Rice Speech and Debate Wins in Kansas

Thirteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, October 13-15, in the “Sunflower Sooner” invitational tournament hosted by Bethel College and the University of Oklahoma in Newton, KS. The tournament was a “swing” tournament, meaning two tournaments were held in one weekend.

In this regional competition, composed of 25 debate teams from 16 universities and colleges, and 516 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 19 individual awards and 1 team award.

In debate, Rice once again “closed out” the tournament in semifinals in one bracket, meaning that no semifinal round occurred because only Rice teams remained after the quarterfinals, having eliminated all other teams, and also closed out the final round in the other bracket. In short, the last three teams in the tournament were from Rice and they all tied for First Place.

The rice team won 18 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of Oklahoma, Kansas State University, Bethel College, Sterling College, Cameron University, West Texas A&M University, and Kansas Wesleyan University.

After three outings, the rice squad has “closed out” two of the tournaments in debate, and has won a First Place Sweepstakes award at all three.

Awards are listed below.

Debate Sweepstakes: First Place, first tournament.

Priscilla Parrett and Robert Crider: First Place (tie), Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Holly Naylor and Ted Torous: First Place (tie), Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Richard Flores and Tara Hobbs: First Place (tie), Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Robert Crider: First tournament: Sixth Place (tie) Top Debate Speaker, Varsity Parliamentary Debate; Second Tournament: Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.
Jo Hsu: First Tournament: Fifth Place Program of Oral Interpretation; Second Tournament: Sixth Place Program of Oral Interpretation.

Holly Naylor: First tournament: Fourth Place Top Debate Speaker; Second Tournament: Sixth Place Persuasive Speaking.

Richard Flores: Second Tournament: Third Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Fifth Place Impromptu Speaking.

Hillary Dowdy: First tournament: Fifth Place Debate Speaker, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Ted Torous: First tournament: Fifth Place Communication Analysis.

Sara Franco: Second Tournament: Sixth Place Communication Analysis.

The team is coached by Director of Forensics David Worth and Assistant Director of Forensics Professor Jeremy Grace.

The team will be competing next in the “Nebraska Double-Up” tournament hosted by Creighton University in Omaha, NE October 20-21.