Rice Speech and Debate Team Wins in California and Austin

Nine students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, Sept. 24-26, in the Claremont Colleges Invitational tournament hosted by Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, CA.

In this nationally diverse debate-only competition, composed of 79 debate teams representing 28 universities and colleges, the Rice team finished strong, winning 5 individual awards and one overall award.

The rice team won 24 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of California at Berkeley, Claremont Colleges, Lewis and Clark College, Loyola Marymount University, the University of South Carolina, and the University of Wyoming (2002-2003 national champions).

In a separate tournament held before the Invitational, the Rice team of Greg Miller and James Rapore represented Rice as one of ten teams awarded bids to the prestigious Claremont Round Robin debate tournament. This event featured ten of the teams considered best in the nation in a one-day competition. Selection for the tournament is considered an award in itself. Miller and Rapore distinguished themselves by placing Third, winning 7 of 10 decisions in this elite field. Additionally, Miller was awarded Third Place Top Speaker for the event, making him one of the top debaters in the country currently.

Awards are listed below.

James Rapore and Greg Miller: Second Place, Varsity Parliamentary Debate, Third Place Round Robin Debate.

Derek Green and Robert Crider: Honorable Mention—5-3 record not-advancing.

Greg Miller: Third Place Top Round Robin Speaker, Tenth Place Tope Speaker main tournament.

James Rapore: 23rd Place Top Debate Speaker (out of 158)

Derek Green: 33rd Place Top Debate Speaker (out of 158)

Closer to home, individual competitive speakers represented Rice at the “Hill Country Swing,” held at the University of Texas at Austin and at Texas State University—San Marcos. This “swing” event featured two separate tournaments occurring back-to-back. At this nationally competitive event composed of 427 individual event entries from 15 colleges and universities, Rice was represented by Senior Felipe Valdez and freshman Matilda Young.

Individual Awards are listed below.

First half:
Felipe Valdez: Fifth Place Poetry Interpretation, Fifth Place Programmed Oral Interpretation.

Second half:
Felipe Valdez: Second Place Dramatic Interpretation, Second Place Programmed Oral Interpretation, Fifth Place Poetry Interpretation

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 “Bayou Bucket Swing,” co-hosted by Rice and the University of St. Thomas on the St. Thomas campus, October 8-10.