

# THE YALE DEBATE ASSOCIATION

## 2013/2014 Newsletter

The YDA by the  
Numbers:

**1**

YDA's U.S.  
Ranking

**6**

Years in a Row  
as top US Team

**11**

Tournaments  
Won

**13**

Top Speaker  
Awards

### Yale Caps Thrilling Season with National Title

After a season that saw a hard fought race for APDA's Team of the Year Title, Yale runs to finals at the North American and United States Universities Debating Championships, a fantastic performance at the World Championships, and another successful year atop the list of the best debate teams in the country, Yale captured its first American Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship since 2009. While Yale had finaled at the tournament in 2011 and 2012, and narrowly lost the chance to do so in 2013, the team of Zach Bakal (CC '14) and Michael Barton (BK '14) defeated teams from across the country to claim victory in a national championship that saw one of Yale's most successful years yet at the tournament.

The early part of the year was dominated by one of the most competitive races for APDA's Team of the Year (TOTY) award in recent years, with Barton and Bakal locked in a close battle with a pair of debaters from Harvard. While Harvard ultimately gained the upper hand, Yale would go on to dominate the TOTY standings regardless, with Barton and Joanna Zheng (TC '14) taking third position to Bakal and Barton's second,



and Diana Li (DC '15) finishing in 9th and 10th place with Nick Cugini (CC '14) and Eric Brooks (DC '14).

At the same time, the YDA had an incredible year on North American and international British Parliamentary circuits, with Sam Ward-Packard (SY '14) and Sesenu Woldmariam (BK '14) reaching the finals of the North American Championship, while Barton and Ward-Packard broke first at Oxford, finaled at Cambridge, semifinalled at the World Championships, and then reached the finals of the U.S. Championship.

Unsurprisingly, the YDA continued to prove itself as the best team in the United States through its continued dominance of APDA's College of the Year (COTY) ranking, where Yale accumulated nearly double the points of the second-place team. This ranking reflects an excellent class of new novices, and the dedication and involvement of the YDA's members to every aspect of the team.

### Yale Stampedes to Victory at 2014 APDA National Championship



The Yale Debate Association captured its first American Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship in five years this past May at the University of Pennsylvania, where for the sixth consecutive year Yale led the league in the number and skill of debaters qualified for the tournament, falling short only to previous Yale records.

Zach Bakal and Michael Barton defeated the team of Quinn Maingi and Sean Leonard from Rutgers in the final round, opposing a case about how San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk should have been depicted in the eponymous 2008 film. "Yale BB" was one of five Yale teams to reach the tournament's elimination rounds. In quarterfinals, the pair faced the Yale team of Allison Douglis (BK '15) and Joanna Zheng on a case about tort law. Douglis and Zheng had previously defeated a team from American University in the octofinal round in a debate on Saudi Arabian foreign policy. Bakal and Barton also faced the Yale team of Nick Cugini and Diana Li. On a different side of the elimination bracket, Eric Brooks and Sam Ward-Packard also made the octofinal round, losing narrowly to adversaries from Brandeis Universi-

ty in a debate about the commercialization of rap.

Yale also forwarded the youngest team to break at nationals, with sophomores Tony Nguyen (DC '16) and Edwin Zhang (MC '16) advancing to quarterfinals after handing defeat to William and Mary by proposing a case about net neutrality.

The tournament also demonstrated the continual commitment of Yale's alumni to the team and circuit. Kate Falkenstein (SY '12) served on the tournament's tab staff, with Andrew Connery (PC '13), David Trinh (TD '12), Max Dovala (SM '13), Ben Kornfeld (DC '13), Robert Colonel (SY '13), and Nate Blevins (PC '12) judging.



**11**

Debaters  
Qualified for  
Nationals

**5**

APDA National  
Championships

**5**

Breaking Teams  
at Nationals

# 216

More Points than 2nd Place

# 4

Of the Country's Top 10 Teams

# 4

Of the Country's Top 15 Speakers



liamentary 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").

This year's TOTY race was a hard fought struggle between Yale and Harvard which featured excellent performances by numerous Yale debaters.

The YDA gained the upper hand early on as Zach Bakal and Michael Barton defeated Harvard's Shomik Ghosh and Josh Zoffer in the semifinals at Johns Hopkins. However, Harvard's victory at Columbia turned the tables going into a series of

tournaments at Brandeis and Harvard itself. While Bakal and Barton suffered an early defeat at Harvard, they emerged victorious from the Brandeis tournament once again clutching the lead in the TOTY race. Unfortunately, a string of Harvard wins at Brown, George Washington, and Maryland meant that Yale's remaining wins and valiant defeats were unable to turn the tide.

