

Stanton's Elm



An Illustrated History of Debating at Bates College BY ROBERT BRANHAM

Contents

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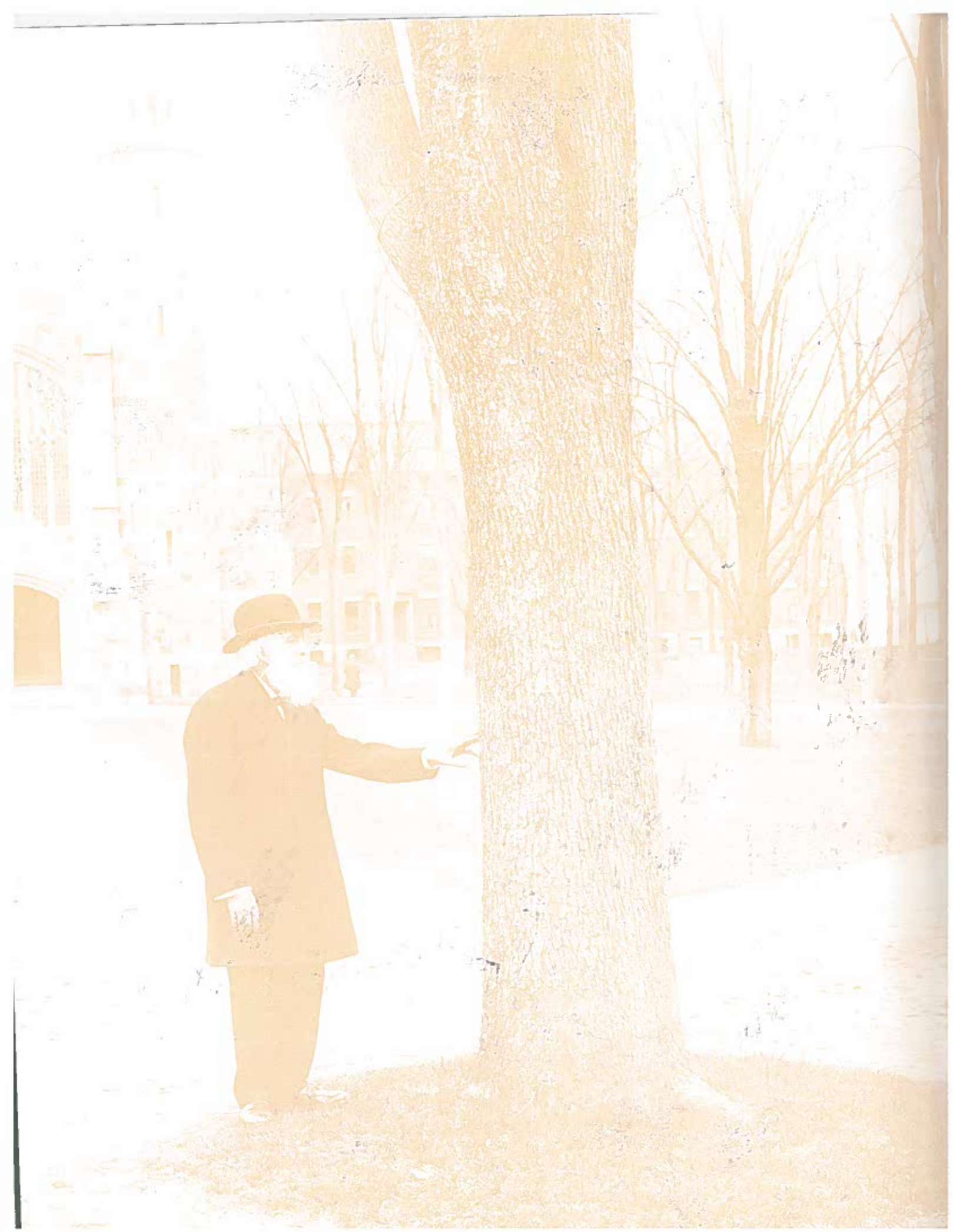
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About the cover: Legend has it that Professor Jonathan Y. "Uncle Johnny" Stanton, member of the Bates faculty from 1864 to 1906, planted the campus elm that became known as the Stanton Elm. That tree is now gone, but the other "elm" he helped nurture — the Bates debating program — still thrives today.

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Introduction

It is my honor to welcome you, through this commemorative publication, to the centennial celebration of the Bates College intercollegiate debate program.

The very definition of our College, its history and its demanding culture, has much to do with the achievements of the Bates debate program — from its nineteenth-century beginnings under “Uncle Johnny” Stanton and President Chase, to the College’s emergence, early in the twentieth century, as a leader in international debate under professors Craig Baird and Brooks Quimby ’18 — to the program’s current successes and sustained prestige under Professor of Rhetoric Robert J. Branham.

Bates debaters have always understood that intellectual rigor, combined with a generosity of spirit and the skills of communication, can lead to self-enrichment; however, the culture of debate at Bates has also insisted that as an intellectual pursuit, participation in debate leads to independent resolutions for action and to paths of leadership. Debating at Bates has traditionally combined the joy of self-expression and personal responsibility for knowledge with the valuing of informed action.

The strength of the Bates debate program mirrors the acknowledged excellence of the College today. It is with that understanding that I join you in honoring one hundred years of efforts of Bates men and women who created and sustained debate and opportunities for debating at the College. Their personal qualities, and their significant positive role in structuring the campus culture, have characterized Bates and its achievements.

Donald W. Harward
President



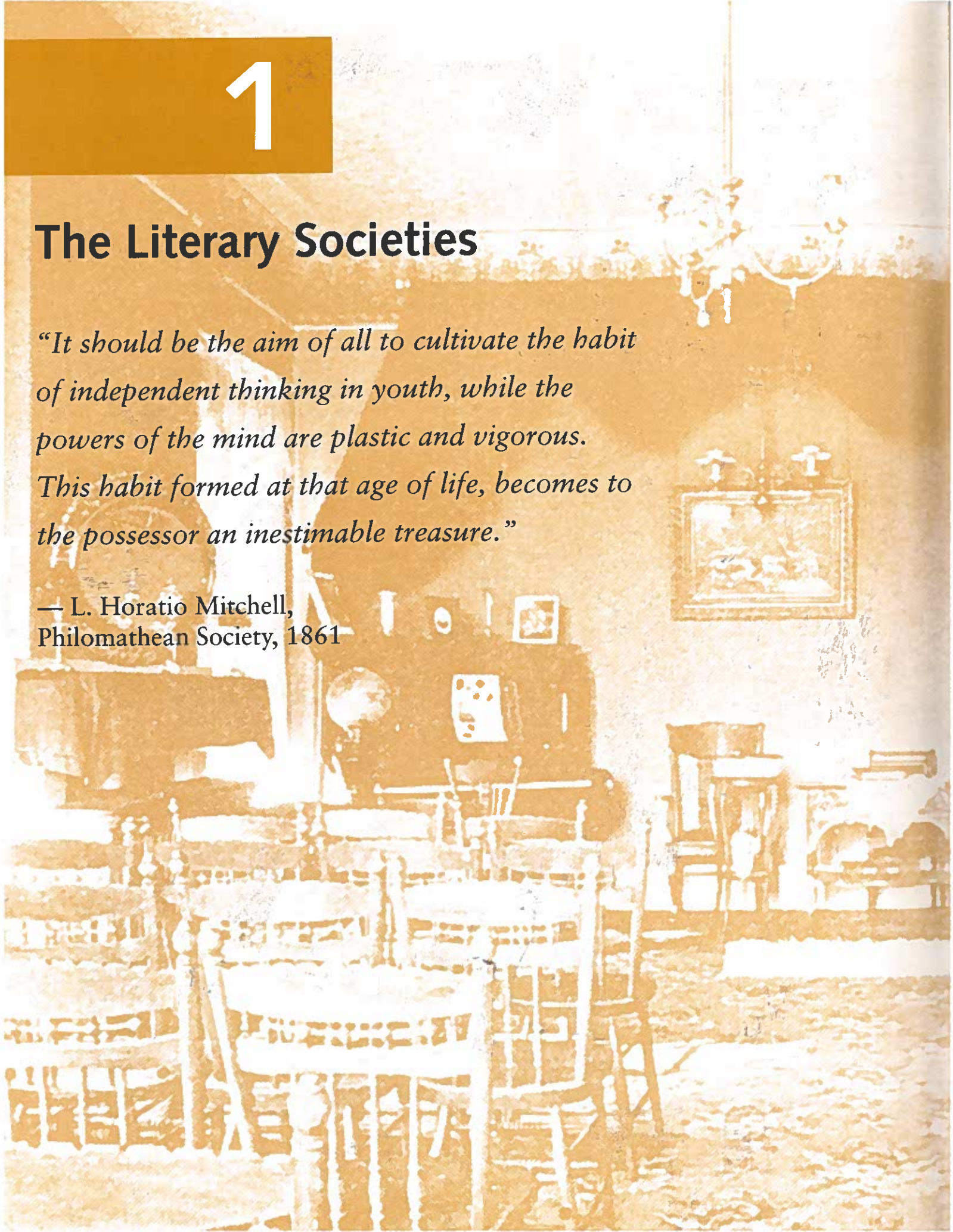
From left, Christopher Tine '96, debate coach Robert Branham, President Donald Harward, Lucy Fowler '97, and Quoc Tran '95 celebrate Bates's unanimous victory over Bowdoin in the first annual Presidents' Cup debate in Brunswick, May 1995. Bates successfully defended the cup in 1996.

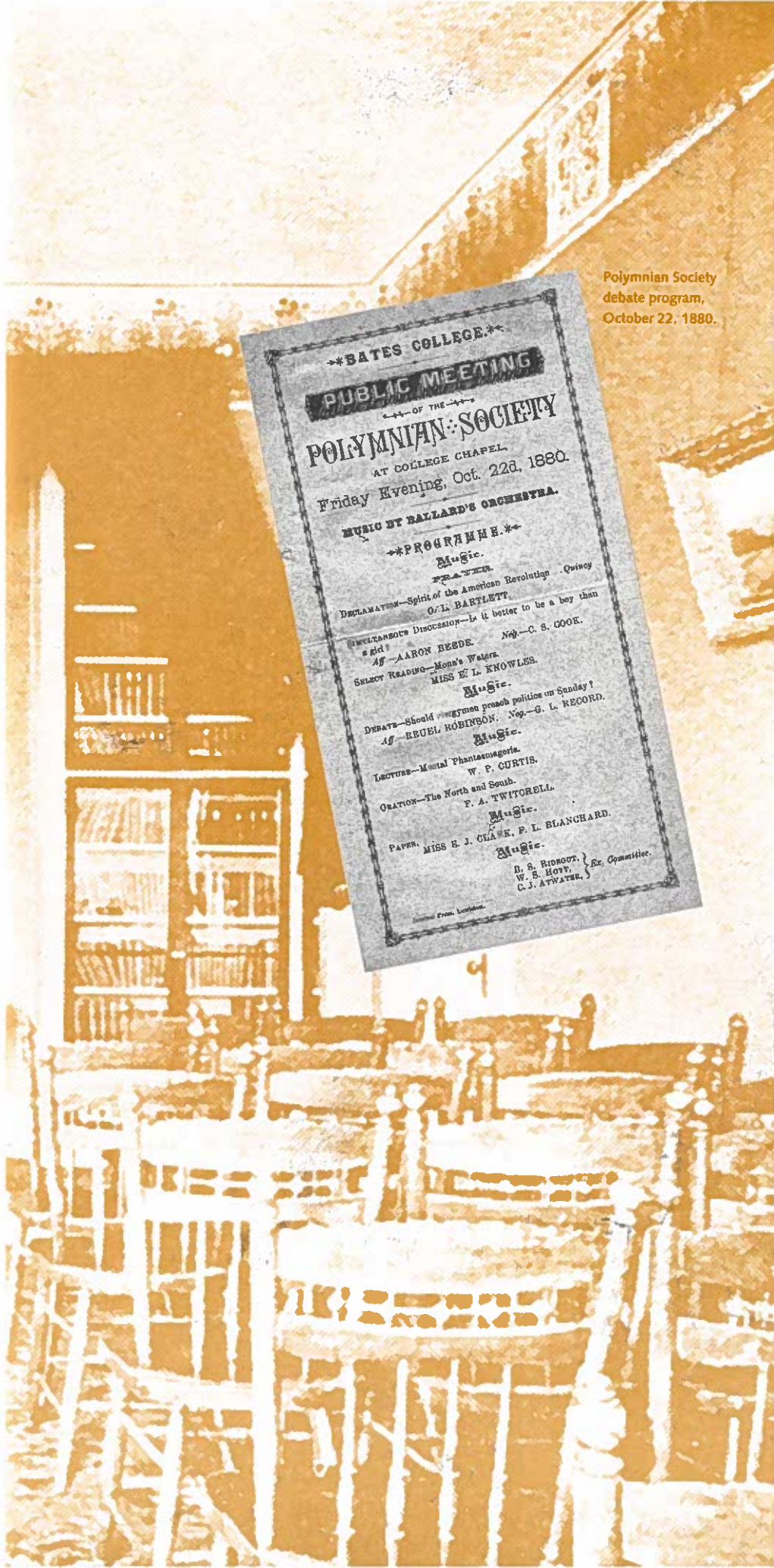
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The Literary Societies

“It should be the aim of all to cultivate the habit of independent thinking in youth, while the powers of the mind are plastic and vigorous. This habit formed at that age of life, becomes to the possessor an inestimable treasure.”

— L. Horatio Mitchell,
Philomathean Society, 1861



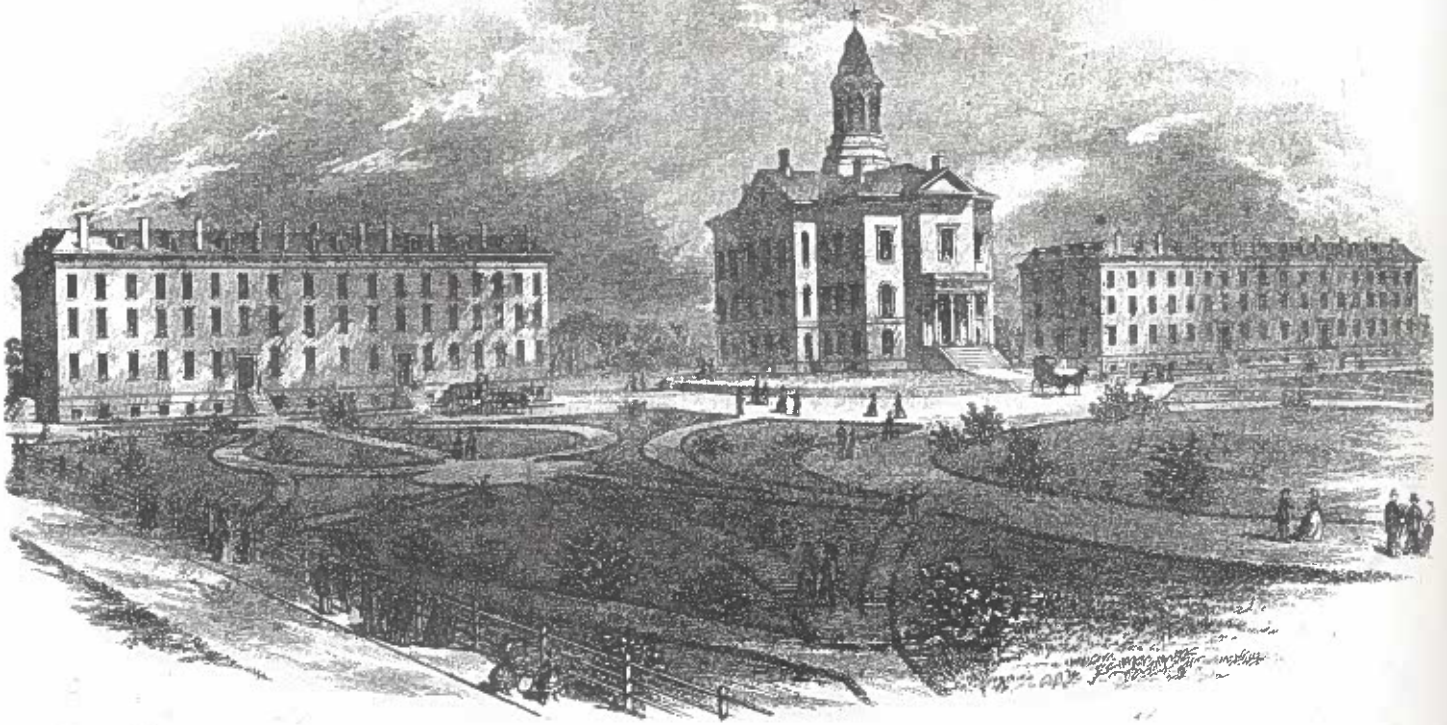


Polymnian Society
debate program,
October 22, 1880.

BATES COLLEGE
PUBLIC MEETING
 OF THE
POLYMNIAN SOCIETY
 AT COLLEGE CHAPEL.
 Friday Evening, Oct. 22d, 1880.
 MUSIC BY BALLARD'S ORCHESTRA.
PROGRAMME.
 Music.
 PRAYER.
 DECLAMATION—Spirit of the American Revolution. Quincy
 O. L. BARTLETT.
 IMPROVISED DISCUSSION—Is it better to be a boy than
 a girl? AARON BEEDE. Neg.—C. S. COOK.
 SELECT READING—Mona's Waters.
 MISS E. L. KNOWLES.
 Music.
 DEBATE—Should women possess politics on Sunday?
 Aff.—RUEL ROBINSON. Neg.—G. L. RECORD.
 Music.
 LECTURE—Mental Phantasmagoria.
 W. P. CURTIS.
 ORATION—The North and South.
 F. A. TWITCHELL.
 Music.
 PAPER—MISS E. J. CLARK, P. L. BLANCHARD.
 Music.
 D. S. RIDGENT, }
 W. B. HOYT, } Ex. Committee.
 C. J. ATWATER. }
 Press, London.

