Rice Speech and Debate Makes Strong Showing at Difficult Tournament

Ten students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, January 16-19, in the Texas Tech University invitational tournament in Lubbock, TX. The tournament was a debate “swing” tournament, meaning two tournaments were held in one weekend.

In this national competition, composed of 102 debate teams from 37 universities and colleges, the contingent from Rice won 6 individual awards.

Rice’s performance significant because Rice’s squad is very young. With one senior, the team is otherwise composed of freshmen and sophomores. The Texas Tech tournament is seen as a nationals preview since the national championship will be held there in March. This tournament attracted the top teams in the nation, including the previous two national champions.

The rice team won 20 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the Colorado College, William Jewel College, California State University Long Beach, Pepperdine University, Washburn University, University of Wyoming, University of Washington, Lewis and Clark College, and the United States Air Force Academy.

Awards are listed below.

First Tournament:

Aparna Bhaduri and Kern Vijayvargiya: Double-octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Julie Duong and Paul Ernster: Triple-octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Jarvis Sam and Ben Chou: Triple-octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Second Tournament:

Aparna Bhaduri and Kern Vijayvargiya: Triple-octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Julie Duong and Paul Ernster: Double-octofinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Katie Donovan: 20th Place overall speaker (out of 204)

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

The team will be competing next at Webster University, January 29-31, in St. Louis.