CAU Professor Alice E. Stephens Named
the 2009 Vulcan Teacher of Excellence Award Recipient

ATLANTA (Sept. 24, 2009) – Dr. Alice E. Stephens (left), an associate professor in the Department of Mass Media Arts at CAU, has been named the recipient of the 2009 Vulcan Teacher of Excellence Award. Presenting the award certificate and a check for $1,000 is Carol Landrum, human resources administrator at Vulcan Materials Company.

(more)
A psychologist turned filmmaker, film festival programmer, and screenwriter, Stephens has taught for the past 11 years in the Radio/Television/Film concentration in the Division of Communication Arts. A scholar of and advocate for the exhibition of African Diaspora cinema, Stephens founded and was the director of the successful Columbia College Chicago African Film Festival, and has been a panelist, respondent, moderator and judge at national and international film festivals, including the Atlanta Film Festival. In 2004, as a Fulbright-Hayes participant, she studied the film and television industries of Ghana.

Stephens characterizes her teaching strategy as being a facilitator who teaches the whole student, and believes she engages in scholarly teaching in her classroom. In her personal narrative submitted for her nomination for the Vulcan Award, she indicated that she cares about her students' success and tries to create a classroom environment where they can succeed. “I believe that my job as their teacher is not only to teach content and help my students evaluate it, but to encourage and teach them to be life-long learners,” she said.

Stephens, who holds a Ph.D. in psychology and a master of fine arts degree from the Florida State University Film School, said, “I enjoy teaching the Clark Atlanta University student. I find my students eager and excited when I find just the right teaching strategy and they have that ‘aha’ moment. I enjoy being part of the process that makes this moment happen.”

Vulcan Materials Company has been a sponsor of the Teaching Excellence Awards since 1991 through the Georgia Foundation of Independent Colleges. Landrum said, “The reason Vulcan became interested in this in the first place was to recognize the teaching profession and its importance to our society and our future.”
Landrum added, “Vulcan is the largest construction aggregate company in the United States. We take big rocks and make them small, which is an accomplishment in itself, but those smaller rocks make cities. Every hospital, church, home, business and every classroom uses our rock to make something more -- something greater. Come to think of it, that is exactly what a teacher does.”

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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