Rice Speech and Debate Team Wins in Omaha

Eleven students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, October 15-17, in the “Nebraska Double-Up Swing” Invitational tournaments hosted by Creighton University and Concordia University in Omaha, Nebraska.

In this nationally diverse competition, composed of 36 debate teams and 279 individual event entries representing 18 universities and colleges, the Rice team finished strong, winning 29 individual awards and two overall awards.

The rice team won 10 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were Northwestern University, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Carroll College, Truman State University, Washburn University, Drury University, and Creighton University.

Team Awards:

First Tournament: Third Place Overall Sweepstakes
Second Tournament, First Place Overall Sweepstakes

Individual awards are listed below.

Felipe Valdez: First Place Overall Swing Speaker (highest individual award possible for the weekend, combines both tournaments), First Place Overall Speaker (first tournament), Second Place Overall Speaker (second tournament), First Place Poetry Interpretation (first tournament), Third Place Programmed Oral Interpretation (first tournament), Fifth Place Dramatic Interpretation (first tournament), First Place Programmed Oral Interpretation (second tournament), Fifth Place Poetry Interpretation (second tournament), Third Place Prose Interpretation (second tournament).

Hrishikesh Hari: 16th Place Top Debate Speaker, First Place After Dinner Speaking (second tournament), Second Place Informative Speaking (first tournament), Semi-Finalist Extemporaneous Speaking (first tournament), Fourth Place Extemporaneous Speaking (second tournament), Sixth Place After Dinner Speaking (second tournament).

James Rapore: Fourth Place Extemporaneous Speaking (first tournament), First Place Extemporaneous Speaking (second tournament), First Place Persuasive Speaking (second tournament), 19th Place Top Debate Speaker.

Greg Miller: Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking (first tournament), Third Place Extemporaneous Speaking (second tournament).

Greg Miller and Felipe Valdez: Third Place Dramatic Duo Interpretation (first tournament).

Anna Valkovich: Sixth Place Impromptu Speaking (second tournament).

Derek Green and Robert Crider: Double-Octo-Finalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Robert Crider: Semi-Finalist Extemporaneous Speaking (first tournament).

Derek Green: Semi-Finalist Extemporaneous Speaking (first tournament).

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 at the Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO, October 29-31.