Lorene Cary, author of *The Price of A Child*, will address Philadelphia University’s Convocation Aug. 24

*Some 731 freshmen will be welcomed to the campus community at the ceremony*

Philadelphia, August 2006 – Lorene Cary, author of *The Price of A Child*, chosen as the inaugural One Book One Philadelphia selection, will address Philadelphia University’s 122nd Convocation for new students and their families on Thursday, Aug. 24 at 4 p.m. Cary also will receive the University’s Centennial Medal Award.

In addition, Ms. Cary will serve as writer-in-residence during the fall semester, working with both student and faculty groups. Incoming students were given copies of and asked to read her book *Black Ice* prior to the start of the semester.

“We are honored to have Ms. Cary as our keynote speaker,” said Philadelphia University President James P. Gallagher. “We are inspired both by her writing and commitment to public service. She will be a tremendous resource for our students as they transition into college life.”

As the first official gathering of incoming students, Convocation marks the start of the academic year for freshmen and their families. This year, 731 first-year students are expected on campus for the annual ceremony.


Since then, she has authored *The Price of A Child*, which was chosen by Philadelphia and Buffalo, N.Y., for their 2003 citywide reading initiatives, and the contemporary novel *Pride*. In addition, Cary founded the *Art Sanctuary*, a non-profit lecture and performance series in Philadelphia that highlights African-American visionaries and artists and offers educational opportunities for youth.

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Cary currently lectures in creative writing at the University of Pennsylvania, where she was awarded the 1998 Provost’s Award for Distinguished Teaching. She received B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and has been awarded honorary doctorates from Colby, Keene State and Chestnut Hill colleges. In 2003, Cary received The Philadelphia Award, which honors her art and public service to the city.

As writer-in-residence for the 2006 fall semester, Cary will lead students in writing seminars and discussions about her book *Black Ice*. She will also hold faculty colloquia about the book and the issues it explores.

In addition to Cary, three outstanding educators nominated by incoming students also will receive Centennial Medals. Established in 1984 by the board of trustees to celebrate Philadelphia University’s 100th anniversary, the Centennial Medal Award honors prominent individuals in education, business, government, science and civil life who have made special contributions to students’ lives.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,500 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 40 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.

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