Debating played an important role in the curricula of most early American colleges, and syllogistic disputations (conducted in Latin) were the capstones of their commencement ceremonies. But modern intercollegiate debating is less a descendant of the curricular disputations than of the voluntary, extracurricular literary societies formed by college students for their own education and amusement. Students in Harvard's Spy Club began conducting weekly debates in English in 1722 on such pressing theological issues as "Whether the World will be annihilated or only refined." Most American colleges formed similar societies devoted to the discussion of literature, religion, history, and politics and to the peer training of students in the practice of oral and written expression. They constituted in some senses a second curriculum, governed by students and devoted to those subjects and skills which they found most valuable and engaging.

At the Maine State Seminary, which would become Bates College, the Literary Fraternity was chartered by the state legislature on April 11, 1857, and became active immediately upon the opening of the school. The founding of the College and its debating program were intertwined. By the following year, the Literary Fraternity had fifty members and its own reading room. Meetings were held each Friday evening and included poetry readings, musical performance, orations, and both written and extemporaneous debates. Women students, excluded from the Literary Fraternity, formed the Ladies Athenaeum on September 11, 1857, and a competing men's society, the Philomathean, was chartered in 1860 with the motto, "Progress and Success." These organizations provided most of the organized extracurricular activities at the seminary and virtually every student belonged to one of them.



BATES COLLEGE, LEWISTON.

Early engraving of Bates College.



Jonathan Y. Stanton, professor of Greek and Latin, played an integral role in the early growth of debate at Bates.

Upon the opening of the College in 1863, its students joined the seminarians in the literary societies. When the seminary, renamed the Latin School, separated from the College five years later, the Literary Fraternity and Philomathean Society went with it. Two new societies, Eurosophia and Polymnia, were formed at Bates with the guidance of Jonathan Y. "Uncle Johnny" Stanton, professor of Latin and Greek from 1864 to 1906. The charter of the Polymnian Society explained their mission: "to prepare ourselves for the varied duties of life, to cultivate a correct mode of speaking and to qualify ourselves by practice to express our opinion in a correct manner." Both of the new societies were open to women as well as men; both had meeting rooms and libraries on the third floor of Hathorn Hall; and each vied with the other for members. For more than fifty

years, Eurosophia and Polymnia dominated the extracurricular life of Bates students.

Intercollegiate debating at Bates sprang from its literary societies. Of the first four intercollegiate debaters, Stanley Durkee '97, Oliver Cutts '96, and Carl Milliken '97 were members of Eurosophia, and Anson Howard '96 belonged to Polymnia. In Eurosophia's public exercises in the College Chapel on November 26, 1895, three months before their first debate against Colby, Milliken debated Durkee on the question, "Was the career of Napoleon beneficial to Europe?" and Cutts delivered an oration. To accommodate the growing student interest after they captured the New England Debating League Championship the next year, a new literary society, Piaeria, was formed in 1897 and dedicated primarily to debating. In 1908, Libbey Forum was opened as the new home of the three societies.

But the rise of intercollegiate debate at Bates, as at many other colleges, was the death knell for the literary societies. Faculty and student interest in training for intercollegiate debates led to the incorporation of argumentation and debate courses into the regular curriculum. The intercollegiate contests overshadowed intramural events and drew away many of the best debaters. By 1912, debates had virtually disappeared from the programs of the literary societies and, soon after, the societies themselves vanished.

The Sophomore Prize Debates

From the beginning of the College, prize debates were held to test and reward students' efforts in their first three semesters of required work in elocution, logic, composition, and argument. In 1865, the year after Professor Jonathan Stanton's arrival at Bates, a prize debate was held under his direction on the question, "Is it probable that the Government of the United States will continue two centuries from the present time?" The prize was a copy of *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*. The winner was a sophomore on the negative side, future Bates president George Colby Chase '68, who would join Stanton thirty years later to initiate intercollegiate debating at the College.

The sophomore prize debates became an institution at Bates. During the first year, students (both male and female) were divided into groups of six or eight and each group received a question for a public debate to be conducted at the end of the first semester of their second year. Each student spoke for twenty minutes before a judging panel drawn largely from members of the senior class. The eight best disputants in the class were selected for a championship debate, held during Commencement week.



George Colby Chase of the Class of 1868, future president of the College and coach of the first intercollegiate team, won the College's first prize debate in 1865.

Programme.

MUSIC.

BY THE

W. H. B. S.

Question:—Is it probable that the Government of the United States will continue two centuries from the present time?

DISPUTANTS.

BY
WILLIAM HENRY BOLSTER,
ORRVILLE CYRUS EMBURY,
WINFIELD SCOTT STOCKBRIDGE

PRO.
LEWIS CHASE GRAVES,
GEORGE COLBY CHASE, X
ALBERT HAYFORD HEATH

MUSIC.

BY THE

HON. FETH MAY,
REV. JOHN A. LOWELL, } Committee
A. L. DRESSER, ESQ., } to award the
Prize.

Limitations.

1. Disputants speak but once and occupy fifteen minutes.
2. A division of the territory of the United States is to be regarded as discontinuance of the present government, even should the divisions be under a Republican government.
3. The prize is to be awarded for the best argument, without regard to the oratory of the disputants and merits of the question.
4. No disputant is allowed to commit any of his argument to writing during preparation or discussion.

The Exercises will commence at 1:15 o'clock.

Daily Journal Press, Lowell.

SOPHOMORE

PRIZE DEBATE

(THIRD DIVISION)

1901.

Wednesday, November 25, 1898,

COLLEGE CHAPEL,

2 O'CLOCK P.M.

"Was the civilization of Athens at any period in her history equal to that of Boston at the present time?"

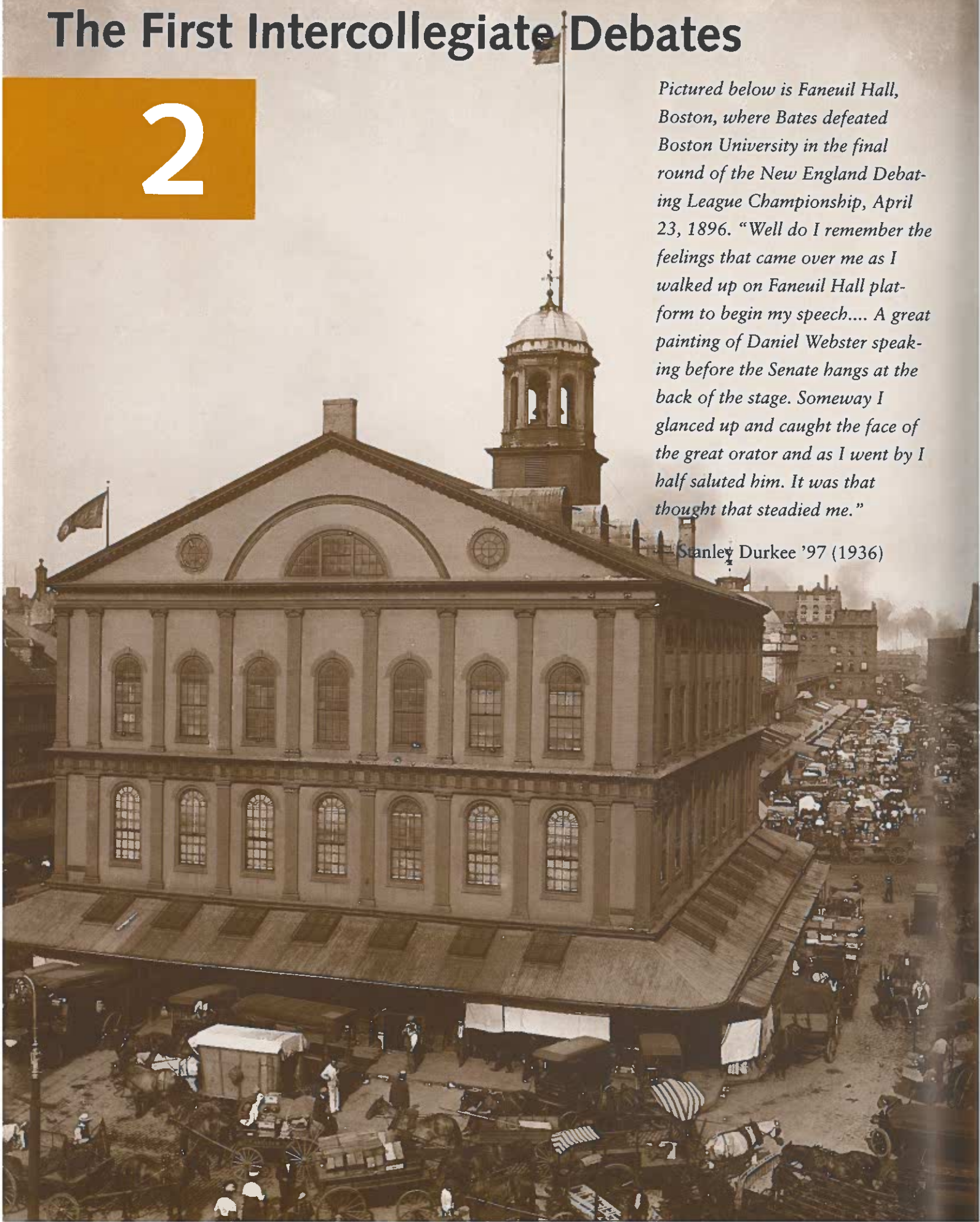
Sophomore prize debate programs from the 1800s.

The First Intercollegiate Debates

2

Pictured below is Faneuil Hall, Boston, where Bates defeated Boston University in the final round of the New England Debating League Championship, April 23, 1896. "Well do I remember the feelings that came over me as I walked up on Faneuil Hall platform to begin my speech.... A great painting of Daniel Webster speaking before the Senate hangs at the back of the stage. Someway I glanced up and caught the face of the great orator and as I went by I half saluted him. It was that thought that steadied me."

— Stanley Durkee '97 (1936)



Ralph Curtis Ringwalt of Harvard wrote in 1897 that “a new kind of literary activity has arisen, which, while possessing some of the best elements of sport, and at the same time enlisting the goodwill of those who were most pronounced in their opposition to the prominence of athletics, has taken firm hold on undergraduate life: I mean, of course, intercollegiate debating.”

Intercollegiate debating was not, in fact, new. The first known intercollegiate debate was held between Oxford and Cambridge in 1829. In the United States, literary societies from Chicago University and Northwestern met for several annual intercollegiate debates beginning in 1872 and debate was among the intercollegiate competitive events featured at New York City’s Olympic festivals during the 1870s. But these early efforts failed to capture the public’s imagination or to spread widely among other colleges.

The event that sparked the explosion of interest in intercollegiate debate was the exhibition between Harvard and Yale in Cambridge on January 14, 1892, followed by a meeting in New Haven on March 25. Nearly three thousand people attended and virtually every major American newspaper carried the story. The Harvard-Yale debates created a national sensation. Other colleges soon joined in. Princeton debated Yale and Michigan met Wisconsin in 1893; Pennsylvania and Cornell, Stanford and the University of California met in 1894-95; and Bates, Colby, Dartmouth, Williams, Wesleyan, Boston University, and the University of Chicago began in 1895-96. By 1912, John Adams Taylor would observe that “one will search a long while to locate a reputable American college that does not maintain a debating team.” Few, if any, other educational innovations had ever gained such rapid and widespread acceptance.

Intercollegiate debating rode the wave of popularity generated by intercollegiate athletics and was initially promoted by some as an interim activity between the football and baseball seasons. Debate historian E. R. Nichols notes that because debating demonstrated fundamental



For the final round of the 1896 New England Debating League tournament versus Boston University, Bates debaters and fans traveled to Boston aboard the *SS Portland*

academic skills in research, analysis, and composition, and because intercollegiate debaters were generally selected from among the very best students, “administrators of colleges liked to feel that excellence was demonstrated by the college if its teams proved successful in debating.”

The rise of intercollegiate debating in the 1890s was also fueled by the public’s desire to hear able advocates discuss the decade’s social and political crises. Early intercollegiate debates drew significant public audiences and addressed the most pressing issues of the day, including immigration, the Spanish-American War, racial prejudice, and women’s suffrage. “Thus college men become not only students of current events,” declared Carl

Vrooman, president of the Harvard Union in 1894, “but have a part in the formation of public opinion.”

Soon after his inauguration in 1894, President George Colby Chase of Bates encouraged students to hold an intercollegiate debate. In the fall of the following year, C.J. Thorne of Boston University invited Bates to send a delegate to a meeting in Boston to plan the formation of a New England Debating League. Colby and Wesleyan also joined and it was agreed that the four schools would pair off in preliminary debates, with the winners to meet in a championship round. In February 1896, three weeks before the first debate, “Uncle Johnny” Stanton wrote to Chase informing him that the Bates professors of rhetoric and political



George Colby Chase, president of Bates College, 1894-1919.

economy were no match for those preparing the Colby debaters. Stanton pleaded with the president to return to campus and take personal charge of the team. Chase "entered into these contests with all his soul," according to his son, and "personally superintended the preparation of the first two teams of intercollegiate debaters, putting into their training the thorough analysis of arguments, the clear-cut and constructive thought that characterized his own mental processes."

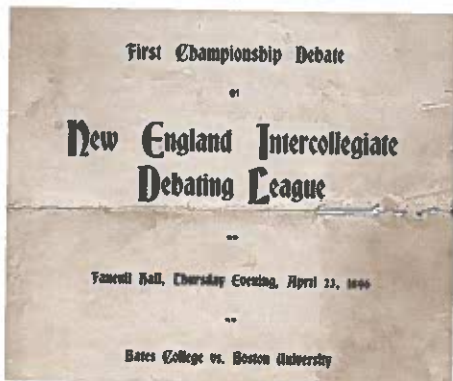
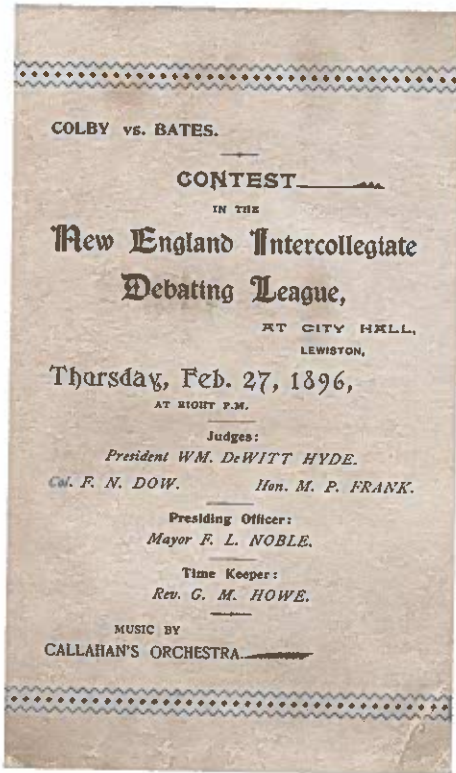
Bates and Colby held their first intercollegiate debate on February 27, 1896, in Lewiston's City Hall on the topic, "Resolved: That the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 should be the financial policy of our government." The mayor presided and Callahan's Orchestra played. "The college sat in a body at the front, and gave a decided inspiration to our debaters," reported *The Bates Student*. Bates's victory was greeted with cheers and prolonged applause.

