

Yale Debate Association

Issue 6

2009-2010 Season

Inside this issue:

Public Debates 2-3

International Competition

Urban Debate League 4-5

Yale's Novice Class

Novice Class Profiles 6-7

Tournaments hosted by Yale 8-9

Alumni Updates 10-11

Meet the new Executive Board

Yale Sets Records for Team Performance

For the second consecutive year, the Yale Debate Association was named the College of the Year ("COTY") of our competitive circuit. The honor is granted to the team that accumulates the most top finishes over the course of a year, and is intended to reward the depth and size of a team throughout the season. This year, Yale won COTY by the largest margin in league history and amassed the highest point total ever, nearly doubling the second place team (Harvard) and accumulating more points than the remainder of the Ivy League combined.

The YDA's historic year broke other records as well. The team qualified 17 debaters to Nationals, more than any team in recent memory. Yale also qualified seven novice debaters, a record unto itself. At Nation-

als, Yale placed seven teams in the top 24, including the top novice team and three teams in elimination rounds. Steven Kryger (SM '10) was the fourth speaker, and alumnus Andrew Rohrbach (TC '09) served as a member of the tabulation staff.

Numerous members contributed to our team's success this year. Grant May (SY '10) and Sabrina Ali (ES '11) broke at nationals and reached the final round of multiple tournaments. Grant appeared in eight final rounds total and was second in Speaker of the Year rankings, an award given to the top individual debater over the course of the season. Tess Reed (CC '10) Kate Falkenstien (SY '12) broke at nationals and made the final round of Princeton, and Pam Brown (SY '11) and James Luccarelli (BR '10) both won tournaments this year.



Left: Yale Debaters pose with their trophies after winning the West Point tournament in early March.

Second Annual Yale-Howard Debate



Above: Max Webster delivers a speech for the decriminalization of marijuana.

For the second consecutive year, the Yale Debate Association debated Howard University in the “Great Debate” sponsored jointly by the Connecticut NAACP and the YDA. The event drew over two thousand spectators, filling Woolsey Hall, and featured four debaters from each school debating topics about race and equality in America.

The debate was moderated by Nate Parker, who starred in the film “The Great Debaters.” While the teams were different than in the 2007 film, the debate was just as intense. The first topic was whether the United States should or should not incorporate universal health care. Yale debaters Aaron Hakim (PC ’13) and Nate Zelinsky (DC ’13) defended the negative, arguing the counter-position of a means-tested requirement that individuals buy health insurance.

Afterwards, Jon Eng (JE ’11) and Max Webster (PC ’12) were given the choice to advocate whether or not marijuana should be legalized. In a strategic move that won over the crowd, Jon and Max argued that marijuana should not be legal, but should be decriminalized.

Yale Debates PETA on the Ethics of Eating Meat

This March, The Yale Debate Association hosted Bruce Friedrich, a vice president for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to debate the topic “Is Eating Meat Ethical?” More than 150 people filed into Lindsey-Chittenden Hall to hear Steven Kryger (SM ’10) and Grant May (SY ’10) argue in the affirmative against Friedrich. While Friedrich appealed to the audience’s emotions with a Powerpoint presentation featuring pictures of suffering animals, Grant and Steven argued that animals did not meet the threshold of intelligence to be entitled to rights. The debate was followed by an intense hour-long question and answer session featuring all three debaters.

Right: Steven Kryger and Grant May prepare to cross-examine PETA Vice-President Bruce Friedrich.



Yale Wins Oxford Inter-Varsity

Steven Kryger (SM '10) and Grant May (SY '10) won the Oxford Inter-Varsity in November this year. The tournament takes place at the Oxford Union and uses the British Parliamentary format. In addition to winning the tournament, Steven and Grant tied for second speaker, capping an amazing weekend. They join alumni Adam Chilton (ES '07) and Dave Denton (PC '07), who won the tournament in 2006, as Oxford Champions.

Yale teams also competed in the British Parliamentary format at the Cambridge Inter-varsity and the Hart House Inter-varsity in Toronto, Canada. Back in the United States, Yale also excelled at the United States British Parliamentary National Championship. This year's tournament was held in Denver, Colorado and was attended by over 130 teams. Nate Blevins (PC '12) and Naz El-Khatib (SY '12) reached the final round of the tournament. Yale also placed the top novice team and three of the top twenty speakers.

