The team is moving forward, building on its tradition of excellence and reaching new heights. Last season ended with a flurry of successes, including a return to the NDT after a brief hiatus, a final round appearance at the NPTE, elimination rounds at CEDA nationals, four teams clearing at the NPTE, and the top speaker at NPDA. The team graduated a group of incredibly talented seniors, Sean Mulloy, Nick Budak, Logan Emlet, Mar ten King, and Ben Menzies, only to be joined by a dynamic group of first-years and new-comers Silas Morgan, Josh Ward, Danica Wilbanks, and Felipe Rivera.

The team also lost outstanding coaches Andrew Larson and Matt Gander, but were extremely lucky to add Ben Menzies and Kendra Doty to the group. The return of the WNDI over the summer was a big success with students from all over the region, Florida, Texas, Hawaii, and even Canada. High School debaters came to campus and enjoyed Walla Walla for one, two, or three week sessions in Public Forum debate, Lincoln Douglas debate, or Policy debate. Many WNDI participants will be applying to attend school here at Whitman or will coming back for another session this summer.

After a rigorous pre-season prep session of team bonding, training, and reflection, the team dove into the season and achieved a number of accomplishments. Ten students have competed in policy rounds this season, including big elim victories for senior Jonathan Barsky and sophomore Marlene Anderson (defeating both Vermont and Berkeley) and a semi-finals appearance at Lewis & Clark for Emma Thompson and Gordon Kochman.

Though their season has just begun, Whitman’s debaters have taken an early lead with some significant successes. The National Parliamentary Debate Association, one of the two formats of debate in which Whitman students compete, has recently released its rankings for college teams around the country. Whitman ranks first out of 120 teams, with a total of 80.17 points.

Arthur Avery Jewell “We are very excited to see our younger teams improve and learn from the older teams,” Director of Debate Kevin Kuswa said. “We are also excited to start to build our momentum for the second semester and the national tournaments held in March.”

Ten Whitties compete in parliamentary debate tournaments, two of whom are first years. Can they keep up their successful run?

“It will be tough to say the least,” Kuswa said. “Lewis & Clark is very good and has a lot of depth, so they will be in contention for the top spot as we move forward. There are also a number of other programs that will certainly be very strong competitors throughout the season.”

A team of parliamentary debaters has seen extraordinary success, reaching the Elite Eight by beating University of Vermont and University of California at Berkeley. Marlene Anderson ’17 and Jonathan Barsky ’15 triumphed over those teams in elimination rounds at Salt Lake City.

“Making it to the elite eight at Weber really validated the hard work the team and our amazing coaches have been putting in,” Anderson said. “We had some great debates against some talented opponents and I think the team is looking forward to the rest of the season and continuing that work and hopefully that success.”

The Whitman Debate team spent Oct. 10-12 at Lewis & Clark’s Steve Hunt Classic. There, they competed against teams from 33 different states, debating topics from Turkey’s role in the battle against ISIS to strengthening the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Team Avery Miller ’17 and Arthur Shemitz ’17 are now ranked 23 in the nation for parliamentary debate. Kyle Hendrix ’16 and Noah Stern ’16 are ranked fifth, and Zac Parker ’15 and Margaret Rockey ’16 hold the number 1 spot.

“Being ranked number 23 is really awesome and surreal,” Shemitz said. “I feel very fortunate to be...”
The students are working hard and striving to improve.

8:15am Meet with Professor Odekirk to stretch, discuss questions from the day before and find a pristine spot on Whitman's beautiful campus to ponder a “thought of the day.” The “Roam with Odekirk” session on this particular morning focused on the thought that we have to be aware of how lucky we are. It is a privilege to be on a college campus learning about scholarship and debate. Keeping that perspective in mind is an important way to appreciate the opportunities we have and make the most of them. Future “Roam Home Room” topics include cultivating talent, ways to set goals that are achievable, and responsible citizenship.

9:00-9:30 Enjoy a hot delicious breakfast with the group.

9:30 Attend a “Research Practices: Tips and Hints” Lecture with Whitman Coach, Ben Menzies. What are the best ways to use a computer in debate, organize evidence, and retrieve the evidence that is needed? In addition to those aspects of computer literacy, students then receive suggestions about using on-line search engines, finding good journal articles and government documents, getting results from all the available databases, including J-STOR, Project Muse, and Lexis.

Season’s Greetings

continued from previous page

Lassiter earning a number of break rounds against tough national competition.

The team’s work in the Washington State Penitentiary has also continued, with a dozen team members working with incarcerated individuals on debates about the value of “internet anonymity.” Having spent ten hours in the facility already, the culminating debate in early December—with a mix of Whitman and WSP debaters on either side of the proposition—will certainly be riveting.

