



NW SPEECH

2019-2020

“Spice it up!”

Some final words from your category leaders...

Dramatic Duet Acting

Category Leaders: Hope Seidman & Kenzie Alberts

Zoya- Zoya has grown so much this season. She's such a joy to be around and probably one of the most talented artists I know. From playing with dinosaurs to embodying the slimy squid, Zoya has always been a trooper and a queen.

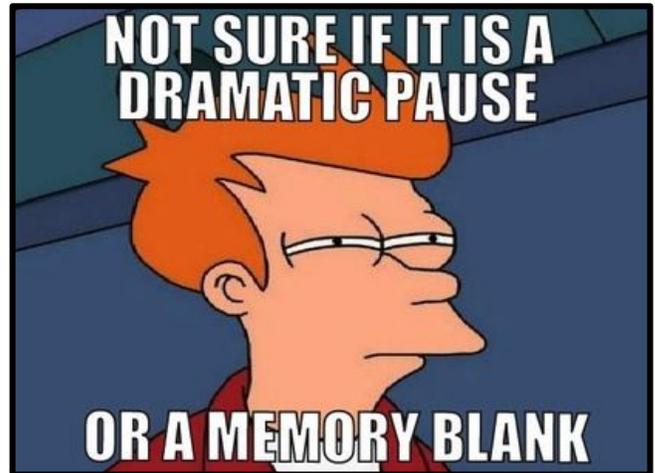
Neha- Neha is such a sweet pea. Neha is always so kind and genuine. Neha, you're such a cutie and you should never stop being you. Neha worked really hard this season, and I'm so, so glad to have had her in my category.

Trevor- Trevor is one of the most unique, genuine people I've ever met. Trevor is unapologetically himself, and he brings such a fun energy to rehearsals. Through the regular season and in PIR, Trevor always knew how to make people laugh and lighten up a situation.

Khalid- Khalid is a very dedicated speechie. Khalid has such a strong drive to improve himself and achieve, and it's very impressive. Khalid always worked very hard, especially in PIR, and I know he'll do great things on this team.

Angela- Angela was only in my category at the start of the year, but she really impressed me in her time that I worked with her. She's such a raw, honest person, and she's also incredibly kind. Angela is so precious and too pure for this world. I can't wait to see what she'll accomplish.

Samar- Samar was also only in my category for a bit, but he had a lot of acting ability. He is very spontaneous and fun, and I know that his incredible energy will serve him well in life.



Dramatic Interpretation

Category Leader: Arneet Gurtatta

Aditi: I'll be honest, when you walked in I thought you were really nice and shy and quiet. I was so unbelievably incorrect. You're loud and passionate and although you're not always nice (peep our messages), I'm so proud of you. You've grown as an actress and you're a genuine performer. Good luck next year, although you don't need it.

Cat: Working with you this year has been so much fun! I know being a senior novice can be challenging, but you always came to rehearsal ready to work and learn. You pay so much attention to detail and because of your theater experience, you already knew how to connect with and portray your character effectively. I'm so proud of you, great job this season, and good luck!

Angela: I know we weren't your first choice, but I'm so glad you came to DI. Yay sad boys! You're such an amazing actress and an even more lovable human. Thank you for pushing yourself and being so supportive this season - I'll miss you so much next year. Good luck!

Kylie: My darlin' Patsy Cline: I remember the first time I saw you perform. I remember getting expo markers thrown at us and jamming out on the bus to some questionable music. I remember getting kicked out of your rehearsal (sorry haha). I remember being genuinely amazed by how talented and impactful you are. I still am. Thanks for being a sad boy with me for the past three years. Good luck, I'll miss you way too much :)

Arya: Who knew you could act? I don't think I ever actually told you how shocked I was the first time you read your script for me. I can't even imagine how good you'd be if you had more time with it. Either way, you're my favorite actor ever now. I love you. Okay bye.

Shay: (honorary sad boy): I LOVE YOU. that's all.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Category Leader: Grace Lee and Arya Nalluri

Wanrou, since the first day, I felt like I understood you. From the early season nerves to the driven mindset to the harsh personal critiques, I was looking back at my freshman self. If there's one thing I wish I had known, it is that each tournament, each round, and each practice is an opportunity to learn. I hope you look back at this season with a positive mindset and an optimistic view for the

Me: I hate drama
Me when there's drama:



future. You have such high potential, and I know you will fulfill all your goals if you dedicate yourself the way I know you will.

