Saddleback Speech and Debate Honors and 4th Overall Results at State Championships

The Saddleback Speech and Debate team competed at the 2013 CCCFA State Championships on March 12-17 in Woodland Hills, California and on Sunday March 17th, Saddleback College made history. After five grueling days of competition, Saddleback garnered the attention of California not just competitively but through several honors as well. First, the California Community College Forensics Association holds a meeting every year to determine its new President Elect to run the prestigious organization and tournaments for two years. We’re are pleased to announce that the California Community College Forensics Association has elected its first Latino President. Coach Lucas Ochoa will be the new President of the California Community College Forensics Association. Lucas will be the tournament director for the 2015 State Tournament at Moor Park College. He was elected by his peers from over 32 community colleges.

Lucas Ochoa stated, “I’m deeply humbled and honored to represent all of California Community College forensics. It’s been quite a journey thus far and I'm very proud to be the first Latino President of this prestigious organization. It speaks of the celebration of diversity and is why I love doing this. In regards to this weekend, the first word that comes to mind is emotional. In my years of teaching and coaching, I have never been a part of something this special. Seeing students embracing each other before competition was truly amazing. The love that the students share with each other makes this a wonderful experience. I’m so proud of all of the students. I'm especially proud of my Reader's Theatre, ‘Bellicose’ to take Gold alongside Larry Radden's show, ‘Mouth of the Lion’ which is a rare and awesome feeling. Essentially, Saddleback "closed" out the tournament for Reader’s Theatre giving Saddleback Double State Championships in Reader’s Theatre. Finally, I'm so proud of Carolina Beyer-Flores, who earned the Top overall Speaker Award in California. She works harder than anyone I know and absolutely deserved it. I'm so excited for Nationals. We have a genuine shot to make history again. I believe we will."
Co-Director Heidi Ochoa stated, "A lot of tears were shed this week as our coaching staff watched our students accomplish personal and professional goals. I have been coaching for the Saddleback forensics team since 2006. Never have I worked with a group that is this connected to their work and each other. The students on this team treat their speeches, their coaches, and their colleagues with care. They also treat their competition with compassion. Before their rounds, I saw them hugging competitors before and after their rounds took place. They love what they are doing and we are loving them for what they are doing. Our coaching staff is genuinely excited to experience more victories as we prepare for nationals and we are genuinely heartbroken that the end of our journey with some of the most beautiful people we've had an opportunity to collaborate with is near. At nationals, we will have several wins and we expect that the coaching staff will not sit in the awards ceremony with dry eyes."

Co-Director Larry Radden: “Amazing. Stunning. This was one of the best weekends of my life. To work alongside Heidi all these years has been incredible. Heidi’s work ethic and love for the team has been a primary reason why we have done so well. And of course, seeing Lucas become the President of CCCFA is astonishing. When he arrived, I knew he was enthusiastic and passionate for the students but seeing him in action is a sight to see. I am also at a loss for words for my Reader’s Theatre, ‘Mouth of the Lion’. My theatre has worked so hard and deserved to do well at this tournament. To take Gold and make history with Lucas's show, ‘Bellicose’ is something I will never forget. A tournament close out is special and rare. I can’t wait for Nationals, and, of course, Carolina was amazing. Top overall speaker in California? Wow!”

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, president of Saddleback College, stated, “Congratulations to our Forensics Team that continues to impress everyone with their talent and dedication. I am very proud of our students who put in countless hours of work to earn these much-deserved accolades. Congratulations also go out to their coach, Lucas Ochoa, for being named the California Community College Forensics Association president. We look forward to seeing what you will accomplish within the organization.”

**Tournament Results:**

4th Overall in California (Defeating Defending National Champions Moorpark and Mt. San Antonio College)

Readers Theatre: Double State Champions

Gold: Mouth of the Lion - Dennis Meador/Olivia Noceda/ Jackson Spencer
Gold: Bellicose - Carolina Beyer-Flores/Solana Price/Melissa Armstrong/Cece Melody

Prose Interpretation:

Gold Low Cume State Champion: Dennis Meador
Silver Medalist: Julia Flynn
Drama Interpretation:

Gold Low Cume State Champion: Carolina Beyer-Flores  
Silver Medalist: Olivia Noceda  
Bronze Medalist: Dennis Meador

Impromptu Speaking:

Gold Medalist State Champion: Eric Post

Communication Analysis:

Bronze Medalist: Madison Dixson

Programmed Oral Interpretation:

Gold Low Cume State Champion: Cece Melody  
Silver Medalist: Solana Price  
Silver Medalist: Jordan Kay

Poetry Interpretation:

Bronze Medalist: Carolina Beyer-Flores  
Bronze Medalist: Cece Melody  
Bronze Medalist: Jordan Kay

Speech to Entertain:

Bronze Medalist: Olivia Noceda  
Bronze Medalist: Jackson Spencer  
Bronze Medalist: Brooke Howell

Duo Interpretation:

Gold Low Cume State Champions: Carolina Beyer-Flores/Jackson Spencer  
Silver Medalist: Olivia Noceda/Dennis Meador

Special Awards: Keeling-Fricker Top Overall Speaker: Carolina Beyer-Flores

None of this would be possible without the support of our department Chair, Kimberly Stankovich, Dean Bart McHenry and of course our president, Dr. Tod Burnett
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.

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:

Photo 1:
(l to r) Solana Price, CeCe Melody, Carolina Beyer-Flores, Melissa Armstrong

Photo 2:
(l to r) Jackson Spencer, Olivia Noceda, Dennis Meador