CAU Celebrates 75th Anniversary Freshmen Induction Ceremony

ATLANTA (Sept. 18, 2009) – Clark Atlanta University continues a long-honored tradition of inducting its freshmen class in a formal ceremony, recently held and observed by parents, faculty, staff and alumni, with more than 800 new students.

Under the theme, “We Are Walking on Hallowed Ground: Our Ancestral Debt Must Be Paid,” the class of 2013 was warmly welcomed by university officials and campus leaders, sharing words of wisdom, the university’s Cultural Creed and the historic Spirit of Greatness.

CAU President Carlton E. Brown told students, “…There is indeed much to be excited about. Many of you will be taking courses from very driven and knowledgeable faculty members. Many of you are joining organizations in which you have a deep interest. You have discovered that as part of the Atlanta University Center, you are part of one of the brightest, most beautiful, talented and diverse student populations in any city in America -- perhaps in any city in the world.”

Brown said, “…The late, great Ralph David Abernathy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s primary confidant and a former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, is an Atlanta University graduate.” Brown mentioned educator Marva Collins, Broadway producer Kenny Leon, film producer Monty Ross, and Otis Johnson, mayor of Savannah, Ga., as graduates of CAU. “More than 29 college and university presidents have sprung from this place,” he added.

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The president closed his remarks by asking the students to “Judge yourselves, your work and all human endeavor by the extent to which Truth is exemplified, Goodness is manifest, and Beauty is evident. Pursue all work and action based on the extent to which your work increases Human Liberty, causes greater Equality, and the extent to which your work demands Justice or creates the space for the growth of Justice…”

The ceremony ended with a candle-lighting service to mark the Induction Litany.

Formed in 1988 by the consolidation of two historic institutions, Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869), Clark Atlanta University is the largest of the United Negro College Fund institutions with an enrollment of nearly 4,000 students. Clark Atlanta University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone 404-679-4501) to award the Bachelor’s, Master’s, Specialist and Doctor’s degrees. The Carnegie Classification lists CAU as a Research University – High Research Activity. CAU is listed as one of the best southeastern colleges by The Princeton Review and has been selected to the Washington Monthly’s 2008 list of best colleges and universities. National business and consumer publications rank Clark Atlanta high among the best buys in American higher education.

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