The Parli team has been very competitive thus far as well and is poised for a stellar second half of the season. Danica Wilbanks, Josh Ward, and Jordan Edelson have been improving at each and every tournament and have helped raise the entire team to a top ranking in the nation overall. The team of Zac Parker and Margaret Rockey has been in a number of final rounds, winning Lewis Clark and earning a ranking as the top team in the country. Sophomores Arthur Shemitz and Avery Miller have followed suit, clearing at every tournament they have attended and cracking the top 25. Juniors Noah Stern and Kyle Hendrix are firmly in the top 5 teams in the country, winning multiple elimination debates and reaching the finals at Bellevue and the semifinals of Lewis & Clark.

Getting snowed-in for the mid-November tournaments was frustrating for the whole team, but traveling safely from Walla Walla is our first priority and the extra weekend will not hurt the debaters’ efforts to stay ahead in classes and finish some of those assignments that have been simmering on the back burner. We will start up again in January with the Policy team heading to USC and Fullerton in Los Angeles and the Parli team headed to the Mile High Swing in Salt Lake City hosted at the University of Utah. Please contact us at debate@whitman.edu if you would like to be added to our email list serve for fans and supporters of the team. We greatly rely on, and appreciate, your collective support of the Whitman Debate Program and look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Arguing their way to #1

continued from previous page

going into my second year of debating with the same partner (the ever-awesome Avery Miller), so we’ve been able to develop a really solid rapport, which isn’t an opportunity that everyone gets.”

Whitman also competed in a tournament in Bellevue where Noah Stern ’15 and Kyle Hendrix ’15 made it to the quarterfinals. They also earned First and Second Speaker awards for the tourna-

ment out of over 100 varsity debaters.

“The whole school really supports the team, from the staff all the way to the administration,” Kuswa said. “It takes a village to run a debate program and we have an extremely encouraging and supportive village. The Whitman students have been very supportive of each other this season and it shows. We all know how good the Whitman students are and, when given the opportunity, they always shine.”

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WNDI STUDENT

Who is headed to the practice podium?

A DAy iN The LiFE oF A WNDI STUDENT

PAGE 2 WINTER–SPRING, 2014-2015 WHITMAN DEBATE DEBATE@WHITMAN.EDU
A Day in the Life
continued from previous page
After a short break
11:00-12:30 Lab sessions! Students join their small groups with a 4-1 student-faculty ratio or better (the four novices have two faculty leaders). Students go over the demonstration debate from the night before and deliver speeches from the final rebuttals of the demonstration. Labs also go over research projects on ocean policy and discuss various aspects of debate theory.
12:30-1:30pm Another wonderful meal in Whitman’s award-winning dining hall. Students enjoy all you can eat choices from a full organic salad bar, a varied sandwich bar, a Mexican Fiesta with all the fixings, and far too many dessert options.
2:00-3:00pm The students attend an interactive seminar on “The Pillars of Debate: The Psychology of Winning,” a session that works through the ten components of preparing for workshop, preparing for the season, preparing for rounds, and putting debate skills into practice in other avenues of life.

2014-15 Policy Topic
Resolved: The United States should legalize all or nearly all of one or more of the following in the United States: marihuana, online gambling, physician-assisted suicide, prostitution, the sale of human organs.

Heading Forward
We will start up again in January with the Policy team heading to USC and Fullerton in Los Angeles and the Parli team headed to the Mile High Swing in Salt Lake City hosted at the University of Utah. Please contact us at debate@whitman.edu if you would like to be added to our email list serve for fans and supporters of the team. We greatly rely on and appreciate your collective support of the Whitman Debate Program and look forward to hearing from you in the future.
A Policy Tournament with Coach Kendra

Debating is one of the most beneficial extracurricular activities available to college students. One learns how to think critically, is informed by new fields, and develops the skills necessary to be an effective communicator. Debate itself is a large time commitment; there is always research to be done, always speeches to give. A tournament is five days of nonstop travel and focus. Recently, the policy team traveled to Las Vegas, NV to compete at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

It began with a day of travel. The team drove to Pasco, had a layover in Salt Lake City, and arrived in Las Vegas around noon. We spent the day preparing for upcoming debates and enjoying crepes with a local team member’s parents! The following day started at 7:25 AM when we left the hotel to walk to UNLV’s campus. We enjoyed a light breakfast courtesy of the tournament hosts while awaiting pairings for round one. At 8 AM they were released and the debaters ran off to their rooms. Ben Menzies and I divided up the four teams and managed to provide advice (everything from finding rooms, making sure the debaters had water and pens, to explaining arguments and quickly crafting answers) to everyone before the round began.