While Yale fought fiercely with Harvard for the top spot on the TOTY board, Yale steamrolled the rest of the circuit for third place, with Barton and Joanna Zheng handily winning a pair of tournaments and finishing behind only another Yale team at Stanford. At the same time, Yale rounded out the TOTY board with the partnership of Nick Cugini and Diana Li finishing ninth, and Li repeating her performance with Eric Brooks to capture 10th TOTY as well.

The YDA routed the APDA in the COTY "race." In typical Yale fashion, the YDA accumulated over 200 more points than the combined total of the second ranked team, and qualified the plurality of debaters for the national tournament.

APDA also recognizes the performance of individual speakers through its SOTY awards. In this category too, Yale shone. Zach Bakal won three tournaments to finish the year ranked 2nd, while Michael Barton secured 9th place.



three teams, nearly half the number of total American teams in the break. The team of Zach Bakal and Michael Barton reached the quarterfinal round of the tournament, while the team of Allison Douglass and Joanna Zheng made octofinals, as did the team of Reed Berry (ES '16) and Nathaniel Rubin (SY '15). These achievements were topped only by Michael Barton claiming the title of top speaker, Yale's third time winning the award in four years.

## Yale Leads US Charge at Northams



The North American Championships ("NorthAms") - held this year at the University of Ottawa—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 the rest of the American contingent at the tournament, breaking

The tournament also saw substantial success for Yale's novice teams, with Evan Lynyak (MC '17) and Henry Zhang (ES '17) reaching the novice final, unfortunately being defeated by a team from the University of Toronto's Hart House Debating Society.

# 3

Teams Advancing to Elimination Rounds

# 1

Rank of Yale's Best Speaker



# 0

Other U.S. schools to break more than 2 teams

# 4

Of the Country's  
Top 10 Teams

# 90

Total Varsity Breaks

# 78

Total Speaker  
Awards

## What We've Been Debating

On the YDA we debate primarily in two formats:

- American Parliamentary
- British Parliamentary

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 Semifinals of the 2012 APDA National Championships, the government team Yale CF (Nick Cugini and Kate Falkenstien) proposed a hypothetical—asking whether the government should ban a pill that parents could take to assure their children would be straight. The opposition team, Yale BK (Nate Blevins & Ben Kornfeld) defended their side in the round by arguing for the justness of the government's use of people as an end. The government team won the debate. A video of the round can be found at the following address: <http://videos.apdaweb.org/?p=552>



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.

The 2013 finals of the United States Universities Debating Championship saw Yale face off against teams from Carroll College, Loyola Marymount University, and Stanford. The teams were faced with the motion "Whilst recognizing that life begins at conception, this house still supports a woman's right to abortion." Yale KW (Ben Kornfeld and Sam Ward-Packard) were in the position of opening opposition. They decisively beat the other three teams in the round, coming out as champions atop over 130 teams at the tournament, and capping Yale's third consecutive year of appearing in the finals of the tournament with a national title.

A video of this debate can be found here: <http://vimeo.com/64153358>

# 4

**Consecutive Years of Yale Top Speakers at BP Nationals**

## Yale Dominates in British Parliamentary



The Yale Debate Association's success in British Parliamentary Debate extends across the country and around the world. Yale's excellent performance at Worlds does not tell the full story of our consistently excellent performance up against some of the best teams on the planet.

Every year, the YDA travels to the UK to participate in the Oxford and Cambridge Intervarsity (IV) tournaments. At the Oxford IV, the team of Michael Barton and Sam Ward-Packard were ranked first after the preliminary rounds of the tournament and advanced to the semifinals, while being ranked as the tournament's fourth and tenth speakers. A week later, at the Cambridge IV, Barton and Ward-Packard exceeded their previous performance, making the finals of the tournament and finishing narrowly behind a team from St. Andrews in a debate about the Syrian Civil War.

At the University of Toronto in Canada, Yale had an excellent performance at the debut edition of the North American Universities Debating Championship - featuring the best British Parliamentary teams in the United States and Canada. There, Sam Ward-Packard and

Sesenu Woldemariam successfully made it to the final round, finishing behind McGill in a debate about religious leaders in politics. At the same time, freshmen Adil Hakeem (PC '17) and Shirley Kuang (TD '17) won the novice division and title of best first-year team in North America.