Left: Steven Kryger delivers his speech in the final round of the Oxford IV.



Yale Travels to Turkey for World Championships

Over Winter Break, Yale sent sixteen debaters and judges to the World Championships in Antalya, Turkey. The team debated subjects ranging from a potential partition of Sudan to abolishing sin taxes in democracies. Grant May (SY '10) and Steven Kryger (SM '10) and Tess Reed (CC '10) and Pam Brown (SY '11) reached elimination rounds of the tournament, with Nate Blevins (PC '12), Arjun Shenoy (DC '12) and Meng Jia Yang (PC '12) breaking as judges. The team's performance elevated us to third in the World Ranking System, behind only Sydney and Oxford. We look forward to continuing our success at next year's World Championships, to be held in Gaborone, Botswana.



Left: Pam Brown (SY '11) and Tess Reed (CC '10) prepare for their speeches in the octofinal round of the world championships.

Right: Tess Reed delivers a speech advocating Western recognition of the Dalai Lama.

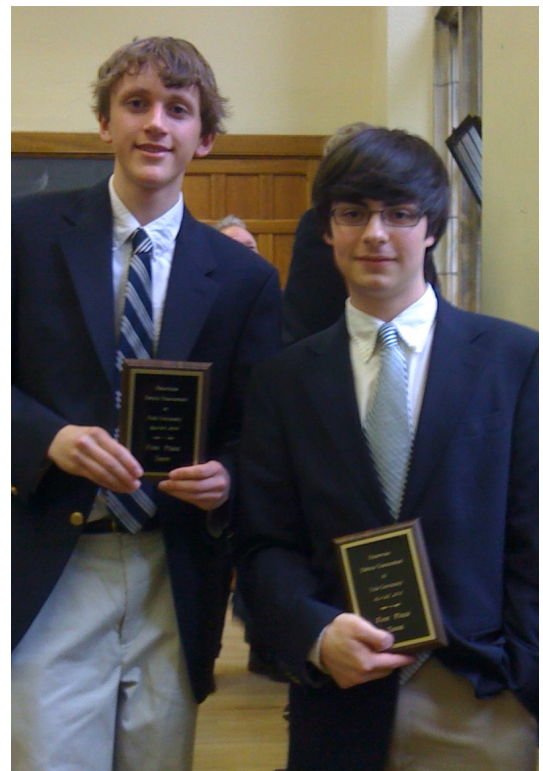


Urban Debate League Reaches New Heights

The 2009-2010 academic year was another year of growth for the Urban Debate League, a YDA-affiliated organization that teaches debate to local New Haven students. Once or twice per week, the UDL sends Yale students to act as coaches in ten local public schools in New Haven. The program teaches critical thinking and public speaking skills to students and provides a gateway for learning about current events. Additionally, the UDL hosts all of its members on campus once per month to participate in a three round debate tournament against their peers.

This year, the UDL expanded its program to several more high schools as well as several middle schools, aiming to engage students in debate at an earlier stage in their education. The program also revamped its curriculum to increase the quality of the service provided by Yale debaters to the local community.

The season culminated with one of the largest Osterweis tournaments in recent memory. The Osterweis Invitational is named after former YDA coach, Rollin Osterweis, and is a charity tournament attended by Connecticut schools from New Haven and beyond.



Top Left: Osterweis participants wait to hear tournament results.

Top Right: The Osterweis champions pose with their plaques.

Bottom Left: New Haven high school students participate in a debate at one of the UDL's monthly tournaments.

Novice Class Sets League Records

In one of our most competitive years, the YDA selected 18 novices out of a field of over 100 applicants. While this year's novices are incredibly diverse in their interests and debate histories, they have managed to become close friends over weekly novice dinners, basketball games, and trips to Five Guys.

