Rice Speech and Debate Wins in Lubbock, Ranked Third in the Nation

Fourteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, January 26-28, in the “Lubbock or Leave It” invitational tournament hosted by Texas Tech University and West Texas A&M University in Lubbock, 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 15 universities and colleges, and 384 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 47 individual awards and 4 team awards.

The rice team won 34 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were Texas Tech University, West Texas A&M University, the University of Texas, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Mary Hardin Baylor, and Cameron University.

Going into the weekend, the team of Priscilla Parrett and Robert Crider were ranked number four in the nation (out of 713 ranked teams of two), with an 86.67% win percentage. The team of Holly Naylor and Ted Torous as well as the team of Hrishi Hari and Kirti Datla were also ranked in the top 50.

The Rice squad is currently ranked third in the nation, out of 417 ranked programs.

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

Awards are listed below.

Debate Sweepstakes: First Place, first tournament.

Overall Swing Sweepstakes (for both tournaments combined): Second Place

Overall Sweeps for first tournament: Second Place

Individual Event Sweepstakes: Second Place first tournament; Second Place, second tournament

Kirti Datla and Hrishi Hari: First Place Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Kevin Spiro and Everette Kreider: Quarterfinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Kirti Datla: First tournament: First Place Impromptu Speaking, Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Fourth Place Overall Individual Event Speaker, Seventh Place Overall Debate Speaker, Fourth Place Communication Analysis. Second tournament: Second Place Impromptu Speaking, Second Place Communication Analysis, Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Holly Naylor: First tournament: Fifth Place Overall Debate Speaker, Third Place After Dinner Speaking, Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking. Second Tournament: First Place Persuasive Speaking, First Place After Dinner Speaking, Second Place Overall Individual Event Speaker.

Robert Crider: First tournament: Second Place Overall Debate Speaker; Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking. Second Tournament: Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Sixth Place Persuasive Speaking.

Ted Torous: First tournament: Sixth Place Impromptu Speaking. Second tournament: Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Third Place Impromptu Speaking, Fourth Place Communication Analysis, Sixth Place After Dinner Speaking.


Kevin Spiro: Second tournament: Third Place After Dinner Speaking
Maram Selaheldin: Fifth Place Impromptu Speaking.

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 “Houston Area League of Forensics” tournament hosted by Kingwood College in Kingwood, TX in February.