



IMPACT Coalition

Spring Means New IMPACT Champions

Debate Delivers Dreams

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Dear William,

I'm always exhausted during this time of year. The late winter and early spring feature back-to-back debate tournaments every weekend in high school and college. Many are high stakes qualifiers. This issue we focus on the scintillating victories in our college ranks and the record-breaking numbers in our high school program.



Thanks to all of you who have stepped up and helped IMPACT get through the last three months. While no one is expecting an economic turnaround in the next quarter, there is a light at the end of the tunnel and it's beginning to glow.

If you haven't had a chance to invest in these amazing young people as yet, stop now. Just for a minute. Visit our website (http://www.impactcoalition.org/aboutus/abt_infstu_don a.html). Your donation could make the difference between a child feeling triumphant and getting into college or being left home during the state championships. If you were planning on it and just didn't get to it yet. I completely understand. You're under more stress than ever before. We all are. But if you believe in debate, supporting these kids is the best way to feel good when you head home tonight.

CUNY MAKES HISTORY



TWO CUNY DEBATERS MAKE HISTORY BY QUALIFYING FOR THE NDT. IMPACT'S NY COALITION OF COLLEGE MEMBER PROVES THAT THE STRATEGY OF TEAM-BUILDING AND POOLING RESOURCES HELPS LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD. The odds were stacked against them. Cynthia Caballeros was only a JV debater in her second year of debate and her partner, Dimitry Povazhuk (Dima to his friends) began debating

in college as a novice. The two CUNY students were debating against teams from Columbia, Dartmouth and Cornell, many of whom had participated in debate for seven or more years. Some had debated since middle school. To

make matters worse, CUNY was the host for the District Qualifiers. In between rounds, they would spend time directing hundreds of students to competition rooms, making sure meals were served, and bringing ballots to the tab room.

Their opponents? They sat and prepped diligently for an hour or relaxed and awaited the next pairings. No CUNY team had qualified for the National Debate Tournament (NDT) in over twenty years. Two debaters who began their careers in college seldom if ever qualify. Cynthia and Dima were not to be denied. The pair became the first two students from their respective schools to qualify for the NDT outdistancing teams from Cornell, NYU and Columbia. The two discovered debate through IMPACT's NY Coalition of Colleges. The NY Coalition helps urban programs with limited funds pool resources to compete against the best in the nation. In existence for over a decade, the Coalition was essential to NYU's first national championship (the first East Coast university team to do so) and the CUNY triumph last month. After watching his son debate, Dima's father said, "It's amazing what this activity does for young people. These skills will stay with them for a lifetime." And so will their achievements.

Support IMPACT's NY Coalition of Colleges

NEW YORKER WINS FIRST DAVIS AWARD

DIMITRY POVAZHUK BECAME THE FIRST NY COALITION DEBATER TO WIN THE PRESTIGIOUS MICHAEL K. DAVIS AWARD. BARUCH BECOMES THE YOUNGEST PROGRAM TO HAVE A DAVIS AWARD WINNER IN HISTORY

We often honor name awards for people who we've lost. However, the Michael K. Davis award is named for someone who is very much alive. Each year, the East region debate community honors an individual who began debate as a novice in college and became a competitive, open Debater. Mike Davis, now a Director of Debate at James Madison University, debated for Syracuse University. Along with his partner, Isaac Castillo (now a member of the Board of the Associated Leaders of Urban Debate), Davis thrived in the activity and became one of the top varsity debaters in the region. The winner is selected by a vote of active debate programs at the regional championships.

The winner this year was Dimtry Povazhuk of Baruch College. A long-time debater in the NY Coalition of Colleges, Dima reached the national quarterfinals as a novice and as a junior varsity debater and qualified for the National Debate tournament as an open debater picking up many speaker awards and accolades along the way. Just this year, he was undefeated in prelims at Binghamton, posted a 5-1 prelim record at the University-of Massachusetts Amherst and helped coached the CUNY novice squad to the elimination rounds at the national championships. "What makes it wonderful is that Dima is truly a great guy as well as a fine debater," said Alec Wright, NYU Debate team president.

