Rice Speech and Debate Qualifies for Speech Nationals

Four students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, March 5-6, in the American Forensics Association District III invitational tournament hosted by Oklahoma University in Norman, OK. The tournament was to determine final qualifications for the national tournament in individual speaking events, the AFA-National Individual Events Tournament, to be held in Eau Claire, WI, April 2-5. The young Rice contingent was made up of three freshmen and one sophomore.

In this regional competition, composed of 9 universities and colleges, and 150 individual event entries, the contingent from Rice won 6 individual awards and qualified 4 events for nationals, bringing the total qualified to 5 events for this prestigious tournament.

Awards are listed below.

Katie Donovan: Second Place Persuasive Speaking (national qualification).

Katharyn Jia: Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking (national qualification) Fourth Place impromptu Speaking (national qualification).

Jarvis Sam: First Place Extemporaneous Speaking (national qualification), Fourth Place Informative Speaking (First Alternate to the national tournament).

Eric Li: Fourth Place Extemporaneous Speaking (First Alternate to the national tournament), Second Alternate to the national tournament in Persuasive 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 the National Parliamentary Debate Association National Championship Tournament hosted by Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, TX March 19-22.