Saddleback’s Reader’s Theatre Took Fourth Place at the American Reader’s Theatre Association (ARTa) Championships

Walnut, CA-- The Saddleback Speech and Debate Reader’s Theatre Team competed in the championships at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California on May 7th. Two Reader’s Theatre performances competing in ARTa were The Cave, written and directed by Lucas Ochoa, about the plight of Native Americans in America and Blood, written and directed by Heidi Ochoa, about American's treatment of Homelessness in America. Coach Heidi Ochoa stated, “It was emotionally rewarding to produce advocacy art with these students, as they were just as committed to necessary social changes, as the writers and directors of the shows they performed in. We owe our successes this year to three other faculty artists: Deidre Cavazzi, Larry Radden, and Marc Jackson.”

Co-Director Lucas Ochoa state, “I can’t say enough about this year. We had a bunch of rookie students who shocked the nation. The students jumped right in and quickly made names for themselves and continued the Saddleback tradition of having award winning Reader’s Theatres. What a way to finish off another successful year.

Jury Award Nominations:

Script: Blood
Costume: Blood and The Cave
Blocking: Blood
Set: Blood and The Cave
Music: Blood and The Cave
Creative Innovation: The Cave
Ensemble: The Cave
Outstanding Performer: Daniel Bondi

The Cave won Best Set, Best Creative Innovation, and Fourth Place Overall.
The Saddleback Forensics Team started in the 1970s and prides itself on offering students the ability to create innovative arguments for future writing and speaking engagements to strengthen their critical thinking skills and to better communicate with others. On the forensics team, students write, rehearse, and perform at 6-7 tournaments against students from Universities and Community Colleges to qualify for the national tournament. The students representing Saddleback at the national tournament have placed above several competitors representing institutions throughout the year, including: Concordia University, Point Loma, California State University, Los Angeles, California State University, Long Beach, and UCLA.

Located in Mission Viejo, Saddleback College provides quality higher education and training to the greater south Orange County community. Having served more than 500,000 students since 1968, Saddleback College offers over 300 degree and certificate programs to help students reach their personal, career, and educational goals. For more information, please visit www.saddleback.edu and for Fine Arts information, please visit www.saddleback.edu/arts.

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Photos:
*Blood*: (left to right) Daniel Bondi, Erica Delamare, Corin Schreck
*The Cave*: (left to right) Vivian Vilchis, Christopher Russo, Natalie Dailey