Rice Speech and Debate Begins Season With Big Wins

Twelve students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, September 14-16, in the “Boot and Spur” and “Top of the Rockies” invitational tournaments hosted by the University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY.

In this national competition, composed of 90 debate teams from 26 universities and colleges, and 201 individual event entries, the contingent from the Rice team finished first, winning 32 individual awards and 2 team awards.

The Rice team won 27 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of Wyoming, the Colorado College, Drury University, Texas Tech University, the U.S. Air Force Academy, Washburn University, William Jewel College, University of the Pacific, and Truman State University.

In addition, the team of Hrishi Hari and Kirti Datla were invited to the “Boot and Spur Round Robin” along with only 5 other teams from across the nation. Invitation to this prestigious debate event was based on success last season. Each team debated each other team in this “round robin” format. Hari and Datla placed second in this event. In addition, Hari was selected as the Top Speaker of the event and Datla was selected as the 3rd Place Top Speaker. This event established Hari and Datla as one of the top teams in the nation at the beginning of the season.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Sweepstakes: First Place

Round Robin: Second Place

Individual Event Sweepstakes: First Place

Hrishi Hari and Kirti Datla: Second Place Boot and Spur Round Robin; Semifinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate, Top of the Rockies

Gary Johnson and Richard Flores: Octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Holly Naylor and Ted Torous: Double-Octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Hillary Dowdy and Everette Kreider: Octofinalists, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Hrishi Hari: First Place Persuasive Speaking, First Place Communication Analysis, Fourth Place After Dinner Speaking, First Place Impromptu Speaking, Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Eighth Place Debate Speaker.
Aparna Bhaduri: First Place Informative Speaking, Second Place Persuasive Speaking, Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Kirti Datla: Third Place Extemporaneous Speaking, Third Place Informative Speaking, Twelfth Place Debate Speaker.

Everette Kreider: Second Place Communication Analysis, Sixth Place Informative Speaking, Third Place JV Debate Speaker.

Ted Torous: Third Place Persuasive Speaking, Third Place After Dinner Speaking, Third Place Impromptu Speaking.

Holly Naylor: First Place Communication Analysis, Third Place Informative Speaking.

Cathy Yang: First Place After Dinner Speaking.

Richard Flores: Second Place Impromptu Speaking.

Hillary Dowdy: Fifth Place Persuasive Speaking.

Gary Johnson: Sixth Place Extemporaneous 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 “Forum in the Forest” tournament hosted by Rice and Kingwood College in Kingwood, TX, September 28-30.