

# THE FULTONIAN

## Zhang wins 2021 Prize Debate



*The 2021 Fulton Prize Debate*

On May 7, 2021, the Fulton Debating Society held the 129th annual Fulton Prize Debate in Gasson 305 and on Zoom. The students debated in Gasson 305 while the judges and guests viewed the debate on zoom.

The topic for the debate was “Resolved: The United States should restrict the activation of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the Republic of the Philippines to an armed attack on the territories, islands, and armed forces under the administrative control of the Philippines.”

Debating on the affirmative side was Sophia Carter '22 and Anderson Zhang '23. The negative side was argued by Cross Conrad '23 and Louis Gleason IV '23.

The affirmative side argued that the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines should not be activated if the Philippines engage in conflicts with China over disputed areas in the South China Sea. It argued that a China-Philippine dispute over oil drilling or clashes involving their fishing boats did not constitute threats to U.S. national security that justified going to war with China.

### Greetings from the Heights

This issue of *The Fultonian* reports on some of the activities during the 2020-2021 academic year. Highlights include holding two Fulton Prize Debates and winning both the Liberty and the Northeast Regional Championship Tournaments.

We also inducted three Fultonians from the 1980s into the Fulton Debate Hall of Fame. Finally, a special story about the life of the 1912 Fulton Medal winner is told.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading *The Fultonian*.

*John Katsulas, Adam Lee,  
& Dale Herbeck*

The negative side argued that repealing the activation of the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) to the South China Sea would embolden Chinese aggression. It cited evidence that the MDT was successful in restraining China from building a military installation on Scarborough Shoal and from conquering the Whitsun Reef.

This year's judges included Kim Wong (J.D., 1986, BC Law School, BC debate coach from 1985 to 1986, and now a professor in the Business Department at Central New Mexico Community College), Wenyu Blanchard '95 (VP and Associate General Counsel at SP Plus Corp.), Christopher Strunk '95 (partner at Gordon & Rees), Nicholas Brady '96 (Senior Attorney at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission), Jared Fields '01 (Chief Legal Counsel for Mustang Development), and Dominic Cameratta '01 (CFO, Cameratta Companies).

In a 5-1 decision, the judges voted for the affirmative and awarded the Fulton Medal (for top speaker) to Anderson Zhang and the Gargan Medal (for second best speaker) to Sophia Carter.

CROSS CONRAD WINS 2020  
FULTON MEDAL

On January 20, 2021, the Fulton Debating Society held the 128th annual Fulton Prize Debate on Zoom. This debate was a makeup for last year’s debate, which was cancelled, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The topic for the debate was “Resolved: The United States should adopt a constitutional amendment to require term limits for justices of the Supreme Court.”

Debating on the affirmative side was Benjamin Dewhurst ’21 and Sophia Carter ’22. The negative side was argued by Louis Gleason IV ’23 and Cross Conrad ’23.

In the debate, the affirmative side advocated a plan to impose 18-year nonrenewable term limits for each new Supreme Court justice. Under the proposal, every President would nominate two justices during the first and third years of their administration. To prevent expanding the size of the Supreme, the current justices would rotate off the court based on seniority.

The affirmative claimed 18-year term limits and regular appointments would promote five advantages: (1) reduce partisan fighting over the confirmation of new justices, (2) prevent mentally or physically infirm justices from serving on the bench, (3) solve for strategic retirement by justices, (4) decrease incentives for appointing younger, less qualified justices, and (5) make the court more democratic and reflective of contemporary views.

The negative side argued that having new court appointments every two years, coinciding with the holding of midterm and presidential elections, would increase partisan fighting. Ideologues on both sides would have the incentives to fight about judges during every major election.

As for making the Supreme Court more democratic and responsive to prevailing public views, the negative pointed out that there were benefits to retaining the Supreme Court as an anti-majoritarian body. They cited rulings by the Supreme Court in the areas of freedom of speech and racial equality where the Court issued rulings that promoted rights despite being unpopular at the time.

Finally, the negative presented two disadvantages to abandoning lifetime tenure. First, it argued that lifetime tenure would undermine judicial independence. Under term limits, there always exists the risk of judges making political rulings during their final years on the bench when they are considering future employment opportunities.

Second, it argued that 18-year term limits would lead to doctrinal instability. Changing the composition of the Court that often would cause judicial whiplash. Rulings would be repeatedly overruled and then reinstated and then overruled again.

