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Chicago State Scholars Beat Morehouse in Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Practice Tourney

Chicago — Chicago State University’s Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) team defeated Morehouse College to win the HCASC Pre-NCT tournament held February 28 at Florida A&M University. CSU competed in 11 rounds in one day, compiling a 9-2 record against 15 teams from 11 other schools.

“The team played well, supported one another, and did us plumb proud,” said Dr. Bernard Rowan, team coach and chair of CSU’s history, political science and philosophy department.

CSU is one of 64 teams that will compete in the national tournament, the 20th annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge, scheduled March 26-30 in Orlando, Florida.

Representing CSU are sophomores Joshua Goodlow and Hansel Madrigal; senior Chaan Thomas; and juniors Lenore Thomas and Nicholas Tosoni. Team captain Chaan Thomas, from Las Vegas, is a math and physics major; this is his fourth year of team competition. Transfer students Lenore Thomas and Nicholas Tosoni had previous academic bowl experience at South Suburban College. Ms. Thomas, from Chicago, is majoring in English – secondary education. Mr. Tosoni is a junior from Evergreen Park, studying English with a concentration in professional and technical writing. Mr. Goodlow is majoring in art and design. Mr. Madrigal is a political science major. Both are from Chicago.

It was a bittersweet victory for one of the team’s coaches, John Thomas, III. Mr. Thomas competed on three national championship teams as an undergrad at Morehouse College. Dr. Rowan credits Thomas’s experience as a key part of CSU’s success.

“He knows what it takes to win at the national level, and he knows how to develop the players’ abilities,” said Rowan.

Launched in 1989, the HCASC is the first-ever academic quiz competition for students at historically black colleges and universities. In eight years of competing, CSU’s teams have netted $25,000 in scholarship winnings for the university. Based on team’s success in the practice tournament, Rowan believes this year’s team has the best chance to win in Orlando.

“They are a good team with the ability to win,” said Rowan. “And they have fun together, representing Chicago State.”