

THE YALE DEBATE ASSOCIATION

Spring 2013 Newsletter

The YDA by the Numbers:

1

YDA's World
Ranking

4

Years in a Row
as top US Team

13

Tournaments
Won

14

Top Speaker
Awards

Yale Debate Ranked #1 in the World

It's finally official - The Yale Debate Association ("YDA") is the best debate team in the world. As part of a record breaking year, not only did Yale win its fourth consecutive Club of the Year ("COTY") award from the American Parliamentary Debate Association ("APDA"), but it has become the first American team ever to be ranked first in the world since the advent of the modern world rankings.

From August 24th to January 13th, the YDA held the top spot in the world rankings, ahead of teams from the University of Sydney and University of Oxford in second and third place respectively. The rankings, based on performances by all Yale teams at a large number of tournaments, reflect the both the intensity and depth of talent at all levels of the YDA.

In addition to its internationally recognized success, the YDA continued its run of unprecedented domestic dominance. Breaking its own record for total points, Yale won APDA's coveted COTY award for the fourth year running, accumulating more points than the second (Columbia), third (Brandeis), and fourth



(Harvard) ranked teams combined.

Individual members of the YDA were also greatly successful throughout the year. The teams of Robert Colonel (SY '13) and David Trinh (TD '12), Nick Cugini (CC '13) and Kate Falkenstien (SY '12), Andrew Connery (PC '13) and Max Dovala (SM '13), and Zach Bakal (CC '14) and Michael Barton (BK '14) were 2nd, 5th, 6th and 7th respectively in APDA's Team of the Year ("TOTY") rankings. Additionally, Cugini and Falkenstien made the finals of the APDA National Championships, with Nate Blevins (PC '12) and Ben Kornfeld (DC '13) making the semi-finals. Moreover, at the North American Championships, Connery and Dovala were semi-finalists.

Another Impressive Performance at APDA National Championships

22

**Debaters
Qualified for
Nationals**

Yale saw unrivalled success at this year's National Championships at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Yale set a record for total qualifications to compete this year, with an unprecedented 22 debaters qualifying over the course of the season. This number constitutes a new APDA record, bettering Yale's own mark of 21, set last season.



At the tournament, Nick Cugini and Kate Falkenstien distinguished themselves by reaching the finals of the tournament. Nate Blevins and Ben Kornfeld reached the semifinal stage, while the teams of Andrew Connery and Max Dovala, and Michael Barton and Zach Bakal each reached deep elimination rounds. Kate Falkenstien also had the distinction of winning the coveted award for the Top Speaker at the tournament, while Ben Kornfeld was ranked as the 4th speaker.

In a tightly contested final round, Cugini and Falkenstien narrowly lost to rivals from Harvard, opposing the proposal that the exclusionary rule ought to be abolished and replaced by a tort sys-

tem. Both the quarter and semi-finals saw matchups between Yale teams, with Connery and Dovala debating Blevins and Kornfeld in quarter-finals, and Blevins and Kornfeld going on to face Cugini and Falkenstien in the semis.

Among those Yale debaters who qualified for Nationals were four novices - an impressive achievement. These four novices constituted one third of all novices to qualify for Nationals nationwide, and were more than half the total number of debaters qualified for the championships by any other school.

4

**APDA Nationals
Semi-Finalists**



5

**Top 20 Speakers
at Nationals**

Yale Once Again Dominates Throughout APDA's Season

Throughout the year the YDA competes at more than 40 tournaments, across the country and world. Domestically, the vast majority of these tournaments are in the format of American Parliamentary debate, sanctioned by the American Parliamentary Debate Association. Throughout the year the YDA and its members compete at tournaments every weekend in an effort to qualify for Nationals and earn points towards APDA's prestigious year end awards: Club of the Year, Team of the Year, Speaker of the Year ("SOTY") and Novice of the Year ("NOTY").

As mentioned in the introduction, due to the depth and talent of the YDA, the COTY 'race' was, once again, not even close. Through the outstanding performances of every one of our members the YDA accumulated not only more COTY points than any school in the history of APDA, but also more than those ranked 2nd, 3rd and 4th combined.