Ah **Philip**, our trusted political pundit and history teacher. You continue to amaze us with your extensive background knowledge (like jeez, just how much do you know about European history??) and extemp is the perfect fit for you. We're so glad you joined us this year, because I see such potential in you. You have a lot of excellent role models to look up to, but stay focused on yourself and I have no doubts that I'll hear back some amazing things during your upcoming seasons. Keep working on those hand gestures !!!



Ritesh, you cutie, you joined Extemp with little to no preparation and surprised everyone (including yourself) with how well you did! It's a tough thing to be thrown into another category, especially one as confusing and difficult as Extemp, but you handled it well. You're so talented (funny, smart, and attractive, wow!), and I know that you'll do well no matter what's thrown at you. Continue to work hard, and don't do anything stupid.

Yashas, I don't remember the last time I saw you not talking — I suppose that's why you're on the speech team (heUH hEuH HEuh). For the next couple years, I have no doubt that you'll channel your never-ending stream of words into the best speeches you've ever written. You're one of the most ambitious people on the team, and I admire your drive, dedication, and passion. I hope you polish your work ethic to match your goals; now that you've gotten a haircut, all of your goals will be realized.

Ivan, I know you were only momentarily part of extemp but the real limited prep categories have to stick together (is radio even part of speech tbh? jk) I honestly believe if you put in the time and effort, you could go far in whatever you choose to do. Your level of maturity, compassion, and understanding is unique, and, above all, I can see your dedication to improving. Take advantage of every opportunity you're given, and never stop learning, growing, and evolving - both as a Speechie and also as a person.

Rohan, also my baby, Arya and I have seen you grow from a cute freshman to the charming junior you are today, and we are amazed by the person you've become. I'm so proud of you for everything you've accomplished and everything you will accomplish, and beyond grateful that I have somebody like you to lean on. Thanks for coming to places you've never been before ;) to help me out and for giving the best hugs ever. You are such a caring and capable person, I can't wait to see what awaits you in the future. I love you <3

Humorous Duet Acting

Category Leader: Ritika Nair

Raaja

Consider this. We started as baby freshman on this team, wondering how we could have possibly ended up in 1. A category for funny people and 2. A category for, at the time, white people. Who knew we'd fit right in? Your dose of crackhead is vital to this category's energy, even when you're the most composed one out of us all. You've become a fantastic role model, actor, and friend. I can't think of an HDA without you in it. As genuinely as I can without sounding sarcastic, I wish you nothing but happiness. It's absolutely what you deserve.

Jonah

Humor? You ooze it. Radio? You embody it. Hotel? Trivago. I remember your apprehension back when you first tested the waters of HDA, but here you are: master of a unique style of comedy that you crafted on your own. You've single-handedly established yourself as an irreplaceable member of this category. You know what you are? You're superb, you funky little speech kid. Oddly, I've adopted your weird "okey", and I'll miss watching you serenade my brother. I'm infinitely proud of your rise as a confident actor, and I hope that you remember HDA in the far future.

Henry

I don't know why (maybe it's because you're tall), but I always thought you were a senior. You're calm and collected (sometimes ahahah), and you have such a powerful drive to put in your best efforts into everything you do. Considering my experience with other HDA members, you were a breath of fresh air when it came to crisp discipline and practice (no shade to everyone else). You've showed me nothing if not your capacity to work and succeed. I expect nothing but just that in both your speech career and your future endeavors.



Madison

We were a strange arrangement, but it was the best kind of strange. We messed around, sure, but we kinda nailed the chemistry and the quirky HDA energy and all that jazz despite having practiced and competed so little. (Please, please, please forgive me and my knee for abandoning you halfway through the season). You, madame, are so cool and chill and have some of the most distinct talents and hobbies I have ever seen, and it was, I cannot stress this enough, an honor to have been your companion. I'll miss you and our unlikely friendship.

Elaine

I know you're a dec queen 'n stuff, but you were my baby first. I've watched your humor become just as terrifyingly versatile as you are. You shift from crack to sarcasm to intimidation to seduction with just a blink of your eye, and how haven't I gotten whiplash from the hurricane that is Elaine Sun? I mean you're a whole dec queen and an HDA queen. Just a whole *goDDEss.* (add extra snap and chef's kiss for emphasis). I can only hope HDA was bestowed with enough memories for you to get nostalgia when you think of us later.

