Rice Speech and Debate Team Wins at Home

Fourteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, February 18-21, in the “Houston Area League of Forensics Swing” tournament hosted by Rice and the University of St. Thomas.

Going into the event, the Rice Team held the number two position on the National Parliamentary Debate Association’s Season Sweepstakes ranking of all teams competing in the nation. This makes them currently the second most-winning squad in the nation.

In this national competition, composed of 12 debate teams and 232 individual event entries representing 11 universities and colleges, the Rice team finished very strong, winning 31 individual awards and four overall awards.

The rice team won 24 separate debates.

The “swing” event was composed of two tournaments run back-to-back.

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

Awards are listed below.

First Place Overall Sweepstakes (first tournament)
First Place Debate Sweepstakes (first tournament)
Second Place Individual Event Sweepstakes (first tournament)
First Place Efficiency Sweepstakes (second tournament)
Second Place Overall Sweepstakes (second tournament)
Ted Torous and Priscilla Parrett; First Place (tie), Varsity Parliamentary Debate
James Rapore and Greg Miller: First Place (tie), Varsity Parliamentary Debate
Sarah Brandenburg and Matilda Young: Third Place Duo Dramatic Interpretation, Place Duo Dramatic Interpretation (second tournament)
Matilda Young: First Place Programmed Oral Interpretation, Third Place Poetry Interpretation, Second Place Programmed Oral Interpretation (second tournament), Third Place Poetry Interpretation (second tournament)
Sarah Brandenburg: Sixth Place Prose Interpretation
Hrishikesh Hari: Second Place Informative Speaking, Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Second Place Varsity Debate Speaker, Second Place Communication Analysis, First Place Persuasive Speaking (second tournament), Second Place Communication Analysis (second
tournament), Second Place Impromptu Speaking (second tournament), Second Place Informative Speaking (second tournament)

James Rapore: Fourth Place Informative Speaking, First Place Top Debate Speaker, First Place Persuasive speaking, Third Place Persuasive Speaking

Greg Miller: Fourth Place Top Debate Speaker

Priscilla Parrett: Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking, Third Place Extemporaneous Speaking Second Place Persuasive Speaking (second tournament)

Ted Torous: Fourth Place Impromptu Speaking, First Place Novice Debate Speaker

Kim Hartson: Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Third Place Communication Analysis

Kim Swanson: Fourth Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Fourth Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking (second tournament)

Additionally, going into the tournament this weekend, the debate team of Greg Miller and James Rapore continued to hold a national ranking of third in the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence rankings. They continue their strong performance for the year by being awarded this prestigious ranking.

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 “Hatfield Debates,” hosted by the Willamette College in Salem, Oregon, February 25-26.