

THE YALE DEBATE ASSOCIATION

2018-2019 Newsletter

The YDA by
the Numbers:

1

The YDA's US
Ranking

10

Years in a Row
as Top US
Team

8

Tournaments
Won

5

Top Speaker
Awards

Another Outstanding Year

The Yale Debate Association continued to dominate both at home and abroad this year. The team snagged its tenth consecutive Club of the Year Award and broke three teams and five judges at the World Universities Debating Championships among a long list of its other stellar accomplishments from this year.



The team excelled once more at APDA Nationals, with one team reaching semifinals, and one team reaching quarterfinals. By staying on top of the ranks throughout the season, Yale also keep its COTY status for the tenth year in a row, leading second place team Harvard by over 40 points.

Yale also performed strongly at WUDC. Three of five teams broke to elimination rounds, with Yale B reaching quarterfinals, and Yale A and Yale C both reaching double-octafinals. All five Yale-affiliated judges also judge broke.

The YDA had another outstanding year, and is looking forward to the next!

Excellence at APDA Nationals

The YDA had another incredible year at APDA Nationals. Eleven team members qualified, and five teams competed at Nationals, including two novices. Yale's competitors performed very well. Three debaters earned top twenty speaker awards: Will Arnesen ('20), also 10th Speaker of the Year, was 2nd speaker, Ellie



Singer ('21) was 6th speaker, and Jack Kelly ('21) was 16th speaker.

Two teams also broke to elimination rounds. Ellie Singer and Arun Sharma ('20) got to quarters, losing to UVA's Eve Fidler and Yixuan Liu opposing the case "The reverse harem anime genre is on balance good." Will Arnesen and Xavier Sottile ('19) broke as the top seed made it to semis, also dropping to UVA opposing the case "Opp choice: Are ambiguous portrayals of sexual/romantic relationships between two characters of the same gender on balance good for the LGBT+ community?"

Nationals also sealed Yale's dominance on the OTY boards. Not only did Yale keep Club of the Year for another year, but we racked up other awards as well. The team of Will Arnesen and Xavier Sottile won 3rd Team of the Year and the team of Ellie Singer and Arun Sharma were 9th TOTY. Additionally, Will Arnesen was 10th Speaker of the Year. All in all, Yale kept up its years-long streak of having debaters on multiple OTY boards, continuing a strong trend of team development and success.

11

**Debaters
Qualified to
Nationals**

2

**APDA
Nationals
Breaking
Teams**

3

**Top 20 APDA
Nationals
Speaker
Awards**

10
Debaters
Competing at
WUDC

5
Yale-Affiliated
Judges
Breaking

3
Teams in the
Break at
WUDC

A Great World Championship

The World Universities Debating Championship is one of the most exciting tournaments of the year. Teams from all over the world gather to compete over a week during winter break. This year, five teams and five judges made their way to Cape Town, South Africa, to partake in the championship, which occurs in the British Parliamentary style of debate.

Yale's teams, of whom all but two were not graduating with many returning again this year, did a great job once more! The team of Yale B, Will Arnesen and Charlie Barton ('20), made it all the way to quarterfinals. The teams of Yale A, Xavier Sottile and Michael Mao ('19), and Yale C, Shruti Baxi ('20) and David Edimo ('21), broke to double-octafinals. Yale also had four judges in addition to one independent adjudicator who was Yale-affiliated, and all five judge broke: Jack Kelly, Lorenzo Pinasco ('21), Ko Lyn Cheang ('21), Trent Kannegieter ('21), and political science PhD student Eva-Marie Quinones.

Outside of the competition, our team had an incredible time exploring South Africa. Taking advantage of the tournament occurring over winter break, several people stayed after the competition ended to hike Table Mountain, spend time at the beach, and go on wine tours, and many more exciting activities.



Smashing Success at the North American Debating Championships

Ten Yale teams traveled to Rutgers for this year's NorthAms, including three novice teams, and coach Danny DeBois.

