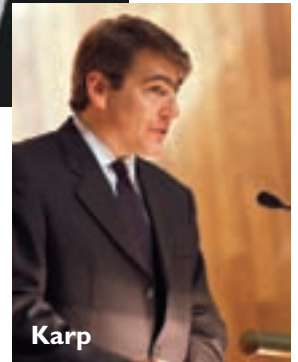


Bringing the World to Exeter

This spring, Exeter welcomed two alumni speakers with extensive backgrounds in global affairs: Ambassador Luigi Einaudi '53, the former assistant secretary general of the Organization of American States, and *Wall Street Journal* correspondent Jonathan Karp '80, who has spent much of his career reporting from the Middle East, Asia and South America and who now covers the defense industry.

Einaudi encouraged students to consider public service, “even in a world that is less of a utopia than we would like it to be,” and to employ the listening skills they learned at the Harkness table. “In every audience there will be some ahead of you,” he said, “and some who will need your help. Respect them, and never underestimate them”—a caveat, he added, that applies to nations as well as individuals.

Karp delivered the first Paul Klebnikov '81 Memorial Lecture. An investigative journalist and the founding editor of the Russian edition of *Forbes* magazine, Klebnikov was shot outside the magazine's Moscow office two years ago; two men charged with his murder were acquitted just the week before Karp's May 12 assembly. Klebnikov died doing his job as journalist, Karp said, “which is to pursue the truth. Truth can be elusive, fleeting, relative—and it almost always causes discomfort. A journalist's job is to be an honest broker of information, not a crusader for a narrow cause, but certainly a challenger of conventional wisdom. It requires an open mind to consider all sides and to constantly challenge our own preconceived notions.”



HIGHLY DEBATABLE:

TWO STUDENTS COMPETE IN WORLD DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Christopher Dodge '06 was not really surprised to find himself at the 2006 World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships, held in March at the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut. “My parents and friends have been telling me ever since I was in grade school that I was destined to be a lawyer,” Dodge explains. His mother reports she hasn't won an argument with him since he was 3.

But to make it to the world championships, this born debater actually had to curb his love of a good argument. “The greatest challenge I've faced is overcoming my own temper,” he says. “Debate requires a degree of restraint, and moderating my zeal has been instrumental to my success.”

Dodge attended the world championship debates with Delphine d'Amora '07. Both are members of Exeter's Daniel Webster Debate Society, named for Exeter's best-known orator, who attended the Academy in the 1790s and later served as a trustee. Exeter's long tradition of formal debate dates back to 1818 and the founding of the Golden Branch, a literary society that also sponsored debates. In 1881, a second debating society, G.L. Soule, was founded, ushering in a golden age of debate at Exeter. When Phillips Hall opened in 1932, the top floor was set aside as a debate room, presided over by a portrait of Daniel Webster. Today, a bronze statue of Webster offers inspiration to debaters at every meeting.

In all, 70 high-school students from 12 countries took part in the five-day, English-language competition. Dodge and d'Amora qualified for the U.S. team as a result of their success in 10 inter-

scholastic debating events. Exeter's debate team brought home more than 30 individual and team awards this year.

World championship events included parliamentary extemporaneous debating, in which pairs of students argue each side of an issue; interpretive reading, which tests students' public speaking skills; impromptu speaking, in which students have just two minutes to prepare a speech on one of three topics; and after-dinner or persuasive speaking, in which the students deliver original speeches.

That's an especially challenging lineup, according to Exeter debate coach Carole Dawson. “Normally, competitive events require either debating or public speaking skills, but at the world competition, the students are required to do both,” explains Dawson, who teaches at Exeter Summer School and who is married to art instructor Nick Dawson. “Many times debaters can't easily switch gears to become eloquent story-tellers.”

Dawson reports remarkable growth in all of the Exeter debaters during her three years with the team. “These students have become not just better speakers, but better critical thinkers,” she says. “Their time at the Harkness table certainly plays into the development of their debating skills.”

Dodge—who came in 27th overall in the world championship—was one of only two Americans to qualify for the finals in the parliamentary debate category, taking 7th place. In May, he ended his secondary school debating career in true *non sibi* fashion, judging novice division debaters at the season finale debate tournament at Deerfield Academy.