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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homewood-Flossmoor High School Debate Team scores big in Berkeley

Feb. 24, 2011 (Flossmoor, Ill.) — On Feb. 19-20, Homewood-Flossmoor High School's Debate Team attended the College Preparatory School (CPS) Round Robin and the University of California-Berkeley's Tournament of Champions Debate Tournament. Both events were held in and around Berkeley, Calif.

"This proved to be one of H-F Debate's best weekends ever," said Joshua Brown, team coach and H-F teacher. "Over the course of the weekend, our record — expressed in terms of ballots — was 44-22. At a round robin and a major national tournament entering four teams, it's tough to do too much better than that!"

At the Round Robin, Juniors **Donald Grasse** and **Margaret Strong** were two of 24 students from across the U.S. who were invited to this exclusive event. Their overall record was a respectable 5-5, and Grasse finished fifth overall.

At the TOC Tournament, Junior **Rufus Coates-Welsh** and Senior **Laura River** compiled a perfect preliminary record of 6-0, defeating teams from Washington's Mercer Island, Utah's Rowland Hall-St. Marks, and California's Bay Area Urban Debate League, Loyola, Damien and College Prep School. Coates-Welsh and River then won 10 debates in a row before losing in the semifinals. They finished in the top four teams out of the original 224. At the same tournament, Juniors **Donald Grasse** and **Margaret Strong** compiled a preliminary record of 5-1, debated well until losing in the quarterfinals to the College Prep School on a 3-0 decision. Seniors **Kyle Joseph** and **Anthony Ogbuli** compiled a preliminary record of 4-2, then advancing to the triple octafinals, where they were defeated by Glenbrook North on a 3-0 decision. Grasse finished 7th and Strong finished 13th out of 448 competitors. Deserving honorable mention at the tournament were **Emily Carroll** and **Adam Griesbach**, who earned a 4-2 record, finishing the preliminary debates as the 76th seed.

"This is the first time in our team's history that we have ever reached the semifinals at an octafinals-TOC-bid national tournament, and the first time in team history that we have ever earned two Tournament-of-Champions qualifications in the same weekend," said Brown.

Homewood-Flossmoor High School is a three-time National Blue Ribbon award-winning school, located at 999 Kedzie Avenue in Flossmoor, Ill. For more information on Blanco, visit jodeeblanco.com. For more information on H-F High School, visit hfhighschool.org or call 708-799-3000.

Homewood-Flossmoor High School is a comprehensive community high school located in the South Suburbs of Chicago. The district serves the villages of Homewood and Flossmoor, and portions of Chicago Heights, Glenwood, Hazel Crest and Olympia Fields. A tradition of excellence is the cornerstone of H-F — the result of commitment on the part of district residents to the idea of a community high school with high standards for students and staff, and a solid goal of excellence in education.

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