



CLUB NEWSLETTER

WALT WHITMAN SPEECH & DEBATE

JANUARY 2024

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORS
AMY XUN, HANNAH MULLINS, RENIA AHMED

MESSAGE FROM STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Reflecting on my time in high school, Speech & Debate has undoubtedly been one of my most rewarding experiences. As president, it has been incredibly fulfilling to see the team's engagement in all four events and create a supportive and uplifting group environment. The student leaders and I are looking forward to an exciting spring season, particularly the Harvard tournament which has traditionally been a great opportunity to get to know teammates in other events and grades.

–Diya Bhattacharjee, Student President

PUBLIC FORUM

A total of seven varsity teams competed at the University of Kentucky Season Opener, Princeton, and the New York Invitational.

Several novice teams also competed at a DMV regional WACFL. Catherine Ciravello and Omar Hassan Fida, and Rajorshi Basu and Hannah Mullins qualified for Metrofinals.



"Debate is amazing. The coaches are incredible and I've learned a lot. The fellow team members are also great."

-Ethan Stearns

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS



Haider Zaidi made it to quarter-finals at the Greenhill Fall Classic in Texas. Sahaj Chahal also reached double octa finals at the George Mason University tournament. The Novices have learned a lot and are looking forward to competing in the future.

CONGRESS

Rachel Barold made it to semi-finals at both Yale and Princeton. Max Freeman also made it to semi-finals at the George Mason University tournament.



Ella Goodwin, Daniel Antonioli, Rachel Barold, and David Reina all qualified for Metrofinals at WACFL 2.

"Speech is so much fun. I have learned so much and I genuinely look forward to practice every week. I have also made such great friends through the team."

-Rebecca Waldman

The Whitman Speech team excelled at the George Mason University Tournament, placing 9th out of over 50 schools. 21 students competed - for many at their first tournament.

SPEECH

Joseph Akinyoyenu placed 1st in Impromptu speaking. Dinah Elias, Zara Madhak, and Alana Applebaum reached semifinals in Declamation. Renia Ahmed reached quarter-finals in extemporaneous speaking.



Meet the Coaches

PUBLIC FORUM:

EDWARD SUN

Edward Sun is a second-year student at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, majoring in International Politics with a concentration in International Security and a minor in Chinese. He has been a part of the wider debate community for over eight years now. He has experience debating and coaching Policy, Public Forum, and Extemp.



ANNA PINKERTON

Anna is a sophomore studying Political Science and Philosophy at George Washington University. They have competed in Public Forum for 4 years, World Schools for 2 years, and is currently competing in American Parliamentary with GW.

SPEECH:

FRANCES LAUFER

Frances is a sophomore at GWU, studying criminal justice and psychology. She competed in speech all four years of high school and this is her second year coaching the Whitman team.



BOB GEORGE

Bob is a data scientists consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton and has been coaching speech for 3 years.



CONGRESS:

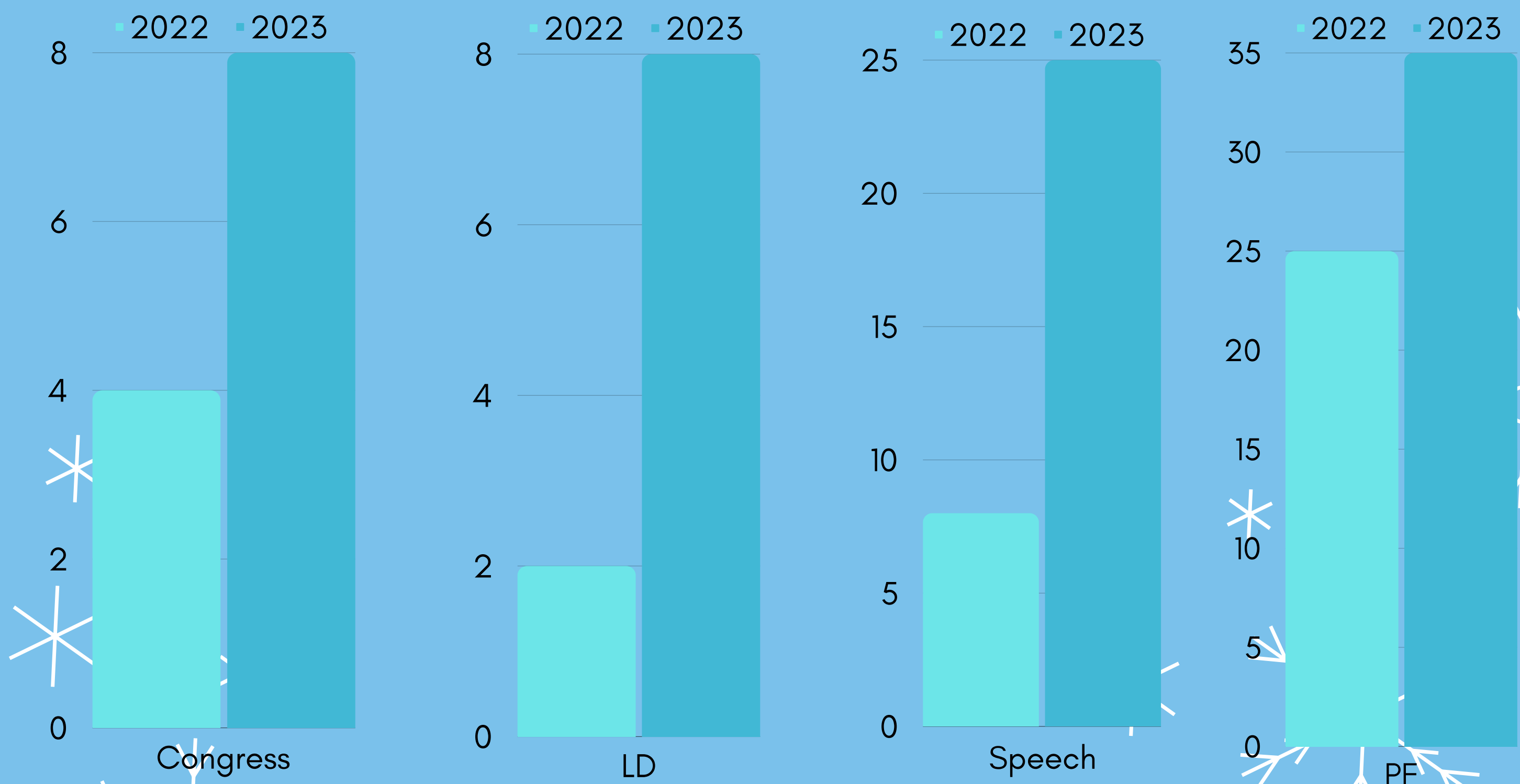
MAKAI HENRY

Makai is a freshman at Florida International University, majoring in International Relations and History. Makai is a four-year veteran of his high school team, qualifying twice for the prestigious Tournament of Champions. He competed predominantly in Congress and served as Congress Captain and Vice-President of Speech and Debate.



Speech & Debate by the Numbers

Membership has increased significantly across the events. Public Forum and Speech each gained around 15 members, LD tripled its members, and Congress doubled its membership. The club now has a total of 75 members.



Team Bonding Event: Ice Skating

