Southern California Champions AGAIN!

UCSD's Speech & Debate Team Captures Two *First Place* Sweepstakes Awards at Season's Capstone Tournament for the *FOURTH CONSECUTIVE* year!

At the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association's (PSCFA) *Spring Championships* Tournament, held on the campus of Moorpark College, February 23-25, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team dominated the tournament for the fourth year in a row.

The *Spring Champs* Tournament is the finale of the major, regional speech and debate tournaments of the 2023-24 season, sponsored by southern California's forensics governing body, PSCFA. The tournament offers all debate formats and speech events, invites schools from around the country, and offers four all-school-performance Sweepstakes Tournament Championship Awards. The first Sweepstakes Award went to the leading community college team, Moorpark College—an award for which UCSD was not eligible. Similarly, the second Sweepstakes Award was for the "small entry" schools, who entered few events, but performed well. This award—for which UCSD was also not eligible—went to Northern Virginia Community College. That left two First Place Sweepstakes Awards.

The UCSD Speech and Debate Team won both the **Novice Division First Place Sweepstakes Award** and the **First Place Four Year Schools Sweepstakes Award**. UCSD dominated the tournament by earning 165 sweepstakes points and besting second place Point Loma Nazarene University (68 points), third place Concordia University (45 points), fourth place CSU Long Beach (34 points), and fifth place CSU Fullerton (15 points).

This makes UCSD's Speech and Debate Team the Tournament Champion in 15 of the previous 17 major, regional tournaments attended. Thus, UCSD's **88% Tournament Championship win percentage** over the last two seasons is very likely another historic record in the annals of the endeavor. There is no record of any middle school, high school, community college, nor university achieving such dominance in a region in interscholastic speech and debate.

At Spring Champs, the team's winning began Friday in the Novice Division of NPDA (two vs. two) debate. Lily Zhao and Dominic Feliton defeated Irvine Valley College to win the **First Place Gold Award**. In the Open (Senior) Division, the teams of Carter Castillo with Julian Mackenzie, and Felip Gerdes with Jared Hoffart both won **Third Place Bronze Awards**. NPDA Speaker Awards went to Julian Mackenzie (3rd, Open), Dominic Feliton (7th, Novice), Emily Bianchi (8th, Novice), Carter Castillo (8th, Open), and Srujam Dave (9th, Open).

Saturday's competition featured IPDA (one vs. one) debate. UCSD won big in all three divisions.

In the Novice Division of IPDA, Matthew Charry brought home **Second Place Silver**, while Marielle Lazaro, Brianna Newton, Dominic Feliton, and Zachary Reisner earned **Third Place Bronze**.

In the Junior Division of IPDA, both David Zheng and Saria Markes won **Second Place Silver Medals**, while Jiayi Hu and Karam Sodhi won **Third Place Bronze**.

In the Open Division, a table best displays UCSD's dominance.

Team Member	Award
Srujam Dave	1st Place Gold
Muni Ibrahim	1st Place Gold
Felip Gerdes	1st Place Gold
Kiran Kumar	1st Place Gold
Carter Castillo	2nd Place Silver
Lillian Theis	2nd Place Silver
Julian Mackenzie	2nd Place Silver
Jared Hoffart	2nd Place Silver
Khushi Kumar	3rd Place Bronze
David Cordier	3rd Place Bronze
Chaturika Bandara	3rd Place Bronze

In the Open Division of an event entitled NFA-LD, which is one vs. one Lincoln-Douglas debate, Cindy Chanay won **First Place Gold**, despite this being only the second tournament in which she has competed in this debate format!

The winning (and medals) continued Sunday during the third day of this marathon tournament with the Speech competitions. From 65 speech event entries, UCSD sent 21 to the elimination rounds. The following table depicts the results.

Division	Event	Team Member	Award
Novice	Impromptu	Marielle Lazaro	2nd Place
Novice	Impromptu	Paulina Andreani	3rd Place
Novice	Impromptu	Raquel Ruiz	5th Place
Novice	Impromptu	Claire Dickens	6th Place
Novice	Impromptu	Nestor Alvarez	7th Place
Junior	Impromptu	Elani Moss	1st Place
Junior	Impromptu	Saria Markes	3rd Place
Junior	Impromptu	Kyle Matsuno	4th Place
Open	Impromptu	Lucas Howard-Ron	1st Place

Open	Impromptu	Dayyan Rizvi	5th Place
Novice	Extemp	Asa Quadri	4th Place
Junior	Extemp	Srujam Dave	2nd Place
Junior	Extemp	Karam Sodhi	4th Place
Junior	Extemp	Kyle Matsuno	6th Place
Open	Extemp	Lucas Howard-Ron	2nd Place
Open	Extemp	David Cordier	3rd Place
Open	Extemp	Felip Gerdes	5th Place
Novice	Informative	Hojoon Kweon	2nd Place
Novice	Informative	Jiayi Hu	3rd Place
Novice	Persuasive	Diego Dono	2nd Place

Head Coach, Robert Campbell wrapped up the three days observing, "This tournament is a marathon and, this year, it was the furthest we had ever travelled in southern California (Moorpark, CA). To win this Tournament's Championship Awards in both Novice and University levels for four years in a row is an amazing achievement.

This Team will never stop striving for improvement. However, it is very clear that this young (6 years) UCSD Speech & Debate Team has swiftly become dominant in southern California, as emphatically illustrated by its 88% Tournament Championship win record."

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