Rice Finishes Season With 9 Awards at Speech Nationals, Top Five Finish in Debate, Three All-American Team Awards

Debate Nationals Summary:

Sixteen students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice’s speech and debate team competed at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship Tournament on the weekend of March 28-30. The national tournament, held at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co, was comprised of 237 teams from 95 colleges and universities around the nation. This is the national championship for the largest intercollegiate debate organization in the nation.

Seniors Hrish Hari and Kirt Datla were 2 of only four students selected to the NPDA All-American Team for their community service, academic records, and competitive success.

The rice squad won 41 debates, 9 individual awards and 2 team awards.

Awards are listed below:

Fifth Place National Season Sweepstakes.

Sixth Place National Tournament Sweepstakes.

Hrishi Hari and Kirti Datla: Quarterfinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Hilary Dowdy and Everette Kreider: Triple-Octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Hrishi Hari 20th Place Debate Speaker (out of 474).

Cathy Yang: 37th Place Debate Speaker (out of 474).

Kirti Datla: 43rd Place Debate Speaker (out of 474).

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.

Speech Nationals Summary:

Eight students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice’s speech and debate team, competed in the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament last weekend, April 5-7 at the University of Texas. The team finished 19th out more than 100, reaching their goal of finishing in the top 20 by year’s end. Just five years ago, the squad had no qualifiers for the event.

This tournament is comprised of over 1400 entries from more than 100 colleges and universities and is the most difficult national championship tournament to qualify for in the nation. Qualifying for this tournament involves placing at in the top three at three regular season tournaments in one of eleven speaking events. Rice took home 9 awards from this very competitive event. Most frequently, schools qualify 2-4 events for the tournament. Rice qualified 27 events. Rice was represented at the tournament by the following students:

Hrishi Hari:
Hari, a graduating senior, reached quarterfinals in Impromptu Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, and Persuasive Speaking, placing him in the top 24 in the nation in each of these events.

Additionally, Hari was one of only 16 students selected to the 2007 AFA-NIET All-American Team. He was selected for his community service work, academic performance, and competitive forensics success.

Hari also qualified for nationals in After Dinner Speaking, and Communication Analysis.

Kirti Datla:
Datla, a graduating senior, reached quarterfinals in Extemporaneous Speaking, Placing her in the top 24 students in the nation in this event.

Datla also qualified in Informative Speaking and Communication Analysis.

Aparna Bhaduri:
Bhaduri reached semifinals in Extemporaneous Speaking, placing her in the top 12 students in the nation in this event. She also reached quarterfinals in Impromptu Speaking.

Bhaduri also qualified for nationals in Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, and Communication Analysis.

Everett Kreider:
Kreider reached quarterfinals Extemporaneous Speaking.

Kreider also qualified in Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, and Communication Analysis.

Holly Naylor: Qualified in Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking and Communication Analysis.

Cathy Yang: Qualified in Informative Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, and After Dinner Speaking.

Ted Torous: Qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Danny Shanaberger: Qualified in Informative Speaking.

The team was awarded 19th Place in Overall Sweepstakes, remaining in the top twenty for the second year in a row.

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

This concludes Rice’s speech and debate season. The team will open next year’s season at the “Top of the Rockies” invitational at the University of Wyoming in September.