Greetings from the Heights

This issue of The Fultonian reports on some of the activities of the Society during the 2017-2018 academic year. Highlights include holding the 126th Fulton Prize Debate and winning the Harrison Cup at the American Debate Association's Championship Tournament.

We also inducted ten Fultonians from the 1940s and 1950s into the Fulton Debate Hall of Fame.

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

John Katsulas and Christy Webster Dunn

Fulton Wins ADA Nats

Harrison Cup returns to the Heights for the 4th time

Ben Dewhurst ’21 and Nick Wong ’20 won the Junior Varsity division of the American Debate Association’s Championship Tournament hosted by the University of Texas-Dallas.

During the preliminary rounds, Dewhurst and Wong were 4-2, defeating teams from Florida State, the University of Miami (Florida), George Mason, and Navy.

In the quarter-finals, Dewhurst and Wong lost the coin flip to George Mason, who chose to go negative against BC. In a split decision (with legendary Harvard debate coach, Dallas Perkins, in the minority), Boston College prevailed.

Dewhurst and Wong were locked negative against Liberty in the semi-finals. On the affirmative, Liberty advocated a plan to implement single payer health insurance. BC argued that single payer health insurance would devastate drug industry innovation and prevailed on a unanimous decision.

In the final round, Dewhurst and Wong faced another team from Liberty. This time, Liberty advocated a plan to provide catastrophic health insurance (which BC argued was not topical because it doesn't provide basic health care). Liberty, afraid of losing on topicality, spent too little time answering the disadvantage. On a fast 3-0 decision, the judges (including Dallas Perkins) voted for BC.

As the champions of the JV division, Dewhurst and Wong will have their names engraved on the traveling trophy, which is a large silver cup named after the late Frank G. Harrison. Professor Harrison was the president of the ADA (2000-2004) and the Director of Debate at Trinity University in San Antonio (1998-2006).

Other first place winners on the Harrison Cup from Boston College include Wenyu Ho and Dilip Paliath (1993), Ken Aruda and Brenden Benedict (2010), and Sean MacDonald and Fisher Pressman (2016).
# 2017-2018 Debate Topic: National Health Insurance

The intercollegiate debate topic for 2017-2018 was, “Resolved: The United States Federal Government should establish national health insurance in the United States.”

This topic will go down in debate history as one of the narrowest in terms of providing many options for affirmative plan writing. According to most definitions, the term “national health insurance” means the government has to provide health insurance coverage for basic health care to nearly all of its citizens. There are only a handful of ways of doing this.

In fact, many debate judges believed that the only topical plan was for the government to establish a single payer health insurance system funded by higher taxes. Therefore, the vast majority of teams advocated some version of single-payer. The single-payer plans advocated by Bernie Sanders and John Conyers were the most commonly defended.

However, debate teams did advocate other plans beside single-payer. Some argued that it was possible to make the Affordable Care Act (ACA) universal by establishing a government-run public insurance plan that would compete against private insurers in the state marketplace. It was made universal by auto-enrolling anyone without health insurance and providing subsidies to the poor. Jacob Hacker, a Yale professor, is the main proponent of the public option.

Boston College teams advocated a plan called the Universal Health Care Voucher (UHV). This proposal was formulated by a medical doctor, Ezekiel Emmanuel, and a Stanford economist, Victor Fuchs.

Under the Fuchs and Emmanuel plan, universal coverage is achieved by providing a health care voucher to all Americans. The voucher would be used to obtain insurance coverage from the private sector. Unlike single-payer, the UHV does not abolish private insurers or hospitals.

However, the government would impose new regulations on insurance companies to guarantee quality coverage. Under the UHV, the government requires that all private insurers provide a comprehensive set of benefits modeled on the health coverage provided to federal employees. Private insurers would be required to accept anybody, regardless of pre-existing medical conditions.

The funding to pay for this plan came from two sources. First, imposing a value-added tax (VAT) generated 750 billion a year, assuming the tax rate was set at between 10 to 12 percent. Second, repealing the existing tax exemption on employer-sponsored health insurance generated an additional 200 billion a year. This exemption becomes obsolete as the UHV plan eliminates employer-sponsored insurance.

Another reason the topic was dull was the lack of variety in affirmative case harms. Everyone claimed the same two advantages: (1) universal coverage improved the ability of the public health system to prevent the spread of pandemics, and (2) government-provided health insurance would boost the economy by reducing the cost of providing health insurance to the government, consumers, and business.
VALDEZ WINS THE DUFFY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEBATE

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

Noah Valdez ’21, a philosophy major from Nashua, New Hampshire, is the 2018 recipient of the Duffy Award.

