

## DEBATE OUT OF AFRICA

by Loretta Brady

There is an old saying in Africa: "Animals return to an old watering hole for more than just water." So, too, with people. After a two-year stint as Education Head at an African refugee camp, I've returned to New York City to quench my thirst for debate.

But the NYUDL lures me back for more than just water. Enfolded again by this debate "village" within the big city, it's inspiring to see it is alive and stronger than ever. Before my departure, I had helped launch the high school policy program for Life Sciences Secondary School. This time I am drawn to serve a brand new Bronx middle school, Bronx Latin, to promote their debate debut.

So why would anyone just wander the globe as a kind of humanitarian Soldier of Fortune? This is an answer NYUDL debaters should understand: to aid in the war against educational inequality.

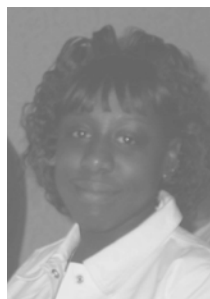
Hired by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to join the Jesuit Refugee Service staff, I managed the educational needs for nearly 10,000 families who had fled for their lives from countries like Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and the Congo. An Education Head does a little of everything: builds schools, secures funding, trains teachers, develops learning materials, plans courses, and more. Debate was a key strategy in our battle for educational equity. Ironically, the site of the camp was formerly a prison barracks where Malawi's last dictator detained political offenders. When Africans say they fear public speaking, they truly have a reason!

*('Africa' continued on page 4)*



## WHAT IS IT LIKE DEBATING IN COLLEGE?

by Whitney Brown



My name is Whitney Brown and I debated for Freedom Academy for four years. Now I have moved up and started to debate in college for the NY Coalition. Will Baker, Vik Keenan, and Claire McKinney are my coaches. In high school, a lot of debates were won on little things like the way you write your plan text. Also, high school debate is not heavy on theory and spec. In college, however, one should be prepared to go to war with these arguments. Sometimes, debaters in

high school can be slackers but in college, you always have to stay on your game. Every other day you have to update all our disads and other arguments. People even rewrite all of their blocks. NOW THAT'S CRAZY! There is much more work involved but if you do it, you will become a better debater.

Believe it or not, when I debated in high school, I never made it to elimination rounds. In my first college tournament, I still didn't make it to elimination rounds. Oh yeah – for three years, my high school debate partner was Timothy Pimble. Now we are partners in college. At Timothy's second tournament at Buffalo, he made it to elimination rounds with a novice partner. In my second tournament at West Point, I made it to elimination rounds with Marianne from Fordham University. When Tim and I broke we had different partners. When we went to the University of Richmond tournament, we won our first three rounds but lost the last five. If we had won one of those lost five rounds Tim and I would have finally made it to elimination rounds as a team.

When it was time to go to the University of Massachusetts tournament, the coaches had this crazy idea: Tim and I should not debate together. I debated with someone who was going JV for the first time. We were 3-2 going into the sixth round. This round, in which we were negative, was important but we didn't ask the judge about her preferences/paradigm like we did in our previous rounds. We lost, even though the 1AR conceded our turns on case. The judge granted the affirmative the perm. At the end of the round she said, "You did not ask me if was I a technical judge." Unfortunately for us, she was not a technical judge. Even though we still made it to elimination rounds, winning the final prelim round would have made me happier. Now that I have finally broken in elims, my goal is to get past the first elimination round.

Debating in college makes you even more aware about what's going on in other countries. Also in high school, you are limited to what tournaments you can travel to and you may not be able to

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# 2005-2006 JP Morgan Chase LD Schedule

When	What	Where	Notes
January 19, 2006	Early Bird Tournament	Baruch College	Practice for the March tournament
March, 2006	Goldberg Memorial Tournament	Pace University	Preliminary Rounds
April, 2006	Elimination Rounds	JPMorgan Chase	Top 16 teams in each tier
May, 2006	Finals	JPMorgan Chase	

## THE EARLY BIRD LD DEBATE TOURNAMENT

JPMorgan Chase, The New York City Department of Education, Baruch College and The IMPACT Coalition are proud to present the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Early Bird Tournament. For the past two years, the Lincoln-Douglas Early Bird Tournament has demonstrated its value by furnishing inspiration, experience, and guidance to both new and returning students. This event offers three rounds of spirited competition, and is open to three teams from each high school. This allows as many students as possible an opportunity to compete for team awards and gives you the chance to prove your worthiness as one of the three students that will eventually represent your school at the Jerry M. Goldberg Memorial Tournament on March 21, 2006.

