Rice Speech and Debate Continues Success With First Year Students

Eleven students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, February 6-8, in the “Sunset Cliffs Invitational” tournament hosted by the Southwestern College and Pt. Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, CA. The tournament was a “swing” tournament, meaning two tournaments were held in one weekend. Ten of these Rice competitors are first year students at Rice.

In this national competition, composed of 152 debate teams from 45 universities and colleges, and 832 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 11 individual awards.

The rice team won 12 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the Washington University, the University of California San Diego, Grinnell College, and Point Loma Nazarene University.

Awards are listed below.

Katie Donovan: First tournament: Third Place Impromptu Speaking, Fifth Place Informative Speaking. Second tournament: Semifinalist, Impromptu Speaking, Seventh Place Informative Speaking.

Paul Ernster: Semifinalist, Impromptu Speaking (second tournament).


Amram Bengio: Semifinalist, Extemporaneous Speaking (second tournament).

Danny Shanaberger: Semifinalist, Extemporaneous Speaking (second tournament).

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 AFA-NIET District III tournament hosted by the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, March 6-8.