Debating in varsity, Noah won numerous speaker awards (1st at the CEDA Northeast regional championship, 5th at New School, 6th at Cornell) and achieved impressive tournament performances (semi-finals at the Northeast Regional Championship and quarter-finals at West Point and Cornell).

Noah Valdez also became one of the few freshman in the history of the Society to win the Fulton Medal in the Prize Debate.

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DEWHURST WINS THE QUINN AWARD FOR THE OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR DEBATER

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

Ben Dewhurst ’21, a history major from the District of Columbia, is the 2018 recipient of the Quinn Award.

Competing in Junior Varsity, Dewhurst won two tournaments (the ADA National Championship Tournament and the University of Miami Tournament), reached the semi-finals at Liberty, and the quarter finals at Navy.

Dewhurst also won the Gargan medal in the Fulton Prize Debate.

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COLES WINS THE MCLAUGHLIN AWARD FOR PUBLIC DEBATING

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

Conner Coles ’20, a political science major from Oklahoma, is the 2018 recipient of the McLaughlin award. Conner was a member of the BC team that won the University Club debate and he participated in the Fulton Prize Debate.

Debating in varsity this year, Conner enjoyed considerable success reaching the octo-finals at West Point and the quarter-finals at Cornell.

Next year, Conner will be going abroad to study at the London School of Economics.
126th FULTON PRIZE DEBATE

Noah Valdez ’21, a philosophy major from Nashua, New Hampshire, won the Fulton Medal at the 126th annual Fulton Prize Debate held on April 19th in Gasson 305.

The topic for the debate was “Resolved: That the United States should establish a system of single-payer health insurance.”

Serving as the judges were Joseph Bowden ’05 (IPC Global Solutions and Fulton Debate alum), Myles Casey ’17 (BC graduate student in philosophy and Fulton Debate alum) and Rita Rosenthal (Communication Department professor of public speaking and persuasion).

Debating on the affirmative with Noah Valdez was Conner Coles ’20, a political science major from Oklahoma, who was the second affirmative speaker. Debating on the negative was Nicholas Wong ’21, a chemistry major from California and Ben Dewhurst ’21, a history major from the District of Columbia.

The affirmative side advocated a single-payer plan endorsed by the Physicians for a National Health Program, which would provide everyone with a comprehensive health insurance plan financed by progressive taxes and administrative cost savings obtained by eliminating private insurance companies.

Adoption of single-payer health insurance, the affirmative side argued, was beneficial for two major reasons. First, it claimed providing universal coverage was a moral imperative to provide health insurance to millions of poor people who currently lack coverage. Second, it argued that single payer was necessary to reduce escalating health care costs. Single payer, it claimed, would reduce costs by implementing streamlined administration, bulk purchasing and global budgeting.

In response, the negative side argued that adoption of single-payer would harm both the economy and the health care system. It would wreck the economy because paying for expanded and unlimited health care would require a massive tax increase. Moreover, the negative side pointed out that government-run health care systems in Canada and the United Kingdom have inferior health care characterized by long-wait times for care and a lack of medical innovation.

In a 2-1 decision, the judges voted for the affirmative side and named Noah Valdez (the first affirmative speaker) as the top speaker and the recipient of the gold Fulton Medal. Ben Dewhurst (the second negative speaker) won second place speaker honors and received the silver Gargan Medal. As the Fulton Medal winner, Valdez will also have his name painted on the great wall in Gasson 305.

This summer, Valdez will be studying philosophy at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Valdez was selected to participate in the Young Scholars Program, where a small group of students meet on a daily basis with Gordon Marino, an acclaimed professor specializing in existential philosophy.

As part of the program, Valdez will also attend the 8th annual Kierkegaard Conference being held at St. Olaf where over two hundred scholars from Nigeria to Slovakia to Brazil were in attendance. From his summer experience, Noah, no doubt, will formulate some philosophical argument applicable to debate.
A THREE-PEAT ACHIEVED—FULTON DEBATE WINS UNIVERSITY CLUB DEBATE

Boston College defeated New York University in the 14th annual Percy S. Douglas Memorial Debate held on November 15th at the University Club in New York City. Four members of the Fulton Debating Society participated in the debate: Richard Jove ’21, Jenna Bilak ’19, Conner Coles ’20, and Claire Wortsman ’20.

The University Club Debate utilizes a parliamentary style of debating, where speakers are allowed to interrupt during their opponent’s constructive speeches by raising points of information. Each side is represented by four debaters. The first six speeches are seven minutes in length with each side giving a five minute rebuttal.