Once again, Yale performed brilliantly. Three debaters, all sophomores, earned speaker awards: Ellie Singer was 3rd, Ko Lyn Cheang was 4th, and Lorenzo Pinasco was 10th, with his partner Jack Kelly narrowly missing the tab on a tiebreaker.



Four teams broke to elimination rounds: Ko Lyn Cheang and David Edimo and Jack Kelly and Lorenzo Pinasco made octafinals, both opposing the motion "This House believes that popular referenda should be banned in Western liberal democracies," Arun Sharma and Ellie Singer made semifinals governing the motion "This House believes that the theater and musical community should abandon the 'no-change' norm," and Will Arnesen and Xavier Sottile won the tournament on a 4-3 decision opposing the motion "This House believes that every billionaire is a policy failure."

Outside of the competition, the team had an excellent time bonding amongst ourselves and with other teams at social functions including the banquet. Overall, it was a great time, and the YDA earned its second North American Championship in three years!

10
Teams
Attending

4
Teams
Breaking

3
Speaker
Awards

4

Countries
the YDA
Debated In

7766

Miles to
Cape Town

3

Teams in the
Break at USUs

British Parliamentary Brilliance

This year, the YDA debated at several tournaments across multiple countries: South Africa, England, Canada, and the US.

At the HWS IV, two teams broke: Quinn Crawford ('21) and Eva-Marie Quinones were semifinalists, and Ko Lyn Cheang and Lorenzo Pinasco were finalists. At the Hart House IV, the team earned more impressive accolades: two breaking teams and two speaker awards! The team of Celia Gazepi ('22) and Alex Gordon ('22), both novices, made semifinals, and the team of Will Arnesen and Ko Lyn Cheang were finalists! Will was 4th speaker, and Ko Lyn was 5th.

Title tournaments had strong showings as well. At the North American Universities Debating Championships, three teams broke: Shreeya Singh ('21) and Charlie Barton and Shruti Baxi and David Edimo were quarterfinalists, and Michael Mao and Xavier Sottile were semifinalists. Yale's talent truly shone at the US Universities Debating Championships. Three teams broke: David Edimo and Jack Kelly reached quarterfinals, Will Arnesen and Charlie Barton reached semifinals, and Ko Lyn Cheang and Lorenzo Pinasco reached finals! Additionally, Ko Lyn Cheang was top speaker and Lorenzo Pinasco was top ESL speaker – both only as sophomores!



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**Public Debates
in 2018-2019**



Public Outreach

When we aren't debating at tournaments, the YDA participates in public debates and other partnerships. This year's were even more exciting than the last!

Early in the year, team members Will Arnesen, Ko Lyn Cheang, Lorenzo Pinasco, and Karina Franke ('20) participated in a public debate sponsored by the Economist on the topic "The global trade system is broken." Will and Ko Lyn supported the motion, and Lorenzo and Karina argued against it.

This spring, team members Ko Lyn Cheang and Greg Schwartz ('22) participated in the tradition of a public debate with members of the French War College, opposing the topic "This House believes that democracy is always the best way to peace."

Lastly, the team had an exciting new collaboration with ESPN's *First Take*. Team members provided advice and feedback on the debating skills of hosts Stephen A. Smith and Max Kellerman, and in return were promised the chance to eventually travel to watch a live taping of the show!

1

**Debate
Advising
Project
for ESPN's
First Take**

3558

**Miles Traveled
by the Ecole
Militaire Team**

2000+
Competitors at
the Yale HST

170+
Teams at the
Yale IV

50+
Teams at
Osterweis

Our Tournaments

Throughout the year, the YDA runs five different tournaments. These tournaments are:

Yale High School Tournament: By far our biggest tournament, the high school tournament attracts thousands of competitors across several events from all over the country.

