the Fultonians prevailed on a 2-1 decision. In the quarter-finals, they defeated James Madison on another split decision. That set up a contest against the top seed from Rutgers in the semi-finals. Debating on the negative, the Fultonians defeated Rutgers on a third 2-1 decision.

In the final round, Kenner & Pressman faced Liberty. Boston College was locked affirmative

because they debated and lost to Liberty on the negative side during the first round.

As per tradition, the final round of the West Point tournament is judged by a panel of military experts. This year's judging panel was headed by Colonel Everett Spain who is the Department Head of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. He was joined by Major Adam Karr (a former West Point debater) and Major Delante Moore.

On a decisive 3-0 decision, the judges voted for Boston College and presented the debaters with a beautiful traveling trophy—a ceremonial West Point sabre encased in a wooden box with the names of previous tournament winners engraved on gold plates on all four sides of the trophy.

Previous Fulton debate teams winning the saber include Jeffrey Sullivan & Kevin Shatzkin (2002), Ben Bireley & Kevin Shatzkin (2003), and Brendan Benedict & Michael Maerowitz (2011).

### Greetings from the Heights

This issue of *The Fultonian* reports on some of the activities of the Society during the 2016-2017 academic year. Highlights include holding an alumni reunion to celebrate the 125th Fulton Prize Debate along with winning West Point and the University Club Debate.

We are also pleased to announce the establishment of a Fulton Debate Hall of Fame and the induction of the first five members.

We hope you enjoy reading *The Fultonian* and, as always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback.

*John Katsulas and Christy Webster*

2016-2017 DEBATE TOPIC:  
REDUCING GREENHOUSE  
GAS EMISSIONS

The intercollegiate debate topic for 2016-2017 was “Resolved: The United States Federal Government should establish a domestic climate policy, including at least substantially increasing restrictions on private sector emissions of greenhouse gases in the United States.”

Boston College teams advocated a plan to impose a \$15 dollar per ton carbon tax on greenhouse gas emissions. Eighty percent of the revenue from the tax would be returned to business as targeted tax incentives for research and development, workforce training, and capital equipment investment. Twenty percent of the revenue would be allocated to the Department of Energy (DOE) for funding research and development (R & D) of clean energy technologies.

This affirmative claimed two advantages. First, it argued that adopting a carbon tax to promote clean energy innovation was an effective strategy to slow the rate of global warming. By more than tripling the annual spending for clean energy R & D, it claimed to accelerate innovations which would lower the cost and improve the reliability of existing solar and wind power. Additionally, it argued that federal R & D could develop transformational technologies, e.g., biofuel from algae, airborne wind power, hydrogen-powered cars, that would be game-changers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Since climate change is a global problem, the affirmative made two arguments for how the plan would solve beyond the United States. First, it argued that placing a tax on carbon and investing in clean energy technologies would bring the United States into compliance with the emission reduction pledges it made under the Paris Treaty. This would enable the United States to persuade other nations to take more aggressive action to reduce their emissions.

Second, the affirmative argued that technological innovations made in the United States would spread globally. Inevitably, U.S. companies would export clean technologies to other nations. In fact, this has happened. Pollution control technologies reducing sulfur emissions from coal plants and catalytic converters reducing air pollution from cars were first invented in the United States and then exported to other nations.

The other advantage claimed by the innovative carbon tax affirmative was to prevent the onset of a carbon tariff war. Several U.S. trading partners, including France, Germany, Canada, and Mexico have threatened to impose a carbon tariff on U.S. goods imported to their countries, if the United States does not impose a price on carbon. Doing so would cause the United States to retaliate by imposing tariffs on their goods, which could spark a global trade war.

Many other teams advocated carbon tax plans but they differed in how they recycled the tax revenue. For example, one carbon

tax plan returned all the revenue to individual citizens in the form of a dividend. Another plan used all the revenue for corporate tax cuts. Some allocated a portion of the revenue to low-income households to offset the higher energy bills they would experience.

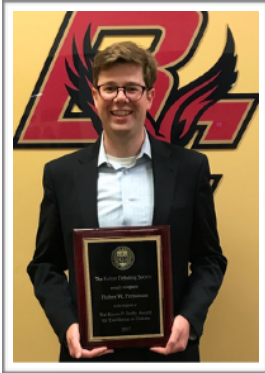


*Cornell Tournament: Dan Moyer, Nick Wong, Connor Coles and Jenna Bilak in snowy Ithaca*



*Liberty Tournament: Fulton Debaters in the grand foyer of DeMoss Hall*

PRESSMAN WINS THE DUFFY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEBATE



*Fisher Pressman '17*

The Kevin P. Duffy Award for Excellence in Debate honors the long and distinguished service of Dr. Kevin P. Duffy, Vice President of Student Affairs at Boston College from 1976 to 2000.

