The John R. Park Debate Society has been a campus organization since 1869. As we prepare to enter our 154th year, we are pleased to share with you our successes over the past year, as well as our plans for the future.

The Great Salt Lake Invitational

Students win memorial awards

On January 14th and 15th, the JRP co-hosted the Great Salt Lake Invitational (GSL) and University of Texas El Paso Classic on the University of Utah campus. Over the course of the weekend, students had the opportunity to participate in several debate formats and all individual events. The team performed exceptionally, with two University of Utah competitors receiving the tournament’s named memorial awards.

Madeleine Felix was the recipient of the Robert Rieke memorial award for first place speaker in NPDA debate, followed by a final round appearance in NPDA debate with her partner, Merrin Maughan.

Additionally, Meredith Jenkins was the recipient of the Royal R. Garff memorial award. The Royal R. Garff is awarded to the top individual events performer at the GSL half of the tournament. To receive this award, students must compete in all three individual event formats – limited prep, interpretation, and platform speaking. Not only did Meredith compete in all formats, each of her five events placed in final rounds.

Overall, the team saw competitive success over debate and individual events and ran a smooth holiday weekend tournament for the nine other schools in attendance.
A Busy Semester Ahead

The JRP will be taking on a full schedule this spring as in person competition is officially back and in full swing this season. The team will begin the spring semester with three regular season tournaments hosted by San Diego State University, Concordia University Irvine, and the Western States Communication Association. At the conclusion of regular-season competition, the team will travel to Tokyo, Japan to compete in the International Forensics Association’s international tournament. The team is looking forward to the reintroduction of international travel, especially to Tokyo after this tournament was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Finally, the JRP will wrap up its 2022-2023 season this semester with the National Forensics Association’s national tournament and the National Parliamentary Debate Association’s national tournament.

PSCFA Fall Champs

The JRP wrapped up its fall season in Norwalk, California on December 4-6, 2022, participating in the PSCFA Fall Champs Invitational. The team had 14 final-round appearances and completed a sweep of NDA-LD debate, earning the top three spots in the event. Additionally, the team won the 4-year sweeps title, continuing its eight-year winning streak at this tournament against the 32 other teams in attendance, including Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego State University, Northern Arizona University, Concordia University Irvine, and three California State universities.