Rice Speech and Debate Prepares for Nationals Run

Twelve students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice’s speech and debate team, will represent Rice at national championship tournaments in the next few weeks.

Six debaters will represent Rice at the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence, to be held at the University of Oregon in latter half of spring break. This highly selective tournament invites the top fifty teams of two from around the nation. Three teams from Rice were invited:

The team of Hrishi Hari and Richard Flores were among the first-round bids, which were invited in January. The first round teams are ranked among the top sixteen teams in the nation.

The team of Priscilla Parrett and Rachel Raskin were among the second round bids, which include the next sixteen ranked teams.

The team of Nathan Smith and Holly Naylor were among the at-large bids, which round out the final 18 teams invited.

These rankings are based on win/loss record and are out of 1,042 ranked teams this year. Rice is one of only a handful of squads to qualify three teams for this prestigious event.

Twelve debaters will represent Rice at the National Parliamentary Debate Association championship tournament, to be held at Oregon State University, March 24-27. This is the largest intercollegiate debate championship tournament in the nation and awards squad championships in Season Sweepstakes and Tournament Sweepstakes in addition to placing by individual teams of two. Rice will be represented by the following teams at this event:

Nathan Smith and Holly Naylor  
Rachel Raskin and Priscilla Parrett  
Hrishi Hari and Richard Flores  
Ted Torous and Anna Valkovich  
Kevin Spiro and Billy Freeland  
Joe Sy and Jessica Streets

Finally, four students will represent Rice at the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament, to be held at the University of Florida, April 1-3. This is the most selective national championship for individual speaking events in the nation. In order to qualify for this event, students must do one of two things: They may reach finals in an event three times during the season with an average ranking of between second and third, qualifying “at-large.” Students may also qualify through a very competitive district tournament. Rice will be represented the following students at the AFA-NIET:

Hrishi Hari in Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Communication Analysis, Extemporaneous Speaking, and After Dinner Speaking. These six
events put Hrishi in the elite Individual Sweepstakes participants. Hrishi qualified these events at-large.

Priscilla Parrett in Informative Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Persuasive Speaking. Priscilla qualified these events at-large.

Ted Torous in Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu Speaking. Ted qualified this past weekend through the district tournament, winning First Place in Extemporaneous Speaking with unanimous rankings of first in preliminary rounds and qualifying in Impromptu Speaking with a very strong showing as well.

Anna Valkovich in Communication Analysis. Anna qualified this event at-large.

The team is coached by David Worth and Jeremy Grace.