

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 27, 2022

Contact:  
Carly Watson  
Michigan State University, ADA PR Chair  
wunderl3@msu.edu

## **UMW Debate Tournament hosted by University of Mary Washington**

**[Fredericksburg, VA]** – The University of Mary Washington (UMW) hosted the UMW Debate Tournament on the weekend of Oct. 14 to Oct. 16, 2022. The tournament was attended by 81 teams across the novice, junior varsity and novice divisions.

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 participating at the tournament debate 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 seeds teams in all divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates are single-elimination for the top 16 teams in the novice division, 10 teams in the junior varsity division and 15 teams in the open division.

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

In the novice division debates, teams from the University of Georgia, Liberty University, Samford University, George Mason University, University of Houston, James Madison University, the Navy, Emory University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Mary Washington and Trinity University competed. George Mason University, Liberty University, Pennsylvania State University, George Mason University, University of Houston, the Navy, Samford University, University of Mary Washington and Emory University were victorious advanced to the octofinals.

In the octofinals, University of Mary Washington, Liberty University, George Mason University and University of Houston were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Liberty University and University of Houston were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, Liberty University and University of Houston were victorious and advanced to the finals.

# AMERICAN DEBATE ASSOCIATION



In the finals, Dylan Bridges and Bethany Stafford from Liberty University bested Saron Regassa and Zubia Zahid from the University of Houston.

In the junior varsity division debates, teams from Liberty University, University of Georgia, Wake Forest University, Indiana University, James Madison University, New York University, George Mason University, the Navy, Emory University, Samford University, Texas Tech University and University of Houston competed. New York University, George Mason University, Emory University, James Madison University, Liberty University and Wake University were victorious and advanced to octofinals.

In the octofinals, New York University, Wake Forest University, George Mason University, Liberty University and James Madison University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Wake Forest University, James Madison University and George Mason University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, James Madison University and Wake Forest University were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Jessica Cline and Cole Wolfe from Wake Forest University were victorious and bested Michael McKim and Roy Rinehart from James Madison University.

In the open division debates, teams from Boston College, Cornell University, University of Houston, Emory University, Gonzaga University, Northwestern University, Liberty University, Indiana University, University of Mary Washington, University of California at Berkeley, University of Minnesota, Wake Forest University, California State University at Long Beach, University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Wyoming, Emory University and New York University competed.

California State University at Long Beach, University of Mary Washington, Northwestern University, New York University, Emory University, Georgetown University, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of California at Berkeley, Liberty University, University of Minnesota, Indiana University and University of Pennsylvania were victorious and advanced to the octofinals.

In the octofinals, University of Pennsylvania, University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Georgetown University and California State University at Long Beach were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, California State University at Long Beach, University of Minnesota and Northwestern University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, California State University at Long Beach and University of Minnesota were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Curtis Ortega and Diego Flores from California State University at Long Beach bested J. Parrish and Caleb Prost from the University of Minnesota.

# AMERICAN DEBATE ASSOCIATION



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. Cole Wolfe from Wake Forest University was named top speaker in the junior varsity division and Diego Flores from California State University at Long Beach was named top speaker in the open division.

The UMW Debate Tournament was the second ADA-sanctioned tournament of the year. The next ADA tournament will be hosted by the Wayne State University the weekend of Oct. 21-23, 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.

**Patrick Waldinger**  
University of Miami  
*President*

**Mikaela Malsin**  
Emory University  
*Vice President*

**Carly Watson**  
Michigan State University  
*PR Chair*