Rice Debate Finishes Fifth in the Nation

Twelve students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice’s speech and debate team accomplished their goal of finishing in the top five in the nation this past weekend, March 25-27, when they placed fifth in tournament sweepstakes at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship Tournament. This is the national championship for the largest intercollegiate debate organization in the nation. The team set the goal of finishing in the top five at the beginning of the school year.

The fifth place finish is Rice’s best since 1998 and is a significant improvement over last year’s 14th place finish.

The national tournament, held at Oregon State University in Corvalis, OR, was comprised of 273 teams from 91 colleges and universities around the nation.

The rice squad won 32 debates overall.

Awards are listed below:

Fifth Place National Tournament Sweepstakes.

Twelfth Place Season Sweepstakes.


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


Ted Torous and Anna Valkovich: Triple-Octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Jessica Streets and Joe Sy: Second Place Novice Parliamentary Debate.

Among the teams defeated were Brigham Young University, the Claremont Colleges, the Colorado College, Creighton University, Lewis & Clark College, Loyola Marymount University, Marquette University, Northern Arizona University, Oregon State University, Pacific Lutheran University, Pacific University, Pepperdine University, Purdue University, Reed College, Regis University, Texas State University, Texas Tech University, The University of Oregon, Truman State University, United States Air Force Academy, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Davis, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, San Diego, University of Florida, University of Missouri, University of Montana, University of New Mexico, University of Notre Dame, University of South Carolina, University of Washington, University of Wyoming, University of Utah, Washburn University, Whitman College, Willamette University, and William Jewell College.
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 American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament, the national championship for individual speaking events, hosted by the University of Florida, March 31-April 3.