

THE FULTONIAN

The 123rd Prize Debate:

Resolved: The United States should legalize marijuana?



Judges and debaters participating in the 2015 Fulton Prize Debate

Sean MacDonald '17, an economics and history major from Scituate, MA, won the Fulton Medal at the 123rd Fulton Prize Debate held on April 16th in the Fulton Debate Room (Gasson Hall 305).

The topic for the debate was "Resolved: The United States should legalize marijuana." Serving as the judges were Dr. Robert Rosenthal (Suffolk University), Dr. Celeste Wells (BC Communication Department), and Rev. Mario Powell, S.J. (2000 Fulton Prize winner).

Debating on the affirmative was Fisher Pressman '17, a management major from Glen Mills, PA, and Ryan Carelli '17, a physics major from Shrewsbury, MA. They were opposed by MacDonald and partner Myles Casey '17, a political science major from Whitman, MA.

The affirmative argued marijuana legalization was beneficial for two reasons: reducing the illicit profits earned by Mexican drug cartels and

preventing the disparate arrests of minorities for using and possessing marijuana.

To refute these points, the negative argued that drug cartels had diversified sources of illicit income. As for disparate arrests, the negative claimed, minorities would still be arrested in greater numbers for smoking marijuana in public. As a disadvantage, the negative argued legalization would increase use resulting in higher school dropout rates.

In a 2-1 decision, the judges voted for the affirmative side and named MacDonald as the top speaker and the recipient of the gold Fulton Medal. Pressman won second place speaker honors and received the silver Gargan Medal.

After the debate, Professor Rita Rosenthal was honored as the 2015 Fultonian of the Year. Rosenthal was praised for two decades of outstanding teaching and her unwavering support of the activities of the Fulton Debating Society.

Greetings from the Heights

This issue of *The Fultonian* reports on some of the activities of the Society during the 2014-2015 academic year. Highlights include the 123rd Annual Fulton Prize Debate, the new debate office in St. Mary's, and continued tournament success.

We also are pleased to announce that Fulton Debate will be the host for the 2016 American Debate Association's championship tournament to be held during March 11-13, 2016.

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

*John Katsulas
Christy Webster Dunn*

2014-2015 DEBATE TOPIC:
LEGALIZATION OF VICES

The intercollegiate debate topic for 2014-2015 was “Resolved: The United States should legalize all or nearly all of one or more of the following in the United States: marihuana, online gambling, physician-assisted suicide, prostitution, the sale of human organs.”

Of the five possible choices for affirmative plans, the legalization of marijuana and online gambling were the most popular and defensible affirmative cases. Boston College teams advocated for marijuana legalization.

Teams supporting marijuana legalization advocated various plans. The most common was to legalize marijuana at the federal level by taking it off the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA). An alternative approach advocated that all 50 states should legalize marijuana and restrict its sale to state operated stores. A third method had the Supreme Court limit the United States Congress’ constitutional commerce clause authority to prohibit marihuana.

The online gambling affirmative argued that the federal prohibition against online gambling violated world trading rules. In 2003, Antigua filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) arguing that it was discriminatory for the United States to ban off-shore gambling in Antigua, while allowing legal gambling in the U.S. In several rulings, the WTO has sided with Antigua in this dispute. By not legalizing online gambling, the United States remains out of

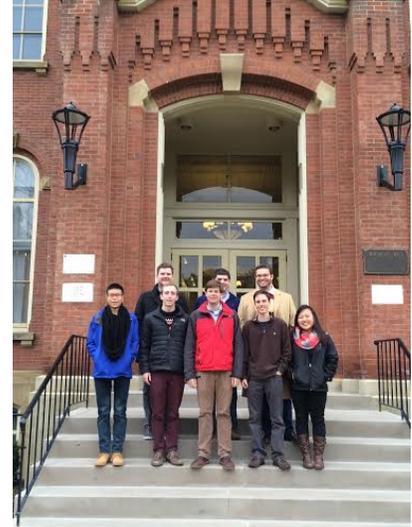
compliance with the ruling by the WTO.

Prostitution is illegal in the United States except in some counties of Nevada. The prostitution affirmative argued that legalization would improve the safety and health of prostitutes and reduce the global trade in human trafficking of prostitutes. Some affirmatives argued that unionizing prostitutes would empower them to obtain better working conditions.

