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Dr. George W. Ziegelmüller Invitational Tournament hosted by Wayne State University

[Detroit, MI/US] – Wayne State University hosted the Dr. George W. Ziegelmüller Invitational Tournament, on the weekend of Oct. 21 to Oct. 23, 2022. The tournament was attended by 39 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 seeded teams in all divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates are single-elimination for the top 10 teams in the novice division, 13 teams in the junior varsity division and 16 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 Wayne State University, Indiana University, the Naval Academy, University of Mary Washington, Southwestern University and California State at Fullerton competed. The Naval Academy, Indiana University, University of Mary Washington were victorious advanced to the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, the Naval Academy, Indiana University and the University of Mary Washington, were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, Indiana University and the University of Mary Washington were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Elias Alexander and Sai Vishnu Sri Hiranmayi Midithuri from Indiana University bested Lance Hungar and Nalani Noonan from the University of Mary Washington and Indiana University.

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In the junior varsity division debates, teams from Purdue University, University of Michigan, Indiana University, New York University, Boston College, Wayne State University, Southwestern University, the Naval Academy and Michigan State University competed. University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Boston College, Purdue University and the Naval Academy were victorious and advanced to quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, the Naval Academy, University of Michigan, Boston College and Purdue University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, Purdue University and the University of Michigan were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Carina Crisan & Harshini Manian from Purdue University were victorious and bested Jenny Kuo & Sanjana Yadav from the University of Michigan.

In the open division debates, teams from Wayne State University, Wichita State University, University of Southern California, Southwestern University, Wake Forest University, Cornell University, Macalester University, Oakton Community College, New York University, University of Texas at Austin, Michigan State University, University of Mary Washington, University of Minnesota, Samford University, University of Michigan and Missouri State University competed.

Missouri State University, Samford University, Wayne State University, University of Mary Washington, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, University of Southern California, Southwestern University and Wichita State University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, Wayne State University, Wichita State University, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, Michigan State University and Wayne State University were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Ephraim Bennett and David Koster from Michigan State University bested Tatianna Mckenzie and Irshad Reza Husain from Wayne State University.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the novice division, Anna Cherian from the Naval Academy was named top speaker. Cole Wolfe from Boston College was named top speaker in the junior varsity division and Khamani Griffin from the University of Southern California was named top speaker in the open division.

The Ziggy Online Wayne State Tournament was the third ADA-sanctioned tournament of the year. The next ADA tournament will be hosted by Gonzaga University the weekend of Oct. 29-31, 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

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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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