The motion for the debate was, “This House believes that a free college education should be made available to all Americans.” A month prior to the debate, a coin flip determined the sides for the debate. Boston College was assigned the role of the Opposition, meaning it opposed proving free college education to all; New York University acted as the Government and advocated in favor of free college education.

The debate was moderated by the Hon. Andrew P. Napolitano who is a senior judicial analyst for Fox News and a distinguished visiting professor at Brooklyn’s Law School. Previously Napolitano served on the New Jersey bench and was the state’s youngest then-sitting Superior Court judge.

Boston College was invited to compete in the Percy S. Douglas Memorial Debate by Michael Devlin who is a 1988 graduate of Boston College, as well as a member of the Boston College Board of Trustees.

In the debate, NYU in support of the government side, argued that providing a free college education would improve educational access for minorities and produce a more skilled workforce. Boston College responded by citing empirical evidence that free public college in countries like Germany has resulted in lower graduation rates, fewer skilled workers, and worse outcomes for minority students. Instead of free college for all, Fulton advocated for increasing the funding to the existing Pell Grant program so that financial needs of low and middle-income students were met. This better targeted resources, while avoiding giving free tuition to wealthy families like Donald J. Trump’s.

The judges for the debate were the members of the University Club, who by a vote of 50-2, resoundingly declared Boston College as the winner of the debate; making BC the only three-peat champion.

After the debate, the University Club treated all the participants to a spectacular lobster and steak dinner, followed by a tour of the opulent library, incredible athletic facilities, and meeting spaces of the University Club building.

As the champion of the University Club Debate, Boston College will have their named etched on the large sterling silver trophy that is housed at the club and be invited back next November to face a new opponent. Greg Hefner, the Managing Director for Macquarie Capital and a 1980 graduate of Boston College, will organize the debate and Harvard University (either the parliamentary team or the policy team) is the likely foe.

The 2018 University Club debate is scheduled to be held on November 14th and the Fulton has already accepted their invitation to defend the title. This will be a challenge, as the Fulton will have to train two new members to compete as half of this year’s winning team, Claire Wortsman and Conner Coles, will be studying abroad next fall.

University Club Debate Champions (Again); Richard Jove ’21 (with trophy), Jenna Bilak ’19, Judge Napolitano, Claire Wortsman ’20, and Conner Coles ’20
Final National Debate Tournament (NDT) Rankings for 2017-2018

1. Liberty University
2. George Mason University
3. Harvard University
4. University of Kansas
5. Wake Forest University
6. Binghamton University
7. Northwestern University
8. University of Nevada—Las Vegas
9. Cornell University
10. University of Iowa
11. University of Kentucky
12. Emory University
13. New York University
14. University of Michigan
15. University of Missouri—Kansas City
16. University of Oklahoma
17. Rutgers University—Newark
18. University of Georgia
19. Baylor University
20. University of Minnesota
21. University of California—Berkeley
22. Johnson County Community College
23. Weber State University
24. Arizona State University
25. BOSTON COLLEGE
26. Michigan State University
27. University of Central Oklahoma
28. University of Southern California
29. University of Florida
30. Indiana University

West Point Tournament: Alec Navori ’21, Jenna Bilak ’19, Noah Valdez ’21, Conner Coles ’20, Dan Moyer ’20, and Eva Ottum ’20

Liberty Tournament (in front of Jerry Falwell's portrait): Dan Moyer ’20, Nick Wong ’20, Ben Dewhurst ’21, and Jane Wu ’20

Nick Wong ’20 and Ben Dewhurst ’21 celebrate at Joe's Stone Crab after winning the University of Miami Tournament
2018 Fulton Prize debaters: Ben Dewhurst ’21, Nick Wong ’20, Noah Valdez ’21, and Conner Coles ’20

End of the year banquet at the Golden Temple restaurant in Brookline

Dilip Paliath ’93 and his daughter, Hannah, visited Fulton Debate during his 25th reunion

Final Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) Rankings for 2017-2018

1. Liberty University
2. George Mason University
3. Wake Forest University
4. Harvard University
5. University of Nevada—Las Vegas
6. University of Kansas
7. Binghamton University
8. University of Iowa
9. Cornell University
10. Northwestern University
11. Rutgers University—Newark
12. Emory University
13. University of Michigan
14. University of Kentucky
15. New York University
16. University of Missouri—Kansas City
17. Baylor University
18. University of Georgia
19. Weber State University
20. Oklahoma University
21. BOSTON COLLEGE
22. University of California—Berkeley
23. Johnson County Community College
24. Arizona State University
25. Wichita State University
26. University of Florida
27. University of Southern California
28. University of Minnesota
29. University of Central Oklahoma
30. Dartmouth College
NEW HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

At a gala banquet held at the culmination of the the 2017 Alumni Reunion, the Fulton Debating Society announced the establishment of a Hall of Fame and inducted five legendary Fultonians from the pre-World War Two era. The inaugural inductees included: William A. Murphy ’91, John J. Douglas ’93, John J. Wright ’31, Charles F. Donovan ’33, and Lawrence J. Riley ’36.

