Rice Speech and Debate Team Makes Strong Showing at Home, Boasts Second Ranked Team in the Nation

Fifteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, October 8-10, in the “Bayou Bucket” Invitational tournament co-hosted by Rice University and the University of St. Thomas on the UST campus.

In this regional competition, composed of 34 debate teams and 250 individual event entries representing 17 universities and colleges, the Rice team finished strong, winning 26 individual awards and four overall awards.

The rice team won 25 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, Abilene Christian University, the University of St. Thomas, West Texas A&M University, and the University of Louisiana--Lafayette.

Awards are listed below.

Second Place Overall Sweepstakes (first tournament)
Second Place Debate Sweepstakes (first tournament)
Third Place Individual Event Sweepstakes (first tournament)
Fourth Place Overall Sweepstakes (second tournament)
Second Place Swing Sweepstakes (combined points from both tournaments)

James Rapore and Greg Miller: Third Place (tie), Varsity Parliamentary Debate
Derek Green and Robert Crider: Third Place (tie), Varsity Parliamentary Debate
Kim Hartson and Hrishikesh Hari: Octo-finalists Varsity Parliamentary Debate
Nathan Smith and Harry Long: Octo-finalists Varsity Parliamentary Debate
Felipe Valdez and Greg Miller: Fourth Place Duo Dramatic Interpretation

Felipe Valdez: Fourth Place Programmed Oral Interpretation, Sixth Place Prose Interpretation. Second Tournament: Third Place Prose Interpretation, Sixth Place Poetry Interpretation, Third Place Programmed Oral Interpretation.

Hrishikesh Hari: Fourth Place After Dinner Speaking, Tenth Place Top Debate Speaker, Semi-finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking. Second Tournament: Fifth Place After Dinner Speaking.
Greg Miller: Ninth Place Top Debate Speaker, Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking, Semi-finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking

James Rapore: Third Place Persuasive Speaking, Sixth Place Top Debate Speaker. Second Tournament: Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking

Derek Green: Third Place Impromptu Speaking, Semi-finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking. Second Tournament: Third Place Extemporaneous Speaking

Ted Torous: Second Place Novice Debate

Robert Crider: Seventh Place Top Debate Speaker

Nathan Smith: Nineteenth Place Top Debate Speaker (out of 68)

Matilda Young: Seventh Place Programmed Oral Interpretation

Harry Long: Twenty-fifth Place Top Debate Speaker (out of 68), Semi-finalists in Extemporaneous Speaking

Additionally, going into the tournament this weekend, the debate team of Greg Miller and James Rapore held a national ranking of second 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 “Nebraska Double-Up Swing,” hosted by Creighton University on the Creighton campus in Omaha, Nebraska, October 15-17.