**Resolution**

Too many of us are choosing financial careers

**Significant Themes**

- The Value of Higher Education
- Serving the Common Good
- Leading the Good Life

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**The Society Debate**

The first debate of the Fall Semester began with an introductory speech on the theme of “leadership” by President Mr. Ross Jacobs ’10 and a short “Discourse on Elegance” from Mr. Bryant Johnson ’11 before orations from Mr. Smith and Mr. Abrams. After these orations, Mr. Benjamin Freedman ’09 posited that one could serve the Common Good as a philanthropist after a successful career in finance. Mr. Jacobs then questioned whether making money was an honorable way to lead one’s life.

With the floor opened, others quickly joined the fray, and debate began to sizzle. When Mr. Jacobs introduced Bowdoin President Barry Mills’s credo, “do well [make money] and then do good [become a philanthropist],” discourse moved quickly between those opposed, those in favor, and a few (namely Mr. Michael Corbelle ’10 and Mr. Wesley Hartwell ’11) who believed it possible to do well and good simultaneously.

On this subject and related tangents debate raged fiercely for some time until Mr. Smith re-rooted discourse with the deep question, “What is the best thing we can do with our lives?” Mr. Benjamin Stern ’09 asserted his belief that something fulfills everyone, and continued to assert his belief in a universal good life, a polarizing proposition. Eventually, after several more points were made, debate ended with a close 9-8 vote in support of the resolution, resolving that “too many of us are choosing financial careers.”
QUESTIONS CONCEIVED

“Do careers in the humanities exist for a legitimate purpose?” — Alicia Martinez ‘10

“What is so good about comfort?” — Samuel Smith ‘10

“In our free-market society, what isn’t a financial career?” — Daniel Jose ‘10

“Should we serve ourselves or the Common Good? Can we serve both?” — Mike Corbelle ‘10

“Should college curricula emphasize great books?” — John Cunningham ‘10

“Why like the Braves?” — Benjamin Stern ‘09

“What aims are there beyond utilitarian aims?” — Kyle Ritter ‘09