

City College Speech and Debate News

Since 1878: America's Oldest High School Debating Society

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Winter, 2009-2010

Debaters make semifinals at Wake Forest, Villiger, Pennsbury; Rack up wins at Columbia, Harvard, Yale; visit Duke and Drexel

Wake Forest 2009

WINSTON-SALEM- Wake Forest University hosts the first tournament of the year, which City attended and started off another strong season.

In Policy Debate, William Stokes '10 and Nicholas Vail '10 advanced to semifinals, and by doing so earned a highly coveted bid to the Tournament of Champions in April. Stokes also was the 25th place speaker at the tournament.

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The Baltimore City College speech and debate team visits Drexel College in Philadelphia, one of several campuses visited by the team this past semester.

Villiger 2009

PHILADELPHIA- It isn't fall for the Baltimore City College Speech and Debate team without a trip to the Villiger Tournament at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. And, as is so often the case, the team came away with victories to celebrate.

Senior policy debaters William Stokes and Nicholas Vail advanced to the semifinal round. Other experienced squads such as

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Pennsbury 2010



Team members celebrate their victories at Pennsbury

PHILADELPHIA- The BCC Speech and Debate team returned to the Pennsbury tournament for the second year, hoping to replicate some of the success from the previous year. And they came away with some positive results.

Policy Debaters Nicholas Vail '10 and William Stokes '10 took a 4-1 record in preliminary rounds into quarterfinals, and defeated a strong Iowa City

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City represented at three Ivies

Harvard 2010

CAMBRIDGE- The team's yearly trek to Harvard featured some impressive performances at the most prestigious invitational tournament in the nation.

Seniors William Stokes and Nicholas Vail won four rounds of intense policy debate competition, and Kaine Cherry '10 and David Neustadt '12 netted three wins.

In Lincoln-Douglass, Gareth Imperato '11 also claimed four victories, and some very impressive speaker points, including a final round with the maximum amount of 30.

Once again, the Harvard tournament proved to be an outstanding learning experience for all involved.



William Stokes and Nicholas Vail prep at Harvard

Yale 2009

NEW HAVEN- City added several new Ivy League tournaments to its repertoire this season, starting with the prestigious Yale tournament.

Gareth Imperato '11 went to Yale to compete in Lincoln-Douglass debate and did well in his first appearance. He won five of six rounds, and earned a place in octofinals.



Kaine Cherry, Nick Vail, and Gareth Imperato en route

Columbia 2010

NEW YORK CITY- The Ivy League tour continued at Columbia University, where Gareth Imperato '11 again competed in Lincoln-Douglass debate. He won four rounds this time, and also earned a victory in double-octofinals.

Wake Forest Earlybird Tournament

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Also competing in Policy Debate were sophomores David Neustadt and Elliot Troutner, seniors Corey Lacey, Ameena Ruffin, Kaine Cherry and Christopher Jackson. Each team earned several wins, and came away with valuable early-season experience.



The debate team on the campus of Duke University

Gareth Imperato had a good tournament as well, winning four rounds and advancing to elimination rounds as the fourteenth seed.

Sophomores Emma Koch and Emma Davis were also on hand to get the speech season started, both in new events. Koch competed in Original Oratory and earned a first place rank in her first ever round in this event and ended up with a cumulative score of ten over four rounds. Davis tried Humorous Interpretation for the first time and earned a cumulative score of sixteen.



Nick Vail and William Stokes at Wake Forest

Clearly, 2009-2010 got off to a great start down South.

Grand Reception Opens Season

Dr. Alonso visits and speaks to the squad

The team opened its 2009-2010 season with its annual reception, and were honored to be visited by Dr. Andres Alonso, CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System.

Alonso spoke to the students, their parents, and coaches about their achievements in speech and debate, and how these achievements prepared them for success in college and beyond.

Also present were principal Timothy Dawson and representatives from the Baltimore Community Foundation.



Team members recall their summer experiences at the reception

Mistress of Ceremonies Shari Groover did a wonderful job of entertaining the crowd, and introducing the speakers. Team members also spoke about their off-season preparations.