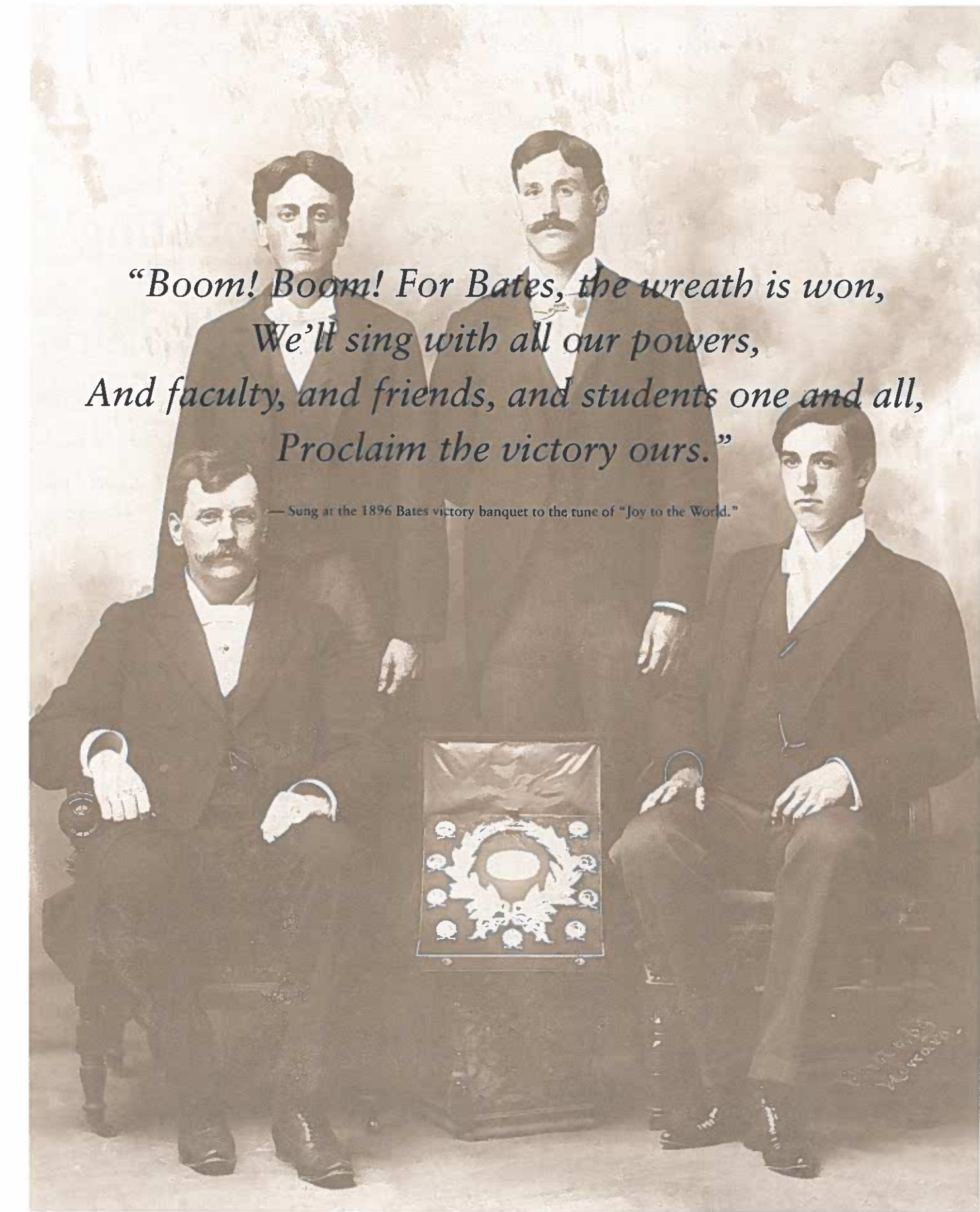
In the championship match, Bates debated Boston University, whose enrollment was twenty times Bates's, on the question of whether immigration should be further restricted. President Chase and fifty students traveled by steamship from Portland to Boston, where they were greeted by the confident predictions of the Boston papers and Boston University debaters. But Bates was represented by an extraordinary group of students. Oliver B. Cutts '96 later attended Harvard Law School (where he was named an All-American football tackle) and was athletic director at Purdue and Bates. Carl Milliken '97 became governor of Maine, president of the Northern Baptist Convention, and

national secretary of the Motion Picture Producers Association. Anson Howard '96 became a prominent Rhode Island minister, and J. Stanley Durkee '97 served as president of Howard University and pastor of the historic Plymouth Church in Brooklyn.

The debate was held on April 23, 1896, before a huge audience in Faneuil Hall. Jubilant after hearing the judges' decision in Bates's favor, President Chase was reported as "forgetting his dignity in the excitement of victory, remembering it, sitting down on his hat, forgetting it again, and brandishing his battered hat in one hand and crumpled program in the other." Back at Bates, the College bell rang through the night and students led a victory parade down the streets of Lewiston. Hundreds met the returning debaters at the railroad station and a celebratory banquet for the entire College was held the following evening.

This was the first and only championship of the New England Debating League; Wesleyan and Boston University withdrew the following year. But at Bates intercollegiate debating was now established as an activity central to its public reputation and self-image. In the next decade, Bates would win ten of its twelve intercollegiate debates and reorganize its general education program to require training in argumentation and debate for all students.





*“Boom! Boom! For Bates, the wreath is won,
We’ll sing with all our powers,
And faculty, and friends, and students one and all,
Proclaim the victory ours.”*

— Sung at the 1896 Bates victory banquet to the tune of “Joy to the World.”

J. Stanley Durkee '97, Anson Howard '96, Oliver Cutts '96, and Carl Milliken '97, winners of the New England Debating League Championship in 1896. “Cutts opened with direct, emphatic statements of facts and arguments. Durkee moved the audience to emotion with his poetic style, filled with laughter and tears, and Howard’s slower, more impressive, magnetic delivery, with the deep thought clothed in perfect language, clinched the argument.” — Augustus Norton '96

'The Power Centre of College Debating'

"The record is remarkable. It is almost unbelievable. Bates supporters felt a great deal like rubbing their eyes and holding their ears for doubt, lest the news should prove a delusion. It did not seem possible that success should perch so long above the Bates garnet."

— *Lewiston Evening Journal*, following Bates's 1904 victory over the University of Vermont.

BATES AGAINST OXFORD

By FREDERICK M. DAVENPORT,
Professor in Law and Politics at Hamilton College. Member of the Senate of the State of New York.

IT IS a chance if more than a relatively small fraction of the American people know that there is such a college as Bates in existence, and only a negligible company could tell where it is located. Probably not a handful know that, by dint of stern discipline in argumentative discussion, this little college of a few hundred students has become the power centre of college debating in America.

THREE MORE FOR DEBATERS OF BATES!

College Young Men Wield the Sceptre of Logic with Resistless Force and Exceeding Grace Before Large Audience.

Brilliant Team of Legal Fencers from Boston University Law School, Defeated by the Lewiston Striplings at City Hall, Monday Evening, May 4, 1903

BATES COLLEGE DEBATING TEAM.



This Tiny College Has Beaten the World at Debating

How little "Down East" Bates has walloped the universities of Oxford, Harvard, Yale, Cornell, and Pennsylvania, among others, in six years of uninterrupted triumphs by its debating teams—Principles of effective reasoning and argument that we can all use in our daily lives, as told by Craig Baird, the genius behind this remarkable record

Bates "Invincibles" Win Again in Debate.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, intercollegiate debates were among the most important campus events of the year. Few debates were held (Bates held just one or two per year for its first decade of competition) and these drew large audiences. The limited number of debates meant that very few students participated, and thus competition for these spots was keen. At Bates all first-year students (both male and female) were required to complete coursework in debate. Advanced argument and debate courses were added for sophomores and juniors “to develop materials for intercollegiate debating,” according to the 1901-02 *President’s Report*. Topics were selected far in advance of the debates and the Bates debaters typically spent more than two months researching, briefing, and practicing their arguments prior to their public presentation. Students preparing for intercollegiate debates were required to perform “daily vocal and pantomimic drill” under the tutelage of Grosvenor Robinson, professor of elocution and oratory, and an hour of physical exercise, such as hiking or tennis.

Prior to the fall of 1913, when A. Craig Baird was hired as English professor and director of debate, Bates had engaged in thirty-three debates, winning all but five. However, with the exception of its 1908 debate against Queen’s University, Ontario (the first international collegiate debate), Bates’s debates had been limited to regional competition and recognition. This was soon to change, as within his first two years at Bates, Baird laid the groundwork for the program’s triumphant ascendance. He established an Interscholastic Debating League for Maine high schools that provided Bates with many of its best debaters over the next two decades (including Brooks Quimby ’18, whom

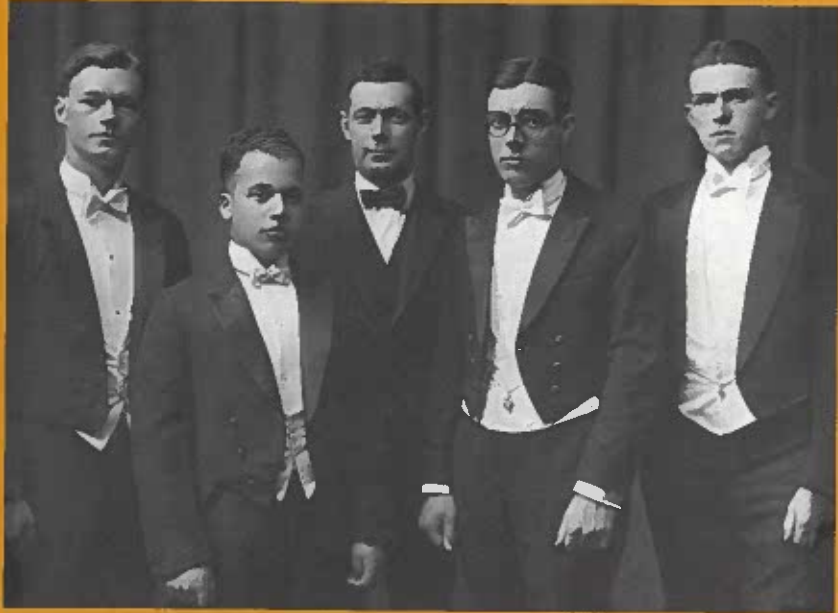


Baird recruited after Quimby lost in the final round of the first league championship). He established a triangular debating league with Clark and Tufts in 1915 and put into place the “Bates System” of debater selection and training.

Baird’s teams enjoyed unprecedented success and enormous publicity. From 1917 to 1923, they did not lose a single debate to an American opponent. They entered the famed triangular with Harvard and Yale in 1920 as a substitute for Princeton and won all four debates by unanimous decisions, including those held in Cambridge and New Haven. The following year, they broke new ground in the first intercontinental debate with Oxford and were praised by U.S. presidents Harding and Coolidge, among many others. Bates’s tiny size and relative obscurity made its debating prowess an irresistible story. *The New York Times* in 1922 proclaimed Bates to be “the power centre of college debating in America” and Baird and the Bates program were profiled

“What a relief it is to learn that a small college like Bates can win fame by training its students in things that require brain power and enjoyment of the intellect rather than by devoting its every effort to the cultivation of muscles and brawn.... Mollycoddles are not encouraged at Bates but, being a small institution, it could not hope to achieve an international reputation on the gridiron, the diamond or the track. But in the production of finished and skilful debaters it may be relied upon to hold its own against all comers.”

— *Portland Press Herald*,
December 30, 1922



Racial barriers existed on the national debate scene for African American John P. Davis '26 (second from left), pictured above, from left, with H.H. Walker '26, Craig Baird, Erwin Canham '25, and Fred Googins '27.

John P. Davis '26

“Looking over the most recent [Bates] catalogue, I find on page 6 that ‘barriers of race or religion are unknown’.... [Yet] Negro students participating in intercollegiate debate have been consistently denied membership to Delta Sigma Rho. It is perfectly well known that Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of Delta Sigma Rho prohibits Negroes from becoming members of the organization. These are the facts. The import is clear. Bates College, whose trustees, faculty and alumni have long boasted of the Christian and liberal education given there, is sailing under a lying flag. One of two things should be done: either Negro students should be frankly told before being misled into coming to Bates that privileges which are open to other students are in their case to be abridged; or else, Delta Sigma Rho should not be allowed to continue as a Bates organization.”

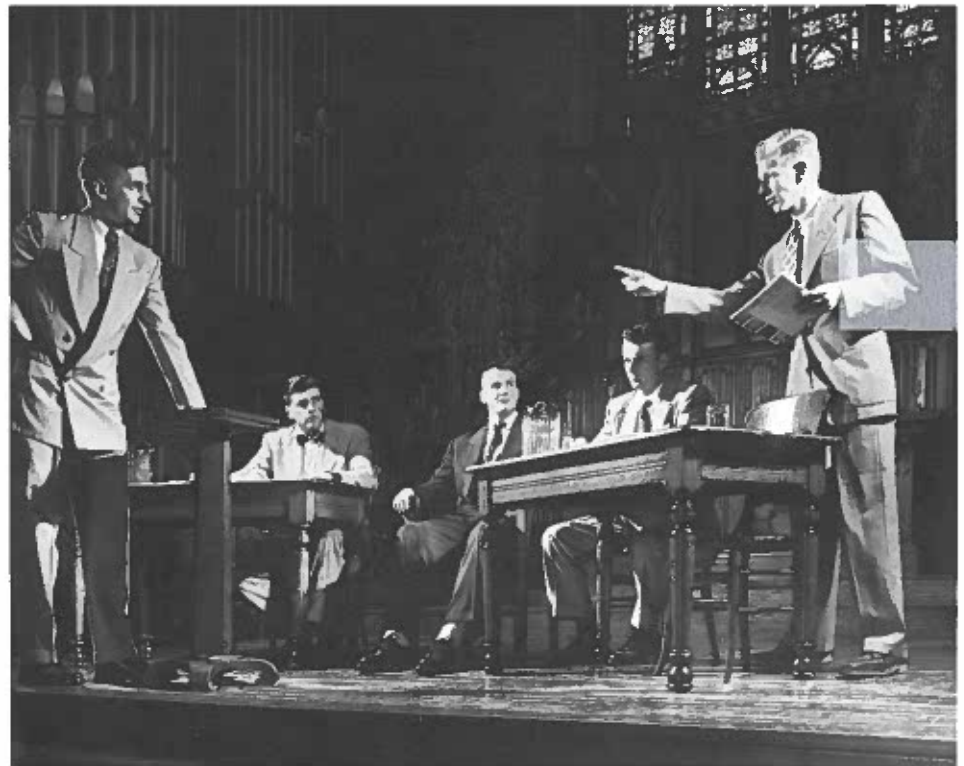
— John P. Davis '26, letter to Trustee Louis B. Costello '98, editor of the *Lewiston Evening Journal*, August 18, 1926, protesting the racially exclusionary policies of Delta Sigma Rho, the national debate honorary society.

in newspapers and magazines across the nation. “In all collegiate history,” wrote Rex Stuart in *The American Magazine* of September 1923, “there has never been anything quite like Baird’s achievement.”

Baird’s fame led to his recruitment by other colleges, and in 1925 he left for the University of Iowa. After his departure, a long-simmering controversy erupted into crisis, when John P. Davis ’26, African American president of the Debate Council and a veteran of the successful British tour of 1925, publicly protested the racially exclusionary policies of Delta Sigma Rho, the national debate honor society Bates had joined in 1915 under Baird’s direction. Soon after forming its own chapter, Bates learned that DSR prohibited African Americans from membership — and that would include the Bates council president Arthur Dyer ’17. The Bates chapter appealed to the national organization for his admission in 1916, but was denied. In 1922, DSR amended its constitution, specifically addressing the race issue: new members had to swear they were “of good moral character” and “not a Negro.” Yet Bates remained in DSR, and for nineteen years admitted only its white debaters to membership, excluding such intercollegiate stars as Benjamin Mays ’20, Theodore Pinckney ’23, and Davis. At the same time, however, Bates (led by the efforts of Harry Rowe ’12) waged a persistent campaign to desegregate the national organization, and the DSR constitution was at last amended in 1935. Shortly thereafter, Mays became the first African American to be admitted to DSR in over two decades.

In the fall of 1927, Brooks Quimby ’18 returned to Bates as director of debate. Quimby continued the competitive success of Bates, but fundamentally redesigned and redirected the debating program. Where

Bates students were not the only debaters from the College. President Clifton D. Gray held a series of public debates in 1927 with famed criminal defense attorney Clarence Darrow on the question, “Is Man a Machine?” and in 1928 with Gail Laughlin on the subject of coeducation. Thirty years earlier, she had been America’s first female intercollegiate debater. In 1922, Bates coach J. Murray Carroll ’09 debated national socialist leader Norman Thomas.



“On the debaters rests the making of the case, and to them the college looks.” — Ralph Ringwalt, 1897

WOMAN

IS
Her Place
IN
The Home?



Debate

Swarthmore^{vs} Bates

Little Theatre

Thursday - March 5

8 P.M.

Baird had relied on a "star system," Quimby dramatically increased the number of both debates and debaters. In the 1937-38 season, sixteen men and ten women (from a total squad of thirty-four) participated in twenty-nine intercollegiate debates, more than in Baird's first six years combined. Quimby also experimented with debate venues and media, staging debates in communities around the state and on radio, including several national broadcasts. Through Quimby, Bates took a leading role in the effort to promote non-decision debates and to diminish the perception of intercollegiate debate as a sport where "winning is everything and the audience is nothing." On the 1928 world tour, Bates engaged in twenty-three debates, ten of which were non-decision exhibitions. Of the 352 debates in which Bates participated from 1929 through 1945, 263 were non-decision exhibitions.

World War II decimated the ranks of intercollegiate debate. Only five of the twelve Bates male varsity debaters who began the 1942-43 season completed the year. Vincent McKusick '44, who placed third in the National Radio Debate the previous year, was forced to withdraw at the last minute when he received a notice of immediate induction. Tournaments were canceled; the Eastern Intercollegiate Debating League was dissolved. Travel and gasoline restrictions limited off-campus debating. Yet, through the efforts of its women speakers and members of the V-12 program, Bates debating continued to thrive during the war years.

After the war, intercollegiate debating underwent a series of major transformations, and Quimby soon found himself out of step with many other leading debate coaches. Quimby loathed debate tournaments — regarding them as an abandon-

In March of 1931 against a women's team from Swarthmore, Bates debaters Frank Murray '34 and Scott Treworgy '31 defended the proposition that "The emergence of women from the home is deplorable." More often than not, however, Bates debaters took the other side of the proposition, a popular topic of the day.

ment of the audience — and switch-side debating, which he denounced as sophistry. Yet switch-side tournaments quickly came to dominate intercollegiate debate, even for Bates. In the 1946-47 season, Bates held thirty-seven individual public debates with other schools and just ten rounds of tournament debating (all at a single tournament). By 1957-58, Bates held but three individual public debates and participated in seventy-five rounds of tournament competition. Despite this shift, Bates engaged in far fewer tournament debates than did the leading programs of the period, and after 1948 Bates did not participate in the National Debate Tournament or its regional qualifying meets.