Back home, Yale had a number of notable achievements. At the

second annual Brandeis IV, Yale sw the team of Reed Berry and Edwin Zhang make the semifinals with the hybrid team of Zach Bakal and Harvard's Shomik Ghosh, while the teams of Joanna Zheng and Allison Dougulis and Anirudh Sivaram (CC '15) and Nathaniel Rubin both made quarterfinals.

The final BP competition of the year, the United States National BP Championships ("USU"), took place at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana. Six Yale debaters went to the Midwest to compete at the tournament. After six preliminary rounds, Michael Barton and Sam Ward-Packard emerged atop the standings. Tied on speaks, Ward-Packard took his second top speaker award at the tournament, with Barton receiving his first. The team continued Yale's tradition of reaching USU finals, finishing second to a team from Bates College on a motion about . Two other Yale teams made it through the preliminary rounds and into to the break, with Allison Dougulis and Joanna Zheng reaching the semifinal round, and Nathaniel Rubin and Anirudh Sivaram reaching the octofinal.

# 3

**Years in a Row in USU Finals**

# 4

**Yale Debaters Tied for Top Speaker at BP Nationals**

# 2

# 106

Consecutive  
Years of  
Triangulars

# 6

Years of the  
Great Debate

# 1000+

Audience at the  
Great Debate

## Yale Competes in 106th Annual Triangular Debates with Harvard and Princeton

For the 105th 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.

Princeton traveled to Yale this year; seniors Eric Brooks, Nick Cugini, and Sesenu Woldemariam debated the Princeton delegation on a case about political philosophy. Yale faced Harvard away, with Michael Barton, Zach Bakal, and Sam Ward-Packard facing Harvard’s Josh Zoffer, Ben Sprung-Keyser, and Nathaniel Donahue on a motion about the financial sector.

## 6th Annual Great Debate is Great Success

For the sixth 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. For the first time, the YDA competed against Marshall, Texas’ Wiley College—home to the historic debate team depicted in the 2007 film *The Great Debaters*.

Held at New Haven’s Schubert Theater, the event featured a debate on civil rights and public policy issues. Yale was represented in the debate by Sesenu Woldemariam, Sam

Ward-Packard, Diana Li, and Joanna Zheng.

The YDA would especially like to thank the NAACP of Connecticut, its president Scott X Esdaile, and Wiley College’s Melvin B. Tolson Forensics Society.



## YDA Tops North American Teams 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, eight members of the YDA travelled to Chennai, India to compete and judge in the latest iteration of the championship, one of the largest delegations at the tournament. After nine preliminary rounds, Yale successfully put two of its three teams through to the elimination rounds. Michael Barton and Samuel Ward-Packard broke 24th, and Zach Bakal and Sesenu Woldemariam broke 30th. Both teams successfully advanced from the partial-double-

octofinal round about gated communities in the developing world, and similarly were victorious in the octofinal in a debate on whether Japan should shame its soldiers who participated in World War II. In the quarterfinal round about auctioning the right to govern bankrupt cities, Bakal and Woldemariam unfortunately did not advance further. However, Barton and Ward-Packard repeated Yale’s success at the tournament from 2011 by advancing to Semifinals, before narrowly losing a spot in the final to a team from the University of Sydney. In addition, Diana Li had the honor of breaking as a judge, and helped adjudicate the tournament’s octofinal round.



# 1

Team in Worlds  
Semifinals

# 8,323

Miles to Chennai

# 7

Consecutive  
Years Breaking  
Multiple Teams  
at Worlds

**1500+**

**Competitors at the Yale HST**

**100+**

**Competitors at Proams**

**44**

**Universities Competing at the Yale IV**

## The Yale High School Tournament

The Yale Debate Association hosted its 20th 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 competitions in the country, and is certainly the most respect-

ed student-run tournament nationwide.

All of this was only possible with the hard work of Tournament Directors Becca Steinberg (BK '15) and Shikha Garg (SM '15), along with assistants Tony Nguyen, Kelly Wu (TD '16), Reed Berry and Aunica Steele (TC '15). Diana Li 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.

