



For Immediate Release

Fourth in the Nation in Intercollegiate Debate!!

Two National Titles!

For only the second time in its short, six-year history, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team attended the Pi Kappa Delta (PKD) National Tournament, held this year on the campus of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, March 13-16. Fourteen of the Team's best debaters and speech competitors competed live in Ohio, while an additional 13 Team Members participated via asynchronous speech entries. For such a young program, the results, like last year at PKD in Arizona, were phenomenal.

UCSD finished Fourth in the nation in intercollegiate Debate and Ninth in intercollegiate speech. Combining speech and debate results, UCSD ranked Eighth nationally. UCSD won national championship titles in two Speech Events and Second Place in one Debate format.

Carter Castillo captured First Place in both the Varsity Division Original Speech (Spanish Language) and Interviewing speech formats. Additionally, he fell only in the final round capturing Second Place in the nation in Varsity IPDA (one vs. one) debate; he won the Third Place All-Tournament Varsity IPDA Speaker Award.

Cindy Chanay finished high in two Varsity speech events. She rose to Second Place in Impromptu Speech (Spanish Language) and Fourth Place in Student Congress.

Lillian Theis brought home Fourth Place in Varsity Original Speech (Spanish Language) and Fifth Place in Varsity Student Congress.

Joy Yomogida finished Sixth in the nation in the Varsity Extemp Commentary speech event.

Other National Awards earned by Team Members are listed in the following table.



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Division	Name	Event	Award
Varsity	Richey Li & Sibi Sivaram	NPDA (2 vs. 2) Debate	Quarterfinalists
Varsity	Julian Mackenzie	IPDA (1 vs. 1) Debate	Octofinalist
Jr. Varsity	Avanthika Ramasamy	IPDA (1 vs. 1) Debate	Semifinalist
Jr. Varsity	Trisha Sharma	IPDA (1 vs. 1) Debate	Semifinalist
Jr. Varsity	Trisha Sharma	IPDA (1 vs. 1) Debate	4 th Place Speaker
Varsity	Srujam Dave	Extemp Speech	Semifinalist
Varsity	Carter Castillo	Extemp Speech	Quarterfinalist
Varsity	Brian Masse	Extemp Speech	Quarterfinalist
Varsity	Angel Wang	Impromptu	Quarterfinalist
Varsity	Joy Yomogida	Impromptu	Excellence
Varsity	Srujam Dave	Impromptu	Excellence
Varsity	Nika Radgoudarzi	Extemp Commentary	Excellence
Varsity	Paulina Andreani	Extemp Commentary	Excellence
Varsity	Angel Wang	Extemp Commentary	Finalist
Varsity	Gursimar Kaur	Extemp Commentary	Finalist
Varsity	Julian Mackenzie	Interviewing	Finalist
Varsity	Joy Yomogida, Ren Powell, David Zheng	Podcasting	Excellence
Varsity	Cat-Minh Huynh	Program Oral Interpretation	Quarterfinalist
Varsity	Angel Wang	Poetry	Quarterfinalist
Varsity	Carter Castillo	Editorial Impromptu	Quarterfinalist
Varsity	Srujam Dave	Editorial Impromptu	Quarterfinalist
Novice	Avanthika Ramasamy	Interviewing	Finalist
Novice	Trisha Sharma	Interviewing	Finalist
Novice	Sarisha Agarwala	Extemp Commentary	Finalist
Novice	Richard Xu	Extemp Commentary	Finalist
Novice	Daniel Lvovsky	Extemp Commentary	Finalist

Head Coach, Robert Campbell, concluded, “The Team’s performance at this prestigious, national tournament is simply amazing given how embryonic our program still is, coupled with how few of our large Team that we can afford to send to the tourney. It is testimony to the exceptionalism of UCSD students and, thus, our Speech & Debate Team Members.

For the 2024-25 season, one final national tournament remains—the IPDA Nationals in Houston, Texas, to which we are sending our four most successful IPDA debaters. Whatever the outcome there in a few weeks, it is already clear that this has been a spectacular season.”

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