

# BDC MONTHLY REPORT

The Official Newsletter of Bluegrass Debate Coalition



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- BDC Hosts BDC A Successful Winter Invitational Event
- Newest Installment In BDC Guest Lecture Series Featuring UK Professor Dr. Thyne On NATO Topic
- Fifth Grade BDC Student Featured In UKNOW Due To Stellar Debate Record

## THE BDC WINTER INVITATIONAL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

### Featured Story

On February 19th the BDC hosted our Winter Invitational event, an online debate competition for elementary students. Kentucky students got the opportunity to compete against debaters from around the country, including students from several academies in California, such as the Honor Academy and the Magnet Academy.

Students debated on the topic of "GMO foods are desirable".

BDC members took three of the top five spots in team debates, and four of the top ten in individual debates. Congratulations to all of those who won awards at the event!

#### Top Debate Teams

- 1st Place: Emme N. & Kamille L.
- 2nd Place: Nathan L. & Seojun B.
- 3rd Place: Aaron G. & Aryan R.
- 4th Place: Aditi D. & Pinkie L. & Stephanie L.
- 5th Place: Aarav T. and Anika P.

#### Top Individual Speakers

- 1st Place: Emme N.
- 2nd Place: Nathan L.
- 3rd Place: Aarav T.
- 4th Place: Kamille L.
- 5th Place: Yevin K. .

# NEWEST INSTALLMENT IN BDC GUEST LECTURE FEATURES UK PROFESSOR DR. THYNE

On February 2nd, Dr. Clayton Thyne, a Professor at the University of Kentucky, joined the BDC for the fourth installment in the BDC Guest Lecture series. This was Dr. Thyne's second appearance in the BDC Guest Lecture Series.

Dr. Thyne offered their subject matter expertise on the debate topic, "Resolved: On balance, Turkey's membership is beneficial to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization."

Dr. Thyne provided a presentation related to the topic, followed up with a Q+A where students were able to ask any questions. The Guest Lecture was hosted via Zoom and recorded for the public to view.

## Lecture Key Points:

- Is Turkey's relationship with Russia is beneficial for NATO? Thyne described Turkey as "a thorn in Russia's side."
- Turkey owns the Black Sea, which stops Russian forces easy access to the Western European nations.
- Within NATO, Turkey has the third strongest military and the second most military personnel, making it a defensive asset against other nations outside NATO.

[WATCH DR. THYNE'S LECTURE](#)



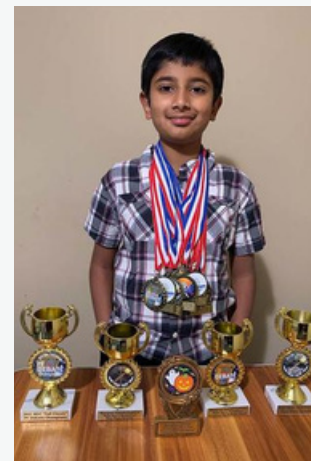
# FIFTH GRADE BDC STUDENT FEATURED IN UKNOW DUE TO STELLAR DEBATE RECORD

Aaron George is a fifth grade at The SCAPA (School for the Creative and Performing Arts) at Bluegrass, as well as a student of the BDC. He has consistently performed well at events since he joined the BDC in September of last year.

Aaron took sixth place in his first debate, and hasn't slowed down since. He placed eighth in the Wilson Wyatt debate, and first in the Fall Classic - which was a competition even featuring middle and high school students. Once again in January, Aaron took first place in the New Year's Resolution contest.

Due to his commitment to debate, Aaron got featured in [this article](#) by UKNOW on February 4th.

More recently, after the article was written, Aaron participated in the Winter Invitational on February 19th, and placed third with his partner Aryan Rana.



# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE BDC...



## Make A Donation To The BDC

Support the Bluegrass Debate Coalition by making a financial contribution. Your support can help the BDC provide debate education to students across the Commonwealth - from classes to events. Help the BDC create student leaders and advocates.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Learn About Volunteer Opportunities

Get involved with the Bluegrass Debate Coalition by learning about all of our volunteer opportunities. The BDC needs teaching assistants, debate teachers, debate judges, event coordinators and more. Sign up to volunteer with the BDC today!

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