Rice Speech and Debate Team Qualifies Five New Events for Speech Nationals

Seven students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, March 5 and 6, in the “American Forensics Association District III Qualifying” Invitational tournament hosted by the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.

In this regional competition, composed of 220 individual event entries from 16 universities and colleges, the contingent from the Rice team finished strong, winning 6 individual awards. The tournament is part of the process of qualifying for the National Individual Event Tournament, the national championship tournament for speech events.

The rice team qualified five events for nationals. They add this to the eight events qualified “At-Large” through wins during the regular season.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of Texas, Texas Tech University, Texas State University—San Marcos, West Texas A&M University, the University of Oklahoma, and Kansas State University.

Awards are listed below.

Hrishi Hari: Fourth Place Impromptu Speaking, (qualifying for nationals) Fourth Place Communication Analysis (first alternate for nationals)

Ted Torous: Fourth Place Extemporaneous Speaking (qualifying for nationals)

Priscilla Parrett: Second Place Persuasive Speaking (qualifying for nationals)

Sarah Brandenburg: Sixth Place Persuasive Speaking (first alternate for nationals)

Kim Hartson: Third Place Communication Analysis (qualifying for nationals)

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

The team will be competing next in the “National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence,” hosted by Century College in Minneapolis, MN, March 12-13.