After Quimby's retirement in 1967, his successor, Thomas Moser, abandoned the national policy debate circuit entirely, pioneering what would a quarter-century

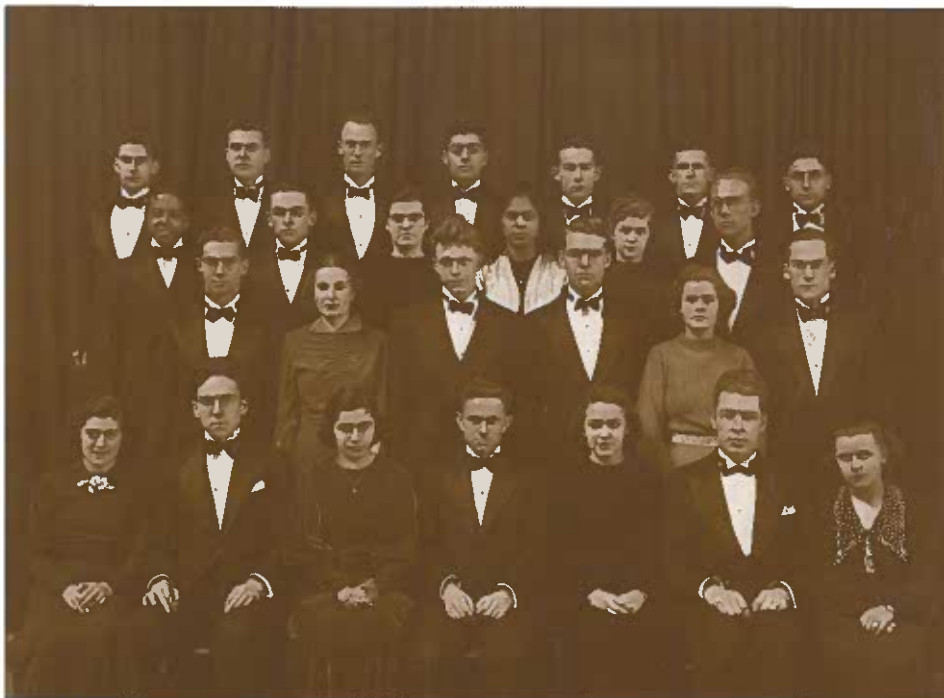
later become the most popular form of intercollegiate debate in the United States and more than forty other countries: British-style parliamentary debating. But after Moser's departure in 1973, Bates again shifted course, returning to the national competitive circuit in policy debate. In 1976, for the first time in nearly thirty years, Bates qualified a team for the National Debate Tournament by placing fourth in the New England/New York regional championships. Bates qualified one or more teams for the NDT in each of the next thirteen years, winning the northeast regional four times and receiving four first-rounds bids (awarded to the top sixteen-ranked teams in the nation).

As NDT debate experienced a steep national decline in participation during the mid-1980s, Bates again developed a parliamentary debating program that today combines many of the features from

earlier eras. As in the 1930s, from twenty-five to thirty students now participate each year in intercollegiate competition. During the 1995-96 season, Bates teams debated more than two hundred rounds in sixteen tournaments throughout the United States and Canada. As in the 1920s, Bates today maintains an active independent international debating program, having debated in Japan, England, and Ireland during the past year. Public on-campus debates continue to attract large audiences at Bates. A convener of public debates is elected each year and arranges from three to six public exhibitions at Bates and elsewhere. Students meet weekly for informal debates in the council room.

Bates continues its tradition of competitive success in debating. In 1992, Bates placed fourth in the North American championships. Bates teams were ranked fourth nationally by the American Parliamentary Debate Association in 1993-94 and second in 1994-95. Two of the three debaters on these teams had never debated before coming to Bates.

As the twenty-first century approaches, intercollegiate debating continues to be an important part of the educational experience and public reputation of Bates College.



The Bates debating squad of 1937-38 marked the peak of student participation in the Quimby years.



Women and Debate at Bates

4

“History has many themes,” writes Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School of Communication. “One of them is that women should be quiet.” Prevailing attitudes in nineteenth-century America held public speaking and public affairs to be outside the proper sphere of True Womanhood. Debating was especially transgressive, regarded as a combative, “manly” form of discourse, the practice of which implied a capacity for political participation at a time when women were not permitted to vote. If the primary object of collegiate debating, as Ralph Ringwalt described it in 1901, was “training for the bar, the pulpit, and public life,” then debate seemed to many to be unnecessary and inappropriate for women, who were almost entirely excluded from these realms. Vassar College issued a prospectus just prior to its opening in 1865 reassuring benefactors that its students would be trained in “womanly” ways, and thus “no encouragement would be given to oratory and debate.” Debating societies were prohibited as “utterly incongruous and out of taste” for young collegiate women.

Bates women held their first intercollegiate debate on May 1, 1924, against Boston University in the College Chapel.

Just four years later, when the Eurosophian and Polymnian literary and debating societies were formed at Bates, women were admitted along with male students. Women appeared in mixed teams in the public sophomore prize debates at Bates at least as early as November 1877, when Laura Woodbury Harrington '80 argued against the claim that "the New England colleges devote too much time to the study of Latin and Greek." A week later, Eliza Hackett Sawyer '80 defended the proposition that "Great Britain has a better claim than the United States to be considered a nation of the first rank." Women were among the finalists in the sophomore prize debates in most subsequent years.

At the time that Bates held its first intercollegiate debate, many of its best debaters were women. Adah Tasker '98 won the sophomore prize debate in November 1895 and was selected for the Champion Debate during Commencement week. She became secretary of the Bates College Debating Union (an auxiliary to the newly founded New England Debating League), won the junior exhibition prize, and was valedictory speaker for her graduating class. Yet she was never selected to represent the College in an intercollegiate debate. Nor were Lora King '99, Bertha True '00, Delia Blanchard '01, or Hazel Donham '03, all winners of the sophomore prize debate. Six of the ten participants in the sophomore prize debate of 1898 were women, yet neither they nor any other Bates woman for the next quarter-century participated in an intercollegiate debate.

Frustrated by their lack of opportunity in the College's debating societies, Donham and five other women students met on November 20, 1902, to form their own. As the yearbook for 1902-1903 explained: "The girls of the college had long felt the

need of some place where they could better fit themselves in work along the lines of debate and particularly in extemporaneous speaking. They felt that the societies did not in all respects fulfil this need, and so, as a subsidiary to the society, they founded their Debating League." The first meeting of the Young Women's Debating League was held on February 4, 1903, when they addressed the question of whether "for the student of average ability, the small college offers more advantages than the large." Two weeks later, they met again. "It is a society which should thrive," the yearbook account continued, "for it gives the girls an opportunity to come together and get from each other the help which they so much need and which they cannot get elsewhere."

Self-improvement, however, was not the only intended function. Almost immediately after the Young Women's Debating League was formed, its members sought to arrange for a debate with women from another college. Donham, the YWDL president, was an editor for *The Bates Student* and the November 1902 issue announced that "during the winter, if possible," Bates women would hold an intercollegiate debate:

"This seems to us to mark an important step in the history of our college, a step by which the girls cast off some of their trammels so long thrown around them, and take their stand on that broad foundation of reason which men have always inclined to believe was for them alone, but which we believe is broad enough for us both."

But the Bates women were unable to find an opponent. Few intercollegiate debates among American women had yet been held. In January 1897 women from the University of Iowa had challenged women



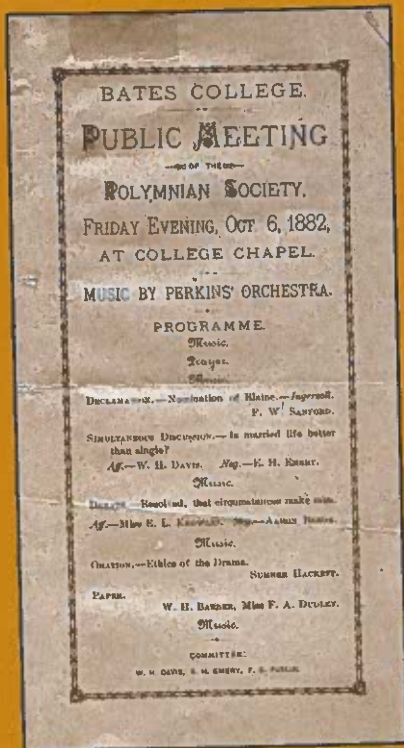
Yearbook photo and inscription for Hazel Donham '03, cofounder and president of the Young Women's Debating League, and editor of the yearbook.



Ella Knowles



Ella Knowles 1884 was the first woman to win the sophomore prize debates and the first to serve as an editor of *The Bates Student*. After graduation, she moved to Montana, where she persuaded the state legislature to lift its prohibition of women from the bar and became the state's first female attorney. Knowles was elected as the state's assistant attorney general, the highest political office then occupied by an American woman, at a time when neither she nor any other woman in the state was permitted to vote. As a national officer of the Populist party and a campaigner for women's suffrage, Ella Knowles Haskell was a powerful and popular speaker — often the first female public speaker her audiences had ever seen.



In a Polymnian Society debate in 1882, Ella Knowles defended the topic "Resolved: That circumstances make men."

from Wisconsin to a debate. Wisconsin officials forced their students to decline, because "ladies in that capacity do no credit either to themselves or to co-education in general." In 1902 and again in early 1903, teams from Wellesley and Vassar debated each other but, having been defeated in both contests, the Wellesley women were ordered by the college's Academic Council to suspend further intercollegiate debates. They withdrew from a scheduled meeting with Bates in early 1903.

The leaders of Bates's Young Women's Debating League graduated in 1903 and the organization disbanded. Soon after, the Bates faculty enacted severe restrictions on women's debating. In 1909, the faculty ordered the literary societies to form separate sections and meetings for the two sexes because "boys and girls have somewhat different ideals." For example, "the boys enjoy and participate in debating more than the girls, [while] the girls naturally prefer music ... essays, poems and literary work." Moreover, the faculty noted in alarm, "some boys will not speak in debate or take public part in the society because the girls are present." Similarly, although women had successfully competed with men in the sophomore prize contests for thirty-eight years, separate men's and women's divisions were created in 1915. The topic of the women's division debate that year was "Resolved: That the women of Maine should be granted the suffrage on equal terms with men."

The faculty also formally prohibited women students from participation in intercollegiate debates, a ban not lifted until 1923. On May 1, 1924, twenty-eight years after Bates men held their first intercollegiate debate, Louise Bryant '24, Janice Holt '25, and Elsie Greene '26 met Boston University to debate the question of



"As a woman debater, I am often in debate rounds where my teammate, my opponents, and my judge are all male. Although that situation may have been uncomfortable for me at one point, I have learned to feel comfortable competing with men on the strength of my ideas and my ability to articulate them." — Lucy Fowler '97, president of the Quimby Debate Council, 1996-97 (standing). Seated: Barbara Rath '96, Council president 1994-95



Bates international women's teams of the 1920s were the subject of much curiosity, not only as female debaters, but as reporters on changing women's fashions and mores in the United States. "We felt that a very great honor was paid us when we were allowed to visit 'Hart House,' sacred to men only — a real holy of holies like the men's union at Oxford. No women visitors before had ever been allowed there. Even Queen Marie of Rumania, who asked to be allowed to go through, was refused." — Mary Geary '27, member of the first Bates women's team to tour Canada.

whether the United States should join the Permanent Court of International Justice. Within a year, Bates women had engaged in two more intercollegiate debates and a team of Bates men had debated against women from Wellesley College, the first coeducational intercollegiate debate for either school. Mabel Mason Charlton, national secretary of Delta Sigma Rho, visited Bates in September 1924 and spoke of the growing and successful participation of women in intercollegiate debating across the country. She also reassured her audience that "in practically every instance the women who have gone upon the platform have been essentially womanly women."

Beginning in 1925, Bates women debated men from other colleges, winning unanimous decisions against the Massachusetts Agricultural College male team on February 21 and, in the Bates women's first international debate, against McGill on December 8, 1925. Bates women conducted a debating tour of Eastern colleges on the topic of child labor in 1926, entered a debating league with five women's colleges, and toured Canada.

Hired as coach in 1927, Brooks Quimby '18 made the Debate Council coeducational while retaining separate men's and women's debating squads. In the following year, he assembled Bates' first mixed-sex team. The number of women debaters at Bates expanded, as did their opportunities for travel. In 1936, Grace Jack '38, Margaret McKusick '37, and Harriet Durkee '37 completed a nineteen-hundred-mile debating tour of eight colleges and universities. By 1939-40, women occupied top leadership positions in the Debate Council.

With most of Bates's male debaters serving in the armed forces during World

War II, sixty percent of Bates's intercollegiate debaters were women. Women wartime debaters, including Valerie Saiving '43 and Shirley Stone '45, won significant regional and national honors. But after 1948 fewer women participated in debate at Bates and elsewhere in the United States. Not until the late 1970s did women return to debating in large numbers.

Today, women represent a majority of members and officers of the Quimby Debate Council. Three of the past four presidents of the Council and five of the six debaters who represented Bates at nationals in 1996 were women. Bates women hold annual workshops for new female debaters to discuss gender issues in debate and to form mentoring relationships between novice and experienced women debaters. From 1857, with the founding of the Ladies Athenaeum at the Maine State Seminary, to today, women have been an integral part of debating at Bates.



Mary Gozonsky '40 was the first woman elected president of the Bates Debating Council. She participated in four years of intercollegiate competition, including three in the Eastern Debating League, without losing a single decision debate.

Bates Debaters Along the Trail of Capt. Cook

The Gannett Newspapers of Portland, Aided by a State Committee of Representative Citizens Raising A \$7,000 Fund—Alumni, Friends of Bates and Citizens of Maine at Home and Abroad are Contributing

5

International Debate



Benjamin Robinson '86, Diane Murphy '86, and Kent Sinclair '86 are seen here at St. Andrews during a debating tour of Scotland in 1986.

HOW TO TALK YOUR WAY AROUND THE WORLD
 The Literary Digest for February 16, 1929
 "SAY, BO." EVERY SENTENCE, spoken in a nasal tone, began with those words as the enthusiastic and hospitable students went from shopkeeper to shopkeeper in search of American flags and American fireworks. For it was the glorious Fourth, and it was to be celebrated in high style, altho not in America, but at Otago University in New Zealand and by loyal subjects of the British Empire. The "Say, Bo" and the nasal speech and accent, were adopted in honor of American guests. These guests they aroused at one o'clock in the morning of Independence Day, and then their celebration began with vim. Finally they tried the Americans for being absent from the United States on their great holiday found them guilty, and proceeded to dip them in a tub filled with cold water and ink. The incident is recorded with great good humor in his diary by John Davis of Bates College, a member of the debating team of that institution, which last year entertained the debating team of English-speaking colleges and universities. The project attracted much attention, both at home and abroad, and we are reminded of the part Bates College played in international debating. The debating team included Mr. Davis, Charles H. Guphill and Mervin L. Ames. Their trip—to California, Africa, and England, Australia, Africa, and England, among other places—lasted from early May until mid-November. Many editorials at home and abroad have spoken of the importance of these debates in promoting international good-will. Mr. Davis, in an account of the trip written for the college newspaper, summed it up thus: "We olives, summed it up thus: corrected made countless friends, impressed many of our erroneous impressions concerning other English-speaking countries, and perhaps in some slight degree gave to others a more accurate impression of American and American institutions."



"T'WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR THE JUSTLY CELEBRATED SPRINK Never before, among the strange visitors it had received during all its uncounted centuries, had it stand upon a Bates College for any other." Honored-the-World Debating Team.

On May 10, 1928, three young men set out from Lewiston, Maine, to represent Bates College in a debating tour which carried them to English-speaking universities and colleges all around the world. They traveled for more than 50,000 miles, and having spoken in public some fifty times first across the United States to California, where they took part in a debate with the College of the Pacific at Stockton, to Honolulu, where they debated with the university there, to New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and England. Of their twenty-three debates two took place in the United States, two in New Zealand, ten in Australia, two in South Africa, and two in England with Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Of these forenoons there was no decision of the audience or judges, as the case might be, and in three the decision was given to the opposing team. Needless to say the worth of a team is no longer determined by the number of victories and defeats, and the Bates team strove not so much to win decisions as to make the debates interesting and entertaining so that members of the audience would not have to complain of insomnia if they did not enjoy good naps during the progress of the debates.

As a member of that team, I find that I have gained certain clear-cut impressions from the tour.

And some of those impressions bodies sent us away with an enthusiastic farewell meeting until the time they greeted us back with even greater enthusiasm. English-Speaking Union chapters in America, New Zealand, Australia, and England entertained us and cooperated with us whole-heartedly. The Governor of Hawaii, Mr. Parrington, entertained us royally. Mr. Herzog, Premier of the Union of South Africa, greeted us personally, and students all over the world welcomed us in a perfectly natural and charming manner. It was a pleasurable and unusual social function to find in cities everywhere persons not only willing but



FEARING WITHOUT A BLOSSOM THE FLORAL HONOR-COLLARS OF HAWAII From left to right: Mervin L. Ames, Charles H. Guphill, and John P. Davis, the argumentative talk-footers.

FIRST WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEBATE
 Bates College Women vs British Universities' Women
 Resolved: that the Disadvantages of Coeducation Outweigh the Advantages
 Bates College Chapel, 8 P.M.
 WEDNESDAY EVE., DEC. 13, '28
 Admission Fifty Cents
 1928



It was international debating, more than domestic victories, that distinguished the Bates program and brought the College such renown. By 1951, when its program of independent international tours was temporarily discontinued in favor of the U.S. national touring program, Bates had participated in 115 international debates. Today, Bates is among the very few American colleges or universities that maintain an independent program of international debating. The College has held at least one international debate on campus in each of the past fifteen years, and during that time has engaged in eight tours of other nations.