After a little over two hours, the team met up in a central location and debriefed before the process started over for round two, featuring contests with the University of Texas at Austin, Kansas University, and the University of California, Berkeley. After a long day, at the conclusion of round four, we walked over to Raising Canes Chicken for some dinner and to celebrate Gordon Kochman’s 20th birthday! Even with the fairly long walk back to our hotel, everyone was in good spirits as they went to bed around 11:30.

Day two started out strong with one team having won three of the four debates the previous day, two teams having won two, and our junior varsity team looking for a big win. The team had another three preliminary debates and everyone ended up doing quite well! Andrew Durand and Jack Lassiter were in a break round during round seven against our district friends from Weber State University and Marlene Anderson and Jonathan Barsky finished with a 5-2 record.

Double octafinals, the round of the top thirty two teams, occurred in the evening on day two so as soon as we found out who we were debat-

“We read, we analyze, we organize, we advocate...and we do it all over again.”
ing, the team rushed to the room to help Marlene and Jonathan. We flipped a coin with our opponents from the University of Wyoming to see who would be affirming the resolution and who would be negating. We opted to negate so Jonathan, the 2NC, determined what he needed to be done and delegated tasks such as cutting new politics cards and highlighting evidence to Emma Thompson, Jack Lassiter and Felipe Rivera. Jonathan, Marlene, Ben and I all sat in the hallway and discussed the strategy as well as some contingent tactics just in case. Then, while Marlene and Jonathan were debating their hearts out, the other students watched debates, took notes of arguments being read, thought about strategy deployment and learned how different judges evaluated rounds.

The results finally came in around 10 PM and Marlene and Jonathan won! After a long night of preparation for the next debate against Baylor, we departed for the tournament at 7:30 AM, getting water and coffee, putting the last minute touches on our arguments, and offering the team a few final thoughts. About two and a half hours later, despite earning a ballot, the team lost on a 2-1 decision. Later that night the team enjoyed a great post-tournament meal at the Bellagio before heading back home before the sun rose the next day. We arrived back in cozy Walla Walla that afternoon and the students headed back to the dorms to begin their week of classes and preparation for the next tournament. Always a whirlwind of education and competition, the UNLV tournament was no exception.

Reflections from the Topic Committee

As Chair of the CEDA Topic Committee I have the opportunity to watch the birth of the resolution from the very beginning of the season. Few activities pour so much effort into the meaning of words and the critical analysis of a proposition. It is no wonder that these debaters are the path-makers and visionaries of the future!
Collegiate debate is an incredibly demanding activity. To succeed debaters must practice intensely, research diligently, and balance their debate commitments with a challenging undergraduate education. All the hard work the debaters put in over the course of the year is geared towards only a couple dozen grueling days of tournament competition. Those days are incredibly stressful, brutally tiring, and often extremely fund and rewarding. To give some insight into the rigors of competition, below is a walkthrough of the Saturday of the William Jewell tournament. This was the second day of a three-day competition featuring some of the best parliamentary debate teams in the country, and three Whitman teams plus both parliamentary coaches were able to attend.

6:30 AM Debaters and coaches begin waking up and getting ready in hotel rooms while attempting not to think about the fact that it is 4:30AM pacific time.

7:10 AM Team meets at the van and heads to the tournament, when they arrive they snatch up coffee and bagels provided by the tournament.

7:41 AM Team arrives at the prep-room and begins to prepare for the round. Two teams, Kyle Hendrix & Noah stern, and Avery Miller & Arthur Shemitz are competing in the first elimination round of the tournament, Zac Parker & Margaret Rockey have earned a bye into the round of 16. All the debaters begin their prep by doing speaking drills to warm up.

7:50 AM Pairings come out listing the opponents for the teams competing in the round of 32 and the panels of three judges. The team has twenty minutes to prepare a seven minute opening speech and anticipate the arguments their opponents might read. The team decides on the basics of their strategy, which will focus on the duty all institutions have to categorically oppose domestic violence, and then breaks into groups. Margaret and Zac help their teammates by researching the details of the exemptions and their importance to the league. Coach Joe works with Arthur and Kyle to get them ready for their opening speeches, while Coach Kevin works with Avery and Noah to get them ready to answer the negative's arguments.

8:02 AM Kevin calls back with the results of flips, both teams are affirmative. Great job tossing the coin, Coach!