Niamh

Oh, my sweet summer child. Everybody, this is my baby. Niamh, say hi. She can sing and dance and play the ukulele and do a perfect Indie rendition of Riptide. She can also pour her big ol' heart out into her acting, and she's really good at making people laugh and bringing something new to every round, like slapping or censoring. I just know she was born to make people happy, and I can't wait to hear the wonderful things she'll bring to the team. Oops, am I bragging about my baby? My bad.

Prakash

I admit that I tried to look for the blurb I wrote for you last year (I mean if you can revitalize old content, then so can I, right?), but, alas, I wrote none. When I saw you sophomore year, I had no idea we'd become anything that resembles a friendship. I assumed wrongly. It was amusing to see your love for acting, succeeding, and Indianized TikTok songs. If there's anyone who can dance on the line between

determination and finessery, it's you, and if state taught you anything, it's that you da goat when you genuinely do your best.

Max

Consider it the greatest flex of all; your speech record is one for the books. I hope you know how proud this team is to have you here because you've pretty much set the standard for humor for the next three years. Also, I've told you this a few dozen times, but I'll say it again. Your character development...? Unparalleled. (clink clink to that). Our many category field trips and crack sessions were the highlight of this year. From the bottom of my charred, blackened heart, I will miss your inebriated energy and wish you nothing but the best.

Sakshi - How do I even make this one? hOW??? But, like, I gotta so... AnYGAY, finessing IHSA rules and making it to state finals purely out of spite? Being one of the most sweet, passionate, hot (wink wonk), AND intelligent people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing? My guy Jesus spent an ungodly amount of time on you. Seriously, the power you hold, sis... Unbelievable. It's an honor being able to call you a friend, and I swear on the life of my firstborn if anyone forces me to say goodbye to you (ever) I will cry.

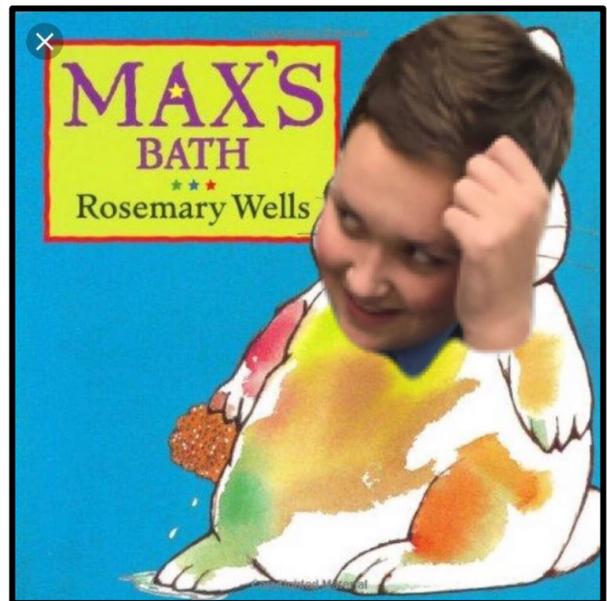
Sankar - Seaaaaan. You've tasted the exhilaration of making a full room of people laugh. If you're anything like me, you're gonna want it again. You have so much time to learn what you love doing. You're hilarious, passionate, and not as broke as me. If you didn't notice, you and Niamh started extremely strong this season, and I hope this tells you that you're capable of excelling in whatever you put your mind to. Humility and generosity can always teach you a few things, but you should be proud of the heights I know you'll fly. I love you, bo.

Humorous Interpretation & Original

Comedy

Category Leader: Rohan Ramesh

Max Corso: Max Corso is one of the most talented speech individuals you will ever meet. His continued and reliable success provided a guide and measure to our own skill. He will be forever referenced and compared to in future years of speech as what exactly the right thing to do in HI or OC is. His talents are not limited to a single area as well seeing as he was wildly successful in numerous categories. Max moving on to college will be a great loss to the speech team, but his future only holds more success. Max is a legendary entertainer.



Khalid Hamdan: Khalid is a very gifted actor. His dedication to the team is extremely commendable. Khalid is only a sophomore, but you can tell he is only getting started and has scary potential. Talents not limited to speech, I have seen him excel on stage

as well as in competition. I can't wait to see what he is going to do in future years because I'm already in awe of what he has accomplished.

