

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 6, 2023

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

## **James Madison University College Invitational hosted by James Madison University**

**[Harrisonburg, VA/US]** – James Madison University hosted the James Madison University College Invitational during the weekend of Jan. 27 to Jan. 29, 2023. The tournament was attended by 17 teams in the novice division and 13 teams in the open division.

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 eight teams in the novice division and the top six teams in the open division.

In the novice division debates, teams from Binghamton University, George Mason University, James Madison University, Liberty University, Suffolk University, West Virginia University, the Navy and the United States Military competed. The Navy, United States Military, George Mason University, Liberty University and West Virginia University were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, Liberty University and George Mason University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, Liberty University and George Mason University were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Megan Rodak and Nathan Stolzenfeld from George Mason University bested Alyssa Shuttlesworth and James Turner from Liberty University.

In the open division debates, teams from Binghamton University, Cornell University, George Mason University, James Madison University, Liberty University, Towson University, the Navy and the United States Military competed. Liberty University, Binghamton University, Towson University, James Madison University and the United States Military were victorious and advanced to the quarterfinals.

# AMERICAN *DEBATE* ASSOCIATION



In the quarterfinals, Binghamton University, Liberty University, James Madison University and Towson University were victorious and advanced to the semifinals. In the semifinals, Liberty University and James Madison University were victorious and advanced to the finals.

In the finals, Jackson Posey and Justice Wallenmeyer from Liberty University bested Matthew Conway and Eric Pelletier from James Madison University.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the novice division, Nathan Stolzenfeld from George Mason University was named top speaker. In the open division, Justice Wallenmeyer from Liberty University was named top speaker.

The James Madison University College Invitational was the tenth ADA-sanctioned tournament of the year, in addition to the University of Minnesota College Invitational held Jan. 27-29, 2022. The next ADA tournament will be the NDT District VII Qualifier hosted by the University of Mary Washington the weekend of Feb. 18-19, 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*