

THE FULTONIAN

The Newsletter of the Fulton Debating Society of Boston College ♦ Volume 3, Number 2 ♦ Winter 2004

GREETINGS FROM FULTON DEBATE

This issue of THE FULTONIAN contains information about the fall activities of the Fulton Debating Society, including a brief description of the 2003-2004 debate topic.

The Fulton Debating Society enjoyed another very successful fall season, as indicated by our 9th place national ranking. In this newsletter, we highlight our accomplishments by focusing on a story about the Fulton Debating Society becoming a rare repeat winner of the prestigious West Point tournament. Other notable accomplishments this fall including winning the JV division at John Carroll and a final round performance by our freshmen varsity team at Wake Forest. A detailed tournament by tournament summary of our competitive successes will be featured in the summer 2004 edition.

A special Alumni Briefs insert provides news items and stories submitted by our alumni. Please keep sending us updates and news items, as these are greatly appreciated by our readers.

We hope you enjoy reading THE FULTONIAN.

John Katsulas
Director, Fulton Debating Society

Stefan Bauschard
Debate Coach

Dale Herbeck
Chair, Communication Department



Mandy Castle ('07) and Allen Best ('07) posing after their second place finish at Wake Forest.

DEBATE TOPIC, 2003-2004: US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS

The college debate topic for the 2003-2004 academic year involves changing United States policy toward Europe in seven distinct areas. The exact wording of the topic states the following:

“Resolved: that the United States Federal Government should enact one or more of the following:

- Withdrawal of its World Trade Organization complaint against the European Union’s restrictions on genetically modified foods;
- A substantial increase in its government-to-government economic and/or conflict prevention assistance to Turkey and/or Greece;
- Full withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;
- Removal of its barriers to and encouragement of substantial European Union and/or North Atlantic Treaty Organization participation in peacekeeping in Iraq and reconstruction in Iraq;
- Removal of its tactical nuclear weapons from Europe;
- Harmonization of its intellectual property law with the European Union in the area of human DNA sequences;
- Rescission of all or nearly all agriculture subsidy increases in the 2002 Farm Bill.”

When debating on the affirmative side, Boston College teams advocate the removal of the US tactical nuclear weapons from Europe. In 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, President George Bush unilaterally removed 90% of the tactical nuclear weapons stored in Europe. This gesture was reciprocated by Russia, who dismantled thousands of its own tactical nuclear weapons. Despite the absence of a Russian threat, the United States still retains 150 tactical nuclear weapons which are stored at NATO Air Force bases located in Germany, Greece, Belgium, Italy, Turkey, the Netherlands, and Great Britain.

NATO’s justification for keeping its tactical nuclear weapons in Europe is primarily for political purposes. Militarily, these weapons have virtually no utility. All of the tactical nuclear weapons in Europe are B-61-10 gravity bombs. These weapons are over 30 years old and they provide no unique military functions. The United States retains thousands of

strategic nuclear weapons with greater mobility and yields than these 150 gravity bombs. In fact, because the gravity bombs are deployed from Air Force planes with limited flying ranges, NATO lacks the ability to use them against Russia without having to re-fuel them.

Due to these limitations, NATO stresses the political value and role assigned to these tactical nuclear weapons. The United States and NATO claim that these weapons are indispensable for promoting alliance cohesion and unity. By involving all NATO countries in nuclear planning decisions, NATO believes this enhances the solidarity of the alliance. NATO also argues that basing US nuclear weapons in Europe is essential to maintaining strong transatlantic ties. If the United States removed these weapons, some fear this would cause Europe to seek its own independent nuclear force.

To claim that the solidarity of NATO is dependent on the basing of 150 U.S. gravity bombs in Europe is a bit of an exaggeration. In reality, nuclear sharing is not the glue that holds the NATO alliance together. Since the end of the cold war, NATO has adapted and taken on new roles, including assuming numerous peacekeeping roles and promoting democracy in Eastern Europe. Similarly, removing the gravity bombs would not destroy US-European relations. The US and Europe share deep standing ties rooted in trade and political relations. And the fear that Europe would develop its own nuclear deterrent was refuted in a 1995 report conducted by the prestigious National Academy of Sciences.

While there are very marginal benefits to retaining the US tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, there are two overwhelming rationales for withdrawing them. First, unilaterally removing the tactical nuclear weapons is a prerequisite for improving US-Russian relations. Russia views the tactical nuclear weapons with a great deal of suspicion. Russia's greatest fear is that NATO may re-deploy these weapons closer to Russia by placing them somewhere in the Balkans when these states become new NATO members. The distrust generated over this issue remains a serious road block inhibiting Russian cooperation to promote greater transparency over its own tactical nuclear weapons and in blocking cooperation to promote greater security at Russian nuclear facilities under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program.

