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June 15, 2007

Cambridge College Commencement an International Affair

Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Dr. Clark Abt and Professor Charles Ogletree awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees

CAMBRIDGE— There was an international atmosphere at the Cambridge College Commencement on Sunday June 10th. A record number of 726 graduates from 36 states, Washington D.C., the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and 38 foreign countries received their degrees at the Bank of America Pavilion in Boston.

“The idea of a university open to all, from every part of the world and all areas of the city is important,” said Professor Charles Ogletree as he accepted an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the College. Professor Ogletree is a Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Founder and Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice. “You have to get your education and use it to make this a better world,” he added.

Cambridge College also presented honorary degrees to Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Director of the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, and Dr. Clark Abt, founder and past President of Abt Associates and Distinguished Professor in the School of Management at Cambridge College. The graduates learned that life lessons are better understood through stories from Ambassador Hunt, who served as the event’s keynote speaker. “Principles are learned through stories,” she said, offering several examples which included her singing a song from *The King & I* and walking through the sea of graduates to learn how they have extended themselves to

others. Other advice she shared included building unlikely alliances, keeping your balance and the idea that one creates his or her own environment. “Ultimately, you are the driver, you create the traffic and you use it to move ahead,” said Ambassador Hunt. “Now go out and change the world!”

Ambassador Hunt, Professor Ogletree and Dr. Abt will join the ranks of many distinguished Cambridge College honorary degree recipients, including former Vice President Al Gore, NBA legend Bill Russell, Congressman John Lewis, National Urban League President Hugh B. Price, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, founder of Black Enterprise Magazine Earl G. Graves, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, former Coca-Cola Executive and NBA referee Ken Hudson, retired UPS Chief Operating Officer Cal Darden, and co-founder of Black Entertainment Television Sheila Crump Johnson.

One of the student speakers, Major Stephen Carroll of the Salvation Army Cambridge Corp., shared his experiences of earning his Master of Management degree much later in his life. “You are never too old to learn in an academic setting,” he said. “I am different now not because I have letters next to my name, but because I think differently,”

Also present at the Commencement were two delegations of deans, professors and board members from the Shandong Institute of Business and Technology and the Shandong University of Science and Technology in China. The Chinese presence at the ceremony is part of a larger visit to discuss the educational collaboration between Cambridge College and the Shandong Province in China. The College in collaboration with several universities in China are working on developing programs that will allow students from both countries to experience international education. In May, Cambridge College kicked off its Chinese Executive Training program, in which 30 executives from the Shandong Province are studying at Cambridge College for three months, earning a Certificate in American Business.

Founded in 1971, Cambridge College is a private, non-profit institution dedicated to providing academically excellent, time-efficient, and cost-effective higher education for a diverse population of working adults for whom those opportunities may have been limited or denied. Cambridge College has sites in Cambridge, Springfield, and Lawrence, MA; Chesapeake, VA; Augusta, GA; Ontario, CA; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. ###