



## Highlights from the 2006-2007 Debate Season cont.

be impressive. Already this year the team has competed at Smith College, Harvard, and Yale's IV tournament. While at Smith, Bates debaters competed primarily in novice-varsity pairs to use the weekend as a training experience. One pair of novices consisting of Peter Gault from Darien, CT, and Clara Finley from Pittsburg, PA, broke to semi-finals at Smith. Chris Ray ('10), a novice from Midlothian, VA, won 4<sup>th</sup> place novice speaker. And at Harvard, the varsity pairing of Matt Marienthal and Brendan Jarboe broke to semi-finals.

Graduating such a large pool of talent has been a challenge for the team, but it's a challenge we've risen to quite well. Our results this past year have continued to demonstrate our ability to win awards and gain recognition on APDA. I encourage you to look for our results at tournaments throughout the next year.

## The Importance of Reaching Out to the Campus

By Daniel Berman '08

One of the things that made me decide to go to Bates was the decision of the administration to put on a public debate for the admitted students when I visited campus. As a student who had not had the opportunity to pursue debate in high school, I found it incredibly interesting. Wanting to be part of the debate team was a key reason I ended up choosing Bates over other schools.

Now it is my senior year, and that experience seems so long ago. This year, however, I am the Convener of Public Debates, which means I have the responsibility for planning, organizing, and presenting the public debates hosted by the Brooks Quimby Debate Council. While all of the officer positions—with the exception of the Director of PR and Alumni Affairs—deal with people who are currently on the team, public debates are the main way in which the team can reach out to the wider Bates community. Most of the students at Bates don't accompany us to tournaments or attend practices, so public debates are essentially the only face they see of team whose travel budget dwarfs that of any sports team at the school.

It is therefore vital to use these opportunities to reach out to the student body and the community at large. We certainly began that process earlier this year when we held a debate on the resolution: *This House believes that Bates should construct a wall around campus*, in which we discussed the extent of engagement between the college and the greater Lewiston/Auburn area. We continued this trend with our second debate held on the Saturday of Parent's Weekend, when we debated the merits of Bates' core requirements for graduation. Both debates were extremely successful, and engaged the students, faculty, staff and visitors to campus.

We have also endeavored to include more novices in our public debates this year, along with some of the more seasoned varsity debaters. I have long felt that one of the best ways to include novices on the team is to include them in these debates. Doing so helps increase retention rate as well as encourages their friends to come watch our debates and learn about the team.

So far we have had only two public debates this year, but we have ambitious plans for the future. The team intends to hold another public debate prior to our high school tournament in November, and we hope to continue the tradition we began last year of hosting a Yale-Bates public debate before our own APDA tournament. We are off to a strong start, and are headed in the right direction of increasing our involvement with all members of the Bates community.

## Who's Who on the Officer Board?

### TEAM PRESIDENT

Brendan Jarboe '08  
Hometown: Acton, MA

### VICE PRESIDENT

Geoff Shaughnessy '09  
Hometown: Hanover, NH

### DIRECTOR OF NOVICE AFFAIRS

Matthew Marienthal '10  
Hometown: Chicago, IL

### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Ariela Silberstein '10  
Hometown: New York, NY