The legalization of human organ sales affirmative argued that monetary payments were the only way to solve the shortages in human organs. Most teams advocated the government should purchase the organs and make them available to transplant facilities. This affirmative claimed that expanding the supply of organs would prevent the deaths of thousands of persons waiting for organ transplants and reduce the demand for the global trafficking in organs.

The physician-assisted suicide (PAS) affirmative case advocated that all states should adopt the physician assisted suicide law adopted in 1994 by Oregon. This affirmative claimed making PAS available would uphold the autonomy and human dignity of patients and relieve the suffering experienced by persons with terminal illnesses.

In the opinion of most coaches and debaters, the vices topic was an abomination. It became stale quickly and it was hard for the affirmative to win.



Squad photo from the West Virginia Tournament. Front: Christopher Yu, Will Nouse, Fisher Pressman, Ryan Carelli, & Julia Jung; Back: Sean MacDonald, Nick Janigian, & Myles Casey



JV debaters Sean MacDonald, Myles Casey, Naveen Senthilkumar, & Fisher Pressman touring the Jerry Falwell museum during the Liberty Tournament

CARELLI WINS THE DUFFY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEBATE



Ryan Carelli '17

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.

Ryan Carelli '17 is the 2015 recipient of the Duffy Award. Ryan is a physics major from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. He is a member of the Executive Board of Fulton Debate, and was responsible for coordinating the research for many of the team's arguments, including our online gambling negative.

Ryan had a successful year debating in varsity reaching the quarterfinals at the United States Naval Academy and the octafinals at the United States Military Academy. Debating in junior varsity with Fisher Pressman, he reached the quarter finals at West Virginia.

KENNER 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 currently is Professor and James P. McIntyre Chair in 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.

Harrison Kenner '18 is the 2015 recipient of the Quinn Award. Harrison was an outstanding high school policy debater at Glenbrook South in Glenview, IL. He is a Carroll School of Management major.

As a freshmen, Harrison debated in varsity with Ryan Carrelli and reached the quarterfinals at the United States Naval Academy and the octafinals at West Point. Harrison also reached the octafinals at the Lafayette Debates and a second place in the Atlantic Division at the ACC Tournament. Next year, Harrison's goal is to win the West Point and Navy tournaments.



Harrison Kenner '18

MACDONALD WINS THE MCLAUGHLIN AWARD FOR PUBLIC DEBATING



Sean MacDonald '17

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

Sean MacDonald '17 is the 2015 recipient of the McLaughlin Award. Sean is an economics and history major from Scituate, MA. He is also the only Fultonian who knew that John Paul Jones was buried on the grounds of the Naval Academy.

Sean was the clear choice for the McLaughlin Award because he participated in all three public debates: The Fulton Prize Debate, the Lafayette Debates, and the ACC tournament. In addition to winning Fulton Medal, Sean reached the semifinals at Navy, the quarterfinals at West Virginia, the quarterfinals at Liberty, and the quarterfinals at Monmouth.

LAFAYETTE DEBATES AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



Residence of the French Ambassador in Washington, DC

George Washington University hosted the 3rd Annual Lafayette Debates during April 18-19, 2015. The tournament is co-sponsored by the Higher Education Department of the French Embassy of the United States. One of the goals of this academic initiative is to promote intercultural understandings by means of public debate on issues lying at the very heart of the Franco-American relationships.

The topic selected for the 2015 Lafayette Debates was, “Resolved: That all states have an obligation to anticipate, prevent and minimize the causes of climate change, and mitigate its adverse effects.” This was a timely topic as Paris, France is scheduled to host the international climate conference in December 2015.

The championship tournament for the Lafayette Debates uses two methods for selecting its field of thirty-two teams. Prior to the tournament, an online competition is held where schools can qualify based on the quality of their speeches. The remainder of the competitors are invited based on academic reputation of their college and debate program. Fulton Debate received such an invitation.

A partial list of schools competing in this year’s Lafayette debates included Duke, Georgetown, U.S. Naval Academy, West Point, Stanford, University of Georgia, University of Miami, University of Toronto, University of Michigan, University of Texas, Pepperdine, the University of Pittsburgh and four teams from the École de Guerre (French Air Force).