Individual teams also performed admirably. In an incredibly close TOTY race, Robert Colonel and David Trinh accumulated more points than any other team in previous APDA history. Unfortunately, so to did their rivals from Harvard, surpassing Colonel and Trinh's total on the last day of the season. Not only did

Colonel and Trinh finish 2nd, but Nick Cugini and Kate Falkenstien, Andrew Connery and Max Dovala, and Zach Bakal and Michael Barton finished 2nd, 5th, 6th and 7th respectively, each making deep elimination rounds at many tournaments.



APDA also recognizes the performance of individual speakers through its SOTY awards. In this category too, Yale shone. Robert Colonel finished the year ranked 4th, while Nick Cugini, David Trinh and Kate Falkenstien finished 6th, 7th and 8th, each winning the top speaker award at one or more tournaments.

Finally, our novices also performed admirably, winning top novice speaker awards at three tournaments throughout the year. Eight novices finished in the top 41 of the NOTY rankings. On top of all of that, our novices also saw significant success in varsity competition, with three novice-varsity partnerships winning tournaments outright.



4

**Of the Country's
Top 10 Teams**

4

**Of the Country's
Top 10 Speakers**

3x

**More Points
than 2nd Place**

Success at the North American Debating Championships

5

**Teams
Advancing to
Elimination
Rounds**

The North American Championships ("NorthAms") is a unique debate tournament that brings together schools from Canada and the USA in a hybrid of Canadian and APDA styles. Yale has traditionally been very dominant at NorthAms, most recently winning the title in the years 2009 and 2011. Despite not winning outright, even this year the YDA outperformed all other schools at the tournament. Max Dovala and Andrew Connery advanced the furthest of Yale's teams, making it to semifinals. Four other Yale teams broke at the tournament, with Alyssa Bilinski (CC '13) and Kate Falkenstien who broke as the top seeded team for the second year in a row, making it to quarterfinals. There they were joined by Michael Barton and Zach Bakal and Robert



Colonel (SY'13) and David Trinh. Ben Kornfeld and Nick Cugini made it to the octofinals stage.

Kate Falkenstien was also the top speaker at the tournament, winning the award for two consecutive years. Other Yale debaters in the top 10 were Ben Kornfeld, Andrew Connery, Max Dovala and Nick Cugini.

4

**Yale Teams in
the Top 8**



5

**Of the Top 10
Speakers**

YDA Performs Admirably at the World Championships

The World Universities Debating Championships (colloquially called "Worlds") is the most competitive and prestigious university debating tournament in the world. Historically, the YDA has always done well - Yale was the first American School to win Worlds in 1990, and in 2006 was the first American school to have a team in the finals of the competition in its modern format. In addition to this, Yale debaters and alumni regularly feature in the elimination rounds of the championship.

This year, 13 members of the YDA travelled to Manila, Philippines to com-

Kornfeld both broke to the Octofinal stage. Unfortunately neither team advanced further. Another Yale team, comprising Andrew Connery and Michael



Barton narrowly missed the break on the basis of speaker points. In addition to our debaters' success, Anna Moore (SY'13) broke as a judge.

With regard to individual speaker awards Yale once again showed its regional dominance, producing 4 of the top 7 speakers from North America.

pete in the latest edition of the competition - by far the largest delegation from any American school, and one of the largest delegations at the tournament. After nine grueling preliminary rounds, Kate Falkenstien and Max Dovala, and Nate Blevins and Ben



2

**Teams in
Worlds Octo-
Finals**

8502

**Miles to the
Phillippines**

5

**Consecutive
Years Breaking
Multiple Teams
at Worlds**

Yale Enthusiastically Forays into BP

The Yale Debate Association prides itself over not only being the best debate team in America, but one of the best in the world. Yale's excellent performance at Worlds does not tell the full story of our consistently excellent performance in the international sphere.

Every year, the YDA travels to the UK to participate in the Oxford and Cambridge IVs. At the Oxford IV, Nate Blevins and Ben Kornfeld advanced to semifinals, while another Yale team comprising of Andrew Connery and Max Dovala advanced to quarterfinals. Nate Blevins was also placed in the Top 10 speakers at the tournament. A week later, at the Cambridge IV, the Yale teams of Kate Falkenstien and Max Dovala, and Nick Cugini and Stacey Chen (SY'13) advanced to quarterfinals.

Yale added a new BP tournament last year, with David Trinh and Ben Kornfeld travelling to Malaysia to participate in the World Universities Peace Invitational Debate ("WUPID"). WUPID's prestige is drawn from its strict invitation system - only the Top 30 teams in the world are invited to participate in the competition. Yale reached the semifinals of the tournament, and both our debaters placed in the Top 10 overall speakers.

