

THE FULTONIAN

BC Wins ADA Nationals

The Harrison Trophy Comes to Boston College



Ken Aruda '10 and Brendan Benedict '12 (above) won the Junior Varsity division of the 23rd Annual American Debate Association's (ADA) Championship Tournament held at Vanderbilt University during March 6-8, 2010.

During the preliminary round of debates, Aruda and Benedict compiled a 5-1 record, defeating teams from Capital University, James Madison University, Liberty University, the University of Mary Washington, and West Virginia University. George Mason University handed BC its only loss.

In the elimination rounds, Aruda and Benedict defeated Georgia State (octa-finals), Wayne State (quarter-finals), and Liberty (semi-finals). This set up a final round match-up between the Fultonians and Trinity University (San Antonio, TX), who was undefeated during the preliminary rounds.

In the final round, Aruda and Benedict faced a dilemma as both BC and Trinity ran the same

affirmative case, ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The Fultonians won the coin toss, opted to argue the negative side, and prevailed on a split decision (rendered after the judges deliberated for nearly an hour).

As tournament champions, Aruda and Benedict will have their name engraved on the traveling trophy named in honor of the late Frank G. Harrison. Older Fultonians may remember that Professor Harrison served as the Director of Debate at Trinity from 1988 to 2006 and as the President of the ADA from 2000 to 2004.

Along with Aruda and Benedict, the names of former Fultonians appearing on the Harrison Trophy include 1st place winners, Wenyu Ho & Dilip Paliath (1993), along with 2nd place finishers Jared Fields & Dominic Cameratta (1998), and Kevin Hartzell & Derrick Williams (2001).

Greetings from the Heights

Although it hardly seems possible, this is the 10th edition of the alumni newsletter we started in the Summer of 2001.

This installment reports on some of the many activities of the Society during the 2009-2010 academic year. Highlights include continued tournament success, a vibrant public debate series, and the 118th Annual Fulton Prize Debate.

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

John Katsulas, Patrick
Waldinger & Dale Herbeck

118TH FULTON PRIZE DEBATE ON GUN CONTROL

Brendan Benedict '12 won the 118th Annual Fulton Prize Debate held on April 14th in Gasson 305 before a standing room only audience. The topic for the debate was, "Resolved: The Second Amendment right to bear arms should be incorporated against the states by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." The judges for the debate were Dr. Charles Morris '91, Dr. Dorman Picklesimer, Jr., and Dr. Patricia DeLeeuw.

Debating on the affirmative side and arguing in favor of incorporating the Second Amendment against the states was Nora Lopopolo '12 (first affirmative speaker) and Ryan Malone '10 (second affirmative speaker); debating on the negative side were Ken Aruda '10 (first negative) and Brendan Benedict '12 (second negative).

The affirmative argued that categorical handgun bans like the one adopted in Chicago are unconstitutional because they violate the individual right to bear arms recognized by the Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. In *Heller*, the Supreme Court struck down a law banning the possession of handguns in the District of Columbia arguing that it violated an individual's right to bear arms guaranteed by the Second Amendment. Since the Chicago handgun law ban is indistinguishable from the DC law, the affirmative argued that the Supreme Court should strike it down and hold that the right to bear arms is a fundamental right that should be incorporated against the states.

During the debate, the affirmative also argued that handgun bans were ineffective and counterproductive. They cited studies by criminologist Donald Kates that show that stricter handgun laws in the United States and in foreign countries have not lowered violent crime nor prevented suicides. The affirmative also offered evidence from John Lott and Gary Kleck claiming that the defensive use of firearms deters a significant number of crimes each year.

The negative argued that the framers of the Fourteenth Amendment never regarded the right to bear arms as a fundamental right. For instance, they noted that after the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment and throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, states were given wide latitude to regulate

and ban firearms. The negative also argued that certain rights, for example, the Fifth Amendment right to indictment by a grand jury and the Eighth Amendment protection against excessive bail, have not been incorporated against the states because the Supreme Court thought they were more appropriately governed by state criminal law. Likewise, because regulating firearms has traditionally been viewed as a police power of the states, the negative argued that this was a legitimate reason not to incorporate the Second Amendment against the states.

The negative's strongest argument against incorporation of the Second Amendment was that it would spawn legal challenges to invalidate gun control laws in New York City and other urban areas. To support the efficacy of gun control laws, the negative cited evidence from Duke professor Philip Cook who argues that Chicago's ban on handguns was effective in increasing the price of guns sold on the illegal market, thereby reducing the amount of guns purchased by teenage gangs. The negative also cited evidence from a 2001 study in the *Journal of Political Economy* which found that each 10 percent increase in the rate of gun ownership causes a 2 percent increase in the homicide rate. The low homicide rate of New York City was also cited as evidence for the efficacy of gun control. While New York City does not have a categorical ban on handgun ownership, it issues so few permits that it is regarded as having a de facto ban.

