

THE FULTONIAN

116th Fulton Prize Debate

Resolution focuses on 2008 Presidential Election



From left Matthew Maerowitz, Michael Stork, Kevin Walton and Ryan Malone

Matthew Maerowitz '10 won the 116th annual Fulton Prize Debate held on April 15th in Gasson 305 before a standing-room-only crowd. The topic for the debate was, "Resolved: That Senator John McCain should be elected President of the United States." The judges for the debate were Dr. Charles Morris '91, Dr. Lisa Cuklanz, and Dr. Joseph Burns.

Debating on the affirmative side with Maerowitz was Michael Stork '10, a history major from Iowa. Debating on the negative

side was Kevin Walton '10, a history major from Illinois, and Ryan Malone '10, a political science major from Minnesota.

In a split decision, the judges awarded the debate to the negative side and named Matthew Maerowitz as the top speaker and Ryan Malone as the second best speaker. As the top speaker of the debate, Maerowitz received the gold Fulton Medal and will have his name painted on the great wall in Gasson 305. As the second place speaker, Malone received the silver Gargan Medal.

Greeting from the Heights

This issue reports on the activities of the Society during the 2007-2008 academic year, including a special tribute to James J. Unger '64, a legendary *Fultonian*, who unexpectedly died in April.

In anticipation of the 125th anniversary of the Fulton Debating Society, we are making a concerted effort to gather historical information about the officers of the Society and the history of the Fulton Prize and Marquette Prize Debates. This issue reports on our progress and requests your assistance in furnishing information so that we can reclaim the history of the Society.

In future issues of *The Fultonian*, we hope to feature stories about notable events in the Society's history.

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

John Katsulas
 Director of Debate
Patrick Waldinger
 Debate Coach
and Dale Herbeck
 Director Emeritus



VIECHNICKI HONORED AS THE 2008 FULTONIAN OF THE YEAR

Barbara Viechnicki, Associate Dean for Finance and Administration for the College of Arts and Sciences, was honored as the 2008 Fultonian of the Year at the Annual Fulton Prize Debate. This award is presented annually to a special friend of the Society, a gifted speaker who used oratory for the greater good, or a teacher or administrator who served Boston College with distinction.

Dean Viechnicki was honored for her administrative abilities, her excellence in the classroom, and for more than a decade of devoted service to Boston College. The Fulton Debating Society is particularly grateful for all of the financial and administrative support provided by Barbara Viechnicki and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



From left: Joe Quinn (2002 Fultonian of the Year), Patricia DeLeeuw (2006 Fultonian of the Year), Barbara Viechnicki (2008 Fultonian of the Year), and Joe Burns (Associate Vice Provost).

STORK & WALTON SHARE THE QUINN OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR DEBATER AWARD



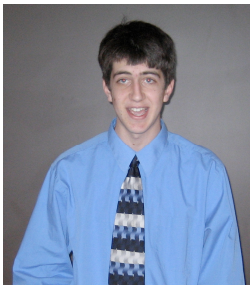
From left: Kevin Walton and Michael Stork after winning the University of Miami tournament in January 2008.

The Joseph F. Quinn Award for the Outstanding First Year Debater was created in 2007 to celebrate the service of Dr. Joseph Quinn, a much admired economics professor and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1999 to 2007.

The 2008 Quinn Award was given to Michael Stork '10 and Kevin Walton '10. Stork and Walton, competing as partners in the novice division, won three tournaments hosted by Liberty, George Mason, & Miami, and achieved an 80 percent win-loss record in preliminary round debates.

In addition to their team honors, Stork and Walton regularly earned speaker awards. Stork was top speaker at Liberty in the fall semester and Walton was top speaker at George Mason in the spring semester.

MAEROWITZ WINS THE DUFFY EXCELLENCE IN DEBATE 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 until 2000.

The 2000 Duffy Award was given to Matthew Maerowitz '10. An economics major, Maerowitz is from Phoenix, Arizona. He competed at the varsity level this year, where he earned several individual speaker awards. In addition to his competitive success, Maerowitz also won the 2008 Fulton Prize Debate.