Participation in the Lafayette Debates is highly prized for three reasons. First, all four teams qualifying for the semi-finals earn an all-expense paid two week study tour to Paris. Second, the winner of

the tournament receives custody for a year of the Carte Réduite Des Côtes Orientales De L’Amérique, which is a two-hundred-and-thirty-five year old map of colonial America. Third, the tournament awards reception is held at the residence of the French Ambassador to the United States, his excellency Gérard Araud.

Another unique feature of the Lafayette Debates is the diverse background of the competitors and judges. The competitors came with backgrounds in individual events, policy debate, and parliamentary debate. The judges included diplomats from embassies, negotiators working on climate issues for the United Nations and attorneys working in Washington, DC.

To make the competition equitable, judges with prior debate experience were assigned to rounds where two policy debate teams were competing. In debates where policy teams met parliamentary teams, a lay judge heard the debate.

Sean MacDonald and Harrison Kenner competed for Boston College in the Lafayette Debates and reached the octafinals. They were the 11th seeded team after the preliminary debates. In the octafinals, they lost in a 2-1 decision to West Point.

The University of Michigan policy team won the Lafayette Debates by defeating the University of Toronto in a 4-3 decision.



*Harrison Kenner and Sean MacDonald
and a portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette*

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE (ACC)
DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Wake Forest University hosted the first annual Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Debate Tournament during April 11-12, 2015. All expenses for attending the tournament, with the exception of transportation to Winston-Salem, were paid for by a grant from the ACC.

The tournament participants were housed and competed in the magnificent Graylyn Conference Center, a private estate which was donated to Wake Forest by the widow of Nathalie Lyons Gray. The original home had 60 rooms occupying 46,000 square feet and was one of the largest private homes in North Carolina. Today, the conference center has 86 guest rooms and 15 meeting rooms.

Of the 16 ACC schools, 9 competed in the debate tournament. The debate teams were organized into two divisions—the Atlantic and Coastal. Debate teams were placed in the same division as their football programs are designated. As a result, Boston College competed in the Atlantic Division against Florida State, Louisville, and Wake Forest. The schools competing in the Coastal Division were Duke, University of Miami, University of North Carolina, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Virginia.

Debating for Boston College at the ACC tournament was Sean MacDonald and Harrison Kenner. The debate topic for the tournament was, “Resolved: Student athletes should receive monetary compensation for participating in athletic competitions.”

On the affirmative, MacDonald & Kenner advocated a plan allowing colleges competing in the power football and basketball conferences to establish escrow trust accounts. The colleges would sign contractual agreements with student athletes compensating them for the use of their name, image, likeness in athletic apparel, video games, DVDs, and bobble heads. Each year, \$5000 would be deposited in each students’ escrow accounts. The athletes would receive the trust fund as long as they graduated and remained in compliance with NCCA rules.

This affirmative case claimed two advantages. First, it argued that providing trust funds would

improve the low graduation rate of student athletes. According to the federal government, the graduation rate for men’s basketball players is only 47 percent. And, for football, the graduation rate is higher but still only 58 percent. The trust fund incentivizes graduation; only students who complete their degree receive the royalties.

Second, it argued the trust fund would reduce corruption in college sports. Widespread evidence exists that student-athletes are receiving under-the-table payments by sports agents and boosters. For example, a financial advisor admitted to providing \$45,000 in illicit payments to SEC football players. Moreover, a *Sport Illustrated* investigation uncovered evidence of illicit payments to Oklahoma State football players. The trust fund is a strong deterrent to accepting illicit payments because students would not want to forfeit their royalties.

MacDonald & Kenner finished in second place in the Atlantic Division with a 3-2 record. They won both of their affirmative debates against Florida State and Louisville. They lost negative rounds to Wake Forest and Louisville and won a negative round against Florida State.

In the final round, the top seed from the Atlantic Division (Wake Forest) faced the top seed from the Coastal Division (University of Miami). In a unanimous decision, Wake Forest defeated Miami to capture the ACC Tournament crown.



