**The Second Annual Mercer Frank Macke Debate Tournament Invitation: “The Macon Macke”**

Dear NPDA Debate Community,

Mercer University invites you to the second annual Mercer “Macon Macke” Debate Tournament, Saturday and Sunday, February 15-16, 2025. The tournament will be held in person on Mercer University’s campus in Macon, GA. The tournament will offer NPDA/NPTE debate.

We will have one debate tournament with 5 (or appropriate, if a small draw) preliminary rounds of NPDA debate with appropriate elimination rounds. There will be an open division offered as well as a novice division (if entries allow). To qualify as a novice, students should have no high school debate experience and be in their first semester of college debate.

**The Tournament Name**

The tournament is named after Dr. Frank Macke, an emeritus professor from Mercer University. Dr. Macke started coaching debate as a grad student at Missouri State University in 1978, coached for two years as a Ph.D. student at Southern Illinois University, and then headed the program at Western Illinois University from 1982 through 1988. Professor Macke coached the Mercer debate team from Fall 1988 to Spring 1993. He went on to serve as a mentor for three successful Mercer debate coaches after him. A lifetime advocate for debate, the tournament name is a reflection that every Mercer debate success is a reflection of his support.

**ENTRIES**:  
NPDA: Entries will be registered through tabroom.com

**-Fees will be calculated at 10:00pm (Eastern) Tuesday, February 11.** All changes must be made before that time.

-Adds, drops, or substitutions after the deadline are subject to regular fees plus a $10.00 per change nuisance fee.

-Judges dropped after the deadline will incur a $100.00 nuisance fee plus all fees for uncovered slots.

-All drops after the deadline must be emailed directly to tesfaye\_fh@mercer.edu

**JUDGES:**

We would MUCH rather have your judges than your money. -Debate: Each debate judge covers two (2) debate teams.

A very limited number of hired judges will be available for uncovered slots/teams. Last year, we had four available judges for hire. Once all those are hire, we may have to decline additional uncovered team.

-All schools entered in debate must have at least one judge entered. No school can have more than one uncovered team.

-**Debate judges are committed through Elim 2 and after that for one round past the elimination of their teams**. *Please note: this is a firm rule*. Last year, we had a problem with a couple of judges/teams leaving early. We simply do not have judges to cover for you. Yes, you do have to really stay through Elim 2. If you leave early, there will be a $150 fee per a round; however, please do not make us charge this fee. Please just stay until Elim 2. Thank you.

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**FEES:**

-NPDA fees are $100 per team.  
NPDA judging fees are $200 per uncovered team.

-Adds, drops, or substitutions after the entry deadline: Regular fee plus $10.00 nuisance fee for each drop.

**-**Unreported drops and/or no-shows to rounds will result in a $50.00 nuisance fee for each instance.

-Judges dropped after the entry deadline will incur a $100.00 nuisance fee plus all fees for uncovered slots.

**-**Failure to pick up a ballot: $50.00 nuisance fee for each instance. This includes e-ballots.

-Judges Leaving early. If you leave before Elim 2, there will be a $150 fee per an uncovered round. Please do not make us charge this fee, just stay.

-Payment: Cash or check accepted. We cannot accept credit cards.

-Please make checks for both halves of the tournament payable to “Mercer University Debate”

-NOTE: Payment for all registration fees is expected at registration unless planned in advance with the tournament director. We do not bill Universities after the event, except for additional fees. If you do not have cash or check at registration, you will not be allowed to compete.

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**TOURNAMENT INFO**

Debate: NPDA guidelines will be followed, when possible, at the discretion of the tournament director.

**Students may not substitute entries (go to someone else’s round for them).** Any substitution not approved by the tournament director will be considered an unreported drop. The fee for this ($50.00) must be paid before students from the offending school can advance to elimination rounds.

JUDGES WHO FAIL TO PICK UP THEIR BALLOTS WILL RENDER ALL CONTESTANTS FROM THEIR SCHOOL INELIGIBLE FOR ELIMINATION ROUNDS.

SUBSTITUTION OF JUDGES FROM THE SAME SCHOOL IS NOT ALLOWED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED A FAILURE TO PICK UP A BALLOT. This fee must be paid before students from the offending school can advance to elimination rounds.