Prakash Tata: One of the funniest guys on the team, Prakash Tata never leaves a dull moment. Prakash's ability to (pinky) dance and put himself into the characters he plays will be missed. He always makes sure to be a help to others, and is the first to provide support, advice, or encouragement. Working on pieces with Prakash eases the process while still making progress. The OC/HI room will miss his presence in the years to come, but he will only continue to do greater things.

Sakshi Rane: Sakshi is one of the most genuine people you will meet. The characters she plays are always better when she adds herself to them. Her time in OC was short but extremely successful. Sakshi's writing surprises my dark humor with wholesome jokes that wouldn't be as funny unless they were told by Sakshi. She is super caring and supportive, and has an amazing gift to make everyone feel better or smile no matter the situation.

Ritesh Mukherji: Ask anyone who Ritesh is and they will say "a friend". Ritesh is loyal, and compassionate. One of the most admirable skills I saw this year was his ability to adapt and overcome the limitations of his crutches. Instead of using them as an excuse not to participate in competitions or attend meetings, he was there every day like everyone else and competing. Ritesh is only a freshman, so I'm excited to see him grow and succeed even more in the years to come.

Rishika Gaddamanagu: You can't tell that Rishika joined the team this year. I often find myself forgetting that I'm supposed to teach her and not the other way around. Rishika fit into the team like she had been a part of it for years, and it also showed in her numerous achievements throughout the season. Her acting seems almost natural, and her ability to take criticism to heart and improve is unrivaled. If this is only the start, we better get ready for Rishika's future

Henry Scriven-Young: By the time I think about my piece, Henry has rehearsed and prepared his for days. His writing always has the most spectacular and creative ideas. His commitment and acting ability are insane! If more people were like Henry, then I probably would never get anything done because it would already be done. This is his first year in OC but he already has quite the impressive reputation and will make sure to kick butt in the years to come.

Michael Amato: Michael is not afraid to tell you if you're doing something wrong. You can always count on him to have the speechwire statistics ready to go at a moment's

notice. Michael's resilience throughout the season is commendable. He stuck with his piece and only continued to improve as time went on. The limit to Michael is something I'd like to find because for now there doesn't seem to be one. He's a lot of fun to watch and compete with, he has a bright path ahead of him.

Impromptu Speaking

Category Leader: Katie Kingsbury and Emily Liu

Megan Rajan: Megan, it goes without saying that you are an incredibly talented speaker. But having seen how you function behind the scenes, I think I am starting to understand why. And at the root of it, I believe, is your work ethic. You are relentlessly diligent but never unreasonable; ambitious but never immature. You are competitive but not at the expense of others or your own humanity; you work hard but know when to take a rest. You deserve every good thing that's come your way. Aside from your success as a speaker, you just so happen to be a

genuinely good person. Thank you for your kindness and authenticity, your intelligence and insight; thank you for always looking out for others, and thank you for responding with care. Oh yeah, and thank you for teaching me the renegade :)

Anushka Katuri: Anushka, your power and composure as a speaker never fail to impress me. In an event where people so often get wrapped up in the details or the anxiety of a moment, I find that you manage to bring, time and time again, maturity and emotional sensitivity to your speeches. And ultimately, it's that recognition of our shared humanity that allows you to connect so meaningfully with your audience; it feels as though you speak for the purpose of communicating an important message. Thank you for being a warm, supportive presence that everyone can turn to. It's been a pleasure to see what kind of speaker you've become and are continuing to grow into.



Jared Zhang: You often give yourself less credit than you deserve. And yet, your growth as a speaker over the past few years has been marked and undeniable. In that time, we've watched you accumulate an expansive, diverse compendium of examples (from the obscure to the incredulous), refine your speaking style, and develop confidence in the ability of your words to reach others. Not to mention the fact that you seem to know every little piece of strange, miscellaneous information out there--it's that relentless curiosity that makes listening to you speak so enjoyable. Thank you for always looking for opportunities to help others; your compassion made the season a great one. Thank you for being random, unpredictable, and an all around character--impromptu wouldn't be nearly as fun without you.

