

# THE FULTONIAN

The Newsletter of the Fulton Debating Society of Boston College ♦ Volume 3, Number 1 ♦ Summer 2003

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## GREETINGS FROM FULTON DEBATE

The Fulton Debating Society enjoyed another successful year, including winning three tournaments at West Point, Trinity, and Randolph-Macon, qualifying two teams to the National Debate Tournament (NDT) and having teams reach the elimination rounds at ten different tournaments. This issue of THE FULTONIAN covers the on-campus activities held during the second semester, such as the annual Fulton Prize Debate and the American Debate Association (ADA) National Tournament. Moreover, it provides a snapshot of our many tournament accomplishments earned in intercollegiate competitions during the 2002-2003 season.

In keeping with previous issues, we have included a special insert containing comments and news items about and from our alumni. We appreciate the feedback and encourage more submissions for our ALUMNI BRIEFS.

We hope you enjoy reading THE FULTONIAN.

John Katsulas  
Director, Fulton Debating Society

Stefan Bauschard  
Debate Coach

Dale Herbeck  
Chair, Communication Department

## DEBATE TROPHY CASE BUILT IN NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

A spectacular new trophy case for Fulton Debate has been erected in the wall immediately to the right of the main entrance to the Communication Department offices on the fifth floor of the new Administrative Building. The massive trophy case spans an entire wall, extending 9 feet in length and over 8 feet in height. In the trophy case, visitors can view an impressive sampling of over sixty debate trophies dating from 1962 to 2003, beautifully arranged on four levels of glass shelves. An identification card accompanies each trophy indicating the names of the Fultonians who won the trophy, along with denoting the year and the name of the tournament.



*Full view of the new Fulton Debate trophy case*

## BIRELEY WINS FULTON PRIZE DEBATE

Ben Bireley ('05) won the 111<sup>th</sup> annual Fulton Prize Debate held on April 24th in Gasson 305 before a standing-room only crowd. The topic for the debate was, "Resolved: That the United States Supreme Court should hold that the University of Michigan Law School's admission policy is unconstitutional." The judges for the debate were professor Elfriede Fursich of the Communication Department, Joshua Marmol, Assistant Director of Admissions at Boston College, and Kevin Hartzell, First Year Experience Administrator. Marmol and Hartzell are both former winners of the Fulton Prize Debate.

Debating on the affirmative side were Jim Smith ('04), a political science major from Connecticut, and Chris Schroeck ('04), a philosophy major from Erie, Pennsylvania. Debating on the negative side were Kevin Shatzkin ('05), a political science major from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Ben Bireley ('05), a political science major from Plano, Texas.

The affirmative side argued that the University of Michigan's law school admission policy, which targeted 10 to 17 percent of slots to minority students, constituted a de-facto quota system in violation of the equal protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The negative side countered by arguing that educational diversity constituted a compelling state interest and that the law school could reserve places for minority students so long as the admissions office evaluated each

applicant case on an individualized basis as called for in Justice Powell's ruling in the 1978 Bakke case.

In a split decision, the judges awarded the debate to the negative side. Apparently, the negative side had the stronger case because two months later, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 split decision, upheld the constitutionality of the Michigan Law School admission policy.

Ben Bireley, the second negative speaker, was awarded the Fulton Prize Medal for his performance as the best debater. James Smith, the first affirmative speaker, received the silver Gargan medal for placing second.

At the Fulton Prize Debate, Howard Singer, Associate Director of Admissions at Boston College, was recognized as the 2003 recipient of The Fultonian of the Year Award. For many years, Howard Singer served as the liaison contact in the admissions office assisting Fulton Debate to recruit students to Boston College.



*Fulton Prize Debaters for 2003. From left: Christopher Schroeck ('04), Ben Bireley ('05), Kevin Shatzkin ('05), and James Smith ('04).*

## SCHROECK AWARDED THE KEVIN P. DUFFY EXCELLENCE IN DEBATE AWARD

Christopher Schroeck ('04) was awarded the Kevin P. Duffy Excellence in Debate Award. Schroeck is a junior, majoring in philosophy. He is an outstanding varsity debater who has qualified for the National Debate Tournament in each of the last three years. Upon graduation, Schroeck plans to attend law school.

## BC HOSTS THE AMERICAN DEBATE ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

During 7-9 March 2003, Boston College hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> annual national tournament of the American Debate Association. Seventy-six debate teams from twenty-five

colleges competed, making it the largest ADA nationals in history. The tournament attracted an elite group of schools, including Case Western Reserve, Cornell, Fordham, Georgetown, John Carroll, Navy, Richmond, Rochester, Trinity, Wake Forest, and West Point.

The Fulton Debating Society thanks Joseph T. McLaughlin ('65) for making a substantial financial contribution to support our hosting of the ADA national Tournament. Due to Mr. McLaughlin's generous gift, we were able to host a fabulous banquet, coaches party, and provide other amenities to the tournament participants.

