

Greetings from the **AMERICAN WHIG-CLIOSOPHIC SOCIETY**



*Seasons Greetings and Welcome to
Whig-Clio's first Holiday Newsletter!*



One Whig Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544

December 2009

Hello again! It's been an exciting semester, and we hope you enjoy reading about how we've been keeping busy.

First things first: we enjoyed seeing many of you at the celebration of the newly renovated Whig Hall on November 14! There's a marvelous piece in the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* about the event and the renovations. You can access it from the *PAW* website at paw.princeton.edu.

Second, we've said it before and we'll say it again: we want to hear from you! As you read on,

you'll see that both Mock Trial and the Woodrow Wilson Honorary Debate Panel are asking Whig-Clio alums to serve as judges. And please feel free to write or email us with any comments or suggestions about our efforts to reach out to alumni. We look forward to hearing from you!

Wishing you the best this holiday season,

Meaghan Byrne '10
Alumni Liaison

Alexandra Gecker '12
Director of Alumni Affairs

THE WOODROW WILSON HONORARY DEBATE PANEL

The WWHDP held its first event of the year on Sunday, December 6 with the Hope Extemporaneous Speaking Prize. Six freshmen had 10 minutes each to write a speech about "the biggest problem facing the United States today." Some discussed inequality, others our inability to delay gratification. Panel judges, including classics professor Joshua Katz and visiting WWS professor Jeannine Bell, selected Brittany Sanders as the first-place speaker and Evan Larson as the second place speaker. The event was held in the newly remodeled Senate Chamber of Whig Hall.

The Walter E. Hope Prizes were established by the University in 1950. The prizes originated from the bequest of Mr. Walter E. Hope '01; the University recommended that funds from this bequest "be used in the support of debating and public speaking at the University, an activity in which Mr. Hope had great interest since his undergraduate days, having established and supported a system of awards to members of the Freshman Class." Mr. Hope was valedictorian and later president of his class, and he served as a charter trustee of the University for 22 years, during six of which he chaired the executive committee.

Future WWHDP events are listed at right. If you're interested in judging one of these events, please contact Chair Molly Alarcon '10 at malarcon@princeton.edu.

***February 14: 1867 Prize Preliminaries
(open to all classes)***

***February 20: 1876 Prize Debates
(one debater selected from each class)***

***April 11: Hope Debate Preliminaries
(open to all freshmen)***

***April 16: Hope Debate Prize
(open to freshmen selected from prelims)***

April 18: Rusher and Junior Orator / Maclean Preliminaries (open to all Whig-Clio members and all juniors, respectively)

April 25: Rusher Prize Debate and Junior Orator / Maclean Prize Debate (open to selected Whig-Clio members and selected juniors, respectively)

May 3-7: Lynde Preliminaries (open to all seniors)

***May 31: Lynde Prize Debate
(open to seniors selected during prelims)***

A NOTE FROM A NEW MEMBER: ADITYA RAJAGOPALAN '13

When I joined the Princeton Debate Panel, I expected the Panel to be a strictly achievement-oriented organization, since, outside the Panel, one associates the Panel with nothing other than success. Yet as impressive as the Panel's tradition of excellence is its culture of camaraderie. From the protracted, fascinating conversations we Panel members seem to always have with each other on

Princeton's walkways, to the passion with which we - freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors alike - worked to ensure the success of the Princeton Classic, to the deep friendships that we continue to form both with our teammates and our rivals, we don't simply win, we enjoy ourselves while doing so.

Adi Rajagopalan is a novice debater from Glastonbury, CT.

THE PRINCETON-TRENTON DEBATE PARTNERSHIP

Through the hard work of Debate Panel member Rush Doshi '11, the Princeton-Trenton Debate Partnership (PTDP) has had early success in establishing a service program aimed at helping inner-city youth. PTDP has partnered with Trenton Central High School (TCHS) to offer its students the opportunity to participate in competitive high school debate. TCHS has created a speech and debate class as well as an afterschool program. The

Partnership is currently in its early stages, but already Rush directly instructs two classes of roughly twenty students each every Friday. Whig-Clio as a whole looks forward to the continued expansion of this extremely valuable program.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact Rush Doshi '11 at rdoshi@princeton.edu.

MOCK TRIAL

Mock Trial has enjoyed strong showings at four invitationals this semester, including tournaments at Harvard and UPenn, with Princeton teams consistently appearing in the top five. Mock Trial also recently hosted its major fundraiser, Moot Court, a high-school tournament that also allows Princeton students to connect with prospective Tigers. Princeton's Mock Trial team is also pleased to report that the American Mock Trial Association has awarded Princeton the opportunity to host a Regional Competition on the weekend of February 27

-28, 2010. The Princeton Regional provides the team with both revenue and prestige, and two of Princeton's four MT teams will compete as well.

Because the quality of the competition depends directly on the quality of judging, Mock Trial requests that any alumni interested in judging on February 27-28 please contact team president Anthony Loring '11 at aloring@princeton.edu. Judging (four rounds over two days) is a huge help to the team and can help toward CLE credit for practicing attorneys. Please get in touch; the team would love to get to know you!

