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Forensics Team completes national championship sweep

May 8, 2021

The Western Kentucky University Forensics Team won both the National Forensic Association Individual Events Team Championship and the National Forensic Association Lincoln-Douglas Debate Team Sweepstakes national championship, hosted virtually April 16-19.

WKU sent 29 competitors with 94 individual event entries and seven debate entries to this tournament. Of the 94 IE entries, WKU advanced 84 entries to the octofinal round, 58 students to the quarterfinal round, 32 to the semifinal round and 20 students advanced to the final rounds of competition.

WKU entered seven debaters into the tournament. Of the entries, six students advanced to the double octofinal round, five students to the top 16 and three students advanced into the quarterfinal round, top 8.

In individual events, WKU was crowned team sweepstakes champion with 919 points, while the University of Texas at Austin placed second with 589.5 points and Bradley University placed third with 530.5 points. Other top 10 schools included George Mason University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The WKU team also was crowned team sweepstakes champion in Lincoln-Douglas debate with 131 points, while the University of Nebraska-Lincoln placed second with 82 points, and Missouri State University placed third with 79 points. Other universities competing in debate included Pennsylvania State University, UCLA, John Carroll University and UC Berkeley.

In addition to the team's success, forensics team members captured five out of the top 10 individual sweepstakes awards, which recognizes personal success across five different events across at least two different genres.

Western Kentucky University is the only team in forensics history to win the American Forensics Association Team Championship, the National Forensics Association Individual Events Team Championship and the National Forensics Association Debate Team Championship in the same year.

The NFA national tournament brings the competition year to a close.

Results include:

Program Oral Interpretation

Octofinalists, Stefani Giles of Hodgenville.

Prose Interpretation.

Octofinalists, Stefani Giles.