



UNPRECEDENTED!

UCSD Speech & Debate Team Wins Fourth and Fifth Consecutive Tournaments

The UCSD Speech & Debate Team continues to make school history. The Team's accomplishments this weekend likely set a southern California, California, and very possibly, a national record. First Place Sweepstakes Awards were captured by the Team at both the Dahlin Tournament and Griffin Tournament this weekend, extending the Team's tournament winning streak to ***five tournaments in a row***.

UCSD's dominance in southern California began with the **First Place All-Team Performance Sweepstakes Award** at the National Online Forensics Tournament in October. This was followed by **First Place Sweepstakes Awards** at tournaments hosted by Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) and El Camino College.

This weekend, the **First Place Sweepstakes Award** was earned Friday, November 11, at the Dahlin Tournament, hosted by Palomar College on the campus of Grossmont College. The Dahlin was exclusively an Open Division tournament, thus only the top, most-experienced debaters and speech competitors competed. Several from UCSD were novices, who bravely took on the Open Division. The 10 competing schools, including San Diego State University, were dominantly from southern California, with the exception of El Paso Community College from Texas.

Then, on Saturday and Sunday, November 12-13, 16 schools—all from southern California, with the exceptions of El Paso Community College and Northern Arizona University—competed for **two First Place Sweepstakes Trophies**. UCSD won both of them. The first was awarded for total team performance in individual events, which included all speech events, plus IPDA (one vs. one) debate. UCSD amassed 201 sweepstakes awards points, while the second place team, Orange Coast College, trailed with 140 points. The second trophy was for total team performance at the tournament. This added the competition in NPDA (two vs. two) debate. UCSD, with 225 points, ran away from second place PLNU (183 points).

The Dahlin tournament consisted of IPDA debate, plus speech events. In IPDA debate, Team Captain, Michael Wagreich reached the **Quarterfinals**, while teammates David Cordier and Razeen Nasar **"closed out" the entire event**. (A "close-out" occurs when both competitors headed for the final round are from the same school.) Michael Wagreich topped the list of speakers with **First Place Speaker honors**, while David Cordier, Razeen Nasar, Jesus Garibay-Barajas, and Kiran Kumar captured **sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth place speaker awards**, respectively.

In the Open Division of Informative Speech, Marina Hu grabbed **First Place**, while Amy To latched onto **Second Place** and Leslie Cheng was a **finalist**. In Open Persuasive Speech, Rafi Overton took **First Place**, and again, Leslie Cheng was a **finalist**. Alyssa Gutierrez was a **finalist** in both Open Division speech events of Program Oral Interpretation and Poetry.

Saturday's Griffin Tournament consisted of speech events and NPDA debate. Although UCSD did not reach the elimination rounds in debate, speech team members picked up the slack. In Novice Extemporaneous, the **First Place** award went to Emma Berwanger, followed by Lucas Howard-Ron in **Second Place**. Vincent Cono was a **finalist** in Novice Extemp. In Novice Persuasive Speech, Masaki Mendoza earned **Second Place** and Sarah Thompson was a **finalist**. In Novice Impromptu Speech, Mitra Sutar captured **Fourth Place** and Kate Cariaga was a **finalist**. In Open Division Informative Speech, Marina Hu rose to **First Place**, as Mehri Sadri landed in **Fifth Place**. In Open Poetry, Jazmyne Jackson earned **Third Place** and Alyssa Gutierrez was a **finalist**.



The Griffin on Sunday was solely IPDA—an event where UCSD is exceptionally strong. Fourteen team members advanced to the Elimination Rounds of all three Divisions: Novice, Junior, and Open.

In the Novice Division, **Bronze Medal** winners were Kate Bounassi, Yash Kedia, Megan Deschenes, Fowsiyo Aden, Yige Gong, and Marie Shahinian. **Silver Medals** went to Jiayi Hu, Kiran Kumar, and Emilio Gandolffi-Levine. In the Junior Division, Dasha Okolysheva brought home the **Gold Medal**. In the Open Division, Madeline Pitkin and Michael Wagreich captured **Bronze**, Jared Hoffart grabbed **Silver**, and Julian MacKenzie earned the **Gold Medal**.

Head Coach Robert Campbell summarized the Fall Quarter of the 2022-23 intercollegiate speech and debate season, “This team’s results, I firmly believe, are unprecedented. To win five speech and debate tournaments consecutively is simply unheard of. I know of no program in the nation—certainly none in southern California—with such a winning streak ever. It is a privilege to coach these exceptional UCSD students. They are so mutually supportive; they work so hard together to win and represent UCSD at the highest level.

Four years ago, we were fledglings. Now we are dominating southern California. And this team is far from finished for the season. More challenges await them in Winter Quarter, but, for now, UCSD Speech and Debate history has been made...spectacularly.”

The UCSD Speech & Debate Team is a program sponsored by UCSD’s Communication and Social Sciences Departments.