### EQUITY OFFICER

Rachel Kurzus '10  
Hometown: Ridgewood, NJ

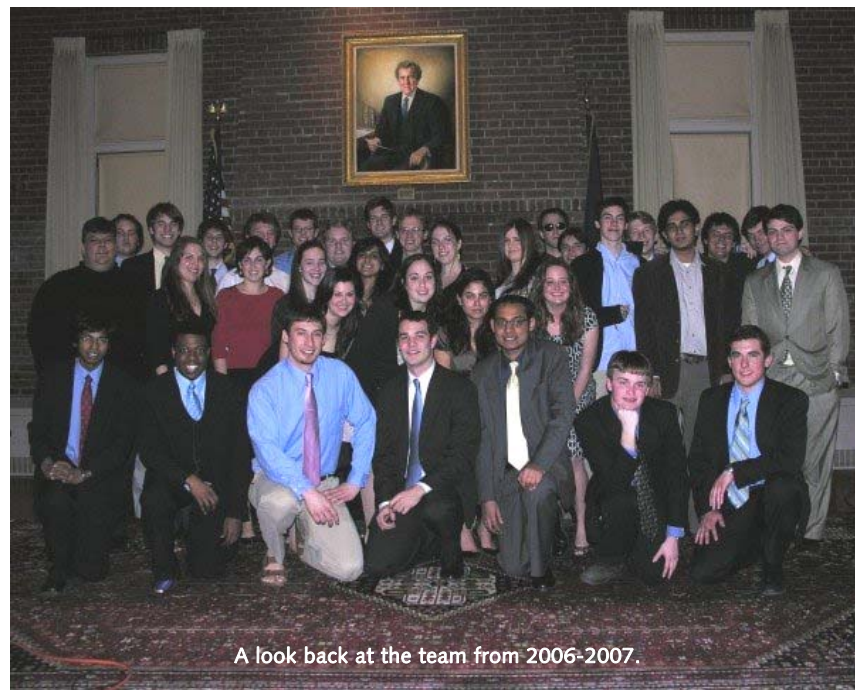
### CONVENER OF PUBLIC DEBATES

Daniel Berman '08  
Hometown: Winchester, MA

### TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Alix Melamed '10  
Hometown: New York, NY

Sartaj Ahmed Khan Mojlish '10  
Hometown: Dhaka, Bangladesh



A look back at the team from 2006-2007.

## The Debate Team Wants to Hear Your Stories!

Members of the team are always interested in hearing about the history of the team that we know and love today. We ask you to send any stories, memories, or even pictures to the editor of the Point of Information, Ariela Silberstein, at [asilbers@bates.edu](mailto:asilbers@bates.edu). To see when Brooks Quimby is coming to a tournament in your area, visit the American Parliamentary Debate Association website at: [www.apdaweb.org](http://www.apdaweb.org) and look at "schedule." And of course visit BQDC on the web at: <http://abacus.bates.edu/people/orgs/debate/> Remember to save the date for our APDA tournament, January 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2008! Please contact either of the tournament directors ([amelamed@bates.edu](mailto:amelamed@bates.edu) or [skhanmoj@bates.edu](mailto:skhanmoj@bates.edu)) if you are interested in being a part of our tournament.



**Ariela Silberstein**  
Director of Public Relations  
and Alumni Affairs



**Matthew Marienthal**  
Director of Novice Affairs

## A Letter from the President

By Brendan Jarboe '08



A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of sitting down with Collin Keyser for a few hours to talk about life after Bates and how he was doing. In short, Collin is doing great: he's enjoying law school, he's on the law review, and he's president of an on-campus political

group that he joined because "they were the only group on campus that had good debates." He told me that when he's in a job interview and is inevitably asked: "Why do you want to work for us?" he quickly responds with "well actually, I have three reasons..."

Catching up with Collin got me thinking about how many of the things I count as strengths in myself I've learned from others during my time as a part of the debate team. The conversation also got me thinking about the peculiar ways that the things you learn through debate can come back to help you in completely different ways. For example, I have it on good account that some of the analysis from Mike Neville-O'Neill and Ryan Creighton's (both '07) "abolish corporate prisons" case is being bantered around in the board room of a certain Manhattan investment bank of European origin that shall remain nameless.

Starting out this year, I made a special effort to highlight to our potential new members the inestimable value of competitive debate. This must have had some appeal because we have quite a crop of gifted novices from a diverse set of backgrounds. Meeting the novices and watching them come into their own as speakers has been one of my favorite parts of being on Brooks Quimby, and I know it will continue throughout my last year on the team.

Looking ahead to tournaments at Wesleyan, Yale, Oxford, Cambridge and Worlds in Thailand this December, I'm certain we'll continue to succeed in all our endeavors—both in-rounds and out. Getting to know new debaters is a process I've enjoyed immensely.

