Rice Speech and Debate Finishes Season in the Top 20

The George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice’s speech and debate team, finished the 2009-2010 by improving their national standing by 5 places over last year. Though composed of 80% freshmen and sophomores this year, the team supplemented their excellent regular season performance with a significant showing at nationals.

Debate Nationals Summary:

Ten students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society competed at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship Tournament on the weekend of March 19-21. The national tournament, held at Texas Tech University, was comprised of 185 teams from 70 colleges and universities around the nation. This is the national championship for the largest intercollegiate debate organization in the nation.

The rice squad won 21 debates, 3 individual awards and 1 team award.

Awards are listed below:

19th Place National Tournament Sweepstakes


Katie Donovan and Shubha Soman: Triple-Octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Eric Li: Fourth Place Novice Speaker

Among the teams defeated were the United States Air Force Academy, the Colorado College, the University of the Pacific, Pepperdine University, the University of Utah, Notre Dame University, William Jewell College, and the University of Puget Sound.

Additionally, the team was represented at the prestigious National Tournament of Parliamentary Excellence, held the following weekend at Azusa Pacific University in Los Angeles, CA. This invitation-only tournament invites the top 64 teams of two in the nation, out of the thousands debating for universities all over the U.S. Rice was represented by two teams. Aparna Bhaduri and Kern Vijayvargiya received a bid along with the team of Julie Duong and Paul Ernster.

Speech Nationals Summary:

Four students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice’s speech and debate team, competed in the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament held April 2-4 at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

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.

Most frequently, schools qualify 2-4 events for the tournament. Rice qualified 7 events and was represented at the tournament by the following students:

Aparna Bhaduri qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Katie Donovan qualified in Informative Speaking.

Katahryn Jia qualified in both Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu Speaking.

Jarvis Sam qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking and Informative Speaking.

This concludes Rice’s speech and debate season. The team will open next year’s season at the “Hill Country Swing” invitational at the University of Texas in September.

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

More information about the team is available at [http://humanities.rice.edu/forensics](http://humanities.rice.edu/forensics).