CAU Team Wins First Place and $10,000 Scholarship at Ninth Annual Opportunity Funding Corporation Challenge

ATLANTA (April 21, 2009) – A student team representing Clark Atlanta University recently won first place and a $10,000 scholarship during the Ninth Annual Business Plan Competition for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, sponsored by Opportunity Funding Corporation (OFC).

The student company, Apex Plastics, presented its business plan as an early stage technology company that enables plastic manufacturers to reduce their expenditures on quality assessment and reduce their time in creating commercial plastic products for the $17 billion industry. The company consists of Yemaya Stallworth-Bordain (M.S. Computer Science candidate, CAU, B.S. Engineering CAU ‘08); Kamau Sewell (B.S. Engineering from Georgia Tech, B.A. Finance from Morehouse College); and Ainsley Smith (2009 MBA candidate in Finance from CAU, M.S. Physics from CAU). The CAU team competed against 22 teams representing HBCUs that have MBA programs.

Sewell and Stallworth-Bordain also placed second in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Global Venture Challenge 2009 Idea to Product competition on March 27, 2009.

“CAU raised the bar for future OFC competitions,” said Stallworth-Bordain. “This win and the Jesse Hill Jr. Championship Award demonstrate the quality of CAU’s academic programs, as well as the quality of our students. We are honored to represent Clark Atlanta University with the best business plan of the six competition finalists.”

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The team’s advisor is Dr. Edward Davis, interim dean of the School of Business at Clark Atlanta University.

“We are extremely proud of the CAU team’s representation and placement in a very competitive event,” said Davis. “The team’s achievement is a reflection of the support that professors and mentors have provided to the students, helping them to become such high achievers. This award is a testament that CAU students can compete on the national level with any other students and are top candidates for the American work force and entrepreneurship.”

The mission of the OFC is to help historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to develop a comprehensive entrepreneurship curriculum that would be particularly relevant in preparing young African-American men and women to become entrepreneurs. The program also aims to stimulate student interest in entrepreneurship and give them the experience of conceiving business ventures and preparing and presenting those plans.

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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