

Dear Fultonians,

The Fultonian for Summer 2019 was mailed on July 12, 2019 and contained a completely unexpected honor for me as I learned that I had been inducted into the Hall of Fame as a representative of the Golden Age of Fulton Debate. It came at a perfect time for me to immediately show it to my brother Kevin, who had entered BC in 1967 and co-chaired the Fulton High School Debate Tournament in 1968.

It also came at a perfect time in the history of Boston College, since the Boston College Magazine had just announced that the archive of issues from 100 years of The Heights has been made available on the internet. So I was able to browse my life at BC and recall my time as a Fultonian.

I realize that your march through the decades made me one of the first honorees with an opportunity to thank you for the honor. Accordingly, I feel the obligation to recount my journey to this honor with the help of pictures and the thousands of words they merit. I was in the vortex of the Golden Age, because it didn't begin with me and it didn't end with me.

My entrance to the Fulton certainly did not presage such an honor, based on my high school record as a member of the Behrens Debate Society of Canisius High School. I certainly couldn't have been described as a "former all-state debater from Illinois" as Charlie Lawson, CBA '70 was in 1967. The only debate tournament I won in high school occurred on Nov. 22-24, 1963, so I never got to see Jack Ruby step onto the world stage on live television. I have spent the rest of my life trying to find out what I missed. Nevertheless, I received a letter inviting me to join the Fulton Society. Since the letter mentioned that BC had recently made the final round of the National Debate Tournament at West Point, I went to the first meeting.

That meeting was the first conducted by Jim Unger, who had been on the Nationals team and was now a first year student at Harvard Law School. Jim is justly described in the recent Fulton Hall of Fame induction as "the most successful debater in Fulton history."

Yet even Jim's success would not seem to qualify as a Golden Age of debate. In fact, the May 15, 1963 issue of The Heights reported "The years from 1927 to 1939 have been called the 'Golden Years' of the Fulton Society, as the members travelled extensively and appeared before 3500 people in Symphony Hall and a total of 12,200 people during the 1928 season." As it turns out, the class of 1925-26 had already proclaimed their year "the best year in its history," and declared that "the Fulton made this year the Golden Year in her history." The Fulton had debated and defeated M. I. T., Fordham University, Dartmouth, Clark University, Middleburg, University of Arizona, champions of the Southwest, Loyola College, Inter-University champions of Canada and the College of the City of N. Y. Their only loss was to Holy Cross at the end of the year. The surge of intercollegiate debates required a change to the Fulton's constitution in 1927. The present constitution, adopted about twenty years ago, made no provision for intercollegiate or exhibition debates.

The Symphony Hall debate and the "Golden Years" are worth comparing with my own experience in the Fulton. The 1928 audience may have been attracted by the opponent, since it was the first debate in 30 years between Boston College and Harvard University, "Boston's oldest and newest institutions." "It was the largest audience that ever attended an intercollegiate

debate in New England.” The audience “filled every available seat in the hall. Standing room tickets were not available after 7:45.” By the time the debate was recalled in 1936, the audience had swelled to “4,000 persons in Symphony Hall.” At the time, The Heights surmised “Perhaps the prominence of the question was the attraction. Boston College upheld the affirmative of the question ‘Resolved, that Alfred E. Smith is eminently qualified for the presidency’.” The audience “overwhelmingly awarded a victory to the Boston College debaters” with the ballots “distributed at the hall.”

When Harvard debated BC at Symphony Hall in 1930, The Heights characterized the prices as “reasonable rates.” They were “fifty cents for the entire second balcony; one dollar for the rear of the orchestra and the rear of the first balcony; and one dollar and fifty cents for the first three rows of the first balcony and for the first thirty rows in the orchestra.” Tickets were on sale at Symphony Hall “but the choice seats will be sold here at the Heights.” A dollar and a half would have paid for the rental of a complete tuxedo for an evening.

When Harvard debated BC in 1929, and again in 1930, two thousand people were present at the debate. In 1930 the Banner Headline of The Heights announced “Fulton Defeats Harvard in Prohibition Debate.” This was the third consecutive year BC had won. When BC debated Harvard in March 1936, they argued before “an overflow audience standing in the aisles and leaning against the walls of the famous Ashburton Place hall.”

Debates with Harvard were not the only glamorous debates for the Fulton Society. One of the first occurred in 1926. “Scarcely any one had thought of a possible debate with Cambridge University and when the Moderator announced the debate it came as a distinct surprise.... The opportunity for the Fulton to meet them came as a bolt out of the clear sky.” They had “only two short weeks for preparation for the most notable debate in the history of the Fulton.”

Their debate was part of a national tour. Since 1923 visits by English teams had become annual events; “and now Australian debaters are matching wits with American collegians.” “Cambridge and Oxford teams ... are facing collegians of the south and east. The former visiting New England and Canada, the latter the south and southwest.” Debates with Cambridge, Oxford or an All-British team became an annual affair with large audiences for the Fulton Society.

The series of international debates between Boston College and English debating teams was begun in 1926 when the Fulton defeated Cambridge University. Since then seven debates had taken place and the Fulton won five of them. These meetings have been at Ford Hall Forum, Symphony Hall and the Library Auditorium at Boston College and “have never failed to attract hundreds of interested persons.” When BC debated Cambridge in 1935, “over eight hundred persons in the library auditorium” heard the debate.

The All-British team of 1928 was “touring America under the auspices of the National British Students’ Union.” In 1932 The Fultonians met the Oxford University debate team that was “making a tour of the country under the auspices of the National Student Federation of America.”

American universities began their own wide-ranging debate tours. In 1927 “A debating team from the University of Oregon has undertaken a tour around the world, visiting the Orient first and journeying continually westward. They will arrive in Boston to debate B.C. early in April.” In 1938, BC debated Stanford, which was “touring the United States and Canada, debating more than 50 colleges.”

In 1927 “The representatives of the Fulton left Boston ...on the first extended debating tour of Boston College.” Each of the two teams participated in five debates. The debaters were divided into two teams of two men each, which debated on alternate nights. The trip carried it “3,000 miles through 10 States.” The Heights proclaimed that the combination of “the international debates with Cambridge, Sydney and Loyola and the western trip...show how the Fulton was advancing the prestige of Alma Mater throughout the collegiate world.” By 1939, The Heights reported “The annual Spring debating tour of the Marquette debating society, always a highlight of the debating season, will take more than twelve or fourteen days, and will include visits in seven states.”

The Marquette Society was for undergraduate BC debaters. They were separate from the upperclassmen’s Fulton Society. They competed. On December 1, 1930 The Heights reported “Late Flash...Marquette Beats Fulton. For the first time in years The Marquette has beaten the Fulton.” They “vigorously presented arguments which conquered the over-confident Fulton.”

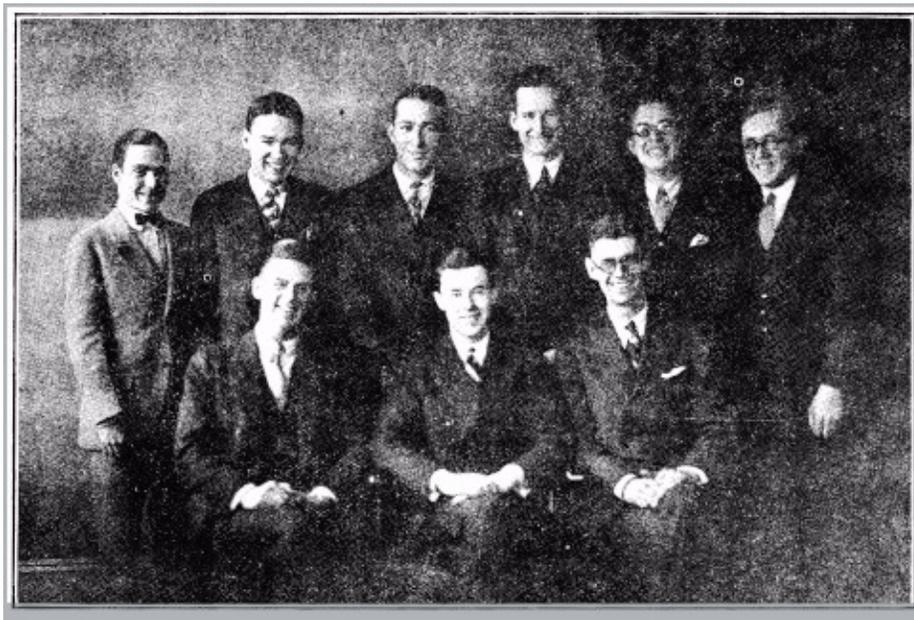
As exotic as these debates were, “the most important debate of the scholastic year” was the annual debate with Holy Cross. Since 1921, “the Alhambra Council, K. Of C., of Worcester offered for competition between the sister Jesuit Colleges a handsome silver cup. To obtain permanent possession of the cup it is necessary for one college to win three times.” In 1927 Holy Cross debated BC at Newton High School before an audience of fifteen hundred.

Debates with other universities also drew large crowds. When BC debated Dartmouth in 1935, “two hundred and fifty people in the Dorchester High School auditorium” heard the debate. On March 18, 1936, “Despite inclement weather, three hundred Quincy citizens heard the Fulton Debating Society defeat a Lafayette debating team by unanimous decision of the judges Wednesday evening in the Central Junior High School auditorium. The debate, sponsored by the Boston College Club of Quincy, was the first intercollegiate debate held in that city.”

Large crowds were drawn to the public debates, but they were entertained by more than oratory. When Cambridge debated BC in 1926, “Before the start of the debate several musical selections were played by the Merrick Trio of Boston College.” “While the judges were casting their ballots, Mr. Hagan rendered several selections.” When Holy Cross debated BC in 1927, “Before the debate the Boston College symphony rendered the overture from ‘Raymond’ and ‘A Japanese Sunset,’ which were well received by the house. During the intermission, vocal selections were rendered...Both singers were warmly applauded by an appreciative audience,” a “huge audience of 2,000.” “Engraved gold watch charms, gifts of the Newton Council, were presented to the victors.” When Fordham debated in 1931 against the Marquette Society “cello and violin solos were given by members of the glee club.” When the Marquette Society held its Annual Prize debate for the Gargan medal in 1931 “During the intermission, Paul Mahoney ’32, popular tenor, entertained the audience with several of his favorite songs. Frank I. Bertsch was the accompanist...After the rebuttal, Hernando D. Lopez, of the New England Conservatory of Music, favored the audience with two compositions on the violin.” In 1931 the Holy Cross debaters were delayed for an hour for the debate with BC. “During the interim the Boston College Musical Club” played selections “classical and semi-classical” so that “the affair was beginning to assume the nature of a concert rather than a debate.” When debaters from the University of California debated the Fulton Society in the ballroom of the Commodore Hotel in

Cambridge in 1932, “ushers have been chosen for the debate,” and their names were published in The Heights. They debated “before an audience which overflowed the hall into the lobby and onto the stage.” The California debaters expressed gratitude for the “royal treatment” with which they were feted throughout the day. “In the intermission before the rebuttal, the Boston College Quartette...rendered a few selections.... While the decision was being awaited, the quartette again presented a few numbers, concluding with ‘For Boston’.” In March 1933, BC debated Harvard, “The Boston College orchestra provided a musical program during the evening.” During the March 1934 Gargan Medal debate, “the College Quartet gave a delightful rendition of ‘Little Boy Blue’ and ‘Thank God for a Garden’,” and “a group of piano selections, including ‘The Lark,’ ‘Le Jongleur’ and Chopin’s ‘Waltz in E Minor’ as an encore.” When BC debated Lafayette in 1936, “George Reinhalter, ’38, played two selections for trombone at the conclusion of the speeches.”

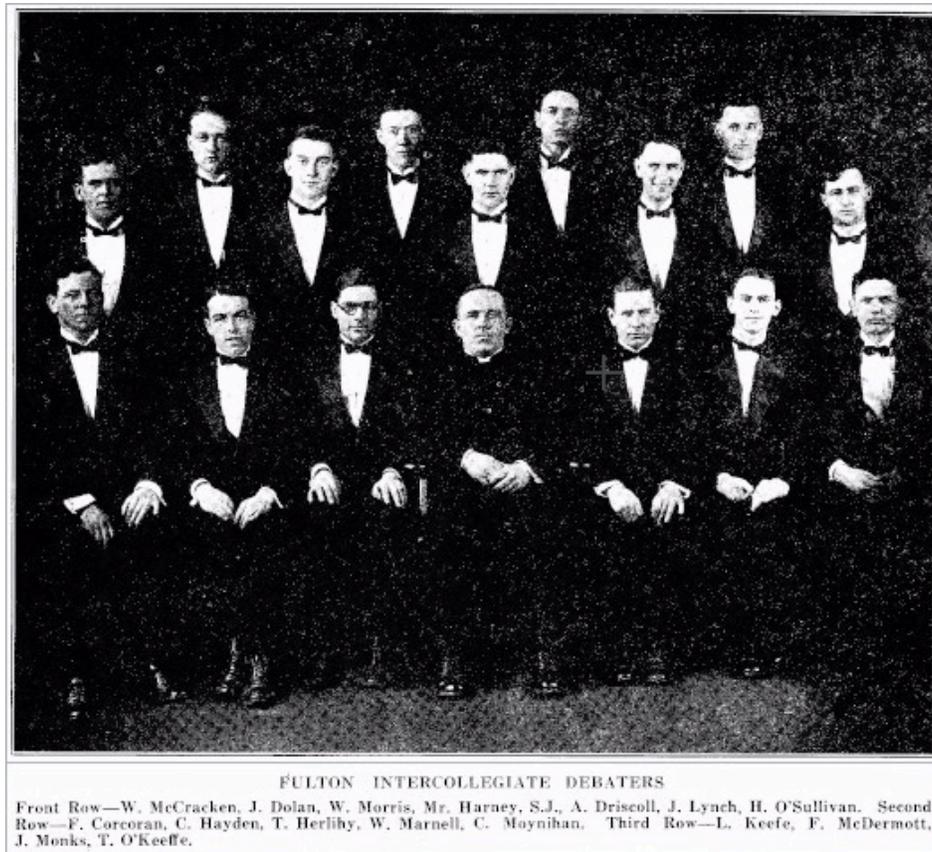
Public officials were drawn to the pomp associated with debates. When the Fulton debated Harvard in Jordan Hall in 1931, “His Excellency, Joseph Baell Ely, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” was the chairman of the debate. “The privilege of having a governor preside at an intercollegiate debate is very unusual, and, as far as The HEIGHTS knows, the first time in this state.” “The presentations were begun at 8:30, after the Boston College orchestra...had offered an overture and several short selections.” The banner headlines announced “Harvard bows to Fulton in World Court Debate.” “Harvard lost by a two to one decision.” The Marquette Society freshmen met Holy Cross in 1933 and “Mayor Mahoney, of Worcester” delivered the “speech of welcome.” When BC debated Harvard in March 1936, Lieutenant Governor Joseph Hurley served as “chairman of the debate,” a “justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts,” and the “president of the Board of Massachusetts Bar Examiners” were two of the three judges.