Fisher Pressman '17, a Carroll School of Management major from Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, is the 2017 recipient of the Duffy Award. Four years ago, Fisher began competing as a novice and achieved considerable success at every level of competition, including first place in Junior Varsity at the University of Mary Washington (2014) and the ADA Nationals Tournament (2016). This year, debating in varsity, Fisher won the West Point Tournament.

Fisher is a three-time winner of the Gargan Medal and a two-time member of the winning team of the University Club debates. Next year, he will be working for Deutsche Bank in New York City.

COLES WINS THE QUINN AWARD FOR THE OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR DEBATER

The Joseph F. Quinn Award for Outstanding First Year Debater was created in 2007 to celebrate the service of Dr. Joseph F. Quinn, who currently is Professor and James P. McIntyre Chair in Economics. From 1999 to 2007, Dr. Quinn was the much beloved Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a strong supporter of both the liberal arts and the Fulton Debating Society.

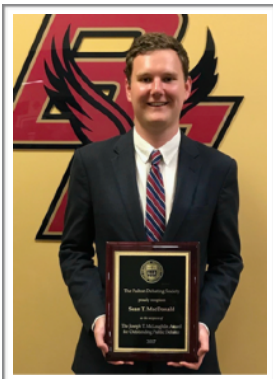
Connor Coles '20, a political science major from Oklahoma, is the 2017 recipient of the Quinn Award. In high school, Connor competed as a policy debater for the Casady School in Oklahoma City.

Competing in Junior Varsity, Connor won the Cornell Tournament and reached the semi-finals at the ADA Fall Championship. He also won top speaker honors at both tournaments along with a second place speaker award at Liberty.



*Connor Coles '20*

MACDONALD WINS THE MCLAUGHLIN AWARD FOR PUBLIC DEBATING



*Sean MacDonald '17*

The Joseph T. McLaughlin Award for Outstanding Public Debater was created in 2010 to celebrate the legendary career of Joseph T. McLaughlin, a legendary Fultonian who reached the final round of the National Debate Tournament in 1964, along with winning numerous national tournaments and speaker awards.

Sean MacDonald '17, a history and economics major from Scituate, Massachusetts is the 2017 recipient of the McLaughlin Award. Sean participated in every public debate this year, including the University Club debate, the Norfolk Prison debate, and the ACC debate tournament. Sean is the only three-time winner of the Fulton medal in the history of the Society.

Sean won first place in the 2017 Leonard Persuasive Speaking contest. Next year, he will be working for Goldman Sachs in New York City.

125th FULTON PRIZE DEBATE



*Fulton Prize Debaters (L to R): Fisher Pressman, Jenna Bilak, Sean MacDonald, and Connor Coles*

For the third consecutive year, Sean MacDonald '17, won the Fulton Medal at the 125th annual Fulton Prize Debate held on April 29th in Gasson 305.

The topic for the debate was “Resolved: That the United States should abolish the Electoral College.”

Serving as the judges for this year’s debate were the sixteen Fulton debate alumni who returned for a reunion to celebrate the 125th holding of the Fulton Prize Debate.

Debating on the affirmative with Sean MacDonald (second affirmative speaker) was Connor Coles '20 (first affirmative speaker). Debating on the negative was Jenna Bilak '19 (first negative speaker) and Fisher Pressman '17 (second negative speaker).

The affirmative side argued the Electoral College should be abolished because it violated the principle of one person, one vote. The candidate winning the popular vote lost the election in 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000, and 2016.

In response, the negative side argued that under a direct popular election, the candidates would campaign for votes in the most populated coastal cities and ignore the states in the middle of the country.

By a decisive margin, the judges voted for the affirmative side and named Sean MacDonald as the top speaker and the recipient of the gold Fulton Medal. Fisher Pressman won second place speaker honors and received the silver Gargan Medal.

GRACE PETERS HONORED AS 2017 FULTONIAN OF THE YEAR

At the conclusion of the Fulton Prize Debate, Grace Peters, the calligrapher who paints the names on the wall in the Fulton Room of Gasson, was honored as the 2017 Fultonian of the Year.

