

FRIENDS OF FORENSICS NEWSLETTER

The John R. Park Debate Society



Dec./Jan. 2022-2023

The Great Salt Lake Invitational

Students win memorial awards

On January 14th and 15th, the JRP co-hosted the Great Salt Lake Invitational (GSL) and University of Texas El Paso Classic on the University of Utah campus. Over the course of the weekend, students had the opportunity to participate in several debate formats and all individual events. The team performed exceptionally, with two University of Utah competitors receiving the tournament's named memorial awards.

Madeleine Felix was the recipient of the Robert Rieke memorial award for first place speaker in NPDA debate, followed by a final round appearance in NPDA debate with her partner, Merrin Maughan.

Additionally, Meredith Jenkins was the recipient of the Royal R. Garff memorial award. The Royal R. Garff is awarded to the top individual events performer at the GSL half of the tournament. To receive this award, students must compete in all three individual event formats – limited prep, interpretation, and platform speaking. Not only did Meredith compete in all formats, each of her five events placed in final rounds.

Overall, the team saw competitive success over debate and individual events and ran a smooth holiday weekend tournament for the nine other schools in attendance.

The John R. Park Debate Society has been a campus organization since 1869. As we prepare to enter our 154th year, we are pleased to share with you our successes over the past year, as well as our plans for the future.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Senior – Ryan Knippel

Ryan Knippel is a senior competitor for the JRP. Ryan has successfully competed for the team over the past four years. Some of Ryan's notable mentions include an international championship, out round appearances at the National Forensics Association 2022 national tournament, and consistent placings in regular season competition. Ryan currently competes in after dinner speaking, extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, NFA LD debate, and NPDA debate.

Ryan has also been a successful competitor in British Parliamentary Debate at early season tournaments. In everything they do, Ryan sees competitive success, making them a valuable part of the team. So far this year, Ryan has qualified for nationals in all of their individual and debate events. Ryan has always been an essential component of the team and we are excited to see how they perform for the remainder of their senior year.

"I can't imagine what my college experience would have looked like without the JRP. With my argumentative, writing, and analytical skills honed through four years of competition, I was able to get the most out of my classes and handle tough assignments. I can say with confidence that this team has been the most formative experience of my young adult life. I'll never forget the fun of traveling around the world and winning competitions with a bunch of my best friends."

– Ryan



A Busy Semester Ahead

The JRP will be taking on a full schedule this spring as in person competition is officially back and in full swing this season. The team will begin the spring semester with three regular season tournaments hosted by San Diego State University, Concordia University Irvine, and the Western States Communication Association. At the conclusion of regular-season competition, the team will travel to Tokyo, Japan to compete in the International Forensics Association's international tournament.

The team is looking forward to the reintroduction of international travel, especially to Tokyo after this tournament was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Finally, the JRP will wrap up its 2022-2023 season this semester with the National Forensics Association's national tournament and the National Parliamentary Debate Association's national tournament.

PSCFA Fall Champs

The JRP wrapped up its fall season in Norwalk, California on December 4-6, 2022, participating in the PSCFA Fall Champs Invitational. The team had 14 final-round appearances and completed a sweep of NDA-LD debate, earning the top three spots in the event. Additionally, the team won the 4-year sweepstakes title, continuing its eight-year winning streak at this tournament against the 32 other teams in attendance, including Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego State University, Northern Arizona University, Concordia University Irvine, and three California State universities.