MANAGING BOARD, 1926-27

Front Row—Left to Right, Francis D. Barrett, '27, Business Manager; Thomas C. Heffernan, '27, Editor-in-Chief; Martin E. Griffin, '27, Managing Editor.  
Rear Row—Left to Right, Victor J. Newton, '28, Chairman, Editorial Board; Walter J. Leach, '27, Advertising Manager; Norman W. Steele, '28, Circulation Manager; Joseph D. Linehan, '27, Sporting Editor; Timothy F. Lyons, '27, News Editor; Robert C. Hilton, '27, Treasurer.

Fulton debaters dressed for success. The difference can be seen by comparing the 1926 photos of the Editorial Board of The Heights, with each man wearing a vested suit, and of The Fulton Society, with each man in a tuxedo.



When major international or intercollegiate debates were announced, the biographies of the debaters were typically published. The Sydney team touring Europe and America in 1927 Included one debater who “is a former star in football, cricket, rifle-shooting, tennis and track, and holds the junior 100-yards sprint record for New South Wales.”

The long and glorious tradition of public debates produced orators. In 1927, The Heights touted the benefits of debating. “Not only does debating train the memory, and develop the power of observation, but it gives a certain poise and grace of carriage that is absolutely necessary to the successful man.” The Marquette Society moderator gave a brief address “concerning the good effect which graceful posture, natural gestures and clear enunciation have on an audience.” No microphones amplified their speeches. An exception was made when BC and Harvard freshmen debated at the Columbus Club of Dorchester. In anticipation of “an overflow crowd, an amplifying system has been prepared in order that both halls in the building may be used.”

But not all oratory was equally valued. The international debates highlighted the differences. “The Oxford debaters annually tour America and have always proven popular because of the informal way in which they discuss the topic of debate.” “The style of speaking of the two teams offered a decided contrast. The Boston speakers presented a serious, earnest,

logical and well co-ordinated case, while the Cambridge men wasted quite a bit of their time in injecting witticisms and mannerisms into their treatment of the debate, which, though pleasing, did not bear upon the matter under discussion.” When the Fulton travelled to Loyola College of Montreal in 1927, it was “the first Fulton team to debate outside the limits of the United States, marking another milestone in the progress of debating at B.C.” After BC lost to Loyola College of Montreal in its first debate on foreign soil, The Heights claimed that “In Canada, the custom is to count as much for declamation as for argumentation.” During the debate with the National Union of Students of England, “As regards elocution, the English team depended, as English debaters usually do, upon attaining a rapport with their audience by conversational intimacy and friendliness. They completely deleted the time worn custom of debaters, of presenting their causes with an orchestration of bombast and yelling and bathos.”

The format of the public debates was evolving. In 1926 Cambridge followed the custom of the English universities. “The first affirmative opened the debate with a thirteen minute main speech and closed the debate with a seven-minute rebuttal. The other five speakers delivered twenty-minute speeches.” A decade later, In March 1936 the BC-Harvard debate followed “the Oxford system of debate.” The timing had shifted. The first speaker... will be allowed 8 minutes at the opening of the debate. The Harvard and Boston College debaters will then speak alternately for 15 minutes each. At the close of the debate, the first speaker for the affirmative will be allowed a rebuttal of 7 minutes.” The system was adopted by the Eastern Debate League.

When BC debated Brown In November 1934 “The Oregon system, which has become very popular in the last few years, was used. Under the system, the first affirmative and the first negative outline their respective cases. The second negative then cross-examines the first affirmative and the second affirmative question the first negative.” By the time I joined the Fulton, colleges all debated under the American system of debating that was used at least since 1931. “Each speaker was allowed ten minutes for his main speech and five for rebuttal, the negative opening the rebuttal.”

A more important change is evident by comparing the Easter vacation tours at the beginning and end of the Golden Age. In the western trip during the spring of 1927, one team debated against “Canisius, Western Reserve, St. Visley, Marquette and Western Maryland. Another team debated against St. Xavier, Western State Normal, Loyola of Chicago, University of Pittsburgh and Penn State.” “Each of the two teams will participate in five debates. Five different questions will be debated on the trip.” This was in the spirit of the Golden Year of 1925-26 when “fourteen men debated seven different questions.” In contrast, in 1939 the Marquette Society took an Easter trip to Immaculata, Georgetown, Villanova and Fordham debating on the same question previously considered in meetings with Salem, Holy Cross and Harvard. The topic: Resolved: The Government should cease to use public funds for the purpose of stimulating business, was “one of the two subjects selected for collegiate debating by a nationwide council of university orators.”

Once there was agreement on the format and the topic, the era of tour debating was ready to give way to the era of tournament debating. No need to travel to each college’s campus. All the teams would travel to a single campus and debate everybody on hand.

Tournament debating resulted in other fundamental changes. A single public debate necessarily had only one affirmative and one negative. Sometimes the sides were a natural outgrowth of the topic itself. In 1935, the Cambridge team met BC near the end of a successful 26-match invasion of the United States. When they supported the affirmative of the topic Resolved: that in the opinion of this house the judiciary should have no power to override the decisions of the executive and legislatures, the two English debaters were “upholding the system of government so long adhered to in their native country, where Parliament has the power to overrule any action in the constitution.” In the 1927 Fulton prize debate on the topic Resolved: The House Deplores the Caribbean Policy of President Coolidge, “The sides were chosen, not by lot, as is usual, but according to the conviction of the speakers.” In any case, the debaters were preparing to represent only one side of the question.

One dramatic exception of this truism occurred in 1931. The Heights reported “An evidence of the versatility of some of our forensic champions was brought to the fore...when the Fulton debating team composed of Jerome Doyle, Charles Gallagher, and John Wright found themselves before a large audience, a group of distinguished judges and members of the press—and yet without a single opponent. Somewhere between Middlebury, Vermont, and University Heights, the representatives of New York University had strayed from the narrow and straight... John Wright, whose views on prohibition to this point were most disparaging, changed his attitude and become a militant anti-saloonist, leaving Gallagher and Doyle to uphold the fight for repeal. So far, so good, but not good enough, Wright must have a colleague, in order that in his speaking he might say ‘my worthy colleague,’ as all good debaters do. Henry Leen, a senior spectator who had the bad taste to come dressed in a tuxedo, was dragged by force to the stage... Leen and Wright won the debate!”

Novice tournaments often included Affirmative and Negative teams, as Jim Unger and I participated as freshmen. Jim would always prefer to debate the negative of anything. I was content to advocate the affirmative. Varsity tournaments regularly required two-person teams to split their debate rounds between the affirmative and negative. The tournament assigned the sides. When elimination rounds began, there was no assignment of sides. This meant that elimination rounds were often decided by a coin-flip, since the winning team could choose their preferred side of the topic.

The goal of a national debate community was finally realized in 1947 when the United States Military Academy at West Point agreed to host a National Debate Tournament. It was this world that I entered when I joined the Fulton Society which Jim was beginning to coach. The Fulton Society that Jim guided to prominence travelled extensively, but their prominence was not cause for public acclaim.

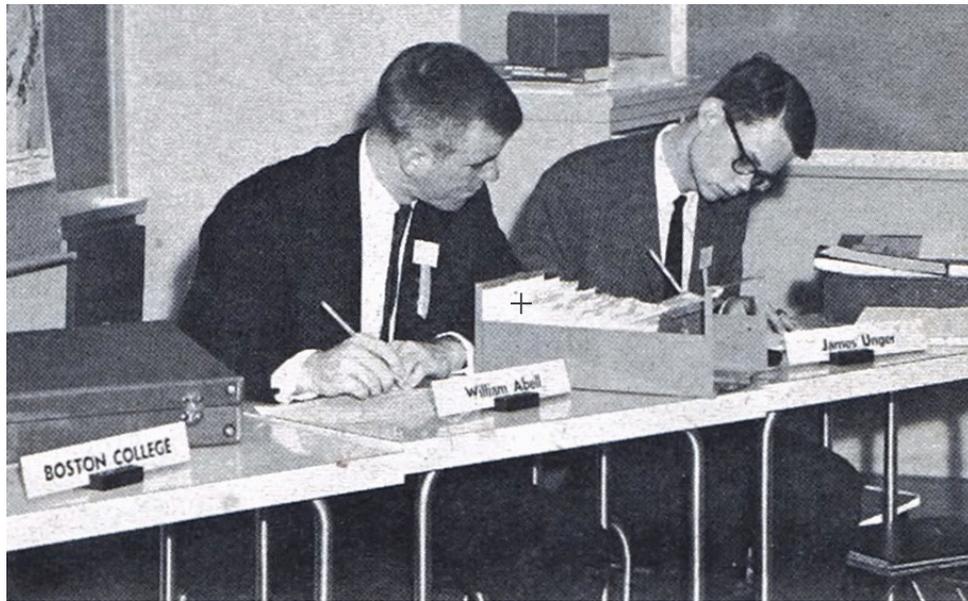
During my time in the Fulton Society, the typical debate round included two debaters from two schools, one judge and one timekeeper. So a six-round tournament would involve six rooms with six people, bookended by a lengthy drive along the eastern seaboard. If a tournament had elimination rounds, the crowds got bigger as the number of remaining teams shrank. The crowds didn't form outside with lines of patrons anxious to hear the best debaters, but rather with people remaining inside because they had no place else to go before the drive home began.



The shift from public debates to insular tournament debates fostered a shift in debating styles. Former Fultonian Charles F. Donovan, S.J. attributes it in part to the introduction of the podium onto the debate stage. In his retrospective on Debate at Boston College he observed: “In the earlier period the debater stood on a platform with no podium between him and the audience. There was no podium because debaters made their main presentations without notes, speaking either extemporaneously or from memory. A card or two might be held in the hand during rebuttal. The tournament style is to come to the podium with an array of documents and notes for main speeches as well as rebuttals.”

Multi-round tournaments did not need eloquence. Although, Jim Unger did win the Leonard Oratorical Contest of BC for two straight years. When Jim Unger and Joe McLaughlin debated in the final round of Nationals, they outsourced their opponents, with 38 citations compared to 15 for their opponents. Nevertheless, they lost the war of words. They used 6,480 words, but their opponents used 6,660. Joe went from 174 words per minute in his first affirmative speech to 265 words per minute in his rebuttal.

Jim Unger and Joe McLaughlin's success came in the forefront of a general trend away from after-dinner speakers orating to large audiences, to debaters who quoted authorities from index cards kept in "cookie boxes"—according to their glib detractors. Jim knew that there was sometimes a certainty that he would walk into a room with a judge reading the newspaper with a sealed ballot on the table. But the onslaught of the evidence-quoters could not be restrained. When the University of Redlands won Nationals in 1952, one in twenty words were part of a quotation. In 1966 Northwestern won Nationals with one of every four words from a quote.



The pace and scope of change can be captured by comparing a picture of Jim Unger and Shep Abell at West Point in 1962, with one file box between them, and a 1968 picture of Charlie Brown and me with four file drawers, two for each of us.



In 1927 membership in the Fulton Society was limited to 75 members. “There are many vacancies at present in the society, but it is expected that the full quota will be reached within the next week or two. . . . Applicants for admission must be prepared to give a five-minute speech before a board of judges.” In October 1929, the trial speeches “consumed an hour’s time and in that space of time about thirty prospective members spoke.” When an upperclassman aspired to join the Fulton Society in 1930 “the only requirement being that he deliver a short trial speech of about five minutes.” 24 new members were selected. “For the most part the orations were extremely interesting “ including “an unusually fine speech on fencing.” in 1930, a five minute speech was also required for the Marquette Society. Thirty underclassmen delivered speeches that “covered subjects ranging from the discussion of the American Legion to that beloved and much debated question, capital punishment.” The undergraduate society was limited to “about 50 members.” In October 1928 “Thirty-five candidates applied for admission into the Marquette. The subjects employed for the trial speeches included every topic from the whispering campaign to the thoughts of a lowly Freshman after two weeks on the Heights.”

Successful applicants need only pay a modest initiation fee to become members. Such a large organization had structure. The Marquette Society had a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and Chairman of Standing Committees. The Fulton Society had an Executive Committee, Literary Committee, Intercollegiate Committee, Publicity Committee and Lecture Committee. When a new treasurer was elected in 1931, it was hoped that his “persuasive manner of argumentation may make him a very effective agent for wheedling out of back dues, present dues, and future dues from members of the society who show a reluctance or indisposition to be prompt in financial matters.” The Fulton held elections. “Only members who have attended the required number of meetings and have paid their monthly dues will be allowed to participate in the elections.”

We had officers in the 1960s. I was President of the Fulton Society in my senior year, but there were no hurdles to clear for membership, such as audition speeches, initiation fees, or monthly dues. In the era of evidence based debate, the extent of a debater’s commitment was quite evident—from the size of their file box. Since I never used a self-serve copier until after I graduated from law school, and since the wonders of the mimeograph machine had yet to be realized by debaters, each debater compiled their own file box. Exchanging evidence among debaters was not only impractical, but a culture evolved where each Fultonian guarded their file box as a ticket to another road trip. How could Jim keep someone home if they had built up a file drawer?

When a debater changed partners, he changed file boxes as well. So it was not unusual to hear a piece of evidence for the first time during a debate when your partner read their index card. Even novel arguments were fair game for those taught to “think on their feet.” When Charlie Brown once found it relevant to mention the hourly wage of garbage collectors in his hometown of Cleveland, in a debate against USC—on the USC campus, I felt compelled to preface my defense of Charlie by saying “Now admittedly Cleveland has a lot of garbage...”

As I reviewed my own career with the help of *The Heights*, I found many surprises. The first was the realization that my name had appeared on Page One of *The Heights* before I had ever engaged in an intercollegiate debate. The explanation lies in the picture below the article. Joseph McLaughlin had joined James Unger at West Point and was now standing next to John Raedel, in his dress ROTC uniform, holding the first place trophy from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Debate Tournament. To their right is Dr. John. H. Lawton.