## Yale Proams

The Yale Debate Association hosted its first annual APDA ProAm tournament this February, with teams from across the country in attendance. Designed as an opportunity to help contribute to the development of debaters on APDA, the Proam tournament featured some of the best adjudication on the circuit, and gave young debaters an excellent chance both to learn from their older partners, as well as to practice debating motions as are featured at the North American Championships. The tourna-

ment featured motions spanning topics as diverse as American party politics, abstract philosophy, and the ethics of military service.

The tournament ran very smoothly, thanks to the hard work of tournament director Michael Barton, as well as assistant tournament directors Reed Berry and Edwin Zhang and tab director Zach Bakal. In assistance with the whole of the YDA in judging and handling tournament logistics, they assured the YDA's new tradition got off to an excellent start.

## The Yale IV

As the largest so far, the seventh Yale Intervarsity tournament was an unprecedented success, attracting more than 300 debaters from more than 40 universities, with Bates College winning the final in a field contested amongst some of the most successful North American debaters on record.

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 style needed to compete with the rest of the world, without the cost of traveling overseas. In addition, this IV continued the practice of flying experienced judges in from Europe and around the world to let debaters experience the truly global judging found at worlds.

The 2013 Intervarsity was overseen by tournament directors Allison Dougis and Anirudh Sivaram. YDA alumni Ben Kornfeld and Nate Blevins served on the adjudication core for the event, as well as 2014 Worlds Semifinalist Sam Ward-Packard.

## The Yale Debate Association Class of 2017



**Philip Groenwegen**  
Berkeley College  
Hometown: Glenmont, NY  
Major: Economics  
High School Debate: None  
Interests: Languages, hiking, politics



**Sachith Gullapalli**  
Berkeley College  
Hometown: Roanoke, VA  
Major: Computer Science & Mathematics  
High School Debate: None  
Interests: Running, mountain biking, programming



**Adil Hakeem**  
Pierson College  
Hometown: Singapore  
Major: Computer Science/Ethics, Politics, & Economics  
High School Debate: Parliamentary  
Interests: Shower singing, computer games



**Delaney Herndon**  
Branford College  
Hometown: Durham, NC  
Major: Undecided  
High School Debate: Congress  
Interests: Game of Thrones, Christiano Ronaldo, Duke basketball, congressional politics



**Nikki Hwang**  
Morse College  
Hometown: Seoul, South Korea  
Major: Undecided  
High School Debate: Parliamentary (World Schools)  
Interests: Traveling, yogurt, teaching cooking



**Alexander Jacobson**  
Saybrook College  
Hometown: Greensboro, NC  
Major: History  
High School Debate: Public Forum  
Interests: Soviet history, obscure movies, weird music



**Amen Jalal**  
Timothy Dwight College  
Hometown: Lahore, Pakistan  
Major: Ethics, Politics, & Economics  
High School Debate: Parliamentary (World Schools)  
Interests: Writing, traveling, eating, reading



**Michelle Kelrikh**  
Morse College  
Hometown: Buffalo Grove, IL  
Major: Political Science/Philosophy  
High School Debate: Congress  
Interests: Politics, social justice, movies, baking

**7**

**Top Novice Team Awards**

**6**

**Top Novice Speaker Awards**

**3**

**Varsity Breaking Teams**

# 32

Total Novice Team Awards

# 57

Total Novice Speaker Awards

# 4

Of the Country's Top 30 Novices



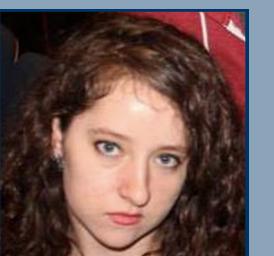
**Shirley Kuang**  
Timothy Dwight College  
Hometown: Syosset, NY  
Major: Undecided  
High School Debate: Public Forum  
Interests: Travel, photography, film



**Laila Robbins**  
Calhoun College  
Hometown: New York, NY  
Major: History  
High School Debate: Public Forum  
Interests: Photography, singing, prison reform



**Isabelle Taft**  
Silliman College  
Hometown: Atlanta, GA  
Major: History  
High School Debate: Public Forum, Extemp  
Interests: Running, David Foster Wallace



**Megan Wilson**  
Morse College  
Hometown: Seattle, WA  
Major: Economics/Political Science  
High School Debate: Public Forum  
Interests: Reading, talking with friends, watching TV



**Henry Zhang**  
Ezra Stiles College  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA  
Major: Undecided  
High School Debate: Lincoln Douglas  
Interests: Food, soccer, house of cards