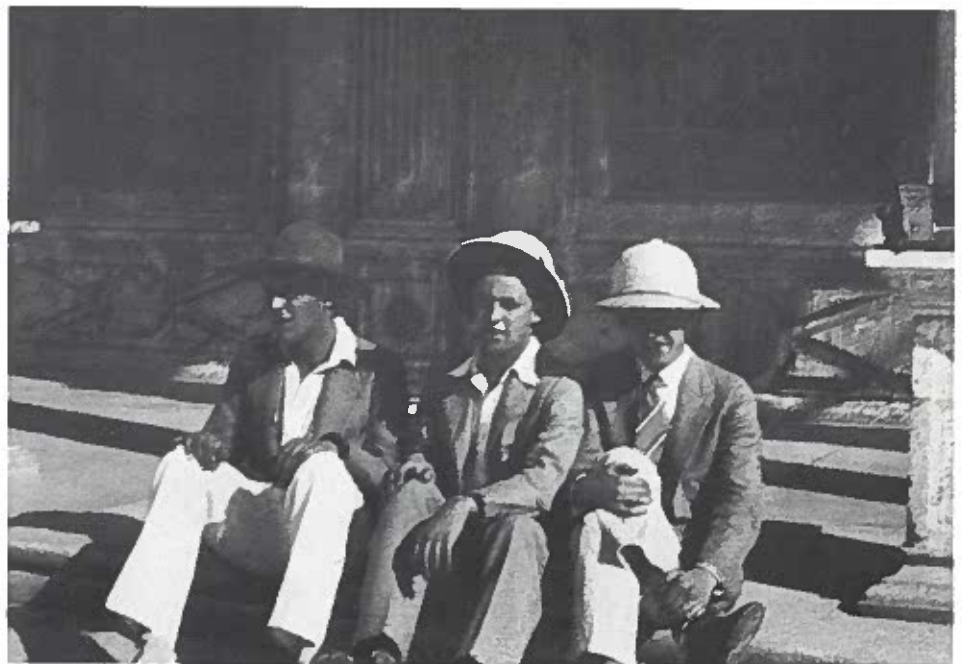
Bates and Queen's University of Ontario held the first international intercollegiate debate on May 12, 1908, in Lewiston's City Hall. Bates was represented by two seniors, Fred "Doc" Noble '08 and Tom Bridges '08. Both had won numerous prizes in oratory, declamation, and debating. Bridges had also lettered in varsity football, basketball, and baseball. The Queen's debaters, according to the *Lewiston Evening Journal*, were "natural orators whose personality and appearance were altogether in their favor." After opening music by the College orchestra, the debaters took the stage to dispute whether "Great Britain should make a substantial departure from her policy of free trade." Each spoke for twenty minutes, then returned for a five-minute rebuttal. An audience of seven hundred heard the judges pronounce Bates the victor. The *Journal* reporter concluded that Bates's "hard, solid facts and many figures proved too much for Queen's College oratory."

Bates traveled to Queen's in February 1909, the first time a U.S. team had debated in another country, raising hopes

1928 World Tour

"Everyone thought all Americans wore bright check suits, chewed gum, smoked long black cigars, carried a hip flask in one pocket and revolver in the other, and talked through their noses in an incomprehensible dialect."

— Mervin Ames '28



Mervin Ames '28, Charles Guptill '28, and John F. Davis '28 on the 1928 world tour.

John F. Davis '28

"We could not help but note that college students everywhere bear a striking resemblance to American college students. In Australia and New Zealand, they assume the same attitude of blasé indifference toward their work. Rugby or association football play almost as important a part in their college life as American football does in an American college, and they call their professors familiarly 'Bill' or 'Arty' as we are wont to do. There is a difference in nomenclature so that 'cramming' or 'grinding' becomes 'socking,' or a celebration becomes a 'hula' or a 'rag.' Many is the time we indulged in 'bull sessions,' with Australia or New Zealand students, which might well take place in a dormitory here."

— John F. Davis '28



of a continuing exchange. But that August, Bates debating coach A.K. Spofford died from appendicitis at the age of twenty-eight. The Bates program foundered, and for twelve years no further international debates were held.

In the spring of 1921, Bates student Robert Watts '22 wrote to his friend John Powers '19, a Rhodes Scholar, suggesting a debate with the Oxford Union. Oxford sent a cable in May challenging Bates to a debate, and within a month, Edward Morris '22, Charles Starbird '21, and Watts '22, along with coach Craig Baird, sailed from Montreal for England. On June 16, 1921, Bates became the first American team to debate abroad. Although Bates lost the vote of the audience, the trip received extraordinary national publicity and spurred many other colleges and universities to undertake international debating tours. Upon his return, Baird wrote and lectured widely on the differences between U.S. and British debaters and the importance of contests between them. Baird promoted international debating as a way to encourage more technically oriented and competitive Americans to "be at least human, conversational, and within limits even humorous" (1924).

In 1922, Bates became the first college to host the Oxford debaters on their inaugural tour of the United States. With Maine's Governor Baxter presiding, more than two thousand people packed Lewiston's City Hall to hear Oxford propose that the United States should enter the League of Nations. Bates won by a vote of 1,186 to 230.

Bates launched a more extensive tour of England and Scotland in 1925 with an extraordinary group of debaters: Erwin



“Two down and ten to go! We completed what we are bold enough to say was a very successful stay in Glasgow by taking the two best Glasgow had to offer Monday night and repeating the trick here last night.... That driving preparation you put us through may have gone hard at the time but paid off last night.... We did manage to slip away from our kind hosts long enough to get pictures taken in full Scottish regimental uniforms, kilts and all!”

— Norman Temple '47
(pictured above), letter to
Brooks Quimby '18 (1946)

Canham '25 (later a Rhodes Scholar and editor-in-chief of the *Christian Science Monitor*), John P. Davis '26 (cofounder, with Langston Hughes, of *Fire!* magazine and executive director of the National Negro Congress), Fred Googins '27, and H.H. Walker '26. They argued for diplomatic recognition of the Soviet government and defended the American policy of alcohol prohibition. At the University of Edinburgh on the evening of June 4, the Bates debaters defending prohibition were served milk between their speeches while the Scottish debaters drank whiskey.

Although a 1928 poster proclaims, “First Women’s International Debate — Bates vs. British U. Women,” Bates’s first international women’s debate was actually held three years earlier. On December 8, 1925, in Lewiston, Ethel Manning '26, Catherine Lawton '26, and Florence Burcke '27 defeated a team of men from McGill. In March 1927, Burcke, Mary Geary '27, and Clara Parnell '28 became the first Bates women to debate outside the country, touring McGill, McMaster, and the University of Toronto.

As the fame of the Bates debating program grew and as the practice of international debating was adopted by other countries, Lewiston became a regular stop for foreign teams touring the United States. In 1928, for example, Bates was visited by debaters from the Philippines and from Puerto Rico, each seeking a public platform in the United States for its claims to independence and for limitation of U.S. military intervention.

The Bates world debating tour of 1928 was the most extensive international debating tour yet undertaken. Between May 10 and November 17, John F. Davis '28, Charles Guptill '28, and Mervin

“At Aberdeen, the students had acquired a new tradition of greeting — in unison — any mention of ‘atomic bomb’ with a prolonged ‘whoosh’ followed by a stamping of the feet simulating an explosion. So this was a very explosive topic there!”

— Charles Radcliffe '50



Theodore Seamon '34 and Frank Murray '34 on the 1934 trans-Canadian tour.



In a debate on the question, "Are chopsticks better than flatware?" with visiting Japanese students in 1986, John Cutler '87 compares their artistic possibilities.



Bates and Oxford

"That single debate [between Bates and Oxford in 1921] stirred the imagination of the entire college debating world.... International collegiate debating is no longer an experiment; it has become an established institution."

— The Christian Science Monitor (1923)

Ames '28 traveled more than thirty-five thousand miles. They participated in twenty-three debates in Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, England, and the United States. A crowd of more than thirty-five hundred gathered in Auckland, New Zealand, to watch Bates defend U.S. prohibition. "Personally, I believe that prohibition has done great things for America," Charles Guptill '28 told the audience. "It has not only stopped a good many people from drinking, but it has added romance and adventure to the drinking of those few who have not stopped."

Although no official national championship existed until after World War II, several Bates teams of the 1920s and 1930s were called upon to represent the United States in international debates. Bates participated in what may have been the first international radio debate on October 24, 1930, when radio listeners heard Randolph Weatherbee '32 and H.E. Thomas '32 defend the proposition that "Thrift is not a virtue" against a combined team from Scottish universities. In 1934, the Canadian Federation of Students requested that the Student Federation of the United States select a debating team for a seven-week, coast-to-coast tour of Canada. Bates students Frank S. Murray '34 and Theodore I. Seamon '34, who had won the Eastern Intercollegiate Debating League Championship, were chosen to represent the United States in twelve debates from Halifax to Vancouver. They won eleven.

International debating was suspended by the onset of World War II. Ten days before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Bates debated the University of New Brunswick, Canada, on the question of whether the United States should enter the war. Sooner than any of the participants



ON THEIR WAY TO ENGLAND for a six-week debating trip, Oscar Newton, University of Alabama, and Charles Radcliffe, Bates, wave goodbye to Lewiston and Bates friends. The two men compose the United States' first national debate team. They were given an informal send-off at the railway station last Thursday evening by some '30 exam-ridden Bates students.

INTERNATIONAL DEBATE

Cambridge University

vs

Bates College

RESOLVED: That all countries should recognize the present government of Russia.

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE
A. P. MARSHALL, Cambridge	E. D. CANHAM, '25, Bates
JOHN P. DAVIS, '26, Bates	J. W. G. SPARROW, Cambridge
R. A. BUTLER, Cambridge	F. T. GOOGINS, '27, Bates

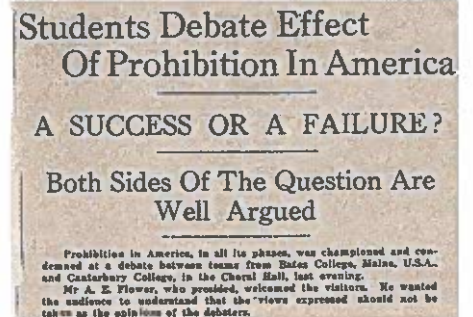
LEWISTON CITY HALL, 8 P.M.

Tuesday, September 23, 1924

ALL SEATS RESERVED AT ONE DOLLAR EACH

Tickets at Berry Paper Co., on and after Tuesday, September 16

Was the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima Just?



Why Hiroshima Still Haunts America's Psyche
A Nation of Nitwits

According to a new poll, 60 percent of Americans are unable to name the President who ordered the nuclear attack on Japan, and 70 percent do not know that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. One out of every four people surveyed for the America's Talking! Gallup Poll did not even know that Japan was the target of the first atomic bomb. Four percent of the 1,000 adult respondents thought the first bomb had been dropped on some other country. Twenty-two percent knew virtually nothing about an atomic bomb attack. They don't know where — or when — it occurred. Two percent of those who thought John Kennedy is 'fast nuclear strike, and thought it was Richard Nixon. This is scary.

Smithsonian drops a bomb
Group Seeks End to Display Of Enola Gay



Yes!
 John Lyle '95
 Sarah Gunn '97
 Ryoichi Ichihashi,
 Nagoya University

No!
 Barbara Rath '96
 Jeremy Breningstall '97
 Yuko Tomosue,
 Nagoya University

Mon., March 13 4 PM Chase Lounge



In 1995, during the fiftieth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Japan, Bates debaters and Japanese debaters in mixed teams held a series of debates on whether the bombings were justified. Some took place at Bates (poster, at top), others, in May, took place in Japan (bottom photos).

imagined possible, Quimby wrote in his annual report, "international debating ended temporarily and international action began."

When World War II ended, Bates became the first U.S. school to resume the intercontinental debating exchanges that had been halted by the war, as Edward Dunn '47 and Norman Temple '47 toured Scotland and England in October 1946.

Following the war, the Committee for International Discussion and Debate was formed to select a U.S. national collegiate team and to sponsor international debating tours in this country and others. In 1950, Charles Radcliffe '50 and Oscar Newton of the University of Alabama were selected as the first U.S. national debating team. Brooks Quimby participated in the coaching of the first three U.S. teams. Unfortunately, the CIDD program eliminated virtually all independent international debating tours by individual schools, and Bates did not send a team overseas between 1946 and 1971. In that year, the fiftieth anniversary of the first debate between Bates and Oxford, Bates students Jeff Tulis '72, Jane Pendexter '72, Randolph Erb '73, Alan Hyde '72, and Jeffrey Day '73 toured Great Britain.

With the growing popularity of parliamentary-style debate, international debating has enjoyed a resurgence in the last two

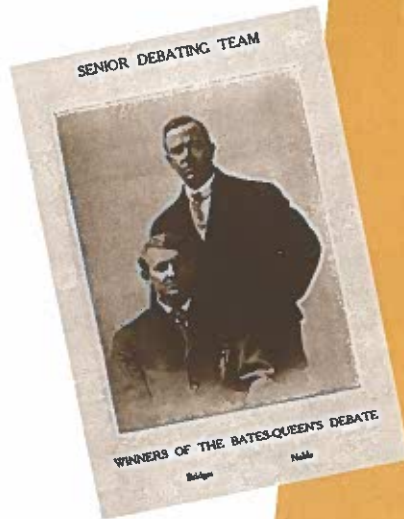
decades. Bates teams today debate in Canada several times a year, attend the annual World Universities Debating Championships, and conduct overseas debating tours.

Bates has developed a special relationship with teams from Japan. Since 1983, the annual winners of the International Education Center's debate tournament in Tokyo, Japan, have traveled to Bates for a series of mixed-team debates in English and Japanese language. In 1985 and 1995, Bates conducted debating tours of Japanese universities. During the Japan tour of 1995 — the fiftieth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — Bates students and Japanese students in mixed teams debated whether the bombings were justified.

"The opportunity to debate in Japan, Australia, England, Ireland, and Canada," writes Quoc Tran '95, "was the most educational and enjoyable experience of my college career. Where else but Bates could I have had the chance to do that?"

Bates Excelled in International Debate.

Hard, Solid Facts and Many Figures Proved Too Much for Queens College Oratory.



First Annual Debate

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
Kingston, Ontario

vs.
BATES COLLEGE
Lewiston, Maine

at
CITY HALL, LEWISTON

Tuesday, May 12, 1908
at 8.00 p.m.

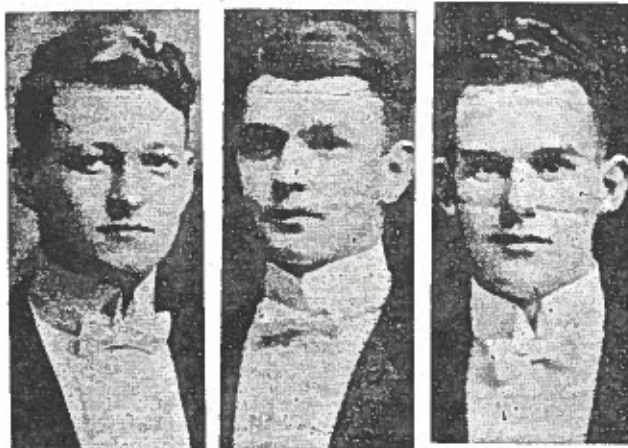


"To write the history of the early years of U.S. involvement in international debate is to write the history of Bates College involvement."

— Speech Communication Association, *Fifty Years of History of International Debate* (1972)

Bates Today Matches Wits and Skill with Oxford University

First International Collegiate Debate the World Has Ever Known is in Progress Thursday Afternoon—The Impressive Arguments with Which the Bates Representatives Hope to Convert Their English Audience



EDWARD A. MORRIS, CHARLES M. STAABIRD, ROBERT B. WATTS. Who Today Are Matching Oratory, Wit and Literary Skill With Representatives of England's Greenes University.



In the Bates Chapel, coach Robert Branham and Tom Foley, serving as speaker of the house, consult with tournament director Dan Schwager '93 before the final round of the North American championship. In the foreground is the permanent rotating trophy for the championship, the Bates-Queen's 1908 Award.

World Universities Debate Championships

Debating teams from thirty to forty nations meet each year in the world English-language debating championships.

1988 University of Sydney
Eric Fuchs '92 and Steve Robins '89

1989 Princeton University
Eric Fuchs '92 and Steve Robins '89

1990 Glasgow University
Eric Fuchs '92 and Linda Horwitz '90
Ellen Crowley '91 and Jeff Braun '91

1991 Hart House, University of Toronto
Ellen Crowley '91 and Jeff Braun '91
Eric Fuchs '92 and Larry Katz '91

1992 Trinity College, Dublin
Sarah Watson '92 and Dan Schwager '93
Christine Claffey '92 and Joel Bines '92

1993 Oxford University
Dan Schwager '92 and Grant Bialek '95
Lauren Popell '94 and Quoc Tran '95

1994 University of Melbourne
Lauren Popell '94 and Quoc Tran '95

1995 Princeton University
Chris Tiné '96 and Quoc Tran '95
Grant Bialek '95 and John Lyle '95

1996 University College, Cork
Chris Tiné '96, Lucy Fowler '97, Ryan Torres '96, Phyllis Papparazzo '96, Barbara Raths '96, and Jason Hall '97



Top U.S. and Canadian teams came to Bates for the North American Debating Championships in 1993 and Bates alumni returned to campus to judge. From left: Grant Reynolds '57, Mark Helm '92, Joel Bines '92, Sarah Watson '92, Andrew Stabnick '91, Chris Donovan '92, Ellen Crowley '91, Rick Dnjian '92, Eric Fuchs '92, Jeff Braun '91, Steve Robins '88, and Christine Claffey '92.