THE PRINCETON DEBATE PANEL

This fall, the Panel recruited an extremely strong novice class. A number of the Panel's newest members were top debaters in their respective nations and include freshmen who were on their countries' national teams. As the Panel continues its rigorous novice-education program, the team has already enjoyed a number of novice tournament wins and speaker awards.

This year, the Panel has continued to develop its international profile not just via novices but also through its varsity members. Two varsity teams competed at the Oxford Intervarsity tournament, where two juniors were 7th and 8th speakers overall. Such high speaker awards are unusual for any American debater at a premier British tournament;

to have two of Princeton's debaters taking home these awards was an impressive feat. Varsity members are also currently preparing for the World Championships, this year in Turkey, where Princeton's top team will attempt to improve upon last year's quarterfinals finish.

Finally, at home, the Panel just finished hosting its annual high-school invitational, the Princeton Classic, and is looking forward to hosting its annual intercollegiate tournament in February.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Zayn Siddique '11 at zsiddiqu@princeton.edu.

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

IRC is a dynamic forum for international issues on the Princeton campus, and its ability to run large-scale conferences consistently reinforces its ability to attract talented members. At the Princeton Model United Nations Conference (PMUNC) 2009, held this November, 110 Princeton staff members welcomed 1000 high-school delegates from schools as far away as China, Venezuela, and Austria. This spring, Princeton Interactive Crisis Simulation will offer one of the most innovative and well-regarded crisis simulations on the college circuit to delegates from nineteen schools on four continents. IRC also sent delegations to two fall

Model United Nations Conferences and will send students to conferences at McGill, the University of Virginia, and Mt. Holyoke, and to the WorldMUN conference in Taipei. Back here in New Jersey, IRC also continues to expand Interact, a program that connects Princeton students with inner-city high school students in Trenton. IRC members develop lesson plans about topics like child trafficking and climate change, and they visit a remedial high school every week to share their knowledge and enthusiasm.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact IRC President Kyle Trombley '11 at trombley@princeton.edu.

THE PRINCETON SENATE

The revival of the Whig-Clio Senate Debates, key to Whig-Clio's effort to connect with students from the campus at large, has continued apace. As President of the Senate, Brian Stephan '11 has worked with Whig and Clio party leaders Charlie Metzger '12 and Jay Parikh '12 to ensure that debates are relevant and well-attended. They've met with great success!

Whig-Clio's first-semester debates have addressed troop levels in Afghanistan and the Anscombe Society's proposal to create a Center for Absti-

nence and Chastity. The final debate this semester will address grade deflation Nancy Weiss Malkiel, Dean of the College and driving force behind the grade-deflation policy, will be speaking. We expect that such a controversial topic will draw crowds to the Senate that exceed even the 70 or more we've seen at recent debates, and we look forward to the critical thinking and vigorous rhetoric provided by members of the Princeton community.

If you're interested in attending a Senate debate or have any questions or comments, please contact Brian Stephan '11 at bstephan@princeton.edu.



Students consider arguments at the Senate debate on the Center for Abstinence and Chastity (far left), ultimately casting their vote with either the Whig or Clio Party.

At right: Debate Panel President Zayn Sididque '11 speaks at the 2009 Kaplan Princeton Classic, which welcomed about 900 high-school students Dec 4-6, 2009.

MODEL CONGRESS

This year's model congress was another great success. PMC returned to Washington, DC, where just under 1000 delegates from 46 high schools participated in this four-day simulation of life on Capitol Hill. If you have any questions, please contact 2009 Executive Directors Liz Chen at lizchen@princeton.edu or Alex Scheeler at ascheele@princeton.edu.



SOCIETY NOTES

In case you missed it, the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* featured the renovation of Whig Hall in its December 9th issue. The article is available in print and online. In addition to the article in the print magazine, a slide show of historic Whig-Clio images will be posted to the *PAW* website. We'd like to thank Madeleine Bruml at *PAW* for giving us a heads up about this article! You can access the story at www.paw.princeton.edu.

GIVE THE GIFT OF YOUR TIME

The Woodrow Wilson Honorary Debate Panel:

Molly Alarcon '10 (malarcon@princeton.edu)

We need judges for all of the following events. We'd appreciate any help you can provide!

February 14: 1867 Prize Preliminaries

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In the future, we'd love to feature a substantial "Society Notes" section with Alumni stories, updates, and general goings-on. Feel free to send stories about the Whig-Clio of the past or simply life updates to agecker@princeton.edu with the subject "Society Notes."

Whig-Clio wishes you the Happiest of Holidays and the Best in the New Year!

Mock Trial: *Anthony Loring '11 (aloring@princeton.edu)*

February 27-28, 2010: Princeton Regional: Calling all attorneys! Mock Trial is looking for lawyers to judge four rounds over two days. Judging is a lot of fun and sometimes even counts toward CLE hours! Come join us for a weekend back at Old Nassau!