

Local students compete internationally, bring home speech and debate honours



St Johns, NL (08 April 2008) Two St John's youths have returned in triumph this week from major international speech and debate events.

Sam Greene, a Level Two student at Holy Heart High School, and Jonny Lomond, a Level Two student at Prince of Wales Collegiate, competed with Team Canada Debate at the *Pan-American Debate Championships* held in Lima, Peru on April 1-5, 2008.

Greene, Lomond and their respective teams advanced to the semifinal rounds at this prestigious international event, which brings high school debating champions from countries throughout the Americas together to debate international political and economic issues. Greene and his three-person squad won the final round, claiming the PanAmerican Debate Championship for Canada. Lomond's team advanced to the semifinals where they were eliminated in a close contest.

Greene also won the distinction of Top Speaker for the event.

Both students continue with Team Canada with opportunities to compete at the pre-eminent international competition, the *World Schools Debate Championships* in Washington, DC on September 6-14, 2008 and Athens, Greece in 2009.

In the week before, Greene brought home honours from the 2008 World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships held in Stuttgart, Germany. Improving on his 2007 results in South Africa (bronze in the debating category and 6th place overall), Greene was a finalist in three of the four speaking and debating categories and placed third overall in the Stuttgart Individuals.

Next, Greene and Lomond to be featured judges at the 2008 Junior High Debate Nationals in St. John's, May 9-12.

Team Canada Debate comprises 9 top high school debaters from across Canada who competed for their positions and who represent their country at international team events. With two members from the province of Newfoundland & Labrador, they are only the third and fourth Newfoundlanders ever named to the team in its 20-year history of competition. Over their debating careers, the two have been supported by competition subsidies from the Newfoundland & Labrador Speech and Debate Union, funded by the Law Society of Newfoundland & Labrador. They are especially grateful for emergency travel funding provided this year by the D.F. Barnes Group of Companies, without which their participation in the PanAmerican Championships would not have been possible.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Debaters:

Sam Greene and Jonny Lomond are two of the more successful alumni of the Newfoundland & Labrador Speech and Debate Union's (NLSDU) Junior High Debating Pilot program conducted at Brother Rice from 2004-2006. Other local Junior High debaters who have gone on to compete at the national level in Junior and Senior High events include Kirsten Morry, Annie Wen, Patricia Castle, Sam Friz-Tate and Sam Clarke.

These students continue to be leaders in the local debating community, competing, coaching, judging and organizing debating clubs and events. They will all play critical roles as competitors, coaches or judges in the upcoming Junior High Nationals, hosted this year in St John's, May 8-10.

The Sponsors:

The Newfoundland & Labrador debaters are pleased to acknowledge long-term funding support from the NLSDU, the Newfoundland & Labrador Law Society, and are especially thankful for emergency travel funding provided by Jerry Byrne and the DF Barnes Group of Companies (without which, the two would not have been able to attend the PanAms in Peru).

The Events:

The *World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships* is the foremost annual English language debating and public speaking tournament for individual high school level students. The majority of competitors qualify from their country's national competition so the competition is comprised of the "best of the best".

All competitors must take part in four events: parliamentary debate, impromptu speaking, interpretive reading and either persuasive speaking or after-dinner speaking.

The *World Schools Debating Championships* (WSDC) is a truly global competition for high school debaters. The Championships take place each year in a different country, hosted by a national debating body. Recent venues include Sydney, London, Johannesburg, Singapore, Lima and in 2008 Washington, USA. All debates take place in English. Each country can submit a squad of 3-5 students under 19 in full time education in that country to debate social, moral and political issues.

Further information on national and international debate styles and events may be found at:

<http://www.csd-fcde.ca/english/>

Spring 2007	Sam Greene is named to Team Canada Debate
Fall 2007	Jonny Lomond is named to Team Canada Debate
Spring 2008	Sam Greene competes at the 2008 World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships in Stuttgart, Germany (March 16-18, 2008). Improving on his 2007 results in South Africa (bronze in the debating category and 6th overall), he is a finalist in three of the four speaking and debating categories and placed third overall. Sam Greene and Jonny Lomond compete at the Pan-American Debate Championships in Lima, Peru. Greene's team wins competition and he is awarded first place individually. Lomond's squad advances to the semi-finals. Both Greene and Lomond to be featured judges at the 2008 Junior High Debate Nationals in St. John's, May 9-12.
Fall 2008	Sam Greene to compete at World Schools Debate Championships in Washington, DC, September 6-14, 2008.