Awards in Regional, National, and International Competitions

6

BATES WINS EASTERN INTERCOLLEGIATE DEBATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP (Order of the finish: BATES, Wesleyan, Brown, Vassar, Amherst, Pennsylvania, Williams, Yale, Princeton)



BATES COLLEGE MEN'S DEBATING SQUAD

Bates won the championship of the Eastern Intercollegiate Debating League six times in the twelve years that it was a member: 1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1938, and 1940. Members of the league varied, but included Amherst, Brown, Columbia, Harvard, Lafayette, Mount Holyoke, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Smith, Vassar, Wesleyan, Williams, and Yale. The league was dissolved in 1942.



Above, the pendant won by the 1933 Eastern Intercollegiate Debating League Champions, Theodore Seamon '34 and Frank Murray '34. On October 28, 1933, they debated the University of Iowa, Western Conference champions, in a nationally broadcast, non-decision radio contest.

Bates students have won many individual debates and tournaments hosted by other colleges. Additionally, Bates debaters have distinguished themselves in the regional, national, and international championships hosted by intercollegiate debating leagues and organizations. Since 1895, Bates has joined with other schools to form and direct leagues for the conduct and regulation of intercollegiate debating, and has participated in the competitions sponsored by these organizations. The following list chronicles achievements and awards by Bates debaters.

New England Debating League Champions, April 23, 1896, Anson B. Howard '96, Carl E. Milliken '97, J. Stanley Durkee '97, Oliver F. Cutts '97.

First place, Eastern Intercollegiate Debating League, 1933, Frank Murray '34 and Theodore Seamon '34.

First place, Eastern Regional Debate Championship (for New England, New York, and New Jersey), Tau Kappa Alpha, 1935, Carleton Mabee '36.

District champions, National Extempore-Discussion Contest of Inter-American Affairs, 1942, David Nichols '42, Vincent McKusick '44.

Third place, National Radio Debate, 1942, Vincent McKusick '44.

Finalist, National Radio Debate, 1943, Valerie Saiving '43.

Finalist, National Discussion Contest on Inter-American Affairs, 1944, Shirley Stone '45.

First place, Eastern Divisional Tournament, National Debate Tournament, 1948, Edward Glanz '48, William Stringfellow '49.

First place, National Recorded Debate Tournament, November 15, 1948, through January 14, 1949, William Stringfellow '49, Frank Chapman '49, Charles Radcliffe '50, Richard McMahon '50.

Member, U.S. National Debating Team, 1950, Charles Radcliffe '50.

Second place, National Discussion Contest, 1953, Mary Ellen Bailey '54, Margaret Brown '54, David Wyllie '55, Donald Weatherbee '55.

Sweepstakes champions, Eastern Forensic Association, 1954, Richard Hathaway '55, Blaine Taylor '55, Margaret Brown '55, Anne Sabo '55.

Third place, New England Forensic Tourney, 1955, Claire Poulin '56, David Wyllie '55, Kay McLin '56, Robert Harlow '57.

First place, Eastern Forensic Association Tournament, 1955, Morton Brody '55, Richard Hathaway '55, Lawrence Evans '56, Blaine Taylor '55.

Second-place team, first-place sweepstakes, New England Forensic Tournament, 1958, Everett Ladd '59, Willard Martin '59, John Lawton '60, King Cheek '59.

Second place, New England Forensic Tournament, 1959, John Lawton '59, Everett Ladd '59, King Cheek '59, Willard Martin '59.

Third place, New England Forensic Tournament, 1960 Neil Newman '61, Jack Lawton '60, Marjorie Sanborn '61, Jack Simmons '61.

Third place, Eastern Forensic Tournament, 1962, Norman Bowie '64, Grant Lewis '62, Howard Blum '63, Robert Ahern '64.

Second place, New England Forensic Conference, 1963, John Strassburger '64, Howard Blum '63, Thomas Hall '64, Robert Ahern '64.

Eastern Forensic Association Champions, 1963, Howard Blum '63, John Strassburger '64, Thomas Hall '64, Robert Ahern '64.

First-place individual speaker, Delta Sigma Rho National Congress, 1964, John Strassburger '64.

First-place individual speaker, Delta Sigma Rho National Congress, 1965, Richard Rosenblatt '66.

National Novice Tournament Champions, 1978, Michael Laurence '81 and Joseph Swinney '81.

Top individual speaker, National Novice Championships, 1981, Steve Dolley '84.

First place, individual speaking competition, American Parliamentary Debate Association national championships, 1987, Steve Robins '89.

First place, individual speaking competition, APDA national championship tournament, 1991, Jeff Braun '91.

National finalist, individual speaking competition, APDA national championships, 1991, Chris Donovan '92.

National finalist, individual speaking competition, APDA national championships, 1992, Joel Bines '92.

Fourth place, North American Debate Championship Tournament, 1992, Joel Bines '92 and Sarah Watson '92.

Second place, National Novice Debate Championship, 1994, Lucy Fowler '97, Jason Hall '97.

Fourth-place National Team of the Year, American Parliamentary Debate Association, 1993-94, Lauren Popell '94, Christopher Tiné '96.

Second-place National Team of the Year, American Parliamentary Debate Association, 1994-95, Christopher Tiné '96, Quoc Tran '95.

Delta Sigma Rho

At its Golden Jubilee ceremony in 1956, Delta Sigma Rho, the national debate honor society, honored fifteen of its members who, since the organization's founding in 1906, had made the most "notable contributions in various fields." Three of the fifteen were associated with Bates: Benjamin E. Mays '20, president of Morehouse College; Erwin Canham '25, editor-in-chief of *The Christian Science Monitor*; and A. Craig Baird, director of debate at Bates, 1913-25.



Eastern Intercollegiate Debating League Champions, 1940: (from left) Patrick Harrington '42, Mary Ann Gozonsky '40, Leonard Clough '40, Frank Coffin '40, and Donald Maggs '40.

The National Debate Tournament

The NDT was first held in 1947 (and for twenty years thereafter) at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Regional districts were established throughout the nation for the first NDT, and a committee of coaches (including, for the Northeast Region, Brooks Quimby '18) in each district selected teams to represent it at nationals. Beginning in 1948, regional qualifying tournaments were established.

The NDT became the debaters' equivalent of the NCAA tournament in basketball. Gaining a slot at the tournament was itself for many years a mark of substantial accomplishment. Since 1971, the top sixteen teams in the nation have received at-large invitations to nationals. Four Bates teams have received such invitations. Bates's NDT participants are as follows:

1948 Edward Glanz '48 and William Stringfellow '49.**

1976 Richard Preston '78 and Thomas Connolly '79 (the first Bates debater — and one of the first in the history of the NDT — to qualify for the National Debate Tournament in each of his four years).

1977 Thomas Connolly '79 and James Veilleux '79.

1978 Thomas Connolly '79 and Michael Laurence '81.

1979 Thomas Connolly '79 and Michael Laurence '81**; Anthony Derosby '80 and James Veilleux.

1980 Michael Laurence '81 and Barry Boss '82; Anthony Derosby '80 and James Veilleux '79.**

1981 Michael Laurence '81 and Barry Boss '82.*

1982 Steve Dolley '84 and Joyce White '82.**

1983 Glenn Graham '85 and Steve Dolley '84.*

1984 Glenn Graham and Steve Dolley '84* (fifth at the National Debate Tournament); Paul Rosenthal '85 and Kim Leighton '86.

1985 Glenn Graham '85 and Paul Rosenthal '85*; Kim Leighton '86 and Jennifer Harris '88.

1986 Kim Leighton '86 and Chris Janak '89.

1987 Peter Klamka '90 and Chris Janak '89.

1988 Brad Stratton '89 and Chris Janak '89.

1989 Steve Concannon '92 and Chris Janak '89.

1990 David Kim '93 and Evan Medeiros '93.

1991 David Kim '93 and Evan Medeiros '93. (qualified, did not attend).

* First-round at-large bid recipient. Selected as one of the top sixteen teams in the country based on competitive record during the year.
** Winner of the regional district qualifying tournament for colleges and universities in New England and New York.



John Strassburger '64 was the first-place individual speaker at the Delta Sigma Rho National Congress, 1964.



Shirley Stone '45 was a finalist (one of six national winners) in the National Discussion Contest on Inter-American Affairs, 1944.



Joel Bines '92 and Sarah Watson '92, finished in fourth place at the North American Debate Championship Tournament, McGill University, 1992.



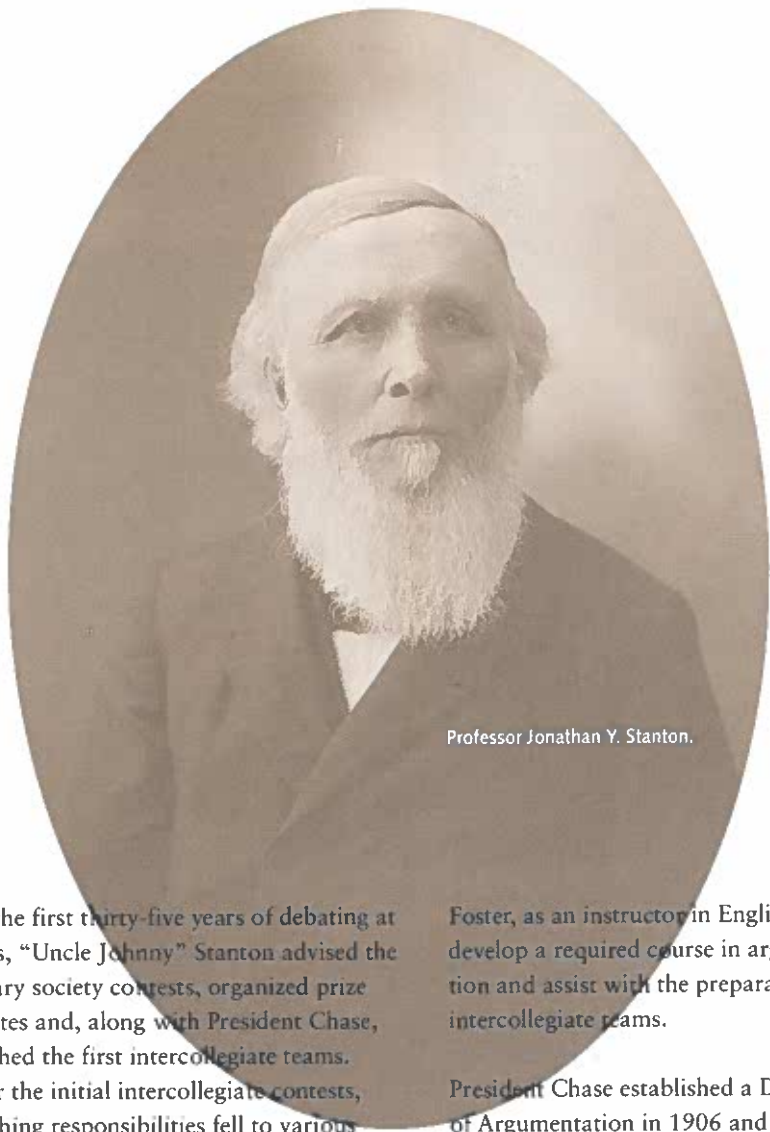
Jeff Braun '91 won first place in the individual speaking competition at the American Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship Tournament, 1991.



Vincent McKusick '44 (later Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court) placed third in the National Radio Debates, 1942.

7

The Coaches



Professor Jonathan Y. Stanton.

For the first thirty-five years of debating at Bates, “Uncle Johnny” Stanton advised the literary society contests, organized prize debates and, along with President Chase, coached the first intercollegiate teams. After the initial intercollegiate contests, coaching responsibilities fell to various members of the faculty with scholarly expertise on the chosen topic. English professor W. B. Hartshorn supervised the training of the debaters in argumentation and oratory.

In 1899, George P. Baker of Harvard and other leading educators began promoting the appointment of professional debate coaches: “Somebody is needed to see that the debaters get all the material on both sides of the case; meet the men most able to advise them in regard to their subject ... realize what are the strong and the weak places in both sides of the case ... decide the order of the speakers.” Basically, said Baker, “a person is needed who can stand off and look at the situation with clear eyes.” Two years later, Bates hired one of Baker’s former students, William Trufant

Foster, as an instructor in English to develop a required course in argumentation and assist with the preparation of the intercollegiate teams.

President Chase established a Department of Argumentation in 1906 and hired Albion Keith Spofford '04 as its first professor and the College’s first official debating coach. Spofford had been editor of *The Bates Student* and starred in two intercollegiate debates. He did graduate work at Dartmouth and coauthored a leading college debate text before returning to Bates. His teams won seven of eight debates, including the first international debate against Queen’s University, Ontario, in 1908. Then Spofford died suddenly just before the opening of classes in 1909. One of Spofford’s debaters, J. Murray Carroll '09 was appointed as interim coach. When he took leave to complete graduate work at Harvard, Carroll was replaced by the legendary A. Craig Baird.



William T. Foster, instructor in English, advised the Bates teams from 1900 to 1902 and developed the College's required course in argument. He left Bates for Bowdoin, where he authored the leading debate text of the day, *Argumentation and Debate* (1908). He later became the first president of Reed College.

A. Craig Baird

During the fiftieth anniversary of the National Debate Tournament in 1996, Albert Craig Baird (1883-1979) was hailed as the "father of modern debate." His twelve years at Bates not only brought the Bates program to international acclaim, but transformed the practice of intercollegiate debating in the United States.

Baird was born in Vevay, Indiana, where his father was editor of the Republican newspaper in a Democratic county. "I grew up hearing endlessly, and discussing, the pros and cons of Bryan and free silver ... imperialism, agricultural depression, control of the railroads, and the other issues of the period," he recalled. "A discussion of any kind has been a magnet to me since my boyhood."

He entered Wabash College in 1903 and during his junior year took part in the college's first intercollegiate debate. After graduation, he preached to two congregations fifteen miles apart and was nick-



"First, you are to have genuine intellectual integrity; second, we expect you to have social integrity and outlook; third, your personality reflects moral integrity. You are on the side of truth." — A. Craig Baird, 1954

named "the Bicycle Parson" for his mode of travel between them. Baird completed an M.A. in English at Columbia and divinity studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York, where he was trained in homiletics and public speaking by the great preacher of the "social gospel," Harry Emerson Fosdick, who helped shape Baird's understanding of the role of speech and debate in civil society. Baird insisted that debate was the art of "selling ideas" for social improvement, less a process for discovering truth than an opportunity to "make truth prevail" (1938).

Baird taught briefly in the English departments of Ohio Wesleyan and Dartmouth before coming to Bates in 1913. His primary teaching responsibility was for English III, the required sophomore course



J. Murray Carroll '09.



"I resolved that I would never enter a prearranged discussion affecting my own welfare or my deepest convictions without being armed to the teeth with definite and authentic information.... I tell [my students] that they must know the subject at hand so well that they can not only make an air-tight case for themselves but also be able to present the opponent's case better than [their] opponent can present it himself."

— A. Craig Baird, 1923

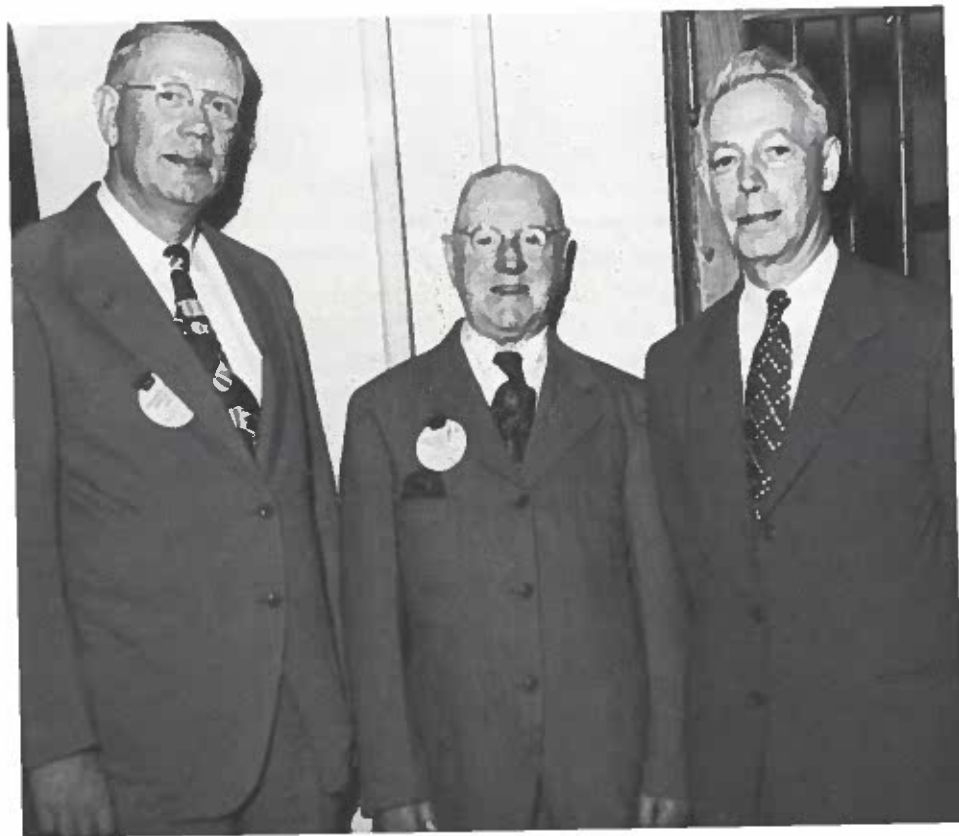
in argumentation. Baird's approach merged readings, composition, and discussion on current issues with the study of practical logic and classical rhetoric. His published outline for the course became the basis for his popular college text, *Public Discussion and Debate* (1928).