Grace has painted an astounding forty-one names on the great wall of Gasson 305. When she was first hired in the early 1980s, she began by painting Eric Woodbury’s name in the space for 1979 and she has painted every subsequent name up to Sean MacDonald’s in the space for 2016. Taken together, that adds up to thirty-eight names.

In 2001, Grace added three additional names in the spaces for 1968, 1969, and 1970. For two decades, those years were filled with dashes. When Fulton Debate learned the names of David White, Mark Killenbeck, and Ronald Hoenig belonged in those spaces, Grace climbed the ladder and painted their names.

Upon accepting the award, Grace demonstrated to the Fultonians her technique for painting the names on the wall and answered questions from the alumni.



*Grace Peters  
2017 Fultonian of the Year*



**NORFOLK INMATES DEFEAT FULTON DEBATE**

The Norfolk Prison Debating Society (pictured above) defeated Fulton Debate in a Toastmasters style debate competition held at MCI-Norfolk on December 3, 2016. This debate was historic in two respects. It marked the first time that Fulton Debate has competed against inmates and it was the first debate competition for the Norfolk inmates versus a college debate team since 1963.

Like Fulton Debate, the Norfolk Debating Society has a long and distinguished history. The debating team was established in 1933 when the prison was called the Norfolk Prison Colony. Norfolk prison’s most famous debater is Malcolm X who served time for committing a robbery during the late 1940s. Malcom X credits his participation in the debating society for developing his public speaking skills.

From the 1940s to the early 1960s, the Norfolk Prison debate team compiled a record of 144 wins and 8 losses, including victories over Yale, Princeton, West Point, Oxford, MIT and Harvard.

The topic, for the debate was, “Resolved: The United States should impose a carbon tax on greenhouse gas emissions.” Norfolk elected to argue in favor of imposing a carbon tax and Boston College argued against the carbon tax.

The five members of the Fulton Debating Society competing in the Norfolk prison debate were Kelvin Lin ’19, Jenna Bilak ’19, Sean MacDonald ’17, Naveen Senthilkumar ’17, and Harrison Kenner ’18.

By a score of 86.8 to 86.2, the judges awarded the debate to the Norfolk inmates.

**FULTON DEFEATS NORTRE DAME TO WIN UNIVERSITY CLUB DEBATE**

Boston College defeated the University of Notre Dame in the 13th annual Percy. S. Douglas Memorial Debate held on November 9th at the University Club in New York City. Four members of the Fulton Debating Society participated in the debate: Fisher Pressman ’17, Naveen Senthilkumar ’17, Sean MacDonald ’17, and Harrison Kenner ’18.

The motion for the debate was, “Resolved: This House believes that the legal drinking age should be lowered to 18 years of age.” Boston College was assigned the role of the Opposition, meaning it opposed the lowering of the legal drinking age to 18; the University of Notre Dame acted as the Government and advocated for lowering the drinking age.

The judges for the debate were the members of the University Club, who by a vote of 97 to 4, resoundingly declared Boston College the winner of the debate. This also marked the first time that a college became a repeat winner.

As the champion of the University Debates, Boston College will have their name etched on a large sterling silver trophy that is housed at the club and be invited back next year to compete against New York University.



*University Club Debate Champions (Again): Coach Christy Webster Dunn, Harrison Kenner, Sean MacDonald, Naveen Senthilkumar, and Fisher Pressman*

Fulton Debate Reunion  
April 28-29, 2017



*The "Three Amigos":  
Dilip Paliath '93, Chris Strunk '95,  
and Jack Minnear '95*



*Eldest attendee with youngest attendee:  
Jack McNeely '60 and Connor Coles '20*



*Josua Marmol '99, Chris Strunk '95, Dilip Paliath '93,  
Wenyu Ho Blanchard '95, and Jack Minnear '95*



*Kenya Rose '77, George Ginther '69,  
Nicholas D'Angelo '80 and wife Wanda*



*Brendan "Eggs" Benedict '12 and company:  
Sean O'Hara '09 and wife Elise, Matt Bartholomae '12,  
Mike Holland '14, Ryan Folio '12, and Joe Bowden '05*



*Fultonians at the 2016 West Point Debate Tournament*



*Norfolk Prison Debate*



*Sean MacDonald and Fisher Pressman at the 2017 ACC Debate Tournament hosted by the University of Miami*

## The Fulton Debate Society of 2016-2017

Jenna Bilak '19  
 Myles Casey '17  
 Roger Champagne '19  
 Connor Coles '20  
 Asher Kang '19  
 Harrison Kenner '18  
 Kevin Lin '19  
 Sean MacDonald '17  
 Daniel Moyer '20  
 William Nouse '17  
 Eve Ottum '20  
 Fisher Pressman '17  
 Naveen Senthilkumar '17  
 Nicholas Wong '20  
 Claire Wortsman '20  
 Jane Wu '20  
 Christopher Yu '18