As for the benefits of owning guns for self-defense, the negative argued that these claims were not supported by any reliable evidence. On balance, studies have shown that owning a gun in the home is more likely to be used to kill a member of the household than to kill or injure an intruder.

Evidently, the negative side presented more persuasive and compelling evidence because the judges, in a unanimous decision, awarded the debate to the negative and named Brendan Benedict the top speaker. As the top speaker in the debate, Brendan Benedict received the gold Fulton Medal and his name will be painted on the front wall of Gasson 305. As the second place speaker, Nora Lopopolo received the silver Gargan Medal.

J. JOSEPH BURNS HONORED AS THE 2010 FULTONIAN OF THE YEAR

At the culmination of the 118th annual Fulton Prize Debate, John Joseph Burns '67, the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs at Boston College, was honored as the 2010 Fultonian of the Year. This award is presented annually to a special friend of Fulton Debate, a gifted speaker who used oratory for the greater good, or a teacher or administrator who served the Boston College community with distinction.

Dr. Burns was recognized for his long and distinguished service to the university as an Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and in his current position in the Provost's Office. A sociologist by training, he is famous for chronicling the history of Boston College, including the activities of the early Fulton Debate Society. Dr. Burns teaches a popular Capstone course called, "Boston's College,

Your Life," where students write historical research papers about clubs, activities, and departments at Boston College.



Fultonian of the Year Dr. J. Joseph Burns and his wife, Moy, at the Fulton Prize Debate

LOPOPOLO WINS THE QUINN OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR DEBATER AWARD



Nora Lopopolo '12 with the Quinn Award

The Joseph F. Quinn Award for the Outstanding First Year Debater was created in 2007 to celebrate the service of Dr. Joseph Quinn, who currently holds the James P. McIntyre Chair in Economics. From 1999 until 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.

Nora Lopopolo '12, a political science major from San Jose, CA, is the 2010 recipient of the Quinn Award. In her first year of intercollegiate debate, Nora competed in the novice division winning numerous speaker awards including third place at the University of Massachusetts tournament. Nora's best tournament performances included reaching the semi-finals at the University of Massachusetts, the quarter-finals at the United States Military Academy, and the octa-finals at the Northeast Regional championship.

BENEDICT WINS THE DUFFY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEBATE



Brendan Benedict '12 with the Duffy Award

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, and a professor in the Lynch School of Education from 2001 to 2008.

Brendan Benedict '12, a political science major from Clarksburg, NJ, is the 2010 recipient of the Duffy Award. This year, Brendan was one of the most successful junior varsity debaters in the United States. He earned 7 top ten speaker awards, including top speaker honors at the United States Naval Academy and Western Connecticut tournaments. Brendan also won the American Debate Association's National Championship Tournament and reached the finals at Western Connecticut and the semi-finals at Navy, the University of Massachusetts, and the Northeast Regional Championships hosted by Binghamton University.

The Fulton Public Debate Series for 2009-2010

October 22, 2009

“Resolved: That any health care reform should include a public option.”

November 16, 2009

“Resolved: That the United States should allow openly gay men and women to serve in our military.”

February 18, 2010

“Resolved: That Congress should enact the Fair Elections Now Act.”

March 23, 2010

“Resolved: That the National Football League’s overtime rules should be changed.”

THE NATIONAL DEBATE SERIES

On November 10, 2009, Ryan Folio '12 and Ryan Malone '10 represented Boston College at a National Debate Series competition sponsored by PoliTalk, a Boston area internet political talk program and Debatepedia, a wikipedia of pro and con articles on public policy issues. The debates were hosted by Boston University (BU).

The National Debate Series consisted of a mini-tournament, using a modified parliamentary debate format, between BU, Boston College, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Harvard University. In the first semi-final debate, BU defeated Harvard in a debate in which BU argued in favor of the United States adopting a public insurance option.

In the second semi-final debate, MIT defeated Boston College in a debate where the Fultonians argued in favor of retaining the US military policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” The sides for the debates were pre-determined by the sponsors, so Folio and Malone were forced to defend a policy which has been widely repudiated, even by some prominent military figures.

In the final round, MIT defeated BU in a debate on whether the United States should send 40,000 additional troops to Afghanistan.