Hot Start, Cold Days

City squad overcomes stiff competition and nasty weather in BCFL

BALTIMORE- City started off another strong season in the Baltimore Catholic Forensic League at the league's first two tournaments, held at nearby Arundel and Reservoir High Schools this past fall.

Emma Koch couldn't have had a better beginning to her sophomore effort, winning back to back gold medals in Declamation. Fellow sophomore Eliza Stokes showed promise in the early going as well, winning silver and gold in Oral Interpretation. Also receiving a gold medal at the second tournament was Gareth Imperato, who excelled at Impromptu Speaking.

Over on the policy debate side, seniors William Stokes and Nicholas Vail, who haven't lost yet this year, brought home a bronze medal for their undefeated day at BCFL 1, and Stokes won a bronze speaking medal. Also, Kaine Cherry '10 and

City and Johns Hopkins

Two great institutions partner up

Baltimore City College and Johns Hopkins University are just a short drive down 33rd Street from each other. And this year, the University's acclaimed Forensics program announced a formal partnership with Baltimore City College's team.



Team members work with Hopkins students after school

This partnership will involve Johns Hopkins student debaters to mentor City College's team, and allow the City students access to the vast resources of the Johns Hopkins library system.

Said Gil Sandler, the first meeting was "a most exciting and promising start of the relationship." It's an apt description of a promising partnership.



Competitors Chelsea Bennett, Faith Owhonda, Emma Koch, Cedric Williams, Shabazz Linton, Taylor Jones, Emma Davis, and Cecorquia Chambers at the second BCFL

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The Speech and Debate program at Baltimore City College would not be possible without the generous support of Gil Sandler, the Abell Foundation, and our invaluable individual supporters. In addition, the contributions of the parents and guardians of our team members cannot be understated. **Thank you for all you do!**

Contribute to BCC Speech and Debate

If you'd like to donate to the endowment, make a check out to the Baltimore Community Foundation, specify Gil Sandler Endowment, and send to **Baltimore Community Foundation 2 E. Read St. Baltimore, MD 21202** or visit: www.bcf.org/sandler
Thank you for your assistance!

City Forever!



Villiger

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Ameena Ruffin '10, Corey Lacey '10, Kaine Cherry '10 and David Neustadt '12 also had some good wins.

Villiger was also a chance for the younger members of the team to experience more intense national-level competition. Freshman debaters Darius Beckford, Corwin Jones, Shabazz Linton, Dikshant Malla, Faith Owhonda, Te'Oshia Smith-Bey, and Zach Thomas, and junior Cecorquia Chambers had a great weekend of competition at their first ever national competition.

Speech team sophomore members Chelsea Bennett, Emma Davis, Emma Koch, and Eliza Stokes got into the action as well, with solid ranks throughout the weekend.

Pennsbury

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team. Ameena Ruffin '10 also nabbed the first place speaker award.

In speech, sophomore Emma Koch '12 took third place in Declamation and Shabria Johnson '11 won at the new event of Impromptu Storytelling.

Also competing in policy debate, seniors Michaela Brown and Kaine Cherry, and sophomore David Neustadt posted winning records of 3-2. And novices Ameena Begum '13, Nicholas Daney-Cuffie '11, Shabria Johnson '11, Dikshant Malla '13, Te'Osha Smith-Bey '13, and Zach Thomas '13 continued to develop as debaters. Surely they'll carry on the team's winning ways at this tournament for years to come. We'll be back!

BCFL

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David Neustadt '12 teamed up to win silver at the first BCFL and senior Terrence Porter earned a bronze medal in speaking.

In Novice Policy Debate, juniors Shabria Johnson and Nic Daney-Cuffie won three rounds and a bronze medal, and each earned a speaker award at BCFL 1.

Finally, Gareth Imperato started off his third season of Lincoln-Douglass debate with two undefeated days and bronze and gold medals. After three tournaments, he has yet to lose a round in the BCFL this year.

Following the first two tournaments, the league ran into a more formidable adversary in Mother Nature, forcing the cancellation of their December tournament and an early dismissal of the January tournament. Hopefully the February tournament will enjoy better weather, so City can end the season as strongly as it began it.

**(left) Noah Smith, Dikshant Malla, and Zach Thomas await results
(above) Malla wins a medal for Policy Debate at BCFL 2**

