

The Perry Tyner Tate Memorial Award

Perry Tyner Tate was a member of the Clinton High School Speech and Debate Team during her sophomore and junior years of high school before transferring to St. Andrew's for her senior year as a recipient of the Malone Scholarship. Despite suffering from rheumatoid arthritis from the age of 17 months, she finished her career with 1,636 NSDA points, earning the degree of Premier Distinction and attending NFL Nationals in her junior year. After graduating in 2007, Perry attended the University of Alabama and won a national championship in Communication Analysis at the Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha National Tournament in 2008 before retiring from competitive speech. After graduating from Alabama, Perry briefly attended law school before determining that her calling lay in helping children. To that end, Perry was working as the Director of Childcare and Aquatics at the YMCA in Clinton while pursuing a degree in Counseling from Mississippi College. In late 2012, Perry was stricken with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis and passed away on January 2, 2013, less than two weeks shy of her 24th birthday.

Those of us who knew Perry remember a vibrant young woman of faith who faced the world, and even the knowledge that her condition would prove fatal with a sense of purpose and courage. The coaching staff of the St. Andrew's Episcopal School Speech and Debate Team, along with her family, commit ourselves to honoring her memory through the creation and sustaining of the Perry Tyner Tate Memorial Award. Specifically, the award honors a student who:

- has overcome significant adversity to achieve success in the world of competitive speech
- displays a competitive fire within the competition round and compassion outside of it
- uses their talents and experience to enrich the speech and debate experience for others, particularly young students
- shows intellectual curiosity both in and outside of the world of competitive speech

In addition to an award recognizing the recipient, the tournament will make a cash donation in the winner's name and in memory of Perry to one of a list of charitable organizations relevant to different aspects of Perry's life.

The previous winners of this award are (from Mississippi unless otherwise noted):

2013 – Jayla Cooper, Olive Branch High School

2014 – Jarrius Adams, Hattiesburg High School

2015 – Jazi Atassi, Bob Jones High School (AL)

2016 – Jade Lewis, Northwest Rankin High School

2017 – Tanner McGee, Oak Grove High School

2018 – Jessica Styres, Madison Central High School

We ask coaches of students whose experiences are similar to those of Perry to nominate them for this award. Our sincere hope is that our efforts sufficiently honor this young woman who was taken from us all too soon.

Nominations are due by Friday, October 4. The next page provides you with the nomination form, which can be copied and pasted into a Word document or PDF and sent to Darin Maier at maierd@gosaints.org.

The Perry Tyner Tate Memorial Award – Nomination Form

Student Nominee: _____

Nominating Coach: _____

Nominee's Class Year: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Nominee's Current NSDA Point Total: _____

Is the nominee planning to attend this year's Saints Classic? Yes No Undecided

To the nominator: In order to provide a fuller picture of the nominee's merits, please take a few minutes to answer the following questions. You may either address these questions individually or holistically in a letter of nomination, but please speak to all questions. When finished, please sign the nomination and send it by email to Darin Maier at maierd@gosaints.org. Nominations should be received by Friday, October 4.

- 1) Please identify what you consider to be the nominee's two most significant achievements in the activity of competitive speech and debate.
- 2) What particular adversity has this nominee overcome in order to achieve success in speech and debate? Please discuss not only the adversity itself but any steps that the nominee has taken to overcome this situation.
- 3) In what ways has the nominee used his/her talents and experience to benefit younger students in speech and debate? This can include efforts either within the nominee's squad or in the larger forensic community.
- 4) Does this nominee display intellectual curiosity? Evidence in support of this need not be limited to the realm of forensics.
- 5) Please include any other information that you feel would help support this nomination that may not have been addressed in previous questions.