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Speech Team Talks Its Way to Top in Regional Tournament

ORANGE, Calif., March 17, 2005 Chapman University's speech team won three first place trophies and was among the finalists in several categories in this year's Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association Spring Champs Tournament just concluded in Pasadena.

The three-day tournament resulted in Chapman taking home nine trophies in the competition that involved 500 orators from 43 southland colleges and universities competing in 11 different events.

Team members Max Lardent of Henderson, Nev. and Stephanie Robbins of Santa Ana took top honors in two junior division events -- Dramatic Duo and Dramatic Interpretation of Literature. Lardent impressed the judges with his speech about the absurdity of TV programming while he and Robbins teamed up in a verbal scuffle entitled, The Battle of the Sexes.

Grace Allard of Fontana, a first-time participant, won first prize in the novice division for her discussion on Over-population and finished fourth in the Persuasive Speaking category. Other finalists representing Chapman's Department of Communication Studies were Melissa Vargas of Mission Viejo (Interpretation of Poetry), Christine Hong and Elliot Chi of Arcadia (Persuasive Speaking).

In the University Sweepstakes competition, Chapman beat 13 other schools to finish in fourth place.

For more information about the tournament and the Chapman Speech Team, contact Tom Hobbs, director of forensics, at (714) 532-6047.