NEW PUBLIC DEBATING AWARD NAMED IN HONOR OF MCLAUGHLIN

To recognize Fultonians who participate in the Public Debate Series, the Society has established the Joseph T. McLaughlin Award for the Outstanding Public Debater.

The Fulton Public Debate Series was inaugurated two years ago and has proven immensely popular. The debates routinely draw large large and enthusiastic audience of 200 or more students.

Naming the public debating award after Joseph T. McLaughlin was an obvious choice as he is a legendary figure in Fulton Debate, as well as a highly successful litigator and lecturer of Law at Cornell and Fordham Universities. McLaughlin and his partner, James J. Unger won numerous national tournaments, including the

University of Kentucky tournament; he reached the final round of the National Debate Tournament in 1964.

McLaughlin also won the Fulton Medal twice (1964 & 1965), he served as the President of the debate society during the 1964-1965 academic year, and he was recognized as the Fultonian of the Year at our 2007 alumni reunion. McLaughlin is currently of Counsel at the law firm, Bingham McCutchen.

Ryan Malone '10, a political science major from Long Lake, Minnesota is the 2010 recipient of the McLaughlin award. For the past two years, Malone is the only student who participated in all eight public series debate events. In 2007, Malone also debated

against the international debate team from Great Britain. Malone’s style is extremely popular with audiences because he effectively mixes humor and sarcasm with substance.



Ryan Malone '10, winner of the inaugural McLaughlin Award.

Senior Profiles: Graduating Seniors Triumph as Debaters and Students

Five outstanding seniors—Kenneth Aruda '10, Matthew Maerowitz '10, Ryan Malone '10, Michael Stork '10 and Kevin Walton '10—are graduating from Boston College this year. Each of them won numerous awards while competing at college debate tournaments; they also excelled academically as students in the classroom. We enjoyed working with them immensely and wish them continued success in graduate school and in their professional careers.

Kenneth Aruda

Hometown: Wilmington, MA

Major: Chemistry and Physics, minor in Mathematics

Debate honors: 1st ADA Nationals (JV), 1st University of Massachusetts (JV), & 1st Binghamton (Novice)

Next Year: Doctoral program in material science at Northwestern University

Matthew Maerowitz

Hometown: Phoenix, AZ

Major: Economics, minor in Hispanic Studies

Debate honors: Quinn award 2007, Duffy Award 2008, Fulton Prize winner 2008, & NDT qualifier 2009

Next Year: Law school at the University of Arizona

Ryan Malone

Hometown: Long Lake, MN

Major: Political Science

Debate honors: Gargan Medal 2008, McLaughlin Award 2010, 1st John Carroll (JV), & 1st Binghamton (JV)

Next Year: Law school at The College of William & Mary

Michael Stork

Hometown: Urbandale, IA

Major: Economics

Academic Honors: Phi Beta Kappa

Debate honors: Quinn Award 2008, 1st Liberty (novice), 1st George Mason (novice), & 1st University of Miami (novice)

Next Year: Experimental economics and antitrust law program at the Max Planck Institute in Germany and thereafter working for Compass Lexecon in Washington, DC

Kevin Walton

Hometown: Springfield, IL

Major: Economics, minor in history

Academic Honors: Phi Beta Kappa

Debate honors: Quinn Award 2008, 1st Liberty (novice), 1st George Mason (novice), 1st University of Miami (novice)



Photo from the senior dinner. From left: Kevin Walton, Ryan Malone, Ken Aruda, Matt Maerowitz & Michael Stork.



The audience gathers to watch the 118th Fulton Prize in the Fulton Debate Room (Gasson 305).



**Top 10
Speaker Awards**

1st Place, Brendan Benedict
United States Naval Academy
(Junior Varsity)

1st Place, Brendan Benedict
Western Connecticut
(Junior Varsity)

2nd Place, Brendan Benedict
United States Military Academy
(Junior Varsity)

3rd Place, Noro Lopopolo
University of Massachusetts
(Novice)

6th Place, Brendan Benedict
Northeast Regional Championships
(Junior Varsity)

7th Place, Patrick Allen
Northeast Regional Championships
(Novice)

7th Place, Brendan Benedict
Junior Varsity Nationals
(Junior Varsity)

7th Place, Brendan Benedict
University of Massachusetts
(Junior Varsity)

8th Place, Ken Aruda
Western Connecticut
(Junior Varsity)

9th Place, Ken Aruda
United States Military Academy
(Junior Varsity)

9th Place, Brendan Benedict
ADA Nationals
(Junior Varsity)

10th Place, Matt Palazzolo
United States Military Academy
(Novice)

2009-2010 TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Championships and Final Rounds:

American Debate Association Championship
hosted by Vanderbilt University (Junior Varsity)
First Place: Ken Aruda & Brendan Benedict

John Carroll University (Junior Varsity)
Finals: Daniel Berkowitz & Grant Gendron

Western Connecticut State University (Junior Varsity)
Finals: Ken Aruda & Brendan Benedict

Semi-finalists:

United States Naval Academy (Junior Varsity)
Ken Aruda & Brendan Benedict

University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Varsity)
Ken Aruda & Brendan Benedict

University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Novice)
Cal Greene & Nora Lopopolo

Northeast Regional Championships
hosted by Binghamton University (Junior Varsity)
Ken Aruda & Brendan Benedict

Quarter-finalists:

Junior Varsity Nationals
hosted by Towson State University (Junior Varsity)
Brendan Benedict & Grant Gendron

United States Military Academy (Junior Varsity)
Ken Aruda & Brendan Benedict

United States Military Academy (Novice)
Cal Greene & Nora Lopopolo

Western Connecticut State University (Junior Varsity)
Daniel Berkowitz & Grant Gendron

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Quarter-finalists continued:

Northeast Regional Championships
hosted by Binghamton University (Junior Varsity)
Kelsey Muraoka & Claire Ruffing

Octa-finalists:

United States Military Academy (Novice)
Matthew Palazzolo & Yat Hang Yu

Northeast Regional Championships
hosted by Binghamton University (Novice)
Patrick Allen & Michelle Dyer

Northeast Regional Championships
hosted by Binghamton University (Novice)
Nora Lopopolo & Yat Hang Yu

Double Octa-finalist:

Western Connecticut State University (Novice)
Patrick Allen & Michele Dyer

Members of the
Fulton Debating Society
of 2009-2010

- Patrick Allen '13
- Kenneth Aruda '10
- Brendan Benedict '12
- Daniel Berkowitz '11
- Michelle Dyer '13
- Ryan Folio '12
- Grant Gendron '11
- Sofia Gil '13
- Cal Greene '12
- Nora Lopopolo '12
- Matthew Maerowitz '10
- Ryan Malone '10
- Kelsey Muraoka, '11
- Matthew Palazzolo '13
- Claire Ruffing '11
- Gabe Stacy '12
- Michael Stork '10
- Yat Hang Yu '12
- Kevin Walton '10



Ryan Folio '12 and Ryan Malone '10 represented Fulton Debate at a National Debate Series event hosted by Boston University. An article about the Series appears on page 4.



May 2010 photo of the Fultonians with some of the trophies won over the past year. Front row: Brendan Benedict, Nora Lopopolo, Michelle Dyer, and Kelsey Muraoka. Back row: Ryan Folio, Matt Palazzolo, Yat Hang Yu, Grant Gendron, Claire Ruffing and Cal Greene.

**THE DEBATE TOPIC:
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

The intercollegiate debate topic for 2009-2010 was “Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially reduce the size of its nuclear weapons arsenal, and/or substantially reduce and restrict the role and/or missions of its nuclear weapons arsenal.”

Popular affirmative cases advocated under this topic included de-alerting U.S. nuclear weapons, having the U.S. declare a no-first-use policy, withdrawing tactical nuclear weapons from Europe, and adopting minimal deterrence by reducing the size of our arsenal to 500 weapons.

The Fultonians advocated ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The Fultonians argued that ratifying

the CTBT was crucial to preventing additional states from acquiring nuclear weapons. Without U.S. ratification, the affirmative case argued that the political support for strengthening The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) would unravel, increasing the likelihood of new states acquiring nuclear weapons.

While a strong case, many teams were afraid to run the CTBT because many judges felt that it was non-topical, i.e., because the U.S. already has in place a moratorium against nuclear testing, ratifying the CTBT does not reduce the role or mission of nuclear weapons.

Despite being challenged on topicality in nearly every single debate, the Fultonians only lost a handful of affirmative rounds on topicality over the course of the season.

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May 2010 photo of the Fultonians taken at the Communication Department's Honors Dinner. Front row: Grant Gendron, Matt Maerowitz, and Ryan Folio. Back Row: Michael Stork, Cal Greene, Noro Lopopolo, Ken Aruda, Michelle Dyer, Matt Palazzolo, Brendan Benedict, Patrick Allen, and Yat Hang Yu.



After 21 years in the Communication Department (and 36 years at Boston College), Mary Saunders retired as our Department Administrator. A master of the Boston College bureaucracy and a loyal friend and supporter of the Society, Ms. Saunders will be sorely missed by faculty, students, and the Fultonians.