George R. Brown Forensics Society Wins 20 Awards at the Nation’s Most Elite Tournaments

The GRBFS has been busy representing Rice University with distinction around the nation. This email lists the awards the amazing students from Rice Speech and Debate have won since our last update. For more information, please contact David Worth at dworth@rice.edu.

Battle of Flowers Oratorical Contest, San Antonio, February 24, 2012
This invitational is the nation’s second oldest speaking contest and invites the best speakers from Texas to compete against each other by speaking on a common theme. This year’s theme was the Texas trail drive era. Jarvis Sam represented Rice and placed 3rd with his informative speech on African-American cowboys of the era.

American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament, San Marcos, TX, April 4-6, 2012
This prestigious tournament is the most difficult individual events tournament to qualify for in the nation. Competitors must reach finals in an event three times during regular season tournaments and place high enough that the total of their placing equals eight or less. While a bit complicated, the formula ensures that the competitor was in the top three at least two of the three times. This process yields about 1500 individual entries in 11 events from 84 Colleges and Universities. Rice qualified 16 events.

Results:
Extemporaneous Speaking:
Jarvis Sam 5th Place

Persuasive Speaking:
Jarvis Sam: Semifinalist
Helene Dick: Quarterfinalist

Impromptu Speaking:
Jarvis Sam: Quarterfinalist

National Forensic Association National Championship Tournament: Athens, OH, April 19-23, 2012
This extremely challenging tournament is larger than its counterpart above and therefore very difficult to win. Competitors qualify for NFA by reaching finals in an event once during the regular season. This process yields a much larger national tournament in 13 events, including Lincoln-Douglas debate. Sweepstakes awards are awarded by division according to entry size, making them a measure of success against comparable teams. Rice qualified 25 events and 7 debaters for this prestigious tournament.

Debaters argued this year’s topic, which they have been researching all year: Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially change its trade policies
and/or practices with the People's Republic of China.

**Results:**

**Sweepstakes:**
3rd in the nation in Lincoln Douglas Debate
Individual Events: 4th in the nation, President’s 1 Division

**Lincoln Douglas Debate:**
Brittney Xu: Quarterfinalist, 6th Place Overall Debate Speaker
Anthony Chung: Octofinalist
Kern Vijayvargiya: Octofinalist
Cory Wynn: Octofinalist
Paul Ernster: Double-Octofinalist
Patrick Shipsey: Double-Octofinalist

**Forensics Criticism:**
Katie Donovan: 4th Place
Jarvis Sam: 6th Place

**Rhetorical Criticism:**
Jarvis Sam: Semifinalist

**Impromptu Speaking:**
Helene Dick: Quarterfinalist
Kristian Edosomwan: Quarterfinalist
Jarvis Sam: Quarterfinalist

**Interstate Oratorical Association, Boston, MA, April 27-29, 2012**
Martel senior Katie Donovan will represent Rice at the nation’s oldest speaking contest, which dates back to 1874. Competitors qualify by being one of the top two persuasive speakers in each state. Donovan and a competitor from the University of Texas at Austin will represent the Lone Star State at this elite event. Results will be posted after the tournament. We hope you will join us in wishing Katie Good Luck at this year’s contest!

More information on the George R. Brown Forensics Society may be found at humanities.rice.edu/forensics.