DEBATE TOPIC, 2007-2008:
MIDDLE EAST POLICY

U.S. constructive engagement toward the Middle East was debated as the intercollegiate debate topic for the 2007-2008 year. The wording of the topic was, "Resolved: That the United States Federal Government should increase its constructive engagement with the government of one or more of: Afghanistan, Iran, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and Syria, and it should include offering them a security guarantee(s) and/or a substantial increase in foreign assistance."

Boston College teams advocated an affirmative plan promoting constructive engagement with Iran. Specifically, Boston College proposed offering a *quid pro quo* to Iran: the United States will agree not to attack or overthrow the Iranian regime if Iran agrees to restore diplomatic relations, including allowing the United States to open an embassy in Tehran.

The immediate advantage to promoting constructive engagement with Iran is to reduce the risk of accidental war breaking out between the United States and Iran. The United States military conducts naval and military maneuvers near Iranian waters and near the Iranian border with Iraq which risks accidental conflict between U.S. and Iranian military forces. Because the United States has no official diplomatic contact with Iranian officials, there is a high potential for accidental naval and air incidents to escalate into a full-scale war. Opening a U.S. embassy in Iran and establishing official diplomatic channels would improve communication with Iran and reduce the risk of accidental war.

The longer-term benefit to promoting constructive engagement with Iran is to reduce tensions and suspicions between the United States and Iran whereby the Iranian regime will be more cooperative in promoting stability in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is strong evidence that Iran would be cooperative in capturing Taliban forces in Afghanistan if the United States were willing to give up its efforts to promote regime change in Iran.

Other popular cases advocating constructive engagement with Iran included offering Iran a Grand Bargain of inducements, including lifting economic sanctions, if Iran agreed to suspend their nuclear program.

2007-2008 Tournament Highlights

Championship and Final Rounds:

Liberty University (Novice)
First Place
Michael Stork & Kevin Walton

George Mason (Novice)
First Place
Michael Stork & Kevin Walton

Miami, Florida (Novice)
First Place
Michael Stork & Kevin Walton

University of Rochester (Novice)
Second Place
Michael Stork & Kevin Walton

Semi-Finalists:

United States Naval Academy (Novice)
Grant Gendron & Daniel Berkowitz

University of Rochester (Novice)
Grant Gendron & Daniel Berkowitz

Quarter-Finals:

Clarion University (Varsity)
Ryan Malone & Matthew Maerowitz

United States Naval Academy (Novice)
Claire Ruffing & Kelsey Muraoka

University of Rochester (Novice)
Claire Ruffing & Kelsey Muraoka

John Carroll (Novice)
Michael Stork & Kevin Walton

Octa-Finals:

United States Military Academy (Novice)
Michael Stork & Kevin Walton

Liberty University (Novice)
Claire Ruffing & Kelsey Muraoka

ADA Nationals (Novice)
Michael Stork & Kevin Walton

ADA Nationals (Novice)
Claire Ruffing & Kelsey Muraoka



A TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. UNGER,
A '64 ALUM AND FULTONIAN

James J. Unger, a distinguished Fultonian and President of the Fulton Debating Society from 1963 to 1964, died on April 3 at his home in Washington, D.C. Unger and his partner, Joseph McLaughlin '65, reached the semi-finals of the National Debate Tournament in 1963 and they reached the final round in 1964. The Boston College duo finished second, losing a narrow four to three decision to a team representing the University of the Pacific. This was a heart-breaking loss, given that Unger & McLaughlin had defeated this same team on three different occasions during the 1963-1964 debate season.

From 1962 to 1964, James Unger was the most outstanding intercollegiate debater, winning individual speaker awards at every tournament in which he competed. During the 1963-1964 season, Unger was named the top speaker at tournaments hosted by Brandeis, St. Joseph's, Miami, Redlands, Northwestern, and Notre Dame.

