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Hoosier Invitational Tournament hosted by Indiana University

[Bloomington, IN/US] – Indiana University hosted the Hoosier Invitational Tournament during the weekend of Jan. 21 to Jan. 23, 2023. The tournament was attended by 74 teams across three divisions including novice, junior varsity, 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 five teams in novice, five teams in junior varsity and 30 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, Missouri State University, St. Mary’s College and Wayne State University competed. Indiana University, Missouri State University and Wayne State University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Indiana University, Missouri State University and Wayne State University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals.

In the semifinals, teams from Indiana University and Wayne State University were victorious and advanced to the final round. In the final round, Aaron Fernando and Sai Vishnu Sri Hiranmayi Midithuri from Indiana University bested Finnley Culhane and Faith Stanley from Wayne State University.

In the junior varsity division debates, teams from University of Kansas, Wayne State University, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wichita State University, Saint Mary’s College, University of Wyoming and University of Houston competed.

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

In the semifinals, Wayne State University and University of Houston were victorious and advanced to the finals. In the finals, Iyad Chowdhury and Saron Regassa from the University of Houston bested Eileen Laham and Liam Teasdle from Wayne State University.

In the open division debates, teams from the University of Kansas, Gonzaga University, Western Washington University, University of Washington, Missouri State University, Indiana University, University of Kentucky, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Wake Forest University, University of Wyoming, Samford University, George Mason University, Emporia State University, Wichita State University, Michigan State University, Baylor University, University of Oklahoma, University of Houston, Northwestern University and Weber State University competed.

University of Kentucky, Northwestern University, University of Houston, Wichita State University, Missouri State University, Baylor University, Samford University, Emporia State University, University of Michigan, University of Kansas, University of Minnesota, Michigan State University, Wake Forest University and University of Wyoming were victorious and advanced to doubles. In doubles, University of Kentucky, University of Kansas, University of Wyoming, Wake Forest University, University of Michigan, Baylor University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Wichita State University and the University of Minnesota were victorious and advanced to the octafinals.

In the octafinals, University of Wyoming, University of Kansas, University of Michigan, Wichita State University and University of Kentucky were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, University of Kentucky, University of Wyoming, University of Michigan and Wichita State University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals.

In the semifinals, University of Michigan and University of Kentucky were victorious and advanced to the finals. In the finals, David Griffith and Austin Kiihn from the University of Kentucky bested David McDermott and Kelly Skoulikaris from the University of Michigan.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the junior varsity division, Averi Harker from the University of Kansas was named top speaker. John Marshall from the University of Kansas was named top speaker in the open division.

The Hoosier Invitational Tournament was the ninth ADA-sanctioned tournament of the year. The next ADA tournaments will be hosted by the University of Minnesota and James Madison University the weekend of Jan. 27-29, 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

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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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