

Our Community Quarterly

Dr. Shanara Reid-Brinkley delivers the 2015 Keynote



Learning to paddle between rounds—WDI 2014

The WDI is thrilled to announce that Dr. Shanara Reid-Brinkley (right) will deliver the 2015 Women's Debate Institute Keynote Address.

Dr. Reid-Brinkley focuses her scholarly research on African American culture and public argumentation, with a research program specializing in public argument and performance,

cultural studies, and Black Feminist Theory. Reid-Brinkley has a specific research interest in black popular culture, including hip hop politics, culture, and activism. She is interested in the interaction between black culture and rhetorical practice and social conflict within high school and college policy debate.



The WDI Welcomes Board Members



It is an exciting time in the history of an organization when the leadership changes and evolves to include new voices, previous students, and new leaders (pictured above and listed from left to right). We are confident that their leadership has much to offer our organization. **Brooke Kimbrough** is a first year student at the University of Iowa majoring in English with a minor in African American studies. Brooke is also a member of the university's policy debate team. In high school, she debated for University Preparatory Academy high school in Detroit, Michigan. She and her partner advanced to the semi-finals of the Tournament of Champions where she also received a 17th place speaker award. **Beth Mendenhall** won the Kansas High School State Championship in both LD and policy debate in high school (2006), and went on to debate for 5 years at Kansas State. There she qualified to the NDT 4 times, and won the Brian Johnston Debater of the Year award and the CEDA National Championship in 2011. Beth is currently attending Johns Hopkins for a PhD in International Relations, but she also

teaches and coaches debate part-time. Her dissertation is about the intersection of oceanography and ocean management institutions. **Jyleesa Hampton** is a fifth year undergraduate student, pursuing a bachelors of arts degree in women, gender and sexuality studies, African American studies, and political science at the University of Kansas. Debating for the University of Kansas, Hampton has competed at many national tournaments, culminating with her advancement to the double octofinals at the CEDA national tournament this past year. Currently, Hampton is an assistant debate coach for Blue Valley School District. **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 CEDA National Championship, 2nd Speaker at the

NDT Championship, and 2nd Speaker at the CEDA National Championship. Sarah has won multiple coaching awards including the Galentine Award, the Ziegelmueller Award, and the Val A. Browning Coach of the Year. **Marlene Anderson** is a policy debater at Whitman College. At Ballard High School in Seattle, Washington Marlene co-founded the Debate Program and served as team captain until her graduation. She won multiple top speaker awards and elimination debates in Washington, including her appearance as a finalist at the 2013 State Competition. At Whitman, Marlene has continued her success, competing and traveling nationally, reaching the semifinal round at the 2013 Steve Hunt Classic, and winning numerous speaker awards. Alongside her teammates, Marlene closed out the semifinals of the Western Championships held in Sacramento, California. Marlene has previously worked at the Whitman National Debate Institute and is both a WDI alumna and staff member. She attended the WDI in 2010 and 2012 as a student and returned as an RA and lecturer for



2015 NDT first rounds:
 Maddie Langr, Jyleese Renee, Brooke Lindsay, Brittany Williams, Miranda Ehrlich, Margret Strong & Nicole Danielle Nave



Donor News—University Fellows

The WDI could not operate without the generosity of so many of you who understand the benefits of debate. Thank you for your support! To donate, visit womensdebateinstitute.org/donate. Our University Fellow program is going strong. The WDI would like to thank the following universities:

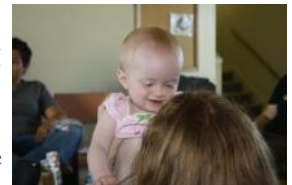
- Binghamton University
- Emory University
- Idaho State University
- James Madison University
- Kansas State University
- Northwestern University

- Penn State University
- The University of California at Berkeley
- The University of Iowa
- The University of Minnesota
- The University of Rochester
- The University of Wyoming
- University of Missouri at Kansas City
- University of Texas at Dallas
- Wake Forest University
- Whitman College

To donate contact Sarah Glaser at sarahmglaser@gmail.com

The WDI Provides Child Care Stipends

Long hours, constant travel, limited eating options, and heavy workload make debate a challenging community for every demographic. It is an activity often inaccessible to individuals unwilling or unable to dedicate substantial amounts of time. When considering whether to teach at debate camps parents often weigh the benefits of pay against the cost of childcare. Yet since all of the faculty at the WDI donate their time, the WDI wants to offset childcare costs by allowing parents to bring children to camp, providing childcare at board retreats, and providing full time child care stipend to parents who choose not to bring their children to the WDI. Allowing parents to remain involved in debate is essential to the successful and health of the community.



