Rice Speech and Debate Finishes Semester With Success in California

Seven students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, November 11-13, in the “Pacific Meets Delta” tournament hosted by the University of the Pacific and San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, CA.

In this national competition, composed of 103 debate teams and 796 individual event entries from 35 universities and colleges, the small contingent from the Rice team finished Second in Overall Sweepstakes, winning 19 individual awards and 3 team awards. The event was a “swing tournament” in which three tournaments were held consecutively in one weekend.

In addition, the team of Priscilla Parrett and Rachel Raskin competed in the “Pat Kennedy Memorial Round Robin on Friday, in which twelve teams were invited to participate based on their successful records to date this year. In this prestigious event, Parrett was awarded Tenth Place Overall Speaker. Parrett and Raskin were eliminated in the quarterfinal round of this event. They then competed in the regular tournament no Saturday and Sunday.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of the Pacific, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of California at Los Angeles, Truman State University, the Claremont Colleges, San Francisco State University, and the University of Florida.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Sweepstakes: Second Place
Individual Event Sweepstakes: Third Place
Debate Sweepstakes: Fifth Place

Jessica Streets and Joes Sy: Second Place, Novice Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Undefeated in preliminary rounds.


Hrishikesh Hari: Second Place Informative Speaking, Third Place Persuasive Speaking, Second Place Impromptu Speaking.

Jessica Streets: Second Place Novice Persuasive Speaking, Third Place Novice Extemporaneous Speaking, Ninth Place Novice Debate Speaker.
Priscilla Parrett: Tenth Overall Speaker in the round robin, Third Place Senior Debate Speaker in the regular tournament, Fourth Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking, Fourth Place Dramatic Interpretation.

Richard Flores: Third Place Impromptu Speaking, Semifinalist Extemporaneous Speaking.

Joe Sy: Fifth Place Prose Interpretation, Semifinalist in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking.

Rachel Raskin: Twelfth Place Senior Debate Speaker.

The squad is coached by David Worth and Jeremy Grace.

The team will be competing next in San Diego, California in January.