There will be no elimination rounds at the Early Bird Tournament, and the competitors will not be separated into tiers. However, the top ten teams will receive trophies.

This tournament provides a wonderful chance for you to refine debate skills in a tournament setting, try new and

different cases, experience teamwork, develop a sense of fair play and build confidence before competing for more tangible awards. Entry forms are due promptly by 6:00pm, Tuesday, January 17. Debaters - kindly encourage your coach to email Mark Douglas at [impactld@gmail.com](mailto:impactld@gmail.com) or call him at 212-702-0944 with a complete list of teams and student names. Coaches - unless explicitly stated, please confirm that your registration has been received.

**Location:** Baruch College Vertical Campus, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 14-220, 55 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10010 (at 24<sup>th</sup> Street)

**Date:** Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Time:** All students and teachers should arrive at 8:00 am; breakfast will be served at 8:30 am. The tournament ends at around 4:00 pm.

## 2005-2006 NYUDL Event Schedule

When	What	Where	Who
February 11, 2006	Mini-Institute	The Beacon School	New Recruits, Teachers
March 4, 2006	NYUDL #5	TBA	Middle School, Novice
May 13, 2006	NYUDL #6	ICE	All Divisions
May, 2006	Banquet	Crowne Plaza	ALL!

## TEENS TALK BOOKS

by Xian Chiang-Waren



Earlier this month, Aaron and I had the opportunity to participate in a pilot episode of *Teens Talk Books*, a show that will hopefully be picked up by National Public Radio. The show is an hour-long radio program devoted to promoting reading among teens and young adults. Aaron and I took up two spaces on a "teen panel" of four. Our job was to read a book ("The Burn Journals" by Brent Runyon) and then question the author about it.

We showed up at the recording studio just a little bit late, and went straight into the show. The book we had read (in the two days notice Will Baker gave us) was a memoir about the author's attempted suicide as a fourteen year old and his year spent in recovery and rehabilitation. Since the entire show was essentially a long, quiet, polite cross-ex, it was hard to keep from slipping into "debate mode" and probing the author with questions about the motives and social implications of his suicide attempt - questions about his writing style were safer. Afterwards, everyone went out to dinner and got to know each other. All in all, it was a good experience because we had an opportunity to meet new people and talk about interesting stuff. Hopefully, the show is picked up so we can do it more often.

*Teens Talk Books* is an hour-long radio program devoted to promoting reading among teens and young adults. The program's format includes three segments, the first of which is a twenty-minute interview wherein six teen panelists ask an author questions about his/her book. Sample questions can range from finding out what was the motivation behind writing the book to the author's favorite character. The first segment will also include "The Term Paper Question," where the author will be asked to select a potential topic for an essay based on his/her book, and "The Classics Question," where the author will discuss his/her favorite classic author and/or book.

The second segment features a twenty-minute discussion among the teen panelists on what they have been reading lately and have enjoyed - and what books they would recommend to their peers.

The final segment will consist of a challenge to the audience: the challenge will be devised by the author and the panelists, and will be based on the book by the author. The audience will be invited to respond to the challenge on the program's website.

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT MIAMI (OH) UNIVERSITY

Steve Mancuso, Director of Debate for Miami University, e-mailed UDLs around the country to make them aware of an excellent scholarship opportunity exclusively for UDL debaters. Excerpts from his e-mail follow:

*Miami University (Oxford, OH) has agreed to create three large, renewable, 4-year college scholarships for UDL debaters (one for \$20,000 annually and two for \$15,000 each annually), starting this admission cycle. The scholarships will be awarded this Spring for students to begin at Miami in the Fall of 2006. The awards would supplement whatever financial aid packages the students would regularly receive, and can be used for tuition, room, board, transportation, books, and other related college expenses.*

*While Miami University hopes the recipients will consider trying college debate, these scholarships are NOT tied to debating in college at Miami. Unlike many scholarships for UDL students where the school offering the award is looking for the best debaters, the University is looking for the best students - the ones who have the greatest chance to succeed at a good college. These awards offer the freedom for the recipients to interface with college debate on their own terms, on their own timetable. There is no expectation either by the Miami Office of Financial Aid or the Miami Forensics program that the scholarship recipients will participate on the team.*

*This can be a great and expansive opportunity for your students. This is an example where their participation in a UDL will have clearly and directly paid off - with a college scholarship - and no debate strings attached.*

IMPACT will recommend up to seven students. Please consider which students might be interested and best qualified for this kind of opportunity and e-mail Will at [impactcoalition@cs.com](mailto:impactcoalition@cs.com). The earlier the application takes place the better.. Please see the Awards and Opportunity section on our website for more information.

