

## Our Community Quarterly

**Countdown to WDI 2014 - This will be the biggest, most geographically diverse, and & best WDI yet!**

- ◆ 45 High school Debaters
- ◆ 12 Talented Collegiate Scholars
- ◆ 5 Development Staff Members
- ◆ 16 amazing and committed faculty



The WDI is thrilled to welcome one of the country's finest teacher scholars and educators!

Sarah T. Partlow Lefevre has a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas. Her areas of study include rhetoric, argumentation and debate, gender, and Kenneth Burke. Sarah has been at Idaho State University since August of 2001. She has been the Director of the James M. & Sharon E. Rupp Debate Society since 2001. During her tenure, the debate team has won hundreds of awards including 3rd place at the Cross Examination Debate Association National Championship, 2nd Speaker at the National Debate Tournament Championship, and 2nd Speaker at the Cross Examination Debate Association National Championship. Sarah has won multiple coaching awards including the Galentine Award, the Ziegelmueller Award, and the Val A. Browning Coach of the Year Award. Born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, Sarah attended the University of Utah before pursuing both her M.A.

### *The 2014 Keynote—Shunta Jordan*

Shunta Jordan is the J.B. Fuqua Chair of Speech & Debate at Pace Academy in Atlanta, GA. During her nine years as director at Pace, she has coached 6 state champions, the 2013 NDCA National Champions and a number of other tournament winners. Shunta earned her B.S. and MEd from the University of Georgia where she was a National Debate Tournament participant. During summers, she has taught at debate camps at Emory University, Bates College, Stanford University and the University of Michigan. We are excited to have her join us this summer!



### *The WDI Welcomes Sarah Partlow*

and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Kansas.

Sarah was recently awarded the 2014 Lucy Keele Award for Service to the debate community. According to William Southworth, longtime director of forensics at Redlands College, the Keele Award is designed to demonstrate the debate community's "respect, and appreciation for those individuals who have devoted so much time and effort into making the forensic community a more enjoyable and productive experience for so many students."

The Keele Award winner is chosen by the National Debate Tournament (NDT) Board of Trustees. The award recognizes an NDT debate coach who has provided outstanding service to the debate community.

"I was very surprised and pleased to be this year's recipient," Partlow Lefevre said. "It is a tremendous honor to be recognized alongside such accomplished coaches like George

Ziegelmueller, Donn W. Parson, and Al Louden – all legendary in debate." "I think the coaches are amazing," said Robyn Hemmert, ISU debate team member. "They have shown passion and knowledge and love of debate that is contagious. I will forever be grateful to Sarah for giving me the opportunity to be an ISU debater."



If you have any WDI news please contact Rae Lynn Schwartz-DuPre [raelynn.schwartz-dupre@wwu.edu](mailto:raelynn.schwartz-dupre@wwu.edu)



## Donor News—Honor Her

Tell us who your debate role model is. We want to honor her.

<http://womensdebateinstitute.org/role-model-fellowships>

The WDI is running a fundraising drive for camp - the WDI Role Model Campaign. Our goals are to raise money for camp while building the community of women in debate by celebrating their contributions online. Check out the awesome video some of our students have made about their debate role models.

There are a lot of amazing debaters who have not yet made this list. Honor them and carry the project forward. This is the largest WDI we've ever had, which is extremely exciting. It also means that we need to raise more money than usual—approximately \$40,000 dollars. While we've done a great job so far this year, we still have a lot to raise and we really need your help to make that happen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zp6KmSqTIA>

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/women-s-debate-institute-role-model->

You can see three facets of this community from our Role Model campaign last year at these three pages:

<http://womensdebateinstitute.org/rollcall>  
<http://womensdebateinstitute.org/the-women-of-debate>

For more information or to donate contact Sarah Glaser at [sarahmglaser@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmglaser@gmail.com)

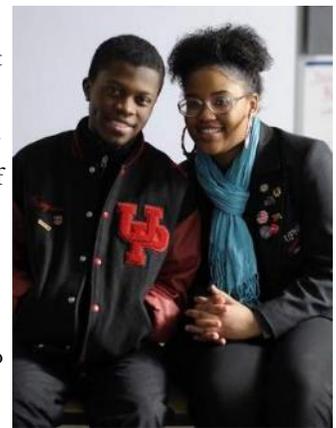
<http://womensdebateinstitute.org/campaign/x/1847862>

## Congrats to WDI Students Brooke Kimbrough & Teressa Shaw



A big Congratulations to WDI Student Teressa Shaw (below) for being the only girl from the state of Wisconsin to qualify for National Forensic League National Tournament.

