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WKU Forensics Team prepares for 2019-20 season

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The 2019-20 Western Kentucky University Forensics Team.

Carrie Guggenmos

The 32 members of the Western Kentucky University Forensics Team returned to campus and are preparing for the 2019-20 season.

The champion speech and debate team welcomes nine new members this fall, recruited from across the nation, pursuing a variety of academic programs at WKU.

The team begins the season Sept. 20, when it hosts the annual WKU/Alumni Fall Swing Tournament and the Alexis Elliott Memorial Lincoln-Douglas Round Robin debate tournament. The first is open to all postsecondary schools who wish to attend and usually brings about 23 schools to campus. The latter is an exclusive invite-only debate tournament, for debaters already recognized as some of the best in the nation.

In the 2018-19 season, WKU won the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament for the first time since 2015, won its 27th consecutive Kentucky Forensic Association state championship and

finished second in the National Forensic Association National Tournament in both individual events and debate.

The team travels in some capacity almost every weekend from mid-September to the end of the competitive season in April. The AFA National Individual Events Tournament are hosted April 4 to 9 by the Santa Ana Unified School District and the NFA National Tournament is hosted April 16 to 21 by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Area students included on the 2019-20 WKU Forensics Team include Parker Anderson, a sophomore from Hodgenville, studying creative writing and Symone Whalin, a junior from Sonora, studying chemistry and biology.