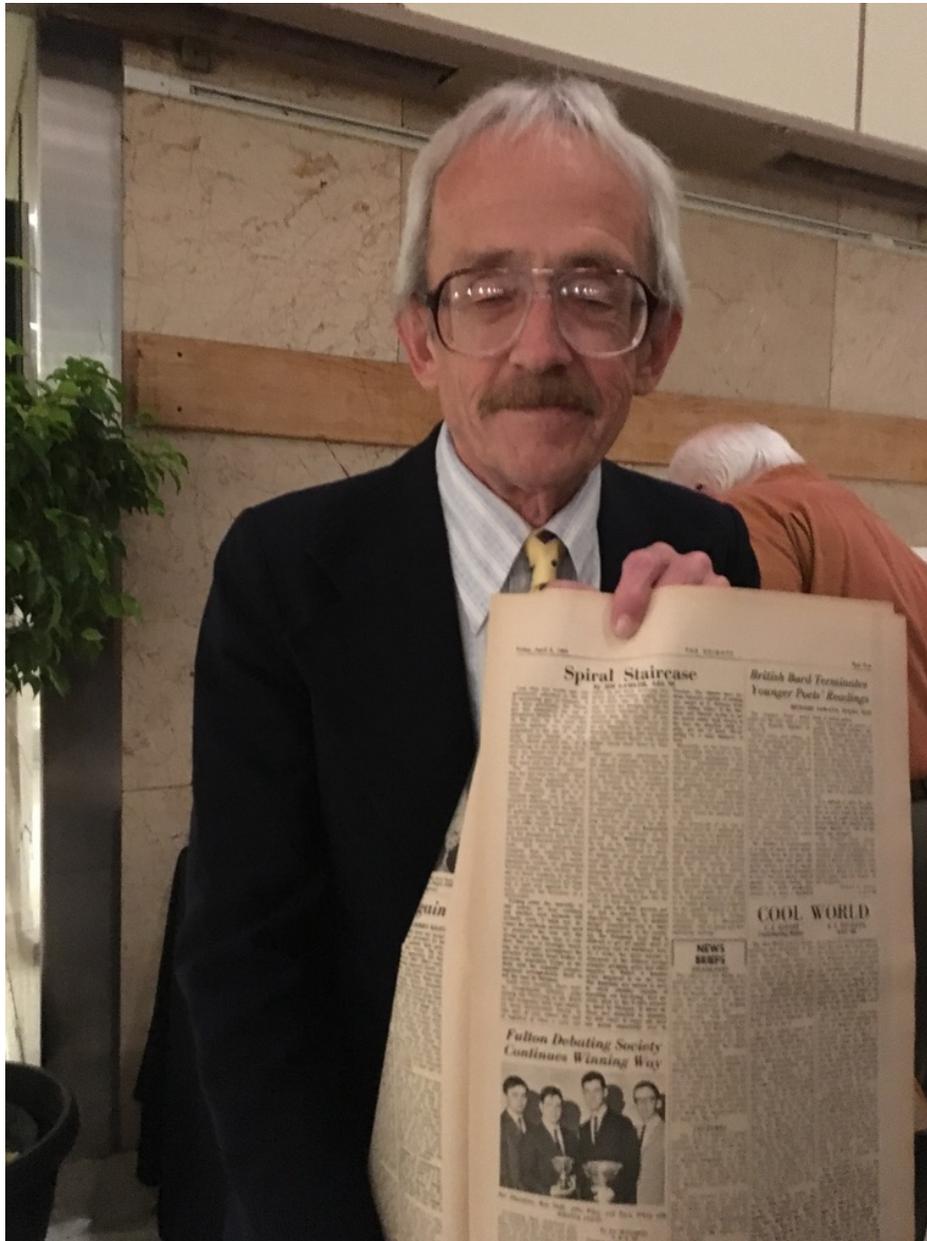
Dr. Lawton had been appointed in 1960 to lead the Fulton back to national prominence and now he had the goods. BC had qualified for the National Debate Tournament in 1962 for the first time in the university's history. Now BC had finished its third straight trip to Nationals—this time making the final round, only to lose by a single ballot.

My name is included in a list of those attending upcoming tournaments. I was going from BC to BU. Fortunately the next issue of *The Heights* was able to report on Page One that I was part of a novice team with Arthur Desrosiers, Peter Cooper and Dick Sunberg who “were named as the top four-man team.” *The Heights* reported that our foursome returned to BU in February for the Greater Boston Forensic Championships competing against freshman and varsity squads. Peter and I won speaker awards.

As successful as these tournaments were, they do not stick in our memories. The one we recall was recounted in an article doubtless authored by Dr. Lawton for *The Heights* entitled *Fulton Debaters Foiled by Hertz*. “The results were interesting. The Eagles won seven debates and lost two of the other three to that nationally ranked favorite, the Hertz Rent-a-Car Company. Considered number one in their field, Hertz proved a formidable opponent for the frosh debaters. A stubborn truck lock prevented the Eagles from getting at their evidence and materials and thus prevented them from participating in the first two rounds of debate. In the remaining rounds, the debaters overcame their initial loss to their 300 horsepower opponent, and won 7 of the next

eight, amassing more total points than any other team that had debated the regular 10-round schedule. Dave White was chosen as best speaker despite his absence from the initial debates.”

I still have the best speaker plaque on my wall, but that is not why I remember the St. Anselm’s tournament. When Arthur Desrosiers’ wife Marian asked why we seemed to get along so well after 45 years, I blurted out “We bonded over the trunk of a car.” As Arthur and I both recall, we ran out of gas on the icy roads of Manchester. So we leaned our shoulders into the trunk and pushed the car to an unknown destination with gas. Perhaps our shoulders had something to do with the locked trunk.



A picture in The Heights that Arthur and I rediscovered at our 50th reunion in McElroy Commons tells much about the Golden Age that was still in its infancy.

Arthur and I are flanking Bob Halli, holding his third award as top speaker, and John Riley holding the second-place team trophy. But Arthur and I had debated in another city and with different partners. Why were we in the photo? The answer lies in the fact that the four of us lived on the second floor of Fenwick Hall, along with hockey Hall of Famer Paul “The Shot” Hurley, who enjoyed a rare single room. Dick Sunberg and Peter Cooper were day hops. So when the photographer from The Heights arrived to take a picture of Fultonians, it was easy to find the four of us from Fenwick. We were probably already wearing coats and ties.



Art Desrosiers, Bob Halli, John Riley, and Dave White with debating awards.

There were no dorms when BC held its first intercollegiate debate in 1895 against Georgetown. The Georgetown debaters were from Pennsylvania, North Dakota and California. The BC debaters were from Boston and surrounding communities. In 1964, BC was still 80-90% day hops, but the Fulton Society had become a vibrant dorm community. Peter Cooper and Joe McLaughlin went to BC High where they represented the far-famed Baptist Debating Society, and Rick Sunberg went to Malden Catholic, so BC would certainly have been well represented by local talent. But Dr. Lawton wouldn't have been able to dispatch teams of freshman to different cities on the same weekend unless he had truly created a Fulton SOCIETY. In 1964, the strength of the society would be put to the test.

The significance of Joe McLaughlin's pending graduation was captured in a large Heights article entitled Debating: Victorious Revival at B.C. The article recounted how Dr. Lawton, Jim Unger and Joseph McLaughlin teamed up in 1961. By 1962 Jim had already qualified for Nationals with Shep Abel. Joe took Shep's place and debated at Nationals in 1963 and 1964. In his senior year, Jim was named the top speaker in nine of the fourteen tournaments he entered. Now Jim was the assistant debate coach.

The freshmen Sunberg, Cooper, Desrosiers, Riley and White were pictured with their trophies from the B.U. tournament. By the time Districts rolled around, another freshman, Bob Halli, had emerged as the partner that Joe McLaughlin would take to qualify for Nationals, capping off his own Hall of Fame career and launching Bob Halli's.



Underclass members of the Fulton Debating Society, David Sunberg CBA '68, Harry Attridge A&S '67, Pete Cooper A&S '68, Art Desrosiers A&S '68, with trophies won at B.U. Tournament.

My sophomore year began with more success and publicity. The November 5 issue of *The Heights* headlined Debaters Triumph as Season Opens, reported that I had joined a large group of successful debaters at tournaments at Boston University, the University of Kentucky, and Brandeis University.

The November 19 issue of *The Heights* contains a picture of Arthur and me holding up the team trophy we had won at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia, flanked by Bob Halli and Peter Cooper holding their speaker trophies. Bob Halli and I went to Georgetown over Thanksgiving where we went 6-2 and Bob won the fourth-best speaker trophy. The New Year found Bob and Peter Cooper going 5-2 at Harvard, while Arthur Desrosiers and I went 3-4. The next weekend Bob and I went 5-1 at Northwestern and finished the winter swing at Dartmouth along with Art and Peter.



Pictured above are Fultonians Bob Halli, Dave White, Art Desrosiers, and Pete Cooper with the trophies they won at St. Joseph's College Invitational Tournament last weekend in Philadelphia.

Their 8-4 record won them the fourth place trophy. The Boston College team piled up more individual speaker points than any other school in the tournament. Bob Halli was named best speaker of the 120 participants, Pete Cooper was fifth, with Desrosiers and White close behind.

The next few weeks were reserved for preparing for the District VIII qualifying tournament for the National Tournament at West Point. BC and gone to Nationals for the past four years and now I would be able to take Joe McLaughlin's place alongside Bob Halli representing BC. I still remember the end of the tournament, when Harvard debater Jim Turner confided in me "It's a damn shame," since we had come in sixth at the tournament, but only five schools qualified to compete at Nationals. Of course Harvard qualified. It has gone to Nationals every year since 1954. So did Dartmouth, with its endowed chair of debate and endless budget. MIT was a stones throw over the Charles River and also qualified. Vermont had been the top-seed after the qualifying rounds at last year's Nationals, until Jim Unger and Joe McLaughlin beat them in the quarterfinals. They qualified again. Now the fifth place was taken by Fordham, another Jesuit University, but BC would not advance to Nationals.

So the four-year run of Abram-Unger-McLaughlin had ended. I discovered how big Joe's shoes were. Would BC go the way of Holy Cross? It had been the top-seed at the previous National tournament, with the first and third individual speakers. But Holy Cross never made it to Nationals again. Vermont would fail to make Nationals in future years. I thought that I would never make it any closer.

When junior year began, John Riley won the first place prize in the Leonard Speech contest. He was described as the President of The Young Republicans Club and a "former Fulton Society debater." When he came in second a year later, he was simply described as the "Massachusetts President of Young Republicans." Arthur Desrosiers had found a way to get to St. Regis College and a reason to get there. When he was on campus, he served on the Dorm Council and designed its new judicial system. I started to build another file drawer. At one point I discovered that the law school library stayed open on Friday evenings, so I could read a law review article, print out a "killer quote" on my legal pad, and return to the dorms where I would type another index card to be added to my evidence collection.

The tournament season began at the Alan S. Rapaport Memorial Tournament at Brandeis University. Bob Halli and I went 7-1 “defeating Fordham, Rutgers, Dartmouth, Marquette, Miami, Norwich and Georgia before losing a one point decision to Western Reserve.” Peter Cooper and Bob Riehs “defeated Canisius, Emory, George Washington, St. Anselm’s and Brooklyn to go 5-3. “For the first time in three years Boston College qualified two teams for the elimination rounds at a major tournament.” But we met each other in the octofinals, so Peter Cooper and Bob Riehs had to watch me and Bob Halli lose to Stonehill, 2-1

Peter Cooper and I travelled to Atlanta for the Emory tournament, but during most of the year I teamed up with Bob Halli at Georgetown and the January swing through Harvard, Northwestern and Dartmouth. Next up was the District VIII qualifying tournament. I redoubled my research efforts. I remember going down to the debate office to read every card in the file drawers. I discovered that some of the best evidence had been found in September and forgotten sometime thereafter. My research involved moving index cards from the back of a category to the front. I can’t say I remember scrolling through the microfilm copies of the New York Times, but when a team attempted to affirm the Topic: “Resolved That the United States should substantially reduce its foreign policy commitments” by advocating a withdrawal from NATO, I was able to quote a 1952 promise by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles that the US would send 20 divisions to Europe, so the random number of US soldiers in Europe on any given day was not a “commitment.”

Sixty-eight teams from the New York-New England entered the District VIII qualifying tournament. I still remember the end of the tournament when a woman from Stonehill told me “You’re the top seed.” She was beginning her own two-year stint at Nationals. Bob and I had gone 14-2 and led in speaker points and rank. Harvard and Dartmouth also qualified, as did Brandeis—our station wagon companions to Georgetown every Thanksgiving weekend.

Bob and I earned 14 ballots at Nationals, but since there are three judges in each preliminary debate, that was only good for 4-4 and 17th—one ballot short of qualifying for the elimination rounds. We finished the year at the annual Fulton Prize Debate where I won the Fulton medal presented by Mrs. Roberts, founder of the BC Philomatheia Society.

As Senior year began, Bob Halli decided he would rather not fill another file drawer, but instead focus on completing his English major that would lead to a PhD a few years later. More significantly for the history of BC debate, Jim Unger graduated from Harvard Law School and accepted a job as Director of Forensics at Georgetown. This meant I was looking for a new debate partner and learning from another debate coach. He was Robert M. Shrum, former Georgetown debater, former Brandeis debate coach, former roommate of Jim Unger, and current Harvard Law student. He paired me with Charlie Brown at Brandeis, where we met Harvard in the octofinals. This was never a good idea, as one of the debaters, Joel Perwin, would win Nationals next year. It spelled the end of our tournament as we lost 2-1. Mark Killenbeck joined me at Georgetown. Charlie accompanied me to the West Coast for a holiday tournament at USC where we beat “UCLA, Stanford, USC, Oregon, and last year’s champions, Dartmouth” and lost to Oberlin in the octofinals 2-1.

Charlie and I lost in the octofinals of Harvard to Houston—which would be the top seed at this year’s Nationals. We lost in the octofinals at Northwestern the following week. When we actually won the octofinal round at Dartmouth, Charlie and I were in uncharted territory. After

we won the quarter-final round, we faced defending national-champion Dartmouth in the semi-final round of their own tournament. We won. We met Oberlin again in the final round and lost again. Our second place finish in the two-man competition was complemented by Mark Killenbeck and Ron Hoenig as BC won the second best four-man team trophy. It was a perfect jumping off point for the District VIII tournament.

Preparing for Districts, and then for Nationals, rewards a year-long involvement with a national Topic. A plan that would do quite well at Brandeis in the early fall would look quite ordinary at Dartmouth in the late winter. The best teams and coaches knew what each other was arguing. Districts was one final chance to beat the best arguments that could be fashioned and supported with evidence. Intercollegiate debating had come a long way from the BC debate with Providence College that was announced on January 24, 1928 and planned for March the 2nd. However, “The question, as yet, has not been deliberately arranged.”

Charlie and I travelled to my hometown of Hamburg, New York so we could compete at the University of Buffalo and my parents could hear how fast we could talk. We went 13-3. We “won unanimous decisions against Harvard, Army, Brown, MIT, and the 1967 National Champion, Dartmouth....For the second straight year, Boston College is the top-ranked team in the region.”

Nationals were held at Brooklyn College, hardly a campus to match West Point. Charlie and I entered the final preliminary round against Oregon, which we had beaten at USC. Each round of Nationals was re-seeded, so power meets power and no one goes undefeated. We were 3-4 with 11 ballots and Oregon was 4-3 with 13 ballots. We beat them. But we only beat them 2-1. Oregon entered the elimination rounds as the 15th seed and the only 4-4 team with 14 ballots.

This means that I ended up one ballot short of qualifying for the elimination rounds in two straight years. Only Dartmouth qualified in my junior year, and only Harvard qualified in my senior year. BC was close over the two years, but on the wrong side of the cusp.

So my claim to Fame came late in my career at BC and late in the year. Just my luck. The only two tournaments that I won didn't award any trophies. Only an invitation to Nationals was offered. The top seed was its own reward. My record of 27-5 over two years at Districts is a worthy standard of comparison. Jim Unger and Shep Abell placed second at Districts with an 11-5 record. Jim Unger and Joe McLaughlin placed fourth at Districts with a 10-6 record. Jim Unger and Richard Ward tied for first with Harvard with an 11-1 record.