Ivan Parakkal: Ivan. Your dedication and commitment have been seriously vital to this team, and all of us, I think, have benefited at one time or another from your brutal (and necessary) honesty. Your incisive analysis and extensive knowledge base are the makings of a great impromptu speaker, and you possess a special affinity for noticing the little details that often go unseen. Thank you for being the outspoken, yet supportive, person we all know you to be. This year, it was especially impressive how you repped all 14 categories and even PIR--can't wait to see what happens next season.

Shruti Panse: It occurs to me that you may be one of the few people I know that was actually excited by the prospect of joining impromptu. Indeed, throughout the season, we've been continuously impressed by your enthusiasm and fearlessness. You seem to have an intuitive grasp on the nature of how to connect with your audience, and we are excited to see how you might develop in the future. Thank you for being sweet and supportive and always willing to learn.

Yashas Sardesai: You joined the category later on but easily became a crucial part of it. In fact, your ability to join nearly any category and perform well within it testifies to your versatility and universality as a speaker. This seemingly inexhaustible passion you possess certainly inspires all of us, and we appreciate how you continuously push yourself and, in the process, motivate those around you. Thank you for your intelligence, kindness, and humor; thank you for your leadership and energy.

Informative Speaking

Category Leader: Rushil Vellala and Rahul Koul

Megan Rajan: Megan is extremely skillful and possesses a strong drive to succeed. Coming into this season she already had an Informative speech prepared that demonstrated good results early on in the season. However, Megan took the time to change her speech to try to bring even more success to the team, overall displaying her amazing work ethic. Megan still has one more year on the team, and we are excited to see what she will do next year. Also, Megan is very caring and kind. No matter her schedule, she would always show up whenever we had category meetings. Megan is COLD.

Rohit: Rohit is a talented member of the team who is willing to help others. At the beginning of the season he took the time to attend category meetings and gave advice to our novice on a variety of important things about the speech team. Rohit is also an extremely strong speaker. He always talks with passion and clarity and I look forward to seeing him continue to use his strong speaking abilities beyond the speech team. Rohit's nickname is "Brohit" for a reason- he is truly a brother to us all. We love Rohit!

Steven: The man, the myth, the legenddddd! Steven was an incredibly dedicated member of our category, checking up on those who are down, grinding out the novices' speeches, and participating in anime OST quizzes with us. We hope Steven continues on in being the sexy, massaging guru that he is.

Kunal: A spirit of pure tranquility, Kunal provided all of us relaxation amidst all the stress that comes from speech. Kunal is incredibly ripped though he might not show it, which we think aids with the immense charisma he displays when he speaks. We are excited to see what he does next, not necessarily with his anime conquests.

Shiqi: Shiqi! What an amazing novice. She accepted Info for the weird, quirky cult that it is right from the get-go, and we couldn't be more grateful. She also showed a lot of growth throughout the season, working incredibly hard in improving herself day in and day out. We hope she loved her first year of speech, and remembers this sentiment: avoid vocal fry :)

Poetry Reading

Category Leader: Divya Iyer and Sakshi Rane

Shreya: My baby!!! You have grown so much (figuratively) since I've known you, and I'm so so proud and excited for you to carry on the poetry legacy. I will miss you, your THERMOFLASK, our tea



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JAKE-CLARK.TUMBLR

sessions, and the fact that we never got any work done. Thank you for making my last season a great one. You cute cute.

Anaisa: Lil Naisu! You are actually the sweetest person I know, and I know that you hated poetry and everything in it, but I'm really happy you got stuck with us this year. Thank you for being a ball of energy everytime you walked into the poetry room, and for falling asleep in the OO room every time you had a rehearsal with me. You will do great big things in the world, I just know it. Keep up the crazy.

Arneet: Oh Arneet. You are the most persevering person I have ever known. Thank you for making our category so incredibly proud in the last two years, and for always doing your weird old baby voice in practice. You are genuinely kind, and absolutely hilarious, and I'm so proud of all of your efforts to make poetry another home for yourself. Here's to moving on. And always remember, Atlas is a _____!

Shruti: Shruti, I've known you since you were a small 6th grader. Granted, I'm not sure you grew much physically from then, but you've grown so much as a performer and a person. Even though you weren't in Poetry for this entire season, I'm so proud of your work in your other categories! Keep working hard, and I have no doubt you'll achieve amazing things in the future! (Dude, I love you, but if you do another TikTok in front of me, I might actually fight you.)