**Pairing Preliminary Rounds**

1. Rounds One and Two will be random-matched.  
2. Rounds Three, Four, and Five will be power-matched based upon the results of all previous rounds.

**Pairing Elimination Rounds**

1. Advancement to and seeding in elimination rounds will be first based upon record, followed by total speaker points, then adjusted speaker points
2. All elimination rounds will be paired high-low

**Prep Time**: Prep time will be 25 minutes (including the time it takes to walk to the class). If people run late, it should come off their speech time (i.e. they are not automatically disqualified).

**Debate Prep Rooms:** Please respect your prep room. Damage to prep rooms will result in immediate removal of a school’s teams from the tournament and your home institution will be billed for damage.

Please respect the people who will be competing and judging in your room. You MUST move items to the back of the room at the end of prep.

You are responsible for all personal items in your prep room.

CAMPUS/LOGISTICS

**LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We acknowledge that the tournament is occurring on land stolen from the Muscogee. We recognize the sustained oppression, land dispossession, and involuntary removals of the Muscogee and Cherokee peoples throughout Georgia and the Southeast. We further acknowledge that Mercer University profited from the ownership of enslaved peoples. This legacy persists today as we continue to work towards racial justice, equity, liberation, and community.

**SMOKING ON CAMPUS**

The University has adopted as its goal that of achieving an environment as close to tobacco-free as possible. The following guidelines are designed to achieve a relatively tobacco-free environment on the Mercer campuses: Smoking is prohibited in all indoor locations. All buildings on all campuses are tobacco and smoke-free environments. This includes vapor/electronic smoking devices. Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of all building entrances, air intakes, and windows. Residence hall public spaces (lobbies, hallways, lounges, recreation areas, restrooms) and rooms are tobacco-free. Use of smokeless tobacco products is prohibited in all University facilities, except in individual residence hall rooms and apartments.

**ALCOHOL ON CAMPUS**

Mercer is a “dry” campus. No alcohol is allowed on campus even for people over the age of 21. Please note: there are several independent breweries in downtown Macon for those of age who like to have a drink. However, please do not bring any alcohol back onto campus.

**GETTING TO THE TOURNAMENT**

The Atlanta airport is the best airport to use. It is a hub of both Delta airlines and Southwest airlines (which often have the cheapest flights). Macon is a straight 80-minute drive south from Atlanta. In essence, simply take highway 75 south the entire way--just one straight shot--to the campus.

**LODGING**

Mercer University offers two hotel options directly on campus. The first is the Hilton Garden Inn (1220 Stadium Drive, Macon, GA 31204); the second is the TownePlace Suites by Marriott (1550 Mercer University Dr, Macon, GA 31204). Overall, my advice would be to try and stay at one of these two hotels (if possible), simply because they are so close to campus. Both hotels offer free parking and a breakfast option.

There are also multiple other hotels very close to campus. You can find information on these here: https://undergrad.mercer.edu/hotel-recommendations/

**PARKING**

There are no options directly on campus to park for the tournament. However, there should be available street parking by Tatnall Square Park on Coleman Ave, College St, or Adams St to use free of charge. There is usually plenty of street parking; it is completely free, and it is not a long walk. Overall, street parking is the easiest option.

Please be aware all Mercer parking lots use a decal system at all times and they do enforce towing. If you would like a visitors pass, it can be acquired by contacting the Mercer Police Department before the tournament. Their contact information is:

Mercer Police Department

1765 Winship Street

Macon, Georgia 31201

Phone: 478-301-2970

Fax: 478-301-5578

Email: mercerpolice@mercer.edu

The third possible option: If staying at one of the two hotels on campus, it is possible to simply walk to the tournament and walk back (without the need of parking on campus at all). The hotels are both right beside student housing; students make this identical trek every day. However, it is a bit of a trek, so if mobility issues apply, please choose a different option (for example, the visitor’s pass)

**GENDER-NEUTRAL BATHROOMS**

The easiest gender-neutral bathrooms to access are on the first floor of Ryals (#12 on the map), the first floor of Langdale (#13 on the map), the first floor of Groover (#14 on the map), and the first floor of Willingham (#7 on the map).

