



TOUGALOO COLLEGE NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

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Actor Hill Harper Will Deliver Commencement Address at Tougaloo College

Tougaloo, Miss. — On May 13th, 2007 Actor Hill Harper will be the keynote speaker at the Tougaloo College 2007 commencement ceremony. Harper is an author, as well as an accomplished film, television and stage actor. He currently stars in the hit CBS drama series, “CSI: NY,” in which he portrays Dr. Sheldon Hawkes.

Tougaloo College president, Dr. Beverly W. Hogan, says, “We are delighted to have Hill back on the Tougaloo campus. He was here for the Nissan Student Leadership Conference last summer and truly inspired the student leaders who attended. I’m sure he will do the same for our graduating seniors.”

Harper graduated *magna cum laude* from Brown University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and earned his J.D. (*cum laude*) from Harvard Law School. He also holds a Master’s in Public Administration degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Harper broke into both film and television in 1993, doing recurring work on the Fox series “Married...with Children” and making his film debut in the film short, “Confessions of a Dog.” He had his first substantial film role in Spike Lee’s “Get on the Bus” (1996). His recent film roles include the lead in the independent film, “Love, Sex and Eating the Bones.” Harper’s other screen credits include: “Loving Jezebel,” “The Nephew,” “The Skulls,” “In Too Deep,” “Beloved,” “Lackawanna Blues”, and “One Red Rose,” which he also co-wrote, for Showtime.

For more information about the Tougaloo College 2007 commencement ceremony, please contact Sylvia Clark at 601-977-7718.

Founded in 1869, Tougaloo College is a private, historically black, coeducational four-year liberal arts institution, located in Madison County on the northern edge of Jackson, Mississippi. Known nationally as “The Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi,” the College is led by its first female and 13th president, Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan. Dr. Hogan is a 1973 graduate of the College and a native Mississippian. Under her visionary leadership, the College has increased its enrollment by 12% and boasts a student retention rate of 68%.

Tougaloo College ranks among the top 50 U.S. institutions whose graduates earn PhDs in science and engineering disciplines and among the top 15 historically black colleges and universities in the graduation of females with undergraduate degrees in the physical sciences. The College has produced more graduates who have completed their PhD degrees through the UNCF-Mellon Doctoral Fellowship Program than any other institution in the nation.

Listed as one of the Best Colleges in the Southeast by The Princeton Review (2007 edition) and the only Mississippi institution ranked among the top 20 liberal arts institutions in the nation by Washington Monthly, over 66% of its graduates enter professional and graduate schools immediately after graduation. Tougaloo College is the leading producer of African American health professionals, including over 40% of the physicians and dentists, practicing in the state of Mississippi. Among its graduates are more than one-third of the state’s African American attorneys and educators including teachers, principals, school superintendents, college/university faculty and administrators.