Unger was also a successful orator and debater in contests held at Boston College. In consecutive years, 1962 and 1963, Unger won the Leonard Oratorical Contest. In the 1963 competition, he gave a speech entitled, "The Trial," which dealt with the problem of voter apathy in the United States. In 1963, Unger won the Fulton Medal in the 73rd annual Fulton Prize Debate, while affirming the resolution that the non-Communist nations of the world should join in an economic community.

After graduating from Boston College, Unger went on to earn a law degree from Harvard University in 1967. While attending law school, Unger was hired by John Henry Lawton to serve as the Fulton debate coach from 1965-1967. Lawton was so impressed and appreciative of Unger's coaching abilities that he wrote a letter of tribute to him which was published in *The Heights*, on May 5, 1967. In his letter, Lawton stated that Unger's "dedication to his job has become something of a legend in American debate circles and none has been surprised at the results that he has achieved."

From the beginning of his coaching career at Boston College, Unger achieved remarkable results. In the fall of 1965, the varsity team of Joseph McLaughlin '65 and John Raedel '65 captured first place at the Greater Boston Forensic Tournament and the following weekend, they won the University of Kentucky Tournament. The junior team of Al Wagner '67 and Dennis McCarthy '67 won the Jesuit College National Championship in Chicago.

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Joseph T. McLaughlin's
Tribute to James Unger

Without question, the Fultonian who best knew James Unger was Joseph T. McLaughlin, his debate partner during both his junior and senior years. We are grateful to Joe for offering this tribute to his friend and colleague:

"Jim was not an emotional person—he was a man committed to intellectual achievement through debate, but he did not in today's parlance, share his feelings with others. It was very different on November 22, 1963. He was visibly devastated by the news from Dallas that the President had been shot. We were all adrift that day and the days to follow. Jim turned his grief into what he did best—he drove himself for several days and nights and produced a moving tribute to the life of John Kennedy and what he meant to a generation of idealists then in universities across the land.

Jim's essay, uncharacteristically laden with emotion as well as thought, was printed as the editorial in the edition of the college newspaper following the assassination. It was, for me, his most persuasive presentation and it brought tears—again—to the faces of many students and faculty members. Jim seemed to lead a lonely life, but he connected with people in his own way and never more so than in those terrible days of November, 1963."



(Unger Tribute continued)

In the spring of 1966, Unger coached Joseph McLaughlin and Dennis McCarthy, to top eight place finishes at the three major tournaments: Harvard, Dartmouth, and Northwestern. In *The Heights* tribute letter to Unger, Lawton quotes legendary debate coach, George Ziegelmuller of Wayne State, to explain Unger's coaching success: "When a Boston College team enters a debate, the opposition knows that they must face the best researched attack on the debate circuit. That's Unger's trademark."

Given Unger's impressive track record coaching debate at Boston College, it is not surprising that Georgetown University hired him as their Director of Debate in 1968. For the next 14 years, Unger achieved tremendous success and his Georgetown teams were always among the best in the country. His teams were ranked first in the national coaches poll five times and his team won the National Debate Tournament in 1977.

From 1985 until his retirement in 1996, Unger served as Director of Debate at American University, where he ran the National Forensics Institute Summer program, which brought thousands of high school students to Washington, DC, to learn how to debate.

A web site created by friends celebrating his life and many contributions to debate is available at www.jimunger.org.

Memories of James J. Unger '64



More Tributes

"For most of us during the crucial decade and a half starting in the mid-1960s--the decade in which many of us came of age or settled into our lifetime careers--Jimmy Unger WAS debate, debate as high art, debate as ritual, debate as relentless analysis, debate as bloodless battle. He lived it, breathed it, epitomized it, enjoyed it, perfected it, practiced it, and made it a permanent part of our lives."

--Laurence Tribe,
Harvard Law School

"For so many years, 'Jimmy,' as we knew him then, enobled debate and attracted to it a great many bright young people whose lives were made much better because of it. One story illustrates. About fifteen years ago, Jim and I were seated for dinner in a San Antonio restaurant. Our waiter came over, handed us the menus, and did a double take. He said something very like: 'Aren't you Dr. Unger? I went to your Institute one summer and have never forgotten it. I'm in college here now, and wish I could still be debating. But I still remember that summer.'"

