

## TALENT HUNT HISTORY

The Talent Hunt program of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is one of several national programs designed to identify and support the youth of our nation and world. The original idea was credited to Brother J. Austin Atkins of Winston Salem, North Carolina, and Brother Dewey Duckett of Rock Hill, South Carolina. While the idea was conceived in 1945, the first District Talent Hunt program was held in the Sixth District in Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 19, 1946. The need for such a program was born out of unequal opportunity afforded to some American youth to develop and give full expression to their talents.

The success of the Talent Hunt program, especially in the Sixth District, from the standpoint of community interest and the scholarship assistance made available to the winners as a result of overwhelming public support, led to its adoption by the national organization. Talent Hunt, as a national program, made its grand debut in 1953 when the Fraternity featured the winners of the local and regional contest on a public program at the Grand Conclave in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The original statement of the Talent Hunt idea included this expression: "Creative and outstanding capacities in any honorable activity should be eligible for consideration." During public presentations, all original displays were limited to the field of music. Since that time, the Talent Hunt program has been expanded to include other forms of the expressive arts.

It is significant to note that prior to 1969, all participants in the Talent Hunt program were required to be high school seniors. The year 1969 appears on documents indicating a revision in the guidelines for the operation of Talent Hunt programs on every level. That revision expanded the level of participation to grades 9 through 12.

The Talent Hunt Program of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has touched thousands of students, many of whom have gone on to make outstanding contributions to their communities and to our world. Many have earned scholarships, awards, and recognitions through exposure from this program. (For example, Debra Byrd worked with Barry Manilow and is now doing solo work, movie and television work, and night clubs, etc.; Eddie Levert of the O'Jays and Gerald Levert of the Group Levert both outstanding vocalist and recording artist; Vincent Phillips (former College Professor of Music in North Carolina); and Barbara Saxton (Violinist) formerly with Cleveland Women's Sextet now living in South Africa.) It is our unyielding commitment to support our youth.

### Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mu Iota Chapter 2009 Talent Hunt Program

Welcome.....	Bro. Mark C. Shaw Talent Hunt Chairman
Invocation .....	Bro. Anthony Preston Chaplain
Talent Hunt History .....	Bro. Merlon Crawford Keeper of Finance
Master of Ceremonies .....	Bro. Reed Collins Keeper of Records & Seal
Presentation of Contestants	
Jessica L. Anderson .....	Vocal Solo
Janaris I. Cain .....	Dance
Shameaca J. Moore .....	Poetry
Alburuj R. Rahman .....	Instrumental Solo
Misha K. Hemphill .....	Vocal Solo
Summer L. Daniels-Burton .....	Dance
Hugh D. Mitchell.....	Vocal Solo
Nicolas A. Coombs .....	Oration
Blaze M.P. Johnson, Jr.....	Vocal Solo
Wesley J. Perry .....	Instrumental Solo
Jalen C. Hopkins .....	Vocal Solo
Tierra Whitley .....	Vocal Solo
Erik K. McCleary II.....	Instrumental Solo
Geneve N. Blackwell .....	Piano Solo
DeMeeshia W. Marshall .....	Vocal Solo

Olivia R. McCleary . . . . . Piano Solo  
 Robert W. White, Jr. . . . . Piano Solo  
 Recognition of Parents and Relatives . . . . . Bro. Dewey Ortiz  
 4th District Representative  
 Presentation of Awards. . . . . Bro. Bryan K. Dirke  
 Basileus Mu Iota Chapter  
 Closing Remarks  
 Benediction . . . . . Bro. Anthony Preston  
 Chaplain

**Mu Iota Chapter Officers**

<b>Bro. Bryan K. Dirke</b>	<b>Basileus</b>
<b>Bro. Jhade Barnes</b>	<b>Vice Basileus</b>
<b>Bro. Reed Collins</b>	<b>Keeper of Records &amp; Seal</b>
<b>Bro. Merlon Crawford</b>	<b>Keeper of Finance</b>
<b>Bro. Al Green</b>	<b>Keeper of Peace</b>
<b>Bro. Mark C. Shaw</b>	<b>Editor to the Oracle</b>
<b>Bro. Anthony Preston</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>
<b>Bro. Farrell Duncombe II</b>	<b>Parliamentarian</b>
<b>Bro. Leon Adams</b>	<b>Immediate Past Basileus</b>

**Acknowledgements**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2009 OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.  
 MU IOTA CHAPTER TALENT HUNT**

**JUDGES:**

**Min. Merlyn Ruffin, Lorii A. Williams-Wallace, Shawn "Thunder" Wallace  
 & Dr. Jan Edwards**

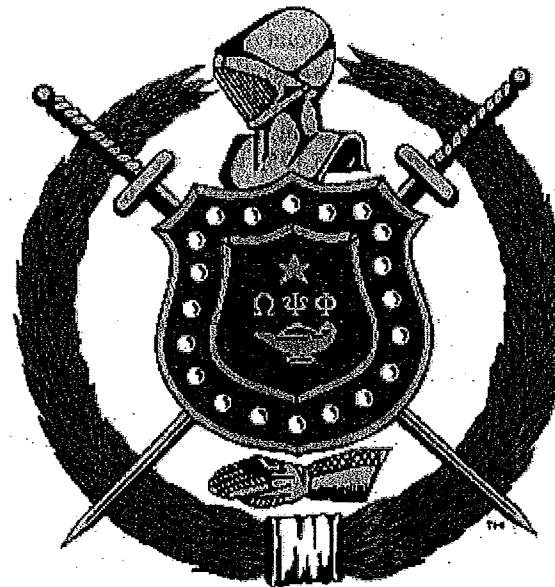
**Accompanists: Joyce Robinson & Bro. Milton V. Ruffin  
 And to**

The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. who sponsored tickets and made donations to the Talent Hunt. Last but not least, a very special thanks goes out to all of the participants in the 2009 Talent Hunt as well as to everyone in attendance this evening. Without you we could not have made this event possible.

# 2009 Talent Hunt

**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
 Mu Iota Chapter**

**Talent Hunt Program**



**Fort Hayes Metro Edu Center  
 Performing Arts Theatre  
 546 Jack Gibbs Blvd.  
 Columbus, Ohio 43215  
 Saturday, February 7, 2009**