## NYUDL TOURNAMENT AT ACORN COMMUNITY HS DECEMBER 3

### Middle School Teams

1	Bx Prep	Steven Fernandez Yisocar Nunez
2	JHS 135	Lalara Bell Fanta Ngom
3	Bx Prep	Marissa Charlemagne Darian Henry
4	IS 171	Brandon Fernandez Cassandra Terrero
5	Bx Prep	Jamie Griffin Aaliyah Samuels
6	Bx Prep	Erika Diaz Monica Lindsay
7	Bx Latin	Diondra Grinage Shandele Lutchman
8	Bx Prep	Johnathan Maythaler Matthew Simms
9	Bx Prep	Jekia Brokman Jocelyn Chavez
10	Bx Prep	Aisha Jawah Melanie Nyarko

### Novice Teams

1	Hostos	Quionnea Coombs Checkno Fofana
2	Robeson	Treverlyn Anderson Chantel Defreitas
3	Hostos	Jose Melendez Christina Molina
4	EBC	Valerie Jean Charles Beatriz Perez
5	Boys & Girls	Nafeza Kingston Nakera Smallwood
6	Bx Prep	Johnny Menzies Rocky Otoo
7	Bronx LGJ	Rafael Lind Shakera Springs
8	Bx Prep	Shane McElveen Brittany Miller
9	Bx Prep	Alejandro Dejesus Barbara Germosen
10	ACORN	Christian Joseph Sigfredo Perez

### Middle School Speakers

1	Bx Prep	Steven Fernandez
2	Bx Prep	Marissa Charlemagne
3	Bx Prep	Jamie Griffin
4	Bx Prep	Monica Lindsay
5	Bx Latin	Scottie Ramirez
6	IS 171	Cassandra Terrero
7	Bx Latin	Shandele Lutchman
8	IS 171	Kimberley Paulino
9	Bx Latin	Adriana Frazier
10	JHS 135	Fanta Ngom

### Novice Speakers

1	Hostos	Jose Melendez
2	Taft	Quionnea Coombs
3	Beacon	Casey Brander
4	Robeson	Chantal Defreitas
5	Second Law	India Nelson
6	EBC	Valerie Jean Charles
7	Bronx LGJ	Rafael Lind
8	Hostos	Checko Fofana
9	Boys & Girls	Nakera Smallwood
10	Robeson	Treverlyn Anderson

*('Africa' continued from page 1)*

We used debate in almost every level of our programs, in primary, high school, ESL and women's groups. The topics were more curriculum-driven:

- Is it better to be a leopard or a falcon?
- What is better for Africa today, large or small families?
- Should host countries keep banning refugees from employment?
- Should developing countries accept genetically modified grain as humanitarian relief?

Even though our class sizes hovered around 60 (the norm is 100!), on the days in which debate was featured, there was edge-of-your-seat attention.

My own experience in high school debate was probably the greatest preparation for succeeding at this post. Where else would I learn to address Ministers of Education on matters of educational policy and practice? Where did I learn to field tough questions on my feet while addressing a regional conference for Girls Rights in Africa?

If you like influencing international policy, I'd be happy to help you plan for a future volunteer or career choice in Humanitarian Aid. It is a surprisingly competitive world. You'll be flown to Washington D.C. to face a panel of interviewers who try to assess your professional, emotional, and interpersonal competencies. In fact, it's not unlike standing before a glowering judge in final round. And we know how to do that, don't we?

### ALoud RECEIVES ENDORSEMENT FROM COLLEGE BOARD AND NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



The Associated Leaders of Urban Debate (ALoud) continues to move forward. Wendy Kopp, head of Teach for America, joined the Debate Leadership Committee adding to a list that already included actor Charles Dutton and noted school superintendents. The organization also received a boost from recent endorsements from the College Board and the NYC Department of Education.

Partners from Austin hosted internet debates with schools from Moscow, Texas, Hungary and New York sharing poems, debating and exchanging ideas. Partners in Los Angeles are looking to expand their middle school programs. Partners in Baltimore or working on a comic book debate curriculum using current urban debaters as artists and writers. Visit [www.debateleaders.org](http://www.debateleaders.org) for more information.

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travel to far away states like California or Texas unless you are going to debate camp.

Debating in College is a great opportunity for everyone. The knowledge you gain can help you with your classes. I used my affirmative to give speeches for my speech class and my grade was an A. DEBATE IN COLLEGE! And to join the NYUDL Alumni Association, e-mail [impactld@gmail.com](mailto:impactld@gmail.com).

