Rice Speech and Debate Makes Best Showing Ever in San Diego

Nine students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, February 5-7, 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. This was Rice’s best showing at what has been traditionally understood as one of the best tournaments in the nation each year.

In this national competition, composed of 173 debate teams from 52 universities and colleges, and over 400 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 18 individual awards.

The rice team won 24 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were Pepperdine University, the United States Air Force Academy, Point Loma Nazarene University, Marquette University, San Diego State University, University of California Berkeley, Grinnell College, University of California Los Angeles, William Jewell College, Abilene Christian University, and the University of Utah.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Sweepstakes: 4th Place

Aparna Bhaduri and Kern Vijayvargiya: Octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Jarvis Sam and Allison Bowman (hybrid team): Semifinalists, Junior Parliamentary Debate

Kern Vijayvargiya: Quarterfinalist, Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Julie Duong: Octofinalist, Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Paul Ernster: Octofinalist, Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Aparna Bhaduri: 1st Place Extemporaneous Speaking; 3rd Place Informative Speaking; 4th Place Individual Sweepstakes

Jarvis Sam: 4th Place Extemporaneous Speaking; 4th Place Informative Speaking; 10th Place Junior Varsity Debate Speaker


Katie Donovan: 3rd Place Persuasive Speaking
Katharyn Jia: Semifinalist, Impromptu Speaking; Semifinalist Extemporaneous Speaking

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 5-6.