--Frank Harrison,
former Director of Debate at Brandeis and Trinity University





BRITISH TEAM DEFEATS THE FULTONIANS IN OCTOBER DEBATE OVER IRAN

On October 2, 2007, the Fulton Debating Society of Boston College competed against the international debate team from Great Britain before an audience of almost 300 people in Gasson 100. The topic for the debate was, "This House believes that an invasion of Iran would cause more problems than it would solve."

Boston College, debating on the affirmative side, was represented by Matthew Maerowitz '10 and Ryan Malone '10. Maerowitz is an economics major from Phoenix, Arizona, and Malone is a political science major from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Maerowitz & Malone are members of the varsity debate squad.

Debating on the negative side and for the British Debate team were Alex Just and Alistair Cormack. Alex Just is a former President of the Oxford Union and is a senior at the University of Oxford studying history and politics. Alex is an accomplished debater, having reached the Grand Finals at the World Schools Championships in Singapore and at the World Universities Championships in Malaysia. Most recently, Alex coached the Scottish national debating team who won the 2007 World Championships in South Korea.

Alistair Cormack recently graduated from the University of Durham with an honors degree in History and Politics. While attending school, he was the president of the Durham Union Society and represented Durham at both the European and World Debating Championships. Alistair enjoyed a very successful debating career, becoming a finalist at the English National Championships and being ranked as one of the top ten European speakers of 2006.

During the debate, Boston College argued that any US attack would cause Iran to retaliate by closing the Straits of Hormuz, sponsoring greater levels of terrorism in Iraq and against Israel, and aggressively pursuing with the development of nuclear weapons. The affirmative also argued that attacking Iranian nuclear facilities was not feasible because Iran had already hidden its facilities and it would rapidly reconstitute them if we could successfully bomb them.

The British team countered that if no action was taken, Iran would develop nuclear weapons and attack Israel. Therefore, the United States had no choice but to invade Iran. As for the practicality of invasion, the British argued that the United States had adequate intelligence to locate all of Iran's nuclear facilities and more than enough bombs to target and destroy these strategic assets. Finally, the British argued that removing the regime by invasion would prevent Iran from rebuilding its nuclear program or sponsoring terrorism.

At the conclusion of the debate, the audience was asked to vote for a winner by a show of hands. By a sizable majority, the audience voted in favor of the British.

The US-British debating tour is the oldest and most prestigious, going back to 1922. Each year, the British send a team to the United States to debate against American debate teams from late September until November.

An article about the debate appeared in *Boston College Magazine* and is available at--

http://bcm.bc.edu/issues/fall_2007/linden_lane/gentlemens-quarrel.html

Boston College Front Row videotaped the debate and a streaming video is available online at--

<http://frontrow.bc.edu/program/bcdebate1/>



From left: Ryan Malone answers a question posed by Alex Just while Alistair Cormack prepares to speak. Photograph by Joan Siedel for Boston College Magazine.



THE FULTON HISTORY INITIATIVE

The Fulton Debating Society is striving to reclaim and document its history on our website and in the University Archives. Our goal is to find the wording of all the debate topics used in the Fulton Prize Debates, the names of every Fulton Debate President and Vice-President, the names of every Moderator of the Society, and the names of all the Gargan medal winners. We are also making and archiving copies of all news items about the activities of the Society.

As part of this process, we have already searched the university archives, *Sub Turi* (the yearbook), the Boston College catalogues, *The Stylus*, *The Heights*, and *The Boston Globe*.

We have identified the first nine Moderators of the Fulton Debating Society. The website now contains a complete list of Moderators and Directors of Debate from 1890 to the present.

We have also identified 46 additional Gargan Medal winners going back to 1909. There is some uncertainty about whether 1908 or 1909 was the first year when the Gargan Medal was awarded. While we know that the Marquette Society was founded in September 1902, there are conflicting accounts about the date when the Society held its first Prize Debate and awarded the Gargan Medal. In any event, we are missing the Gargan Medal winners for these 13 years: 1941, 1944, 1945, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1960, 1967, 1968, 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985.