## FULTON DEBATE QUALIFIES TWO TEAMS TO THE NDT

The Fulton Debating Society qualified two teams to attend the 57th National Debate Tournament (NDT) held at Emory University during 2-7 April 2003. The National Debate Tournament is the most prestigious national tournament, accepting entries from only 78 debate teams who must qualify for the tournament by competing at district tournaments or by receiving bids from an at-large bid process before and after the district tournaments. Boston College has qualified teams to the NDT 26 times over the past 57 years, and this is the first time since 1992 that the Fulton Debating Society has qualified two teams.

Ben Bireley ('05) and Chris Schroeck ('04) qualified to the NDT by finishing among the top three teams at the district tournament held at the University of Vermont during 1-2 March 2002. New York University and Cornell were the other two schools who qualified at the district tournament. Harvard and two teams from Dartmouth received at-large bids prior to the district tournament.

Kevin Shatzkin ('05) and Jeffrey Sullivan ('06) also qualified to the NDT by receiving an at-large bid after the district tournament. Shatzkin & Sullivan were tied with Rochester as the alternates at the district tournament. The Rochester team also received a second round bid to attend the NDT.

This year's NDT was won by Northwestern University who defeated Dartmouth College in the final round.

## FULTONIANS REPEAT AS WINNERS OF THE WASHINGTON-FRANKLIN DEBATES AT RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

For the second consecutive year, Boston College won the Washington-Franklin Challenge Debate Tournament held at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia on April 16, 2003. The Boston College team of John Powell '06 and Mark Irvine '06 won the tournament by defeating Emory University in the finals.

The tournament utilized a parliamentary-style debate format where a Speaker of the House calls the assembly to order and asks the government team to defend the resolution and the

opposition team to oppose the resolution. During the debate, audience members are allowed to heckle each team and give floor speeches in support and against both sides. At the end of the debate, the Speaker of the House asks the audience for a division of the House to gauge the audiences' opinion of who won the debate. The topic for the debate was, "Be it Resolved That: the United States federal government should address the social problems of Africa."

The Washington-Franklin debates were judged by a distinguished panel composed of Diana Carlin, Dean of the Graduate School of Communications at the University of Kansas; Janette Muir, Associate Dean of the New Century College at George Mason University; and David Thomas, Professor of Communication at the University of Richmond.. Competing against Boston College at this year's tournament were teams from Randolph-Macon, William & Mary, and Emory University. In the semi-final debate, Emory defeated Randolph-Macon in a split decision, and Boston College defeated William & Mary in split decision.

In the final round, Boston College won the coin flip and chose to defend the government side. Mark Irvine, the Prime Minister for the Government, began the debate by advocating a proposal to substantially increase U.S. funding to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS in Africa. The Opposition team from Emory University argued that African governments were corrupt and that no aid should be provided until African governments made progress toward reducing corruption. Powell & Irvine refuted Emory's position by pointing out that the Global Fund provides grants to non-governmental organizations with a proven track record of reducing the incidence of HIV in nations like Uganda.

By a large margin, the audience sided with the Government position, and the judges unanimously awarded the debate to Boston College. For winning the tournament, Boston College received a huge traveling trophy and an invitation to defend its title again next year.



*John Powell ('06) and Mark Irvine ('06) pose with the first place trophy from the Washington-Franklin Debates.*

## MORE GARGAN WINNERS IDENTIFIED

While reading through some old files, we were able to identify additional Gargan winners from these years: Stephen Kelly, 1977; James Guerra, 1979; Daniel Feeney, 1980; and Jeffrey Corkery, 1981. We are still missing the names of virtually all of the Gargan winners from the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. However, we are only missing a few names to complete our history of Gargan winners from the 1970s and 1980s. Please help us complete this project by providing us with the names of the Gargan winners from 1970, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1983, or 1984. A complete listing of all known Gargan winners can be found at the Fulton Debate web site at this address:

[www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/svp/st\\_org/debate/page3.html#gargan](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/svp/st_org/debate/page3.html#gargan).

## TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS, 2002-2003

### Championships and Final Rounds:

West Point (Varsity), 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Jeffrey Sullivan & Kevin Shatzkin

Washington Franklin Debates (Varsity), 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Mark Irvine & John Powell

Trinity University Round Robin (Junior Varsity), 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Matthew Hays & Jim Smith

University of Richmond (Junior Varsity), final round  
Matthew Hays & Jim Smith

Catholic University Fall Classic (Junior Varsity), final round  
Joe Bowden & Ryan Miller

### Semi-Finalists:

ADA National Tournament, Boston College (Varsity)  
Ben Bireley & Kevin Shatzkin

United States Naval Academy (Junior Varsity)  
Matthew Hays & Jim Smith

University of Richmond (Varsity)  
Jeffrey Sullivan & Kevin Shatzkin

John Carroll University (Junior Varsity)  
Joe Bowden & Ryan Miller

### Quarter-Finals

Capitol Cities Classic, Catholic University (Varsity)  
Ben Bireley & Christopher Schroeck

