Rice Speech and Debate Ranked Number One in the Nation!

In the National Parliamentary Debate Association’s first season sweepstakes ranking of the year, the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, is currently ranked number one. This ranking is established by the nation’s largest intercollegiate debate organization and is based on win percentage in the first month of the season, making Rice the currently most successful team in the nation!

In addition, twenty students from the team competed this past weekend, October 20-21, in the “Nebraska Double-Up” Invitational tournament hosted by Creighton University in Omaha, NE.

In this national competition, composed of 66 debate teams from 17 universities and colleges, and 450 individual event entries, the contingent from the Rice team finished second, winning 17 individual awards and one team award.

The rice team won 27 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the United States Air Force Academy, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Texas Tech University, Creighton University, Washburn University, William Jewel College, Western Kentucky University, and Truman State University.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Sweepstakes: First Place

Individual Event Sweepstakes: Second


Aparna Bhudari and Cathy Young: Semifinalists, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Hrishi Hari: First Place Informative Speaking, Fourth Place Communication Analysis, Third Place After Dinner Speaking, First Place Overall Individual Events Speaker.

Richard Flores: Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Holly Naylor: Third Place After Dinner Speaking.

Kirti Datla: Sixth Place Varsity debate speaker, Sixth Place Impromptu Speaking, Sixth Place Communication Analysis.

Hillary Dowdy: Fifth Place Top Debate Speaker, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate.
Cathy Young: First Place Top Debate Speaker, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate; Seventh Place Prose Interpretation, Semifinalist in Extemporaneous Speaking.

TedTorous: Fifteenth Place Top Debate Speaker, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

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 “Paul Winters Invitational” tournament hosted by University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, November 10-12.