

NO ARGUING with Success

THE POWERHOUSE SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAMS OF THE EARLY 1960S ACHIEVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND LAID A FOUNDATION FOR TREMENDOUS SUCCESS AND LIFELONG CONNECTIONS AMONG THEIR ALUMNI. AT A UNIVERSITY WHERE PROFESSORS KNOW YOUR NAME, THIS IS A TRUE PACIFIC STORY—ONE THAT BEGINS WITH A TRAILBLAZING COACH.

By Sheri Grimes

Paul Winters put Pacific forensics on the national map, filling a display case with trophies and coaching his team to two national championships in 1964. He was a driving force in ending separate men's and women's divisions in forensics, recruited students of color to a virtually white field of competition and brought a small West Coast school to prominence in an arena dominated largely by East Coast and Ivy League giants. In the field of Speech and Debate, Winters truly was a game changer.

Members of his teams went on to become prominent attorneys, educators and business entrepreneurs who in their own lives have become game changers. Decades later, these accomplished alumni recall their experience with Pacific Speech and Debate as life defining and Coach Winters as one of the most profound influences in their lives.



An uproarious welcome from the Pacific community awaited the arrival of the 1964 National Debate Tournament champions and their coach, Paul Winters, when they arrived at Stockton Airport.

THE *Forensic*
ΠΕΙΘΩ ΚΑΛΗ ΔΙΚΑΙΑ

MAY, 1964



Douglas Pipes '65, Debate Coach Paul Winters and Raoul Kennedy '64 made the cover of the Pi Kappa Delta national forensic honorary magazine following their triumph at West Point.

1964: AN AIR OF INTENSE EXCITEMENT AND PRIDE

That's how the campus newspaper, *Pacific Weekly*, described the feeling as students, faculty, University administrators and family members waited at the Stockton airport

to welcome home a proud Coach Paul Winters and Pacific national debate champions Raoul Kennedy '64 and Doug Pipes '65.

The dynamic duo had just returned from representing University of the Pacific at the 1964 National Debate Tournament Association (NDT) national championships held at West Point, and a triumphant return it was: they had become the first West Coast team in 12 years to bring home the 1st place trophy from this prestigious tournament.

Pacific pride was at its peak as cheers drowned out the roar of the engines when the plane touched down. A police-escorted motorcade brought them back to a campus celebration with congratulatory speeches by Pacific President Robert Burns and others, a carillon chorus of “Pacific Hail!” and a reception in the Presidents Room.

“I was astonished. It was very humbling,” remembered Kennedy.

The 1964 championships were a peak moment in Pacific forensic history and the culmination of a strength that had been building in the program since Winters was hired in 1956. Each year since he joined Pacific, the team had been winning sweepstakes in tournaments up and down the coast and across the country while debaters accumulated individual and team trophies by the dozens.

“I remember when we returned from the Hawaii Invitational, we had so many trophies we could hardly get them all on the plane,” recalled Theodore “Ted” Olson ’62.

Pacific began receiving invitations to participate in more prestigious tournaments, including the televised College Bowl and AFA-ASF Championship Debates, sponsored by the American Forensic Association and the American Student Foundation. Pacific was among only 16 teams, four from each geographic region, that were invited to participate in the Championship Debates.

In the spring of 1962, Olson and John Beyer ’62 became the first Pacific debate team to compete in that prestigious tournament. Then, in 1964, before going on to win the NDT national championships, Kennedy and Pipes were victorious in the AFA-ASF Championship Debates.

Pacific’s win, which had been viewed by President John F. Kennedy, who had participated in the country’s first televised presidential debate a couple of years earlier, garnered a congratulatory telephone call from the White House.

A COACH FOR LIFE

Teammates describe Winters as radiating class, character, integrity and decency in all he did.

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—JOHN RED HORSE ’62

“Paul Winters was as close to what my conception of the ideal would be in just about every category,” said Olson. “He was highly principled and set high standards of conduct, professionalism and fair play.”

He was also meticulous and hard-working, a fierce competitor and a brilliant strategist.

Teammates remarked on his skill at putting together successful teams, often combining people of very different backgrounds and personalities so that the whole became greater than the sum of its parts.

“He had an uncanny ability to figure out what motivates people and have them achieve far more than they ever thought they were capable of,” said Kennedy.