Possibly the only debate tournament that is more selective than WUPID is the HWS Round Robin. The tournament brings together the best debaters from across the world, and debaters must qualify by winning one or more major title tournaments. Consequently the pool of competitors included 5 Worlds Finalists, 7 Worlds Semi-Finalists and 2 Worlds Top Speakers amongst others. Yale was



the only institution permitted to field two teams.

After the Round Robin stage, Ben Kornfeld and Nick Cugini broke to finals as the 2nd seed, while Kate Falkenstien and Max Dovala unfortunately missed out on speaker points. In the final round, following an hour long deliberation process, Yale was ultimately placed 3rd behind Stanford and Oxford. Nick Cugini and Ben Kornfeld both placed in the Top 10 Speakers of the tournament.

The final BP competition of the year, the United States National BP Championships ("USU"), took place at Willamette University, Oregon. 6 Yale debaters made the long trip to the West Coast to compete at the tournament. All Yale teams made it through the preliminary rounds and coasted through to the break. The teams comprising Sam Ward-Packard (SY'14) and Fil Lekkas (CC'14), and Andrew Connery and Ben Kornfeld made it to octofinals, while for a second year running, Kate Falkenstien and Max Dovala were finalists at the competition. In addition to this, Sam Ward-Packard distinguished himself by winning the prestigious award for the Top Speaker at the tournament. Fil Lekkas also placed in the Top 10 speakers overall.

1

**Rank of Yale's
Top Speaker at
BP Nationals**

2

**Years in a Row
in USU Finals**

2

**Yale Teams
Selected for 16
Slots at HWS**

Yale Competes in 104th Annual Triangular Debates with Harvard and Princeton

For the 104th time, YDA members competed in the continuing tradition known as the “Triangular Debates,” a three-part series of debates between debaters at Yale, Harvard, and Princeton. While Triangulars is no longer strictly adjudicated, as it was for several decades beginning in 1908, it remains an opportunity for these debating associations to meet in a smaller setting and debate relevant moral or political issues.

It was Princeton’s turn to travel to Yale this year; seniors Kate Falkenstien and David Trinh and Nate Blevins debated whether the northern states should have permanently bought out southern slaves in the years preceding the American Civil War. Senior YDA members Marc Wallach (CC ‘12), Naz El-Khatib (SY ‘12) and Arjun Shenoy (DC ‘12) traveled to Harvard to debate on whether the United States should use drone strikes.

4th Annual Great Debate is Great Success

For the fourth year in a row, the YDA participated in the NAACP’s “Great Debate,” a public debate featuring two debates on issues which have particular relevance to the NAACP and its mission. While the YDA had previously debated Howard University in Washington, D.C., this year it competed against Georgia’s Morehouse College – Martin Luther King, Jr.’s alma mater and home of one of the oldest debate teams in the nation.

Held at New Haven’s Schubert Theater, the event featured one debate on “stand your ground” laws and one debate on mandatory drug tests for welfare recipients.

Sesenu Woldemariam (BK ‘14) and Sam Ward-Packard debated the first topic, while Nick Cugini and Vinay Prasad (CC ‘13) debated the second.

The YDA would especially like to thank the NAACP of Connecticut, its president Scott X Esdaile, and the debaters of Morehouse University.



104

**Consecutive
Years of
Triangulars**

4

**Years of the
Great Debate**

1000+

**Audience at the
‘Great Debate’**

What We've Been Debating

On the YDA we debate primarily in two formats:

- American Parliamentary
- British Parliamentary

4

Of the Country's
Top 10 Teams

In **American Parliamentary** debate, the government (or affirmative) team proposes a topic of their choosing — usually a case they have written in advance. The opposition (or negating) team has only the 7 minutes of the first government speaker's speech to think of their counterargument.

For example, in the Semi-Finals of the APDA National Championships, the government team Yale CF (Nick Cugini and Kate Falkenstien) posed the question of whether or not, hypothesizing there existed a pill that could override a genetic predisposition to homosexuality, the government should ban that pill. The opposition team, Yale BK (Nate Blevins and Ben Kornfeld) chose to argue that the government should ban such a pill. The government team, Yale CF, won the debate.

