Rice Speech and Debate Starts Season With Victories at Home

Eleven students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, September 26-28, in the “Forum in the Forest” invitational tournament hosted by the Rice and Kingwood College in Kingwood, TX. The tournament was a “swing” tournament, meaning two tournaments were held in one weekend.

Despite losing 10 days of preparation to Hurricane Ike, the team had a very successful season opener.

In this regional competition, composed of 22 debate teams from 10 universities and colleges, and 342 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 35 individual awards and 2 team awards.

The rice team won 24 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of Texas, the University of Houston, Texas State University-San Marcos, the University of Oklahoma, and Kingwood College.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Swing Sweepstakes: (ineligible as tournament hosts, but would have placed second)

Debate Sweepstakes: First Place.

Individual Event Sweepstakes: Third Place second tournament; ineligible for award in first half as hosts, but would have placed Third.

Aparna Bhaduri and Gary Johnson, First Place, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Daniel Shanaberger and Daniel LaSalle: Quarterfinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Aparna Bhaduri: First tournament: First Place Overall Individual Sweepstakes; Second Place Overall Debate Speaker; Fourth Place Informative Speaking; Third Place Communication Analysis; Third Place Persuasive Speaking; Third Place After Dinner Speaking; Third Place Impromptu Speaking; Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking. Second Tournament: First Place Overall Individual Sweepstakes; Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking; Third Place Persuasive Speaking; Third Place Communication Analysis; Fourth Place Impromptu Speaking; Fourth Place Informative Speaking; First Place After Dinner Speaking. *Overall Swing Individual Sweepstakes Champion.*
Daniel Shanaberger: First Tournament: First Place After Dinner Speaking; Fifth Place Impromptu Speaking; Seventh Place Overall Debate Speaker. Second Tournament: Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking; Fifth Place Communication Analysis; Fifth Place Impromptu Speaking; Second Place After Dinner Speaking.

Gary Johnson: First Tournament: Third Place Overall Debate Speaker; Fourth Place Impromptu Speaking; Semi-finalist Extemporaneous Speaking; Semi-finalist Impromptu Speaking.

Julie Duong: Sixth Place Extemporaneous Speaking.

Katie Donovan: Sixth Place Overall Debate Speaker.

Dan LaSalle: Eighth Place Overall Debate Speaker.

Kern Vijayvargiya: 18th Place Overall Debate Speaker.


The team is coached by Director of Forensics David Worth and Assistant Director of Forensics Glenn Prince.

The team will be competing next in both the “Sunflower Sooner,” tournament hosted by Bethel College and the University of Oklahoma in North Newton, KS, October 10-12 and the “Pioneer Invitational,” hosted by Lewis & Clark College on the same weekend.