## MESSAGE FROM THE COACHES ASSOCIATION

by Ben Honoroff, Coaches Association President

The NYUDL coaches have been working on two projects to expand the scope of the NYUDL and give our debaters more opportunities to compete. First, following up on recent statements made by Chancellor Klien about the desire to fund debate programs, we have put together a formal proposal to get 1-3 million dollars of funding to help support the NYUDL. We are awaiting his reply.

Second, we are reaching out to the Catholic Forensic League to expand policy debate opportunities in the Brooklyn/Queens Catholic Forensic League and we are brainstorming ways to include Manhattan and Bronx schools in CFL tournaments. We are in communication with the President of the BQCFL and we expect to see increased opportunities for debate in the 2006-2007 season.



Ben Honoroff, President of the NYUDL Coaches Association (second from the right) hard at work associating with coaches Nicole Mirra (ACORN), Richard Connelly (Bronx Prep), and Jeffrey Romanow (ICE).

## WANTED: ROUGH OR PROOFED



### COLLEGE ESSAYS

Attention students of the NYUDL! Be it known that the **IMPACT** Coalition has been informed that several errant college essays, a.k.a. the gang of admissions rejects, have been preying upon the students of New York City. These essays are poorly worded, off subject, and are suspected to contain numerous grammatical errors. They victimize innocent students and should be considered extremely dangerous. If you run across one of these essays, please send it to [kristin.feeley@gmail.com](mailto:kristin.feeley@gmail.com) for immediate review and examination.

## WHAT'S NEW ON IMPACT'S WEBSITE

- 🌐 **Customized Menus** -- visit the information sections for parents, teachers and students.
- 🌐 **Results** -- See results from Invitational tournaments held during 2005-06
- 🌐 **Prison Debates** -- Read about Malcolm X's involvement in debate and IMPACT's prison debate program

## DEBATE CAN MAKE YOU A RADIO STAR

### ANYONE WANT TO DEBATE ON THE RADIO?

In 2001, WJHU in Baltimore hosted debates between NYUDL and BUDL students on the weapons of mass destruction topic. Two students from ICE and their coach participated in the debates and the students answered questions from the call-in audience about debate, weapons of mass destruction and the education system. The producers were so pleased with the show that they will host another debate during 2006. If your school would like to participate, please write up a paragraph on "Why I Should Be on the Radio" and e-mail it to [impactcoalition@cs.com](mailto:impactcoalition@cs.com).

## WRAP RECAP

During the month of December, IMPACT Coalition staff, board members, debaters, and friends participated in the annual Borders Holiday Gift Wrapping Event. Volunteers donated several hours of time to wrap gifts for Borders patrons. Patrons generously donated in support of IMPACT's mission. This event helped raise awareness of the work that IMPACT does to help urban youth find their voice through debate.

While some volunteers did not have prior gift-wrapping experience, everyone had a good time. Volunteers wrapped gifts at the Columbus Circle, Wall Street, and Park Avenue Borders' locations. Thank you to Borders for inviting us to participate in the gift-wrapping program! And, a big thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible!!

## CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER!

We want more student and teacher input! Submit an article, editorial, or poem. Send 'em by fax (212-471-8664) or e-mail ([esvilla@aol.com](mailto:esvilla@aol.com)) When your creation shows up in the newsletter, you'll receive fame, glory (and our gratitude).

## BKDRC AND BROOKLYN DOMINATION

by Claire McKinney



Monticello, Montclair, ACORN, Washington Irving, and the Mini Bump. What do all these tournaments have in common? Brooklyn domination. We've had first speakers, top ten teams, new programs with exceptional records - all in all, a very successful year. To what can we attribute all this recent success? Well, I might be a bit biased, but I have four words for you: Brooklyn Debate Resource Center. The students who come to the BkDRC get individual help writing blocks, writing their own files, doing practice speeches, and having practice debates. This type of preparation goes a long way in round, to which our record testifies. And this isn't the end of it. 2006 might be the year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar, but for the NYUDL, 2006 will be the year of BK. In order to make 2006 the biggest year yet for the Brooklyn Resource Center, we're introducing a few changes to make the Center a better resource and a more fun place to be!