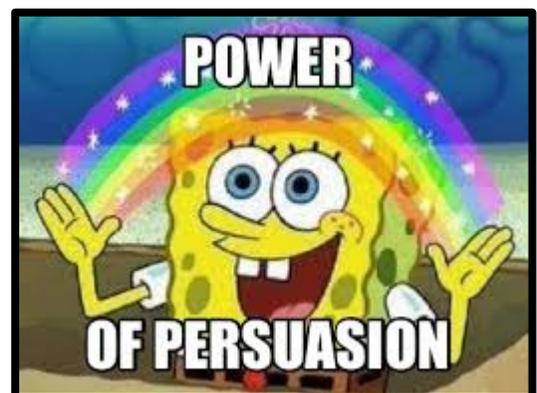
Nithila: Our personified ball of energy. The only novice I have EVER seen bring this much enthusiasm into every room she walked into. I was so excited when I heard we had a Poetry novice, and as soon as I met you, I knew you were a Poetry gal. The effort, dedication, and emotion you bring to your performance are outstanding, and I'm so proud of all the work you did throughout the season (even your mini debut in HDA, my other baby category). I'm excited to see how you grow in the future!

Disha: You are very cash money. Translation: I love you. Both of us started our speech career in this category, and I'm very sorry to not be able to end it together. But in the time I've known you, you have been the most relatable, down-to-earth, heartfelt person I have ever met. And you're also a ridiculously strong person. You have no idea how much respect and admiration I have for you, dumbo. Whether in PIR, Prose, or Poetry, I've never failed to see your dedication to improving yourself. And that makes you very cash money. :) I'LL MISS YA SO MUCH!

Oratory

Category Leader: Aniruth Senthilkumar and Ria Dhingra

JV - There are a plethora of words to describe you. But the word that keeps coming to mind is: sweet. That's blatantly obvious to anyone who's been blessed enough to have a conversation with you. We're so happy you found a home in speech and cannot express in words how lucky we are to have you as a novice. As a speaker, we're excited to see you kill it in the years to come. As a friend, we are lucky to call



you ours. As JV, we're proud to say you are absolutely INSANE buddy. Never stop being you.

Yashas - You are such a strange child. That's literally the only way we can describe you. You certainly kept OO lively with your "classy" memes and snarky-but-helpful comments. But at your core, you're motivated, (surprisingly) funny, and dedicated to helping others. Remember to not be so hard on yourself and take things slowly. You're certainly driven and want to make your mark on the team but learn to focus that lens. We have total faith in you. As I said before, you are a strange child. But in the best way possible. Besides we've all come to begrudgingly adore your weirdness.

Arya - When I think Arya the word that comes to mind is unconquerable. Not because of your achievements (of which there are many), but because of your unflinching resolve to pour more hours into your craft than anyone else. You're so driven, you don't even realize how insane it is that you work so hard. Every amazing thing you do, you undoubtedly earned it. Since freshman year, I looked up to you to push myself that extra inch. You are such an inspiration to this category and this team. But most of all I'm happy to call you one of my best friends.

Sarah - I drove you home once last year. And in that short car ride of getting to talk to you, I realized you are one of the most genuine, transparent people I know. You're quick and diligent when at speech, and slow and silly while taking care of others. On top of all this, you're one of the most mature people I have ever met. I'm sorry this year forced you to grow up even faster. But the way you handle each curveball with grace never ceases to amaze me. You are such a great speaker Sarah, I really don't think you give yourself enough credit for that. Go and lead these dweebs like we know you will next year.

Brendan - Brendan, what I love most about you in speech is your attitude towards it. You always push yourself but you don't define yourself by your victories or use speech to validate what you already know — that you are a phenomenal speaker and an even better friend. When I think of you this season, I think of rapping in the OO room, photoshoots in the physics wing, face masks, chucking stuff into trash cans (badly), spilling tea during off rounds, listening to Justin Timberlake, and TONS of timer pictures. And since it's the end of the season, I guess I'll admit it. You do be kinda thick tho.

Aniket - Last season we talked about your four-year plan at the Tiger Tourney. Since that moment, I have not ceased to be impressed by your drive and ambition. You always find a way to improve your speech, diligently working amongst the chaos that is the OO room. In the moments when you are not zoned in, you're sarcastic, witty, and provide solid criticism. And despite your #grit, I hope you can have some fun as well. Honestly, you deserve it. I can't wait to see what next year brings for you and what you bring to this team.