To honor the long and distinguished tradition of debate at Boston College, the Society plans to build the Hall of Fame by adding legendary debaters from previous decades. This year Fulton Debate is recognizing Fultonians from the 1940s and 1950s.

1940s

Our five inductees for the Fulton Debate Hall of Fame from the 1940s are Paul J. Greeley ’40, Thomas J. Finnegan, Jr. ’41, Maurice L. Paradis ’47, E. Paul Kelly ’49 and Lawrence E. Spellman ’50.

Paul J. Greeley was a champion debater in the Catholic Diocesan League and he had an illustrious career as a Fulton Debater. He served as President of the Marquette Society (Fall 1937) and the Fulton (Fall, 1939). He won the Gargan medal (1938) and the Fulton medal (1940).

Greeley served in the Navy during World War II and attained the rank of lieutenant. He later received his master’s degree from Boston College and served as the executive director of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce for 17 years.

Our second inductee, Thomas J. Finnegan, Jr., won both the Gargan (1939) and Fulton medals (1941). He served as Vice President (Fall 1940) and Secretary of the Fulton. He was the class valedictorian and voted the “most likely to succeed.”

After his graduation, Finnegan attended Boston College law school and then entered the Army and fought during World War II. Upon discharge, he entered Saint John’s Seminary in Brighton and was ordained in 1951. From 1968 to 1973, he was the Chancellor of the Chancery office in Boston serving under Cardinals Cushing and Medeiros.

Our third Hall of Famer is Maurice Paradis, who won the Fulton Medal in 1947. This was a notable and historically important Fulton Prize Debate, as no debate had occurred in the prior three years due to World War II. Paradis also won two other prestigious oratorical competitions, the Hearst and Harrigan contests.

Before winning the Fulton Prize Debate in 1947, Paradis served in the Army during World War II. After graduating from Boston College, he earned a law degree and worked as an attorney for the Pentagon and then as chief counsel for Lockheed Missiles and Space Company.

Members of the Fulton Debating Society in the 1940 Sub Turri;
Paul Greeley is seated in the front row, center

Members of the Fulton Debating Society in the 1954 Sub Turri;
John Curtin is seated in the front row, second from left
HALL OF FAME CONTINUED

Our fourth inductee is E. Paul Kelly, who won the Gargan (1946) and Fulton Medals (1949). The Marquette Prize Debate of April 1946 in which Kelly won the Gargan medal was significant because it was the first debate of the post-World War II era. Kelly is also historically important for being one of the first Fultonians to compete in intercollegiate tournaments using the national debate topic selected by the National Debate Tournament (NDT).

After receiving a master’s degree in philosophy from Shadow Brook Jesuit Seminary, Kelly spent 8 years with the Jesuits teaching philosophy and English at Sophia University in Japan. Only weeks before making his vows, Kelly left the seminary and enrolled in law school at Boston College, where he received his degree in 1960 and practiced as a trial attorney until his retirement in 2000. Kelly married and had 4 sons, one of whom was Chip Kelly, the Head football coach of the UCLA Bruins and the former Head football coach of the Eagles, 49ers, and Oregon Ducks.

Our final inductee for the 1940s is Lawrence E. Spellman, who won the Gargan (1948) and Fulton (1950) medals and served as President of the Fulton (Spring 1948). He was also President of his senior class.

Spellman is one of the early Fultonians who competed in intercollegiate competitions during 1948-1949. The national topic for that year was, "Resolved: That the federal government should adopt a policy of equalizing educational opportunity in tax-supported schools by means of annual grants."

Spellman graduated from Harvard Law School in 1955 and was a partner in the law firm of Ransmeier & Spellman in Concord, New Hampshire.

1950s

Our five inductees for the Fulton Debate Hall of fame from the 1950s are Francis E. Dooley ’52, John J. Curtin, Jr. ’54, Brian E. Concannon ’56, Edward J. F. Thomas ’57, and John (Jack) R. McNealy ’60.

Francis E. Dooley was a Fulton Medal winner (1952) and served as the President of the Fulton (Fall 1951). He competed in numerous intercollegiate debates. During the Fulton's annual Easter trip in April 1950, Dooley competed against Fordham, St. Joseph, St. Peter's, Georgetown, and Catholic University. The national topic that year was, "Resolved: That All Basic Non-agricultural Industries Should be Nationalized."