This year's novice class has widely earned the reputation on APDA as the most competitively successful novice year of any class in recent memory. The YDA qualified seven novices to Nationals, which matched the highest total number of varsity debaters for any other team on the circuit. Five of those novices finished in the top 24 teams at Nationals, with Nick Cugini breaking to varsity outrounds. Over half of the class finished within the top 25 novice speakers of the year, and Nick Cugini (CC '13) won the Novice of the Year Award, given to the most competitively successful novice of the year on APDA.

The novices have also helped the YDA reach new heights in the number of competitors the team sent to tournaments over the course of the year. This season, it was common for the team to send over 15 debaters to tournaments each weekend (including 32 competitors sent to MIT!).



Above: David Trinh (TD '12) spells out his argument at the MIT Invitational.

Yale Novices by the Numbers

36	Tournaments attended by Yale novices	45	Appearances in varsity out-rounds by Yale novices
3	Novices ranked as national top 5 novice speakers	9	Varsity speaker awards won by Yale novices
11	Novices ranked as national top 25 novice speakers	100	Percent of tournaments where novices won awards
17	Top novice speaker awards	7	Novices qualified to compete at nationals
59	Percent of all novice speaker awards won by Yale	5	Yale novices finishing in the top 25 teams at nationals

Yale Debate Welcomes the Class of 2013



Mostafa Al-Alusi (MC '13)
San Diego, California

Major: Molecular Biochemistry
High school debate: Lincoln-Douglas
Interesting Fact: Mostafa's nickname is "the Mostafa Train."



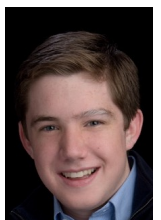
Stacey Chen (SY '13)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Major: Political Science
High school debate: Extemp
Interesting Fact: Stacey once dribbled through the legs of Muggsy Bouges.



Andrew Connery (PC '13)
Norman, Oklahoma

Major: Political Science
High school debate: Policy
Interesting Fact: Andrew loves musical theater and acting.



Max Dovala (SM '13)
Boulder, Colorado

Major: Economics and Math
High school debate: Lincoln-Douglas
Interesting Fact: Max has one white eyebrow.



Paul Gu (PC '13)
Handan, China

Major: Economics and Computer Science
High school debate: Lincoln-Douglas
Interesting Fact: Paul's life goal is to maximize his unique value added to the world.



Josh Kalla (MC '13)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Major: Political Science
High school debate: Public Forum
Interesting Fact: Josh actually loves the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Alyssa Bilinski (CC '13)
Easton, Connecticut

Major: Health Studies
High school debate: Parliamentary
Interesting Fact: Alyssa had not heard of Tiger Woods or Eminem until this year



Robert Colonel (CC '13)
Winter Springs, Florida

Major: Political Science
High school debate: Student Congress
Interesting Fact: Robert is writing a book about the Second Amendment.



Nick Cugini (CC '13)
Houston, Texas

Major: Political Science
High school debate: Extemp
Interesting Fact: Nick loves basketball.



Jacob Effron (SM '13)
Brookline, Massachusetts

Major: History
High school debate: none
Interesting Fact: Jacob once had a conversation with Bon Jovi.



Aaron Hakim (PC '13)
Mississauga, Canada

Major: Molecular and Cellular Biology
High school debate: Canadian Parliamentary
Interesting Fact: Aaron is very good at solving Rubik's cubes.



Ben Kornfeld (DC '13)
Auckland, New Zealand

Major: Political Science and Math
High school debate: Australasian Parli
Interesting Fact: Ben can drink a quart of water in 18 seconds.



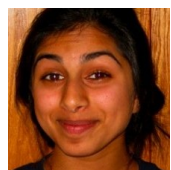


Michael Magdzik (BK '13)
Middletown, Connecticut

Major: Political Science
High school debate: Parliamentary
Interesting Fact: Michael loves Taylor Swift.

Anna Moore (SY '13)
Toronto, Canada

Major: Political Science
High school debate: Canadian Parliamentary
Interesting Fact: Anna visited Antarctica over Spring Break.



Ila Nimgaonkar (ES '13)
Princeton, New Jersey

Major: Undeclared Pre-Med
High school debate: none
Interesting Fact: In high school, Ila was involved in dance and community service.