Collin isn't the only BQDC alum who had made a point of telling me how much his experience in debate has helped him in the world after college. No matter where Bates debaters wind up or what they go on to do—whether they go to law school, become teachers, work at investment banks, or drive Formula 1 racecars—being able to stand on their own two feet and defend points of view is a skill all are thankful they've sharpened. It also seems that no matter what our debaters go on to do, they never seem to be too far away from or too busy for old teammates. As I begin my last year as a part of the Brooks Quimby Debate Council, it is comforting to know that the friendships forged and lessons learned during the many hours spent as part of this organization will endure.

## Notes on the New Equity Officer Position

By Rachel Kurzius '10



Debate inherently attracts the some of the most argumentative people imaginable. Who else would voluntarily choose to spend hours formulating arguments against their most deeply-seeded beliefs, or savor the time they screamed at some students from Brandeis for 12 minutes without pause? I, for one, wouldn't want it any other way. Brooks Quimby has, without a doubt, some of the most colorful members of any club at Bates; but these devil's advocates sometimes takes their points of crystallization a little too far.

During our constitutional revision last year, the team decided to solve for some of the more alienating harms of debate and elected to institute a new position on the officer board: the Equity Officer. The goal of this position is to facilitate a welcoming and accepting atmosphere in the midst of the Brooks Quimby bedlam, and to deal with any issues that may arise with regards to bias or discrimination.

As Equity Officer for 2007-2008, my door (and cell phone and email) is always open for debaters to discuss problems they may have—whether those issues are among other members of Bates debate, coaches, or APDA at large. The fundamental objective of the Equity Officer's position is to address these matters in a discrete and proactive manner. Moreover, simply having an Equity Officer creates awareness about problems of inequity on the team and on the APDA circuit as a whole. In the inaugural term of this position I hope to engender a greater feeling of mutual respect among the members of Brooks Quimby.



## Welcoming Brooks Quimby's New Coach

By Zach Oren '09

This year the Brooks Quimby Debate Council is excited to welcome Andrea Curtis as our new coach. Curtis, originally from Honolulu, HI, graduated with a Master's in Communication from the University of Maine, where she concentrated in visual culture and postcolonial theory. While at UMaine, she taught Public Speaking courses at the undergraduate level, and was hired by Bates last year to help develop the stylistic qualities of the Brooks Quimby debaters. She initially came as a Mellon Grant Learning Associate, where she assisted with parliamentary debate, rhetoric classes, and prepped the team for domestic and international tournaments. This year, due to administrative changes, Andrea Curtis has replaced the Director of Debate. She also lectures at Bates in Rhetoric, offering a course in the study of public speaking and discourse.

When I asked Andrea about what she does in her spare time outside of debate, she jokingly replied that she didn't understand the question. Nick DeFrancis, a competitive sophomore debater, has recognized Curtis' hard work and devotion to the team. DeFrancis said: "Andrea's actions on the debate team speak louder than words. She encourages the debate team to create an atmosphere where all members are accepted and can excel." Geoff Shaughnessy, the Vice President of the debate team, spoke of her strong dedication to upholding the timeless morals and prestige of Brooks Quimby.



Coach Andrea Curtis

Curtis has a multitude of expectations for the team this academic year with the ultimate aim of maintaining and increasing our competitive standing on both the national and international levels. The team has already been a part of instructive drills on public speaking, rebuttal construction, and job responsibility. Andrea also encourages the members of Brooks Quimby to be leaders on campus, particularly in fostering interest in public discourse through campus debates. She is particularly proud of how well the officers' board and team have adjusted to their new responsibilities in such a transitional year.

I have personally never seen an individual so persistently work to crack the barriers of entry to the debate team. Her incredible ability to understand and analyze debate in such a short period of time is astonishing. Most debaters require at least four years of hard work and practice to understand debate at the level that Andrea currently does. Her devotion behind the scenes has contributed to the success Brooks Quimby has had and will continue to experience in this upcoming debate season.



## Looking Ahead to Bates' 5<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Tournament

By Alix Melamed '10 and Sartaj Ahmed Khan-Mojlish '10

We are proud to announce that on Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> 2007, we will be hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Bates High School Debate Tournament. The competition we held last year had a total draw of over 300 high school students from schools across the state of Maine competing in a wide variety of debate and speech events in conjunction with the Maine Forensics Association. The events included Speech, Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas debate, and Student Congress. The tournament has been an integral part of our community involvement over the past five years, providing high school students in Maine with an excellent location to explore the world of debate and a tool for fostering interest in both parliamentary debate and Bates College.

