

F.A.D.S Quarterly

Friends of Alberta Debate and Speech Association

Volume 1, Issue 3
Fall Publication

Friends of Alberta Debate and Speech and the United Way

Target your United Way donation to the Alberta Debate and Speech Association

It's that time of year again. School is back in session, summer holidays have come to a close and cities across the province are abuzz with United Way Campaign activities. Every fall, the United Way runs a targeted and focused campaign to collect donations for a variety of charitable services and organizations that help make our province a better place for all its citizens.

The United Way Campaign is an engrained part of many corporations' planned activities in the fall. Employees are encouraged to share their wealth with those less fortunate and companies often offer to match those donations. This model of donation/matching and allowing employees to direct their donations to organization they personally support has been quite successful for both the United Way and other charitable organizations in the past.

As an Alberta charity, the Alberta Debate and Speech Association is an accepted target of designated contributions to the United Way. For Alumni or Friends of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association, who either themselves, or through their children and friends, have benefited from the strong teaching and fellowship accompanying debate and speech activities in the province, the ADSA is an excellent target for the designated United Way giving.

Here's how it works: when you are filling out the form for employee contributions to the United Way, tick the box that indicates targeted giving. There should be a space to include the name of your desired target organization and its charitable number. The Alberta Debate and Speech Association's registered charitable number is: 10669 3120 RR 0001.

The Alberta Debate and Speech Association has been very effective at leveraging gifts given to it for maximum benefit. The administrative cost of running debate and speech activities in the province of Alberta is nominal, compared to the significant numbers of youth, in Junior High or High School, who benefit from the services of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association.

As the 2009 United Way Campaign kicks off through your city and organization, please consider targeting your United Way contribution to the Alberta Debate and Speech Association. If you need more information on how to use this system, please contact David Tupper at david.tupper@blakes.ca or Anne Thomas at akthomas@suncor.com.

-David Tupper, Vice-President and Anne Thomas, Treasurer/Past-President



United Way
of Calgary and Area

FADS AGM 2010

Friends of Alberta Debate and Speech is growing! We would like to invite you all to the Annual General meeting during the U of C BP debate tournament on January 8/9, 2010.

If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, or would like to nominate another candidate, this will be your chance. To participate in the meeting as a member, you only need to register by our online registration form found here:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pSaHK7XcWI2ZnXQBqGHCDow&hl=en>

Please consider serving on the board or as an operations officer. Details of the time and place of the meeting will be available on the website, and in the December edition of the newsletter.

FADS Bulletin

-FADS Welcome Jason Hong as our Newsletter Editor. Jason is responsible for desinging and publishing the FADS Quarterly newsletter.

-Remember to visit our website for updates! friendsofadsa.com

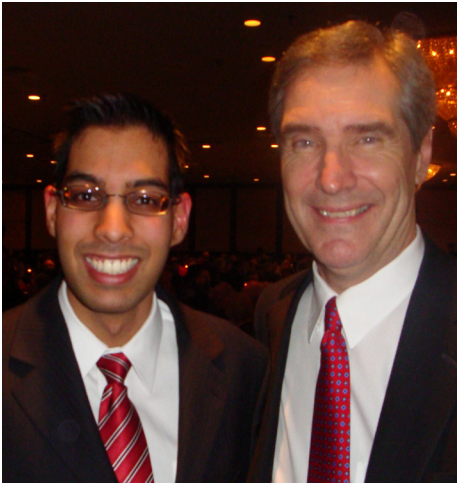
-Email us with your questions at: friendsofdebate@gmail.com

Inside this issue:

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Featured Friends of Debate - Ashvin Singh



On the left, Ashvin Singh.

What is your current title at work and what does that mean?

I'm currently studying Business (and working in TELUS Finance on a part time basis) and I find the field thoroughly inspiring. There is really nothing more fulfilling than watching market economics in practice, in a world where the importance of our economy's intricacies – from operations management, to economic decision support, to business law – are often overlooked. The notoriety gained by the financial system during the 2008 economic crisis demonstrates how interlinked our social fabric and economic indicators really are.

