

# Clackamas speech team brings silver medal home from nationals

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Design Editor

Members of Clackamas' speech and debate team proved, once again, not only could they talk the talk, but walk the walk at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament in Fort Worth, Tex., April 8-14, bringing home a silver medal for second place nationally.

Jenifer Gile and Paul Southwick vocalized against several top schools and were able to grab the gold in Debate by the end of the tournament. While Gile took an individual bronze medal in Persuasive Speaking, Southwick was hot on her heels with a bronze medal in Persuasive Speaking

as well. Jennifer Nelson also received a bronze in Persuasive Speaking. Each individual earned the bronzes in Persuasive Speaking in their separate divisions. Melissa Karki and Amy Perin helped round out the team representing Clackamas.

"It's extremely exciting and competitive. It really wore me out. I was able to expand upon my knowledge, especially of persuasion," said Southwick.

"It was also really exciting because my debate partner and I got gold in Debate."

The tournament started at 8 a.m., so the members of the team met with their coach, Director of Forensics Kelly Brennan at 6:30 a.m. for break-

fast. However, that may have been too early for one member, who was known by the waitress not by face but by name since the team continuously

*"When you become a national champion, no one can take that away."*

Kelly Brennan  
Director of Forensics

asked, "Where's Paul?"

"I finally showed up and she (the waitress) was like, oh you showed up today," said Southwick.

Amidst the jovial atmosphere at breakfast, the debaters put on their game faces and strolled into competition ready to deliberate against some of the best schools in the country. Clackamas competed against 406 individuals and 70 schools for the top spot.

"We knew we had a strong team going in, but you never can predict because obviously, the degree of talent on all the other teams...representing all over the United States," said Brennan.

Brennan would have loved to have taken the whole team, but for budgetary reasons he was unable to. Funding could only afford them to take five, including Brennan and his assistant, Brian Everett.

"One of the hardest things to do as a coach or judge is select a mere five. We had to and they went there. I think they represented Clackamas extremely well," said Brennan.

The silver medal that Clackamas won in the overall tournament showed how capable the team was at competing at a national level. This is

take that away," said Brennan.

"Were we happy and surprised at the second-place finish, you bet....We've been to the nationals five times and we've never won a national championship award, so to come back with anything, because they only recognize the top three, is phenomenal," said Brennan.

The powerhouses to beat were Arizona, California and Texas, according to Brennan. Texas rode in and took the gold, with Clackamas hot on their heels.

Also, during the same time of this competition, Kerri Baker-Hughes and Samantha Griffin competed in the four-year national tournament that was held in Illinois April 4-8.

"They were the top-ranked school in Oregon...They were behind only one other school," said Everett. "They were the only ones to go from Clackamas."

Brennan also received recognition. He was nominated again this year as Region One Governor of Phi Rho Pi. He will be serving his second year.

"So you get to work," laughed Brennan.

Thanks goes out from the speech team to Kay Slusarenko, associate dean of arts/humanities; social sciences, President Joe Johnson; Dian Connett, dean of Instructional Services; and Jane Rickenbaugh, department chair of Communications/Theater Arts, for their unwavering support. According to Brennan, without it, none of this would've been possible.

Clackamas will host the nationals in 2003. The last time they did this was in 2000.

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the first time Clackamas has achieved such an honor.

"When you become a national champion, no one can

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<b>Special:</b>	Cider Brined Pork Chops	
<b>Grill:</b>	Chicken Cordon Bleu Sandwich	
<b>Friday - Budget:</b>	Potato Leek Stratta	
<b>Special:</b>	Chicken Scallopini w/ Pasta	
<b>Grill:</b>	Turkey Reuben: sliced turkey piled on Rye	

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