

Mt. SAC Forensics Finishes The 2015 Regular Season With Top Honors



Mt. SAC Forensics stayed busy over the winter intersession in preparation for the upcoming championship season. Attending nine different tournaments across the country, Mt. SAC Forensics took home an astonishing 71 individual awards and many top three overall finishes.



On the first weekend of February, eleven team members travelled to Virginia to compete at the prestigious and highly competitive *Virginia is For Lovers* swing tournament held at James Madison University. In Virginia, Mt. SAC competed against many of the top four-year universities such as George Mason, Bradley University, Seton Hall and St. Johns - all of whom ranked in the top twenty last year in the nation. Mt. SAC took home third place overall for the two tournaments. Top awards that weekend include **Matthew Schaupp** and **Kai Vibar** taking second place in the Duo Interpretation event and **Jasmine Paek** placing third in After Dinner Speaking. **Matt Covalt** took fourth in Programmed Oral Interp and **Isaac Ruiz** took sixth in Informative Speaking. Students were also able to spend a few hours in Washington D.C. seeing some of the sights.

The same weekend, seven Mt. SAC forensics students travelled down to San Diego to compete at one of the largest Southern California swing tournaments held at San Diego State University and Point Loma Nazarene University. The team competed against forty colleges and universities from across the country ultimately tying for second overall for both

tournaments. Notable awards over the weekend include **Audrey Spitzer** taking first place in After Dinner Speaking, and **Gabriel Samuels** winning first in Communication Analysis. **Joshua Muscat**, competing in Impromptu for the first time all year, placed second. **Zachary White** took home his first open division award placing sixth in Dramatic Interp. Finally, in Parliamentary Debate, **Cole Olvera** and **Gabriel Samuels** made it to the quarter-final round advancing over tough competition from Palomar College.



The team reunited to compete at the Cerritos College Tabor-Venitsky Speech and Debate tournament Feb 13-15, 2015. Forty-two team members strong, Mt. SAC competed against 22 other community colleges from across the country including teams from Florida, New York, and Wyoming. In what is traditionally a preview of the State and National Championships, the team took third place in overall sweepstakes. Students won awards on all three days including three bronze awards in Parliamentary Debate on Friday, 20 individual awards on Saturday, and four awards on Sunday including **Gabriel Samuels** taking first place in IPDA debate. Other notable awards include **Matthew Schaupp** taking first place in After Dinner Speaking and first in Duo Interpretation with partner **Kai Vibar**. New team members also excelled at the tournament including **Sarina Wang** who took first place in novice Persuasive Speaking and third place in novice Impromptu.



Finally, the team finished the regular season with a limited team competing at the PSCFA Spring Championship tournament held at Moorpark College February 20-22, 2015. Thirty colleges and universities and over 500 students from around the region competed at the tournament. A team of just 18 Mt. SAC students won awards in all genres of events placing

seventh in two-year college sweepstakes division. New team member **Albert Castro** took home a gold award in NFA-LD debate and **Gabriel Samuels** once again made it to elimination rounds earning a bronze in IPDA debate. In individual events, **Joey Fontana** won 6th place in Dramatic Interp, **Andrea Uribe** and **Matthew Covalt** took fifth and sixth place in P.O.I., and **Joshua Sales** and **Anthony Garcia** took fifth and third place in After Dinner Speaking. Director of Forensics, Communication Professor **Roger Willis-Raymondo**, said “it was a great finish to a fantastic regular season for Mt. SAC Forensics. We have consistently placed in the final rounds in all eleven individual events, three different styles of debate, positioning Mt. SAC well to defend our national championship at Phi Rho Pi tournament this April in Cleveland, Ohio.”

The team is now working hard preparing for the upcoming championship tournaments including the *International Forensics Association Championship* held in Barcelona, Spain (March 6-14); the *California Community College State Championship* held in Woodland Hills (March 11-15); the *Phi Rho Pi National Championship* held in Cleveland, OH (April 1-12); the *American Readers Theater National Championships* held at Mt. SAC (May 2-3); and the *China Open* held in Harbin, China (May 4-13).