Shop at Igive and Earn Cash for IMPACT for free

IMPACT QUALIFIES 110 KIDS FOR STATE CHAMPS



IMPACT SHATTERED ITS OWN RECORD BY QUALIFYING 55 TEAMS FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIIPS BESTING IMPACT'S PREVIOUS MARK OF 44 SET JUST ONE YEAR AGO. TRAVEL POLICIES PLACE THE TOURNAMENT IN JEOPARDY AS COSTS TRIPLE FOR ALBANY JOURNEY A

challenge for many youth development nonprofit programs is the decision between quality and quantity. Some worry that the ability to engage large numbers of students risks trading off with the chance to mold that single student into the top of the class. Others feel that the strength of the model risks being diluted. Board Chair Linda Coye doesn't see it that way. "There is no reason why you can't serve a large number of students and still maintain the programmatic rigor and standards to produce

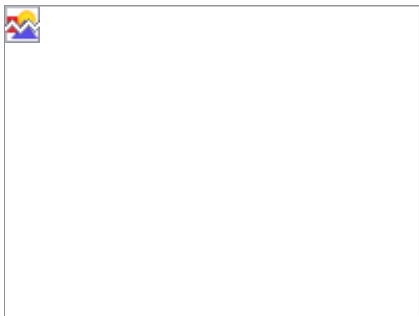
excellent results on a regular basis."

That tenacious philosophy, a cadre of dedicated teachers, a talented staff and, most importantly, an inspiring group of young people anxious to find their voice and compete at the highest levels to qualify an astonishing 104 students (52 pairs of debaters) for the NY state championships held in Albany the last week of April. At every level-varsity, junior varsity and novice, IMPACT students will be playing to win seeking their 11th championship in 12 years like those pictured above from the 2003 championships where IMPACT swept the top awards. There is a catch though. To help control costs, IMPACT had planned to make use of yellow school buses made available to the schools instead of expensive coach buses for the travel to States. However, the school system no longer sanctions the use of yellow buses outside of the five boroughs. "To transport that many students in yellow buses would cost about \$2200 a day or \$4400 for the entire tournament," explained a parent familiar with the situation. "To do the same in Coach Buses will cost upwards of \$6600 a day or \$13,200 for the entire tournament. That is a crushing difference in this economic environment so I'm just not sure if we can make the trip."

The irony is that the school system regularly supports travel for sports teams under the Public School Athletic League (PSAL). The program has an independent budget that includes travel for away events. "If we value education so much", queries frustrated CEO Will Baker, "why in the world, can't we support championship academic teams in our schools the way we support sports?" Good question. No one doubts that if a football team won 11 of 12 championships, they would find a way.

Help get our kids to States

KIDS GET THEIR SHOT AT FEDERAL BAILOUT



FORMER DEBATER TURNED PROFESSOR LEADS SYMPOSIUM AS DEBATERS PREPARE TO DISCUSS MERITS OF RECENT FEDERAL BAILOUTS When Josh debated at Columbia University, he found a way to express his ideas and intellect that was challenging and productive. Now as NYU Professor Josh Margulies stood before a group of LD high school debaters in the Kimmel Center at NYU, many of the same emotions rushed back to the fore. "Laptops? No we didn't have laptops. We used legal pads." The changes in technology were self-evident but the joy of argument remained a constant. Margulies was joined by Barbara Lopez, the Executive Director of the English Speaking Union in New York, as the guest speakers for the annual LD symposium.

COLUMBIA'S YOUTH FOR DEBATE, ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION OF NEW YORK, AND THE NYU DEBATE TEAM ALL PARTNERED WITH IMPACT ON THE 2009 PROGRAM IMPACT hosted the symposium and kickoff events to help participants get a jump on this year's timely topic "Resolved that the US government bailouts of big business unjustly punish average Americans". Students and teachers from Grover Cleveland High School, Eleanor Roosevelt, Brandeis, Francis Lewis and others engaged the NYU professor and kept him on his toes in a lively 2-hour discussion. "The kids are incredible," said Ms. Lopez. Their Earlybird tournament will be on the week of April 22nd. IMPACT's newest partner, Columbia Youth for Debate intends to host at Columbia University. They hope to have the date finalized next week. **Read more about LD debates**

JOIN THE EXCLUSIVE DEBATE CHAMPIONS SOCIETY



CHAMPION DEBATE AS A CAUSE OR A MEMORY Re-live those special moments in our exclusive new giving society. Stand alongside champions like John Sexton and Bob Shrum by investing in urban debate. The Debate Champions Society is our new leadership giving society for individuals. Individuals who were themselves debate champions and those who wish to champion debate as a youth development program are

welcome to support this work. Debate Champions demonstrate their commitment to helping young people improve their lives and deliver their dreams through debate.

