

**Deloitte.**The Cambridge Union Society  
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Cambridge, CB2 1UBEmail: [pressofficer@cus.org](mailto:pressofficer@cus.org)**PRESS RELEASE – 11.01.2015****Cambridge debaters take the world by storm**

Ashish Kumar of Pembroke College was ranked as the best debater in the world while representing the Cambridge Union at the World Universities Debating Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His partner, former Union President Michael Dunn Goekjian, was ranked second in the world.

The tournament is the world's largest debating competition, with 367 teams competing in this year's edition. The Cambridge A team of Kumar and Dunn Goekjian was the top-ranked team in the tournament's preliminary rounds, winning eight out of nine debates and achieving the second-highest score in the history of the championships. While they were subsequently knocked out in the quarterfinals on the motion 'This House Regrets the Decline of Secular Pan-Arab Nationalism', the pair were still ranked first and second in the world based on their performances across the tournament. Cambridge B was also one of the top performing teams, with speakers Thomas Simpson, the Union's current Debating Officer, and George Clay coming in at fifth and thirteenth in the world, respectively.

This year's World Championships, which concluded on January 4th, cap off a season of unprecedented success for Cambridge Debating. Another Cambridge speaker, Ben Adams, was ranked best speaker in Europe at the European Championships in Zagreb this August after the Cambridge A-team made the final for the fifth year running. Cambridge teams have won over a dozen tournaments around the world over the last year and have made the finals of dozens more.

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By Max Twivy**Head of Press, Lent 2015****PRESS OFFICE**