This year’s judges were six distinguished Fulton alumni from three decades, including Dr. Michael Janas ’87 (Chair, Samford Communication Department), Dr. Charles Morris III ’91 (Chair, Syracuse Communication Department), Wenyu Ho Blanchard ’95 (attorney, Alliant Energy), Brendan Benedict ’12 (private practice attorney, Washington, DC), Dilip Paliath ’93 (Magistrate in Baltimore County, Maryland), and Gabriel Stacy ’12 (President & owner of Acture Solutions).

In a 5-1 decision, the judges voted for the negative (with Blanchard dissenting) and awarded the Fulton Medal (for top speaker) to Cross Conrad and the Gargan Medal (for second best speaker) to Sophia Carter.



*Cross Conrad ’23 with 2020 Fulton Medal*

2020-2021 DEBATE TOPIC:  
REDUCING U.S. ALLIANCE  
COMMITMENTS

The intercollegiate debate topic for 2020-2021 was “Resolved: The United States Federal Government should reduce its alliance commitments with Japan, the Republic of Korea, North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states, and/or the Republic of the Philippines, by at least substantially limiting the conditions under which its defense pact can be activated.”

Fulton Debate advocated a plan to restrict the activation of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) with the Philippines to territories under the administrative control of the Philippines. Under both the Trump and Biden administrations, the United States declared that the MDT applied anywhere in the South China Sea, even to disputed territories. The debate over the desirability of this plan is explained in the 2021 Fulton Prize Debate story.

For the U.S. mutual defense treaty with Japan, the most popular plan was to exclude applying the treaty to the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. These uninhabited islands are disputed territory claimed by both Japan and China. The affirmative argued that there were numerous scenarios where a low-level military clash between Japan and China over the Senkakus could escalate to a military conflict, which would require the U.S. to go to war with China.

There were a variety of affirmative plans reducing the U.S.

defense commitment with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) by limiting the activation of the collective security commitment pledged under Article V. These plans included declaring that Article V did not apply to defending the Baltics or the Arctic region.

Another NATO plan had the US declare that it would oppose the admission of additional states to NATO. Some plans limited expansion to the Ukraine and/or to Georgia and others halted future expansion entirely. These affirmatives claimed that stopping NATO expansion would improve relations with Russia.

Restricting NATO’s response to cyber attacks constituted another area for affirmative cases. While NATO has stated that cyber attacks are covered under Article V, the policy is vague in defining when and how to respond. Therefore, some affirmative plans advocated for adopting uniform procedures for identifying when cyber attacks would trigger an Article V response.

South Korea was the least popular area for affirmative plans. The only topical affirmative plan advocated for reducing the scope of the U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty with South Korea by limiting its coverage to islands or areas on the Korean Peninsula under its administrative control. The affirmative argued that the U.S.-South Korean alliance was being harmed by the US adopting an expansive view that required South Korea to confront China in areas beyond the Korean Peninsula.



*Sophia Carter and Anderson Zhang  
with the Liberty trophy*



*Sophia Carter and Ben Dewhurst  
at the Lafayette Debates*



*Christian Toro and Owen Engler  
at the ACC Debates*



*Anderson Zhang, Sophia Carter, and  
Cross Conrad at the 2021  
Fulton Prize Debate*

CARTER WINS THE DUFFY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEBATE



*Sophia Carter '22*

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.

Sophia Carter '22, a political science major from Warwick, Rhode Island, is the 2021 recipient of the Duffy Award.

Debating in JV with Anderson Zhang, she won first place at the Liberty Tournament, first place at the Northeast Regional Championship, the quarter-finals in varsity at Monmouth, and the octo-finals at the ADA Fall Championship.

Debating with Ben Dewhurst at the Lafayette Debates, Carter reached the semi-finals. Carter won numerous speaker awards this year, including 1st place at the Northeast Regional Championship, 6th speaker at the Lafayette Debates, and 7th speaker at Liberty.

ZHANG WINS THE QUINN AWARD FOR THE OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR DEBATER

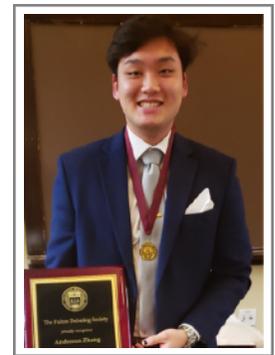
The Joseph F. Quinn Award for Outstanding First Year Debater was created in 2007 to celebrate the service of Dr. Joseph F. Quinn, who is currently the James P. McIntyre Professor of Economics. From 1999 to 2007, Dr. Quinn was the much beloved Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a strong supporter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

Anderson Zhang '23, a political science and economics major from Mesa, Arizona, is the 2021 recipient of the Quinn award.