My long-term career goals are either in business management or law. However, I am a politician at heart and see understanding business as the foundation of the long-term changes I want to make happen in the world around me, whether in terms of mitigating disparity, saving our environment or building greater prosperity.

When and how were you first involved with debate and/or speech in Alberta?

My first tournament was in Grade 10 for the annual Rick Pawluk tournament, on the topic of lowering the voting age. My partner and I prepared intensely on paper, but nothing could really have prepared me for the daunting task of speaking before a crowd and an opposing team – I don't think I lifted my eyes from my page during my first speech! However, I soon fell in love with everything from the satisfaction of finishing my speeches, to the adrenaline rush of cross-examination, to the cheesy debate terminology we employed – even back then, I knew I was a debater for life!

For the Fall Edition of FADS Quarterly we had the opportunity to interview two very special Friends of Alberta Debate. Amy Robichaud and Ashvin Singh recently participated in CBC's Canada's Next Great Prime Minister and their performances were admirable to say the least. Ashvin was a semi-finalist and Amy won becoming Canada's Next Great Prime Minister! These ADSA alumni share their experiences and tell us how debate helped shape their lives. We hope you enjoy what they have to say. FADS continues to search for the great alumnis of Alberta debate. If you know any around you, get them to visit us at our website friendsofadsa.com

What is your favourite memory of debate/speech?

By far, my most amazing memories are from the World Debating Championships in Cork, Ireland earlier this year. It was, by far, the most competitive tournament in which I had ever participated. Gathering hundreds of intellectuals from around the world to debate pressing issues was a tremendously eye-opening experience – there are so many value sets and perspectives that one would never encounter debating others from the same city or province alone.

How has debate/speech helped you in your work and your personal life?

I can barely estimate the auxiliary benefits of my involvement with speech and debate. My political engagement, professional life and primary extracurricular activities all revolve around self-justification and self-expression. I think that the ability to speak well and think critically is transferable to virtually every domain of life. I can say with certainty that, had I not debated so actively these past few years, I would never have had the confidence and requisite knowledge to confidently apply for CBC's Canada's Next Great Prime Minister.

Why would you encourage others to stay involved in debate/speech?

As I said, the transferable skills to be gleaned from debate – confidence, self-expression and analytical skills – will apply no matter what your undertakings may be. Whether you are negotiating multimillion dollar contracts at a boardroom table or defending the rights of fellow citizens before our courts and tribunals, confidence and oratory skill will define you. Not only has debate made me a more confident and concise speaker, but it has given me the chance to travel around the world to attend tournaments, play an organizational role in some of Canada's most prestigious events (such as my role as tournament director of the 2010 National Debating Championships) and make some lifelong friends.

Tell us a bit about your experience with CBC's Canada's Next Great Prime Minister competition. How do you think debate & speech helped you?

It was, without doubt, one of the most extraordinary experiences I have ever had. I met nine passionate and intelligent Canadians with compelling visions for our country, had the chance to speak with Alex Trebek, Frank Stronach and several former Prime Ministers. I participated in some of the most engaging challenges I have ever been in. Debating various issues with other candidates was actually one of the key challenges we had to engage in, so I was quite glad to have a background in competitive debate. Ultimately though, the people I met were probably the most important thing I took away from the competition. I remember after one of our challenges, all of us went into the hallway and just fell silent; all of us needed a moment to ourselves just to absorb the genuine sentiments that we had all expressed for our nation. The passion and inspiration that everyone felt for this country, its people and its values was simply phenomenal. Above all – the prizes, the TV show, the audience – that was what the competition was about.

What advice would you give to a young debater interested in pursuing a career/education similar to yours?

First, stay in debate! It will lead you to some of the best mentors you could hope to meet, along with giving you some of the most useful skills you will ever acquire. There are thousands of people each year in the business world who spend thousands of dollars to learn how to speak before crowds, argue rationally and respect their peers – debate gives you a chance to build those skills now and set yourself apart from your peers. Secondly, and more importantly, seek opportunities to harness those oratory and analytical skills to shape something you truly believe in, whether that happens to be an enterprise you have always dreamed of starting, the great realm of Canadian politics or a volunteer organization about which you're extremely passionate. Every domain of society could use a few more debaters!