Baird demanded thorough research and sound reasoning; he reviewed every argument in his students' briefs in exhaustive detail and insisted that their speeches be rewritten until he believed they could overcome all objections. His debaters stayed on campus to work during vacations and met for daily exercises (both verbal and physical) in preparation for a single debate. In 1913, he founded the Bates Interscholastic Debating League for high schools in Maine and New Hampshire, which in turn sent many of its best debaters to Bates.

Baird's teams posted four wins and four losses in his first three years at Bates. In the next six years they did not lose again

to an American opponent. The unprecedented success of Baird's teams and their trailblazing exchanges with British universities coincided with a rekindled public fascination with debating as a civic exercise and popular entertainment. National newspapers and magazines profiled Baird and probed the secrets of his success, with tips for the application of the "Bates System" to the reader's own occupational or civic endeavors. By 1923, he was hailed as a "genius" by *American Magazine*, honored as "the greatest American authority on debating" by Delta Sigma Rho, and heavily recruited by other colleges.

At a "monster mass rally," reported by the *Lewiston Sun* in 1924 after Baird's threatened departure, students and alumni chanted "We want Baird!" and demanded that President Gray do what was necessary to keep him. Baird stayed for another year, but in 1925 left Bates for the University of Iowa, where he became chair of the department (directing more than fifty



Craig Baird (right), who was later awarded a Bates honorary degree in 1973, was reunited with his former student Brooks Quimby '18 (left) and coaching associate Grosvenor Robinson (center) at the Bates Commencement of 1950.

The Bates System

In 1921, responding to numerous requests for the secret of Bates' success, Baird explained "The Bates System":

"Trials are held, at which any undergraduate is welcome to speak briefly on prescribed subjects. From the first set of candidates, which usually numbers fully fifty men, a squad of twelve is selected for further training. Weekly debates within the squad go on for a month, when final trials are held to choose the three men for the coming debate.... The team once chosen, work is begun on the question for the debate. Exhaustive bibliographies are made, and the speakers are started on wide readings to lay a solid foundation for the future case. Slowly, the question is analyzed and main issues developed. At this point the team begins to specialize, each man striving to become an expert on his given issue. In this way, work steadily goes on until the entire case is completed.

"The next stage is ... the plotting out of refutation for every possible argument on the other side of the question. The team is trained to work as a unit, each man advancing the other, until the entire subject is handled as though by a single individual. This closely-knit team work is one of the greatest assets which Bates teams possess, and is the thing to which many a victory has been due.

"The final care of the debaters is to improve the presentation of their case, which is customarily handled extemporaneously. Voice control and the technique of oratory furnish the last stretch of the training period, until each man is absolutely sure of himself on the platform. This accomplished, the team goes into the approaching contest confidently and with the results previously mentioned."

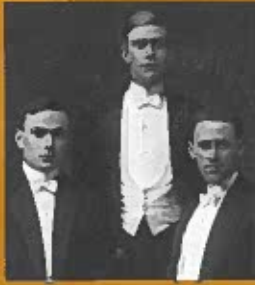
doctoral dissertations) and national president of the Speech Association of America. Baird is widely regarded today as among the most influential scholars of speech communication in this century. His books, including *General Speech* (with Franklin Knower, 1950), *Speech Criticism* (with Lester Thonssen, 1948), and *American Public Addresses, 1740-1952* (1956), were among the standard graduate and undergraduate texts of the period. Baird also served as editor of the annual editions of *Representative American Speeches* from 1937 to 1959.

Craig Baird established Bates as a national, rather than merely a regional, debating power. His systematic training of debaters, his efforts to bring college debating before a broader public, and the premium he placed upon international debating have all been lasting legacies.

Frank Brooks Quimby '18

The Quimby Debate Council is named for the person who, more than any other, has come to personify Bates debating in the memories of his students and others. Frank Brooks Quimby (1897-1968) was director of debate at Bates for forty years. During his tenure, he continued the competitive successes of his predecessor and coach, Craig Baird, while at the same time greatly expanding participation in the program. Like Baird, he held strong views about the proper conduct and purposes of debate.

Quimby was a star debater at Leavitt Institute in Maine and was recruited by Baird after losing in the state finals. In a period in which most debaters did not participate in intercollegiate competition before their senior years, Brooks Quimby became the first student in Bates history to debate in each of his four years. He was also a gifted athlete, lettering in track.



"If you're not doing well, just work a little harder."

— Frank Brooks Quimby '18

Brooks Quimby '18 (center) as first-year student on men's varsity debating team in 1915.

After his graduation in 1918, Quimby volunteered for service in World War I. He worked as a chicken farmer upon his return to Maine, then accepted a position in 1922 as chair of the history department and debating coach at Portland's Deering High School. Quimby's teams won the state championship several times, and he was quickly recognized as a coach of great talent.

Quimby was hired in 1927 to replace the departed Craig Baird. Quimby redirected the Bates debate program, dramatically increasing the number of debates and participants, while de-emphasizing decision contests. "It means that there is less of the hammer and tongs disputation, the desperate struggle to win at all costs," he explained in his 1928 report to the president, less "use of only a few stars with one or two men relied upon to win every debate, and the preparation of speeches calculated only to win judges." Quimby drew upon his high-school contacts to bring Maine's best debating talent to Bates. One year after his arrival, he organized a world tour featuring two of his star debaters from Deering, Charles Guptill '28 and John F. Davis '28.

In 1931, Quimby completed his M.A. in education at Harvard and was appointed full professor; in 1937 he became chair of the speech department. Quimby's squads of the 1930s dwarfed those of his predecessors. In the 1931-32 season alone, Bates held more debates than in Baird's last six years combined and involved nearly as many debaters. Bates debaters attended the "Quimby Institute," a system of practice debates in which Quimby himself debated against his teams while also serving as timekeeper, critic and judge. The Quimby Institute was never defeated.



Debate coaching is "a rewarding opportunity for a teacher ... because of the special relationship between teacher and student the situation creates. Both recognize that they are working for a common goal — the success and development of the students — a goal not so readily accepted by the student in the classroom. But in forensics criticism is eagerly sought, hard work readily accepted, and there is a free exchange between minds trying to solve the same problem together. Teaching and learning become less of a task and more of a pleasant and stimulating experience" — Brooks Quimby



Quimby was elected national vice-president of Delta Sigma Rho, president of the New England Speech Conference, eastern states representative to the Committee for International Discussion and Debate, and coach of the first three U.S. national teams. He took an active role in the direction of high-school debating activities in the state of Maine, administering the Bates Interscholastic Debating League and state championship tournament and helping to promote the development of new programs and coaches. Quimby published several essays in national journals and authored two books for high-school debaters and coaches, *So You Are Directing Debating!* (1948), and *So You Want to Discuss and Debate* (1954). He assembled several brochures and a filmstrip lecture on the history of Bates debating and maintained an extensive collection of photographs, posters, and memorabilia that today forms the basis of our centennial exhibition.

Brooks Quimby



"Only over my maybe not dead, but at least in dying agonies, body will a Bates team start out to debate first one side and then the other of a subject like military training or health insurance.... We have plenty of lawyers in this country who will defend any position for a few; we need more men and women who speak effectively in support of their convictions."

— Brooks Quimby, *So You Are Directing Debating* (1948)

Thomas Moser

When Brooks Quimby retired in 1967, he was replaced by Thomas Moser who, as Quimby himself had done forty years earlier, fundamentally redirected the Bates debate program. Born in Chicago in 1935, Moser graduated from the State University of New York at Cortland and completed his Ph.D in speech communication at the University of Michigan in 1965.

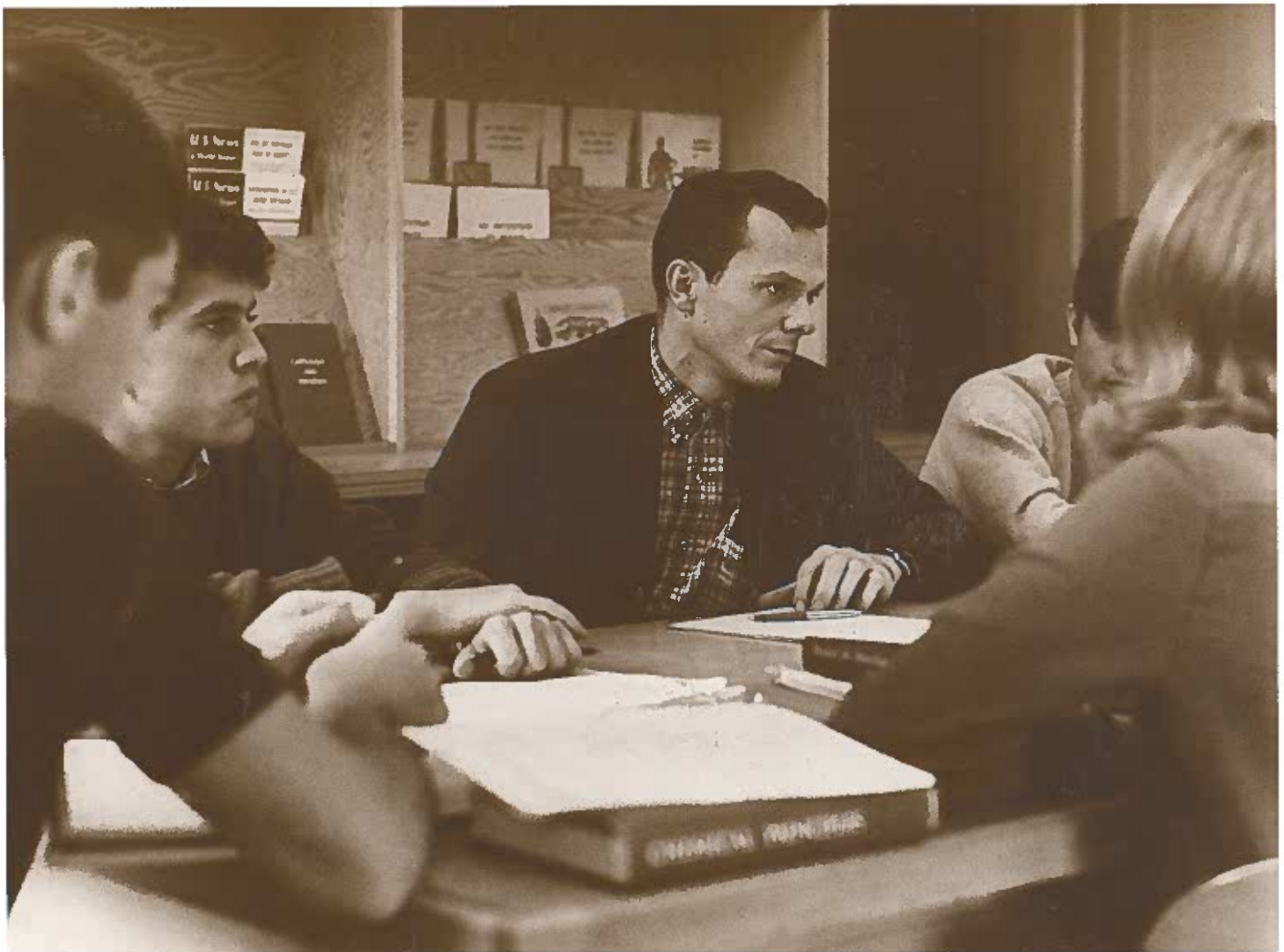
Moser embraced both Quimby's belief that debate is primarily a form of public speaking, designed to appeal to audiences, and Quimby's dissatisfaction with competitive tournament debating. Shortly after his arrival at Bates, Moser abandoned the National Debate Tournament policy debate circuit in favor of British-style parliamentary debate. Instead of a fixed,

year-long topic, new topics were debated every round; instead of buttressing every point made in a debate with evidence from experts, parliamentary debaters speak extemporaneously without reading quotations from other sources. "Debate is, after all, public speaking," Moser insisted in 1972, "not research and evidence painstakingly collated and precisely enunciated. We will continue to participate in tournaments, for they do have a place, but we want to do what we can to bring about a more sensible balance."

Parliamentary tournaments, sponsored by the fledgling American Platform Debate Association (later to become the American Parliamentary Debate Association), were rare, and Bates instead revived its practice of public debates with individual opponents. Moser's students held on-campus

public debates with Harvard and Oxford, for example (on the question, "Is violence necessary for social change?"), and toured England in 1971 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first Bates-Oxford debate.

In his spare time, Moser studied cabinet making, house restoration and antique furniture. In 1973, he and his wife Mary established Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers and he resigned from Bates. "I'm trying not to become a critic," Moser explained at the time. "I want to be a doer." Within a decade, their company had gained an international reputation for the production of fine handcrafted wooden furniture and today boasts over one hundred employees and showrooms in Portland, Philadelphia, New York City, and San Francisco.



Thomas Moser, who guided the Bates debate from 1967 until 1973, directed the program away from policy debate toward more extemporaneous, British-style parliamentary debate.

Robert Branham

By Paul Rosenthal '85

The vitality of the Bates debating program and the great strengths of its coaches are inextricably linked. For the past twenty-two years, Bates debate has thrived under the guidance of Robert J. Branham. Born in 1953, Branham was raised in Oklahoma City. He graduated with honors from Dartmouth College, where he served as president of the Debate Council and novice coach, then completed his M.A. and coached debate at the University of North Carolina. In 1974, Branham was appointed to the Bates faculty. He later earned his doctorate at the University of Massachusetts and in 1989 was promoted to full professor of rhetoric at Bates.

Branham inherited a Bates debate program that had not emphasized intercollegiate competition for a number of years. He arrived to find an annual budget of just \$1,000 and only one returning debater. Branham recruited five novices and was determined to compete on the national circuit. "We slept on floors, traveled across the country in an Opel station wagon, and felt triumphant when we won as many debates as we lost," he recalls.

Bates has since regained its position of prominence on the national debating circuit. In 1976, just two years after Branham took over the program, Bates earned its first invitation to nationals in nearly three decades and repeated this achievement in each of the next fourteen years. In 1985, Branham initiated a parliamentary debating program in order to boost participation and increase opportunities for public debates and international competition. In 1990, he shifted the entire program to this format. Branham's teams have quickly achieved



During his current tenure as debate coach, Professor of Rhetoric Robert Branham, shown here with debater Barry Boss '82, has boosted participation and increased opportunities for public debates and international competition.

great success in parliamentary debating: in 1995, the top Bates team was ranked second nationally.

Branham is an active, accomplished scholar whose published works span various academic disciplines and media. In his academic field of rhetoric, his numerous articles consistently appear in the discipline's top journals. His documentary videos and films, often produced in collaboration with Bates students, have achieved considerable acclaim, including the 1993 Annual Media Award from the New England Historical Association. Branham's writings on debate cover the spectrum from a comprehensive undergraduate textbook, *Debate and Critical Analysis* (1991), to articles on cutting-edge debate theory, to thoroughly practical guides for tournament administration. In 1995, he was honored as the researcher of the year by the American Forensic Association. Like Baird and Quimby

before him, Branham now sits on the national Speech Communication Association's Committee for International Discussion and Debate, which selects the U.S. national debate teams.

Branham teaches and inspires his debaters to think in fundamentally different ways than they did before. In early debate meetings, he lays out two valuable tools of the insightful debater: thorough anticipation and strategic embrace of opponents' arguments. Branham encourages his debaters to restrain the instinct to contradict an opponent's every point. In his textbook, Branham advises, "The first impulse of any debater upon hearing an opponent's argument or evidence should be: how can I *use* that to my advantage?" (p. 130). Branham encourages his debaters to see the bigger picture of the round, to sort out the decisive from the inconsequential.



But Branham has never reduced debate to mere tactics and techniques. He teaches, occasionally by word and always by example, that the most gifted advocates are those who have something important to say. Branham eschews detached argumentation. He believes that ideas matter and that advocating them carries personal and political consequences. Like Quimby, Branham teaches that fidelity to principle defines the committed advocate. But also like Craig Baird, Branham teaches his debaters that to thoroughly understand their own positions, full credit must be given to their opponents' best possible arguments. He has managed to reconcile these seemingly inconsistent philosophies by counseling his debaters to question their own assumptions — but not to forsake deeply felt convictions.

Branham conveys the message that his debaters are simultaneously the inheritors and the creators of Bates's debating history. He often recounts stories about prior generations of debaters and preceding coaches. Whenever his team travels, Branham encourages his debaters to

contact alumni, to invite them to debates, and to share unique perspectives and the common legacy possessed as Bates debaters.

"I never met Foster, Baird, or Quimby," says Branham, "but I am indebted to them in many ways. Foster's 1908 book, *Argumentation and Debate*, was the model for my own. Baird's writings in rhetorical criticism were staples of my graduate education, and Quimby's insistence that the debate coach is first and foremost a teacher has helped shape my understanding of the position."

Perhaps Branham's greatest achievement as director of debate lies in the heritage his debaters share with prior generations: a

sense that who and what we are was shaped by our time at Bates, by participation in debate, and by the guidance and provocation we received from our debate coaches. Both the continuity and the special character of the Bates debate program are largely attributable to the exceptional abilities of its coaches. On the eve of its second century, the team could not be in better hands.

