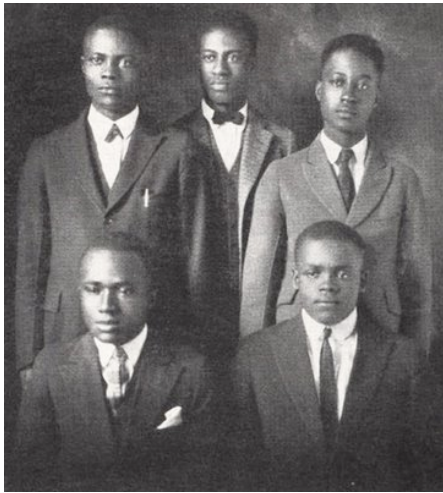


# Great Debaters

## Wiley College versus Southern Methodist University

### in a Campus Debate

Wednesday, February 25 at 5:30 pm  
at the Meadows School-- O' Donnell Auditorium



Wiley  
Debaters

<1935

2009>



Completing an historic promise made in 1935 as one of the first debates between a white college and a black college, this debate will be the first debate on SMU's campus between the two schools. The invitation of 1935 was mentioned in the well known 2008 film by Denzel Washington "The Great Debaters." The film detailed the Wiley College debate team that defeated the national champions of college debate in 1935 under the leadership of coach Melvin Tolson. Wiley and SMU completed the first debate on their campus on January 23, 2009. Both SMU and Wiley have restarted their debate programs this year.

As part of African American history month, this debate has been arranged by both programs to encourage the understanding of vital civic functions such as debate in the emergence of civil rights. One of the champion debaters coached by Melvin Tolson, was James Farmer Jr.- founder of CORE and leader of Freedom Rides into the South during the 1960s. The SMU speech and debate program is sponsored by CCPA and the Meadows school.

contact director of debate Dr. Ben Voth with further questions [[bvoth@smu.edu](mailto:bvoth@smu.edu)]

*\* Special Showing of the movie, "The Great Debaters" at 7:30 at Studio Movie Grill in Plano. The showing is free and open to the public.*

*Studio Movie Grill is located at 4721 W Park Blvd in Plano*