Featured Friends of Debate - Amy Marlene Robichaud-Harpe

Amy Marlene Robichaud-Harpe is a 2009 University of Ottawa Political Science graduate and has already made her mark on our capital city's political scene. After participation in 2007 and 2008 as a Parliamentary Page, she went onto make an even bigger name for herself by winning the 2009 CBC game show, Canada's Next Great Prime Minister. Judged by former Prime Ministers Mulroney, Clark, Campbell, and Martin, Amy was picked as the winner of the competition and grand prize of \$50 000. To cap off the year, she recently married fellow ADSA alumnus Sasha Harpe, and is settling in nicely to their home in Ottawa.

What is your current title at work and what does that mean?

I'm currently a Program Assistant with the Historica Dominion Institute (HDI) (<http://www.historica-dominion.ca/en/>). Basically this is a fancy title for "Intern". The HDI is the largest, independent organization dedicated to Canadian history, identity and citizenship. I'm working on two HDI programs: The Passages to Canada Speakers' Bureau which is a diverse group of over 600 immigrants and refugees who have volunteered to share their experiences with youth and community groups, and the Memory Project where Veterans from the Second World War, Korean War and Peacekeeping Missions as well as currently serving Canadian Forces personnel visit classrooms in their community to share experiences about their time in the service.

When and how were you first involved with debate and/or speech in Alberta?

I joined the ADSA as an awkward 7th grader at Ecole St. Matthew. My first tournament was the Calgary Stampede Tournament and I came in dead last.

What is your favourite memory of debate/speech?

It is criminal that I have to pick just one. 2004 Debate Provincials in Edmonton stands out though. My partner and I were so convinced that we had lost the last preliminary round that we spend our rebuttal prep time discussing plans to change into our sweats to watch the semis and finals. In an unexpected turn of events we won that round and moved onto semis where I compared reforming the UN to eating a 100 000 pound marshmallow – to this day I think it is a genius comparison, but my partner, who was part of my wedding party last month, is still trying to forget the embarrassment it caused her. We went on to win the big wooden trophy that year though – only then redeeming me from my first foray into debate.

How has debate/speech helped you in your work and your personal life?

Debate and speech gave me the confidence and presentation skills to nail job interviews, engage dynamically with my colleagues and present my ideas in an organized way. I remember being 14 and being sick of listening to guest speakers at tournaments tell me how much debate will help me as an adult and at the risk of sounding just like them – wow! What a difference it has made.

Also, and I think most importantly, debate has forever marked my personal life. I married my husband Sasha, an ADSA debater from Beaverlodge, this past summer. We were actually at the same Debate Provincials in 2000, but didn't meet until a University of Ottawa English Debating Society meeting in January 2006.

Why would you encourage others to stay involved in debate/speech?

Debaters have an uncanny habit of ending up in interesting and influential professions later on in life. Not only does this bode well for your own future as a debater, it is pretty nifty to witness your closest friends become successful and fulfilled in life. Being a debater has opened doors and connections to me that still blow my mind. I have chatted to Maureen McTeer and her husband (that long retired Alberta Prime Minister) about our mutual status as Debate Alumni, and have landed at least one job due to the fact that I was a former debater.

Tell us a bit about your experience with CBC's Canada's Next Great Prime Minister competition. How do you think debate & speech helped you win?

Without a doubt debate and speech got me to the final of CNGPM. The semi-finals "boot camp" was really just a 3 day long debate and speech extravaganza. There was a crisis address challenge (impromptu speaking, did that in High School), a Canadian history trivia challenge (thank you 10 years of debate research and ADSA research packages), a full afternoon of one on one policy debating (thank you ADSA Advanced Guide to Debating and all the random stats and quotations that I have memorized due to a decade of debating).

