Rice Speech and Debate Team Successful at Air Force Academy, Retains Top Two Position in the Nation

Fourteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, January 21-23, in the 45th annual “USAFA Forensics Classic” invitational tournament held on the campus of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO

Going in to 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 very large and highly competitive national competition, composed of 156 debate teams and 586 individual event entries representing 45 universities and colleges, the Rice team finished very strong, winning 12 individual awards and one overall award.

The rice team won 28 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were Texas Southern University, the University of Missouri, the University of Florida, the United States Military Academy, the Colorado College, Creighton University, California State University at Long Beach, the University of South Carolina, the University of Wyoming, the University of Utah, Truman State University, and Western Washington University.

Awards are listed below:

Third Place Overall Sweepstakes

James Rapore and Greg Miller: Third Place Place, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Nathan Smith and Kim Swanson: Quarter-finalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Ted Torous and Priscilla Parrett: Octo-finalists Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Kim Hartson and Hrishikesh Hari: Octo-finalists Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Felipe Valdez and Greg Miller: Fifth Place Duo Dramatic Interpretation

Matilda Young and Sarah Brandenberg: Fifth Place Junior Varsity Duo Dramatic Interpretation

Felipe Valdez: Second Place Poetry Interpretation.

Hrishikesh Hari: First Place Persuasive Speaking.

Greg Miller: Third Place Top Debate Speaker.
Matilda Young: Third Place Junior Varsity Poetry Interpretation.

Sarah Brandenberg: Third Place Junior Varsity After Dinner Speaking, Fourth Place Junior Varsity Persuasive Speaking.

Additionally, going into the tournament this weekend, the debate team of Greg Miller and James Rapore continued to hold a national ranking of second in the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence rankings. They continue their strong performance for the year by retaining 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 “Sweetheart Swing,” hosted by the University of Oklahoma and West Texas A&M University on the OU campus in Norman, OK, February 11-13.