Anderson came to Boston College with experience competing in Lincoln-Douglas style debate. In his first year as a college debater, he made a successful transition to competing in policy debate.

Debating with Carter, Zhang won two tournaments (Liberty & Northeast Regionals) and reached the quarter-finals in varsity at Monmouth.

Zhang also earned individual speaker honors by placing 2nd at the Northeast regionals, 14th at Liberty, and 19th at Monmouth.



*Anderson Zhang '23*

CONRAD AND ZHANG SHARE THE MCLAUGHLIN AWARD FOR PUBLIC DEBATING



*Cross Conrad '23*

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.

Cross Conrad '23, an economics and philosophy major from Hartland, Wisconsin, and Anderson Zhang, are the recipients of the McLaughlin award for public speaking. They share this award as having each won a Fulton Meal in the Fulton Prize Debates held this year.

Conrad also received 10th place speaker honors at the University of Mary Washington and the Northeast Regionals tournaments.

RECAP OF THE 2020-2021 DEBATE SEASON

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all debate tournaments were held online this year.

During the weekend of October 9-11, 2020, Fulton Debate competed in its first on-line tournament hosted by the University of Mary Washington. Louis Gleason, IV, and Cross Conrad reached the quarter-finals in JV. They lost in a 2-1 to George Mason.

During the weekend of November 6-9, 2020, Sophia Carter and Anderson Zhang won the JV division of the Liberty Tournament. Carter & Zhang defeated George Mason in the quarter-finals, Navy in the semi-finals, and Liberty in finals.

During the weekend of November 13-15, 2020, Sophia Carter and Anderson Zhang reached the octo-finals of the ADA fall championship. They lost in a 2-1 to Minnesota.

The Spring semester began by debating at the Monmouth Tournament during the weekend of February 12-14, 2021. Louis Gleason, IV and Cross Conrad won the JV division by defeating the University of Houston. Sophia Carter and Anderson Zhang advanced to the quarter-finals in the open divisions. They lost in a 3-0 to George Mason.

During the weekend of February 26-28, 2021, Fulton Debate closed out the JV division of the Northeast regional tournament hosted by the New School. In one semi-final, Sophia Carter and Anderson Zhang defeated New York University in a 2-1 decision. In the other semi-final, Louis Gleason,

IV and Cross Conrad defeated West Point in a 3-0 decision.

Fulton Debate also competed in two public-style debate tournaments—the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Tournament and the Lafayette Debates hosted by George Washington and the French Embassy.

During the weekend of April 9-10, 2021, the ACC tournament hosted a 4 round tournament. The topic was “Resolved: ACC member institutions should adopt a rule requiring them to interview at least one minority candidate for all head coach and athletic director openings for their Division I sports programs.”

Owen Engler and Christopher Toro competed for BC. Wake Forest defeated Notre Dame in the final round.

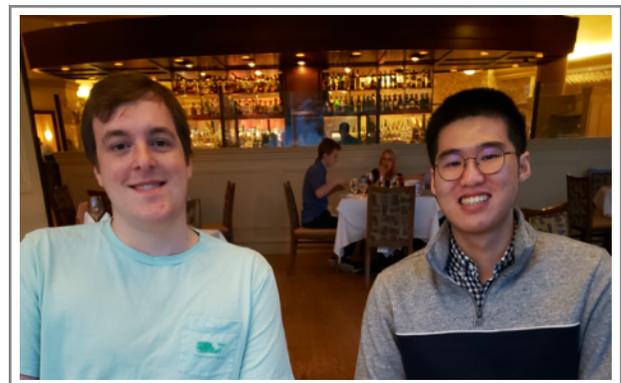
During the weekend of April 24-25, 2021, the Lafayette Debate Tournament held a 4 round tournament. The topic for the debates was “Resolved: Governments should impose civil and/or criminal penalties on social media companies providing platforms for violent extremism.”

Sophia Carter and Ben Dewhurst reached the semi-finals of the Lafayette Debates. In the quarter-finals, Carter and Dewhurst defeated Vanderbilt in a 3-0 decision.

For the semi-finals, five person judging panels were used with policy experts having little debate experience. BC lost in a 3-2 decision to Patrick Henry. BC won over the judges from the US and Britain but lost all three judges from France.



*Anderson Zhang, Sophia Carter, Cross Conrad and Louis Gleason celebrate at the Capital Grille*



*Ben Dewhurst and Nicholas Wong at the Seniors Dinner held at Davio's*

## NEW HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES FOR THE DECADE OF THE 1980s

During the 1980s, Fulton Debate did not actively compete in policy debate until 1985 when Dale Herbeck was hired as the Director. Therefore, the Hall of Fame class for the 1980s will induct fewer candidates than previous decades.

