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# Fifty Years of Debating at Bates College

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## Fifty Years of Debating at Bates College . . .

The history of debating at Bates College, an activity which has brought world wide fame to the Lewiston, Maine, institution, is outlined in a well illustrated booklet published recently by the Delta Sigma Rho chapter at the college. The pamphlet is entitled, "Fifty Years of Debating at Bates College," and presents many of the highlights of the program through that half century.

Bates has engaged in intercollegiate debating since 1896. In that year, a team composed of four Bates men won the New England championship. Since then, the college has won 75% of all its decision debates, having scored victories over world-famous institutions such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, and Cornell.

The college originated international debating in 1908-09, then, in 1921, sent the first American debating team to England to debate Oxford. Another team went to England in 1925, and in 1928, Bates debaters took part in a widely publicized round-the-world trip meeting teams from New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, England, and Hawaii.

In addition to maintaining a college debating program Bates College also has been conducting a high school debating

league for more than 30 years. Many of the men and women who later earned debating fame at Bates and other institutions first received their training in the Bates Interscholastic Debating League.

The new Bates chapter Delta Sigma Rho booklet concludes with the following facts, which are of more than usual interest:

"For more than fifty years the development of American thought can be traced in Bates debating. In 1867 the first prize debate was on the question: Has the United States an equal claim with Great Britain to be considered a Nation of the first rank?" In 1947, the Bates and Cambridge debaters argued on the dissolution of the British Empire.

"In the 1930s, Bates and Oxford attacked the question of American isolation; on November 27, 1941, Bates debaters were in Canada discussing the entrance of America into World War II. Bates debated Free Silver in 1896 and Compulsory Arbitration of Labor Disputes in 1917 and again this year.

"Debating has been more than a competitive activity at Bates; it has been and is a part of the educational opportunity of the College."

## Lorraine Buehler Contest at Kansas . . .

The Kansas Delta Sigma Rho students and alumni are sponsoring a special all-university oratorical contest for a period of ten years in honor of the late Lorraine Buehler, wife of Professor E. C. Buehler, director of forensics of Kansas for the past twenty-two years. Mrs. Buehler was a former orator and debater with high honors at Washburn College and was closely associated with her husband's work in Kansas and was a high school teacher of speech in Lawrence at the time of her death. As an expression of appreciation and an act of tribute to her interest in speech and forensics, former debaters and members of Kansas Delta Sig-

ma Rho are contributing toward this memorial contest.

For this annual forensic event Mrs. Natalie Calderwood, Department of English, is chairman of a special committee. This contest promises to be an outstanding event in forensics on the campus. One friend of forensics and of the Buehlers, is offering, for first prize, a set of the Encyclopedia Americana each year for 10 years. The contributions from former debaters and Delta Sigma Rho Alumni will provide attractive additional cash awards.

The first date of the contest is set for March 17, 1937.

## National Debate Proposition . . .

The National Committee on Intercollegiate Debate and Discussion, of which Prof. P. E. Lull (A), director of forensics at Purdue University, is chairman, has announced the official debate proposition for 1947-48: "Resolved, that a federal world government should be established." The committee has also selected an official discussion subject: "What

should be done to insure peaceful relations among the nations of the world?"

The national committee on the selection of the high school debate proposition has selected for the 1947-48 season a topic of widespread interest and significance—"Compulsory Arbitration of Labor Disputes."