Prose

Category Leader: Rathna Kalluri and Vedika Ranjan

Erin: Erin is the Mom of the Prose squad. Over the last two years, she has grown a lot. She has gone from having nothing to rage about to raging about her whole week, from quiet to laughing and goofing off during practice. Erin's grown a lot, as a performer, and as a person. We are so grateful for everything that she has done for this category. She has been there for every practice and will never back down from a challenge, no matter how much it frustrates her. She is resilient, amazing, strong, beautiful, and everything you could

ever want in a person. Can't wait for another year with this gem!

Shay: Not only did this girl pick up the category in a second, but she was so successful in this short amount of time. Shay brought a completely different perspective to Prose since she actually knew how to be funny. All the rehearsals that turned into off topic conversations or making random videos on tiktok was a great time. You are such a caring, kind, and funny person. You really know how to be the life of the party! It was really great to have her in the category and we're going to miss you a lot next year! Have a fun time in college and make sure you come back and visit!



Tamana: AH finally we had a freshman in Prose this year :) Although Tamana came in as a quiet and shy little novice, she blossomed into a wonderful person! It's been great getting to know her this year and see her become a prosie! She's sweet, funny and so great to be around. Can't wait for another season with you girl!

Oratorical Declamation

Category Leader: Anna Shura and Brendan McCluskey

Sarojshree: Seeing a world full of Vaseline is the exact opposite of what listening to you speak is like. BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A CLEAR SPEAKER. HAHA. Jokes. All kidding aside, we are so proud of all the growth that you have demonstrated. You have grown up so much since last year and have become an incredibly talented speaker and a leader. You came into the season prepared with your speech and never hesitated to help others. Our meetings wouldn't be the same without your positivity, and we are so proud of you. You are such a fantastic speaker.



Shreya: You may be a small person, but you have a huge heart: you are quite possibly the sweetest person we know. You are an incredibly hard worker and consistently tried your best. We love being around you, and we know you will continue to bring so much to the speech team. You are so kind and caring, and you pour that emotion into your speaking. You are so talented, and we cannot wait to see where you end up in the future.

Ela: At the first tournament, you apologized after completing your first ever speech rounds...and then you broke into finals. You are honestly one of the hardest working people we know, and you deserve to have all the confidence in the world in your speaking abilities. We are excited to see how you grow on speech team, and we can't wait to hear more about how your speech career will flourish in the future.

Khushi: We are never going to forget the Khushi Dance. You are so much fun to be around, and we admire your continuous positivity and effort. Whenever we were having a bad day, you always managed to cheer us up with your smile and laugh. We can't wait to see the person you become because you have started off your speech and high school career with the biggest smile. Can't wait to hear more about your speech career.

Radio Speaking

Category Leader: Rishi Chiratanagandla and Rahul Vadakath

Tara: Wow. Just wow. If you were a varsity member, your performance would have been great. As a novice, new to Radio and speech as a whole, what you accomplished this year was absolutely incredible. As awesome as your performance was (and it was very epic), your drive to improve was, somehow, more impressive. Throughout the season, I really enjoyed sending you to tough tournaments and seeing you do well, and then working hard to improve based on the critiques you got! I'm really looking forward to seeing what you'll do in the future.

Jenny: Call me senpai one more time and you're off the team. Just kidding (maybe)! Even though I've known the speech-you for two years, I really got to know who Jenny Wu is this year- and it was apparent from the very first tournament (when you BROKE!!) that you had a drive for Radio that could only be seen in those who are dedicated to the art of the manila folder. Unfortunately for you, I've got high expectations and I've got a feeling Radio will be in good hands for the years to come.

Vedanth: When you read through a broadcast that you had seen for the first time, without a timer, and hit exactly 5:00, I knew that you had what it takes to be a great Radio speaker. From your epic transitions (thank you for the help at tournaments!) to your ability to not only rewrite major parts of stories but also make them flow better than they originally had, you've been a great person to work with. Your hard work and dedication shone through, and I hope to see you do well next year!