The three Fulton Debate Hall of Fame inductees for the 1980s are Michael J. Janas '87, Christopher T. Gassett '89, and Lisa Marie Claussen-Adams '90.

Michael J. Janas was the most outstanding debater of the 1980s. During the 1986-1987 academic year (debating with Christopher Gassett), he won 1st place at Navy (1987), 2nd place at the University of Pittsburgh (1986), semi-finals at Penn. State (1986) and semi-finals at George Mason (1987).

In 1987, Janas qualified for the NDT and nearly reached the elimination rounds. He was 4-3 and got pulled up in round 8 and lost a break-round to Northwestern (Gordon Mitchell & Cate Palczewski).

Janas was also a two-time winner of the Fulton Medal in the Fulton Prize Debates of 1986 and 1987.

After graduating from Boston College, Janas earned a Master's degree in communication from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D in communication from the University of Iowa. In 1993, Janas was hired by Samford University as its Director of Debate, and he served until 2006. For his coaching excellence, Janas was named the District VI Coach of the Year and South East CEDA Coach of the Year.

After retiring from debate, Janas served as a Professor and the Chair of Communication Studies from 2012 until 2021. Dr. Janas is a highly respected teacher and academic. He was elected to serve as President of the American Forensic Association (2014-2016).

Our second inductee is Christopher T. Gassett '89, who debated with Mike Janas and Lisa Marie Ameden.

Gassett qualified for the NDT twice—with Janas in 1987 and with Ameden in 1988. Gassett won the Fulton Medal in 1989 and the Gargan Medal in 1988.

In addition to the tournament successes achieved debating with Mike Janas, Gassett reached the octo-finals at the Harvard tournament in 1988 debating with Ameden.

After graduating from Boston College, Gassett attended law school at Northeastern, where he earned a J.D. in 1993.

Gassett became a prominent attorney who served as General Counsel for Special Data Processing Corporation (2007 to 2010) and The Home Shopping Network, which is now called HSN (2011 to 2019). He is currently self-employed as an attorney providing legal counsel for major internet companies, retailers, and manufacturers.

Our third inductee is Lisa Marie Claussen-Adams (formerly, Lisa Marie Ameden). Ameden debated with John Goodwin, Chris Gassett, and Darren Schwiebert.

Ameden earned many tournament successes. Debating with Goodwin, Ameden reached the quarter-finals of the 1987 National JV Championships. Debating with Schwiebert, Ameden reached the finals of Navy in 1989 and was named the top speaker.

Ameden qualified for the NDT twice—with Gassett in 1988 and with Schwiebert in 1989. Ameden won the Gargan medal at the 1989 Fulton Prize Debate.

For over twenty years, Ameden has held executive positions in charge of leadership development, including serving as Vice President for Global Research Development at Bain Capital (2005 to 2014) and Chief Talent Officer at Cornerstone Research (2014-2020). Ameden is currently the Chief People Officer at Insight2Profit.



*Christopher Gassett & Michael Janas*

1912 FULTON MEDAL WINNER:  
ANDREW FRANCIS HARRINGTON

On the great wall of Gasson 305, the name of “Francis A. Harrington” is painted in the slot for the 1912 Fulton Medal winner. However, Rosemary White, who has the 1912 Fulton Medal in her possession, claims the name of her great uncle, who won that medal, is “Andrew Francis Harrington.” Curious about the discrepancy between the names, she asked Fulton Debate to resolve the mystery: Is “Francis A. Harrington, the same person, as “Andrew Francis Harrington”?

The answer is an unequivocal, yes. And, the research done to confirm the identity of the 1912 winner discovered that A. Francis Harrington lived an exciting and remarkable life.

There is a simple explanation for why the calligrapher painted the name of “Francis A. Harrington.” As an undergraduate at Boston College, he was always referred to as “Francis Harrington.” This was true whether he was a member of Fulton Debate, a contributor to *The Stylus*, or as a baseball player. However, later in his professional career, he reverted to his birth name (Andrew Francis Harrington) but always abbreviated his first name. That’s likely how he became known as A. Francis Harrington.

A. Francis Harrington was born and grew up in Wakefield, Massachusetts. He attended Wakefield High School, where he was the dominant pitcher on his baseball team. For college, he attended Holy Cross before transferring to Boston College during his sophomore year.

