

ROSEMONT COLLEGE

For Immediate Release

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Journalist Lisa Thomas-Laury to Speak at Commencement

Rosemont, PA – Lisa Thomas-Laury, a pioneer in journalism and current television journalist at WPVI-TV 6abc, will be the guest speaker at Rosemont College's 86th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 16, 2009.

President Sharon Latchaw Hirsh, Ph.D., will preside over the ceremony, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Connelly Green. In the event of rain, the event will be held in the College's Alumnae Hall. Thomas-Laury will also be the recipient of an honorary degree.

Thomas-Laury earned her bachelors degree in broadcast journalism from Marshall University (Huffington, West Virginia). While attending Marshall, she became the state's first African-American television weather personality, reporting for WSAZ-TV. After graduating, Thomas-Laury became a morning news anchor/reporter/photographer for KTVY-TV in Oklahoma. She joined the 6abc family in 1978 as a noon co-anchor and reporter.

At channel 6, Thomas-Laury has been recognized for her special series on hard-to-adopt children and she placed first in an Associated Press competition for her special Thanksgiving series, "Five Families Give Thanks." Thomas-Laury has covered numerous political elections and has also received numerous community service awards, including one from the local chapter of Negro Professional and Business Women's Association, the United States Jaycees, and American Women in Radio and Television. In 2004, she received the "Braveheart Award" from the local chapter of the NAACP for her dedication to her work and community.

Along with her career accomplishments, Thomas-Laury is also honorary chairperson of the local chapter of the March of Dimes and honorary chair for Maternity Care Coalition, an organization which supports mothers in need throughout the Delaware Valley. Most recently, she was awarded Philadelphia's most prestigious honor, the Liberty Bell Award, from the Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities. The Commission cited her for devotion to improving lives of people in the Delaware Valley who live with disabilities.

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Founded in 1921 by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Rosemont College is an independent, coeducational liberal arts institution in the Catholic tradition located on the Main Line, 11 miles west of Philadelphia, on the border of Montgomery and Delaware Counties. The nationally-acclaimed, traditional Undergraduate College confers B.A., B.S., and B.F.A. degrees in twenty-one majors. Rosemont College also includes the Schools of Graduate and Professional Studies, which are open to both women and men. For more information, visit www.rosemont.edu.

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