Rice Finishes Season With National Championship at Speech Nationals, Top Five Finish at Debate Nationals

Ten students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice’s speech and debate team, competed in the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament last weekend, April 6-9 at the University of Minnesota at Mankato. The team brought home one national championship and finished 19th out of 120, reaching their goal of finishing in the top 20 by year’s end. Just four years ago, the squad had no qualifiers for the event.

This tournament is comprised of over 1200 entries from more than 100 colleges and universities and is the most difficult national championship tournament to qualify for in the nation. Qualifying for this tournament involves placing at in the top three at three regular season tournaments in one of eleven speaking events. Rice took home 6 awards from this very competitive event. Including one national championship in Persuasive Speaking. Most frequently, schools qualify 2-4 events for the tournament. Rice qualified 26 events, which is a substantial improvement over last year’s total of 12. Rice was represented at the tournament by the following students:

Priscilla Parrett: Placed First in Persuasive Speaking, making her the national champion in this event. She joins only 30 others who have won since the tournament’s inception in 1977.

Parrett also reached quarterfinals in Impromptu Speaking, placing her in the top 24 in the nation in this event.

Additionally, Parrett was selected to the 2007 AFA-NIET All-American Team for her community service work, academic performance, and competitive success.

Parrett qualified in Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, After Dinner Speaking, and Communication Analysis.

Hrishi Hari: Reached semifinals in Extemporaneous Speaking. This places him in the top 16 in the nation in this challenging event. He also reached quarterfinals in Persuasive Speaking, placing him in the top 24 in the nation in this event.

Hari qualified in Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, After Dinner Speaking, and Communication Analysis.

Ted Torous: Qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking and After Dinner Speaking.

Holly Naylor: Qualified in Persuasive Speaking and After Dinner Speaking.

Kirti Datla: Qualified in Impromptu Speaking and Communication Analysis.

Richard Flores qualified in Impromptu Speaking and Extemporaneous Speaking.

Everrette Kreider: Qualified in Informative Speaking and Extemporaneous Speaking
Aparna Bhaduri: Qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking and Persuasive Speaking.

Sara Franco: Qualified in Communication Analysis.

Jo Hsu: Qualified in Programmed Oral Interpretation.

Rice Debate Finishes Fourth in the Nation in Debate

Eighteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice’s speech and debate team accomplished their goal of finishing in the top five in the nation on the weekend of March 23-26, when they placed fourth in season sweepstakes at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship Tournament. The national tournament, held at the Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Co, was comprised of 243 teams from 93 colleges and universities around the nation. This is the national championship for the largest intercollegiate debate organization in the nation. The team set the goal of finishing in the top five at the beginning of the school year.

The fourth place finish is Rice’s best since 1998 and is an improvement over last year’s 12th place season sweepstakes finish.

Senior Priscilla Parrett was selected to the NPDA All-American Team for her community service, academic record, and competitive success.

The rice squad won 10 individual awards and 2 team awards.

Awards are listed below:

Fourth Place National Season Sweepstakes.

Seventh Place National Tournament Sweepstakes.

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


Aparna Bhaduri: Top Novice Speaker.

Jason Siegel: Third Place Novice Speaker.

Everette Kreider: Fourth Place Novice Speaker.

Richard Flores: 38th Place Debate Speaker (out of 440).
Cathy Yang: 47th Place Debate Speaker (out of 440).

Among the teams defeated were Brigham Young University, the Claremont Colleges, the Colorado College, Creighton University, Lewis & Clark College, Loyola Marymount University, Marquette University, Northern Arizona University, Oregon State University, Pacific Lutheran University, Pacific University, Pepperdine University, Purdue University, Reed College, Regis University, Texas State University, Texas Tech University, the University of Oregon, Truman State University, United States Air Force Academy, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Davis, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, San Diego, University of Florida, University of Missouri, University of Montana, University of New Mexico, University of Notre Dame, University of South Carolina, University of Washington, University of Wyoming, University of Utah, Washburn University, Whitman College, Willamette University, and William Jewell College.

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

This concludes Rice’s speech and debate season. The team will open next year’s season at the “Top of the Rockies” invitational at the University of Wyoming in September.