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MEDIA NOTICE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LeMoyne-Owen College Seeks New Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach

MEMPHIS, TN (June 25, 2008) -- LeMoyne-Owen College announced today that it will begin the search for a new Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach. Favorite son, David "Smokey" Gaines, who has led the program since 2005, will not be returning for the next season," said LeMoyne-Owen College Interim President Johnnie B. Watson. President Watson stated that the College appreciated Coach Gaines' many contributions to the athletic program. Coach Gaines had replaced Coach Jerry Johnson who had held the position of Head Coach since 1959.

Coach Johnson recently celebrated his 90th birthday at a city-wide gala event hosted by the LeMoyne-Owen College Alumni Association. Over his 46-year tenure, Johnson led the LeMoyne-Owen Magicians to the 1975 NCAA National Championship, one Division SIAC Championship, and to a host of other Conference Championships. He was the second winningest Coach in Division II Basketball. He is one of only 10 college basketball coaches in history to win more than 800 games. Coach Johnson retired at the end of his 46th season.

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The LeMoyne-Owen Magicians Basketball team ended the season on a high note having won four straight consecutive wins on their home court over conference rivals Stillman College, Tuskegee University, Clark-Atlanta and Morehouse College which led the team to an undefeated record on their home court second semester. “We moved from next to last place in the SIAC Conference up to second place,” said Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach Edward Newton. Coach Newton had assisted Coach Gaines in recent months.

LeMoyne-Owen College provides a transformative experience educating students for urban-focused leadership, scholarship, service and professional careers.

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