Texas A&M University-Kingsville

News Archives

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Contact: Julie Navejar Email: julie.navejar@tamuk.edu or Phone: 361-593-2590

Four Texas A&M-Kingsville students place in forensics tournament, one qualifies for regionals

Texas A&M University-Kingsville was the site of two American Forensics Association (AFA) tournaments Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20-21, with Javelina students placing in both and Marcus Perez, a sophomore English major from Bishop, qualifying for the AFA national tournament to be held the first week of April in Nebraska.

During the first tournament, Nov. 20, Perez placed first in After Dinner Speaking and was third in Dramatic Duo with his partner Lindsay Pierce, a junior communications and psychology major from Bishop. At the second tourney, Nov. 21, he was first in Prose Interpretation, which thanks to his perfect scores throughout the day, enabled him to qualify for nationals. Perez also placed first in After Dinner Speaking, second in Poetry Interpretation and fourth with Pierce in Dramatic Duo, making him the second place competitor in the individual sweepstakes and third in the overall sweepstakes.

Perez said he was thrilled to qualify for nationals so early in the tournament season. “I hope to be able to qualify in my other events during the remaining tournaments,” he said.

He qualified for Prose Interpretation with his presentation of My Trip down the Pink Carpet by Leslie Jordan.

Other Javelina contestants placing on the first day tournament include Mark Dragon, a junior political science major from Bishop, and Christina Wilborn, a freshman political science major also from Bishop, fifth in Dramatic Duo; Dragon, sixth place in Impromptu Speaking; and Wilborn, sixth place in Prose Interpretation.

Placing in the second day included Dragon and Wilborn, third place in Dramatic Duo; and Dragon, fifth place in Impromptu Speaking.

The university team placed third in the team Sweepstakes. “It was a wonderful showing for a very talented squad,” said Casey Garcia, forensics director and lecturer in the communication and theater arts department. “I am very proud of their accomplishments, and it’s only their second tournament.”

The AFA is the more difficult of the two major collegiate national tournaments. Students compete in a number of tournaments throughout the year.