Clark Atlanta University Holds 20th Annual Commencement Exercises
Baccalaureate Service Draws Graduates, Faculty and Staff

ATLANTA (May 22, 2009) -- The Honorable Judge Glenda Hatchett delivered the keynote address during Clark Atlanta University’s 20th annual spring Commencement exercises on Monday, May 18, 2009 at Panther Stadium on the campus.

More than 800 students were awarded degrees, and a Navy commissioning service was held during the three-hour ceremony, which was presided over by CAU President Carlton E. Brown.

Hatchett was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree during the 8:00 a.m. ceremony in recognition of her distinguished contributions and commitment to service, advancement of humankind, advocacy of children, and extraordinary achievements within her profession.

During her keynote address, Hatchett shared with students “Glenda’s Five Golden Rules,” which include being grateful, embracing one’s purpose with a passion and seeking ways to serve. Hatchett also urged students to support CAU by giving back to their alma mater financially.

Commencement concluded with Brown charging the graduates to strive for leadership, set long-term goals and to stay connected and engaged with the University.

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Monday’s Commencement exercises culminated CAU’s annual May Reunion Weekend, which included several events and activities for alumni as well as students, faculty and staff. Several members of Clark Atlanta University’s Golden Class (those celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation) participated in several activities, including Commencement.

Clark Atlanta’s annual Baccalaureate Service for the class of 2009 took place on Sunday, May 17th at 10 a.m. in the Leonidas S. Epps Gymnasium in the Vivian W. Henderson Center. Bishop Gregory V. Palmer of the United Methodist Church served as the keynote speaker.

During his address, Bishop Palmer posed two main questions to the 2009 graduates. First, he asked students to examine their own purpose and told the graduates that their chief purpose in life is to glorify God in joy not as a duty, and to glorify him in all of your relationships. Second, he asked students to consider “Who is my neighbor?” The bishop said that is important to answer this question and that despite different religious convictions, individuals must connect to the human family. A neighbor might be next door, but also around the world, and that all people must see the face of God in our relationships with each other.

*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.*