

## History of the Joseph Vaughn Oratorical Competition

This competition for local High School Students is co-sponsored by Furman University and Alpha Greenville Foundation with our five major sponsors General Electric, Gamma Gamma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., The Blood Connection, Vision Plus, US&S Inc. and Piedmont Natural Gas.

The purpose of the competition is to encourage oratorical skill among students in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King and Mr. Joseph Vaughn, who was the first African-American student to attend Furman University.

Contestants are judged on Speech Development, Effectiveness, Correctness, and Speech Value. Final elements will add physical appearance, voice, mannerism, and appropriateness to the judging criteria. The contest was first held in 2008 at the Chapel on Furman University campus. MLK Planning Committee selects a theme each year.

## Brief History of Joseph Vaughn's Enrollment at Furman University



On February 2, 1965, four African-Americans enrolled at Furman. Three were graduate students in education; the other was freshman Joe Vaughn. Mr. Vaughn's enrollment was the result of concerted effort to enroll him that started in 1963.

Vaughn proved to be a model student. An English major, he excelled in class, served as head cheerleader, coordinated important campus forums, and volunteered in the Service Corps. Witty and outgoing, he made friends quickly and easily. His smile was like a beam of sunlight;

it radiated warmth and joy.

After graduating from Furman, Vaughn went on to earn master's degrees from the University of South Carolina and the University of Georgia. From 1969 to 1982 he taught in the Greenville County schools, and in 1981 he was elected president of the South Carolina Education Association, a position he held for almost a decade. Joseph Vaughn passed away in 1991.



**Alpha Phi Alpha Greenville Foundation, Inc.**

(864) 735-0880 | [www.alphagreenville.org](http://www.alphagreenville.org)

*"Covering the Upstate with service, scholarship, and mentorship"*

***"Building the Beloved Community"***

**Final Competition**



## Joseph Vaughn Oratorical Competition

*Burgiss Theater*

*Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina*

*Saturday, February 21, 2015*

*10:00 AM*



STAFF · SUPPORT · SUSTAIN

# 2015 Contestants

**Kyrah I. Brown**  
Riverside High School  
11th Grade

**Ryan J. Putman**  
Christ Church Episcopal School  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Royal Ranciana Carter**  
Wade Hampton High School  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Princess Shropshire**  
Governor's School of the Arts  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Billy Gist**  
J.L. Mann Academy of Math,  
Science, and Technology  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Jarod Wright**  
Woodmont High School  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Tyler Kelly**  
Southside High School  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Javien Womack**  
Woodmont High School  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## 2015 Competition Judges

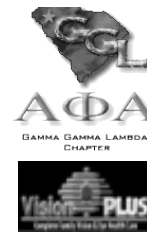
**Mrs. Amber Allen-Drummond**  
Hubbell Lighting

**Mr. Rickey Pulley, Jr.**  
Morehouse graduate & Assistant Pastor, Rock of Ages Baptist Church

**Mrs. Maya Smith**  
Health Educator, Greenville Hospital System

*Tabulator*  
**Mr. Charles Scurry**  
Upsilon Alpha Chapter, USC Upstate

*Time Keeper*  
**Mrs. Jennifer Clark**  
Health Care Consultant, StrategyWorks, LLC



## 2015 JOSEPH VAUGHN ORATORICAL COMPETITION

**Theme: "How we can contribute to the building of Dr. King's Beloved Community in today's world?"**

### Presiding

**Mr. Adrian Tolbert**  
*Upsilon Alpha Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha, USC Upstate*

Invocation..... Mr. Kynan Robinson  
*Scholarship Chair, Alpha Phi Alpha Greenville Foundation*

Welcome ..... Ms. Chandra Dillard  
*Director, Community Relations. Furman University Marketing & Public Relations*

Overview of the Competition Rules.....Mr. Keith Barksdale  
*Chairman, Alpha Phi Alpha Greenville Foundation*

Introduction of Contestants ..... Mr. Michael Chatman  
*Chair, Joseph Vaughn Oratorical Competition*

Introduction of the Judges..... Mr. Don R. Weston  
*Treasurer, Gamma Gamma Lambda Chapter of AΦA*

## Oratorical Competition

Announcement of the Winners.....Mr. Tolbert

Closing Remarks.....Mr. Furman S. Jackson  
*President, Gamma Gamma Lambda Chapter of AΦA*

Acknowledgements ..... Mr. Chatman