**MEET THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM**

**AFFILIATIONS:** Tournaments on the college policy circuit are sanctioned by the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA). CEDA is the largest, evidenced-based intercollegiate debate organization in the world. Policy debate requires an affirmative to advocate an action on an issue of current controversy and defend its advantages against the negative team. On weekends, schools send numerous pairs of students to tournaments to debate against pairs of students from other schools on a topic voted on by all the colleges annually.

**HISTORY:** In the mid-1990s, Jacob Weigler was a first-year student who had debated policy in high school and wished to continue in college. When Jake came to NYU, there was no team. Pamela Stepp, then director at Cornell University, directed him to someone who could help start one, a former nationally-ranked debater of hers who worked for a UN NGO, Will Baker. Baker agreed to serve as the team’s first coach and they joined together to form the NYU debate team. Jake wrote a constitution and established a budget. He recruited new novices to serve as officers and travel. In its infancy, NYU was part of a consortium of urban college debate programs that included Fordham Univ, Rockland CC, Columbia U, NYU and the City University of NY called the NY Coalition. Will served as the director and attracted other former debaters to volunteer as coaches (a tradition that continues today). This program was a subgroup of the IMPACT Coalition, a nonprofit designed to extend debate skills to members of traditionally disenfranchised communities including women, the poor, people of color and first generation Americans using debate as an organizational model. This revolutionary partnership was honored with the National CEDA Community Service Award. The NY Coalition leveraged the limited resources of each school into something much greater and NYU became the first Northeast team to win a national intercollegiate CEDA Championship in 2003 before Harvard or Dartmouth.

**MISSION:** Our goals are excellence at every level with a focus on the Novice National, JV Nationals, and CEDA National Championships. CEDA Debate teaches you problem solving, critical thinking, research skills and information filtering. You can use it to become more persuasive through rebuttals, more insightful through cross-ex and more reflective through evaluating evidence.

**TRAVEL**: Travel is contingent on the amount of evidence cut, the performance of the team regionally, the level of preparation, seniority and our budget. The total number of tournaments ranges from 13-21. Last year, our travel schedule included 14 tournaments: Rochester, Wake Forest, Rutgers, US Military Academy at West Point, New School U, North Texas, Univ. of Texas-Dallas, Cornell, Univ. of Texas-Austin, Junior Varsity Nationals, CEDA Regional Championships, NDT Districts, Novice Nationals and the CEDA National Championships.

**SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH NYU FINANICAL AID:** *Working with the financial aid office is the most likely path to aid at NYU.*Over 450 merit-based scholarships, ranging from $1,000 to $20,000, were awarded to the previous entering class. Freshmen received approximately $41 million in financial aid, of which $25.7 million was in the form of scholarships. (Please note that there is no separate NYU application for merit scholarships. All students who are offered admission are automatically considered.) The primary form you need to apply for all NYU and federal aid is the (FAFSA). The NYU Committee for National Scholarship Competitions invites applications each year for a number of national scholarships, fellowships, and grants. To apply, you must prepare well in advance. Learn about them early in your academic career, especially if you are already thinking about graduate study. \* Andrew W. Mellon Fellowships \* Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships \* Bienecke Memorial Scholarships \* British Marshall Scholarships \* Harry S. Truman Scholarships \* Henry Luce Foundation Scholarships \* J. William Fulbright Grants

**SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH DEBATE** Thanks to the support of Brewer Attorneys & Counselors, NYU also offers partial debate scholarships to entering and returning students ranging from $1000-$15,000. Debaters received $38,000 in scholarships. NYU also hosts the most lucrative intramural college debating competition in the world called the Global Debate Initiative at NYU which offers over $50,000 in prizes. Policy debaters earned over $8000 in scholarships in the inaugural season. Additionally, we have judging options for hire locally as well as community service.

**STATISTICS**: For the 2015-16 season NYU finished ranked 24th in the nation (NDT rankings). Twenty-two individuals competed in policy debate tournaments last year with another 20 attending regular meetings. Our team balances its competitive goals with academic success. Over the last six years, the team GPA has averaged 3.55As a result, NYU secured four CEDA National Debate Scholar awards all at the Magna Cum Laude level.

**CREDENTIALS**: Winner of both CEDA & NDT Coach of the Year honors (Don Brownlee Award-1999, Lucy Keele Award-2003), Will Baker has coached debate for nearly 30 years with stops at Cornell University, Binghamton University, Columbia University and Queens College. He has directed the NYU program since its inception over 20 years ago in 1994. He serves as Director of the NYU President’s Global Debate Initiative based in the Business & Society Department of the Stern Business School. Many former top debaters end up in NY for graduate school, law school or employment. This year's coaches included: John Dellamore (NYU Alum, CEDA All-American), Kristine Itliong (NYU Alum, National Debate Scholar, NDT 2014), Myra Milam (Columbia grad student, former TOC and national circuit debater) and Joe LeDuc (Columbia grad student, NDT 1st Round recipient at Wake Forest).

**LEGACY TO THE DEBATE COMM UNITY:** Many of the top East Coast programs were (or still are) run by former students who debated under Baker as high school or college students (often as novices) including Kathryn Rubino (Director of Debate United States Military Academy of West Point), Vik Keenan (Director, New School), Richard Garner (Harvard University), Whitney Brown (former Director, John Jay College), Kate Ortiz (assistant coach, Rutgers-Newark University), Josh Imes (assistant coach, West Virginia University), Shree Asware (former coach-Columbia University, asst coach-James Madison University), Asha Cherian (former Director Fordham University), and Andrew Jacobs (Director-Rockland Community College).

**WHO’S ON THE EXEC?**

PRESIDENT: Sofiya Andreyava sa2999@nyu.edu

VICE PRESIDENT: Jacqeuline Samuel

TREASURER: Fay Cammayo

OFFICER-AT-LARGE/WEBMASTER: Zhane Lloyd

SECRETARY: Taylor McCann

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: Erin Sczechowski

**WHO’S COACHING:**

**Will-(Director of Debate)-**cleardot[will.baker@nyu.edu](mailto:will.baker@nyu.edu)

## Follow us on twitter ~~@~~PolicyDebateNYU

*Like us on facebook @ NYU Policy Debate*