Harrison Kenner and Sean MacDonald represented Fulton Debate at the ACC Debate Tournament

Final
ADA Rankings
for 2014-2015

1. Liberty University
2. George Mason University
3. Wake Forest University
4. Emory University
5. Vanderbilt University
6. University of Miami (FL)
7. University of West Georgia
8. University of Kentucky
9. University of Michigan
10. University of Georgia
11. **BOSTON COLLEGE**
12. University of Minnesota
13. Harvard University
14. University of Florida
15. Georgia State University
16. Indiana University
17. Wayne State University
18. Samford University
19. University of Mary Washington
20. Northwestern University
21. Dartmouth College
22. United States Naval Academy
23. Missouri State University
24. Clarion University
25. University of Houston



*First place at Mary Washington Tournament
Fisher Pressman & Myles Casey*



*Fultonian of the Year
Lisa Cuklanz, John Katsulas & Rita Rosenthal*



*ACC Debate Tournament
Sean MacDonald & Harrison Kenner
in front of the Graylyn Conference Center*

Final ADA
Junior Varsity Rankings
for 2014-2015

1. Liberty University
2. George Mason University
3. Wake Forest University
4. **BOSTON COLLEGE**
5. University of Miami (FL)



*Visiting the Falwell Museum at Liberty
Sean MacDonald, Myles Casey, Fisher Pressman,
& Naveen Senthilkumar*



*Squad photo from West Point. Left to right: Sullivan McCormick,
Nick Janigian, Ryan Carelli, Will Nouse, Fisher Pressman,
Harrison Kenner, Christopher Yu, & Naveen Senthilkumar*



*Field trip to the Georgia Aquarium after ADA Nationals
Front: Sean MacDonald, Fisher Pressman, & Christy Webster Dunn
Back: Naveen Senthilkumar, Myles Casey, & John Katsulas*

The Fulton Debate Society of 2014-2015

Ryan Carelli '17
Myles Casey '17
Nick Janigian '17
Julia Jung '18
Harrison Kenner '18
Alex Kontopoulos '17
Ted Kontopoulos '15
Sean MacDonald '17
Will Nouse '17
Kafilat Obasola '18
Fisher Pressman '17
Naveen Senthilkumar '18
Christopher Yu '18

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Fulton Debate Web Site

www.bc.edu/fultondebate

FULTON DEBATE OFFICE RELOCATES TO ST. MARY'S HALL



*Historic St. Mary's Hall
new home of the Fulton Debating Society*

On January 6, 2015, the Communication Department and Fulton Debate moved their offices to St. Mary's Hall. For the past two years, St. Mary's was closed for a major renovation. Previously, the 98 year old building exclusively housed the Jesuits. Now, the newly refurbished St. Mary's has a new entrance facing the O'Neill Plaza called St. Mary's South which is the entrance for the Woods College of Advancing Studies (1st floor), the Computer Sciences Department (2nd floor) and the Communication Department (3rd and 4th floors).

The Fulton Debate office is located on the third floor in room S360. If you take the elevator or the stairway up to the third floor, you will immediately see the new debate trophy case (8 feet high and 12 feet wide) in the lobby and the debate office is directly across from it.

The new debate office is approximately the same size as the Maloney Hall office but the space is more functional. It contains two large storage spaces—a storage closet for office supplies and a walk-in storage space containing filing cabinets, boxes of trophies, and debate paraphernalia. The room has a conference table that seats up to twenty.

Some improved amenities in the new office include a 75 inch flat screen television with Skype, Apple TV capabilities, and cable television with high definition channels. The debate office has improved lighting with 4 windows overlooking the lower campus (with a distant view of the Prudential and

Hancock towers) and a side window overlooking the dorms on Commonwealth Avenue. The office also has two large white boards.

The Director's office (S360A) is located next to the main debate conference room and connected with an adjoining door. The Debate Coach's office (S354) is next to the Director's office.

Unlike Maloney Hall, the Communication Department resides on two floors. The main reception desk is on the fourth floor. Faculty offices exist on both floors and the department kitchen is on the 3rd floor around the corner from the debate office. Each floor has its own photocopy machine and printers.



Inside the new debate suite in St. Mary's Hall



*A trophy case celebrating the history of the
Fulton Debating Society*