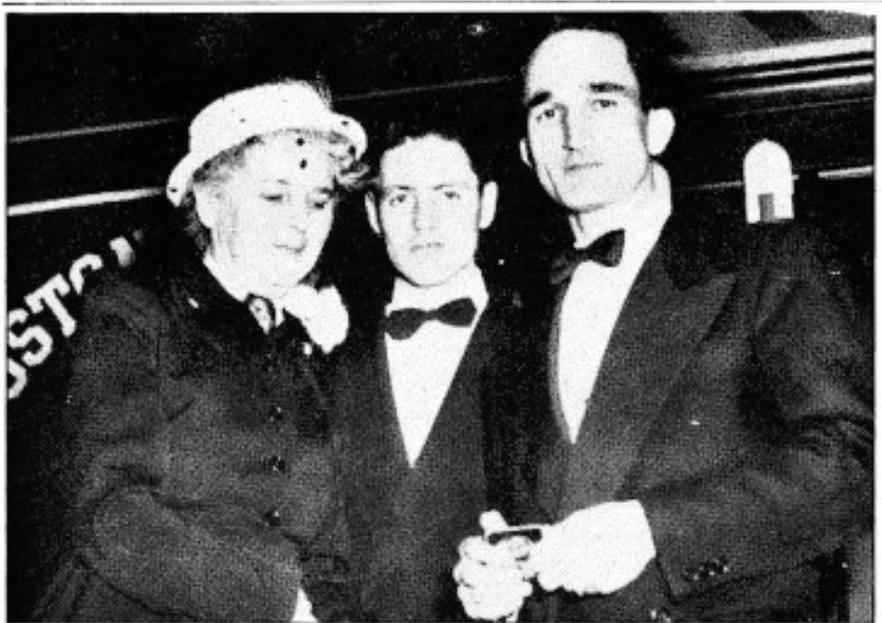
My Fulton career ended with the glamour of the Fulton Prize Debate. “Each year since 1890 a public debate has been held to determine the winner of the Fulton medal.” Just competing in the Fulton Prize debate was a highly coveted honor. In March 1933 twenty-four applicants for an appearance in the Fulton Debate spoke in the Library auditorium. When tryouts for the Fulton prize debate were held in 1936 contestants were “expected to deliver three minute speeches on the Roosevelt administration and to be prepared to rebut the arguments of a contestant opposing them.”

In April 1927, The Heights reported that “The Fulton Prize Debate is one of the oldest institutions in the college. So old that it has become a tradition.” When James M. Curley, Jr. won the Thirty-Ninth Annual Fulton Prize Medal, it earned a front-page banner headline in The

Heights. “As usual, the Fulton Prize Debate drew a large audience. The Senior Hall was completely filled, and it was found necessary to procure extra seats.”

Our Fulton debates were not conducted before crowds, but we did try to provide as much pomp as we could. In my freshman year, Dick Sunberg “presided as chairman.” “The tribute to Mrs. Roberts was paid by Art Desrosiers.” Mrs. Roberts generously donated the Fulton medal.

In 1932 the Fulton Medal was described as “the coveted prize, a fifty dollar gold medal, the annual gift of Mrs. Vincent P. Roberts, president of the Philomatheia Club,” “that gem of goldsmithship which is the center of all these verbal contests.” The medal was “donated in memory of her father Dr. J.D. Werner. She had promised to donate the medal for ten years beginning in 1920. The Heights pictured her in 1951 presenting the medal to Donald White. In 1968 she was still donating the Fulton Gold Medal. I teamed with Peter Cooper in the debate and won the Fulton Gold Medal for the second time, joining Joe McLaughlin as the only two-time winners during the 1960s.



At the Fulton Prize Debate: The Presentation by Mrs. Vincent P. Roberts of the Fulton Medal to Donald W. White, '51. Looking on is Lloyd P. McDonald, Chairman.

The Fulton Medal was a valuable prize in itself, but winning it led to more enduring glory. “The names of the winners of the Fulton prize medals are inscribed in letters of maroon and old gold on the wall of the Fulton Hall.” “High on the walls of the Fulton Room in the Tower Building are written in letters enscrolled for ages to view and admire the names of men,” after reading the passage of Webster on the arched ceiling of the Fulton Room and vainly attempting to translate the quotations from Cicero, Demosthenes, St. Paul, Bourdaloue and Segneri which surround the words of the Yankee orator.



"WHEN PUBLIC BODIES ARE TO BE  
ADDRESSSED ON MOMENTOUS OC  
CASIONS. WHEN GREAT INTERESTS  
ARE AT STAKE. AND STRONG PAS  
SIONS EXCITED. NOTHING IS VALU  
ABLE IN SPEECH FARTHER THAN  
AS IT IS CONNECTED WITH HIGH  
INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL EN  
DOWMENTS. CLEARNESS. FORCE  
AND EARNESTNESS ARE THE QUAL  
ITIES WHICH PRODUCE CONVICTION.  
TRUE ELOQUENCE. INDEED. DOES  
NOT CONSIST IN SPEECH. IT CANNOT  
BE BROUGHT FROM FAR. LABOR AND  
LEARNING MAY TOIL FOR IT. BUT THEY  
WILL TOIL IN VAIN. WORDS AND PH  
RASES MAY BE MARSHALLED IN  
EVERY WAY. BUT THEY CANNOT  
COMPASS IT. IT MUST EXIST IN  
THE MAN. IN THE SUBJECT AND IN  
THE OCCASION. AFFECTED PASSION.  
INTENSE EXPRESSION. THE POMP  
OF DECLAMATION. ALL MAY ASPIRE  
TO IT; THEY CANNOT REACH IT. IT  
COMES. IF IT COME AT ALL. LIKE THE  
OUTBREAKING OF A FOUNTAIN FROM  
THE EARTH. OR THE BURSTING FORTH  
OF VOLCANIC FIRES. WITH SPONTANE  
OUS. ORIGINAL. NATIVE FORCE."

WEBSTER ON 'ADAMS AND JEFFERSON'



"QVID TAM PORRO REGIVM, TAM LIBERALE, TAM MVNIFICVM QVAM OPEM FERRE SVPPPLICIBVS, EXCITARE AFFLICTOS, DARE SALVTEM, LIBERARE PERICVLIS, RETINERE HOMINES IN CIVITATE? -----

AC, NE PLVRA, QVAE SVNT PAENE INNVMERABILIA, CONSECTER, COMPREHENDAM BREVI; SIC ENIM STATVO, PERFECTI ORATORIS MODERATIONE ET SAPIENTIA NON SOLVM IPSIVS DIGNITATEM, SED ET PRIVATORVM PLVRIMORVM, ET VNIVERSAE REIPVBLICAE SALVTEM MAXIME CONTINERI, QVAMOBREM PERGITE VT FACITIS ADOLESCENTES; ATQVE IN ID STVDIVM, IN QVO ESTIS INCVBITE, VT ET VOBIS HONORI, ET AMICIS VTILITATI, ET REIPVBLICAE EMOLVMENTO ESSE POSSITIS."

CICERO, "DE ORATORE"



ἔστι δ' οὐχ ὁ λόγος τοῦ  
ρήτορος. Αἰσχίνη τιμοῦ οὐδ'  
ὁ τόπος τῆς φωνῆς. ἀλλὰ τὸ  
ταῦτά προαιρεῖσθαι τοῖς  
πολλοῖς καὶ τὸ τοὺς αὐτοὺς  
μισεῖν καὶ φιλεῖν οὐσπερ αὐ  
τῆ πατρίς. ὁ γὰρ οὕτως ἔχων  
τὴν νυχὴν οὗτος ἐπ' εὐνοίᾳ  
παύσει οὐδ' ἂν ἡ πόλις  
προοραταὶ κινδυνόου τῷ ἑαυτῇ  
τούτους θεραπεύων οὐκ ἐπὶ  
τῆς αὐτῆς ὀρμῆς τοῖς πολλοῖς  
οἰκουσὶ οὐδὲ τῆς ἀσφαλείας  
τῆς αὐτῆς ἔχει προσδοκίαν.  
ἀλλ' ὁρᾷς; — ἐγὼ ταῦτά γὰρ  
σύμφερουθ' εἰλομην τουτοῖσι  
καὶ οὐδὲν ἐξαιρετοῦ οὐδ'  
ἰδίου πεποίημαι.

ΔΗΜΟΣΘΕΝΟΣ ΠΕΡΙ ΤΟΥ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΥ



St Paul

TU, ERGO, FILI MI, CONFORTIARE IN GRATIA  
QUAE EST IN CHRISTO IESU. PERMANE IN  
IIS QUAE DIDICISTI ET CREDITA SUNT TIBI  
SCIENS A QUO DIDICERIS. CERTA BONUM CERTA  
MEN FIDELI APPREHENDE VITAM AETERNAM.  
OMNIA PROBATE. QUOD BONUM EST TENETE.  
IUVENILIA DESIDERIA FUGE. SECTARE  
VERO IUSTITIAM, PIETATEM, FIDEM, CARITATEM,  
PATIENTIAM, MANSUETUDINEM. IN  
OMNIBUS TE IPSUM PRÆBE EXEMPLUM  
BONORUM OPERUM, IN DOCTRINA, IN INE  
GRITATE, IN GRAVITATE, INEPTAS ET ANILES  
FABULAS DE VITA, EXERCE AUTEM TE IPSUM  
AD PIETATEM. CORPORALIS EXERCITATIO AD  
MODICUM UTILIS EST; PIETAS AUTEM AD OM  
NIA UTILIS EST, PROMISSIONEM HABENS VI  
TAE, QUAE NUNC EST, ET FUTURAE. LOQUERE  
QUAE DECENT SANAM DOCTRINAM. SENIO  
REM NE INCREPAVERIS, SED OBSECRATA UT  
PATREM; IUVENES, UT FRATRES NOLI CON  
TENDERE VERBIS, AD NIHIL ENIM UTILE EST,  
NSI AD SUBVERSIONEM AUDIENTIUM VIGILATE.  
STATE IN FIDE, VIRILITER AGITE ET CONFOR  
TAMINI. BONUM AUTEM FACIENTES NON DE  
FICIMUS, TEMPORE ENIM SUO METAMUS  
NON DEFICIENTES." "EX EPISTOLIS SANCTI PAULI"



Soit de l'ottre.

"LA LOI DE DIEU EST TOUT À LA FOIS UN JOUG ET UN SOULAGEMENT. UN FARDEAU ET UN SOUTIEN. CETTE LOI DE CHARITÉ N'A-T-ELLE PAS CHANGÉ LES CHAINES EN DES LIENS D'HONNEUR? TÉMOIN UN SAINT PAUL. N'A-T-ELLE PAS DONNÉ DES CHARMES À LA CROIX? TÉMOIN UN SAINT ANDRÉ. N'A-T-ELLE PAS FAIT TROUVER DU RAFRAICHISSEMENT AU MILIEU DES FLAMMES? TÉMOIN UN SAINT LAURENT. N'OPÈRE-T-ELLE PAS ENCORE À NOS YEUX TANT DE MIRACLES? SI DONC LA LOI VOUS PAROIT DIFFICILE CE N'EST POINT À LA LOI QU'IL S'EN FAUT PRENDRE NI À SES DIFFICULTÉS MAIS À VOUS-MÊME ET À VOTRE INFÉRENCE POUR DIEU. ELLE EST DIFFICILE À CEUX QUI LA CRAIGNENT, À CEUX QUI LA VOUDROIENT ÉLARGIR, À CEUX QUE L'ESPRIT DE DIEU, CET ESPRIT DE GRÂCE, CET ESPRIT DE CHARITÉ NE RÉVEILLE POINT. N'ANIME POINT. NE TOUCHE POINT PARCE QU'ILS N'EN VEULENT PAS ÊTRE TOUCHÉS. MAIS PRENONS CONFIANCE ET, DANS UN SAINT DÉSIR DE PLAIRE À DIEU, ENTRONS DANS LA VOIE DE SES COMMANDEMENTS: NOUS Y MARCHERONS. NOUS Y COURRONS. NOUS ARRIVERONS AU TERME DE L'ÉTERNITÉ BIENHEUREUSE OÙ NOUS CONDUISE."

"SUR LA SVÈSSE DE LA LOI CHRÉTIENNE: BOURDALOUE.



Segneri.

CIÒ CHE AL CORPO È 'L SUO CIBO, SIA  
PURE ALL' ANIMA LA PAROLA DIVINA.  
"CIBUS MENTIS EST SERMO DEI" DICE UN  
AMBROGIO. E SIMIGLIANTE È IL LINGUAGGIO  
COMUN DE SANTI. NÈ È MARAVIGLIA. QUESTA  
PAROLA MANTIENE ALL' ANIMA IL SUO  
CALORE VITALE, SÌ CHE NON S' ESTINGUA.  
QUESTA, ESAUSTA LA NUTRE: QUESTA, DE  
BOLE LA FORTIFICA: QUESTA, MACILENTA  
LA IMPINGUA: ANZI QUESTA HA UN VANF  
AGGIO ANCOR AMMIRABILE DI VIRTÙ SOPRA  
OGNI ALTRO CIBO. PERCHÈ OGNI ALTRO  
CIBO, PER ESQUISITO CH' EGLI SIA, PER  
SALUBRE, PER SOSTANZIOSO, NULLA PUÒ  
NE' CORPI OPERAR, SE QUESTI NON VIVONO.  
MA LA PAROLA DIVINA RICHIAMA ANCORA  
A VITA LE ANIME MORTE. CHI DI VOI PER  
TANTO SARÀ CHE SI MARAVIGLI, SE ODASI  
AFFERMAR DA CRISTO, CHE NON IN SOLO  
PANE VIVIT HOMO, SED IN OMN' VERBO  
QUOD PROCEDIT DE ORE DEI? BEN PUÒ DIR  
EGLI IN SENSO, NON SOLO METAFORICO  
MA REALE, CHE DELLA PAROLA DIVINA SI  
PASCE L' UOMO, MENTRE DELLA PAROLA  
DIVINA SI PASCE L' ANIMA CHE È LA  
PARTE PIÙ NOBILE CHE ABBA L' UOMO.

PREDICA QUARTA NELLA PRIMA DOMENICA DI QUARESIMA, SEGNERI

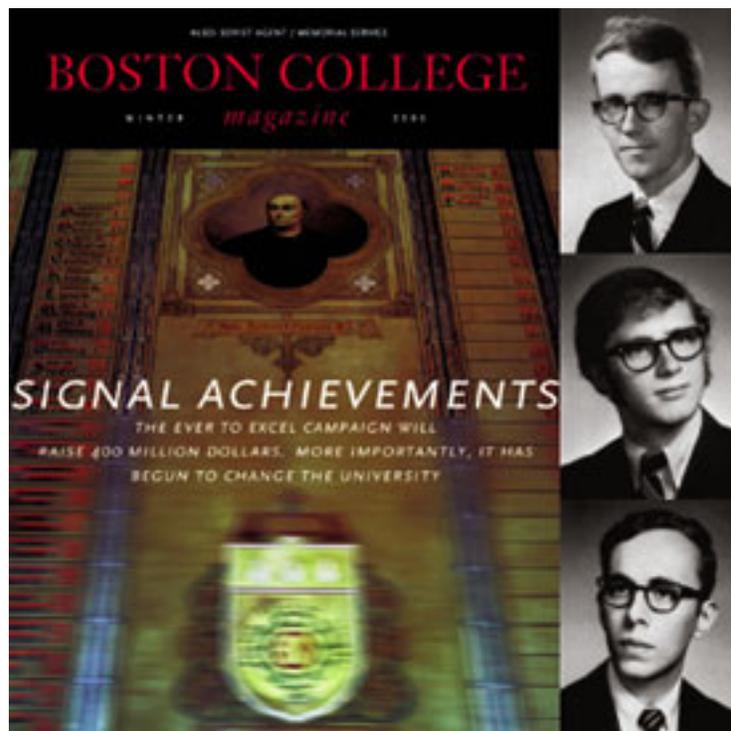
My name was enscrolled at the time when I won as a Junior in 1967.