The first and probably most important change is new expanded service. The Resource Center is going to start the year with multiple volunteers, which means more individual attention and better use of your time altogether. Who will these volunteers be? Well, for the most part, they will be college debaters from the New York Coalition of Colleges. Students from John Jay, NYU, Columbia, Baruch College, and more, will be making visits to the Center to work with you. At minimum, every day we will have enough staff to divide the Center in half, focusing on novice training and advanced training separately. So, if you have ever felt intimidated by those who seem so far advanced or been frustrated by the slow pace of coaching, we will now be able to remedy this through multiple coaches. Soon, we will have college debaters available to judge practice debates weekly. Get familiar with those who will be judging you throughout the year, and schedule practice debates at the BkDRC with those same judges!

Next, if you ever felt like you had to give up too much to trek all the way out to the Center, you will soon be materially rewarded. We have already started giving away timers for returning registration forms, and this is only the beginning. Expanding files, nice pens, scissors, tape dispensers, iTunes certificates, books, and of course, food, will be awarded to students who participate meaningfully at the Center. This means that you will not only receive the best training that will win you debate rounds, but also be rewarded just for coming to be trained. If transportation is your issue, we soon hope to provide free Metro Cards for those of you who don't qualify for the School-issued Metro Card.

Finally, don't forget the SAT and college applications. We are still developing an SAT preparation program so that you can score better than you ever had before. This isn't something to put off until the week before you take the SAT. You should begin preparing in your junior year. Come take REAL SATs, get individualized help on what sections give you trouble, begin doing vocabulary drills, and much much more. If you would like to get a head start, go to the Center's website, [www.sesameflyers.org/beacon/debate](http://www.sesameflyers.org/beacon/debate) and look through the SAT section. While you're there, check out the new and improved schedule, and decide what days would be best for you to come and get help!

Brooklyn is stepping up its game this year. You can either decide to be a part of it or be left behind. Join the Brooklyn Debate Resource Center and make sure that the next top speaker or top team includes you! I look forward to seeing all of you!

## **IMPACT**Coalition Wish List

Here are some non-cash gifts that would advance our work:

### **Vans**

30-50% of tournament costs are wrapped up in rental vehicles. Additionally, students in outer boroughs are often dissuaded from involvement with debate because they have to take two buses and a subway to get to a tournament and volunteers are dissuaded from assisting those schools because of the distance involved. We would like to institute tournament shuttle service, volunteer shuttle service and also be able to use vans for away travel.

### **Portable VCR/TV unit**

A portable VCR/TV until would enable IMPACT staff to show videos and offer presentations at parent workshops, PTA events, and school-based open houses.

### **2 Digital Cameras, Digital Camcorder & Scanner**

Students could borrow a camera to take to tournaments and then bring back pictures that express their feelings about what they saw. The scanner would make it easier to collect evidence.

### **Ten 256 MB Jump Drives**

This size of jump drive would allow IMPACT to distribute evidence to coaches and students at schools who did not have ready e-mail access or were not able to get to a Debate Support Center.

### **Software Upgrades**

We'd like new versions of Quickbooks, Word, Dreamweaver, and Goldmine.

### **Supplies**

Debate teams use legal pads, pens, file folders, expandable file folders and large tubs to carry their evidence in. IMPACT provides these supplies at cost for tournaments and for CITI, the summer debate institute.

### **Frequent Flier Miles**

High school teams fly to two major tournaments in Atlanta and Chicago plus the two national championship events. Frequent flier mile donations would ease that cost.

### **Fun Passes**

IMPACT would like to provide incentives for our students to perform better academically and to complete their debate work. Movie passes, sports tickets and gift certificates for clothes, music and food would be among their preferred options.

### **Giveaways--T-shirts, Hats, Bags, Mugs, Jackets**

IMPACT would use these items as recruitment tools and "feel good" measures at our end-of-year banquet.

### **Meal Donations**

We provide breakfast and lunch for all students, teachers and judges at every tournament. If we could have these services donated that would provide huge savings.

### **Publishing Services**

IMPACT would like to secure pro bono printing services to produce its biennial report, and a glossy organizational newsletter.

**Support IMPACT!**

**Save the Earth!**

**Donate your old printer  
cartridges and cell phones.**



IMPACT is collecting used printer cartridges and out-of-service cell phones and recycling them for **CASH**. Help us by donating your used cartridges and cell phones **TODAY!**



Go to the IMPACT website ([www.impactcoalition.org](http://www.impactcoalition.org)) for a complete list of items approved for collection and bring your cast-offs to the IMPACT office or the next tournament.



More information: 212-702-0944

The **IMPACT** *Coalition* is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are welcome.  
Website: [www.impactcoalition.org](http://www.impactcoalition.org)  
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