A video of that debate can be found at the following address:

<http://www.parlidebate.com/recordings.php?id=333>

4

Of the Country's
Top 10 Speakers



In **British Parliamentary** debate, there are 4 teams (2 on each side), all of whom are given the topic 15 minutes before the start of the debate. The team that wins has to not only beat the teams arguing the other side, but also provide more compelling material than the other team on their own side.

This year, in the finals of the HWS Round Robin, an invitational tournament to which only the top 16 teams in the world are invited (Yale received 2 invitations), the motion "This house believes that governments should subsidize newspapers" was debated. In the final round Yale CK (Nick Cugini and Ben Kornfeld) were in the position of closing government, competing against teams from the University of Sydney, Stanford and the University of Oxford. The debate, which included 2 debaters who had previously won the title of best speaker in the world, 1 world champion, 3 other world finalists and 4 more world semi-finalists (including the Yale team), was extremely high quality, with Stanford finishing 1st, Oxford 2nd and Yale a very narrow 3rd (the adjudication took over an hour).

A video of this debate can be found here: <http://vimeo.com/45540090>

41

Top Speaker
Awards

The Yale High School Tournament

The Yale Debate Association hosted its 19th annual High School Invitational last September. With competition in over a dozen speech and debate events ranging from humorous interpretation to policy debate, the tournament takes place as part of the National Forensic League ("NFL") for high school students. Over 1,500 high school students from over one hundred schools came from around the country to compete at Yale. Since its inception, the tournament has become one of the most prestigious high school com-

petitions in the country, and is certainly the most respected student-run tournament nationwide.

All of this was only possible with the hard work of Tournament Directors Max Dovala and Meredith Potter (SY '13), along with assistants Zach Bakal, Sesenu Woldemariam, Michael Barton and Joanna Zheng (TC '14). Marc Wallach served as the board's tournaments coordinator. The countless hours of work they put in ensured that a tournament of this scale could run smoothly and without hiccup.

1500+

**Competitors at
the Yale HST**

The Osterweis Tournament

Yale's annual Osterweis charity tournament - held every April in honor of the YDA's former coach, Rollin G. Osterweis - was attended by more than 100 high school students from across the state. The Osterweis Tournament has become a prominent event for the Connecticut high school debate circuit, and is now the de-facto state championship due to its large size and its falling at the end of the debate season.

The 2012 tournament, as in previous years, not only included debaters

from Connecticut at large, but also many from the New Haven community. Teams coached by YDA members as a part of the New Haven Urban Debate League participate extensively. Thanks to the work of tournament director Alyssa Bilinski and assistant directors Allison Douglass (BK '15) and Nathaniel Rubin (SY '15), members of the YDA were able to share their knowledge and experience of debate with more than 100 high school students at no cost to them or their schools.

100+

**Competitors at
Osterweis**

The Yale IV

As the largest so far, the sixth Yale Inter-Varsity tournament was an unprecedented success, attracting more than 300 students from more than 40 universities, with Stanford emerging victorious in an engaging final.

The Yale IV is one of the most prestigious British Parliamentary competitions in the world, and the largest and most competitive in North America. Held in the same style as the World Championship, it provides an opportunity for many American and Canadian schools to

practice the unfamiliar style needed to compete with the rest of the world, without the cost of traveling overseas.

The 2011 Inter-Varsity was overseen by tournament directors Anna Moore and Aaron Hakim (PC '13). YDA alum Grant May (SY '10) served as the Chief Adjudicator for the event, while Ben Kornfeld (DC '13) and former best speaker at the World Championships, Sam Block, were Deputy Chief Adjudicators.

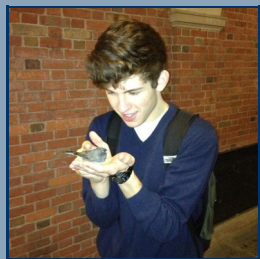
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**Universities
Competing at
the Yale IV**

Yale Manages to Attract Some Adequate Freshmen, Thus We Have Novices

3

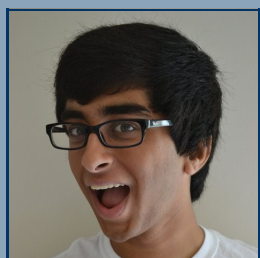
Top Novice
Team Awards



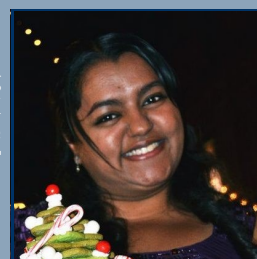
Jonathon Bowyer
Hometown: Scarsdale, NY
Major: Undeclared
High School Debate: Lincoln-Douglas
Interests: Being generally helpful, small birds