Meredith Potter (SY '13)
Pinehurst, North Carolina

Major: International Studies
High school debate: Public Forum
Interesting Fact: Meredith was Miss Teen North Carolina in high school.



David Trinh (TD '12)
Alexandria, Minnesota

Major: Political Science
High school debate: Public Forum
Interesting Fact: David owns a collection of Strom Thurmond memorabilia.

Nate Zelinsky (DC '13)
New Haven, Connecticut

Major: Economics
High school debate: Parliamentary
Interesting Fact: Nate can lick his own elbow.



Above: The full novice class poses together after their initiation ceremony in September.

Top Right: A group of novices celebrates the election of our 2010 Executive Board

Bottom Right: Novices take a break to pose for the camera while on the job at the 2009 Yale Inter-varsity.



Yale Inter-Varsity Sets Record for Attendance

The fourth Yale Inter-Varsity attracted the largest number of competitors in the tournament's history, with over 120 teams attending from across the country and around the world. Teams from as far away as Europe competed, and the World Championships Tab Staff traveled from Turkey to help run the tournament. This year's Chief Adjudicator was alumnus Adam Chilton (ES '07), and this year's co-convenors were Kate Falkenstien (SY '12) and Carmen Lu (SM '12). Kate will return as convenor for next year's tournament.

The only tournament of its kind on the American circuit, the Yale IV attracts teams who are looking to acquire experience in the British Parliamentary style in which the World Championships are conducted. The Yale IV features workshops and demonstration rounds to help familiarize the American circuit with the format, and it gives American debaters the opportunity to debate with many of the best teams and judges from around the world. The IV has been partly responsible for the resurgence of the United States at the World championships.

Third Annual Adams Cup Promotes Intramural Debate

The YDA's intramural debate tournament has become a mainstay on campus with its third consecutive year of growth. The tournament pits Yale's twelve residential colleges against one another in pursuit of the heralded Adams trophy. The tournament is named in honor of the YDA's first coach, John Chester Adams.

This year's tournament was directed by David Trinh (TD '12), Ila Nimgaonkar (ES '13), and Jacob Effron (SM '13). With teams from all twelve colleges assembled, students debated four rounds in the parliamentary format. The final round was won by Branford College.

Triangulars

The YDA continued its tradition of hosting the Triangular Debates this year. The debates began as an informal association near the end of the 19th century. A more formal association began in 1908, when Yale joined forces with Harvard and Princeton to hold annual debates called "Triangulars" that would debate current political and economic affairs. The debates gained national attention and were attended by high-level officials and large audiences.

Today, the YDA continues this tradition by debating both the Harvard and Princeton delegations. This year, Grant May (SY '10), Steven Kryger (SM '10) and Tess Reed (CC '10) welcomed the Princeton delegation to Yale campus, where the merits of genetic engineering were discussed. Habib Moody (ES '10), James Luccarelli (BR '10) and Sabrina Ali (ES '11) traveled to Harvard to debate whether individuals should be allowed to sell their votes. This year's tournament was directed by Meng Jia Yang (PC '12).

Thousands of high school students attend 17th Annual Yale Invitational

The Yale Debate Association hosted its 17th annual High School Invitational last September. The tournament takes place as part of the National Forensic League (NFL) for high school students and features competition in over a dozen events ranging from dramatic interpretation and monologues to policy debate. This year, Yale hosted over 1,500 high school students from over one hundred schools. Since its inaugural year in 1992, the tournament has become one of the most prestigious high school competitions in the country. It also has gained a reputation as being one of the most balanced tournaments, ensuring that competitors across all events have an ability to compete at a tournament of the highest caliber.

Every member of our team works at the tournament in a range of positions both preceding

and during the tournament. This year, the YDA began work six months before the tournament, managing everything from attracting judges to hotel reservations to publicity. Preparations are well underway for the tournament's 18th installment this fall.

The High School Invitational is also an excellent opportunity for the team to work closely with the administration and the Yale community to provide high school students the opportunity to see the best of Yale. Thousands of high-schoolers get to see our campus and meet current students, and the team provides guided tours of campus to help facilitate this process. New Haven public schools also volunteer to host rounds, since the tournament is too large to fit on Yale's campus.