A second reason to remove the tactical nuclear weapons from Europe is to shore up political support for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which comes up for renewal in 2005. A majority of state parties to the NPT believe that nuclear sharing agreements by NATO violate provisions of the NPT which prohibit nuclear weapon states from transferring control over nuclear weapons to non-nuclear countries. By allowing non-nuclear declared states to participate in nuclear planning and use decisions, NATO nuclear sharing agreements are alleged to violate the NPT. Another way nuclear sharing could threaten the NPT regime is if NATO eventually adopts US nuclear doctrines allowing for the preemptive use of nuclear weapons against terrorists or non-

nuclear states. This policy would violate the negative security assurances given by the nuclear weapons states at the last NPT review conference whereby they pledged never to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear threats. By removing its tactical nuclear weapons from Europe, the United States would bring NATO into compliance with the NPT, thereby bolstering support for renewing and strengthening the nonproliferation regime.

MORE GARGAN WINNERS IDENTIFIED

Thanks to your help, we are making significant progress in identifying past winners of the Gargan medal. Here are ten more Gargan winners:

1954: Edward J.F. Thomas
1955: Edward J.F. Thomas
1958: Brian J. Moran
1959: Kevin T. Byrne
1963: Joseph T. McLaughlin
1965: Robert Halli, Jr.
1966: Robert Halli, Jr.
1971: Mary-Ellen Raux
1972: Jane M. Osborne
1975: John Hart

To complete our contemporary history of Gargan winners, we are still looking for the recipients from these years: 1960-1962, 1964, 1967-1969, 1970, 1973-1976, 1982-1985.

A complete list of all known Gargan winners can be found at the Fulton Debate web site at this address:
<http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/svp/st_org/debate/page3.html#gargan>

BC WINS WEST POINT; SABRE RETURNS FOR ANOTHER YEAR!



Final round participants of the West Point Tournament posing with the saber traveling trophy. Boston College appears on the left; NYU, on the right.

For the second consecutive year, The Fulton Debating Society won the varsity division of the 36th annual West Point

invitational debate tournament held during 31 October-2 November 2003 at the United States Military Academy. By winning the tournament, Boston College retained possession of the first place traveling trophy, which is a West Point saber displaced in a handsome wooden case.

Competing at the West Point tournament were debate teams representing schools from all over the United States. Some of the schools competing included Western Washington, Trinity, The University of Florida, The University of Missouri, Kansas City, along with strong regional teams from Cornell, Georgetown, Rochester, Columbia, and New York University.

The Boston College team of Kevin Shatzkin'05 and Ben Bireley'05 began their path to victory as the second seeded team after compiling a 5-1 record during the preliminary rounds. In the elimination rounds leading up to the final round, Shatzkin & Bireley defeated teams from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Liberty University, and the University of Vermont. This set up a final round against New York University, who was the top seeded team.

According to tradition, the final round of the West Point tournament is judged by a distinguished panel of three judges who have professional expertise in the subject area of the debate topic, which this year calls for changing US foreign policy toward NATO and Europe. Serving as judges for the final round were Colonel Michael Meese, the Head of the Department of Social Sciences at West Point, Dr. James Robbins, professor of international relations at the National Defense University, and Dr. Ray Raymond, the Executive Secretary of the Marshall Scholarship program for New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In the final round debate, Boston College, debating on the affirmative, advocated that the United States should withdraw its remaining tactical nuclear weapons stored at air force bases in seven NATO countries. In response, New York University argued that withdrawing the tactical nuclear weapons would erode Germany's security guarantees, causing Germany to seek its own nuclear deterrent. In a quick and unanimous decision, the judges awarded the debate to Boston College.



Squad members pour through pages of evidence, devising strategies for an upcoming debate.

FULTON DEBATING SOCIETY, 2003-2004

Coaching Staff:

John Katsulas, Director of Debate
Stefan Bauschard, Debate Coach

Alumni Judges:

Jared Fields'01
David Staiti'98
Kevin Hartzell'02

Newsletter editor & designer:

Paul Sutton'03

Members of the Society:

Allen Best, '07
Ben Bireley, '05
Joseph Bowden, '05
Mandy Castle, '07
Ellen Giles, '06
Matthew Hays, '06
Mark Irvine, '06
Evan Joye, '06
Brady Littlefield, '07
Quang Nguyen, '07
John Powell, '06
Kevin Shatzkin, '05
James Smith, '04
Jeffrey Sullivan, '06
Phuong Thai, '07

FULTON DEBATE RANKED IN THE TOP TEN

According to the official fall standings released on December 10, 2003 by the National Debate Tournament rankings Director, Boston College is rated as the 9th best overall debate program in the United States. The overall rankings are determined by counting the points earned by each school's top two debate teams at eight tournaments. Approximately two hundred schools compete in policy debate. Listed below are the rankings for the top fifteen debate programs:

