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

Jesuit Debates hosted by Gonzaga University

[Spokane, WA/US] – Gonzaga University hosted the Jesuit Debates during the weekend of Oct. 29 to Oct. 31, 2022. The tournament was attended by 92 teams across two divisions including novice and open.

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 and 82 teams in open.

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 Indiana University, Monmouth University, Samford University and Southwestern University competed. Monmouth University, Indiana University and Samford University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Indiana University and Samford University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals.

In the semifinals, teams from Samford University were victorious and advanced to the final round. In the final round, Lucy Eubanks & Madison Hackett from Samford University bested Praise Kelly-Williams and Libby Hutchinson from Samford University.

In the open division debates, teams from Arizona State University, Baylor University, California State University at Fullerton, California State University at Northridge, California State University at Long Beach, Dartmouth College, Emory University, Georgetown University, University of Georgia, Harvard College, University of Houston, Indiana University, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, University of Kentucky, University of

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Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Missouri State University, Northwestern University, University of Pennsylvania, Samford University, University of Southern California University of Texas at Austin, Trinity University, University of Texas at Austin, Wake Forest University, University of Washington, Wayne State University, Weber State University, West Georgia University, Western Washington University, University of Wyoming competed.

California State University at Long Beach, University of Wyoming, Wake Forest University, University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, University of Iowa, University of Kentucky, University of Pennsylvania, Wake Forest University, Georgetown University, Wake Forest University BD, University of Kansas, Michigan State University, Emory University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Texas at Austin, Harvard College, Emory University, University of Kentucky, Dartmouth College, and Baylor University were victorious and advanced to the doubles round.

In the double octafinals round, Wake Forest University, Harvard College, Dartmouth College, University of Iowa, California State University at Long Beach, Emory University, Georgetown University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Texas at Austin, University of Michigan and University of Kansas were victorious and advanced to the octafinals.

In the octafinals, University of Kansas, Wake Forest University, Emory University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Dartmouth University, University of Michigan and Harvard University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, Emory University, University of Michigan and Wake Forest University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, University of Michigan and Wake Forest University were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Ana Bittner & Ari Davidson from Wake Forest University bested Kelly Phil & Rafael Pierry from University of Michigan.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the novice division, Sai Vishnu Sri Hiranmayi Midithuri from Indiana University was named top speaker. Iyana Trotman from Wake Forest University was named top speaker in the open division.

The Gonzaga Jesuit Debates was the fourth ADA-sanctioned tournament of the year and marked the start of the ADA season. The next ADA tournament will be hosted by Liberty University the weekend of Nov. 4-6, 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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Patrick Waldinger
University of Miami
President

Mikaela Malsin
Emory University
Vice President

Carly Watson
Michigan State University
PR Chair