Dooley received a law degree from Boston College and practiced law for several Boston law firms, including Parker, Coulter, Daley & White (1955 to 1994), Dolbec, McGrath, Bennett & White, and Burke, Monahan & McGrath.

Our second inductee, John J. Curtin, Jr., won the Gargan (1952) and Fulton medals (1954). He served as Vice President of the Marquette Society (Fall 1951 and Spring 1952) and Vice President of the Fulton (Fall 1953).

Curtin earned a law degree from Boston College in 1957 and became one of the leading attorneys in the United States. He was a partner at Bingham McCutchen LLP where he served as Chair of its Litigation Practice. Curtin was elected President of both the Boston Bar Association (1979-1981) and the American Bar Association (1990-1991).

Our third Hall of Famer is Brian E. Concannon, who won the Fulton Medal (1956) and the Leonard Oratorical contest (1956). He served as President of the Fulton (Fall 1956) and Vice President of the Marquette (Spring 1954). Concannon earned a law degree from Boston College and served as the District Attorney for Plymouth County and as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Since 1962, he has practiced law in Marshfield and in 1968, argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court (Johnson v. Massachusetts, 390 U.S. 511).
HALL OF FAME CONCLUDED

Our fourth inductee is Edward J. F. Thomas, who achieved the unmatched feat of winning a medal in each of his four years. Thomas won two Gargan medals (1954 and 1955) and two Fulton Medals (1956 and 1957). Thomas also won the Leonard Oratorical contest (1957). He served as Marquette President (Fall 1954) and Vice President of the Fulton (Fall, 1956).

On graduation day, Thomas was commissioned in the Army through the ROTC program. He served for over thirty years as an infantry officer retiring as a Brigadier General. He also taught Russian at West Point for a number of years serving ultimately as Head of the Department of Foreign Languages.

Our final inductee is Jack R. McNealy who won the Fulton Medal (1960) and served as Marquette Vice-President (Fall 1957), Marquette President (Spring 1958), and Fulton President (1959-1960).

Upon graduation, Jack was commissioned as an Army Intelligence Officer, but he delayed active service long enough to receive a Master’s Degree in French from Indiana University. His Army career spanned twenty-two years and saw him posted to six states as well as France and Vietnam. He reached the rank of Colonel before retiring. A sixteen year business career followed.

Continuing a family tradition, four generations of the McNealy family are BC graduates and his daughter, Dr. Michelle “Mimi” Langenderfer, is the Assistant Director of BC’s Global Leadership Institute.
Members of the Fulton Debating Society Hall of Fame
(listed in chronological order)

Pre-World War 2

William A. Murphy ’91
John J. Douglas ’93
John J. Wright ’31
Charles F. Donovan ’33
Lawrence J. Riley ’36

1940s

Paul J. Greeley ’40,
Thomas J. Finnegan, Jr. ’41
Maurice L. Paradis ’47
E. Paul Kelly ’49
Lawrence E. Spellman ’50

1950s

Francis E. Dooley ’52
John J. Curtin, Jr. ’54
Brian E. Concannon ’56
Edward J. F. Thomas ’57
John (Jack) R. McNealy ’60

Detailed biographies of Hall of Fame members can be found on the Fulton Debating Society’s web site:
www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/sites/fulton-debate-society/awards.html#fulton_debate_hall_of_fame

IMPORTANT DATES IN FULTON HISTORY

1913: Construction of Recitation (Gasson) Hall and the Fulton Debate Room

1990: Centennial Fulton Prize Debaters
Charles Morris, Jennifer Dowd (Deakin), Darren Schwiebert and Craig Cerniello

2007: Previous winners of the Fulton Prize Debate return to campus for an alumni reunion
GOOD-BYE AND THANK YOU: CHRISTY WEBSTER DUNN

After serving for five years as the Assistant Debate Coach for Fulton Debate, Christy Webster Dunn has decided to retire and spend more time with her three sons.

The Fulton thanks Christy for providing invaluable administrative and coaching assistance to the debate program. She gave debaters strong encouragement and sage advice before their debate rounds, which certainly contributed to their winning many debates.

Christy also created the Fulton Debate Facebook page, where she has posted photos and press releases about Fulton events. Many alumni have indicated their appreciation with receiving these updates.

While Christy is retiring from attending weekly meetings and regular tournament travel, the Fulton looks forward to having her participate in our special functions and maybe even go on an occasional trip.

Christy Webster Dunn with her eldest son, Trey, holding a Waterford vase honoring her service to the Fulton Debating Society.