



For Immediate Release

Second in the Nation!!

Senior Team Member Finishes Third Among All!

For the final tournament of the 2024-25 intercollegiate speech and debate season, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team sent four Team Members (who were nationally ranked in the Top 100 IPDA (one vs. one) debaters in the country) to the International Public Debate Association's (IPDA) National Tournament, held April 4-7, on the campus of Lee College in Baytown, Texas, just outside Houston.

The four consisted of Team Captain, Julian Mackenzie; Team Vice President of Coaching, Carter Castillo; Team Vice President of Tournament Management, Sibi Sivaram; and Team Member, Eugene Kong. Going into the tournament, Carter Castillo was ranked sixth in the nation among all college IPDA debaters.

Eugene Kong reached the Octofinals at the tournament in IPDA debate. Eugene and his partner, Sibi Sivaram, reached the Octofinals in Team IPDA (two vs. two IPDA format/rules debate).

The IPDA governing body tracks all sanctioned IPDA tournaments throughout the season. At the National Tournament Awards Ceremony, UCSD was presented the season's **2nd Place National Award**. For the individual divisions of competition in IPDA, UCSD brought home the season's **5th Place National Award** in the Novice Division, the season's **4th Place National Award** in the Junior Division, and the season's **2nd Place National Award** in the Varsity Division.

Carter Castillo, with a spectacular tournament finish, ended the season ranked **3rd in the nation** among all college debaters competing in IPDA at intercollegiate tournaments.

Head Coach, Robert Campbell, remarked about the season capstone tournament results and his final intercollegiate tournament as Head Coach of the UCSD Speech & Debate Team, "What a way to end an historic season! Following such spectacular results (4th in the nation) at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament a few weeks ago, these IPDA results are "frosting" on a practically perfect 2024-25 season "cake". With new, fresh leadership—and the continued, dedicated support of the University, the Team, and the Program, will embark on a journey to achieve even greater goals next season.

However, for my seventh, and final, season as the founding Head Coach of UCSD's Speech & Debate Team, I could not ask for more from the exceptional students who comprise this remarkable Team. Over its seven, young years, this Team has become the winningest intercollegiate competitive endeavor of the University.



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I could not be prouder of the Team, nor more grateful to all the Team's supporters, who have made this journey and its historic record-setting achievements possible.

Nearly sixty years ago, I proudly graduated as a member of the National Championship Program at the University of Kansas. KU's debate program began in 1885 (with a victory over the University of Nebraska!). It is my fervent wish that this young program I have helped build at UCSD will thrive as long as my Alma Mater's."

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

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