Paul Winters

“Beyond athletics, the ’64 championship was one of the most celebrated HIGH points of student achievement in our history.”

—PHIL GILBERTSON
former Pacific Provost

Before coming to Pacific, John Red Horse ’62 said he had very little experience with debate. But Winters took a chance on him, he recalled.

“I hyperventilated just giving a two-minute introduction in my first community college speech class,” he laughed. “But Coach had faith in me and had tremendous patience in working with me, and it gave me the inspiration to believe I could do it. I’m the luckiest man in the world that someone at Pacific discovered me, kept faith in me and taught me.”

“I shudder to think what my life would have been like if Paul Winters hadn’t been a part of it,” said Kennedy.

A TRAILBLAZER

Not content with the status quo, Winters recruited students to his debate team from all backgrounds, religious persuasions and ethnicities—including J. Monroe Taylor ’63, an African American student who was blind.

“We debated all the big schools, but we were the only team with racial minorities on it,” said Red Horse, a Native American alumnus who was only the second member of his family to go to college. “Where others saw limitations, he only saw possibilities.”

No stranger to the unorthodox, Winters agreed to test the idea of a phone debate, posed as a way to avoid costly long-distance travel. Patty (Bilbrey) Kennedy and Angela (Metropulos) O'Rand competed against two male debaters from Virginia. "It was very experimental and highly publicized," said O'Rand.



Winters also was a major force behind the eventual dissolution of separate men's and women's divisions, beginning with forming mixed teams of men and women. One such pair, Doug Pipes and Patty (Bilbrey) Kennedy '66, took first place in an annual tournament sponsored by Pi Kappa Delta, the national forensic honorary society. Winters encouraged women debaters and frequently gave them opportunities to debate against men.

"There weren't as many women in debate during that time," said Angela (Metropulos) O'Rand '67, who was a champion debater in high school and chose Pacific because of its strong reputation in forensics. "I was used to feeling different in that way. But at Pacific I didn't feel different. Coach Winters never spoke down to anyone. He looked for people's strengths and had a sense of each of us as individuals."

A LIFE-DEFINING EXPERIENCE

The teams' path to victory involved travel—lots of it—and high-energy competition.

Though the travel could be very tiring, they all agree it was great fun and built a strong sense of camaraderie.

Between 20 and 30 students caravanned in cars or traveled by train, while smaller teams would fly across the country, competing 20 or more weekends every year. The tournaments were both exciting and grueling—four rounds a day from morning to night for two to three days, where they faced down powerhouse teams all across the nation.

Studying, living, traveling and working together so closely, they became a family. They observed each other during competitions, encouraged one another and suggested ways to improve their arguments.

“If college is the transition between youth and adulthood, Paul Winters for many of us made that transition a foundation for a successful life.”

—THEODORE "TED" OLSON '62
from 2012 Commencement speech

"We were always helping each other," recalled Olson. "Paul wasn't the only teacher."

Being on Winter's debate team also required intense work involving hundreds of hours of research, strategizing and practicing. Winters was a stickler for original research and required scrupulous honesty. Students were expected to turn in 10 points of research each week, which he copied and distributed to the others.

"We were famous for our depth of research," Winters said, adding that the team's research materials sometimes took up more bulk than their luggage. "I carried the luggage and they carried the research," he quipped.

Indeed, the skills they developed during their years on Winter's team have served debate alumni well in their careers and in their lives.

"We learned how to look at all sides of an issue, analyze critically, evaluate counter-arguments and think through problems to solutions—without regard to the subject matter," said Pipes. "It was an unparalleled education. I don't think I would have gotten into Harvard Law without it."

John Beyer '62 said his experience on the Speech and Debate team played a central role in his development as a consultant.

"I learned how to communicate quickly to a wide variety of audiences, to think on my feet and not be afraid in front of an audience."

"There's also a component of listening and learning from others. I still do that today," remarked Olson, a successful attorney who assembles a team before he goes to trial to review the case, raise questions and suggest answers. "We came to understand if we only saw things one way, we would never triumph in argument, in debate or in life."

That ability to understand both sides, think on their feet, and be articulate, concise and organized in presentation has been key to the success of each, no matter their career path.