Paul Rosenthal '85, a former Bates debater, is in his third year at Columbia University School of Law, where he is managing editor of the Law Review. This past summer he worked at the New York law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore as a summer associate attorney.



Jeremy Breningstall '97 (left) and Quoc Tran '95 (right) work with a colleague at Nagoya University, Japan, on tour with coach Robert Branham.

SHALL WE KEEP THE MARINES IN NICARAGUA?

Bates Debaters

HOWARD THOMAS
CLAYTON WHITE
CHARLES GUPTILL

Say YES

U. of Porto Rico Debaters

J. COLORADO
VINCENTE ROURE
GABRIEL GUERRO

Say NO

Sine Qua Non

Debate coaching at Bates has rarely been the job of a single individual. Faculty such as Carroll, Cutts, George M. Chase, and Grosvenor Robinson assisted the early coaches by helping to select and train intercollegiate debaters. Students (usually seniors) also served as instructional assistants in argument, as Brooks Quimby did in 1917-18. When the directors of debate took sabbatical or other leaves, they were replaced by coaches including J. Weston Walch (Portland publisher of high-school debate handbooks and Quimby's *So You Want to Discuss and Debate*), Norman Temple '47 (veteran of the first post-war tour of Britain), Clare Dalton (later professor at Harvard and Northeastern university law schools), and Thomas P. Foley (later Pennsylvania's secretary of labor and industry), among others.

Since 1979, Bates has hired part-time assistant debate coaches, including John Meany (now director of debate at Claremont College), Michael Laurence '81 (attorney specializing in death-row appeals), Anthony Derosby '80 (who had primary responsibility for the training of National Debate Tournament debaters from 1982-85), Lauren Popell '94, Linda Horwitz '90, and Paul Rosenthal '85. During Rosenthal's stint as assistant, he and Stacey Kabat '85 were instrumental in the resurgence of public debating at Bates. In residence in 1985-86 after a year leave of absence, Kabat helped promote a series of debates at Bates on the proposed divestiture of the College's investments in South Africa. In 1992, Kabat was honored with the Reebok Human Rights Award for her work with Battered Women Fighting Back. She and her coproducers won the 1995 Academy Award for their documentary *Defending Our Lives*.

Should the Munroe Doctrine be Scrapped?
Is the Panama Canal in Danger?
Does South America Hate the United States?
How was Lindy Received in Nicaragua?
Should Porto Rico be Independent?

These and other Questions of current interest concerning our Policy in the Caribbean will be answered in the

OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION

WHICH WILL FOLLOW

INTERCOLLEGIATE DEBATE

Between Bates College and the University of Porto Rico

Little Theatre

Bates College

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, 8 P.M.

No Admission

1928



Bates debaters have always tackled issues beyond the College, from relations with South America in the 1920s (poster) to the College's investments in South Africa, debates that Stacey Kabat '85 helped promote in the 1980s.

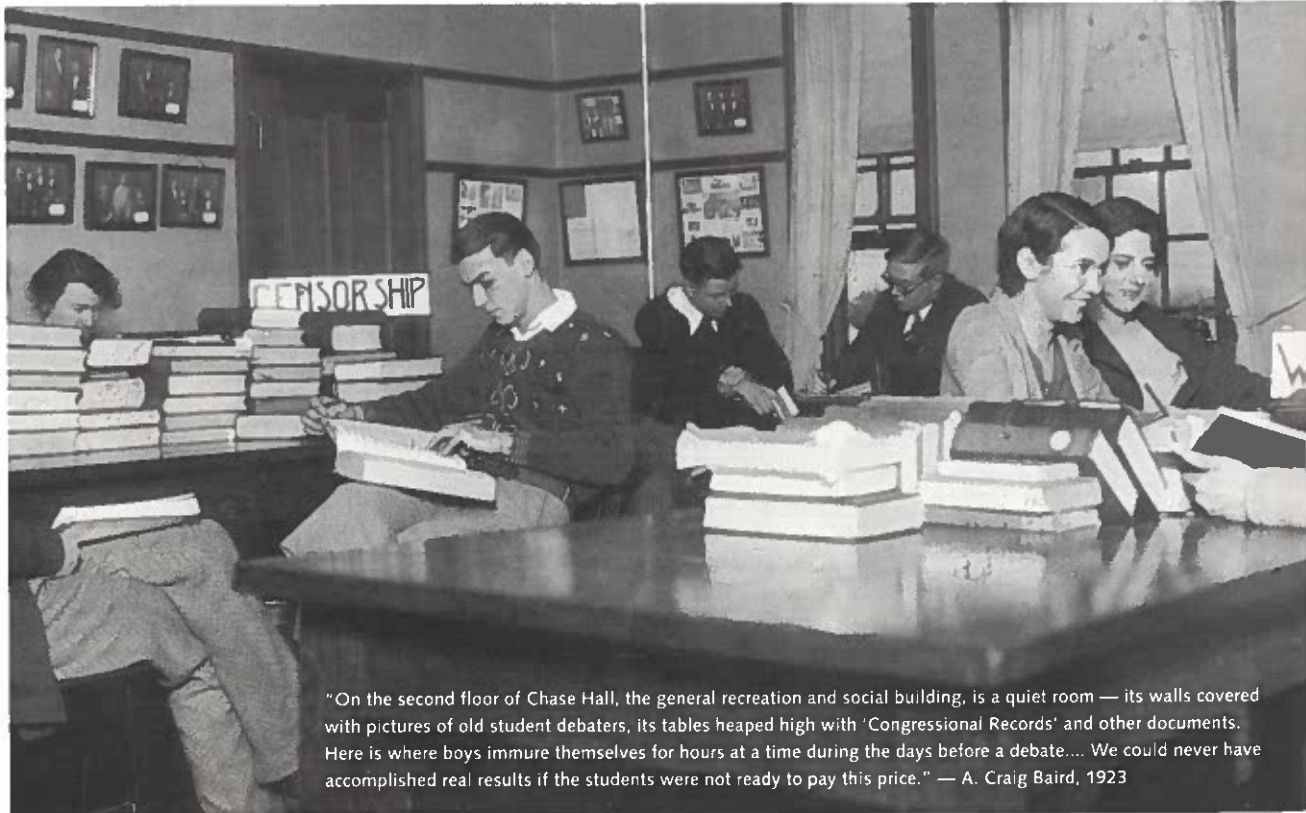


Debating has had many different homes at Bates. The nineteenth-century literary societies — Eurosophia, Polymnia and Piaeria — each had their own meeting room and library in Hathorn Hall. In 1908, Libbey Forum was opened to house the societies. The intercollegiate debating teams met in Chase Hall until the construction of Pettigrew in 1963. In each location, the debate room has been a special place for Bates students, a place of all-night work sessions, practice debates, coaching and tutorials, as well as casual camaraderie.

“Night and day these men labored, resurrecting many books dealing with government which, before this time, were unknown to most of us.... While the rest of us spent the Easter vacation many miles from this institution, and where we would not even hear the word ‘study,’ these men stayed right here on the campus and worked hard preparing for the ‘big night.’”
 — *The Bates Student* (May 1, 1919)
 account of Bates’s victory in the annual triangular debates with Clark and Tufts.

8

The Debate Room



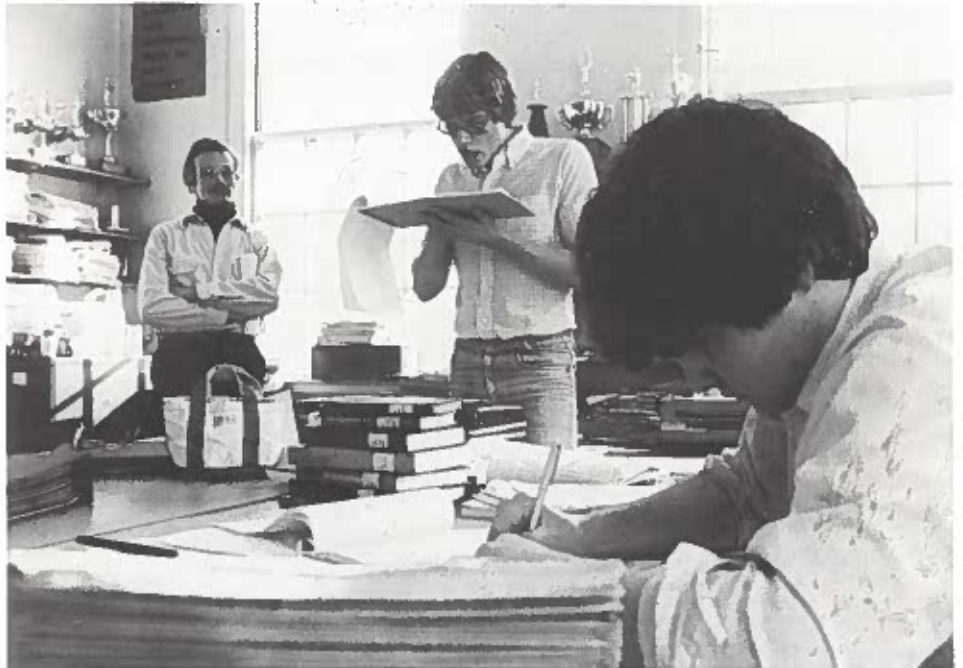
“On the second floor of Chase Hall, the general recreation and social building, is a quiet room — its walls covered with pictures of old student debaters, its tables heaped high with ‘Congressional Records’ and other documents. Here is where boys immerse themselves for hours at a time during the days before a debate.... We could never have accomplished real results if the students were not ready to pay this price.” — A. Craig Baird, 1923

"I spent ten or twelve years of my professional life preparing and arguing cases in the Supreme Court. I think I am right in saying that there was never one case that I argued in which I was not consciously aware of, and grateful for, the training in argumentation that you had given me. Nine justices pouring in searching questions were not easy to handle, particularly when one is playing for keeps, but no one of them ever probed deeper or tested more skillfully than you used to do in that little room in Chase Hall."

— John F. Davis '28, letter to Brooks Quimby (1967)



Pettigrew debate room in 1950s.



"It is a place to gather, a place to think, a place to work and a place to challenge and change yourself. It has character and, at the same time, its character is shaped by the people who use it." — Christopher Tiné '96



9

Debating — A Power in Their Lives

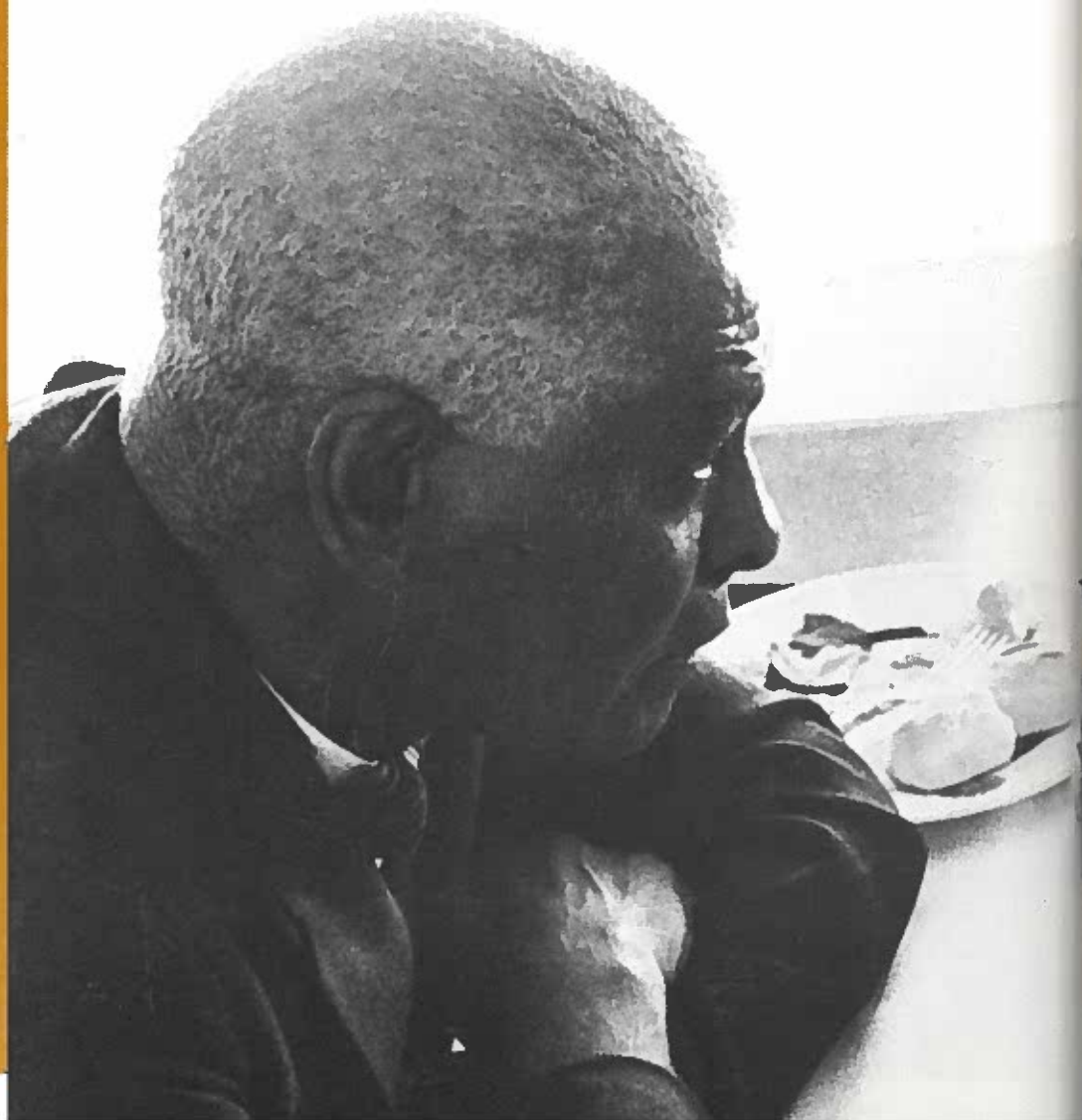
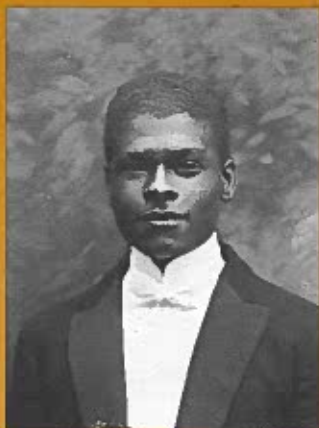
"It will not be sufficient ... for any college ... to produce clever graduates, fluent in speech and able to argue their way through; but rather honest [people], who can be trusted in public and in private — who are sensitive to the wrongs, the sufferings, and the injustices of a society and who are willing to accept responsibility for correcting them."

— Radio address by Benjamin Mays '20 at Morehouse College

Benjamin Elijah Mays
(1895-1984)

"One of my dreams came true at Bates. Through competitive experience, I had finally dismissed from my mind for all time the myth of the inferiority of all Negroes and the inherent superiority of all whites — articles of faith to so many in my previous environment. I had done better in academic performances, in public speaking, and in argumentation and debate than the vast majority of my classmates... Bates did not 'emancipate' me; it did me the far greater service of making it possible for me to emancipate myself, to accept with dignity my own worth as a free man."

— Benjamin Mays, *Born to Rebel*, 1971



Edmund S. Muskie '36

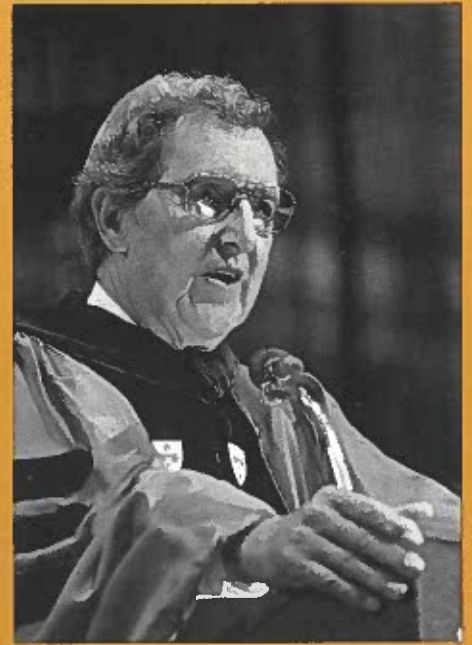
Edmund Sixtus Muskie (1914-1996)

“One becomes a leader by molding public opinion to support a given course of action, not by dictating such action. Dealing, as one must, with an ever-changing, ever-restless, ever-shifting body of public opinion, one can hope to be successful in a career of leadership, only to the extent that one practices effectively the art of debate.

“This involves the ability to pinpoint the crucial issues of the day. It requires the willingness to apply one’s self to the task

of research and study in order to assemble all considerations bearing upon those issues. It requires the ability to rise above emotion and prejudice when evaluating such considerations, and to apply the irresistible forces of logic to the assembled data. More than that, it requires the courage to accept the decisions thus indicated, and the ability to present the opinions thus developed in such a way as to persuade others to a like point of view.”

— Edmund S. Muskie '36, governor of Maine, U.S. senator and U.S. secretary of state, *Vital Speeches of the Day*, 1957



Benjamin Mays '20, president of Morehouse College, with U.S. Vice President Lyndon Johnson in 1963.

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Debate coach Robert Branham and assistant Christopher Tine '96 survey the glorious and well-earned spoils from a century of intercollegiate Bates debate.