Consider how your team and tournament can accommodate both parents and children. For some helpful ideas see our best practices manual:

<http://womensdebateinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/WDI-Best-Practices.pdf>

If you have ideas that are not covered in this publication we would love to hear them. Send your child care ideas to raelynn.schwartz-dupre@wwu.edu

The WDI welcomes Veronica Velez

Dr. Verónica Nelly Vélez is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Education and Social Justice Minor at Western Washington University (WWU). Verónica worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow Public Programming at the Center for Latino Policy Berkeley. Her research includes Critical Race Theory Theory in Education, the politics of parent engagement, particularly for Latina/o (im)migrant families, and community-based models of research, and the use of GIS technologies to further a critical race research agenda on the study of space and educational (in)opportunity. Verónica presents workshops nationally on how to employ GIS critically in educational research and visual literacy projects seeking social and spatial justice. In addition to her scholarly work, Verónica serves as a consultant for several grassroots and non-profit organizations throughout California, building upon her work as a community organizer for over 15 years. We are thrilled to have Vero join the WDI community to create a more inclusive community.



Before joining WWU, and the Director of Research at UC and Latina/o Critical participatory action

Alumni Spotlight—Kristen Stevens

When Kristen Stevens attended the Women's Debate Institute in 2006, she had no idea that she would later become a collegiate-level debate coach. In fact, at the time, though she greatly enjoyed the activity, she had no intention of debating beyond high school. But with each passing year, her passion and appreciation for the activity increased, and debate is now a central part of her life.

Kristen grew up in Mount Vernon, Washington where she debated at Mount Vernon High School in cross-examination and Lincoln-Douglas debate.



In college, she competed in NPDA-style parliamentary debate for three years at Willamette University. Highlights of Kristen's debate career include winning the Fred Scheller Tournament at Pacific University in 2012, closing out finals of the Mahaffey Tournament at Linfield College in 2011, and taking second place at Pacific Lutheran University's Betsy Karl Tournament in 2012.

During college, Kristen also ex-

panded her involvement in debate by interning with the International Debate Education Association (IDEA). In this position, she was able to promote debate education to students from all over the world.

After graduating from Willamette with a degree in political science, Kristen began coaching NPDA-style parliamentary debate at Western Washington University (WWU), a team that ranked 5th in the nation at the end of the 2013-2014 season.

While this marks Kristen's third year coaching at WWU, this is her first year teaching argumentation classes at WWU. In her classes, Kristen tries to inspire students to think critically, take an interest in current events, and effectively present arguments.

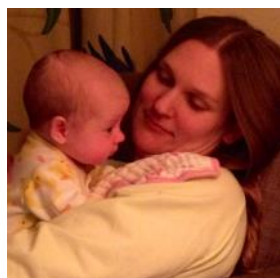
Kristen's dedication for debate stems from the countless benefits and joys the activity has brought her over the years. Debate inspired her to learn about the world, introduced her to a community of wonderful people, and continues to enrich her life today.

"Kristen tries to inspire students to think critically, take an interest in current events."

Big News & Little Debaters

The WDI extends a big congratulations to long time board members Sarah Glaser and Aleava Sayre Frawley who are both new mothers of amazing baby girls.

Sarah and her partner welcomed Lena Michael Hendrix (left) in August 2014.



Michael comes from the nickname Sarah's grandmother called her. Lena was under 3 pounds at birth but she's growing so well - almost 12 pounds. She was born on Aug. 26, just 5

days after Sarah came home from WDI travel. Sarah says "I will always associate WDI with her birth now - I paced the halls of our dorm and the trails of the Audubon camp trying to get some rest and comfort. It was quite relaxing and comforting!"



Aleava's baby girl, Kyna Saoirse Frawley (right), was born on her Dad's birthday - what a gift!

Aleava describes her as a strong-willed and intelligent little girl who is determined to learn as much about the world as she can as quickly as she can. When combined with her highly effective communication skills, these traits will serve her well if she chooses to debate!



Place your WDI onesie orders soon— They will be high demand!!!

WDI participates in Girls Celebration Debate Tournament

This past February the Minnesota Urban Debate League hosted their first ever Girls and Gender Non-Conforming Celebration Debate Tournament for girl and gender non-conforming debaters at Augsburg College. The tournament was designed as an “opportunity to build solidarity amongst girls and gender non-conforming debaters within the community.” This tournament is a joint venture of the MN Urban Debate League, a program of Augsburg College, Augsburg College Women’s Resource Center, the Gender, Sexuality,

and Women’s Studies Department, and the Women’s Debate Institute, and funded in part through the girlsBEST initiative of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota” (<http://www.jojoyoftournaments.com/mn/girls/info.asp>). The WDI was thrilled to be invited to participate. This event was exemplary of women and gender based organizations and creating an alternative style in which high/school girls and gender non-conforming debaters felt welcomed and encouraged.