King's College (Junior Varsity)  
Joe Bowden & Ryan Miller

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West Point (Junior Varsity)  
Ryan Miller & John Powell

Liberty University (Junior Varsity)  
Matthew Hays & Jim Smith  
John Carroll University (Junior Varsity)  
Matthew Hays & Jim Smith

### Octo-Finals

Baylor University (Varsity)  
Ben Bireley & Christopher Schroeck

King's College (Junior Varsity)  
Matthew Hays & Jim Smith

Liberty University (Junior Varsity)  
Joe Bowden & Ryan Miller

ADA Nationals, Boston College (Junior Varsity)  
Jeffrey Sullivan & Joe Bowden

### Double-Octo Finals

Georgia State University (Varsity)  
Ben Bireley & Christopher Schroeck

Baylor University (Varsity)  
Jeffrey Sullivan & Kevin Shatzkin

ADA Nationals, Boston College (Junior Varsity)  
Matthew Hays & Jim Smith

### Winning Records But Insufficient Speaker Points to Reach the Elimination Rounds

University of Kentucky (Varsity)  
Ben Bireley & Christopher Schroeck

Wake Forest University (Varsity)  
Ben Bireley & Christopher Schroeck

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# ALUMNI BRIEFS

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## 1950s:

Bill Fawcett writes that he was the President of the Fulton Debating Society in 1959, and that the training and speaking experiences have helped him greatly in his career in television production for The Fawcett Group, Ladera Ranch, California.

## 1960s:

Kevin T. Byrne ('61), the 1959 Gargan winner and the 1961 Fulton Medal winner, wrote us a very nice letter describing the history of the debating society in the transition years before the arrival of Dr. John Lawton to Boston College. He writes:

“I started Boston College in September 1957, having come from Boston College High School. I immediately joined the Marquette Debating Society. Professor John Mahoney was the Moderator. John was a wonderful English teacher, and, I'm sure was Moderator, because he lost the flip of the coin. In any event, we were a small group and very disorganized. It consisted mostly of B.C. High debaters and we went at it for a couple of years.

When I became a junior, Dr. John Lawton arrived from the sunny South and the explosion of debating at Boston College began. He drove us crazy but we go involved in traveling and in national tournaments. In addition to winning the Gargan Medal and the Fulton Medal, I also won the Leonard Oratorical Contest medal in my freshman year and my senior year.

Upon graduating from Boston College, I went directly to Boston College Law School. I worked for three years as an assistant debate coach under John Lawton and traveled with the Fulton debaters all over the country. Joe McLaughlin and Jim Unger were two of those debaters.”

Dr. Robert W. Halli Jr. ('68) informs us that he was the Gargan winner in 1965 and 1966. He notes that at that time, the Gargan winner was awarded to the top underclassman, rather than the second best speaker of the Fulton Prize Debate. Dr. Halli is currently the director of the University Honors Program at the University of Alabama.

## 1970s:

Jane Osborne McKnight ('75), the 1973 winner of the Fulton Medal, reports that she was also the winner of the 1972 Gargan medal. We appreciate receiving this information from Jane because it corrects an error in our records. Previously, we had incorrectly reported that her partner, Mary-ellen Raux, was the 1972 Gargan winner. Apparently, Mary-ellen was the 1971 winner, and Jane was the 1972 recipient. Both Jane and Mary-ellen were debate partners in high school at Archbishop Williams High School, in Braintree, Massachusetts. Jane Osborne is married to Terrance McKnight, who was an outstanding debater at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. He was the top speaker at the National Debate Tournament in 1972.

## 1990s:

Laura Oei Philipps ('93), who debated for two years with Robert Berry ('93) is living in Midland, Texas, where she is working as a part-time dentist. After BC, Laura graduated from the Tufts' Dental School in 1999. Laura married Fritz Philipps in 1994. They have three children, Emma (age 8), Owen (age 5), and Angus (age 2). Her husband, Fritz, graduated from medical school at Boston University. He is now working in a private practice radiology group as an Interventional Radiologist.

Congratulations to Christopher Strunk, ('95) and his wife Jen, who had a baby girl named Shannon Emily Strunk on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Jack Minnear ('95) was married on September 20, 2003 to Leslie Park in California. Attending the wedding were his two debater partners, Wenyu Ho Blanchard ('95) and John Frantz ('93), along with Nick Brady ('95). Both the bride and groom, and all the debaters, are attorneys.

## 2000s

Lisa Langdon ('01) is engaged to Matt Koch ('01). A summer wedding is planned.

Jared Fields ('01) is engaged to Tina Argyle. The wedding will be held in late August in Utah.

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