Forensics Team Among Nation’s Best

Rankings, similar to college football polls, place Cypress Team in the top 10.

Cypress College’s Forensics Team finished the competitive season seventh in the nation among community colleges and number 34 among all 300 participating college and university teams.

The rankings are tracked by the National Parliamentary Debate Association.

Four Cypress College students participated in the NPDA’s National Championship event.

They earned a fourth place finish in the “Community College Division Tournament Sweepstakes” category at the competition based on their overall performance at the tournament, which was held in Denver late last month.

The four students are Damien Ibarra, Cori Johnson, Christian Navarro and Vanessa Welter.

Johnson and Navarro received bronze awards in Parliamentary debate while competing at the California Community College Forensics Association state championships — which were held earlier in March in Concord, CA. At that event, Navarro also was awarded a silver medal in the “Extemporaneous Speaking” category.

Earlier this month, Navarro became one of a select few community college students to compete in the American Forensics Association’s National Individual Events Tournament. “The AFA-NIET is a very prestigious tournament with very rigorous qualifying procedures,” said Liana Koeppel, director of the Cypress College Forensics program. “Qualification alone is an important accomplishment. We are one of the few community colleges to participate in this event.”

The award-winning speeches will be presented on campus on May 13 (see accompanying information box).

Service Learning Seeks Volunteers to Work at OC Food Bank

In celebration of 35 years as part of the North Orange County community the Service Learning Program wants to show Cypress College’s support through an outreach effort at the Orange County Community Development Council. April is national and global service month and in response to this call, the President’s Advisory Cabinet (PAC) and the Service Learning Center are sponsoring and coordinating opportunities to volunteer time at the Orange County Food Bank.

The Orange County Food Bank distributes 16 million pounds of food annually. In addition to the 24,000 people that the Food Bank serves directly each month, it provides food and personal care items to 287 non-profit service organizations serving the homeless, disabled persons, seniors on fixed incomes, the unemployed and the working poor.

Cypress College employees and students can help by donating time. Vans will be departing daily during the week of April 22-25 for 3-hour shifts.

Non-perishable food and personal-care items are being collected in FA-102. Items needed include canned fruits, canned meat, canned vegetables, dry foods (beans, rice, pasta, cereal and pancake mix), peanut butter, snacks and drinks.

Contact Kathryn Sonne or DeAnn Reyes in the Service Learning Center for more information or to schedule a time to volunteer. They can be reached at ext. 47129.
Associated Students Blood Drive on Thursday

The Associated Students are sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive. It will be held on Thursday, from 10 a.m.—4 p.m., in TE2-110. The location has changed since information was first distributed.

Why Do Students Attend? Some Surprising Answers

The results of a recent survey conducted by the American Association of Community Colleges and ACT Inc. have produced some interesting results about why community college students enroll in classes.

According to the April 2 edition of Community College Times, “the study found that contrary to conventional wisdom categorizing students as lifelong learners or on academic or occupational tracks, students attended community colleges for a broad range of reasons.”

Twelve percent of the 100,000 students surveyed during the fall of 1999 and 2000 were in the “life changer” category — those who were seeking skills to enter the workforce and find a new career because of a recent major life change.

Nearly a quarter of the surveyed students — all enrolled in credit courses at a community college — were placed in the “personal enrichment/transfer cluster.” These students said they were attending college to develop their minds and intellectual abilities, to study new and different subjects and to meet new people. Most in this category indicated university transfer was a reason for taking classes.

By contrast, those in the “transfer-only category” indicated that the desire to attend a four-year university was either the primary or the only reason for enrolling at a community college. This category made up 21% of survey respondents.

About 11% said they enrolled to upgrade skills to advance in their current jobs or occupations. Career-preparation students — those attending in order to gain skills for future careers — made up 29% of the survey.

Two percent of those surveyed had no clearly identified reasons for attending college.

Other findings in the survey include:
• Most students preparing for future careers were studying health sciences and technologies (30%), business (17%), or computer and information technology (15%).
• 76% who enrolled based on a major life change said that attending a community college had increased their academic competence and 66% said it helped them build self-confidence.
• 45% of single mothers in the “life changer” category said the cost of child or dependent care was a problem.
• 72% of those enrolled to advance in their careers said that community colleges had made a major contribution to their learning skills required for their job.