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JW Patterson Debates hosted by University of Kentucky

[Lexington, KY] – The University of Kentucky hosted the JW Patterson Debates during the weekend of Oct. 1, 2022. The tournament was attended by 148 teams across three divisions including novice, open and wildcat.

Debaters from across the country were asked to debate both sides of the season-long resolution about legal personhood in six preliminary debates. The full wording of the topic is “Resolved: The United States should vest legal rights and/or duties in one or more of the following: artificial intelligence, nature, nonhuman animal species.”

Students who participated at the tournament debated half of their preliminary debates in favor of the resolution and half of their preliminary debates in opposition to the resolution.

At the conclusion of the preliminary debates, the tournament seeded teams in all divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates were single elimination for the top 10 teams in novice, 32 teams in open and 14 teams in wildcat.

The Novice division featured students who are in their first year of competitive debate. The Junior Varsity division showcased students who competed in their first two academic years of intercollegiate debate beyond the novice level.

In the novice division debates, teams from George Mason University, Indiana University, Liberty University, Emory University, Trinity University, Samford University, Southwestern University and University of Houston competed. George Mason University, Indiana University, Liberty University, Emory University and University of Houston qualified to the runoff round. In the runoff round, George Mason University, Indiana University, Liberty University and Emory University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, George Mason University, Indiana University and Liberty University came out on top and advanced to the semifinals.

In the semifinals, George Mason University and Liberty University won and advanced to the final round. In the final round, Nathan Stolzenfeld and Brenda Reyes from George Mason University bested Isaiah Carter and Colin Miley from Liberty University.

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In the open division, University of Michigan, Emory University, Georgetown University, Baylor University, University of Houston, Wake Forest University, Samford University, Northwestern University, Wichita State University, University of Kansas, Dartmouth College, George Mason University, Binghamton University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Kentucky, Georgetown University, University of Texas at Austin, University of Minnesota, Michigan State University and Wyoming University qualified to the double octofinals round.

In the double octofinals round, University of Michigan, Georgetown University, University of Houston, Wake Forest University, Northwestern University, University of Kansas, Dartmouth College, Binghamton University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Texas at Austin, Michigan State University, University of Kansas and Emory University came out on top and advanced to the octofinals.

In the octofinals, University of Michigan, Georgetown University, Wake Forest University, Dartmouth College, University of Texas at Austin and Emory University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, University of Michigan, Georgetown University, Wake Forest University, Dartmouth College, University of Texas at Austin and Emory University won and advanced to the semifinals.

In the semifinals, University of Michigan and Emory University were victorious and advanced to the final round. In the final round, Kelly Phil and Rafael Pierry from University of Michigan bested Eugenia Giampetruzzi and Grace Kessler from Emory University.

In the wildcat division debates, teams from Pennsylvania State University, Samford University, Liberty University, University of Texas at San Antonio, Northwestern University, James Madison University, Indiana University, University of Houston, Michigan State University, Southwestern University, Kansas State University, University of Minnesota, Wayne State University and the Navy competed. Northwestern University, James Madison University, Liberty University, Emory University, University of Minnesota, Samford University, Indiana University, Gonzaga University, University of Houston, University of Kansas, Michigan State University and the Navy were victorious and advanced to the runoff round.

In the runoff round, Northwestern University, James Madison University, Liberty University, Samford University, Gonzaga University, University of Kansas and Michigan State University won and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Northwestern University, Liberty University, Gonzaga University and Michigan State University came out on top and advanced to semifinals.

In the semifinals, Northwestern University and Gonzaga University advanced to the final round. In the final round, Nicole Avery & Michael Lee from Northwestern University bested Andrea Moreno & Tyler Zabolio from Gonzaga University.

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Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the novice division, Colin Miley from Liberty University was named top speaker. Eugenia Giampetruzzi from Emory University was named top speaker in the open division and Melanie Dellinger from Liberty University was named top speaker in the wildcat division.

The JW Patterson Debates was the first ADA-sanctioned tournament of the year and marks the start of the ADA season. The next ADA tournament will be hosted by the University of Mary Washington the weekend of Oct. 14-16, 2022.

About the American Debate Association

The American Debate Association began in 1985 as an intercollegiate debate association. It uses the resolution selected by the Cross Examination Debate Association and the National Debate Tournament. Currently they have 44 member schools. The ADA's mission is increasing participation, maintaining a balance between education and competition, and ensuring an equitable and fair activity for all programs, regardless of their size or experience.

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