Meet our 2009-2010 tournament directors



From top left: Pam Brown (SY '11), Austin Kase (SY '11), Kate Falkenstien (SY '12), Carmen Lu (SM '12), Alyssa Bilinski (CC '12), Nick Cugini (CC '13), Stacey Chen (SY '13), David Trinh (TD '12), Ila Nimgaonkar (ES '13), Jacob Effron (SM '13), and Meng Jia Yang (PC

Yale Association for Debate Alumni

The Yale Association for Debate Alumni (YADA) is continuing to grow since the landmark Centennial Reunion in October 2008, as dozens of alumni have expressed interest in joining the organization. If you are interested in joining, please respond to this email or join on our website, at <http://www.yaled Debate.org/alumni/>. YADA hosted its first city-based reunion in Washington D.C. last fall, in what we hope will be the first of many events and programs that help strengthen the bonds between former members of the team, as well as between current and former YDA members. The team is grateful for your support!



Above: Our newest alumni, the class of 2010

Recent Alumni Updates

Class of 2010

Grant May will take a position at a Connecticut hedge fund in the fall. **Steven Kryger** will spend the summer traveling through Europe and Africa, before beginning work in the fall at a hedge fund in Westport, CT. **Tess Reed** has accepted a two-year position as a Legal Analyst at Goldman Sachs headquarters in New York City. **Habib Moody** will spend the summer working for an NGO in Indonesia before taking a position at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. **James Luccarelli** will be pursuing a doctorate in Chemistry at Oxford; he plans to attend Harvard Medical School upon his return to America.

Class of 2009

Andrew Rohrbach spent last year working in the chambers of Judge David S. Tatel of the D.C. Circuit. He will take a position at Bloomberg News in the fall. **Haley Nix** has completed her first year at Yale Law School, where she will continue in the fall. **Erin Miller** is now the manager of SCOTUSblog, and will be a 1L at Yale Law School this fall.

Class of 2008

Ex-President **Josh Bone** spent last year working for the Center for Law and Social Policy and plans to enroll at Yale Law School in the fall. **Ashali Singham** continues to work at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities as a Research Assistant. **Lauren Hallett** completed her masters degree at the University of Western Australia in restoration ecology; she will be starting a PhD in environmental science at UC Berkeley in the fall. **Jason Blau** got married on June 27th to Diana Mosca (ES '08), and continues to work for Redstone Strategy Group in Boulder, CO.

Class of 2007

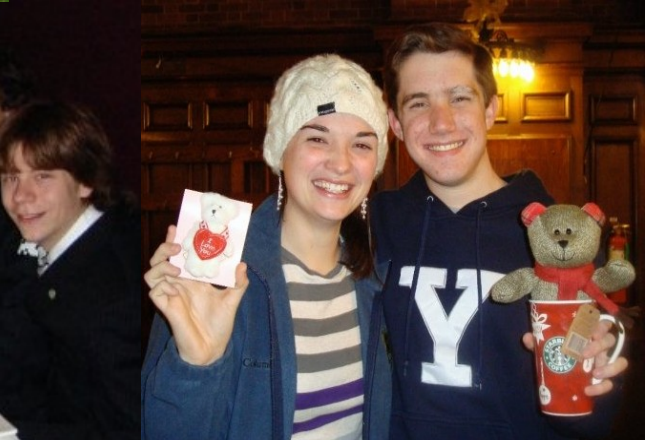
Adam Chilton just finished his first year at Harvard Law school and is spending the summer working at O'Melveny and Myers in Washington, D.C. In the fall he will return to Harvard to start classes in political science as part of a joint degree. **Luke Ortega** is an officer in the US Foreign Service. He is currently serving as the Press Attache at the United States Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil.

The YDA Family

As much as we care about competitive success, the YDA is also a close-knit group of friends. In addition to spending every weekend together at tournaments, the team organizes numerous social functions throughout the year at Yale. Team dinners, arcade nights, and movie nights have become regular occurrences on the YDA. We meet every Thursday to discuss case ideas and catch up with teammates, and the tradition of YDA basketball has become a near weekly event. We also have annual traditions, like the Christmas party, the Senior Banquet, and toasting at Mory's or local restaurants.