VOTE FOR DEBATE HALL OF FAME Depending on the giving level, benefits for Debate Champions include: · Complimentary Invitations to IMPACT's VIP reception and Annual NYUDL Award Banquet, · Recognition in the NYUDL News. You also receive automatic membership in the National Debate Champions Society entitling you to Nomination privileges for the ALOUD Debater Hall of the Fame, Ballot to Elect Members for Induction into the ALOUD Debater Hall of

the Fame · Debate Champions Society Lapel Pin and Commemorative Great Debaters Book. **GREAT GIFT FOR THE DEBATER WHO HAS EVERYTHING** More former debaters are learning about what debate can do for kids and are joining this effort through their gifts. Former debaters, coaches and friends are also invited to send gift memberships to ex-debate partners, coaches, rivals (since you lost to me in that final round, hope this makes you feel better...) or old friends. **Don't Delay! Join Today**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: KACEY WOLMER



As a high senior for Stuyvesant here in NY, Kacey was a phenom that struck fear in the hearts of our her opponents. Her razor-sharp mind and accelerated delivery made her one of the debaters of her era. The trend continued in high school when she attended Emory University and won an intercollegiate national championship.

After conversations were her friend, Harvard debater Eun Young Choi, Wolmer became convinced that she could do more to help those that followed her. The pair committed to training coaches at IMPACT's New York Urban Debate League tournaments for free with Wolmer taking the lead. "Kacey's sessions are fantastic. I learn so much every time," said Ben Honoroff, president of the NYUDL Coaches Association. Whether it's a summer lecture on the debate topic, a Saturday work session with coaches, recruiting people for a happy hour or soliciting law firms for support, Kacey exemplifies everything that IMPACT could hope for in a volunteer. Recently, Kacey left New York for other pursuits. "She will be sorely missed. i didn't even get to explain how many lives she changed during her time working with our coaches. So many people do one thing and then decide that's enough. Not Kacey. Without being asked, she always looked to go that extra yard. Her presence meant so much to our kids and teachers. We can never repay her kindness."

Learn More About IMPACT's New York Urban Debate League

ALUMNI MAKING COLLEGE NEWS



BEN CROSSAN BECOMES THE FIRST NYUDL ALUM TO QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT

As a first-year, he wore his trademark shorts everywhere. "Winter, summer, didn't matter, you could always pick out Ben," said a former high school coach. Former debater for the Institute for Collaborative Education, Ben Crossan (on the right) a slam poet and activist, who now debates from Binghamton University became the first NY Urban Debate League alum to qualify for the National Debate Tournament. "Will, am I really the first?!" asked Crossan with great excitement. "Yes, you are." Baker replied softly with a smile on his face. The tournament will take place in Austin in late March with a field of 80 of the

nation's best teams.

CITI FACULTY MEMBER NAMED TOP SPEAKER AND DEBATER OF THE YEAR AT COLLEGE NATIONALS Former Baltimore Urban Debate League debater Dayvon Love, now of Towson University, was named the Intercollegiate Debater of the Year at the 2009 CEDA National Championships held in Pocatello, Idaho. A speech by his partner, Deven Cooper, referenced the formative experiences they had in NY at the Coalition Institute and Training Initiative (CITI 2009). Cooper and Love performed admirably at the tournament finishing 2nd in the nation as Love was named the top speaker. Both attend Towson on debate scholarships. "The proof of the success of these initiatives is in our alumni, " said Baker. "When they win scholarships to college, get into top law schools, becom incredible teachers or perform at the highest levels of college debate, it all sends the same message. This program works like few others do to make a difference in the lives of young people on a large scale."

Check out our Alumni Page and send us ideas

Here are five ways that you can make an enormous difference:

1. **Make a generous personal tax deductible contribution.** Encourage friends and family to support IMPACT's debaters in your honor. Visit our website at www.impactcoalition.org and click Donate.

2. **Connect IMPACT to those in your network who care about young people.** Host a house party to help spread the word about our work and connect us to new potential supporters.
3. **Aid us with your time and talent.** Find out if your company provides loaned executives, volunteer programs, in kind services, and other contributions.
4. **Join the Debate Champions Society** by calling our office or visiting us on the web (see Quick Links)
5. **Offset your stock losses by making a gift of appreciated securities to the IMPACT Coalition.**

If you're a parent, please make sure you're getting our Awards & Opportunities newsletters with thousands of dollars in college scholarships inside. IMPACT would like to help as many kids go as many places as possible but we need YOUR help. If you shop online for presents, try using Igive or GoodShop which both have discounts for you at quality stores and earn IMPACT extra savings. If you have frequent flier miles you can donate for upcoming debate trips including summer scholarship travel, let me know ASAP.

Peace & Justice,



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IMPACT Coalition

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