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### Fulton Debate Web Site

[www.bc.edu/fultondebate](http://www.bc.edu/fultondebate)

### Fulton on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/groups/237990206258288/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/237990206258288/)

## FULTON DEBATE ESTABLISHES HALL OF FAME: INDUCTS FIVE MEMBERS

At the alumni banquet, Fulton Debate announced the establishment of a Hall of Fame and named five Fultonians from the pre-World War Two era for induction. The inductees include: William A. Murphy, '91, John J. Douglas, '93, John J. Wright, '31, Charles F. Donovan, '33, and Lawrence J. Riley, '36.

William Murphy, as the first winner of the Fulton Medal, is an obvious choice for induction into the Hall of Fame. Murphy was also one of Boston College's most distinguished alumni.

After graduating from Boston College, Murphy became a newspaper reporter for the *Boston Globe* covering the State House. His excellence as a reporter led to his appointment as a Secretary to three Massachusetts Governors: Eben Draper, Curtis Guild, and James Curley. In 1941, Boston College awarded him the 50th Jubilarian Medal.

Our second inductee, John Douglass, won the Fulton Medal in 1893 and served as President of the Fulton (Spring term of 1893). He was the valedictorian of his graduating class.

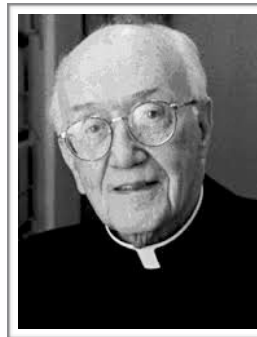
After graduating from Georgetown Law School, he started a law practice in Boston and began a career in politics. Douglass was elected to four terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives (1899 to 1913). In 1924, Douglas was elected to the U.S. Congress where served for 5 terms (1924 to 1933). He is the only Fultonian to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

Our third Hall of Famer is John Wright, widely acclaimed to have been of the greatest orators of his day. He won both the Fulton medal (1931) and the Gargan medal (1929). In 1930, he was a member of the Fulton team who defeated Harvard in a debate over prohibition (with BC arguing against the ban on the production, transportation, and sale of alcohol).

After graduation, Wright entered St. John's Seminary in Brighton and was ordained in 1935 to the priesthood. He quickly emerged as one of the most influential priests in the United States. He served as the Auxiliary Bishop of Boston (1947-1949), the Bishop of Worcester (1950-1958), and the Bishop of Pittsburgh (1959-1969). In 1969, Wright was elevated to Cardinal by Pope Paul. Ever the orator, he served as the featured speaker at the 1964 Fulton Debate reunion banquet.

Our fourth inductee is Father Charles Donovan, a beloved figure who is well known to many Fultonians. He served as President of the Fulton (Spring 1933) and the Marquette (Fall 1930). As a debater, one of Donovan's greatest victories was defeating Oxford University in a 1932 debate on the topic, "Resolved: That this House would welcome the cancellation of all war debts and reparations." Donovan also won the Harrigan Prize for oratory and the Leonard Persuasive Speaking contest.

After graduation, Donovan became a Jesuit priest and eventually became an administrator at Boston College. He served as the Dean of the School of Education, Dean of Faculties, and Academic Vice President. As the first University Historian, he wrote, *The History of Boston College* (1990) and penned several occasional papers, including *Debate at Boston College: People, Places, Traditions* (1991). No matter what position he held, Father Donovan was a regular attendee at the Fulton Prize Debate (always sitting in the front row) and a great champion of the debate program.



*Rev. Charles Donovan, S.J.  
Recognized as Fultonian of the  
Century at the 1993 Prize Debate*

Our final inductee is Lawrence Riley who won every important honor as a debater and student. He was elected President of the Marquette (Fall 1933 & Spring 1934) and the Fulton (Fall 1935). He won both the Marquette Prize Debate (1934) and the Fulton Prize Debate (1936). He competed in public debates where the Fulton defeated Georgetown (1934), Dartmouth (1935), and Cambridge University (1935). He was the valedictorian of his graduating class.

After graduation, Riley became a Catholic priest and enjoyed a distinguished career. In 1965, he was appointed as the Rector of St. John's Seminary in Brighton. In 1970, Riley was named the Auxiliary Bishop of Boston.