



For Immediate Release

UCSD “Runs the Table”

UCSD’s Speech & Debate Team Wins Every Fall 2024 Tournament

Regional Champions for the Fifth Consecutive Year!

On December 6-8, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team participated in its final tournament of the Fall Quarter--the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association’s (PSCFA) *Fall Championships* Tournament, held on the campus of Mt. San Antonio College, in Walnut, California.

The *Fall Champs* Tournament is the finale of southern California’s major speech and debate tournaments of the Fall Quarter of the 2024-25 season. This was the *largest tournament* of the Quarter, featuring 38 schools (all from California, except for three from Arizona and the University of Utah), 276 debate entries, and 578 speech competitors. The tournament offers three debate formats and 12 speech events in up to four division competition levels, invites schools from around the country, and offers **two** Sweepstakes Tournament Championship Awards for which UCSD was eligible to win.

Following this tournament last year, you received the News Release (also included in this email transmission) entitled, “So Very, Very Close”. In that article, last year’s heart-breaking Second Place Finish (by a mere six points) behind the 2023 Tournament Champion, the University of Utah, was described. The UCSD Speech & Debate Team is delighted to announce that this year’s winner of the Second Place Trophy at the Fall Champs Tournament is the University of Utah.

With 92 Sweepstakes Points, followed by the Utes’ 73 Points, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team won the **Tournament Championship** for four-year schools **and** the **Novice Competitors’ Tournament Championship** for all schools. Point Loma Nazarene University captured 3rd Place with 58 Points; San Diego State University finished 4th with 22 Points. UCSD’s Point Total surpassed all attending schools as the Community College Champion, Mt. San Antonio College, garnered 79 Points.

This culminating UCSD victory sets another Regional historic record, as **the Team has won every tournament attended this Fall Quarter. In short, UCSD “ran the table”—a goal the Team almost achieved last year, but resolved to achieve this season.**

The Team’s effort began Friday via NPDA (two vs. two) debate. UCSD’s Novice Division Team of Giana Ferrero and Joy Yomogida won **Gold**, while UCSD’s Junior Division Team of Stephanie Xu and Brian Masse captured **Silver**. Brian Masse was the Tournament’s **Top Speaker** in Junior Division, while teammate Stephanie Xu was the **Third Place Speaker**. Also in Junior Division, the Team of Remy Dupart and Adam Lehot took home **Bronze**.



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Saturday was an even stronger day for UCSD in both the Novice and Junior Divisions of the Team's strongest debate format- IPDA (one vs. one) debate. The results are listed in the following table.

Division	Team Member	Award
Novice	Gianna Ferrero	Gold (1 st)
Novice	Joy Yomogida	Gold
Novice	Crystal Sun	Silver (2 nd)
Novice	Bryan Garbanda	Bronze (3 rd)
Junior	Trisha Sharma	Gold
Junior	Avanthika Ramasamy	Gold
Junior	Dominic Feliton	Gold

The tournament concluded Sunday with the Speech competitions. The results are listed in the following table.

(In an amazingly ingenious competitive tactic, UCSD entered, in force, the event, "Cultural Artifact", after noticing only one other competitor entry. The Team rarely participates in this event and Team Members practically made up their speeches while at the tournament. The result was Event dominance, which contributed significantly to the Team's Points surpassing the University of Utah and, thus, winning the tournament!)

Event	Division	Team Member	Award
Cultural Artifact	Open	Sibi Sivaram	First Place
Cultural Artifact	Open	Bryan Garbanda	Second Place
Cultural Artifact	Open	Gursimar Kaur	Third Place
Cultural Artifact	Open	Julian Mackenzie	Fourth Place
Cultural Artifact	Open	Marielle Lazaro	Fifth Place
Cultural Artifact	Open	Giana Ferrero	Sixth Place
Dramatic Interp	Open	Cat-Minh Huynh	Fifth Place
Impromptu	Novice	Trisha Sharma	Finalist
Impromptu	Novice	Joy Yomogida	Finalist
After Dinner Speech	Novice	Rohan Raval	Finalist
After Dinner Speech	Novice	Ryan Tjin	Finalist
Informative	Novice	Emyr Ortiz	Finalist
Extemporaneous	Novice	Jackie Hebert	Finalist
Extemporaneous	Junior	Rohan Raval	Finalist



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Head Coach, Robert Campbell wrapped up the three days--along with the Fall Quarter's effort--by remarking, "What makes this achievement even more extraordinary is the Team accomplished this goal with only a quarter of our Team participating. The Fall Champs Tournament is always at the beginning of UCSD's Finals Week, so only 31 Team Members felt prepared to take on both this highly competitive tournament and their subsequent Final Exams. I feared we would not have the "firepower" to win, since we took 14 Team Members LESS than last year's Team of 45, who achieved only Second Place at Fall Champs, so the performance of the 31 was spectacular!

The three-day marathon tournament was preceded on Thursday, December 5, by the presentation of the Point Loma Nazarene University's Sunset Cliffs Tournament Championship Trophy by the Team to UCSD's Chancellor, Pradeep Khosla. That trophy, along with many others in the future, is destined for the third UCSD Speech & Debate Team Trophy Case on campus, which the Chancellor wishes to be in his new executive offices.

Indeed, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team is the most successful "Division One" team in UCSD history...and is the only one representing the university on an academic playing field, as opposed to our other great teams on wood, grass, or water! Winning *every* Tournament in a Quarter is unprecedented. I am extremely proud of this Team."

The UCSD Speech & Debate Team is a Department Sponsored Organization of UCSD's Communication Department in the School of Social Sciences.

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