



Morehouse Announces the 2008 Baccalaureate and Commencement Speakers

ATLANTA, April 9, 2008 – When more than 500 men from the class of 2008 grace the Martin Luther King International Chapel for the last time as undergraduates before becoming Morehouse Men, they will be inspired by a Baccalaureate message delivered by **H. Beecher Hicks**, senior pastor of the six-thousand member historic Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

Since his election in June 1977, Hicks has served as the fifth senior minister in the congregation's 140-year history. The church's various commercial and social service ventures have placed Metropolitan among the world's most productive religious and civic institutions.

The **Baccalaureate** service for Morehouse will take place on **Saturday, May 17 at 3 p.m.** in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel. Baccalaureate is the last spiritual assembly the class will have before they receive their degrees during commencement the next morning. **Commencement** will take place on **Sunday, May 18 at 8 a.m.** on the century campus.

The **Commencement** speaker is Morehouse alumnus **Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D.** Carson graduated from Morehouse in 1981. He currently serves as the first CEO and President of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The community foundation is dedicated to advancing civic engagement to address the most challenging problems facing California's San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Carson serves on several nonprofit boards including the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, Northern California Grant Makers and Southern Education Foundation. He is a past chair of the Council on Foundations and has received numerous nonprofit leadership awards including recognition by The Non-profit Times as one of the 50 most influential non-profit leaders in the United States. He received his doctorate and master's in public administration and public and international affairs from Princeton University and a bachelor's degree in economics, Phi Beta Kappa, from Morehouse College.

###

Recognized as one of the top feeder schools to the 15 most prominent graduate and professional programs in the nation by The Wall Street Journal, called "One of the best Southeastern colleges" by The Princeton Review and ranked "America's Hottest College for Men" by Kaplan-Newsweek, Morehouse College is the nation's largest, private liberal arts college for men. The College offers 26 majors in three academic divisions: Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Mathematics, and Business Administration and Economics. Morehouse offers a number of programs and activities to enhance its challenging liberal arts curriculum through the Leadership Center at Morehouse College, Morehouse Research Institute, Andrew Young Center for International Affairs and the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel. In 2007, Morehouse launched a new Journalism and Sports concentration, which will one day grow into a major course of study.

Prominent alumni include Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Peace Prize winner and civil and human rights non-violent leader; Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General and director of the National Center for Primary Care at the Morehouse School of Medicine; Shelton "Spike" Lee, filmmaker and president of 40 Acres & A Mule Productions; Samuel L. Jackson, Academy Award-nominated actor; Maynard H. Jackson, founder of Jackson Securities and the first African American mayor of Atlanta; and Nima A. Warfield, the first African American Rhodes Scholar from a HBCU.