Clockwise from top left: The YDA celebrates New Year's Eve in Turkey at the World Championships; YDA members tour Istanbul after the World Championships; novices show the gifts they received during a YDA freshman Secret Santa game; the YDA shares a formal dinner before electing the new executive board; YDA members attend Yale's annual outdoor concert, "Spring Fling."



The 2010 Executive Board

President: Sabrina Ali

Sabrina is a rising senior from New York City in Ezra Stiles College majoring in Political Science. Before she was President, Sabrina was Treasurer of the YDA and a director of the Osterweis Tournament. She has reached elimination rounds of prestigious tournaments such as Nationals and Harvard, and this year she reached the final round at Boston University, Brandeis, and Wellesley. Her favorite debate experience was when she participated in the Yale-Howard Debate in 2009.

Development Director: Naz El-Khatib

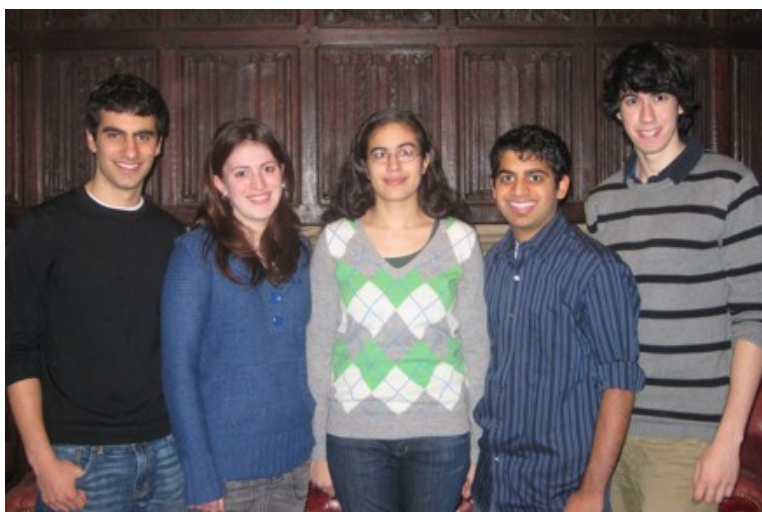
Naz is a rising junior in Saybrook College from Pittsburgh, PA majoring in Political Science. Naz has served as an Assistant Tournament Director at the Yale High School Invitational and as the team's Facilities Coordinator. He reached elimination rounds at tournaments including Harvard, Vassar, Cornell, and the North American Championships, as well as the final round of the British Parliamentary National Championships. Naz looks forward to expanding the team's development projects over the

next year.

Membership Director: Pam Brown

Pam is a rising senior in Saybrook College from Fort Lauderdale, FL. She is a BA/MA candidate in Political Science with a focus in comparative politics. Before serving as Membership Director, Pam was

York City majoring in Political Science. Before serving on the board, he was an Assistant Tournament Director at the 2009 High School Invitational; Marc will direct the tournament in 2010. Marc has debated deep into many tournaments, including Northeastern, Skidmore, and Swarthmore.



Treasurer: Arjun Shenoy

Arjun is a rising junior in Davenport College from Saratoga, CA, majoring in Political Science. He has co-convened the Adams Cup and coordinated corporate sponsorships for the

the Tournament Director of the Yale High School Invitational. She has won the West Point, Dartmouth, and Wellesley tournaments and reached elimination rounds at Harvard and the World Championships. She is excited to recruit the Class of 2014.

Tournament Coordinator: Marc Wallach

Marc is a rising junior in Calhoun College from New

Yale High School Invitational and Yale IV. Arjun reached elimination rounds this year at Stanford and Wellesley, and he was a finalist at the Rutgers tournament. He was also chosen to judge elimination rounds at the World Championships. Next year, he looks forward to managing the team's finances and ensuring its future sustainability.

From all of us with the 2009-2010 Yale Debate Association, thanks for your continued support!

Yale Debate Association
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www.yaledebate.org



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to our donors from the past year

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