



Morehouse Celebrates its 125th Commencement Ceremony

*Honorary Degree Recipients Cicely Tyson and Henry Louis Gates to give charges to the class
Hank Aaron also to receive honorary degree*

ATLANTA, May 9, 2009 – Morehouse will once again usher nearly 500 men into the ranks of newly crowned alumni when it holds graduation on **Sunday, May 17 at 8 a.m.** on the Century Campus.

This year, the class of 2009 will have an extra special treat as it receives a charge from two of the honorary degree recipients. Both Academy award-nominated actress **Cicely Tyson** and scholar and author **Henry Louis “Skip” Gates** will offer words of inspiration in separate addresses to the class. The two, along with Major League Baseball Hall of Famer **Hank Aaron** will receive the honorary doctor of humane letters.

About Cicely Tyson

Tyson is an award-winning actress in television and film. She received an Oscar nomination for her groundbreaking role in the movie “Sounder.” She has received numerous Emmy awards, an Ace award, and a record 13 NAACP Image awards. She has served as World Ambassador for UNICEF, calling attention to the plight of children throughout the world. She co-founded The Dance Theater of Harlem and co-chaired the first and second National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta with Harry Belafonte. Her deep concern for young people led her to set aside one month out of the year to communicate with them on campuses, in churches and other organizations across the country.

About Henry Gates

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and the Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. He is editor-in-chief of the Oxford African American Studies Center, the first comprehensive scholarly online resource in the field of African American Studies and Africana Studies, and of The Root, an online news magazine dedicated to coverage of African American news, culture, and genealogy. He produced the PBS documentary series “African American Lives” and “Looking for Lincoln.”

About Hank Aaron

Hank Aaron is senior vice president for the Atlanta Braves. He was elected to Major League Baseball’s Hall of Fame in 1982. His Chasing the Dream Foundation was established to help children between the ages of nine and 12 realize their dreams by providing grants in music, art, writing, dance and sports. Aaron received the first Jackie Robinson Lifetime Achievement Legacy Award from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. During his 65th birthday celebration in 1999 he was honored by MLB with the introduction of the Hank Aaron Award, which is presented annually to the best hitters in the National and American leagues.

Media Logistics:

Arrival: Suggested arrival time for working media is 7:15 a.m.

Parking: Parking for media will be available during Commencement along Fair Street (eastbound from Ehrlee to Milton streets). Enter the Century Campus from the Fair Street gate, near Danforth Chapel.

Video/Still Photography: Credentialed photographers may approach the stage during the invocation, introduction of speakers, and the first three minutes of speeches.

Broadcast Media: Photographers wishing to get a clean audio feed may plug into the mult box stationed near the control panel between Hope and Sale halls. The mult box is not located central to the stage, so photographers will need to bring a wireless system for audio.

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