



3-PEAT !!!

UCSD Speech & Debate Team Wins PLNU Sunset Cliffs Tournament for 3rd Consecutive Year

In the most dominating performance in the history of its six-year-young program, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team won the most prestigious intercollegiate speech and debate tournament in southern California—the Sunset Cliffs Classic, hosted by Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU)—for the third consecutive year. UCSD steam-rolled the other 13 schools at the tournament including UC Berkeley and Northern Arizona University. In the 3-day, 5-event marathon tournament, the UCSD Team set *another school record* for the most awards earned at a single tournament.

Two events were held Friday, October 20. Simultaneously, a special invitation-only Round Robin Team IPDA tournament was held alongside the Speech competitions in the main Sunset Cliffs tournament. The Team IPDA tournament was a unique offering by PLNU this year. From school-submitted bids, citing the prior performance of top IPDA (one vs. one) debaters, PLNU chose the best to compete in this one-day Round Robin Team IPDA tournament (TIPDA is two vs. two and is a new, emerging debate format). The bids from 8 schools (ten teams) were accepted to compete. Only two schools qualified to enter two teams—the host PLNU and UCSD.

After five preliminary rounds, the top four teams were selected for the semi-finals. Only one school had two teams standing amidst the final four: UCSD. The TIPDA team of Carter Castillo and Julian Mackenzie fell in the Semi-Final round, achieving 3rd Place. Carter Castillo was the 4th Place speaker in the tournament, while Julian Mackenzie was the 5th Place speaker. UCSD's Kiran Kumar and Felip Gerdes earned 2nd Place, falling in the Final Round to a TIPDA team from Palomar College. Kiran Kumar was the tournament's 3rd Place speaker, while the tournament's 1st Place speaker was Felip Gerdes.

The main Sunset Cliffs tournament on Friday was devoted to Speech Events. UCSD's **22 Speech Awards** was the most ever garnered at a single tournament.

In Extemporaneous Speech, Brianna Newton captured 3rd Place in the Novice Division, while in the Senior Division, Lucas Howard-Ron, Dayyan Rizvi, and Annika Dengel won 3rd, 4th, and 6th Place respectively.

In Informative Speech, all top four awards in the Novice Division went to UCSD. Colin Kavanagh, Arushi Gupta, Evelyn Valenzuela-Rodriguez, and Chloe Care brought home 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Place respectively. Similarly, in the Senior Division, Rebecca Du, Kellen Foster, and Kaitlyn Chin earned 1st, 3rd, and 4th Place respectively.



In Impromptu Speech, in the Novice Division, Evelyn Valenzuela-Rodriguez rose to 3rd Place, while Brianna Newton came in 5th. In the Senior Division, Dayyan Rizvi also rose to 3rd Place, while Kellen Foster was right behind in 4th.

In Persuasive Speech, in the Novice Division, Diego Dono captured 3rd Place. However, 1st Place had to be shared by two competitors who finished in an identical tie. Both were from UCSD—Kevin Colorado and Sina Sabet. In the Senior Division, Mitra Sutar captured 4th Place.

In the Novice Division of Poetry, Cindy Chanay earned 3rd Place.

In the Senior Division of After Dinner Speech (also known as Speech to Entertain), Mehri Sadri garnered 4th Place and Arif Ruslan was right behind in 5th Place.

Saturday, October 21, was devoted to IPDA debate. UCSD broke 19 team members into the Elimination Rounds—the most ever at any tournament attended.

In the Novice IPDA Division, Nika Radgoudarzi, Anh Huynh, Lillian Theis, and Natalie Ambler earned Bronze (3rd Place). Saria Markes, Raquel Ruiz, and Kyle Matsuno earned Silver (2nd Place). Three Gold trophies (1st Place) went home with Asa Quadri, David Zheng, and Jake Mitten. Speaker awards were as follows: Asa Quadri, 4th; Jake Mitten, 6th; Natalie Ambler, 7th; Kyle Matsuno, 8th; Raquel Ruiz, 10th.

In the Junior IPDA Division, 3rd Place Bronze were earned by Claire Dickens and Subramanian (Arasu) Arunachalam. Claire Dickens captured the 3rd Place speaker award; Subramanian Arunachalam, 8th.

In the Senior IPDA Division, both Munira Ibrahim and Chaturika Bandara brought home Bronze (3rd Place). There were only three Gold Awards (1st Place) at the tournament, but all three came home to UCSD via Kiran Kumar, Eugene Kong, and Carter Castillo. Muni Ibrahim was the tournament's top speaker in this event, while Julian Mackenzie was 3rd, and Carter Castillo, 10th.

Sunday, October 22, saw two events—NPDA (formal two vs. two debate) and the general Team IPDA tournament.

In TIPDA, the team of Kiran Kumar and Yiquan Liu captured 3rd Place in the Semi-finals. UCSD's Dayyan Rizvi and Julian Mackenzie fell in the Finals, capturing 2nd Place. Dayyan Rizvi was the 2nd Place speaker in TIPDA, while Kiran Kumar was 3rd; Yiquan Liu, 4th; Lucas Howard-Ron, 5th; Julian Mackenzie, 7th; Kyle Matsuno, 8th; and Chaturika Bandara, 9th.

In the NPDA Novice Division, both teams of Marielle Lazaro & Emily Bianchi and Keira McIlvenna-Davis & Zachary Reisner captured 3rd Place.

In the NPDA Junior Division, Amanda Sun & Trey Garcia-Schartz were semifinalists (3rd Place). Srujan Dave won the 3rd Place speaker award; Amanda Sun, 7th; and Trey Garcia-Schartz, 8th.



In the NPDA Senior Division, Cindy Chanay & Carter Castillo rose to 3rd Place, while Team Captain Jared Hoffart & Felip Gerdes won 1st Place Gold. The 3rd Place speaker award went to Felip Gerdes and 9th Place went to Carter Castillo.

During the Awards Ceremony the night of the third day, Head Coach Robert Campbell was presented PLNU's "Quintilian Award" (Separate story to follow) in recognition of his development of the UCSD Speech & Debate Team/Program, creating the largest—and one of the most powerful—intercollegiate forensics team in the nation.

Following the Awards Ceremony, the team gathered for a team photo, then Coach Campbell observed, "Six years ago, as I sat in the audience during our Team's first Awards Ceremony at the Sunset Cliffs Tournament, my gaze locked upon the gorgeous, gold and green 30-inch-tall First Place trophy—the largest award from any tournament in southern California. I set a goal for our Team that night. One day, we would win that trophy. In 2021, we brought home our first one. The Team placed it in the Dean's Office at the Rady School of Management (where Coach Campbell primarily teaches) in recognition of how the Rady School had supported the early years of the development of UCSD Speech & Debate.

Then, in 2022, we won the tournament again. That trophy resides in the Dean's Office in Social Sciences, in recognition of Speech & Debate becoming an official program of the University, sponsored by the Communication Department.

Now, we have completed a "3-peat" with this year's victory. I will surprise everyone with where this year's trophy will be located. (As previously reported, the two Debate Team Trophy Cases—one at the Rady School of Management and the other in the Media and Communications Center—are filled.)

Meanwhile, immense credit and recognition should be given to this season's UCSD Speech & Debate Team. Clearly, this is the most dedicated, talented Team ever. What pleases me most as Head Coach is that despite overwhelming historic success, these top UCSD students continue to work tirelessly towards improvement, winning even more awards and tournaments, and becoming the greatest team ever to represent UCSD in any intercollegiate competition."

The UCSD Speech & Debate Team is a program sponsored by UCSD's Communication Department.