

1 HR183  
2 218890-1  
3 By Representative Faulkner  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 17-MAR-22

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 CONGRATULATING THE SAMFORD UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM  
9 FOR ITS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

10  
11 WHEREAS, a team from the Samford University debate  
12 program won the honor of top novice team in the nation with  
13 their victory at the American Debate Association National  
14 Championship at Emory University held March 5 through 7, 2022;  
15 in addition to being the first time a team from Samford  
16 University has been named the top national novice debate team,  
17 this marks the first time that any team from the State of  
18 Alabama has won this award; and

19 WHEREAS, the team was comprised of debaters Abi  
20 McKibben and Grace Blackwell and was coached by Director of  
21 Debate Ryan Galloway and Assistant Director Lee Quinn; and

22 WHEREAS, in order to secure victory, Samford's two  
23 novice debaters defeated seven schools prior to a final round  
24 against Boston College; McKibben and Blackwell also won the  
25 Front Royal Cup for the American Debate Association, awarded  
26 to the first-year team with the best record in the regular  
27 season; and

1           WHEREAS, the team also garnered individual  
2           accolades; Blackwell was named national Novice of the Year; at  
3           regional championships earlier in the season, Blackwell was  
4           honored with the regional Novice of the Year award; McKibben  
5           and Blackwell are notably one of the few all-female teams to  
6           clinch a national victory in a sport historically dominated by  
7           males; and

8           WHEREAS, the combination of team success and  
9           individual accolades for the champion debate team, as well as  
10          the myriad other honors bestowed upon other members of the  
11          Samford debate program, is a testament to the hard work and  
12          dedication of those debaters and their coaches, as well as the  
13          strong support offered by their home institution, Samford  
14          University; and

15          WHEREAS, although the universities of this state are  
16          known for winning national championships in athletic  
17          competitions, this victory by the Samford University novice  
18          debate team clearly demonstrates that Alabama also produces  
19          championship-caliber talent in academics; now therefore,

20          BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
21          THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Samford University debate  
22          team of Abi McKibben and Grace Blackwell are hereby  
23          congratulated for their impressive national championship, and  
24          are thanked for representing the State of Alabama and its  
25          institutions of higher education.

26          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
27          resolution be presented to Abi McKibben and Grace Blackwell,

1 as well as to Samford University Director of Debate Ryan  
2 Galloway and Assistant Director Lee Quinn, as a token of our  
3 thanks and high esteem.