Allison Douglass
Hometown: Basking Ridge, NJ
Major: Philosophy
High School Debate: Lincoln-Douglas
Interests: England, solipsism, science fiction, Fruit Ninja



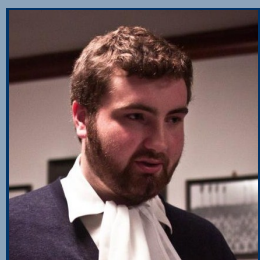
Paavan Gami
Hometown: Greenville, SC
Major: Econ & Math
High School Debate: Extemp
Interests: Folk music, financial policy, scarves



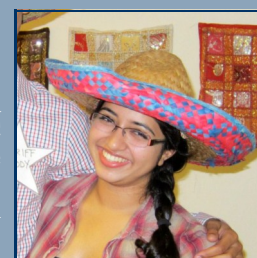
Shikha Garg
Hometown: Plano, TX
Major: Political Science
High School Debate: Extemp and PF
Interests: Facebook stalking, making sassy comments, wenzels, memes

3

Top Novice
Speaker Awards



Gareth Imparato
Hometown: Baltimore, MD
Major: English
High School Debate: Lincoln-Douglas
Interests: Phenomenology, teen romance novels, David Foster Wallace, third world debt repudiation, good cheese



Alisha Jarwala
Hometown: Raleigh, NC
Major: Political Science
High School Debate: PF and Congress
Interests: Jane Austen, superhero movies, working with kids

18

Total Novice
Team Awards



Marija Kamceva
Hometown: Clifton, NJ
Major: MCDB
High School Debate: None
Interests: radical activism, compulsively buying planners, Lady Gaga, Neopets, things with Apple logos



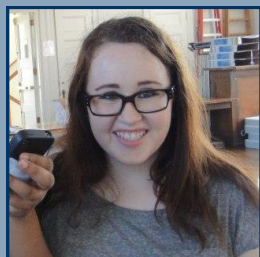
Raphael Leung
Hometown: Hong Kong
Major: Political Science
High School Debate: Parliamentary
Interests: Collecting airline miles, archery, fixing computers

**Alex Lew**

Hometown: Durham, NC
 Major: Undeclared
 High School Debate: Lincoln-Douglas
 Interests: Teaching, improv comedy, reading every single campus publication (but actually)

**Diana Li**

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
 Major: Economics
 High School Debate: Lincoln-Douglas
 Interests: Photography, long-form journalism, biking around NYC, war literature

**Marissa Medansky**

Hometown: Highland Park, Illinois
 Major: History
 High School Debate: Model United Nations
 Interests: American religious movements, opinion journalism, klezmer, That '70s Show

**Dan Mitropolsky**

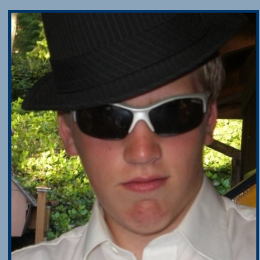
Hometown: Oakville, Ontario, Canada
 Major: Undeclared
 High School Debate: Canadian Parliamentary
 Interests: Languages

**Jadon Montero**

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV
 Major: Global Affairs
 High School Debate: Policy
 Interests: Martial arts, high jump, French musicals

**Lindsay Pearlman**

Hometown: Syosset, NY
 Major: Political Science
 High School Debate: Extemp
 Interests: Ballet folklorico, Kanye West, video games

**Nathaniel Rubin**

Hometown: Anchorage, AK
 Major: Philosophy
 High School Debate: Lincoln-Douglas
 Interests: X-country skiing, commercial aviation, architecture, Central Asian history, cartography

**Anirudh Sivaram**

Hometown: Dubai, UAE
 Major: Political Science
 High School Debate: World Schools
 Interests: Singing trashy pop music, Indian food, Manchester United Football Club

**Aunica Steele**

Hometown: Moline, IL
 Major: Electrical Engineering
 High School Debate: None
 Interests: Drawing portraits, parliamentary debate, digital systems