**ACCESSIBILITY**

All new buildings and buildings that have been renovated are fully ADA compliant. Unfortunately, Mercer still has some historic buildings that have not been renovated and are not fully accessible. Please let us know of any mobility issues so that we 1. Make sure all of your rounds occur in accessible buildings and classrooms 2. Have, as much as possible, other teams come to you for the debate. If we can assist with accessibility in any way, either before or during the tournament, please do not hesitate to reach out (Vasile’s phone: 650-303-5615; Fiker’s phone: 214-469-7546).

**DINNING**

It is possible to go to either of our two cafeterias on campus. It is about 11 per person to eat there and guests are welcome. The two cafeterias are at the Connell Student Center (number 22 on the campus map) or at the University Center (number 47 on the map). Between the two, the University Center is the nicer option.

Mercer also has several restaurants directly beside where we will be competing. All restaurants in what is called the “Mercer Village” are on campus and an easy walk from the classrooms where we will be competing. This includes MVP Pizza, Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, Z-Beans Coffee House, and Francar’s Buffalo Wings (number 103-114 on the map).

During lunch, please use either the campus cafeteria options or one of the quicker options in the “Mercer Village.” (For example, MVP).

All restaurants in what is called the “Mercer Landing” are directly beside the two hotels that are on campus. This includes a Papa Johns, Amici Italian Cafe, and the “Library” Taphouse and Kitchen. These could make for an easy dinner option in the evening (number 119-124 on the map).

Macon has a historic downtown, which is also very close to campus, with several more dinner options. If you have a chance, it is worth a visit (most of the buildings are from the 1800’s-1920’s) https://www.maconga.org/blog/post/top-9-restaurants-in-downtown-macon/

**WIFI:**

The on-campus Wi-Fi option is “MU-Guest.” It is free and there is short sign-in screen to use it. However, please be forewarned--it is not great. It “works” but can be, at times, a little slow. We would recommend bringing a mobile hotspot, just in case, to supplement to campus Wi-Fi.

**THE MAP:**

The campus map includes both the hotels that are on campus and all the restaurants that are close to campus. It will also include the locations of all the buildings we will be using to compete in. We will be using the classrooms/buildings around what is Knight Hall. page8image3435392

See the map for lot and building locations:

https://www.mercer.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/mercer-macon-campus-map. pdf

See you in February! Best wishes,

Vasile Stanescu, Ph.D. (Tournament Director) Director of Forensics Mercer University  
Cell phone: 650-303-5615 stanescu\_vt@mercer.edu

Fiker Tesfaye, M.A. (Tab Director)  
Associate Director of Forensics Mercer University  
Cell phone: 214-469-7546 tesfaye\_fh@mercer.edu

Adeja Powell, M.A.  
Associate Director of Forensics Mercer University  
Cell phone: 619-874-0614 powell\_ad@mercer.edu

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE.**

**This may change depending on entries, etc.**

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**NPDA/NPTE Debate**

**Saturday**

8:30am Registration/Check in (In Groover; #14 on the map)

9:00 am Round 1 Pairings

9:10am Round 1 Topic

9:35am-11:00 Round 1

11:00am Round 2 Pairings

11:10am Round 2 Topic

11:35am-1:00pm Round 2

1:00pm-2pm Lunch

2:00pm Round 3 Pairing

2:15pm Round 3 Topic

2:40-3:45 Round 3

3:45pm Round 4 Pairings

4:00pm Round 4 Topic

4:25-5:45 Round 4

6:00pm Round 5 Pairings

6:15pm Round 5 Topic

6:40-8pm Round 5

**Sunday**

9:00 am/ASAP Elim 1 Pairings

9:10am Elim 1 Topic

9:35am-10:55 Elim 1 Round

11:05am/ASAP Elim 2 Pairings (ALL judges committed through Elim 2)

11:15am Elim 2 Topic

11:40am-1:00pm Elim 2 Round

1:00 pm-2:00 Lunch

2:00/ASAP Elim 3 Pairings

2:15pm Elim 3 Topic

2:40-3:40 Elim 3 Round

3:45 Awards Ceremony

4:30 Elim 4 Pairings

4:45pm Elim 4 Topic

5:10-6:15 Elim 4 Round

ASAP Elimination rounds continue as needed

\* TBA on Friday, February 14th, we will be having a social event for the tournament hosted by Mercer Debate! Details will be incoming, and we hope to see you there! \*