



Picking Up Where They Left Off

UCSD Speech & Debate Team Returns to Concordia University; seizes Championship...and Sets Yet Another Historic Record!

Over the weekend, the UCSD Speech & Debate Team captured the **Tournament Championship** at the Jannese Davidson Memorial Tournament held October 11-13 on the campus of Concordia University in Irvine, California. In doing so, the Team set yet **another historic record** as **the first debate team ever to win a major Regional Tournament TWICE in the same calendar year**. This season, Concordia University scheduled its tournament for October instead of the traditional date of January. UCSD's Speech & Debate Team also won the Tournament Championship at Concordia University last January 2024.

UCSD took on 22 schools, including the top competitors in the Southern California Region—Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) and the University of Utah. Those two schools are the *only* ones to deprive UCSD of a Tournament Championship in the prior 19 major Regional Tournaments, as UCSD's Speech & Debate Team extended its streak this weekend by winning its 17th Tournament Championship from its last 19 Regional Tournaments attended.

Winning 17 of the previous 19 major Regional Tournaments attended, UCSD's 89% Tournament Championship win percentage is very likely another historic record in the annals of interscholastic debate. There is no record of any middle school, high school, community college, nor university achieving such dominance in its region.

In fact, even though Concordia University's Regional Tournament was exceptionally early in the 2024-25 season, UCSD buried its competition. By amassing 249 tournament championship points, UCSD eclipsed the second place team, the University of Utah, by over 100 points. PLNU was a distant third with 113 points. (San Diego State University finished fifth with 53 points.)

In NPDA debate (two vs. two), the Team's performance began the path to victory on Friday. Of our 10 NPDA Teams, five survived the preliminary rounds to proceed to the elimination rounds. **UCSD's Novice Division Team of Alexia Skorzevska and Avanthika Ramasamy—competing not only in their first collegiate tournament, but also in their *first-ever* NPDA debate format competition—slashed through the competition, falling only in the final round, earning Second Place.** Our Novice Team of Bryan Garbanda (earning the 3rd Place Speaker Award) and Samarth Ghodke (winning 7th Place Speaker) were Quarterfinalists.

In the NPDA Senior Division, two Teams were Semi-finalists: Cindy Chanay and Srujam Dave (7th Place Speaker), alongside Julian Mackenzie (9th Place Speaker) and Carter Castillo (10th Place Speaker). The Team of Sibi Sivaram and Richey Li were quarterfinalists. Dominic Feliton captured the 8th Place Speaker Award in the Junior Division of NPDA.



In IPDA debate (one vs. one), 10 UCSD debaters reached the elimination rounds. The table below depicts the results.

| Division | Team Member | Bronze (3 rd Place) | Silver (2 nd Place) | Gold (1 st Place) |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Senior | Carter Castillo | | | ✓ |
| Senior | Eugene Kong | | | ✓ |
| Senior | Karam Sodhi | ✓ | | |
| Junior | Nika Radgoudarzi | ✓ | | |
| Junior | Emily Bianchi | ✓ | | |
| Novice | Stephanie Xu | ✓ | | |
| Novice | Samarth Ghodke | ✓ | | |
| Novice | Bryan Garbanda | ✓ | | |
| Novice | Alexia Skorzewska | | ✓ | |
| Novice | Avanthika Ramasamy | | | ✓ |

In NFA-LD debate (one vs. one, national topic), all competition was in the Senior Division. Capturing Bronze Medals were Cindy Chanay and Stephanie Yeh, while Paulina Andreani took home the Silver Medal.

The Tournament Championship was secured, going away from the competition, by Sunday's stellar performance in Speech Events. UCSD sent 14 Team Members to the elimination rounds. The table below depicts the results.

| Event | Division | Team Member | Award |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Extemporaneous | Senior | Srujam Dave | 1 st Place |
| Extemporaneous | Senior | Chaturika Bandara | Semi-finalist |
| Extemporaneous | Senior | Carter Castillo | Semi-finalist |
| Extemporaneous | Senior | Sibi Sivaram | Semi-finalist |
| Extemporaneous | Junior | Eugene Kong | 1 st Place |
| Extemporaneous | Junior | Karam Sodhi | 5 th Place |
| Extemporaneous | Novice | Matthew Charry | Finalist |
| Impromptu | Junior | Angel Wang | 3 rd Place |
| Impromptu | Junior | Sina Sabet | 4 th Place |
| Impromptu | Junior | Cat-Minh Huynh | 5 th Place |
| Impromptu | Novice | Stephanie Yeh | 3 rd Place |
| Persuasive | Senior | Eugene Kong | 3 rd Place |
| Dramatic Interp | Senior | Cat-Minh Huynh | 3 rd Place |
| Poetry | Senior | Angel Wang | 4 th Place |

Head Coach Robert Campbell summarized this first weekend of UCSD's 2024-25 speech and debate season, "This is the first time we have attended such a large Regional Tournament so early in the season. Due to our Quarter System, we are always one to two weeks behind the competing schools in warming up their speech and debate teams. Our Team really had to scramble.



However, UCSD's Speech and Debate Team is a high-performance team with exceptional organization and training infrastructure. With only four practice sessions under our belt, we raced to get our incoming Novices ready for competition at the collegiate level. Their performance was spectacular, as was the entire Team's effort. We are off to a great start to this season!"

The UCSD Speech & Debate Team is a program sponsored by UCSD's Communication Department and the School of Social Sciences with major additional funding from the Rady School of Management and UCSD's Parents Fund.

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