FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11-19-2025

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**George Mason University and Michigan State University Named American Debate Association Fall Champions**

Winston Salem, NC – George Mason University won the novice division and Michigan State University won the junior varsity division of the American Debate Association (ADA) Fall Championship Tournament hosted at Wake Forest University.

Debaters from across the country were asked to debate both sides of the season-long resolution about labor policy. The full wording of the topic is "Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially strengthen collective bargaining rights for workers in the United States."

Students participating in 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 both divisions based on their win-loss record and speaker points. Elimination debates were single elimination for the top 24 teams in the junior varsity division which showcases students competing in their first two academic years of intercollegiate debate beyond the novice level.

The US Military Academy, Southwestern University, George Mason University, Indiana University, the University of Utah, the US Naval Academy, Rochester University, the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota, the University of Iowa, Johnson County Community College, Missouri State University, Liberty University, Michigan State University, and the University of North Texas had teams in junior varsity elimination debates.

After a series of elimination debates, Michigan State University bested Liberty University and the University of North Texas defeated Missouri State University in a semifinals debate.

In the finals round, Eleazar Asase and Will Sterbenc from Michigan State University won against Emanuel Vargas and Ronen Bowman from the University of North Texas to be named division champions.

In the novice division, teams from the US Naval Academy, Indiana University, Towson University, Liberty University, Samford University, the University of Houston, Trinity University, the US Military Academy, West Georgia University, the University of Texas at

Austin, Wake Forest University, Harvard University, Georgetown University, Boston College, and George Mason University were represented in elimination debates.

Several elimination debates set up a semifinals debate featuring teams from the US Military Academy, the University of Texas at Austin, and two teams from George Mason University.

The teams from George Mason University won both semifinal debates so Amberly Sun, Camila Rosa-Pérez Montes, Denzel Bell, and Roman Ivarone were all named champions of the novice division.

Debaters participating also receive speaker points for each of their preliminary debates. In the novice division, Caroline Xiao from Georgetown University was named top speaker. Emanuel Vargas from the University of North Texas was named top speaker of the junior varsity division.

The ADA Fall Championships hosted at Wake Forest University is the last ADA tournament of the fall semester.

**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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