But it took until 2000 for my name to replace “— — — — — ’68” on the wall.



The tale is told on the Fulton website.



Once I graduated, Charlie Brown teamed up with Mark Killenbeck. They had paired as freshmen and took third place at Novice Nationals in Chicago. As Juniors, they spent the Thanksgiving holidays at Georgetown, where they made the semifinals, and the Christmas holidays at UCLA, where they also made the semifinals. They began the frigid February swing by making the quarterfinals at Harvard and Northwestern. They ended at Dartmouth by making the semifinals and joining with Ron Hoenig and Jack MacMillan to post a 15-1 record as the top four-man team.



Freshman debate winners, left to right, Mark Killenbeck, Pat Dobel, Charlie Brown and Tom Goodman.

They qualified for Nationals, where they went 5-3 with 16 ballots. Mark Killenbeck was named fifth best speaker. They beat Canisius in the octofinals but lost to Loyola of Los Angeles in the quarterfinals—the only other Jesuit colleges to qualify for the elimination rounds. Loyola lost to Harvard. Joel Perwin and Richard Lewis, coached by Laurence Tribe, who had won Nationals in 1961 and earned the second best speaker award, beat Houston in the finals to win Nationals as a representative of District VIII.



As Seniors, Charlie and Mark continued their string of success. “They finished second at Brandeis, UCLA, and Redlands, and lost in the semi-finals of the Georgetown Tournament.” Mark won the best speaker award at Georgetown and Redlands and placed second at UCLA. Charlie was fifth at Georgetown, fourth at UCLA, and eighth at Redlands. Their coach, “Prof. Robert Shrum, Director of the Fulton Debating Society” told The Heights “they have the best record of any team in the country.”

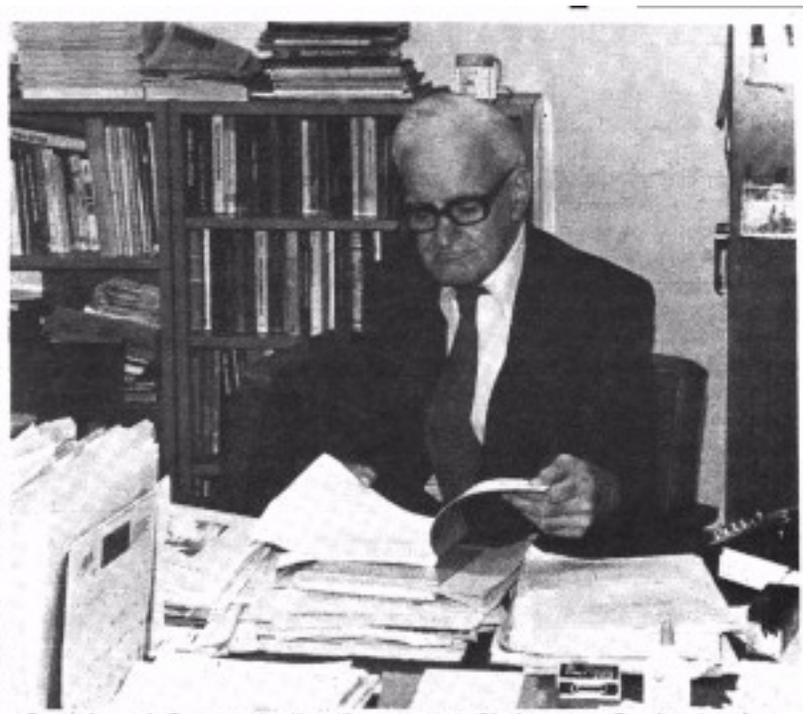
They qualified for Nationals again, along with Ronald Hoenig and John McMillan, taking advantage of the new rule that allowed two teams from a school to qualify for Nationals. Charlie and Mark again went 5-3 with 16 ballots. They beat UCLA in the octofinals and lost to top seeded Houston in the quarterfinals. Canisius won Nationals as a representative of District VIII.

The 60s were over, but the Fulton Golden Age continued. Bob Shrum had left the debate world for the world of politics, as a speech writer for NY Mayor John Lindsey and later presidential candidates George McGovern, Ted Kennedy, Al Gore, and John Kerry. Prof. Dan Rohrer took over and told The Heights in 1971 that the team was “in the top 5 nationwide so far this season, and...in the top 10 since 1960.” BC made the finals at Georgetown five years in a row. John McMillan and Robert Baker went to Nationals in 1971, and Robert Baker joined Jane Osborne at Nationals the next year, so that BC had made it to Nationals in eleven out of twelve years, after never making the tournament in the first 15 years of the tournament’s existence.

It is worth recalling how this breakthrough became a Golden Age. It began when Dr. John H. Lawton was hired in September 1960 as a professor of speech with responsibility for resurrecting the proud tradition of Fulton Debating. His first task was finding debaters.

The December 1, 1967 issue of The Heights announced “This year a brain of a different type is at work at Boston College. Situated in a room remodeled especially for its use, attended by a staff of university personnel, there is an IBM computer, system 360, model 40. This is the second computer that has been obtained for the Computer Center and is housed in the basement of Gasson with its mate...the main storage unit, consisting of 128,000 bytes, is located here.”

This means that there were no electronic files for Dr. Lawton to call up to search for any references to debate in all admitted student files. Instead, the resurgence of the Fulton Society began with John Lawton sitting in the admissions office, year after year, rifling through each acceptance file to find any hint of interest in intercollegiate debating.



Once he found debaters, he needed to find evidence. The national topic for 1960-61 was Resolved: that the U.S. should adopt a program of compulsory health insurance for all citizens. On October 20, 1960 “the Boston College Debating Society sponsored for its members a joint lecture” by the General Manager of Group Insurance for John Hancock Mutual, and of Blue Cross-Blue Shield. And, “as might be expected, the guests were agin it.” “These lectures represented the first installment in a regularly scheduled series of talks on the topic by professional authorities in the field.” On November 16, 1960 the Boston College Debating Society presented a joint lecture by two highly respected proponents of government aid to public health. The director of the British Information Service for the East Coast explained in detail the background and workings of his country’s system of socialized medicine, the National Health Service. The second speaker was the chief legislative agent of the Massachusetts Labor Council. “The addresses, coupled with an intensive series of drill meetings supervised by Dr. John Henry Lawton, the moderator, are aimed at the preparation of a superior B.C. team for tournaments at Chicago, Washington, New York and points North.” “The Society still numbers approximately fifty members from all years in its ranks. Its chief organizational efforts are devoted to supplying this great number of participants with vast amounts of evidence necessary to produce an effective debater.”

The annual Jesuit Colleges Debate Tournament at Loyola University of Chicago during Thanksgiving weekend of 1960 was the first tournament they entered. “The negative team placed second in that tournament.”

Dr. Lawton held his own series of public debates. On December 9, 1960, members of the Boston College Debating Club appeared “at a CYO Exhibition Debate to be presented before 300 Greater Boston high school debaters at Our Lady’s High School in Newton.” “The debate before the CYO group will be: Resolved: The United Nations should be strengthened significantly.” Jim Unger and Bill Chesleigh upheld the negative position against Holy Cross. On Sunday, February 12, 1961, Boston College freshmen debaters were the guests of the Holy Name Society of St. Mary’s Parish of Dedham, before five hundred men, gathered for the Communion breakfast.” The multiple freshmen teams began an active series of debates before high school student bodies.

In March 1961 The activities of the Boston College Debating Society “earned for itself the distinction of being nominated as an honor debating society by Iowa State University....They will be the first in the New England area to be awarded the honor.”

Jim Unger was one of four BC debaters who tied for first place with a 7-1 record in the Empire State Tourney at Hofstra University.

In April 1961 BC entered three freshmen and one junior into the “International Tournament in Springfield, Massachusetts.” “The debaters won first place, the grand trophy, and the trophy for best negative speaker (Jim Unger).”

Dr. Lawton apparently made The Fulton’s success a matter of campuswide concern. “The growing success of debate at Boston College is due almost entirely to the Boston College faculty, who have counseled the men on almost every major point under discussion.”

As the next school year unfolded, Dr. Lawton held an intramural debate tournament among Fulton members in September 1961 before embarking on a schedule of intercollegiate tournaments. Jim Unger, “Shep”Abell and Richard Ward were among the 12 upperclassmen who competed. All of the men and women enter the Fulton Debating Society from a background of high school debating. Maybe they had received the same invitation from Dr. Lawton that I would receive in 1964. By the end of the year, Jim and Shep were debating at West Point at the 16th Annual National Debate Tournament. Jim and Joe McLaughlin made the semifinals of the National Tournament the next year.

Dr. Lawton reprieved the tradition of British debates. On December 11, 1961, a two-man debating team from Cambridge University debated BC “on the question ‘Resolved: Red China should be admitted to the United Nations’.” This appearance was “the only one that the Cambridge debaters made before a collegiate audience in the New England area.”

In October 1963 Dr. Lawton moderated the debate society with the assistance of Kevin Byrne, former president of the Fulton Society, former president of the Drama Society, and currently a student at Boston College Law School, and by Lee Huebner, who was the top speaker at Nationals two years ago representing Northwestern, who is now doing graduate work at Harvard,” and who would later write speeches for President Nixon. When Jim Unger graduated and entered Harvard Law School, he acted as assistant debate coach, as did Richard Ward, who had qualified for Nationals with Jim at the District VIII tournament in 1964, and now joined Jim at Harvard Law School.

When Jim graduated from Harvard Law School and moved to Georgetown, he recommended his opponent from Georgetown, Robert Shrum, whom he had beaten in the semifinals of Nationals and who was the top speaker at Nationals the next year before losing in the semifinals again. Bob had been the debate coach at Brandeis while he was Jim’s roommate at Harvard Law School. He left his job as Brandeis debate coach and became the Boston College debate coach. He became Professor Robert M. Shrum. When Bob stopped writing debate speeches and began writing political speeches, Dr. Lawton hired the Oberlin debate coach, Dr. Daniel Rohrer who guided the Fulton from 1970 to 1982, after he had guided Oberlin to victory over Charlie and me at USC and Dartmouth, and to the Nationals the next three years.

So when I debated at BC I was surrounded by successful models. Lee Huebner, Dick Ward, Jim Unger and Bob Shrum were all studying at Harvard, Lee and Bob had been top speaker at Nationals. This meant that Dr. Lawton did not have to involve himself in the day to day operations of the debating year, once he had launched the effort and renewed the ingredients for success at each turn.

Dr. Lawton boosted BC’s national profile through high school debate tournaments. On April 19 and 20, 1965, the second annual National Invitational Forensic Tournament hosted “students from 70 high schools representing 15 states across the nation...from California, Iowa, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Illinois and all across New England. “More than 300 high schools students representing 16 states” took part “in the B.C. National Forensic Tournament, the largest of its type.” In November 1968 Three hundred top competitors “from Texas, California, South Carolina, Florida and other spots” participated in “one of the largest high school debate tournaments ever held in the United States.” My brother, Kevin White, was the co-chair of that tournament, with the year’s debate topic “Resolved: That the United States should establish a

system of compulsory service for all citizens,” which Bob Shrum termed “the worst topic in the history of high school debate. The way that it is worded, it can mean almost anything.”

So it is worth renaming this era of the Fulton Society. As we know, Golden Years come and go, but it is fair to call my era The Lawton Era. The ingenious, purposeful efforts he took in 1960-61 boosted the Fulton to national prominence. He created a structure of coaches that deepened the quality of the members’ performance so that one team after another could seamlessly repeat the unlikely success of 1962 when Boston College first qualified for the National Debate Tournament, with only my sophomore stumble breaking the string of eleven years at NDT.



**Dr. Lawton has taught at BC for 20 years. (photo by Marj Pallone)**

While the Fultonians were pursuing glory in small rooms, public debating flourished. In 1965, on the same page of The Heights that reported “Over the weekend of Nov. 6, the Freshmen Fultonians swept through the Eastern Nazarene Debate Tourney undefeated to gain first place,” The Heights also reported about “an overflow crowd in Bapst Auditorium” for a debate between BC and BU professors, and another article announced that “Four Boston College students will argue...at the Sidney Hill Country Club in Chestnut Hill.” It was not glory that was drawing the audiences, but rather the topics to be debated: The professors “debated the feasibility of the United States position in Viet Nam” by addressing the proposition “Resolved: The position of the US in Viet Nam is untenable.” The four BC students debated whether “the U.S. Government should withdraw its military support to the South Vietnamese government.”

## ***THE MILITARY BALL***



Colonel and Mrs. John L. Murphy (the gala was dedicated to Colonel Murphy).

The chandeliered ballroom of the Sheraton Plaza Hotel was the scene last Friday night for the fifteenth annual Boston College ROTC Military Ball. The event was replete with all the pageantry which makes a military ball a little bit more memorable than any other.

From newly promoted seniors to the uninitiated freshmen cadets, old memories were cherished and new ones kindled.



The Queen, Miss Patricia Lynch, and her escort Cdt. Capt. Paul Riley preside over the rest of the Kaydette Court.



Cadets dance to the music of Ken Reeves and his orchestra.





*15th Annual  
Military Ball*

The evolution of sentiment about the military in general and Vietnam in particular played out on the pages of The Heights. In March 1965 The Heights featured a half-page pictorial (under the half-page article entitled Debating: Victorious Revival at B.C.) of the 15th Annual Military Ball “complete with all the pageantry which makes a military ball a little bit more memorable than any other.” In September 1966 The Heights reported that “The BC ROTC Black Berets Study Counterguerilla Tactics.” An article in October 1967 was entitled “Three ROTC graduates gain awards in Viet Nam.” At the half-time of the Boston College-Virginia Military

Institute football game in November 1967, “the ROTC Cadet Brigade, 360 strong, marched onto Alumni Field to commence the annual ROTC Day.” The ROTC band joined with the BC chorus for a “rendition of the Battle Hymn of the Republic” and the drill team performed for the first time at a football game. In May 1970 The Heights editorialized “Suddenly, unexpectedly, ROTC has been thrown off the Boston College campus. Goodbye ROTC.”

The tenor of the times was captured in a series of articles in one issue of The Heights of November 13, 1967. One story reported “Nation’s campuses struck by sit-ins, demonstrations,” mentioning “Students for a Democratic Society had an active week, protesting CIA recruiting of the University of Maryland, secret CIA financing of research at Columbia, Marine recruiting at the University of Iowa and classified research at the University of Michigan.” Another article entitled “AAUP policy statement condemns demonstrations” reported that “the Association of American University Professors has condemned recent student demonstrations designed to stop campus interviews or to prevent seekers invite to the campus from speaking.” Another article entitled “Speakers at YAF rally praise troops in Vietnam,” reported that “an estimated 400 students and teachers gathered on Bapst Library lawn last Monday for a “Rally in Support of US Troops in Vietnam.” Another article entitled “Grad school acceptance no protection from draft” reported that, except for students in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, osteopathy or optometry, graduate students “will be put at the head of the prime draft pool...and will be drafted before the 19 year olds.” Another article entitled “CPF begins program in draft counseling” reported that “the Boston College chapter of the Catholic Peace Fellowship has begun draft counseling.”

