



NEWS

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El Camino College Forensics Team Wins Big at National and State Tournaments

The El Camino College forensics team recently closed out the National Parliamentary Debate Association's 2009-2010 season, once again, as the community college national sweepstakes champion.

In addition to placing first among all community colleges, El Camino College finished fifth among the 250 universities in the organization. The national sweepstakes championship is determined by comparing the success of the debate program over the competitive season run by the NPDA, the largest university debate association in the country. El Camino College ranked above every UC and CSU at the tournament; in fact, only one university ranked above El Camino College in the entire state.

In addition, the team returned from the California Community College Forensic Association State Championships in Fresno, bringing home plenty of gold medals. The team finished third place overall.

Individual accomplishments include a win by Stirling McKenzie, who was named Top Speaker in Debate and was given the Jim Wyman Award. Robert Maxwell was the third top speaker in the state, among all events. These two also teamed up to win gold in Parliamentary Team Debate, along with the teams of Ashley Graham and David "Bear" Saulet Bey, Richard Ewell and Mark Faaita, and Daanish Hameed and Wendy Steiner. Wesley Eller and Shouhei Ichimiya won a bronze in Parliamentary Team Debate – no other college had had even close to five teams advancing to finals.

Other awards include: David "Bear" Saulet Bey, gold in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Robert Maxwell, silver in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Richard Ewell, silver in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Stirling McKenzie, silver in Poetry; Ashley Graham and Wesley Eller, gold in Impromptu; and Robert Maxwell, Daanish Hameed, and Richard Ewell claimed a silver in Impromptu.

The awards continue with a gold in extemporaneous speaking for Robert Maxwell, who had the best scores in the tournament; Wesley Eller and Richard Ewell won silver in Extemporaneous; Mark Faaita won bronze in that same category.

The El Camino College forensics team is now headed to the national competition in New Orleans during the week of April 3. The team is coached by Francesca Bishop, Mark and Diana Crossman, and Mark Urista.

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