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## American Debate Association Fall Championship

**[Winston-Salem, NC]** – The American Debate Association (ADA) hosted the ADA Fall Championship during the weekend of Nov. 12 to Nov. 14, 2022 at Wake Forest University. The tournament was attended by 70 teams across two divisions including novice and junior varsity.

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 twenty-one teams in novice and fourteen teams in junior varsity.

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 Binghamton University, Boston College, Emory University, George Mason University, Indiana University, James Madison University, Liberty University, Monmouth, the Navy, the New School, New York University, Samford University, Trinity University, University of Georgia, University of Houston, University of Mary Washington and Wayne State University competed.

Indiana University, Liberty University, Samford University, James Madison University, Emory University, the Navy, Binghamton University, Monmouth University, University of Mary Washington, George Mason University, Samford University and University of Houston were victorious and advanced to doubles. In doubles, the Navy, Samford University, Indiana University, George Mason University, James Madison University, University of Mary Washington, University of Houston, Binghamton University, Samford University, Liberty University, Monmouth University were victorious and advanced to octafinals.

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In the octafinals, teams from University of Mary Washington, James Madison University, University of Houston, Liberty University, Binghamton University and George Mason were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, University of Houston, University of Mary Washington, George Mason University and Liberty University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals.

In the finals, Colin Miley & Alyssa Shuttlesworth from Liberty University bested Luke Busch & Lance Hungar from University of Mary Washington.

In the junior varsity division debates, teams from Boston College, California State University at Long Beach, Emory University, George Mason University, James Madison University, Liberty University, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Monmouth University, the Navy, the New School, New York University, University of Oklahoma, Samford University, University of Texas of San Antonio, University of Georgia, University of Houston, Wayne State University competed.

University of Minnesota, New York University, University of Houston, Wayne State University, Liberty University, James Madison University, University of Oklahoma, University of Houston, Emory University, Towson University and Michigan State University were victorious and advanced to the octafinals. In the octafinals, Emory University, Towson University, University of Houston, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, James Madison University and Liberty University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, University of Houston, Liberty University, University of Houston and Michigan State University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, University of Minnesota and Liberty University were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Benjamin Haber-Fawcett and Jack Herzer from University of Minnesota bested Melanie Dellinger and Palmer Hamilton from Liberty University.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the novice division, Lance Hungar from the University of Mary Washington was named top speaker. Sripad Yadagiri from the University of Houston was named top speaker in the junior varsity division.

The ADA Fall Championship was the last ADA-sanctioned tournament of the fall semester. The next ADA tournament will be hosted by Georgetown University the weekend of Jan. 5-7, 2023.

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## 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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