**Becca Steinberg**

Hometown: St. Louis, MO
 Major: Political Science
 High School Debate: Oratory
 Interests: Tea parties, stickers, bashing the patriarchy

47

**Total Novice
Speaker Awards**

4

**Novices
Qualified for
Nationals**

6

**Of the Country's
Top 30 Novices**

4

**New Board
Members
(1 Returning)**

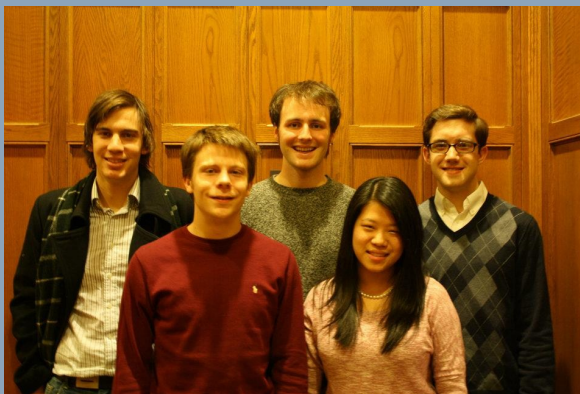
41

**Collective Years
of Debate
Experience**

45

**Collective Final
Rounds Made**

The 2012 Executive Board



President: Robert Colonel. Robert is a senior in Saybrook College from Winter Springs, Florida where he competed in Congressional Debate. He is majoring in Political Science, and enjoys heavy metal, penguins and the second amendment when not debating. Before fulfilling his presidential aspirations this year, Robert was an assistant director of the High School tournament in 2010. With his partner David Trinh, Robert was the 2nd ranked "Team of the Year" for the 2011-2012 debate season and made semi-finals at the National Championships in 2011.

Treasurer: Max Dovala. Max is a senior in Silliman College from Boulder Colorado, majoring in Economics. Having competed in Lincoln Douglas debate in high school, Max has succeeded in making the semi-finals of the North American debate championships in 2012, the APDA National Championship final in 2011, and the final of the US Universities Debating Championship (in British Parliamentary format) in both 2011 and 2012. He has previously taken on large leadership roles on the team, serving as tournament director of the YDA's high school tournament in 2011.

Director of Development: Ben Kornfeld. Ben is a senior in Davenport College from Auckland, New Zealand majoring in Economics. Ben served as deputy chief adjudicator of the Yale IV debate tournament in 2011 and on the team's development board in 2010. In 2011 he made semi-finals of the World Universities' Debate Championship, and in 2012 made semi-finals of the National Championships.

Tournament Coordinator: Stacey Chen. Stacey is a senior in Saybrook College from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Stacey is majoring in political science, and takes a keen interest in the statistical study of politics. Stacey served as assistant tournament director of the 2010 high school tournament and as the team's Equal Opportunity Facilitator. Stacey has broken at both the US National and North American Championships.

Director of Membership: Andrew Connery. Andrew is a senior in Pierson College from Norman Oklahoma majoring in Political Science with a focus in American Politics. He has been involved with debate since high school, where he competed mainly in Policy debate and US extemporaneous speaking. Before serving on the board, Andrew served as an Assistant Tournament Director to the 2010 Yale High School Invitational and as the team's Facilities Coordinator. With his partner Max (see above) Andrew made finals at the 2011 National Championships and the semi-finals of the North American championships in 2012. When not debating, Andrew takes a keen interest in politics as a senior member of the Yale College Democrats.

YDA Coaching and Outreach

The Yale Debate Association has a tradition of coaching New Haven school students in debate. Members of the team coach at schools affiliated with the Urban Debate League on a weekly basis, helping both with specific events and general debating skills. The team also has a relationship with Choate Rosemary Hall, with team-members coaching Choate pupils once a week. Recently, members of the Yale Debate Association have begun to serve by invitation as Executive Board Members of the National High School Debate League of China.



3

**Organizations
We Help Coach**

Our Coaches



David Kimel

David Kimel is the head coach of the Yale Debate Association. He is currently pursuing a PhD in History. Before coming to Yale, he pursued his undergraduate education at Harvard, where he was a member of the APDA Team of the Year in 2005. Outside of debate, Kimel enjoys sharing his passion for movies and Roman history with members of the team.