The draft changes panicked graduate schools, that expected a drop in applications threatening to result in “a completely inadequate manpower pool to meet society’s needs,” according to English Department chairman, Richard Hughes. “Graduate school deans are predicting that enrollment will be down as much as 25 percent from present levels.” According to an article by the College Press Services, “Graduate school deans have been predicting that their incoming classes next fall would be made up primarily of veterans and women.”

Protests divided the nation. The October 6, 1967 issue of The Heights reported “Anti-war protesters converge on Washington October 21.” A November rally in Boston was publicized with a flyer calling for a demonstration “to the nation and the world that the average American stands ready to demonstrate his loyalty to the American flag and his support of the men who are fighting to keep it unsullied.”

Across the Charles River, The Heights reported in December 1967 that “Police bust Avatar peddlers. Three more persons have been arrested for selling the underground newspaper, AVATAR, and a band of 14 policemen have seized the complete AVATAR backlog issues as Cambridge’s ‘war on hippies’ has reached new proportions.”

Boston College student government tried to prevent extremism on campus. The National Student Association, the nations largest college student organization in the country, had applied for recognition on the BC campus, but “was rejected in a referendum vote at a 5-2 ratio during the 1963-64 school year.” In February 1967 “the Students for a Democratic Society were denied recognition by the student governing body, the Campus Council.” The decision was based on the “nature, aims, and tactics” of the SDS. The Council referred to the Port Huron Statement and the official SDS paper The New Left News.

Nevertheless, protests came to campus when “a 70 member picket line protested on-campus recruiting by Dow chemical Co, manufacturers of napalm” prompting “several minor outbreaks of violence.” When the protest reached the McElroy Commons snack bar, their speech “was greeted with jeers and heckling and chants of ‘Get off our campus’.” A Bapst Library event was organized “to dispel any claim that the noxious demonstration against Dow chemical Company represented the feelings of the majority of the Boston College community.”

In March 1968, The Heights reported “A series of demonstrations against IBM was begun by members of local chapters of the Young Americans for Freedom...protesting that company’s sale of computers to Communist countries.”

In January 1968 The Heights reported “Vietnam victory predicted; V.C. disillusionment cited. Rev. Joseph H. Hoe, S.J. who returned this week from a five-month classified research project for the U.S. government in Vietnam, declared that the South Vietnamese are distressed by talks of negotiations because they are confident that military victory is imminent.” He reported that the Viet Cong “now realize they will never have a military victory in Vietnam.”

On December 1, 1967, The Heights had reported “The number of children injured in the Vietnam war has been estimated at three quarters of a million.” The “Committee of Responsibility to save War-Burned and War-Injured Vietnamese Children...has begun to bring injured children to the United States for medical care....Their goal is to bring in from fifteen to twenty children a month....Last spring COR staged its first fund raising drive and Boston College contributed over \$1200, more than any other university in the country.” A Statement of Support was “signed by many faculty and administration people including Rev. Michael Walsh, S.J., Col. Delmar Pugh of BC ROTC, and basketball coach Bob Cousy.” The Heights had reported It was the first such college committee.

On December 15, 1967 the newly organized Boston College Faculty Committee for Peace in Vietnam published “a petition calling for an immediate halt to the bombing of North Vietnam and ‘a vigorous and genuine attempt to negotiate peace’.”

In February 1968, the Campus Council offered “an opinion poll on the conduct of the war in Vietnam....Out of approximately 6000 undergraduates, 764 completed the poll questionnaire. Twenty-four percent of the students (181) advocated immediate withdrawal from Vietnam. Fifteen percent felt the US should cease bombing...Fourteen percent felt that the war should be ‘frozen’...and 46 percent felt our goal in Vietnam should be military victory, with persistent attempts at negotiations.”

On October 26, 1967, General Lewis B. Hershey, director of the selective service system, urged local draft boards to “take away deferments of any students who forcibly interfere with the operation of the draft.” By February 1968 The Heights reported “opponents of the war are currently being reclassified under the directive.”

In April 1968, 48,000 men were drafted. The battle among the draftees centered on whether 19 year olds should be drafted before graduate students. Two students from BC joined 2500 nationwide and turned in their draft cards. The Catholic Peace Fellowship and the SDS had trained draft counselors in the Office of Student Activities to discuss deferments, conscientious objection, and resistance.

Lots of experts shared their opinions and fears. In April 1965, William Sullivan, assistant director of the FBI, delivered the sixth annual Loyola Lecture...in a speech entitled “The Jesuits,

Students, and Communism” expressing his feelings that communists had been remarkable in exploiting unrest concerning the Vietnam and Civil Rights controversies. In March 1968, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wrote “A contributing factor in the assessment of potential violence in our society is the rise of a student movement called the New Left....Some New Lefties are ‘beatniks’, with sandals, long hair, and old clothes. Others are hippies living in a drug-induced world to evade the problems of life. Still others are sincere idealists who are badly misguided.” In April 1968, The Heights reported about Dr. Vincent McCrossen in his sixth Spring YAF lecture citing the “danger of Nazi state in America” decrying “Boston’s liberal-sponsored urban renewal programs.”

As pervasive as Vietnam was during my time at BC, it was hardly the only point of dispute on campus. In my Senior year, The Heights reported about “the nation’s first test case on the constitutionality of laws forbidding the possession of marijuana.” On November 8 “The case for the legalization of marijuana was presented to some 300 BC students in Bapst Auditorium.” The week before The Heights reported “524 US servicemen in Viet Nam have been arrested for smoking marijuana. According to the Army provost Marshall for the Pacific, more men are arrested for turning on than for any other major offense....It is assumed that the V.C. are selling it indirectly to American troops. It is also suspected that some of the revenue from these sales go to support the R.L.F.”

Birth control and abortion were subjects for discussion on the BC campus. In December 1966, Fr. Drinan, dean of B.C. Law School and later Congressman, commented on the Catholic Bishops of America statement on birth control. In March 1967 he spoke on Abortion and the Law in “an informal lecture on the question of whether it is a civil right to conduct an abortion?”

In April 1967, The Heights hosted a lecture for “over 400 students and faculty members in The Heights offices.” “The audience filled the office and crowded into the corridor outside.” Five members of The Height editorial board were facing “the possibility of severe sanctions as a result” including suspension, removal from editorial positions, and revocation of financial aid because the lecture “had been forbidden by the University.” The University ban was based on irresponsible actions at Boston University. “By his irresponsible actions” the speaker, William Baird, “had forfeited his right to speak in a Catholic University.” The speaker “faces a maximum prison term of ten years” for his alleged Violations of Crimes Against Chastity, an 84-year-old statute “which makes its felony to distribute birth control information to a person who is not married or does not have a doctor’s prescription.” At BU, the speaker “demonstrated various contraceptive devices and passed out three packages of...a non-prescriptive birth control preparation.”



Photo by Dave Flanagan  
Part of crowd of over 400 that packed The Heights office last Monday to hear William Baird speak on Massachusetts birth control legislation. For a summary of Mr. Baird's remarks, see page three.



Photo by Dave Flanagan  
 Heights editor Michael Rahill holds microphone for William Baird during last Monday's lecture in makeshift auditorium in the first floor of McElroy Commons. Rahill is one of the five editors who face sanctions as a result of inviting Baird despite the objections of the administration.

The Heights editors appeared before the University Conduct Committee. WVBC, the campus radio station, “was refused permission to broadcast the meeting.” 150 people jammed the meeting room...while another 100 crowded the corridors outside. “A few students, angry because the doors had been locked from the inside, applied bicycle locks to the outside of the doors. The locks had to be cut with wire cutters before the occupants of the room could leave.” During the meeting the University Director of Student Personnel who had originally announced the ban to the editors testified “We ask you to choose to be lenient rather than severe.” The editors were officially reprimanded and warned that similar action would be dealt with more severely.

When Baird’s case came before the court, pickers with posters proclaiming “Unwed Mothers are Not Criminals” and “Free Birth Control Crusader” marched outside the courthouse.

In October 1967, due to an about-face in administrative speakers’ policy, two individuals sponsored a speech by William Baird “to an overflow crowd in Bapst auditorium centered on the alleged inequity of the 84-year-old law.” The lecture was entitled “Hypocrisy of the Massachusetts Birth Control Laws.” “The only restriction placed on the lecture was that money could not be collected in Bapst.”

Less than 24 hours after he had spoken at BC, Baird “was found guilty of illegally disseminating birth control devices and information. Sentencing was put off pending the decision of the Supreme Court.” In 1969 “he was jailed in Massachusetts” for the BU speech.



One campus controversy was BC's own making. A single picture taken in Christmas 1962, when Sister Maria Goretti was presented with gifts from Dr. Lawton's Public Speaking class as "the only girl in the class with 36 men," was a silent acknowledgement that BC had few girls. Female students had been admitted to the University in the Schools of Education and Nursing since 1948 and 1952 respectively. There had been a Class of '63 experiment when five women were admitted into the honors program, but it was not continued.



The Fulton had already considered the issue of co-education several times during its Golden Years. In 1926, BC and Dartmouth debated the question chosen by the Eastern Debating League for the season. The phrasing is evidence of its self-referential nature. "Resolved: That a system of co-education similar to that used in the state colleges should be adopted by the men's colleges of the East." The affirmative "undertook to prove that segregation of women, in college life, opposes the development of the intellect, because its results are one-sided intellects. In co-educational colleges men and women co-operate and the full pattern of life as it shall be is presented." The negative "declared there was a basic difference between {college educational experiences} in Harvard, Yale and Dartmouth than in the West. The only difference between the systems is the presence of women in lecture halls and class rooms, where they serve to distract the men from more serious intellectual development." The affirmative "argued that since women insist on competing with men, the least we might do is give them a decent preparation." The negative closed the argument. "The establishing of more co-educational colleges than otherwise is because of the utility of maintaining one college rather than two. During the time of college life the standards of youth are not settled and should be developed by occasional rather than constant meetings." The negative was awarded the victory.

In 1927, The University of Sydney debated BC on "Resolved: That women should not enter professional life." The affirmative argued "that a career for woman is wrong in principle.

Professional life belongs to man alone and the woman's place is in the home." The negative declared "women today are actually successful in the profession... women's ability to carry on with men in these fields has been clearly manifest." The affirmative proclaimed "that a woman is by nature fitted for a different life than competition with men, either in politics or in its professions, and showing that woman's peculiar qualities which make her revered and respected by man would be lost irrevocably were she to depart from her proper sphere of activity." "Success in the professions demands characteristics which women do not naturally possess, showing that the securing of these qualities means the loss of what we revere in women and irreparable damage to the home life of the country." The negative was awarded the victory.

In 1927, The Marquette Society debated the proposition "Resolved, That this house deploras co-education." The first affirmative speaker "contended that co-education is to be deplored economically because it tends to lessen the standards of scholarship, and socially because college men, through constant contact with college girls, have a tendency to lose that noble esteem and respect of many for womanhood." The first negative speaker argued that "in a co-educational institution the cooperation of sexes leads to a better understanding, and hence to happier lives." The affirmative responded "that co-education leads to a neglect of those studies which broaden the mind." The negative responded "that co-education was necessary economically because the increased student body brought about a lower matriculation fee, and socially because co-education leads to a wholesome scholastic rivalry between the sexes... in co-educational institutions women obtain a broader and more practical perspective of life." The Marquette Society voted 21-11 for the affirmative.

In 1930, the Fulton Society debated the proposition "Resolved: That Boston College be coeducational." The affirmative speaker "felt that the system of education would be made more perfect by the introduction of co-education." He refuted objections about "alleged immorality" and claimed that the words "coeducational" and "Jesuitical" are not contradictory. "Coeducation brings about a more natural atmosphere... creates greater efficiency and effort both intellectually and socially." The negative speaker pointed out coeducation was first introduced in 1833, but referred to "two prominent New England schools which have rejected coeducation after a trial." The speaker worried about "too great a distraction to the members of both sexes in the class room. Furthermore, he maintained that the student of a segregated school has a higher mentality than the coed student." The Fulton voted 13-11 for the affirmative.

In my Junior year, three campus groups expressed "support for the drive to have women admitted into the College of Arts and Sciences... The question was not on the formal agenda, but raised after the official business by Dr. John L. Mahoney, chairman of the English department" and former moderator of the Fulton Debate Society. BC President Walsh stated that he is "for admitting women into A&S," but the most important consideration was "the lack of adequate housing facilities." The immediate possibility for 50 "new commuting students" might precede "adding perhaps 300 top-notch women into A&S" when women's dorms were finished in four years. "He said that he had never felt pressured into allowing women into A&S as did Fordham and St. Louis, since unlike them, BC had never had a problem with male recruitment."

In the meantime, the women in Education and Nursing could live in the women's dormitories on Beacon Street, South Street, Commonwealth Avenue, and Bay State Road, which "had to be abandoned due to the inordinate distance from campus." "The Handbook for Women

Students, formerly a dozen or so mimeographed sheets stapled together, was professionally printed. The rules were changed to allow women students 11:00 p.m. curfews during the week.” Then the discrepancy between men’s and women’s dorm regulations about “curfews, dress codes, etc.” arose. “The rules concerning liquor in the dorms and curfew regulations are not the same for both sexes.” The girls living on South Street eventually got their own radio transmitter to listen to WVBC because of a “work crew who dug cable trenches and crawled through basements stringing antenna wires.”

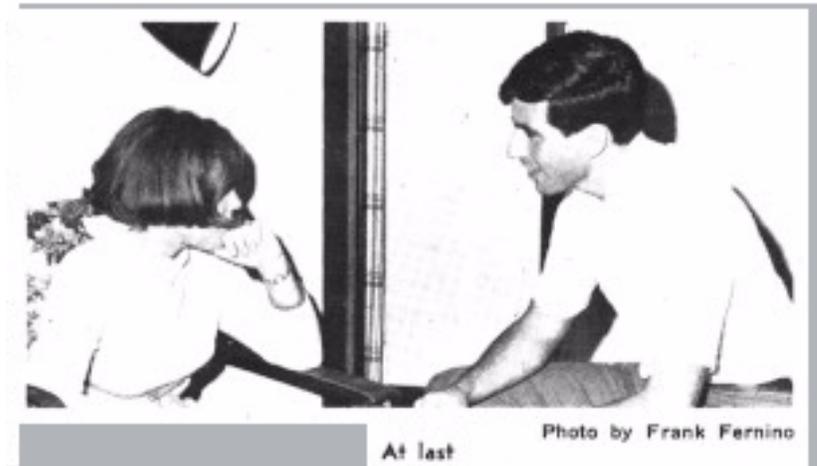
In April 1967, “Tentative plans for a Women’s Week at BC were announced this week by Molly Quinn of the Women’s Council. Miss Quinn has been named chairman of a committee which has already scheduled a lecture on the ‘Psychology of Women.’ In addition to these plans, the committee hopes to investigate the possibility of establishing a fund for the construction of women’s dormitories.” In that same issue, The Heights reported on the progress of BC’s team in the College Bowl quiz show against “the girls from Wells, a school of 800 enrollment in upstate New York.”