Harrington participated as a member of the Fulton Debating Society for three years. In his junior and senior years, he stood out as one of the Fulton’s best debaters. He was selected to participate in the most prestigious debate tournaments, including being part of the three man debate team competing against BC’s arch rival Georgetown in 1911 (BC won) and 1912 (BC lost).

In the 1912 Fulton Prize Debate, Harrington achieved legendary status as a BC debater by capturing the Fulton Medal. The topic for the debate was “Resolved: That the granting of universal suffrage to women, under present economic and social conditions, would prove for the best welfare of

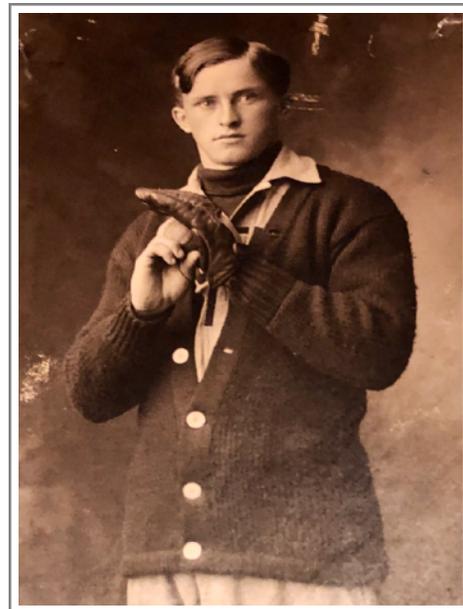
the United States.” And he won the debate by defending the negative side that women should not have the right to vote.

In his junior year, Harrington also competed in the 1911 Fulton Prize Debate. He debated on the affirmative side on the topic “Resolved: That the United States government should establish a General Parcels Post.” His debate partner, Cornelius A. Guiney, won the Fulton Medal in that debate.

During the spring term of 1912, Harrington served as the President of the Fulton Debating Society.

At the 1912 commencement ceremonies of BC, Harrington was chosen as one of the four class orators to give a speech about the general topic of “Labor.” His oration dealt with the subject, “The Rights of Labor.”

Harrington’s triumphs in debating were accompanied by excellence in athletics. In every year that he played, Harrington was the best player on the BC baseball team. He was a flame-throwing right-handed pitcher. In his junior and senior year, he lost only two games (each by one run), and both losses were due to poor run support. He was voted Captain of the baseball team in 1911 and 1912.



*Harrington in baseball uniform*

HARRINGTON CONTINUED

On two occasions, professional teams signed him to contracts. The first time occurred on June 22, 1911, when the Pittsburgh Pirates signed him to a contract and gave him a tryout. When the Pirates determined he was not ready for the big leagues, they assigned him to their Triple-A team in Milwaukee.

His second opportunity came in January 1913 when Harrington signed with the Lynn baseball team of the New England League. He was scouted by the Cincinnati Reds, who bought his contract in July for \$4,000, and then offered another \$1,000 in August to secure his services sooner than the completion of the Lynn team's season.

On September 8, 1913, the Cincinnati Reds put Harrington into a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. He entered the game as the second pitcher. He pitched four innings, allowing 5 runs on 6 hits. That would be the only inning he pitched in the major leagues. In December 2013, the Reds sent Harrington back to the Lynn team.

While pursuing his career in baseball, Harrington enrolled in law school at Harvard. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law in 1915. After serving in World War I in the Navy, Harrington opened a law office in Boston's Pemberton Square. He became a prominent lawyer known for his expertise in real estate law.

In addition to his legal practice, Harrington taught law classes for the Massachusetts Department of Education's University extension program. From 1927 to 1932, his lectures on real estate law were broadcast on WBZ radio. From 1930 to 1938, he also served as a Municipal Light Commissioner for Wakefield, Massachusetts.



*Fulton Medal  
from 1912*

The Fulton Debate Society  
of 2020-2021

- Sophia Carter '22
- Cross Conrad '23
- Ben Dewhurst '21
- Owen Engler '23
- Louis Gleason IV '23
- Christian Toro '23
- Noah Valdez '21
- Anderson Zhang '23

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**Fulton Debate Web Site**

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

Detailed biographies of our Hall of Fame members can be found on the Society's web site:

[https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/sites/fulton-debate-society/awards.html#fulton\\_debate\\_hall\\_of\\_fame](https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/sites/fulton-debate-society/awards.html#fulton_debate_hall_of_fame)

**Fulton on Facebook**

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**NDT Alumni Newsletter**

(with stories about the 75th NDT)

<https://nationaldebatetournament.org/alumni/>