WDI staff ran a program that included

community building exercises, panel discussions, and small group student discussions. The coaches left to have a facilitated discussion about best practices (using the WDI manual). We are so please to have been a part of this event and would like to see others.

If you are interested in having WDI staff facilitate a student or coaching workshop at your tournament or meeting please contact Leah Castella at lcastella@bwslaw.com



We are Looking for WDI Alumni

Attention all WDI alumni. We are trying to create an alumni database and to do that, we need your help. Ideally, this database would be accessible to all alumni as a resource for mentoring, referrals, etc.

Could you send an e-mail to womensdebateinstitute@gmail.com with the following information?

1. Year(s) you attended, and whether you attended as a student or staff.
2. What college you attended (if applicable).
3. Whether you debated/are debating in college, and if so, what format?
4. Whether you attended/are attending any post-graduate programs (law, medicine, graduate school, etc.). If so, what program?
5. If you are out of school, what kind of work are you currently doing? Thank you so much for your help. And, if you know other alumni, it would be fantastic if you could post this on your own facebook page/and or send some e-mails around.



Inside our Faculty: Kate Shuster

Kate debated for Emory University from 1992-1996. In 1996, she and her partner David Heidt won the NDT. At the time, she was only the third woman ever to do that. She coached debate at several universities, including Emory, the University of Georgia, Claremont McKenna College and Occidental College. Although policy debate was Kate's first love, she's embraced many different debate formats over the years, coaching NPDA debate and World Universities (often called British Parliamentary). Kate has traveled all over the world to teach debate, and was formerly the head coach of the U.S. National Team.



Her favorite kind of debate coaching, though, is with middle school students. For 15 years, she has co-directed the Middle School Public Debate Program, using materials and a debate format she designed

to meet the needs of young adolescents and their teachers. Kate delivered the keynote speech at the first ever Women's

Debate Institute, and has remain involved in different ways since then.

Currently, Kate works as an education researcher and consultant. After earning her Ph.D. in the field, she worked in program evaluation – this means looking at instructional and after-school programs to see how (and often whether) they work. Much of her work is with the Southern Poverty Law Center's education division. She may be best known for writing two reports (one in 2011, the second in 2014) that graded states on their content standards for civil rights education. These reports, called *Teaching the Movement: The State of Civil Rights Education*, have received substantial national attention and influenced several states to revise their standards.

Kate lives in Montgomery, Alabama, with her husband Stephen Stetson (a former University of Texas debater), cats Gai Pan and Snowden, a dog named Toffler, and a group of fish collectively known as The Frankfurt School. Her website is www.kate.shuster.com.

Kate delivered the keynote speech at the first ever Women's Debate Institute

Celebrating Our Students

WDI students have had amazing success on both the high school and college circuits. Here are some of the many awards they have won:

Maddie Langr, Jyleese Renee, Miranda Ehrlich, & Margaret Strong (WDI 2013) earned bids to the NDT; Nicole Danielle Nave won the Kansas State tournament; Jyleesa Renee in finals @ the Pittsburg RR & Southern Cal.; Asha Futterman was in semifinals of Westside & earned a bid to the TOC, got to a bid round at Berkeley; Monica Mederios broke at the TOC; Joyce Huang won a debate tournament going maverick and got a 1st place speaker award; Mary Celeste Floreani earned 2nd place at the Cameron Toe Invitational; Emma Young earned 1st place in Oratory; Peri Kirkpatrick & Jordan Stevenson earned 1st place at one of their first tournaments; Victoria Brown won the NYC invitational, the Electric City Invitational, and was top speaker at Electric City Invitational; Nicole Danielle Nave was in octafinals at UNLV; Lornex Lect Lecahi Loreen won the first Boston UDL tournament with a 3rd place speaker award; Haley Uttley went 5-0 at BVSU; Mary Celest Floreani earned 3rd place at the SDO TFA tournament and top speaker at the LA Vernia TFA invitations; Victoria Brown was 3rd speaker at the Wake Early Bird; Tamara Morrison won the Detroit UDL tournament. Brittany Williams was 4th speaker and Quarterfinalist at the Hoosier Invitational; Haley Larsen was Double Finalist at Texas Open, Octofinalist at Fullerton. Kassandra Colón was top speaker, 1st seed and semifinalist at Univ Florida's Blue Key tournament & won first place at the Univ of Miami's Ibis debates and was top speaker; Jordan Stevenson won 5 LD tourn. including awards @Spudder Invitational, Pacific University, Falcon Invitational, and the Hockinson Invitational.

If you have any WDI news please contact Rae Lynn Schwartz-DuPre raelynn.schwartz-dupre@wwu.edu



Women's Debate Institute

Women's Debate Institute
3379 22nd Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

E-mail: womensdebateinstitute@gmail.com

<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.

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Sisterhood is Vocal—Speak Out !

Join Us Next Summer —August 8-12, 2015