**Evan Lynyak**  
Morse College  
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA  
Major: History

High School Debate: Parliamentary & Congress  
Interests: Languages, traveling, basketball, reading



**Emma Sapat**  
Ezra Stiles College  
Hometown: Falmouth, ME  
Major: Ethics, Politics, & Economics  
High School Debate: Lincoln Douglas  
Interests: Philosophy, Ceramics, Baking



**Amaka Uchegbu**  
Trumbull College  
Hometown: Sheffield, United Kingdom  
Major: Ethics, Politics, & Economics  
High School Debate: British Parliamentary  
Interests: Shots



**Zachary Young**  
Silliman College  
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH  
Major: History  
High School Debate: British Parliamentary  
Interests: Politics, coding, pickup basketball

## The 2014 Executive Board



# 4

New Board Members

# 39

Collective Years of Debate Experience

# 150+

Collective Elimination Rounds Debated

**President: Diana Li.** Diana is a senior in Davenport College majoring in Ethics, Politics, and Economics. Originally from Brooklyn, she has been involved in debate since high school, where she competed in the Lincoln-Douglas format. Before serving as president, she was the team's tournament coordinator. Beyond debate, she enjoys photography, biking, writing for the local newspaper, napping, and telling people she will get her driver's license eventually.

**Treasurer: Anirudh Sivaram.** Anirudh is a senior in Calhoun College hailing from Dubai. An Ethics, Politics, and Economics major, he helped launch his high school's debating program and today competes in both the British and American Parliamentary styles. In the past, he has served as a convener for the Yale Intervarsity tournament.

**Director of Development: Nathaniel Rubin.** Nathaniel is a senior in Saybrook College. Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, he is a philosophy major who competed in Lincoln-Douglas and British Parliamentary debate in high school. Today, Nathaniel enjoys debating on both the British and American Parliamentary circuits, where he has reached the elimination rounds of multiple domestic and international championship tournaments. Before serving as the YDA's development director, Nathaniel directed the Osterweis high school parliamentary debate tournament. When not debating, Nathaniel enjoys making bad puns, hiking, skiing, and discovering new types of cheese.

**Tournament Coordinator: Edwin Zhang.** Edwin Zhang is a junior in Morse College from Akron, OH planning to double major in Applied Math and Ethics, Politics, and Economics. In his free time, he enjoys playing pick-up basketball, watching Suits, and reading science fiction. He has really bad taste in music and will sing top 40 hits to you if given the chance. Prior to serving on board, he was an assistant tournament director for the Yale Intervarsity tournament.

**Director of Membership: Allison Douglis.** Allison is a senior in Berkeley College majoring in Philosophy. She grew up in New Jersey and attended Ridge High School, where she competed in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Upon joining the YDA, she co-directed the 2013 Yale Intervarsity Tournament and assistant-directed the 2012 Osterweis Tournament, served as the team's Equal Opportunity Facilitator, and was a novice mentor for the American Parliamentary league. Apart from debate, she enjoys working on the Yale Philosophy Review, binge-watching Netflix, and (very occasionally) reading for pleasure.

# 3

**Organizations  
We Help Coach**



Board Members of the National High School Debate League of China.

# 5

**Championship  
Titles Won by  
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.



#### **Steven Kryger**

Steven Kryger currently works at Bridgewater Associates. He graduated from Yale College in 2010; during his time on the team he was champion of the Oxford IV and reached the elimination rounds of multiple national and international tournaments.



#### **Alex Taubes**

Alex Taubes is a 3L at Yale Law School. He graduated from Boston University in 2011, where he served as President of the Boston University Debate Society. In 2011, Alex was the first debater in over a decade to win APDA's Team of the Year, Speaker of the Year, and National Championship awards in the same year.



#### **Nick Cugini**

Nick Cugini is a member of the Yale College Class of 2014. On the Yale team, Nick was 2nd TOTY in 2011, a Worlds Semifinalist the same year, and an APDA Nationals Finalist in 2012.

