Rice Speech and Debate Team Makes Strong Showing in Oregon

Four students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, February 25-26, in the “Mark O. Hatfield Debates” Invitational tournament hosted by Willamette University in Salem, OR.

In this national competition, composed of 80 debate teams from 27 universities and colleges, the small contingent from the Rice team finished strong, winning 2 individual awards and two team awards.

The rice team won 10 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of California at Berkeley, Willamette University, the University of Wyoming, Truman State University, Reed College, Lewis and Clark College, Oregon State University, Creighton University, the Colorado College, and Claremont McKenna College.

Awards are listed below.

James Rapore and Greg Miller: Fourth Place (tie), Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Kim Swanson and Nathan Smith: 4-2 Preliminary Round Record placing them in the top twenty teams. (honorable mention).

Greg Miller: Third Place Top Debate Speaker.

James Rapore: Seventh Place Top Debate Speaker

Additionally, going into the tournament this weekend, the debate team of Greg Miller and James Rapore held a national ranking of third 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 “American Forensics Association District III Tournament,” hosted by Oklahoma University on the OU campus in Norman, OK, March 4-5.