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El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

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El Camino College Forensics Team Completes Most Successful Tournament in Program's History

El Camino College's highly ranked forensics team recently had its most successful tournament in the program's more than 25-year history. Competing against 37 colleges and universities including UCLA, University of Texas, ASU, University of the Pacific, California State University, Long Beach and the U.S. Air Force Academy, El Camino College was the top school in overall sweeps and debate.

Additionally, the team finished third overall in individual events. On the first day of competition at Concordia University, ECC "closed out" the semifinal bracket of Novice Parliamentary Debate, meaning all four remaining teams in the tournament were El Camino College teams.

In Senior Parliamentary Debate, the second-year team of Robert Maxwell and Stirling McKenzie made it to the final round where they lost on a 2-1 decision to Point Loma. This team's performance is truly remarkable, considering that Maxwell and McKenzie were the only community college students to successfully compete as seniors, a division normally reserved for university students. The next day, the ECC team traveled to Azusa Pacific University where four novice teams and one senior team collected a total of five medals, more than any other school at the tournament.

In individual events, ECC had six students make the final round of novice extemporaneous speaking. The team ultimately swept the top three spots with Jenna Bradford placing third, Mark Faaita placing second and Richard Ewell placing first. In novice impromptu speaking, ECC had eight students in the final round with Sydney Awakuni placing third and Richard Ewell placing first. El Camino College students also did well in oral interpretation of literature with Whitney Gamble and Stirling McKenzie placing first in novice duo and Kory Fonvergne placing third in novice prose.

The El Camino College forensics team is coached by Francesca Bishop, Mark and Diana Crossman, and Mark Urista.

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