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West Georgia University wins University of Minnesota College Invitational

Minneapolis, MN – The University of Minnesota hosted the University of Minnesota College Invitational the weekend of January 26-28, 2024. The tournament was attended by 24 teams in two divisions – Open and a combined Novice and Junior Varsity division.

Debaters from across the country were asked to debate both sides of the season-long resolution about nuclear weapons in 6 preliminary debates. The full wording of the topic is “Resolved: The United States should restrict its nuclear forces in one or more of the following ways: adopting a nuclear no-first-use policy; eliminating one or more of the legs of its nuclear triad; disarming its nuclear forces.”

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 were single elimination for the top 8 teams in Open and 4 teams in Junior Varsity/Novice.

The Novice division is typically for students who are in their first year of competitive debate and Junior Varsity is for students competing in their first two academic years of intercollegiate debate. Because of the number of entries, the divisions were combined at this tournament.

In the Open division quarterfinals, teams from West Georgia University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Pennsylvania defeated teams from the University of Southern California, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Kentucky to advance to semifinals. The team from West Georgia University bested the team from the University of Pennsylvania and the team from the University of Minnesota defeated the team from the University of Kentucky. Jordan Keller and Sophia Dal Pra from West Georgia won the final round.

In the Junior Varsity/Novice division semifinals, three teams from New York University (NYU) were represented. In one semifinal, one team from NYU advanced over another team from NYU and, in the other semifinal, NYU defeated a team from Northern Iowa University. Luigi Auquilla, Elena Li, Jasmine McClure, Nicole Sekulic, Reeya Kansra and Jessica Tai from NYU share the tournament championship in Junior Varsity/Novice.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the Open division, Maya El-Sharif from the University of Pennsylvania was named top speaker. Jessica Tai from NYU was the top speaker in the Junior Varsity/Novice division.

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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