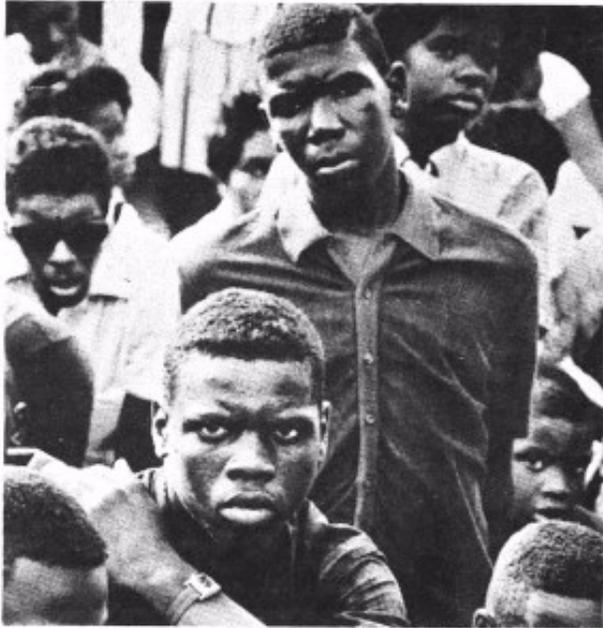
So it was quite a change when the Women’s Visitation Experiment allowed “more than 750 women” during a “trial period of parietal hours in the men’s dorms” “on two days of a specified four weekends before Christmas, and on Dec. 7 the eve of the Immaculate Conception holiday.” The initial experiment was considered a success.

“Prefects voted 34-5, male dorm students 875-5, and female dorm students 100-0, all in favor of the W.V.E.” The most liberal hours offered for the program were “8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.” on alternate weekends and for Sundays “1:00-7:30 p.m.”

Soon The Heights reported “Violations curtail parietals; three houses involved. Three men’s dormitories, Koska, Gonzaga, and Fenwick, have had their parietals privileges revoked... because of violations of the parietals regulations and drunken and disorderly conduct on the part of a large number of residents.” The rules were amended “1) The host must accompany his guest at all times during visitation hours, 2) Couples are not to wander corridors unnecessarily.”

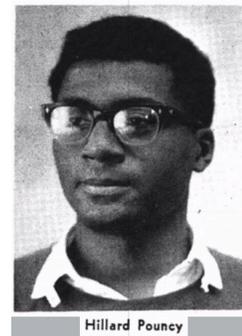
The variety of social concerns in the country was apparent in the pages of The Heights during my years on campus. A single page of The Heights on May 5, 1967 had notices about Racial coalition. “Ella J. Baker, advisor to SNCC and former associate and executive director of SCLC...will talk on the coalition between poor blacks and poor whites in the South,” and about Civil Rights. “The Organization of the Racial Poor, a civil rights group based in Selma, Alabama, is seeking college students for volunteer civil rights activity in Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama...to document the economic basis of the racist caste system in the rural South,” and Physicians Guild a lecture entitled “The Physician and the Sexual Revolution.”





A month earlier, a large, multipage article entitled “The poor and the black” began by noting “The civil-rights movement today seems misunderstood, hidden, and sometimes forgotten. The War in Vietnam has turned many activists away from the movement, and many of the movement’s leaders, with good reason, have turned their attention to the war.” It focused on Martin Luther King’s “recent statements against the Vietnamese War” and the chairman of SNCC Stokeley Carmichael’s “call for ‘black power’,” as well as on the Urban League. In April 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King proposed...a nationwide Vietnam Summer to organize an anti-war effort.

In October 1967, The Heights published an article entitled “The Negroes’ frustrating fight” by Hilliard Poncey “a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences majoring in Political Science” who had spent the summer working for the “Legal Services, a branch of the Office of Economic Activity in New Brunswick, New Jersey.” He explained to his BC audience that “Four years ago the word Negro was acceptable to almost anyone, black or white. Now, in keeping with the trend to institute as much self-determination as possible, we tell ourselves that we are black.”



A year later, the March 5, 1968 issue of The Heights announced “\$100,000 scholarship fund established for Negroes...primarily for Negroes in the Greater Boston area.” Dr. James McIntyre, assistant vice-president for student affairs said “I am very aware and concerned about the problem of civil rights but I don’t think people will be able to understand or feel the problems of it unless they can rub elbows with the Negro.” A month later, The Heights reported “Colleges and Boston mourn (sic) assassination of Dr. King” with memorial services, cancelled classes, and “all-day workshops on ‘Racism and the Black Rebellion’.” A month later, The Heights reported that Boston College’s Negro Talent Search hopes to enroll “44 Negro students from Boston ghettos.”

In February 1969, The Heights published a full-page “Paperback Reading List in Black History...for those interested in the black man’s role in American history....Additional titles will be included and displayed during Negro History Week (Feb. 8-15) in Bapst library, particularly those relating to the black revolution today.”

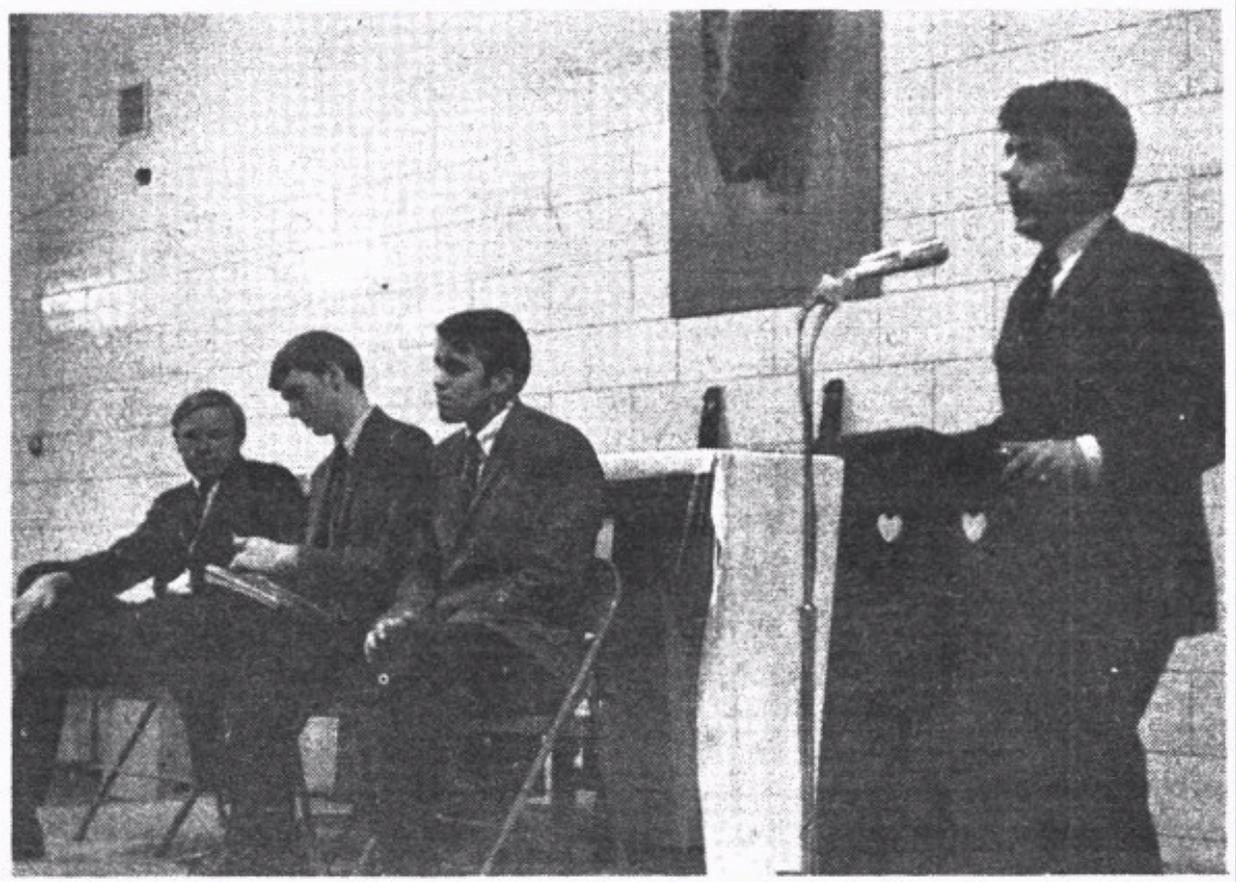
In December 1969, The Heights reported “the BC Cultural Committee...brought together four nationally prominent black leaders....Dr. Lawton helped in arranging the Black Panel.” In fact, Dr. Lawton “worked all summer on this program” held on December 8. “The members of the panel are Dr. Ralph Abernathy, President of SCC, David Hilliard, Acting Chairman of the Black Panthers Party, Roy Innis, Director of CORE, and Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of NAACP. Each panelist will present what the members of their organization believe and what they want. After the opening presentations, the four leaders will answer questions from the floor. ...An informal atmosphere will prevail. This is guaranteed by the fact that there will be no chairs on the floor. For those who prefer an upright position the bleachers will be available. Bring a pillow.”

In the midst of all this controversy and conflict, Boston College speakers entered the arena. In October 1967 The Heights reported “A dozen Boston College students will be speaking to high schools across the country this semester, explaining some of the complex causes and some of the complex solutions for the nation’s racial violence...Speaking in a number of cities which have already witnessed racial violence — Hartford, New York, Newark, Chicago, Cleveland....The ‘Alternatives’ speakers will be visiting the high schools in four man teams, with each speaker discussing specific problem areas: inferior ghetto education, racial bias in employment, and slum housing and medicine.” For the past three years, Dr. John H. Lawton’s Persuasive Argumentation classes “were addressing civic professional and parish organizations throughout New England. Topics for their speeches ranged from American Recognition of Communist China to the post-Berkeley phenomenon of campus activism.” By December, Project Alternative had “reached 40 audiences in 24 cities throughout the country.”

In March 1968 The Heights reported on the plans for the “Alternatives” program during the Easter vacation. One team of four BC students “will speak before public high school students in San Francisco and Oakland.” Another team will “be addressing six high schools in Los Angeles, schools selected by that city’s school board as harboring high racial tensions. Their schedule will also include several white suburban high schools in the wealthy suburbs, including Hollywood.” Before that, “both teams will speak in Middle Western cities which experienced riots last summer.”

In April 1968 The Heights presented an extensive description of the “Alternative and Encounter speaking programs.” “Each of the teams speaking on race relations has four speakers, including a chairman. Each of three speakers gives a six minute talk on the subject of fair housing, equal employment opportunities, or education. A discussion period follows....Speaking locations have been deliberately selected in white suburban areas. There the problems of racial feelings, apathy, and lack of understanding are often most present....one team spoke...at a CCD class in Norwood...answering questions about the possibility of violence this summer, open housing laws, and the real problems to be faced right at home in the local community.” “A similar program... has presented speaking programs on the topics of Vietnam and the

administration of President Johnson... The program is arranged so that each member speaks to five different audiences — all different in size, location... The sweep of the program takes speaking teams right across New England.”



In December 1967, The Heights reported “In accordance with the Pope’s directive, Dr. John Lawton has made his student speakers program a civil rights forum. Under his tutelage, his students lecture at schools, churches and civic organizations on the topic: ‘To what extent have we American Catholics implemented the papal teachings on interracial justice.’” Dr. Lawton “began a program which he called the Student Speakers Bureau. He would train students and take them to High Schools and Civic Clubs to argue controversial issues. His speakers were frequent visitors with the late Cardinal Cushing and Madeiras, both of whom Lawton was personally close to.”



Richard Cardinal Cushing autographs his portrait for BC's own Joe Ryan (extreme right) as Dr. John Lawton of the speech department (center) and other BC students look on. The students, members of the Fulton Debating Society and Dr. Lawton's Argumentation and Group Dynamics Course were invited to the Cardinal's residence last weekend for an hour's meeting with His Eminence.

These speeches to community groups were not under the auspices of The Fulton Society, but they were the brainchild of Dr. John H. Lawton.

In 1965 Dr. Lawton began a “new course in Argumentation and Group Dynamics.” By 1967 Dr. Lawton was able to describe the results. “Our program gives the student the opportunity to develop an ability to communicate with individuals who may be hostile to him and his ideas. It is not uncommon for questions from our audiences to include accusations that the speaker is a liar, or ‘how-can-you-say-that-with-Jesuit-training’.” When they have grasped the fundamentals of public speaking the students go before various organizations to debate and discuss such topics as “the Revolution on Campus and the benefits of US recognition of Red China.” The program is besieged with more requests for speakers than it can possibly fill.

In April 1971, The Heights reported that the Persuasive Argumentation course, begun in September 1965, “recently won the Clay-Calhoun-Webster Award of the National Association for the Study of Communication as the ‘most imaginative program in the area of communications.’ The award is given every five years.” “The program is similar to the Alternatives Programs, which lasted from June 1967 until December of last year. In which “BC students toured nearly 250 suburban high schools to speak to the problems of discrimination in housing, jobs, and education for blacks.” The program was organized in 1965 “so that students could speak before real rather than imaginary audiences.”

In past years, it was the norm for the Fulton to appear before local groups. In 1931, Fulton men participated in twenty-one public debates. “Of this number eleven were lecture debates before distinguished gatherings of K. Of C. Councils, Common Cause and English High School Forums, the Philomatheia Club, the Margaret Brent Civic Leagues, the Catholic Daughters of America, the Brockton Advertising Club, and the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Newton.” But Dr. Lawton’s appearances were not debates, although the topics and audiences were intentionally chosen to address controversy.

His innovations in Persuasive Argumentation and Group Dynamics that led to the Alternatives program did not occur in the Fulton because his appearance on campus in 1960 was part of a broader change at the University. In October 1961 The Heights announced “in order to enrich the University’s ever expanding curriculum and meet with a growing demand, a new Department of Speech has been established.... Courses offered by the department at present are ‘Fundamentals of Speech’ in the School of Education, ‘Public Speaking,’ and ‘Group Discussion’ in the College of Arts and Sciences, and ‘Public Speaking’ in the College of Business Administration. Graduate School courses offered are ‘introduction to Speech Pathology for the Classroom Teacher,’ and ‘Phonetics of American Speech’. In 1963, the School of Education “approved a new major in speech with a minor concentration in English for students in the Secondary education program.” On December 3, 1970 the Educational Policy Committee of the College of Arts & Sciences decreed “that the program in Speech Communications and Theatre be hereinafter recognized as a major in A&S.”

When Dr. Lawton arrived at B.C. the speech department was under the School of Education. At first there were only two departmental members and operated out of a “broom closet.” “When the the Speech Department was formed in 1960-1961, Dr. Lawton’s first class attracted but four students.” By 1963 he taught “three sections, totaling seventy-five men and women.” In 1967 it became one of the first departments to institute student critiques.

In December 1967, Dr. Lawton offered a course in Film Criticism “designed to provide the background essential for a critical appreciation of the art of film.”

In October 1969 The Heights reported that “Miss Dorothy Day, founder of The Catholic Daily Worker and an activist in the peace movement since the 1940’s will address the class of Dr. John Lawton on The Rhetoric of Contemporary Dissent.” In November, The Heights described the upcoming events in the course. “Tomorrow Wallis Wood of the Purity League will give his views on the new left. J. Alan McKay, national president of YAF, will speak on student opposition to the war. Opposing views will be presented by John Pennington, national secretary of the Progressive Labor Party. He will be followed by Dr. Harold Mirandez from Berkeley, a strong supporter of the New Left. One of the national officers of SDS will complete this section of the program. The week before Christmas, Dr. Spock, of the anti-war movement, and Bishop Sheen, former Bishop of Rochester, will peak.”