Brook Kimbrough and her debate partner, Rayvon Dean, (left), broke ground for Detroit students. They were the first urban team from Michigan to compete in the Tournament of Champions at the University of Kentucky this spring. Think of it as the Super Bowl for high school debate teams. Brooke was accepted to several universities but has decided to debate for the University of Iowa—Go HAWKS!



## Thank You - Our 2014 University Sponsors

Thank you to our outstanding University partners for support of the WDI: University of Iowa, UC Berkeley, Kansas State University, Wake Forest University, College of St. Benedict, James Madison University, SUNY Binghamton, University of Oregon, Georgia State, West Georgia, Whitman College, and University of Georgia!

The WDI University Fellowship sponsors program matches college debate teams with students attending the WDI who want to debate in college. This partnership helps us achieve our mission of getting more young women to bridge the gap between high school and college debate. [Read more and learn](#) how to become a sponsor!



## Inside Our Faculty— Nicole Nave

My name is Nicole Nave and I love to debate!! I have been debating for 6 years now. I first found debate in St. Louis Missouri as a freshmen in high school. I debated in the St. Louis Urban Debate League. As an incoming college freshmen I was invited to debate for Lindenwood University in St. Charles Missouri. I was more than excited to participate as an original member of the newly founded program. During my two years of debate at Lindenwood I began to take a part in non-traditional debate practices. While doing so I was able to find my voice as a black woman and the way in which it operates in society and within the debate space. This style of debate was able to transform my life in ways in which words cannot describe. I have transformed into a totally different woman since debating in college. Not only am I more aware of society, I am more confident in myself as a

person. I have volunteered at several different high school debate programs from judging to coaching. While doing so I stumbled upon the woman's debate institute. I was amazed that the institute had free tuition and was all girls. Not only that but the fact that there are travel stipends for the campers who meet financial aid requirements is amazing. The staff who have volunteered their time are truly prestigious well known women throughout the debate community and there was no way possible that I could pass up the opportunity to work with upcoming girls. I look forward to assisting with this camp and getting a

**I have transformed into a totally different woman since debating in college**



chance to be a part of the girl's development not only as debaters but as young women.

## Jeff Shaw—A Founder of the WDI Returns to Camp

I started debate in 1989 at Canby High-School in Oregon. Debate taught me to think, to work hard, and to listen to other people. For a lot of other debaters, this turns them into lawyers. Me, it turned me into a journalist and, later, a public relations person for social justice causes (among other things). If there is a common thread to my delightfully odd life, it comes from debate: you identify a problem. You think about what you can do to help, listening to the smartest folks you can find along the way. And you do what you can.



That's more or less how WDI started. When I was coaching high school debate in Washington, we had amazing

female debaters in the state ... and they almost all quit debate after a few days, or weeks, or months. I thought about that human potential and how valuable debate could have been for these folks that were, for one reason or another, leaving the activity in droves. I've been a feminist for as long as I can remember (being the only male child of a single mom should do that to you), and it seemed like a crime to let this keep happening.

That was in 2000. Almost 15 years later, a bunch of fantastic people have helped WDI grow beyond my wildest dreams. Improvements I couldn't possibly have envisioned, other folks made happen. The lesson, for me: No one of us is as smart as all of us. No individual is capable of what

we're capable of together.

I've been really lucky over the course of my 40 years on this planet: I've lived and worked in incredible places and met a ton of wonderful people, people I'm in awe of. But WDI is the best thing I've ever done with my life, and it's populated with some of the most impressive people I've ever met, and I'm proud to still be a small part of it.