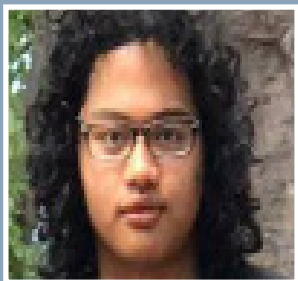
Yale IV: Yale's British Parliamentary debate competition is one of the most prestigious in the world outside WUDC, and is the biggest BP competition in North America. Teams come from multiple countries and dozens of universities, and the adjudication core and attendees regularly include world champions and finalists.

Yale ProAms: Our spring tournament provides one of the best APDA motions opportunities in the country, and is designated for novice-varsity partnerships. This year's competition featured hundreds of high-level competitors, including WUDC finalists and this year's Speaker of the Year.

The Osterweis Tournament: In the spring, the YDA hosts a free parliamentary tournament for local high school competitors. Dozens of teams competed and debated on diverse motions judged by Yale debaters.

The Adams Cup: The YDA also hosts a spring tournament aimed at lighthearted intramural competition. The Adams Cup was officially established at Yale in 1948, making it a long and dear community tradition.

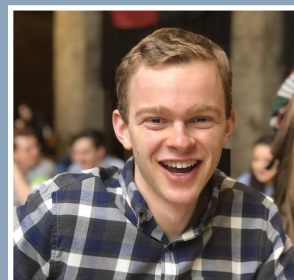
Yale Debate Association Class of 2020



Ariq Hatibie
Hopper College
Hometown: Hong Kong, HK
Major: Global Affairs

Andy Parker

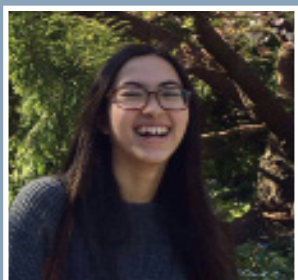
Morse College
Hometown: Woodside, CA
Major: Computer Science



Arun Sharma
Pierson College
Hometown: Chicago
Major: History and Philosophy

Karina Franke

Timothy Dwight College
Hometown: Cortlandt Manor, NY
Major: Economics



Esul Burton
Silliman College
Hometown: Arlington, VA
Major: Political Science

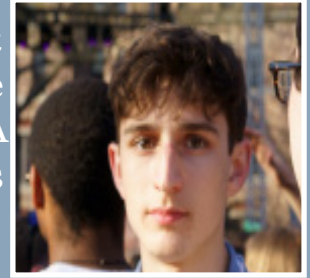
Will Arnesen

Branford College
Hometown: Bethesda, MD
Major: Economics & Mathematics





Charlie Barton
Pauli Murray College
Hometown: Port Chester, NY
Major: Economics



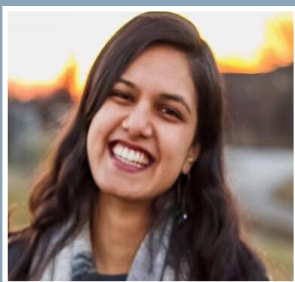
Dalton Boyt
Berkeley College
Hometown: Bakersfield, CA
Major: Economics



Jake Carlson
Ezra Stiles College
Hometown: Mystic, CT
Major: Ethics, Politics, and Economics



Omar Qureshi
Jonathan Edwards College
Hometown: Clovis, CA
Major: Molecular, Cellular, Dev Biology



Shruti Baxi
Silliman College
Hometown: Naperville, IL
Major: Cognitive Science



Loften Deprez
Pauli Murray College
Hometown: Mebane, NC
Major: Economics

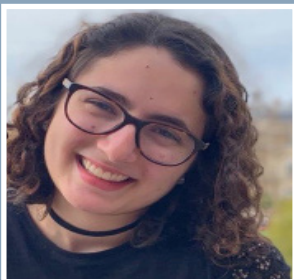
Samantha Wood
Saybrook College

Hometown: Wolfeboro, NH
Major: Religious Studies



Deena Mousa
Jonathan Edwards College
Hometown: Wynantskill, NY
Major: Ethics, Politics, and Economics

