



YMCA Youth & Government Capitol Quarterly

June 2011

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2011 Utter Award Recipients Pam Curtis-Bjornsen & Joan Yoshitomi

The Robert F. Utter Award honors individuals who show consistent, outstanding and sustained contributions to the cause of civic leadership in Washington State. Established in 1997, the award honors the principles of ethical leadership, commitment to the ideals of democracy, civic responsibility, and community service.



Joan Yoshitomi & Pam Curtis-Bjornsen smile after accepting their awards during Opening Session

The 2011 Robert F. Utter Award was presented during Opening Session of the 64th Youth Legislative Session, May 4th, 2011. Honoring two individuals this year, Robert F. Utter was present at the Opening Session to say a few remarks and honor Joan Yoshitomi and Pam Curtis-Bjornsen.

Joan Yoshitomi served on the Youth & Government Board of Director's from 1997-2008, serving as chair for two terms beginning in 2001. Yoshitomi is the former Special Assistant for Family and Community Engagement and State Coordinator of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers for Washington State's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. She retired in 2006 after more than 26 years in the public sector. Joan is currently a consultant on local political campaigns in the King County area.

Pam Curtis-Bjornsen served on the Youth & Government Board of Directors from 1993-2008, chairing three terms beginning in 1995.

Pam was also Youth Governor in 1981 – it was during this time that she was hosted by Justice Utter during her stay in Olympia.

Pam is the co-founder and Deputy Director of the Center for Evidence-Based Policy at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, OR. She works on policy development and application, consensus building and development activities for the Center.

She is also a consultant to public and private organizations on organizational and policy development, consensus building and management, and she serves as a fellow at the National Policy Consensus Center.

News from the State Office

Y&G Board Welcomes Two New Faces

Although we must say goodbye to two outstanding student board members — Youth Governor Tucker Cholvin and Mock Trial Representative Tierney Vial—the beginning of a new program year means two new student representatives to our Board of Directors. We welcome Mock Trial Representative **Alexandra Dullea of Seattle Preparatory School** and Youth Governor **Robert Clark of Lakeside School**.

As student representatives, Alexandra and Robert will each serve a one-year term. Their duties will include serving as representatives of their respective programs, participating in our annual fundraising campaign and attending board meetings and events. We are looking forward to another great year!

Meet Alexandra Dullea - Mock Trial Representative



Greetings! My name is Alexandra Dullea and I am excited to serve as the 2011-2012 Mock Trial Representative on the Youth & Government Board.

I have been a member of the Seattle Prep Mock Trial team since my freshman year. My roles have included pretrial, opening, and closing attorney – all challenging but rewarding experiences. I have competed at the district, state and national levels.

My goals for the upcoming year include increasing the number of schools that participate in the Washington State Mock Trial program and continuing the long-standing tradition of excellence, sportsmanship and community in Mock Trial. Let's have another awesome season!

Meet Robert Clark - Youth Governor



As yet another year of Youth & Government comes to an end, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on one of the great YAG experiences I have had, and many of you may have shared. I will not soon forget 2011 Youth Governor Tucker Cholvin's remarks during opening session. He said something that I whole-heartedly agree with, that Youth & Government is not the "place", but the experience.

Looking forward to our next Youth Session I am very excited to be your Youth Governor because I view it as an opportunity to help delegates help each other. In other words, I hope to follow the precedent set by Governor Cholvin in that I wish to encourage each participant to bring all of the intensity and enthusiasm he or she has to Youth & Government for each and every piece of legislation, Capitol Capers, or otherwise. I hope this letter finds you in the best of spirits, and that you are as excited as I am for the 65th Session.

Alumni Message

When I stood up on stage to present my bill at my first mock legislative session as a 15-year-old high school freshman, I was terrified. Sweating, shaking, barely able to speak, I somehow made it through the debate and even worked my bill enough to get a meeting with the Youth Legislature's Attorney General. Now, more than 10 years later, I recall this Youth & Government experience fondly and am appreciative of the lessons I learned and confidence I gained.

My two years participating in mock legislative sessions—and all of the preparation involved—laid a foundation for my understanding of the public policy process. The real-world practice also helped me hone skills I still use daily, including public speaking, negotiation and team-oriented cooperation.

After graduating from Pacific Lutheran University (in Tacoma) with my bachelor's degrees in Communication and Mathematics, I began working for the Tri-City Herald newspaper in Kennewick, WA. There, I covered business and agriculture for two years. Talking with and writing about this growing community continued to inspire my curiosity about the policy making process and I became increasingly interested in the way policies are formed and the implications for those affected—in both positive and negative ways.

As a result of these experiences, I decided to pursue policy work with the Pew Center on the States, a division of The Pew Charitable Trusts. The legislative advocacy work I manage in a half dozen states across the country involves knowledge of the state policy process and strategic savvy in building support for bills. To support my work at Pew, as well as prepare for a lifelong career in public policy, I am also pursuing a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

The knowledge, skills and friendships I formed during my two youth legislative sessions remain important parts of my life. I am grateful to be a part of an ever-growing group of students and alum of the Youth & Government program.