# 50+

**Collective Final  
Rounds Be-  
tween Our  
Coaches**

# 3

**Organizations  
We Help Coach**

# 5

**Championship  
Titles Won by  
Our Coaches**

# 50+

**Collective Final  
Rounds Be-  
tween Our  
Coaches**

## **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 had 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.

## **The Social Side of the YDA**

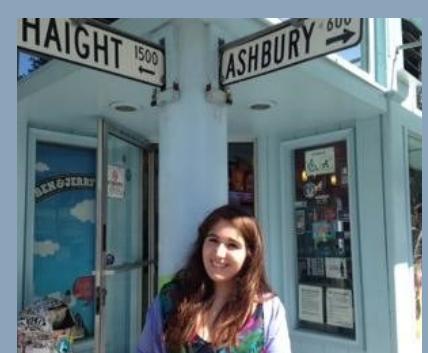
Apart from being a competitively successful team, the YDA is a tight-knit group of friends. While team members spend time together at tournaments, the team hosts many social functions throughout the year at Yale - ranging from the annual Christmas party to toasting at Mory's. More informally, members 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 farewell 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 club sports 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 Yale International Relations Association. 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 Architecture, English, Economics, Philosophy, Developmental Biology and Political Science. Over their summers, our members work as management consultants and speechwriters, as teachers and as investment bankers, for government and nonprofits, and study abroad around the from Brazil to Britain and from Spain to China.

# 30+

**Yearly Social  
Gatherings**

# 12

**Countries from  
which YDA  
Members Come**

# 14

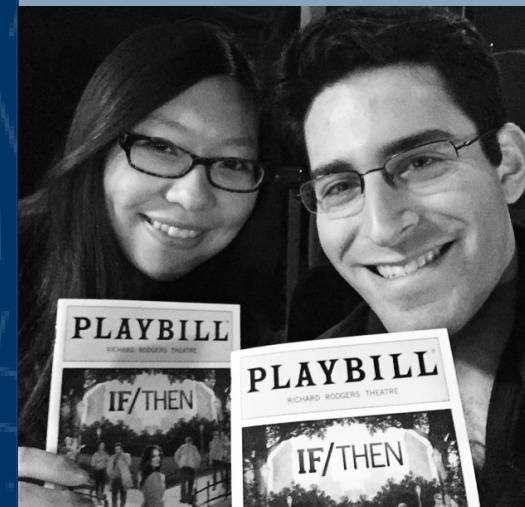
**Different Majors  
Among the YDA**

# 300

Members of  
YADA

# 5

Different  
Professions of  
the Class of '14



## Alumni Events

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 2014, get-togethers were held in both New York and Washington D.C., with dozens of people involved.

The events took place at bars in both cities, where members of classes present and past met, shared stories about debate and life, and sang karaoke. Current team members attended the events, and an excellent time was had by all.



# Yale Debate Alumni

## The Class of 2014

**Zach Bakal** is an equity analyst at Credit Suisse in New York, NY.

**Michael Barton** is an analyst with Foros, an investment bank in New York City.

**Eric Brooks** is an analyst with Bracebridge, a hedge fund in Boston.

**Fil Lekkas** is a Fox Fellow at the Free University of Berlin.

**Sam Ward-Packard** worked as a campaign manager for Alex Taubes for State House, in Madison, CT.

**Sesenu Woldemariam** is working for the Partnership for Inner-City Education in New York City.

**Joanna Zheng** is working as an analyst at UBS in New York City.

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

### John Chester Adams: \$1000+

Spark Investments

Miles Gersh  
Deborah Rhode  
David Trinh  
Stephanie Vardavas

### Triangulars Level: \$500-\$999

Adam Jed  
Peter Rohrbach  
David Yergin

### Championship Level: \$250-\$499

Raymond Agran  
Marvin Chatinover  
Adam Chilton  
Jay Cox  
Orin Kramer  
Jeffrey Kulkarni  
Sarah Marberg  
Krista McGruder  
Frederick Meyer  
Stephen Neuwirth  
Steve Umin

### General Donor Level

Jeff Bandman  
Paul R. Bardack  
Anthony Brett  
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Eric Fishman  
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Edwin Gonzondsky  
Charles Jefferson  
William Kilborne  
Charles A. Krause  
Meir Kryger  
Aaron Lemon-Strauss  
Don Leufen  
Martin Levin  
Victoria Lord  
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Peter Oddleifson  
John and Caroline Rohrbach  
Richard Ruback  
Richard Seeborg  
Peter H. Seed  
Joe Smith  
Stephen Susman  
Andrew Towne  
Steve Umin  
Jerry Vildostegui  
Brian Weinstein  
Stephen Wilson  
Aaron Zelinsky  
Samuel Zurier

# 106

Years of the  
YDA

# 5

APDA National  
Championships

# 6

APDA Team of  
the Year Awards