Our identification of the names of the Fulton Debate Presidents and Vice-Presidents is nearly complete. The only dates for which we have no information are 1967-1968, 1982-3, 1983-4, and 1984-5. Additionally, we are missing the names of the Vice-President for 1969-1970 and 1971-1972. We encourage anyone who held the position of President and/or Vice-President to double check the accuracy of the information that we have posted on our website.

Finally, the real impetus for this project was our desire to recover the resolutions used in all the Fulton Prize Debates. Amazingly, there is no historical record containing this information. We are happy to report that we have located the topic wordings for 101 Fulton Prize Debates, including all of the topics from 1890 until 1953. That means we are missing the topics for 15 years: 1954, 1955, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1983, 1984, and 1985.

Contact Information

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University Archives: Amy Braitsch, Assistant Archivist, John J. Burns Library, Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467; (email) amy.braitsch.l@bc.edu; (phone) 617.552.3282.

Help Reclaim
Fulton History

At this point, we have exhausted the available resources and need the help of our Fulton alums to fill in the missing pieces in the Society's history. If you can help, please forward your information to John Katsulas.

We also encourage any alums who have old programs from the Fulton Prize Debate, team pictures, correspondence, or articles about the Society to make copies for University Archives. Contact information for both the Society and the University Archives appears in the box at the bottom of this page.

Fulton Debate
Web Site

The effort to reclaim the Society's history has allowed us to upgrade our web site. We have expanded the history pages to include a timeline, added new pages listing the Fulton Debate topics and officers of the Society, and updated the lists of moderators and prize winners.

The web site is designed to have something for everyone from high school debaters considering Boston College, to students and faculty already on the Heights, to our 500+ debate alums. If you haven't visited the site lately, we invite you to explore Fulton Debate online at <http://www.bc.edu/fultondebate>.



FULTON PRIZE DEBATE TOPICS, 1890-1899

As part of the history project (see page 7), the Society has recovered the topics of the early Fulton Prize Debates. A surprising number of the topics remain relevant today:

- 1890: “Resolved: That it is unconstitutional for the United States government to appropriate money for the support of private schools.”
- 1891: “Resolved: That the emancipation proclamation was unwise.”
- 1892: “Resolved: That the single tax system would prove preferable to the present system of taxation.”
- 1893: “Resolved: That the annexation of any foreign territory is incompatible with the best interests of the United States.”
- 1894: “Resolved: That an educational qualification for voting should be universally required throughout the United States.”
- 1895: “Resolved: That pensions should not be granted by the government to those who have other means of support.”
- 1896: “Resolved: Could arbitration be made a substitute for War?”
- 1897: “Resolved: Should the United States government intervene to terminate the strife in Cuba?”
- 1898: “Resolved: Should the present method of electing United States Senators be changed?”
- 1899: “Resolved: That the United States should hold the Philippines in permanent possession.”



Fultonians on the bridge to Thayer Hall at the West Point Tournament in October 2007. From left: Michael Stork '11, Grant Gendron '11, Daniel Berkowitz '11, and Kevin Walton '11.

Final NDT Rankings

The Fulton Debating Society finished twenty-fifth in the final NDT Rankings for the 2007-2008 academic year. More than two hundred colleges and universities fielded policy debate teams, so this finish places Fulton Debate among the nation’s elite debate programs. The top thirty includes:

1. Binghamton University
2. Liberty University
3. University of Kansas
4. Emory University
5. Kansas State University
6. University of Oklahoma
7. Harvard University
8. University of Mary Washington
9. United States Military Academy
10. Wake Forest University
11. Dartmouth College
12. Northwestern University
13. University of California, Berkeley
14. Michigan State University
15. Cornell University
16. Wichita State University
17. Missouri State University
18. University of Southern California
19. Gonzaga University
20. Vanderbilt University
21. James Madison University
22. University of Texas, Austin
23. University of Minnesota
24. University of Wyoming
25. BOSTON COLLEGE
26. Whitman College
27. University of Texas, Dallas
28. Wayne State University
29. Baylor University
30. San Francisco State University