REPEAT!

UCSD Speech & Debate Team Wins Griffin Tournament for the Second Year in a Row

The UCSD Speech & Debate Team won *three* Tournament Sweepstakes Awards at the Griffin Tournament, hosted by Grossmont College, November 10-12, 2023.

For the second consecutive year, UCSD won both the **1st Place Sweepstakes Award for Speech Events and the 1st Place All-Tournament Sweepstakes Award**. The Team also won the **2nd Place Sweepstakes award for Debate Events**, falling to Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) by a point total of 476 to UCSD's 457 debate points. But in the All-Tournament Sweepstakes, UCSD eclipsed PLNU by a score of 575-476 points.

The Tournament began Friday with NPDA (two vs. two debate). UCSD placed teams in the Elimination Rounds of all three divisions: Novice, Junior, and Open. In the Novice Division, the team of Yeva Yengibaryan and Kyle Matsuno won **1st Place Gold**. Kyle Matsuno was named the division's **4th Place Speaker**. In the Junior Division, the team of Sandy Peterson and Sibi Sivaram also won **1st Place Gold**. In this division, Srijam Dave won the **1st Place Speaker Award,** Sibi Sivaram won the **4th Place Speaker Award**, and Odessa Castillo won the **5th Place Speaker Award**. In the Open Division, the team of Cindy Chanay and Carter Castillo rose to the **2nd Place Silver Award**, while the team of Richey Li and Julian Mackenzie captured the **3rd Place Bronze Award**.

Saturday was devoted to IPDA (one vs. one debate). UCSD led the way by placing 16 Team Members into the Elimination Rounds. In the Novice Division, Natalie Montero and Elani Moss won the **1st Place Gold** Medals; Emma Berwanger, Parsa Kazerani, Lillian Theis, Kyle Matsuno, and Rafi Overton won **2nd Place Silver** Medals; and Nika Radgoudarzi, Paulina Andreani, and Sariah Marks won **3rd Place Bronze** Awards. In the Open Division, Team Captain Jared Hoffart won **1st Place Gold**, while Lucas Howard-Ron and Dayyan Rizvi won **2nd Place Silver**. Carter Castillo, Felip Gerdes, and Julian Mackenzie won **3rd Place Bronze**. For the all-tournament IPDA Speaker Awards, Carter Castillo placed **4th** and Felip Gerdes placed **5th**.

By Sunday morning, UCSD and PLNU were leaving the rest of the competition (18 schools) far behind. Thus, it was up to UCSD's Team IPDA (two vs. two informal debate) competitors, along with a host of Speech Event competitors to bring home the All-Tournament Sweepstakes Trophy.

In Team IPDA, the team of Richey Li and Kyle Matsuno captured **3rd Place**, while the team of Kiran Kumar and Felip Gerdes reached the Finals! (The Final Round of TIPDA was scheduled after the Awards Ceremony, since the outcome of UCSD vs. PLNU would have no effect on the Tournament Sweepstakes results. By mutual agreement the Final Round was not held, thus both schools shared the **1st Place Award** in Team IPDA.)

Thus, it was to be UCSD's stellar performances in Speech that would win the tournament. UCSD placed 20 Team Members in the Elimination Rounds of the Speech Events.

In the **Novice Division** of Speech Events, the following table depicts the Awards earned:

EVENT	TEAM MEMBER	AWARD
Impromptu	Kian Dehbashi	1st Place Gold
Impromptu	Arushi Gupta	Finalist
Impromptu	Evelyn Valenzuela Rodriguez	Finalist
Impromptu	Elani Moss	Finalist
Dramatic Duo	**Aracely Tobias & Ghazal Saeedi**	**1st Place Gold***
Extemporaneous	Natalia Montero	1st Place Gold
Extemporaneous	Lillian Theis	2nd Place Silver
Extemporaneous	Thomas Zhang	3rd Place Bronze
Extemporaneous	Mrinaal Sayal	Finalist
Informative	Arushi Gupta	Finalist
Informative	Evelyn Valenzuela Rodriguez	Finalist

* First Award in this Speech Event is UCSD history!

In the **Open Division** of Speech Events, the following table depicts UCSD's Awards:

EVENT	TEAM MEMBER	AWARD
Impromptu	Dayyan Rizvi	2nd Place Silver
Impromptu	Manjari Maruganandam	3rd Place Bronze
Impromptu	Shreya Musini	7th Place
Extemporaneous	Dayyan Rizvi	1st Place Gold
Extemporaneous	Jared Hoffart	4th Place
Informative	Kaitlyn Chin	1st Place Gold
Informative	Shreya Musini	4th Place
Persuasive	Marina Hu	4th Place

Head Coach Robert Campbell spoke of the weekend's success, "Actually, we attended two tournaments this weekend. Our British Parliamentary Debaters participated in a national online tournament and the team of Massae Shogi and Dylan Chamberlin reached the **Semifinals**!

We have come a long way since 2018, when UCSD's fledgling Speech & Debate Team placed second in its very first tournament, which was the Griffin. Winning this great tournament now two years in a row is a major achievement for the program.

This tournament demonstrated that, in southern California, the two dominant programs are those at PLNU and UCSD. In the Debate Sweepstakes race, UCSD's total points (457) was over four times the points of the 3rd Place team from Northern Arizona University. In the Speech Events Sweepstakes race, UCSD's total points (116) was 12 more than the 2nd Place team, Mt. San Antonio College and over twice that of the 3rd Place team, Moorpark College. And in the All-Tournament Sweepstakes Championship, UCSD's points (575) was 99 points more than PLNU and nearly four times Mt. San Antonio College, the 3rd Place team.

Now, on to the PSCFA Fall Championships at Mt. San Antonio College, December 1-3, to wrap up Fall Quarter 2023!"

The UCSD Speech & Debate Team is a program sponsored by UCSD's Communication Department and the School of Social Sciences.

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