Standing in front of four former Prime Ministers was an absolutely surreal experience, almost as good as getting a congratulatory bear hug from Paul Martin. I believe my advantage over my fellow candidates was simply that years of debating and speaking has taught me to never take myself too seriously, to enjoy the art of giving a great speech and to be able to laugh at myself.

I have always thought that a reality TV show about debaters would be the most hilarious thing, and there I was on a game show that simulated a federal election and



Amy with Alex Trebek on the set of Canada's Next Great Prime Minister

I just kept thinking – yup, I'm officially the nerdiest person I know (next to my husband that is, who has named himself Canada's Next Great Husband since my win).

What advice would you give to a young debater interested in pursuing a career/education similar to yours?

If you are interested in politics and civic engagement I have four pieces of advice. First, spend some time working/studying in Ottawa. Get to know Parliament from the inside and immerse yourself in it – the best way to learn is to experience. Second, travel and explore Canada. Meet Canadians from everywhere, learn from them, their histories, experience what makes us all unique and yet all Canadian. Third, don't pin yourself down to a particular ideology or party, be prepared to change your opinion and your philosophy as you learn more about Canada – it is impossible to know Canada completely so our politics should always be evolving and dynamic as we come to understand ourselves and our fellow citizens better. Finally always stand up for what you think is right, regardless of how unpopular that might make you. You may not win an election this way but you will make Canada a better place for us all.

Anything else you'd like to add?

The best way to ensure entertaining, touching and well delivered toasts at your wedding is to a) Marry a debater; b) Include as many of them as possible in your wedding party (we both had former debate partners stand up for us), and c) Have a debater be your Master of Ceremonies, who gives time signals to your speakers. (Just kidding.... About the time signals part).

Alberta Debate and Speech Association Schedule of Events

Please contact us if you are interested in being a part of any of these activities

October

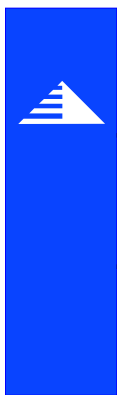
1	Edmonton	– Jr Speech Tournament @ Ottewell (Sheila Shortt) 4 to 8:30pm
2	Calgary	– Jr. / Sr. Speech Tournament @ Strathcona-Tweedsmuir (Environmental Theme)
2	Edmonton	– Sr. High Workshop for Lois Hole Debates @ U of A
3	Edmonton	– Lois Hole Sr. Debate Tournament @ U of A.
5	Edmonton	– Jr. Debate Workshop @ Crestwood (Wendy Malanchen)
17	Calgary	– Sr. Debate Tournament @ Western Canada
23	Calgary	– Stampede Jr. / Sr. Speech Competition @ John Diefenbaker (Western Theme)
24	Edmonton	– Sr. Debate Tournament (Rick Pawluk) @ Old Scona
31	Edmonton	– Churchill Sr. Debate Tournament @ U of A

November

7	Calgary	– Stampede Sr. Debate Tournament @ Crescent Heights
13	Calgary	– U of C Sr. Debate Fall Tournament
14	Edmonton	– Jr. Debate Tournament @ Crestwood (Wendy Malanchen)
28	Calgary	– Churchill Sr. Debate Tournament @ Sir Winston Churchill

December

3	Edmonton	– Sr. Speech Qualifier @ Harry Ainlay
4/5	Edmonton	– Model Legislature
11	Calgary	– Jr. / Sr. Speech Tournament @ Crescent Heights
?	Edmonton	– Churchill Sr. Debate / Speech Finals @ McKay Avenue



FADS

**FRIENDS OF
ALBERTA
DEBATE
& SPEECH
ASSOCIATION**

F.A.D.S.A's registered business address is:

3500, 855 Second Street SW
Calgary, AB T2P 4J8

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested in keeping in touch with Debate or Speech in Alberta.

If you have not yet joined our database, follow this link to fill in the registration form now!

(We promise only to contact you about things you tell us you're interested in on the form)

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pSaHK7XcWI2ZnXQBqGHCDOw&email=true>

Check out our Web Page!

friendsofadsa.com

"I love argument, I love debate. I don't expect anyone just to sit there and agree with me, that's not their job."

- Margaret Thatcher