Rice Speech and Debate Qualifies for Speech Nationals

Fourteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, March 2-3, in the American Forensics Association District III invitational tournament hosted by Oklahoma University in Norman, OK. The tournament was to determine final qualifications for the national tournament in individual speaking events, the AFA-National Individual Events Tournament, to be held in Mankato, MN, April 6-9.

In this regional competition, composed of 15 universities and colleges, and 150 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 14 individual awards and qualified 10 events for nationals, bringing the total qualified to 26, a significant improvement over last year.

Awards are listed below.

Aparna Bhaduri: Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking (national qualification), Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking (national qualification).

Richard Flores: First Place Impromptu Speaking (national qualification), First Place Extemporaneous Speaking (national qualification).

Sara Franco: Fourth Place Communication Analysis (national qualification).

Ted Torous: First tournament: Third Place After Dinner Speaking (national qualification), First Alternate to Nationals in Communication Analysis.

Jo Hsu: First Tournament: Fifth Place Programmed Oral Interpretation (second alternate to nationals), Sixth Place Dramatic Interpretation (second alternate to nationals).

Everette Kreider: First tournament: Fourth Place Extemporaneous Speaking (national qualification), Third Place Informative Speaking (national qualification).

Holly Naylor: Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking (first alternate to nationals).

Priscilla Parrett: Second Place Impromptu Speaking (national qualification), First Place After Dinner Speaking (national qualification).

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 National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship Tournament hosted by the Colorado College, in Colorado Springs, CO, March 23-25.