Ingrid Stegemoeller
Youth Legislature Alumna
1999-2001



Youth Legislature alumna, Ingrid Stegemoeller, pictured in Washington DC with the United States Capitol in the background

Mock Trial

State Competition Awards & Results

Congratulations to all the teams who participated at the State Championship, March 25-27 at the Thurston County courthouse. This year we had a record number of teams and students participate at the state competition - 22 teams from around the state!

It was a great event and everyone should be proud of their showing!

Competition Awards

Values Award:

The River Academy

Best Witness (two-way tie)

Michael Abraham - Eastside Catholic

Jenny Singer - University Prep

Best Attorney:

Martin Ho - Mercer Island HS

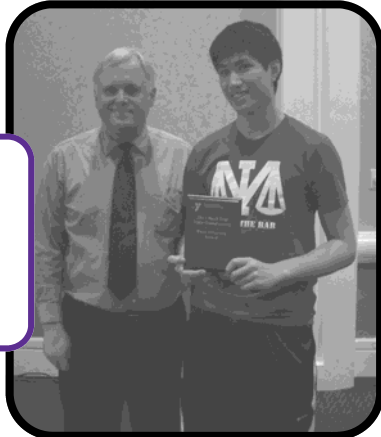
Championship Round Awards:

Best Attorney:


Nora Genster - Seattle Prep

Best Witness:

Zach Dammel - Seattle Prep



Judge Robert Lewis
with *Best Attorney*
award winner Martin
Ho of Mercer Island
High School



Values Award winning team - The River Academy -
with Judge Robert Lewis at the State Mock Trial
Championship

Final Standings:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Seattle Prep | 12 | Ridgefield High School |
| 2 | Seattle Prep (JV) | 13 | Meridian High School |
| 3 | Archbishop Murphy | 14 | Tri-Cities Prep |
| 4 | Franklin High School | 15 | Kennewick High School |
| 5 | University Prep | 16 | Eastside Catholic |
| 6 | Seattle Academy | 17 | Mercer Island High School |
| 7 | International Community School | 18 | Port Townsend High School |
| 8 | The River Academy | 19 | Hudson's Bay High School |
| 9 | Sehome High School | 20 | Kings High School |
| 10 | Fort Vancouver High School | 21 | Life Christian Academy |
| 11 | Camas High School | 22 | Garfield High School |

Youth Legislature

Congratulations to our 65th Session Major Officers!

Governor	Robert Clark <i>North Seattle</i>	Secretary of State	Nithya Menon <i>Seattle Academy</i>
Attorney General	Daniel Sebring <i>Thurston</i>	Director of Elections	Moriah Biggs <i>Monroe</i>
Lieutenant Governor	Colin Carter <i>Northshore</i>	Editor-In-Chief	Bailey Stonecipher <i>Seattle Academy</i>
President Pro Tempore	Sophie Marshall <i>Grays Harbor</i>	Chief Lobbyist Executive	Jonah Athey <i>Sumner</i>
Speaker of the House	Matthew Pyles <i>Mill Creek</i>	Post Master General	Mohammed Jagana <i>Garfield</i>
Speaker Pro Tempore	Alena Pilichowski <i>North Seattle</i>		

Congratulations to 64th Session Award Winners!

Outstanding Senator

Lauren Sifferman - *Northshore*

Outstanding Representative

Holden Weihs - *Dale Turner*

Outstanding Cherberg Senator

Elif Koc - *Seattle Academy*

Outstanding O'Brien House Representative

Dino Nzanga - *Dale Turner*

Outstanding 8th Grade Senator

Jason Cottingham - *Mukilteo*

Outstanding 8th Grade Representative

Nodia Rogers - *First Creek Middle School*

Outstanding Lobbyist

Jessee Mellinger - *Monroe*

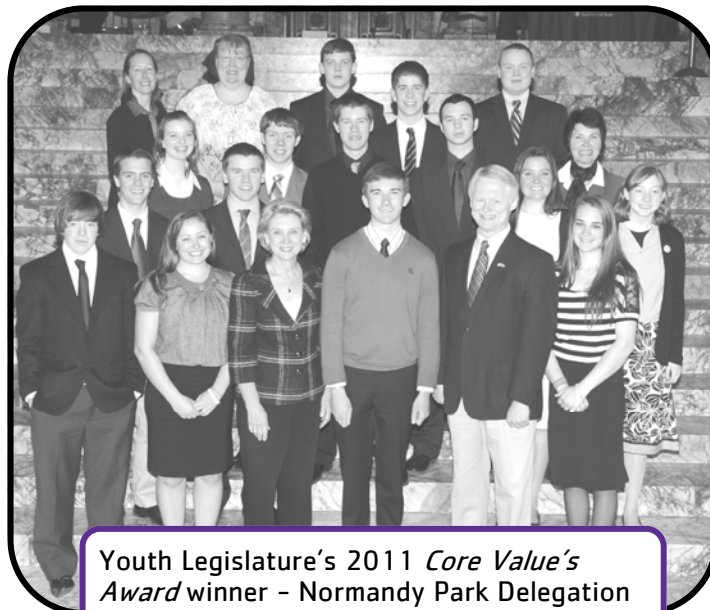
Outstanding Reporter

Evan Patrick - *Northshore*

Outstanding Pages

Amira Hill - *MMEM*

Trevor Naze - *Mukilteo*



Youth Legislature's 2011 *Core Value's Award* winner - Normandy Park Delegation - with Youth Governor Cholvin, Governor Gregoire & Secretary of State Reed



