Rice Speech and Debate Wins in Debate, Takes Top Speaker in Omaha

Twelve students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, October 14-16, in the “Nebraska Double-Up” tournament hosted by Creighton University and Concordia University in Omaha, Nebraska.

In this national competition, composed of 72 debate teams and 676 individual event entries from 33 universities and colleges, the contingent from the Rice team finished fourth in Individual Event Sweepstakes, winning 19 individual awards and 1 team award. The event was a “swing tournament” in which two tournaments are held consecutively in one weekend.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Ohio, Northwestern University, Drury College, the University of New Mexico, the Concordia University, Carroll College, St. Anselm’s University, and Washburn University.

Awards are listed below.

Individual Event Sweepstakes: Fourth Place

Holly Naylor and Kevin Spiro: First Place, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Hrishikesh Hari: First Place Individual Events Speaker Sweeps (second half), First Place After Dinner Speaking, Second Place Communication Analysis, Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking, Fourth Place Impromptu Speaking, Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking; Sixth Place Debate Speaker, Fourth Place Impromptu Speaking (first half)

Ted Torous: Semifinalist Extemporaneous Speaking (first half), Fifth Place Impromptu Speaking.

Anna Valkovich: Fourth Place Communication Analysis (second half), Semifinalist Extemporaneous Speaking (first half)

Holly Naylor: Semifinalist Extemporaneous Speaking (first half), Seventh Place Junior Varsity Debate Speaker.

Priscilla Parrett: Fifth Place Drama Interpretation (first half).

Matilda Young: Seventh Place Programmed Oral Interpretation (second half).

The team is coached by Director of Forensics David Worth and Assistant Director of Forensics Jeremy Grace.
The team will be competing next in the “Bayou City Swing,” hosted by North Harris Community College in Houston, TX, October 21-22.