Princeton Captures Debate Win

Claudia Krim and her fellow debaters occupied more than 30 classrooms around campus. Each round lasted about 40 minutes, plus 10 minutes to prepare. Most of two-member teams were given resolutions, ranging in topic from pressing world issues to humorous excerpts from American popular culture.

The affirmative team leader opened with eight minutes to speak, followed by the opposing team leader, who spoke within the same time. The affirmative and opposing team members were then allowed to speak for eight minutes, with rebuttals.

Finally, the opposing team leader gave four minutes to close, and the affirmative team leader ended the match with a four-minute rebuttal.

Princeton’s winning team earned its victory with a strong argument in favor of modifying Germany’s constitution to allow the deployment of troops outside of the country. Ironically, the opposing team was also from Princeton and was ranked higher in seniority.

Although MIT did not participate in this tournament, it has received many accolades for past performances, including first place at the Fairfield University tournament earlier this year. Its past record has also qualified the team to attend the national competition in April.

The three-year-old team has grown successfully, said Publicity Chair Aran R. Rubenstein ’96. With a current membership of about 30, the group is able to use funds generated from hosting, in addition to the Undergraduate Association sponsorship, to attend most of the debates, Kumcuoglu said.

The team is always looking for new members from the MIT community, said founder Per E. Juvkam-Wold ’94. Beginning in January, the team will be recruiting members for training.

Kumcuoglu added that the team is looking forward to competing at the world tournament in Melbourne, Australia during the Independent Activities Period.

“[Other schools] look at [MIT students like we’re a bunch of] science geeks, but we actually have many eloquent speakers,” Rubenstein said.

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