Most of all, I'm glad you're part of it. Have an amazing time and welcome to the WDI community.

If you have any WDI news please contact Rae Lynn Schwartz-DuPre [raelynn.schwartz-dupre@wwu.edu](mailto:raelynn.schwartz-dupre@wwu.edu)

## WDI Director Christi Siver Wins Teaching Award

College of Saint Benedict—St. Johns University awarded Christi Siver the S. Mary Grell Teacher of Distinction Award. Siver, who has taught at CSB and SJU since 2010, has three goals as a teacher: build students' knowledge about international relations and comparative politics; develop their research, critical thinking and communication skills; and foster their identities as responsible young scholars. She has earned a reputation of being willing to spend enormous amounts of time one-on-one with students. Her passion for research and communication comes from participation in competitive debate. Siver has continued to be involved in debate at CSB and SJU, helping to form

debate builds confidence and fosters discussion on important social questions

a speech and debate team, and also serves as the managing director of the Women's Debate Institute, a non-profit organization which runs a debate camp for high school

girls. Siver believes debate builds confidence in students and the ability to civically disagree with others fosters discussion on important social questions.



Siver is pictured above on the right

## Alumni Competes in Women's Debating Championships

By Sonia Larbi-Aissa

At some point during the North American Women's Debating Championship Tournament, I looked around the room and felt completely supported. I'd only felt that emotion while debating in one other place, the Women's Debate Institute. Both spaces strive towards the same goals, to recognize and address female-specific issues in the debate community. The Canadian University Society for Intercollegiate Debate does so by holding a female-only tournament during winter term. The mission for the tournament is as follows:

"We believe the spirit of Women's is to showcase the talent of the incredible female debaters from across North America while fostering and encouraging newer women to continue to be apart of the debate community. The retention of female debaters is an issue plaguing many clubs across circuits in North America. We want Women's to provide an inclusionary space to talk about these issues to be able to find

ways to overcome them." — *CUSID community forum*

Women's had already become a regular tournament on the Canadian debate circuit by the time I participated. Dalhousie, University of Vermont, Florida International University, the University of Western Ontario, Claremont McKenna College, University of Toronto, Laurier University, Middlebury College, Université de Montréal, Marianopolis College, Carleton College, Queen's, University of Ottawa and Colgate all brought teams. The rotating tournament — next year at the University of Vermont — was marketed first and foremost as "an opportunity to meet and connect with other women in the debate community," according to one of this year's tournament director Patricia Johnson-Castle. Those involved with the Women's Debate Institute are no strangers to the types of gender issues that plague the competitive debate world. Interestingly, data reflects it. Sarah Balakrishnan, chief adjudicator for Women's, recognizes the statistical gap between male and female successes and attendance

in Canadian debate and sees the Women's tournament a step to address it. One incredibly insightful stipulation the McGill Debating Union added to the tournament this year was a closer look at judging panels. Because previous panels at Women's consisted of one female chair and four male panelists, a female-majority panel rule was instated. All panels contained a female chair, and in the event that only a gender-balanced panel could be scheduled, the female adjudicator got a second vote.

Women's was the highlight of my debate season this year, and a joy to participate in. I met female debaters from across Canada and saw some familiar American faces. Canadian debate makes an effort to community-build in general, and the specific inclusion of a female-only tournament in the regular season — and plans to create a similar tournament out west in an effort to make this type of tournament less cost-prohibitive — makes me feel proud to be a part of this debate community.



## Women's Debate Institute

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<http://womensdebateinstitute.org/>

*The Women's Debate Institute is a non-profit organization that unites a robust community dedicated to the education of young women. Each summer we host a free debate institute for high school girls from around the country. Our four day camp increases the number of girls involved in debate, creates an environment that fosters community, and encourages young women to attend college.*

women's  
debate  
institute

Sisterhood is Vocal—Speak Out !

*August 9-13, 2014*

