Rice Speech and Debate Beats National Competition in California

Thirteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, November 8-12, in the “Pacific Meets Delta Swing” invitational tournament, hosted by San Joaquin Delta College and the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA.

In this national “swing” competition (two tournaments in one weekend), composed of 101 debate teams from 42 universities and colleges, and 610 individual event entries, the contingent from the Rice team finished first, winning 43 individual awards and 3 team awards at two separate tournaments.

The Rice team won 30 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament was the University of The Pacific, California State University--Berkeley, Willamette College, Truman State University, the University of Wyoming, Creighton University, Washington State University, and Western Kentucky University.

In addition, the team of Hrishi Hari and Kirti Datla were invited to the “Pat Kennedy Memorial Round Robin” along with only 12 other teams from across the nation. Invitation to this prestigious debate event was based on success last season and early this season. Hari and Datla placed first in this event. In addition, Hari was selected as the Second Place Overall Speaker of the event and Datla was selected as the Fourth Place Overall Speaker. This event establishes Hari and Datla as one of the top teams in the nation this season.

Over the entire weekend, Rice won fully 20% of the sweepstakes points available to all 42 schools entered.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Swing Sweepstakes (full weekend): First Place.

Overall Sweepstakes for Part 1: Third Place.

Overall Sweepstakes for Part 2: First Place.

Hrishi Hari and Kirti Datla: Third Place (Semifinalists), Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Nazish Malik and Danny Shanaberger: Quarterfinalists, Novice Parliamentary Debate.
Brittney Espinoza and Nicolas Kamas: Octofinalists, Novice Parliamentary Debate.

Daniel Shanaberger (Part 1): First Place Informative Speaking; Third Place Impromptu Speaking; Second Place Overall Individual Event Speaker.

Daniel Shanaberger (Part 2): First Place Programmed Oral Interpretation; Third Place Extemporaneous Speaking; Third Place Informative Speaking; Third Place Overall Individual Event Speaker.

Hrishi Hari (Part 2): Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking; First Place Informative Speaking; Third Place Communication Analysis, Fifth Place Overall Debate Speaker.

Ted Torous (Part 2): Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Fourth Place After Dinner Speaking; Second Place Overall Individual Event Speaker.

Holly Naylor (Part 2): First Place Impromptu Speaking; Fifth Place Informative Speaking; Sixth Place Persuasive Speaking.

Kirti Datla (Part 2): First Place Extemporaneous Speaking; Second Place Informative Speaking; 12th Place Overall Debate Speaker.

Aparna Bhaduri (Part 1): First Place Communication Analysis.

Aparna Bhaduri (Part 2): First Place Communication Analysis.

Gary Johnson (Part 1): Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Gary Johnson (Part 2): Semifinalist Extemporaneous Speaking; Semifinalist Impromptu Speaking.

Cathy Yang (Part 1): First Place Persuasive Speaking.

Cathy Yang (Part 2): Fifth Place Persuasive Speaking.


The team is coached by Director of Forensics David Worth and Assistant Director of Forensics Professor Jeremy Grace.

The team will be competing next in the University of Texas invitational tournament.