In September 1971 The Heights announced four “New Women’s Courses.” One entitled Rhetoric of Women’s Rights was described: “The feminine revolution, the demand for absolute equality in all spheres of American civilization are treated in this survey course. The suffragettes of the early 20th century, the women’s rights of the FDR era, the contemporary women’s liberation and Bread and Roses are studied.” The course is co-taught by Dr. Hart and Dr. Lawton.

In December 1971 a new course was announced: The Role of the Cinema in Persuasion, “which has as its aim an examination of the use and misuse of films in shaping public opinion, especially in the areas of racism, poverty, and war.” Next semester, another course within the Program for the Study of Peace and War, studied “the use of film to stir and retain fervor for war. . . .The subject matter will include propaganda films used by the Third Reich, the Russians, and the British in World War II.”

Such course offerings created a problem for Dr. Lawton. In September 1979 Dr. Lawton said “we have approximately 500 majors. That is 250 too many. We must put an end to students transferring into communications entirely.” The Heights reported that “the department has grown from 29 students in the class of 1975 to 121 majors in the class of 1980. This is the largest increase in majors in any A & S department.” The department announced “A new lottery system has been devised for Communications courses in an effort to eliminate the practice of ‘camping out’.”

In December 1980, The Boston College Biweekly had an extensive description of Dr. Lawton’s Organizational Communications course, with speakers including the vice-president for marketing for TWA, the president of the Boston chapter of the International Television Association and the director of audio-visual services at John Hancock Mutual Life, the associate vice-president in charge of corporate communications for AETNA Life and Casualty, and the senior vice president in charge of communications for Bank of America.

In 1981 ten students were producing their own television and radio documentaries “with professional stations...on such topics as annulment, drinking problems, poverty in America, and the pros and cons of cable television and a special study on tuition and higher education.”

In March 1982 Dr. Lawton invited Peter Bergman, star of All My Children, as part of his course Soap Opera: A Critical Survey. Dr. Lawton remarked that “too many universities have been snobbish about this. Soaps aren’t the classics or Shakespeare, but they are often pretty good theater. We must keep up with the times.”

As Dr. Lawton kept up with the times, it is enlightening to see how the Fulton Society fit into those times. The career of Charles Lawson, CBA ’70 encapsulates the scope of Dr. Lawton’s improvements and innovations. He entered BC as a “former all-state debater from Illinois.” He won an award as the second best negative speaker at the Boston University tournament during his freshman year, and won the first place individual debater’s award for the entire tournament hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in his sophomore year. By his junior year he was announcing the play-by-play for the BC basketball games on WVBC and he was broadcasting news and sports on the hour. He also served on the University Academic Senate. So it was understandable that he didn’t have time to fill another file box for the Fulton. Nevertheless, during his junior year he was part of one of three teams of Boston College speakers who “presented the Alternative program to seventeen schools in Detroit and its suburbs last week...trying to make the residents of Wayne County aware of their responsibility in trying to alleviate the problems of the black man in this society.” In Detroit “Lawson was asked what he thought about riots. Lawson replied that ‘because the black man has been stripped of all power in this society except for the power to disrupt’ a riot can be justified.” One of his BC colleagues told The Heights that “adding Charles Lawson, a black student, to the program has been enormously successful....Coming from a white student this comment would not have been as effective.”

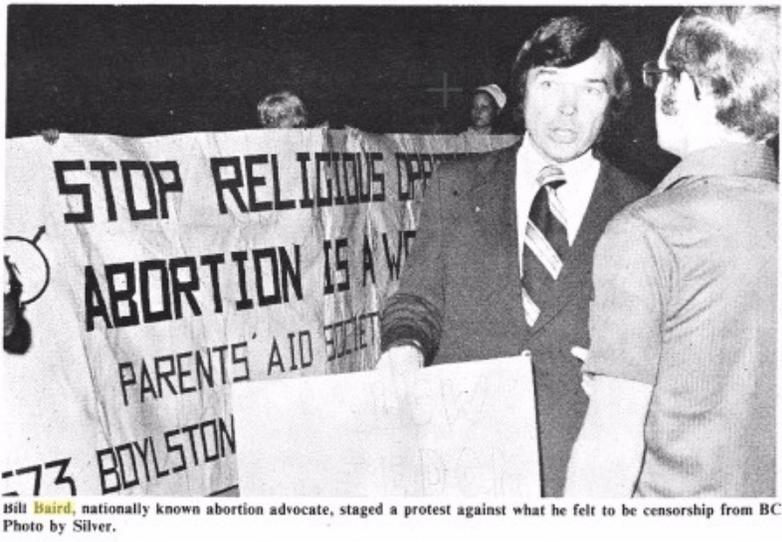
The Alternatives Program intentionally addressed race, and Charles Lawson’s race was inherently relevant. In contrast, his considerable success in The Fulton was ideally independent of his race, and potentially despite his identity. The Alternatives Program was intended to persuade audiences; the Fulton program was designed to win a ballot from a debate judge.

In my junior year, the national topic was Resolved: That the United States should substantially reduce its foreign policy commitments.” One of the common affirmative cases advocated withdrawal from Vietnam. Such a topic was filling auditoriums across America, but the debate world was isolated in tournament rooms. Regardless of our personal opinions, our task as debaters was to find enough optimistic generals and pessimistic prognosticators so that we could overwhelm such an affirmative with a deluge of doubt leading to a vote for the negative from the debate judge.

Bob Shrum’s successor as debate coach sought to bridge that gap in 1974. Dr. Daniel Rohrer acknowledged that “due to the demands of off-campus debate and the research and preparation involved,” the Fulton Society had neglected the campus. So the Fulton Society planned to “sponsor a series of formal debates on campus during the coming academic year.” It had already sponsored a debate during orientation week in McGuinn Auditorium on the topic: “Should Marijuana be Legalized?”

It seemed natural to invite William Baird, described as a “pro-abortion activist” to debate the legality of abortion. He had already overturned the Massachusetts Crimes against Chastity law prohibiting the distribution of birth control information and devices after the United States Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in *Eisenstadt v. Baird*. The Supreme Court had decided *Roe v. Wade* last year legalizing abortion. Dr. Rohrer tried to find a large room for the anticipated audience and an interested debater to serve as an opponent. Bob Shrum declined, staying he “didn’t feel that states had a right to legislate in the area of public morality,” and thus could not effectively argue the opposing point. So Baird was told it would be “necessary to postpone the debate until all arrangements are in order.”

On the day of the scheduled debate, Baird “led a small group of demonstrators in



picketing the main entrance to BC on Commonwealth Avenue. ...to protest alleged ‘censorship’ on the part of the university administration as a result of the postponement.” “Baird claimed that the debate was cancelled due to pressure from the BC administration and accused them of ‘denying freedom of speech’.” “Rohrer insisted that the debate had merely been ‘postponed’ and that efforts were continuing to reschedule the debate for a future date.”

A month later the debate was cancelled. Rohrer said that “Baird’s reaction to the postponement is the only reason the debate is not scheduled right now. His really immature way of handling the postponement combined with his original secretive dealings where he attempted to conceal the facts from BC” were the reasons. Baird had asked that the administration not be informed of the planned debate until the media was contacted. “He wanted them to know first.” Rohrer “pointed to the picketing and Baird’s accusations terming the postponement ‘some Watergate-type bag of dirty tricks’ as proof of ‘Bill’s tendency to pursue sensationalism’.” Perhaps he should have reviewed Baird’s first visit to the BC campus in 1967, when he “had been the first to call a radio station about his appearance.”

So there was a delicate balance between relevance and notoriety in bringing the Fulton into current controversies. In 1980, one such effort demonstrated that I had reached the other side of academic debating. Dr. Rohrer moderated a debate on the topic: Resolved: there should be a Massachusetts Truth-in-Testing Law. The bill applied to “machine-scored exams for admission to post-secondary and professional schools.” It “would provide the students with copies of their own answer sheets and the correct answers.” “On the affirmative was Allan Nairn, author of *The Reign of ETS* and a research assistant to Ralph Nader.”

Allan Nairn was instrumental in promoting the New York State Truth in Testing law that was enacted in 1980. I had testified in support of the measure before the Education Committee of the New York State Assembly. Allan was also responsible for Ralph Nader's appearance in Berkeley, California before the first LSAT Strategy Course offered by Testing for the Public — the non-profit company that I founded in 1985 to provide students with low-cost test preparation courses.

When I was a junior at Canisius High School, The Heights published a short article announcing that “students planning to enter Law School next fall must take the new Law School Admission Test.” The new test was “designed to simplify and unify Law School entrance requirements.” “Further information concerning how to prepare for the test, registration, and sample test questions, can be obtained by writing to Law School Admission Test, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey.” When I was a sophomore at BC, The Heights published an article entitled “Pre-Law Institute To Sell Prospects.” “The ninth annual Pre-Legal Institute of the Boston College Law School” included a session entitled “How to Understand and Prepare for the Law School Admission Test.”

I took the LSAT in this environment of limited information. After New York State passed its own Truth in Testing Law, I inspected the released versions of the LSAT that I could never have obtained 12 years earlier during my own application process. I wrote two books discussing specific LSAT questions and founded Testing for the Public in 1985. I have been teaching LSAT, GMAT, and GRE Strategy courses ever since. The courses offer Strategies for STANDARDIZED TESTS in a Diverse World.

My interest in testing was not simply a curiosity, but a result of the accident of my moving to Berkeley, California after graduating from law school. My third year paper dealt with school finance reform and educational mobility. UC Berkeley School of Law had a project devoted to that very subject. My research touched on testing. When the University of California was sued by Allan Bakke for reverse discrimination in medical school admissions, I wrote an *amicus curiae* brief for the Black Law Students at Boalt Hall that raised questions about the validity and potential bias of the Medical College Admission Test, with an appendix raising similar concerns about the LSAT.

I performed additional research under the auspices of the National Conference of Black Lawyers and led its Law School Admissions Investigation. It was that research that led to my testimony in New York State, and later before the California and Texas legislatures about various testing issues. Much of my research could never have been done in a library. It depended on talking with students about real test questions to notice issues and patterns. My time leading Testing for the Public provided me the opportunity to gain those insights.

In 2003 my interests became the concern of The Fulton Prize Debate, where the topic for the evening was “Resolved: That the United States Supreme Court should hold that the University of Michigan's admission policy using racial and ethnic preferences violates the U.S. Constitution.” On February 9, 2001 I had testified in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division in Civil Action No. 97-CV-75928, *Grutter v. Bollinger*, as an expert witness on test bias on behalf of the student interveners. In February 2003, I submitted an amicus curiae brief in case No. 02-241 of the United States Supreme Court, on writ of certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, *Grutter v. Bollinger*. The

brief was submitted on behalf of the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus. While the Fulton Society explored both sides of the debate before distinguished judges, I was intent on persuading judges and Justices of the validity of my research and opinions. Real consequences flowed from success or failure in this debate.

It was my training in the Fulton Society that influenced all of these developments. My first instinct was to collect all the evidence I could find. The final challenge was to present the information in clear speeches to various audiences. I have included two examples with this letter.

The observer can decide on how closely I have hewn to the three steps of Dr. Lawton's recipe for effective communication:

Dispense with the obvious.  
Tell the truth.  
Let the facts speak for themselves.

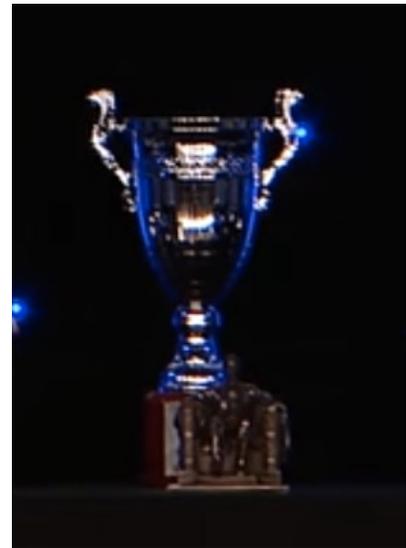
As I compose this letter I can only remark on my good fortune. I certainly benefitted from the fact that John H. Lawton and James J. Unger arrived at BC in the fall of 1960. I was fortunate to have had such talented partners. When I attended the centennial Fulton dinner in 1990, I shared a table with Arthur Desrosiers, Peter Cooper and Dick Sunberg, as we listened to Father Charles F. Donovan, S.J. proclaim the history of debate at BC and learned that the "Senior Debating Society" was officially founded in 1868, making us the true centurions of dispute. When I returned for my golden jubilee reunion, Arthur, Peter and I shared our various paths to advanced Harvard degrees.

Each of us, and the other members of the Fulton Society, were fortunate to be part of the national debate community. As glorious as the Golden Years of auditorium orators obviously were, an intercollegiate debate was a rarity worthy of front page news. Tournaments made intercollegiate debating the norm. Going to the Greater Boston Forensic League tournaments was a treat in itself. Debaters from all of the major universities in the Athens of America met on a regular basis where rivalries and friendships grew. When I was given the opportunity to be part of the national debate circuit for three years, I became part of a collegiate community. So I could go to most major universities in the nation with the confidence that there were a few like-winded orators familiar to me, regardless of their college majors. This familiar acquaintance with students from a variety of colleges and majors across the country seems unimaginable for other college students.

Since the community was a self-selected competitive elite, many of its members rose to prominence—particularly because they could talk. So it is a special honor to rise to prominence in the debate community itself. I was fortunate to have James Unger and Robert Shrum as coaches. Both of them have risen to enduring prominence in the debate community.

James J. Unger has become a legend. After he left BC he continued coaching at Georgetown and then American University. Today his coaching is recalled in college and high school. The James J. Unger Coaching Award is now given annually at the National Debate Tournament to the coach of the top ranked first round at-large team.

In high school, the National Speech and Debate Association is proud to award The Unger Cup each year to the Policy Debate school that has placed the highest cumulatively in the five great national debate tournaments: the National Speech & Debate Tournament; the National Catholic Forensic League Grand Debate Tournament; the University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions; the NAUDL Urban Debate National Championship Tournament; and the National Debate Coaches Association Debate Tournament. The Unger Cup is endowed and presented in perpetuity at the National Speech & Debate Tournament. An antique silver, three-handled loving cup, created by Tiffany at the turn of the century, will remain at the national office with a professionally designed base honoring all of the recipients.



Robert M. Shrum is also memorialized in high school debate in The Robert Shrum Award. The top speaker in World Schools Debate is recognized annually at the National Tournament. The namesake of this award is legendary attorney, speechwriter, columnist, political consultant, NSDA alumnus, and outstanding debater at the 1965 Collegiate National Debate Tournament, Mr. Robert Shrum.

My most valuable reward from the Fulton Society was certainly the two gold medals that I was awarded in the Prize Debates. My most visible honor remains the two spots on the wall of the Fulton room. One is at the bottom of one column and the other at the top of another column of esteemed orators. Remarkably, this most recent accolade assures that I will not be just another prick on the wall.

Gratefully,

David M. White A&S '68