Alex Worsnip

Alex Worsnip is the chief British Parliamentary coach of the Yale Debate Association. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Philosophy, having done his undergraduate schooling at Oxford University. Alex is a former WUDC finalist and in his spare time, follows the Baltimore Orioles.



7

**Championship
Titles Won by
Our Coaches**



Grant May

Grant May is currently a 1L at Columbia Law School, having previously worked at Bridgewater Associates. He graduated from Yale College in 2010; during his time on the team, he was both National and North American champion and served as the President of the YDA in 2009.

Andrew Rohrbach

Andrew Rohrbach is a 2L at Harvard Law School. He graduated from Yale in College in 2009; while on the team, he was both National and North American champion, and served as President of the YDA in 2008.



2

**Former YDA
Presidents Now
Coaching Us**

The Social Side of the YDA

Apart from being a competitively successful team, the YDA is a tight-knit group of friends. While team members spend time together at tournaments, the team hosts many social functions throughout the year at Yale - ranging from the annual Christmas party to toasting at Mory's. More informally, members of the YDA attend team dinners, play basketball together, and cook a huge variety of delicious food. The team maintains the tradition of holding 'office hours' every Thursday night to discuss case ideas and catch up. The year culminates with our Senior Banquet at a local restaurant, at which each YDA senior gives a farwell speech.

Many members of the team go on to share workplaces, graduate schools and even live together after college. For a substantial portion of the YDA, the team consists of our strongest and most lasting friendships, and going to tournaments every weekend is just as much a way to spend time with each other as it is a chance to compete at the highest level.



Away from the Podium

While the YDA is made up of fantastic debaters, we all like to believe that debate skills come in handy in more than just debate. As such, our members take part in all sorts of activities in addition to maintaining a deep commitment to debate. At Yale, we do everything from baking cupcakes for charity to writing for the YDN (it isn't that rare to see an editorial page half filled by the YDA). Our members are involved in the Yale College Student Investment Group, the Yale College Democrats, Yale College Council and the Yale College Dramat. In addition, our membership is diverse, with members from across the world who continue to take part in activities with a wide range of campus cultural groups.



The YDA also attracts students of a wide variety of disciplines. Our members study Women, Gender and Sexuality, Economics, Mathematics, International Studies, Developmental Biology and Political Science. Of course preparation for what comes after college is also a significant part of college. With that in mind our members spend their summers working on Senatorial campaigns, as State Department analysts, as Fed analysts, and as hedge fund traders among many other positions.

30+

Yearly Social
Gatherings

8

Countries from
which YDA
Members Come

10

Different Majors
Among the YDA

Yale Debate Alumni

The Yale Association for Debate Alumni (YADA), founded at the YDA centennial in 2008, was created to help debate alumni, old and new, stay connected with one another and stay updated on the team's current activities. If you're interested in joining or would simply like more information, visit yaledebate.org/alumni or email sesenu.woldemariam@yale.edu. Additionally, if you have any news you would like published in next year's newsletter let us know at the same address.



The Class of 2012

Kate Falkenstien has begun studying law at Stanford Law School.

David Trinh is working as an Investment Associate at a hedge fund in Westport, CT.

Nate Blevins is working as a paralegal for a non-profit organization in D.C.

Naz El-Khatib is working as a consultant at McKinsey & Company in NYC.

Marc Wallach is working as an analyst at the Sequoia Fund in Chicago.

Max Webster is working for Communificiency, a recent start-up.

Arjun Shenoy is working as a consultant for Deloitte in Washington, D.C.



Summer Alumni Get-Togethers

The Yale Association for Debate Alumni (YADA) holds get-togethers every summer to offer alumni the opportunity to see old friends, meet new members, and generally have an enjoyable time with fellow former and current members of the YDA. In the summer of 2012, get-togethers were held in both New York and Washington D.C., with more than 40 in attendance between the two events.

The events were held at bars in the New York and Washington D.C. areas, with people trickling in and out throughout the night. Guests spanned the range of more than 33 years of Yale Debate history, and a number of current members in each area for the summer also attended the events. After such a successful series of events, we plan to hold events again this upcoming summer, and look forward to seeing everyone there!

300+

**Members of
YADA**

5

**Different
Professions of
the Class of '12**

2

**Summer Alumni
Get-Togethers**

The YDA offers its sincere gratitude to those who have supported the team

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**Years of the
YDA**

4

**APDA National
Championships**

5

**APDA Team of
the Year Awards**