Winters' impact was so profound that at his retirement the University established the Paul Winters Endowed Scholarship Fund in his honor. Much of the funding for this endowment was contributed by Pacific alumni, most of whom had received forensic scholarships as Pacific students. Today, the fund provides merit scholarships for debate students.



A contribution made by Kennedy following the death of his wife, Patty, in 2005 helps cover costs associated with hosting an annual round robin tournament named in her honor. (The late Mrs. Kennedy was a trustee of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and former governor of the American Red Cross who served on Pacific's Board of Regents and chaired the \$330 million Investing in Excellence campaign.) Today, coveted Pat Kennedy Parliamentary Round Robin Tournament jackets are worn proudly by debaters from schools across the nation.

A new endowment initiated through a gift from John Beyer will support travel and program costs. Through the continuing support of these and other alumni, Pacific will continue to recruit gifted debaters and remain a top, nationally competitive team.

PASSING THE BATON

Winters' influence is perpetuated through an interesting coaching legacy. Since Winters, Pacific's most successful long-term debate coaches—Jon Schamber '74, '75, and current coach Marlin Bates '96, '99—are part of the continuing story. Schamber debated under Winters as a Pacific student. When he stepped down as coach in 1980, Winters hired Schamber to replace him. Bates later debated at Pacific under Schamber and returned to his alma mater in 2004 as director of forensics.

Fifty years after their exciting national success, Pacific Speech and Debate continues to be a formidable force in the forensics community.

Today Pacific debaters compete in the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA), the largest collegiate debate association in the United States, as well as in the American Forensic Association Individual Events and the National Forensic Association Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Like Winters, Coach Bates encourages students to participate in all types of debate and speech events in order to develop a broad set of skills.

Pacific has been ranked in the top 10 nationally for the past 10 years and came in 2nd in the NPDA national tournament sweepstakes and 3rd in the overall season sweepstakes in 2009.

But far more important than accumulating rankings and trophies, Pacific student debaters continue to discover their strengths, to develop skills in research and critical analysis and to communicate with understanding, clarity, power and confidence.

"That's what forensics—debate and public speaking—does for you in any context," said O'Rand. "It gives you a toolkit for communicating."

"It's one thing we'll do the rest of our lives," said Olson.

SUCCESSFUL SPEECH & DEBATERS

Where are they now?

JOHN BEYER '62

PhD, Tufts University. Beyer is Chairman and former President of Nathan Associates Inc., a global economic and management consulting firm. He is a highly skilled expert witness and litigation consultant, with expertise in air transportation, health care and emerging market economies.

THEODORE B. OLSON '62

JD, UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall). The former Solicitor General of the United States under President George W. Bush, Olson is an attorney with Gibson Dunn & Crutcher in Washington, D.C. He has argued 60 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, prevailing in more than 75 percent. In 2010, he was selected by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, citing his work on the Proposition 8 case, California's law prohibiting same-sex marriage.

JOHN RED HORSE '62

PhD, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Red Horse recently retired as dean of UM Duluth's College of Liberal Arts. He previously directed the Center for American Indian Education at Arizona State University and the American Indian Studies Center at UCLA. He is recognized internationally for his work in bilingual education, child welfare and Indian Upward Bound education.

RAOUL KENNEDY '64

JD, UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall). Kennedy is a prominent San Francisco trial lawyer and partner with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1987. He was selected as the 2005 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the State Bar of California and inducted into the State Bar Litigation Section's Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame.

L. DOUGLAS PIPES '65

JD, Harvard Law School. Pipes retired as a Senior Deputy District Attorney for Contra Costa County. He is a consultant on the ethical disclosure duties of prosecutors and law enforcement agencies. He coauthored the definitive reference work *California Criminal Discovery* and teaches discovery courses for the California District Attorney's Association.

ANGELA (METROPULOS) O'RAND '67

PhD, Temple University. O'Rand is Professor of Sociology and Dean of Social Sciences at Duke University. She is also affiliated with the Duke University Population Research Institute, the Social Science Research Institute, and the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.

Editor's Note: At press time, we learned the sad news that Coach Winters passed away on Jan. 30. Look for more information about his life and legacy in the next *Pacific Review*. Contributions can be made to the Paul Winters Forensic Endowed Scholarship by contacting Jimilynn Dorough, University Development, at jdorough@pacific.edu.