



# 1,141 !!!

## UCSD Speech & Debate Team Wins PLNU Sunset Cliffs Tournament for 4th Consecutive Year—Sets More Historic Records

**Caution: Unbelievable superlatives are utilized in the following story, but all claims are 100% accurate!**

The magnitude of the achievements of UCSD's six-years-young *national championship* Speech & Debate Team this past weekend is difficult to describe, but, nonetheless....

In the most dramatic display of a "tour de force" in the long history of southern California's most vaunted and prestigious regional Speech and Debate tournament, Point Loma Nazarene University's (PLNU) Sunset Cliffs Classic, UCSD's Speech & Debate Team set Tournament, Regional, and Intercollegiate Debate historical records.

For the fourth consecutive year, UCSD was the Tournament Champion. In winning the First Place Sweepstakes Trophy, UCSD amassed 1,141 sweepstakes points, by far and away the most ever compiled by the winning school in the Sunset Cliffs Tournament throughout its multi-decade history. (UCSD won this tournament last year with 400 points.)

UCSD sent the vast majority of its Team to the Sunset Cliffs tournament. The entry (123 Team Members) required that the Team enter as two separate schools (UCSD and "Triton University") in order to accommodate the limits of the tournament operations software. This is the largest single tournament entry by a single school in Debate history. UCSD Team Members were half of the entire field of 24 schools.

"UCSD" compiled 600 sweepstakes points, while "2<sup>nd</sup> Place" Triton University garnered 541 sweepstakes points. PLNU was a distant "3<sup>rd</sup> Place" with 321 points. It was the first time in history that a single school technically won both first and second places in a single tournament. UCSD's First Place total (1,141) was *over three and one half times the total* of Second Place PLNU (321).

When one adds the sweepstakes points won by the competing schools—including Abilene Christian of Texas, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the University of Nevada, San Diego State, and a host of California schools, UCSD's



total of 1,141 was equivalent to 89% of its entire competition. When compared solely to *all* of the four-year schools at the tournament, UCSD exceeded those *nine* schools' total points by 27%!

Truly, the nation's largest collegiate speech and debate team made a statement.

Identical to the prior year, Friday involved two separate tournaments. While the Sunset Cliffs Classic began with a day of Speech Events, on the same campus was the invitational *Tournament of Champions*, a team IPDA tournament open, by special invitation from PLNU, to only six schools. UCSD was one of only two schools invited to have two Teams participate. UCSD's spectacular results will be reported via a separate news release.

(Traditionally, individual Team Member's Awards are subsequently listed in this article. However, there were so many awards that this journalist decided to include that detail via two attached PDFs to this article's transmittal email.)

Coach Robert Campbell encapsulated the historic weekend, "I did not think there was another way this Team could amaze me, but here it is. It is a major achievement to win the Sunset Cliff Classic. But to win it four years in a row is mind-boggling.

Because of the significance of this premier, Regional Tournament, the Team has delivered the gorgeous, green-and-gold, 30-inch First Place Trophy (the largest debate tournament trophy available in the southern California region) to a succession of major Program Supporters.

When we first won this tournament, the Team presented the trophy to the Dean of the Rady School of Management, Dean Lisa Ordonez. Rady, where I primarily teach, was the original supporter of UCSD Speech & Debate. The next trophy went to Dean Carol Padden of Social Sciences, in the year UCSD Speech & Debate became an official program, sponsored by the Communication Department, and the official debate team of the University. Last year's championship trophy sits proudly in the office of our Executive Vice Chancellor, Elizabeth Simmons, who has wholeheartedly supported the Team from day one.

On this auspicious occasion, the Team dedicated its entire PLNU Sunset Cliffs Classic Speech & Debate Tournament performance to the *Chancellor* of our University and is hoping to present this symbol of spectacular achievement to him soon."

**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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