1. Liberty University
2. Emory
3. Wayne State University
4. Catholic University
5. George Mason University
6. Cal-Berkeley University
7. Missouri-Kansas City
8. Oklahoma
9. Boston College
10. Texas (Austin)
11. Wake Forest
12. Redlands
13. Michigan State Univ.
14. Mary Washington College
15. Rochester

2003-2004 FALL TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Georgia State University, Sept. 20-22
University of Kentucky, Oct. 4-6
University of Richmond, Oct. 11-13
Harvard University, Oct 25-27
West Point, Oct 31-2 Nov.
Liberty University, Nov. 7-9
Wake Forest University, Nov. 15-17
John Carroll University, Dec 5-7
George Mason University, Jan. 16-18
Baylor University, Jan. 24-26
US Naval Academy, Jan. 31-Feb. 1
Northwestern University, Feb. 7-9
District Tournament at Marist, Feb. 27-29
Novice Nationals at Northwestern, March 7-9
ADA Nationals at George Mason, March 6-8
NDT at Catholic University, April 2-5
Randolph Macon, April 7-8

THE FULTON DEBATING SOCIETY

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ALUMNI BRIEFS

A special supplement to THE FULTONIAN ♦ Volume 3, Number 2 ♦ Winter 2004

1950s:

Bill Fawcett writes that he was the President of the Fulton Debating Society in 1959, and that the training and speaking experiences have helped him greatly in his career in television production for The Fawcett Group, Ladera Ranch, California.

1960s:

Kevin T. Byrne ('61), the 1959 Gargan winner and the 1961 Fulton Medal winner, wrote us a very nice letter describing the history of the debating society in the transition years before the arrival of Dr. John Lawton to Boston College. He writes:

“I started Boston College in September 1957, having come from Boston College High School. I immediately joined the Marquette Debating Society. Professor John Mahoney was the Moderator. John was a wonderful English teacher, and, I'm sure was Moderator, because he lost the flip of the coin. In any event, we were a small group and very disorganized. It consisted mostly of B.C. High debaters and we went at it for a couple of years.

When I became a junior, Dr. John Lawton arrived from the sunny South and the explosion of debating at Boston College began. He drove us crazy but we go involved in traveling and in national tournaments. In addition to winning the Gargan Medal and the Fulton Medal, I also won the Leonard Oratorical Contest medal in my freshman year and my senior year.

Upon graduating from Boston College, I went directly to Boston College Law School. I worked for three years as an assistant debate coach under John Lawton and traveled with the Fulton debaters all over the country. Joe McLaughlin and Jim Unger were two of those debaters.”

Dr. Robert W. Halli Jr. ('68) informs us that he was the Gargan winner in 1965 and 1966. He notes that at that time, the Gargan winner was awarded to the top underclassman, rather than the second best speaker of the Fulton Prize Debate. Dr. Halli is currently the director of the University Honors Program at the University of Alabama.

1970s:

Jane Osborne McKnight ('75), the 1973 winner of the Fulton Medal, reports that she was also the winner of the 1972 Gargan medal. We appreciate receiving this information from Jane because it corrects an error in our records. Previously, we had incorrectly reported that her partner, Mary-ellen Raux, was the 1972 Gargan winner. Apparently, Mary-ellen was the 1971 winner, and Jane was the 1972 recipient. Both Jane and Mary-ellen were debate partners in high school at Archbishop Williams High School, in Braintree, Massachusetts. Jane Osborne is married to Terrance McKnight, who was an outstanding debater at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. He was the top speaker at the National Debate Tournament in 1972.

1990s:

Laura Oei Philipps ('93), who debated for two years with Robert Berry ('93) is living in Midland, Texas, where she is working as a part-time dentist. After BC, Laura graduated from the Tufts' Dental School in 1999. Laura married Fritz Philipps in 1994. They have three children, Emma (age 8), Owen (age 5), and Angus (age 2). Her husband, Fritz, graduated from medical school at Boston University. He is now working in a private practice radiology group as an Interventional Radiologist.

Congratulations to Christopher Strunk, ('95) and his wife Jen, who had a baby girl named Shannon Emily Strunk on December 30th.

Jack Minnear ('95) was married on September 20, 2003 to Leslie Park in California. Attending the wedding were his two debater partners, Wenyu Ho Blanchard ('95) and John Frantz ('93), along with Nick Brady ('95). Both the bride and groom, and all the debaters, are attorneys.

2000s

Lisa Langdon ('01) is engaged to Matt Koch ('01). A summer wedding is planned.

Jared Fields ('01) is engaged to Tina Argyle. The wedding will be held in late August in Utah.
