

Speech team wins bronze

Five medals overall
at national tournament



Photos by Lara Hedbor Clackamas Print

Brennan Koler
Clackamas Print

The forensic speech team from Clackamas Community College won silver and bronze in the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament in Kansas City, Kansas.

Phi Rho Pi was established in 1911 and past winners include Brockaw, Oprah Winfrey and Jim Belushi," said Speech Coach Dr. Kelly Brennan. "It is special because it only includes top colleges."

The students, Callie Schweile, Laura O'Neill, Nguyen, Devin Graham and Erin Brennan, attended the tournament. Three of the five students managed to medal at the event. They brought back silver and four bronze medals. Clackamas also gained a bronze medal for its overall placement as a school.

Clackamas has not yet won a gold medal, but we will keep trying," explained Brennan.

There were 11 different

events to compete in and each student was required to compete in at least three.

There are also four categories for students to choose from: interpretive (reciting poetry and prose), platform (informative), limited preparation and debate.

"The debates this year included topics like Iraq, Social Security, FEMA ... mostly national topics," said Brennan.

Brennan said one of his favorite topics debated was whether or not the Democrats will take over the White House in the next presidential election. He says he enjoys seeing students debate because it shows they are able to articulate what is going on in current events on an adult level.

"It is unfortunate that we don't have the funds to send many students," explained Brennan. "We used to send about 16 students to the tournament, but now we can only afford to send eight."

The competition season is over for the year, but Brennan



BRENNAN

is very pleased with what Clackamas has accomplished and is looking forward to next fall. Clackamas received silver in the 2006 statewide tournament.

A complete list of all winners at the Phi Rho Pi tour-

namment can be found at <http://phirhopi.org>, and a story on the speech team can be found on Clackamas News Online at <http://www2.clackamas.edu>.

Anyone can contact Brennan at (503) 657-6958, ext. 2726, and at kellyb@clackamas.edu.

PAUL: meth problem hits hard

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Paul has been targeting the streets near the "Felony Flats" area of Clackamas (Southeast Foster Road to the north, and 52nd and 82nd avenues on the west and east). Much of the problem with meth revolves around drug houses and dealers contributing to urban decay around Clackamas Town Center, according to Paul.

"I've worked at the street level to 'deal' with drug dealing," said Paul.

Meth use is gradually being curtailed, according to Paul, because it is getting more difficult to obtain. Paul attributes this to Oregon's law requiring grocery stores and pharmacies to keep meth's main ingredient, ephedrine, behind the counter.

Meth use amongst 8th and 11th graders has surpassed marijuana according to Paul. He also noted that meth has been popular, but differences between meth and prescription drugs are often blurred by the black market.

"Street meth is more powerful, to the second degree," said Paul. "It's super-meth."

Paul has seen the impact meth can have on households first-hand while on ride-alongs with Clackamas County sheriffs.

"[You] waded through garbage, uneaten food, bath tubs filled with human waste, and then you see a child's blanket and clothes," said Paul.

One of the worst consequences of meth use is the affect on children.

"[We] also have children who are sexually abused," said Paul. "Meth produces more dopamine than all other drugs." Meth users "become hyper-sexual."

Foster homes are scarce, and when a child is removed from a family affected by meth, juveniles tend to be placed in unused portions of jails. Paul sees this as a problem.

"There aren't enough foster homes to take these kids. You'll see a push by the state and media outlets in June to get more foster homes," said Paul.

Eventually, a habitual abuser will need meth to feel normal, said Paul. The effects include neurological damage.

"Meth produces a spike in brainwaves," said Paul. "The crash produces deep, deep spikes," he added.

Generally, meth contributes to workplace and identity theft - it's non-violent and low-risk said Paul.

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