Rice Speech and Debate Wins in California, Defeats Previous National Champions

Ten students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, November 6-8, in the “Paul Winters Invitational” invitational tournament hosted by the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA.

In this national competition, composed of 105 debate teams from 38 universities and colleges, and more than 200 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 20 individual awards and 1 team award.

The rice team won 53 separate debates.

In Junior Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Rice “closed out” the finals, meaning the final two remaining debaters left were from Rice and tied for first place.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament were the University of the Pacific, St, Mary’s University, Pepperdine University, Lewis and Clark College, Pacific Lutheran University, Azusa Pacific University, the University of Texas-El Paso, the University of California Los Angeles, Southern Illinois University, the University of Nevada-Reno, and the United States Air Force Academy.

Prestigious win for Bhaduri and Vijayvargiya
In addition to the Winters Invitational, the team of Aparna Bhaduri and Kern Vijayvargiya were invited to compete the “Pat Kennedy Memorial Round Robin” along with 12 of the most competitive teams from across the nation. Invitation to this prestigious debate event was based on competitive record last season and early this season.

Bhaduri and Vijayvargiya placed first in this event, defeating two previous national champions along the way. This event establishes Bhaduri and Vijayvargiya as one of the very best teams in the nation.

Awards

Overall Sweepstakes: Second Place

Kern Vijayvargiya and Aparna Bhaduri: Pat Kennedy Memorial Round Robin: First Place. Paul Winters Invitational: Semifinalists, Varsity Parliamentary Debate

Katharyn Jia and Eric Li: Second Place, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate

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

Jarvis Sam and Ben Chou: Quarterfinalists, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate
Aparna Bhaduri: First Place Extemporaneous Speaking; Third Place Communication Analysis; *Fourth Place Individual Sweepstakes (Overall Speaker)*

Katie Donovan: Fourth Place After Dinner Speaking; Fourth Place After Dinner Speaking

Jarvis Sam: Fifth Place Overall Junior Varsity Debate Speaker; Third Junior Varsity Place Lincoln Douglas Debate

Katharyn Jia: Semifinalist, Impromptu Speaking; Second Place Overall Junior Varsity Debate Speaker

Eric Li: Fifth Place Persuasive Speaking; First Place Junior Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate (tie with Ben Chou)

Ben Chou: Sixth Place Overall Junior Varsity Debate Speaker; First Place Junior Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate (tie with Eric Li)

Shubha Soman: Second Place Persuasive Speaking

Paul Ernster: Semifinalist Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate

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