Rice Speech and Debate Successful in Washington

Twelve students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, February 17-19, in the “Whitman Classic” tournament hosted by Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA.

In this national competition, composed of 62 debate entries and 114 individual event entries from 17 universities and colleges, the contingent from the Rice team performed well, winning 25 awards.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were Whitman College, Washington University, the University of Puget Sound, the University of South Carolina, Carroll College, the University of Montana, Lewis and Clark College, Pepperdine University, and Reed College.

In a particular highlight of the tournament, senior student Nathan Smith and first-year student Holly Naylor reached semifinals in this very competitive tournament before dropping to the number one ranked (nationally) team from the University of Puget Sound.

The rice team won 19 separate debates.

Awards are listed below.

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

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

Billy Freeland and Kevin Spiro: Octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Ted Torous: First Place After Dinner Speaking, Third Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Fourth Place Impromptu Speaking, 14th Place Overall Debate Speaker.

Matilda Young: Second Place After Dinner Speaking, Third Place Poetry Interpretation, Sixth Place Prose Interpretation.

Jessica Streets: Third Place Informative Speaking, Fourth Place Persuasive Speaking, Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Rachel Raskin: Third Place Persuasive Speaking, Fourth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Kevin Spiro: Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking, 16th Place Overall Debate Speaker.

Nathan Smith: Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Holly Naylor: Second Place Persuasive Speaking.
Priscilla Parrett: Second Place, Informative Speaking

Joe Sy: Third Place Prose Interpretation.

Geraldine Young: Fifth Place Persuasive Speaking.

Anna Valkovich: Ninth Overall Debate Speaker.

Billy Freeland: 13th 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 AFA-NIET District III tournament hosted by the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, March 3-4.