Sidney Saint-Hilaire
Benjamin Franklin College
Hometown: Elmont, NY
Major: Cognitive Science



Hala El Solh
Berkeley College
Hometown: Orchard Park, NY
Major: Ethics, Politics, and Economics

Danny Rice
Jonathan Edwards College
Hometown: Queens Park, Australia
Major: Cognitive Science



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Board
Members

4
Debate
Backgrounds

2
Countries

YDA Board

President: Shruti Baxi. Shruti is a senior from Naperville, IL majoring in Cognitive Science with a focus in Behavioral Economics. She participated in JSA in high school, but had little competitive debate experience. Outside of debate, you can find Shruti streaming way too much TV from shady websites and playing foosball in the Silliman basement.

Director of Membership: Charlie Barton. Charlie is a senior in Pauli Murray College majoring in Economics. He comes from Queens, New York and competed in extemporaneous speaking during high school. When he isn't debating, he enjoys reading, yoyoing, and thinking about elephants.

Director of Tournaments: Lorenzo Pinasco. Lorenzo is a junior in Ezra Stiles College studying economics and philosophy. Born and raised in Lima, Peru, he represented his country as a high schooler in the World Schools Debating Championship. Outside of debate, Lorenzo spends time playing chess—and losing—against the Yale Debate Association's webmaster.

Director of Development: Ellie Singer. Ellie is a junior majoring in political science from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She debated in public forum and world schools debate with Team USA in high school. Ellie enjoys blowing her paychecks on Blue State, watching Desperate Housewives, and being a lonely voice for non-economics majors on the YDA.

Treasurer: Karina Franke. Karina is a senior in Timothy Dwight College majoring in Economics with Energy Studies. She is from Cortlandt Manor, NY, and competed in public forum debate during high school. In her free time, she enjoys running and all things coffee.

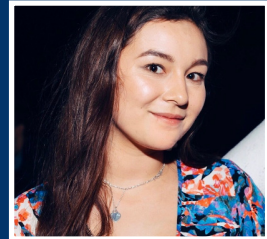


Our Coaches

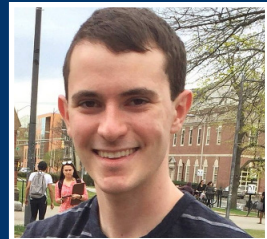
Adela Lilollari is currently a JD student at Yale Law School. She graduated from Yale with a B.A. in Ethics, Politics, and Economics. Adela was the President of the YDA and competed in APDA and BP. Adela was 3rd TOTY, APDA and BP Nationals quarterfinalist, Worlds octofinalist, and NAUDC semifinalist.



Alex Johnson graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania in 2019 with a B.A. in Philosophy, where she was a two-term President of the Penn Debate Society. She will matriculate at Yale Law School in 2021. As an undergraduate, Alex was thrice ranked in the top 10 Speakers of the Year. She was also a Nationals quarterfinalist, a NAUDC semifinalist, a North American Championships octafinalist, and a two-time WUDC double octafinalist. She also served as APDA President from 2017-2018. Alex won the Jeff Williams award for most -OTY performances and the Distinguished Service Award. She currently works as a Legal Assistant at the public interest law firm Sanford Heisler Sharp, where she focuses on employment discrimination cases.



Danny DeBois debated for Harvard, where he was the 2018 world champion in British Parliamentary debate. He won numerous other tournaments, including the Yale Intervarsity twice and the HWS IV. He was previously a national champion in high school debate. Danny now does economic research for a hedge fund.



Miriam Pierson debated for Swarthmore for four years and won Speaker of the Year and Team of the Year in 2018 and the National Championship in 2017. She was also a two-time finalist at the Yale IV and broke at WUDC 2018. She is currently working in the NYC Mayor's Public Engagement Unit as a Project Manager.

