

## RMC DOMINATES RIMROCK CLASSIC DEBATE COMPETITION

Contact:

Shelby Jo Long-Hammond  
Director of Forensics  
Assistant Professor of Communication  
Rocky Mountain College  
406-657-1054  
306-531-5761 - message  
longsj@rocky.edu

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Colleges that sent debate teams to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain College Rimrock Classic Debate Tournament might not have considered RMC a very gracious host. The home team welcomed more than 100 competitors from seven colleges from Montana and Wyoming, and then “dominated the competition,” according to Shelby Jo Long-Hammond, RMC director of forensics and assistant professor of communications.

The Rimrock Classic is the only home event for the “Babblin’ Bears” and it was important for the team to do well, Long-Hammond said. The RMC team placed first in the varsity division and took the top three awards in the junior varsity division.

“The Rocky students’ performance was impressive throughout the weekend,” said Long-Hammond.

RMC debate members Brian Krantz, from Helena, and Katie Berst, from Billings, placed first in the varsity division by defeating the University of Montana in the final round.

Annie Ayre, from Billings, and Toryn Rogers, from Laurel, placed first for RMC in the junior varsity division of debate defeating Northwest college in the final round.

RMC’s John Mark Wilkerson and Cherokee Rawls, and Justin Rife and Anne Frickle, all from Billings, closed out the junior varsity division of debate by tying for second place.

RMC’s Amanda O’Shea, from Laurel, emerged with a first place trophy from the competition by receiving the top speaker award for the varsity debate division. Her partner, Alison Corbyn placed in the top five speakers.

Every debater from Rocky also received a speaker award in the top 10 speakers of their respective division, Long-Hammond noted.

Katie Berst and Amanda O'Shea also emerged victorious in the Individual Event competition. Berst placed second in the short preparation Reasoned Response event. O'Shea placed fifth in the short preparation Impromptu event.

# # #

2/08/2010