



For Immediate Release

## UCSD Speech & Debate Team Begins Sixth Season

### Team Begins Right Where They Left Off: WINNING!

Setting records and “raising the bar” seem to be the mantra of UCSD Speech & Debate. For the first time in Team history, the Team participated in the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association’s (PSCFA) *Warm-Up* Tournament, held on the campus of El Camino College this last weekend. Traditionally, this is the first tournament of the southern California circuit. However, because of UCSD’s Quarter System, this tournament has previously been too early. Last Spring, the Team decided to work over the summer in preparation to attend the Warm-Up. Two days after the beginning of the Fall Quarter, nearly two dozen returning Team Members left campus early Saturday morning for this two-day tourney wherein 17 southern California schools competed.

The *Warm-Up* Tournament is basically a “practice tournament” and is sponsored by southern California’s forensics governing body, PSCFA. The tournament offers just four rounds of two debate formats and two rounds of speech events; there are no elimination rounds, no tournament champion sweepstakes awards, and no trophies. Instead, top performers earn either “Excellent” or “Superior” certificates. A Superior Certificate means going undefeated in debate or finishing in first place in both rounds of the speech events. An Excellent Certificate means suffering only one defeat in debate or only one second-place finish in the speech event rounds.

The UCSD Speech and Debate Team brought home **15 Certificates**, more than any other school. Four of the 15 were Superior rankings.

Saturday’s competition featured IPDA (one vs. one) debate and NPDA (two vs. two) debate. In the Open (Senior) Division of IPDA, **Kiran Kumar** went undefeated and earned a Superior Certificate. The Teams of **Dasha Okolysheva** and **Darief Maes** (in Junior Division) and **Cindy Chanay** and **Carter Castillo** (in Open Division) both earned Excellent Certificates.

The winning continued during Sunday’s speech events. In Extemporaneous Speech, in the Novice Division, **Darief Maes** won an **Excellent Certificate**, while **Carter Castillo**, in the Junior Division, also won an **Excellent Certificate**. In the Open Division, **Annika Dengel** and **Jared Hoffart** earned **Excellent Certificates**, while **Dayyan Rizvi** and **Lucas Howard-Ron** won **Superior Certificates**.

In Impromptu Speech, in the Novice Division, **Arif Ruslan** earned an **Excellent Certificate**, while **Subramanian Arunachalam** rose to earn a **Superior Certificate**. In the Open Division, **Dasha Okolysheva**, **David Cordier**, and **Dayyan Rizvi** captured **Excellent Certificates**.



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Finally, in the Open Division of Informative Speech, **Arif Ruslan** came home with an **Excellent Certificate**.

Head Coach, Robert Campbell commented, "The prior five years, we either did not have enough returning Team Members for the PSCFA Warm-Up Tournament to make sense or we could not get organized swiftly enough to participate. As our Speech & Debate Program continues to mature, we were ready this season. At the first Speech and Debate Team Meeting last Thursday night, 183 new students and returning Team Members started our sixth season. Clearly, when the dust settles in the next few weeks, we will, again, have the largest speech and debate team in the nation."

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