Aggie Speech and Debate earns third overall in tourney on ‘home turf’

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Utah State University’s Speech and Debate Team placed third overall in a January tournament hosted at the University of Utah. At far left is Coach Chantelle Gossner.

The Utah State University Speech and Debate Team took time from its formal regional schedule in the Western United States to compete on what Coach Chantelle Gossner describes as the team’s “home turf.”

The Speech and Debate Team took part in Salt Lake City recently at a tournament hosted jointly by the University of Utah and the University of Texas at El Paso, earning third place overall.

“The college forensics community in Utah is small but mighty,” said Gossner. “It’s always a pleasure to compete so close to our own home turf and see familiar faces.”

Gossner said team members are working overtime to prepare for national competition in March.

USU students showed off their “impressive speech talents” during the tournament’s first half, overseen by UTEP, Gossner said. In Persuasive Speaking, Aggies dominated with half of the team members earning slots in the final round. In this category, Communication Studies seniors Kaleb Webb and Rachael Teare placed 2nd and 4th respectively. Naomi Ward, a senior majoring in Communication Studies and Print Journalism, came in 5th.

Winners in other categories:

In Informative Speaking, Ward received 4th place with Teare in 5th.

In Communication Analysis, junior Political Science major Bryn Voigt took 5th place. Freshman Amrutha Obulasetty, who is majoring in Creative Writing and Psychology, earned 3rd place in Program Oral Interpretation. Finally, in International Debate Association-style debate, senior Sam Hendricks received 2nd place.

The second half of the swing tournament, this time hosted by the U of U, brought more awards for Aggie debaters. Obulasetty took 1st place in Program Oral Interpretation. Senior Ammon Teare, a journalism student, received a 3rd place speaking award and was a semifinalist in IPDA competition.

The team is looking forward to finishing out its competitive season at the Pi Kappa Delta national tournament in San Diego next month, Gossner said. “The team has done beautifully this season in terms of both breadth and depth,” she added. “We can’t wait to showcase our skills in competition with schools from across the country.”

For additional information, contact Gossner at chantelle.gossner@usu.edu

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Coach Chantelle Gossner

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