Complete Winter Session Results:

1. **Close to the Coast, Day 1**– Orange Coast College/Mt. SAC – January 17, 2015.
 - a. Open CA: Isaac Ruiz, 5th.
 - b. Open ADS: Jasmine Paek, 5th; Matthew Schaupp, 4th.
 - c. Open Informative: Jasmine Paek, 6th.
 - d. Open Extemp: Matthew Schaupp, 1st.
 - e. Open Duo: Matthew Schaupp & Kai Vibar, 5th.
 - f. Open Prose: Joey Fontana, 3rd.
2. **Close to the Coast, Day 2** – Orange Coast College/Mt. SAC – January 18, 2015.
 - a. Open CA: Gabriel Samuels, 6th.
 - b. Open ADS: Anthony Garcia, 6th; Jacqueline Yu, 5th; Jasmine Paek, 2nd.
 - c. Open Informative: Amy Jajieh, 5th.
 - d. Open NFA-LD: Matthew Schaupp, gold.
3. **SDSU Montezuma Mesa** - San Diego State University - February 6, 2015.
 - a. Open Communication Analysis: Gabriel Samuels, 1st.
 - b. Open Informative: Audrey Spitzer, 3rd.
 - c. Open Extemp: Joshua Muscat, 3rd; Cole Olvera, 2nd.
 - d. Open ADS: Audrey Spitzer, 1st.
 - e. Open Persuasive: Ashley Breucop, 4th.
 - f. Open Impromptu: Joshua Muscat, 2nd.
4. **Sunset Cliffs Classic** – Point Loma Nazarene University – February 7-8, 2015.
 - a. Open ADS: Audrey Spitzer, 3rd.
 - b. Open Extemp: Joshua Muscat, 5th; Gabriel Samuels, 3rd.
 - c. Open Informative: Ashley Breucop, 2nd.
 - d. Open Drama: Zachary White, 4th.

- e. Open Persuasive: Ashley Breucop, 3rd.
 - f. Junior Parliamentary Debate: Cole Olvera & Gabriel Samuels, quarter-finalist; Cole Olvera, 4th speaker.
5. **Virginia is For Lovers, Day 1** – James Madison University – February 7, 2015.
- a. Open ADS: Jasmine Paek, 5th.
 - b. Open Informative: Jasmine Paek, 3rd.
 - c. Open Poetry: Kai Vibar, 3rd.
6. **Virginia is For Lovers, Day 2** – James Madison University – February 8, 2015.
- a. Open Extemp: Matthew Schaupp, 6th.
 - b. Open Duo: Matthew Schaupp & Kai Vibar, 2nd.
 - c. Open Poetry: Kai Vibar, 5th; Andrea Uribe, 4th.
 - d. Open Informative: Isaac Ruiz, 6th.
 - e. Open P.O.I.: Matt Covalt, 4th.
7. **Tabor-Venitsky Invitational** – Cerritos College – February 13-14, 2015.
- a. Open ADS: Anthony Garcia, finalist; Matthew Schaupp, 1st.
 - b. Open Extemp: Joshua Muscat, finalist.
 - c. Open Informative: Amy Jajieh, finalist; Isaac Ruiz, finalist.
 - d. Open Poetry: Kai Vibar, finalist; Andrea Uribe, 3rd.
 - e. Open Prose: Stephany Garcia, finalist; Matthew Covalt, 3rd.
 - f. Open Impromptu: Joshua Muscat, finalist; Isaac Ruiz, 3rd.
 - g. Novice Persuasive: Phillip Lee, finalist; Sarina Wang, 1st.
 - h. Open Persuasive: Amy Jajieh, finalist.
 - i. Open Duo: Matthew Schaupp & Kai Vibar, 1st.
 - j. Open Drama: Joey Fontana, finalist.
 - k. Open CA: Jacqueline Yu, finalist; Isaac Ruiz, finalist; Gabriel Samuels, 2nd.
 - l. Novice Impromptu: Sarina Wang, finalist.
8. **Southern California LD Championships** – Cerritos College – February 15, 2015.
- a. Open NFA-LD: Albert Castro, octo-finalist; Matthew Schaupp, semi-finalist.
 - b. Open IPDA: Cole Olvera, semi-finalist; Gabriel Samuels, 1st place.
9. **PSCFA Spring Champs** – Moorpark College – February 20-22, 2015.
- a. Open NFA-LD: Albert Castro, gold.
 - b. Open IPDA: Gabriel Samuels, bronze.
 - c. Open ADS: Joshua Sales, 6th; Anthony Garcia, 3rd.
 - d. Junior ADS: Sophie Hajialiakbar, 2nd.
 - e. Open Poetry: Forrest Ricks-Kendall, 6th.
 - f. Junior Impromptu: Sarina Wang, 3rd.
 - g. Open Drama: Joey Fontana, 6th.
 - h. Open P.O.I.: Matthew Covalt, 6th; Andrea Uribe, 5th.