Rice Speech and Debate Wins Close to Home

Seventeen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, September 29-October 1, in the “Forum in the Forest” invitational tournament hosted by the Rice and Kingwood College in Kingwood, TX. The tournament was a “swing” tournament, meaning two tournaments were held in one weekend.

In this regional competition, composed of 25 debate teams from 13 universities and colleges, and 350 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 20 individual awards and 5 team awards.

In debate, Rice “closed out” the tournament in semifinals, meaning that no semifinal or final rounds were held because only Rice teams remained after the quarterfinals, having eliminated all other teams.

The rice team won 37 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of Texas, Texas Tech University, Texas State University-San Marcos, Louisiana State University William Carey University, Northwestern State University, San Antonio College, and Kingwood College.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Sweepstakes: First Place, first tournament; Third Place second tournament.

Debate Sweepstakes: First Place, first tournament.

Individual Event Sweepstakes: Second Place first tournament.

Swing Sweepstakes (overall for both tournaments): Second Place.


Hrishi Hari and Kirti Datla: Semifinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Richard Flores and Tara Hobbs: Semifinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Adnan Poonawala and Emmanuel Jonas: Quarterfinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

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

Teresa Bayer: First tournament: Fifth Place Poetry Interpretation.
Aparna Bhaduri: First tournament: Third Place Persuasive Speaking.


Kirti Datla: First tournament: Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking; Second tournament: Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Hrishi Hari: First tournament: Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking, Third Place Communication Analysis, Second Place Impromptu Speaking; Second tournament: Third Place Persuasive Speaking, Second Place Impromptu Speaking.

Jo Hsu: First tournament: Second Place Program of Oral Interpretation.


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 “Sunflower Sooner” tournament hosted by Bethel College and the University of Oklahoma in North Newton, KS, October 13-15.