Rice Speech and Debate Wins in Kansas

Seven students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, February 3-5, in the “Border Wars” tournament hosted by Kansas Wesleyan University and Drury University in Salina, Kansas.

In this national competition, composed of 52 debate entries and 638 individual event entries from 22 universities and colleges, the contingent from the Rice team performed well, winning 15 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 the Kansas State University, Webster University, the University of Western Kentucky, the University of Oklahoma, Drury University, Doane College, Central Missouri State University, Eastern New Mexico University, and Bethel College.

In a particular highlight of the tournament, junior Priscilla Parrett qualified three events for the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament to be held in Gainesville, Florida in April. Priscilla qualified in Persuasive Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Informative Speaking.

The rice team won 16 separate debates.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Sweepstakes-First Half: Fifth Place.

Priscilla Parrett and Rachel Raskin: First Place, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Nathan Smith and Holly Naylor: Octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Priscilla Parrett: First Place Persuasive Speaking, Second Place Informative Speaking, Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Fifth Place Debate Speaker (first half). Third Place Extemporaneous Speaking (second half).

Holly Naylor: Sixth Place Persuasive Speaking, 15th Place Overall Debate Speaker (first half). Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking (second half).

Billy Freeland: Third Place Overall Debate Speaker.

Geraldine Young: Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking (first half).

Nathan Smith: 12th Place Overall Debate Speaker.

Kevin Spiro: 15th Place Overall Debate Speaker.
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 “Whitman Classic,” hosted by Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA, February 17-19.