Aarya: I highly doubt that this category would have gotten ANYTHING done had we not had your cool and calm demeanor that kept our *cough* intense energy in check. Whether it be driving us away from crazy sophomores in the parking lot, or helping the novices learn the inner workings of speech, you've been an amazing influence on both our novices and me. Seeing you grow for the past three years as a speaker has been an amazing journey, and I can't wait to spam ctrl+r on speechwire next year and see you thrive!

Sarojshree: I know you were only an official part of Radio for a few tournaments, but you did really, really well. Like, dang. Your awesome voice (I guess DEC is good for something) was a sign that you'd do well, and you really carried through. I was really impressed with the dedication you put into learning and working in a second category, and seeing you break after having just started Radio was pretty exciting! Whether you continue or not, I know that you have a great speech career ahead of you.

Jonah: Wow, I really can't believe it's already been three years- and what a journey it's been! It takes someone really talented to not only excel in one category, but to excel in TWO! Even though you moved on to HDA (Thanks for stealing him, Raajaganapathy Vengatesan -_-), you always found your way back to Radio and never left the family behind- and that is something that is irreplaceable in both an OG Radio God AND the category representative- a title that fits you better than- and that's why we use manila folders in Radio. Wait, what?

Special Occasion Speaking

Category Leader: Anaisa Acharya and Abel Eettickal

Amartya - Amartya is the baby of SOS... extremely adorable, very bubbly, and mind-blowingly sweet. As a first year in speech and SOS, Amartya absolutely killed it and showed his Nalluri talent. He made teaching SOS easy, asking for little assistance and coming prepared to all of our meetings. While he shined during rounds, Amartya didn't miss a beat with the rest of the category, showing his genuinity and love for all of us, by always making sure everyone was having a good day. Thank you Amartya for always making everyone laugh... most of the time at you not with you, but nevertheless, you made our days more enjoyable together.



Luke - There are no better words to describe Luke than perfectionist. Luke needs everything to be put in his taste, from jokes to the syntax of a measly 5 word sentence. But that's what makes him special... his hard work and desire to achieve his goals has carried Luke in SOS. Everything from his sashay to his glasses characterize Luke as the ironic guy we all know. SOS would not be the same without Luke's sassy attitude and one million changes to his speech

and delivery.. Per week! Luke, we can't wait to see what you have in store for the next season... hope your upcoming year is perfect.

Liza - "I'm getting everyone pizza" are the words we have all heard from Liza. Liza is a giving person, whether that be buying everyone cheesy bread or just simply offering her input on their speeches. Her sarcasm and one-liners never fail to make SOS laugh, even if most of the jokes are directed towards us or how much she despises math. Not only is Liza funny, but she is also extremely understanding and caring towards everyone and their feelings, not once making anyone feel uncomfortable. So, if you are ever wondering why any of us are either crying or smiling from SOS, I guarantee it's from one of Liza's jokes or check-ins.

Arya - Arya is one of the most charismatic and witty members of SOS. Not only does he have a British accent, but his real estate jokes are nothing short of hilarious. As a novice to SOS, Arya required little to no assistance and proved himself within the first few weeks as a versatile member of Speech. But talent and humor aside, Arya is a caring person and looks out for everyone in the category, even if that means being roasted by Anaisa. As a supporter of Brexit, yes, he is made fun of, however, we will miss you Arya! We will miss you and the girls you don't have... Best of luck in college.

Aniruth - The anime nerd, geek with glasses, and state champion are all phrases to describe Aniruth. Aniruth has been a vital part of SOS, helping everyone with their speeches and delivery even if it takes away from time he can spend on improving his own pieces. From purchasing hindu novels for Abel to putting in long hours with the category, Aniruth has done nothing but prove that he has everyone's best interests at heart. Despite Aniruth's different ethnicity every week, Aniruth is one of the most loved people in our category. We will miss Aniruth next year... SOS just won't be the same without him.

Abel - Abel, better known as the pizza delivery guy, knows the way to our hearts... better yet stomachs. Although the first 30 minutes of every meeting was spent at Little Caesars, Abel showed his love for everyone by helping them in any way he could, whenever they asked. His constant jokes brought a smile to everyone's face. He was a wonderful category leader, always making sure everyone felt comfortable in their speeches. Despite his hardships this year, Abel has become a person people can turn to... being more than just a category leader but a friend as well. Thank you Abel for looking out for everyone and bringing food to all of our speech rooms!