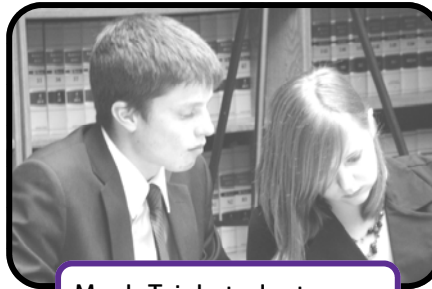
Left: YL Leadership Training participants help clean up downtown Olympia

Right: Matt Griffen delegates hang out during a break on the steps of the Rotunda

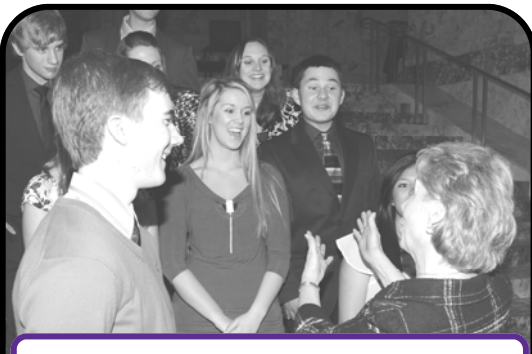
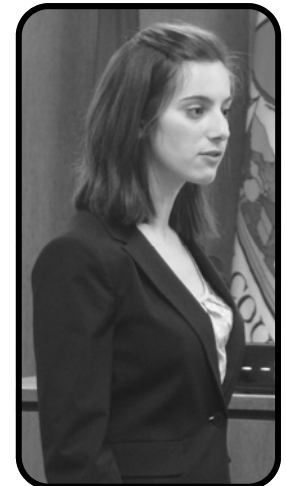


Above: 2011 Mock Trial State Champions Seattle Prep

Below: Due to lack of space, Youth Leg Delegates take their committee outside at the Red Lion Hotel



Mock Trial students compete at the state competition in March



Governor Gregoire & Youth Governor Cholvin talk with delegates from the Grays Harbor Delegation



Above: Mock Trial *Outstanding Witness* winner Michael Abraham of Eastside Catholic

Right: Mock Trial students smile during lunch



Youth & Government 2011-2012 Calendar

EVENTS

	<i>starting</i>	<i>ending</i>	Location
Conference on National Affairs	June 30	July 8	Black Mountain, NC
Board Meeting/YL Program Meeting	Sept 17		Seattle
Youth Legislature Advisor Training	Oct 1		Olympia, WA
Mock Trial Coaches Orientation	Oct 15		Olympia, WA
Board Meeting/YL Program Meeting	Dec 10		YMCA of Greater Seattle, Downtown Branch
Proclamation Signing/Y Advocacy Day	TBD		Capitol Building, Olympia, WA
Board Meeting/YL Program Meeting	March 3		Olympia, WA
CONA Orientation Meeting	March 10		Olympia, WA
Mock Trial State Championships	March 23	March 25	Thurston County Courthouse, Olympia, WA
Youth Legislature Leadership Training	April 20	April 21	Olympia, WA
65 th Youth Legislature	May 2	May 5	Capitol Building, Olympia, WA
Annual Board Retreat	June 1	June 3	TBD
Conference on National Affairs	June 28	July 6	Black Mountain, NC

Linda Medcalf Outstanding Advisor Award

The Linda Medcalf outstanding Advisor Award was presented to Youth Legislature Advisor James Rosenzweig during Opening Session of the 2011 Youth Legislature. The award recognizes one advisor who displays a commitment and dedication to the mission and purpose of YMCA Youth & Government and who actively engages youth in the responsibilities of democratic leadership. Nominated by advisors throughout Washington State, James is an alum of the program and has committed the past 13 years as an advisor with various delegations along the I -5 corridor, most recently with the Sammamish delegation.



Y&G Board Member, Mike Egan, presents the Linda Medcalf Outstanding Advisor Award to James Rosenzweig

**What can you do to help teach democracy to our next generation?
Donate or volunteer TODAY!**

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

A program of the YMCA of Greater Seattle



Make your mark on Youth & Government today!

Please cut and send checks to: YMCA Youth & Government; PO Box 193; Olympia, WA 98507

YES, I would like to support YMCA Youth & Government with a financial contribution of:

- \$1,000 (Governor's Cabinet/Advocate)
- \$500 (Sustainer)
- \$250 (Friend)
- \$50 (Supporter)
- Other _____

I would like my contribution to support:

- Youth Legislature
- Mock-Trial
- CONA
- Y&G Endowment - Leave a legacy!

This donation is in honor or in memory of:

Billing Information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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"Democracy must be learned by each generation"