The Brooks Quimby Debate Council runs and organizes the competition annually, and will be led this year by tournament directors Alix Melamed and Sartaj Ahmed Khan-Mojlish. With a great core group of strong sophomore debaters and the encouraging leadership of our president, Brendan Jarboe, we anticipate that this year's tournament will be one of our best yet. Members of the team will be responsible for hosting this student-run tournament, providing food, judges and tabulation for the high school debaters. Brooks Quimby members will also be continuing the exciting tradition of an expositional parliamentary debate round. This performance serves to demonstrate an alternative style of debate not usually offered at the high school level, and is a vital recruitment tool for Bates debate and the College as a whole.

For this tournament we plan to follow a tightly run and event-packed schedule, beginning promptly at 7:30 a.m. After a few rounds of the competition, we anticipate that the competitors will enjoy watching our midday parliamentary debate demonstration. Finally, we plan to end the festivities in Olin Arts Center, where we will distribute awards and trophies to the students. The Brooks Quimby Debate Council is proud to host these students again this year, and we hope to continue this condition for many years into the future. We are looking forward to another successful tournament that will help us prepare for our major APDA tournament, which is scheduled for January, 2008.



## Highlights from the 2006-2007 Debate Season

By Geoff Shaughnessy '09

Last year was a banner year for the Brooks Quimby Debate Council in terms of growth, talent, and success. The team size grew to more than 40 debaters, producing one of our largest retaining novice classes in recent memory. Competitively speaking, the Brooks Quimby debaters continued their tradition of excellence on the American Parliamentary Debate Association circuit.



In their novice year, Matt Marienthal and Alix Melamed (both '10) broke to quarter-finals after going 4-0 at Boston University's Novice Tournament last fall. Later that same semester, Alix and Matt once again broke to out-rounds, making it to novice semi-finals after going 3-2 at Wesleyan University. Also at Wesleyan, Brendan Jarboe '08 and Vaibhav Bajpai '07 broke to varsity semi-finals, winning speaker awards in the process. At Tufts University's Pro-Am tournament, the varsity-novice partnership of Michael Neville-O'Neill '07 and Matt Marienthal broke to quarter-finals with a 4-1 record. And in March of 2007 at Stanford University, Jared Levy and Daniel Bousquet (both '09) broke to the final round of the tournament's novice division and ultimately won the tournament, taking first place novice team.

The debate team also continued its tradition of international competition, sending five teams to England in 2006 to compete in British Parliamentary debate, all of whom had impressive results. Over the following December break, four teams were selected to participate at the Worlds University Debating Championship in Vancouver, British Columbia. Worlds is a nine-round competition in British Parliamentary style that features more than 300 teams, representing nations from all over the world. Currently, Bates maintains its position as 15<sup>th</sup> ranked school in the world from its standings in international debate.

Last year Bates also hosted the North American Debate Championships. Under the guidance of tournament director Rakhshan Zahid '07, the team successfully hosted teams from across the United States and Canada, connecting debaters from both APDA and CUSID. North Ams also saw the return of several BQDC alumni: Michael Metzger '06 traveled from Washington, DC, to run the tournament's tabulation, providing an immense service to the team. Andrew Jarboe '05 came from New York City to serve as one of the tournament's chief adjudicators.

At the conclusion of the debating season last spring, Brooks Quimby hosted its annual Debate Banquet, ending the year by reflecting on achievements and honoring some of our most talented and committed debaters. Michael Neville-O'Neill from Rowley, MA received the prestigious Laconi Award for eloquence in speaking, endowed by the family of Chris Laconi '05. He currently attends law school at Georgetown University.

In May of last year, the Council graduated a substantial number of the team's most talented debaters. With so many leadership positions being held by these seniors, the novices had big shoes to fill. Five of the eight Officers of the team are members of the class of 2010, and while this is a very young team the results of our competition continue to

(Continued)



Michael Neville-O'Neill