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10-30-2022

## UM Team Wins Debate Tournament

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### Recommended Citation

Smith, Edwin B., "UM Team Wins Debate Tournament" (2022). *University of Mississippi News*. 6387.  
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/6387>

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## UM Team Wins Debate Tournament

Warren Debate Union wins at event hosted by Lewis & Clark College

OCTOBER 30, 2022 BY EDWIN B. SMITH

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UM students Spencer Heitman (left) and Katherine Broten show off their awards from the national debate tournament hosted by Lewis & Clark College. Heitman and Broten, both members of the UM Warren Debate Union, finished first overall in the competition. Submitted photo

OXFORD, Miss. – Just months after the Ole Miss Rebels won the 2022 College World Series in baseball, another team representing the **University of Mississippi** has won a national tournament. The university's **Warren Debate Union** took first place in the national competition hosted by Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

The duo of Katherine Broten, a senior public policy leadership major from Farmington, New Mexico, and Spencer Heitman, an English, philosophy and public policy leadership major from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, finished first overall. Together, they defeated teams representing the College of Idaho, Claremont College and Lewis & Clark College.

Heitman also was awarded the first-place speaker award, while Broten was acknowledged as the 10th place individual speaker.

"It was a great experience, especially because we got to bring so many first-time debaters along," Broten said. "It was very exciting to return to in-person debate after three years of online tournaments and be able to represent the university."

The students competed in seven rounds, spanning topics on the United Nations, nuclear energy, artificial intelligence, monetary policy, European politics, ballot initiatives and even the TV show "Squid Game." They received No. 1 rankings in six of the rounds.

"Last year, the WDU reached several final rounds, but never quite made it to the top of the hill," said Jacob Justice, assistant professor of speech communication in the **Department of Writing and Rhetoric**. "We are incredibly excited to have shaken that off and won the first in-person tournament we attended this year."

Another WDU team consisting of Clark Etzel, of Russellville, Arkansas, and Ben Oakes, from Madison, also had a strong showing. The duo reached the semifinals as the fifth overall seed at the tournament. Oakes also was recognized as the seventh-place individual speaker.

Other WDU competitors were Jacob Smith, of Lacey, Washington; Ainsley Corwin, of Lake Ozark, Missouri; Jessica Johnson, of Diamondhead; and Gracie Roberts, of Clinton.

"This tournament was also special because it was several up-and-coming debaters' first in-person

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### Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children's play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

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### Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

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### Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith's Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith's enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith's 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school's first African-American student.

tournament,” Justice said. “It was Ainsley, Jessica and Gracie’s first in-person college debate tournament, and they rose to the occasion.”



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“James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier,” a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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