8:05 AM Kevin calls the room again, this time with the topic: “The United States Federal Government should revoke the National Football League’s tax-exempt and antitrust exempt status.” The team has twenty minutes to prepare a seven minute opening speech and anticipate the arguments their opponents might read. The team decides on the basics of their strategy, which will focus on the duty all institutions have to categorically oppose domestic violence, and then breaks into groups. Margaret and Zac help their teammates by researching the details of the exemptions and their importance to the league. Coach Joe works with Arthur and Kyle to get them ready for their opening speeches, while Coach Kevin works with Avery and Noah to get them ready to answer the negative’s arguments.

8:22 AM The teams head off to their debates, and the coaches leave to judge rounds.

8:25 AM Elim one starts. The debates last forty minutes and both the affirmative and negative teams speak three times. There is no prep-time between speeches.

9:05 AM The debate ends. Debaters make their way into the hall as the judges stay inside the room and make their decisions. Debaters gather in circles and chat with their friends from other schools, for the most part making small chat and telling jokes while avoiding discussing the round that just happened in too much detail.

9:45 AM The round of 16 topic wording: “The United States Federal Government should significantly limit the use of civil asset forfeiture.” Kevin works with Kyle and Noah to develop a negative strategy while Joe helps prep the affirmative teams.

11:10 AM Decisions for elim round two come out. Super sophomores Arthur & Avery lost to the defending...
Gender and Debate Workshop!

At the “Remy Wilcox” High School tournament held on campus a group of students and coaches put on a standing room only Gender and Debate Workshop. Ben, Kendra, Emma T,, Emma N., and Marlene worked together to lead large group activities before breaking into smaller groups. The smaller groups contained a range of participants from coaches to debaters with more Whitman team members joining in. Group discussions were largely directed by the students and covered topics ranging from asking for specific reference pronouns to how to build community across teams. With more than three times as many participants as last year we’re hoping to build even more next year!
national champions from Southern Illinois University, but Kyle & Noah and Margaret & Zac are through to the quarterfinals.

11:30 AM The process repeats itself again. This is a swing tournament, meaning two complete tournaments have to be crammed into two and a half days, so there is precious little downtime. The round three topic is: “The United Nations Security Council should adopt a resolution urging nations to restrict the flow of foreign fighters to terrorist organizations”

12:45 PM The quarterfinals end. Noah & Kyle are eliminated after an excellent opening tournament, Margaret & Zac are on to semi-finals. The pace of rounds is even quicker this late in the tournament, with fewer and fewer debaters and judges to coordinate between. Many of the eliminated teams are out to lunch; the Whitman contingent brings a couple pizza boxes from the common areas back to the prep room. The eliminated debaters join in helping Zac and Margaret prep for their semi-final debate, which they go on win!

2:30 PM After a successful semi-final round the team moves into a new prep room, closer to the site of the final debate. Whitman Debate alum Logan Emlet, current coach of University of Puget Sound joins the prep room to help the team get ready for finals. Margaret and Zac end up affirmative, debating SIU on the resolution: “The Department of Defense should immediately halt the 1033 Excess Property Program.” The affirmative critiques police militarization, specifically as it relates to the shooting of Mike Brown and general practices of racial profiling.

3:00 PM Finals begins in front of a packed lecture hall of debaters. Some sit on the floor as there aren’t enough chairs. SIU’s negative strategy focusses on legitimate police uses of military technology, specifically to provide relief in the case of natural disasters.

3:45 PM The final debate ends. Coach Joe takes Margaret and Zac aside to congratulate them on an excellent tournament, and to de-brief on the round and provide feedback. The Whitman debaters discover that there was an ice-cream social while they were debating in, and preparing for finals. Devastating.

4:30 PM At the awards ceremony the team learns that Margaret and Zac lost the final debate, but the tournament as a whole was a tremendous success for all three Whitman duos. Despite traveling all day Thursday, competing late into the night Friday, and debating 5 times today, the team is only halfway done. They hurry back to the prep room and prepare to grind out three more debates, the first three rounds of the second tournament.

8:30 PM After slogging through the first two prelims, the topic is announced for round three. The team is exhausted, but remains committed. The phrase “one more round” is used, a lot.

9:30 PM With debates over for the day the team gathers in the prep room and begins making their way to the parking lot. Despite a near-disaster involving misplaced van keys, all is well.

10:30 PM After a drive back to the hotel involving a lively discussion of the ethics of eating at Chik-Fil-A, and several failed attempts to enter a shockingly inaccessible Wendy’s parking lot, the team arrives back at the hotel with burgers, frosties, and other fast-food fare (or in Arthur’s case, vegan compliant produce purchased at the Walgreens near the hotel). The debaters chat together and exchange stories from the day’s competitions, and Joe and Kevin watch the tail-end of the Ducks game. Everyone does their best to get ready for one more jam-packed day of debate on Sunday.