Rice Speech and Debate Team Has Strong Showing at First Tournament of the Year

Nine students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend in the “Top of the Rockies” invitational tournament hosted by the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming.

In this nationally diverse competition, composed of 90 debate teams and 330 individual speaking event competitors representing 23 universities and colleges, the Rice team finished in Fourth Place overall, winning 17 individual awards and one overall award.

The rice team won 21 separate debates. The team also had the highest efficiency rating, meaning it won the most awards per competitor, placing higher than teams with many more competitors entered.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the United States Air Force Academy, Southern Methodist University, The Colorado College, the University of Wyoming (2002-2003 national champions), and the Texas Tech University.

The team is coached by Director of Forensics Dr. David Worth and Assistant Director of Forensics Professor Jeremy Grace.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Team Sweepstakes: Fourth Place

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

Kim Hartson and Hrishi Hari: Third Place Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Hrishi Hari: First Place After Dinner Speaking

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

Greg Miller: Sixth Place Overall Debate Speaker, Eighth Place Persuasive Speaking, Semi-Finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking

James Rapore: Fifth Place Persuasive Speaking, Twentieth Overall Debate Speaker, Semi-Finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking

Robert Crider: Seventh Place Persuasive Speaking, Semi-Finalist in Extemporaneous Speaking

Kim Hartson: Sixth Place Persuasive Speaking

Greg Miller and Felipe Valdez: Seventh Place Dramatic Duo Interpretation

The team will be competing this weekend at Claremont College in California in debate and at the University of Texas at Austin in individual events.