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### **Actress and Advocate Victoria Rowell to participate in Bornblum Lecture Series**

MEMPHIS, TN (September 17, 2008) -- The Bornblum Institute of LeMoyne-Owen College kicks off its fall season with actress and foster care advocate Victoria Rowell on Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., at Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Road, Memphis TN 38117. Ms. Rowell's presentation will be the first of the season for the Bornblum Lecture Series. The lecture, and the reception which follows Ms. Rowell's presentation, are both free and open to the public. A book signing will also follow the presentation, and books will be available for purchase.

Victoria Rowell has impacted the television and movie industry for more than 20 years. In addition to her 13-year run as the character Drucilla Winters on *The Young and the Restless*, Ms. Rowell has starred in such television shows and movies The Cosby Show, playing the character of Paula; Diagnosis Murder, in which she played the character Amanda Bentley-Livingston; A Distinguished Gentleman, and in which she played the character Celia Kirby. In her latest film, Home of the Brave, Rowell portrays Penelope, the wife of Will Marsh (played by Samuel L. Jackson).

Additionally, Rowell has written a memoir titled, The Women Who Raised Me, and developed a documentary titled, The Mentor, dedicated to the role models in her life. Both her book and documentary talk about the important people in her life who helped her to achieve success.

Rowell has been honored with eleven NAACP Image Awards and is involved with numerous charities. In 1990, she founded The Rowell Foster Children's Positive Plan (RFCPP). The Mission of the organization is to give direct services in the areas of fine arts, higher education, healthcare, financial literacy, reunification programs, cultural enrichment and resource family support.

The Bornblum Institute is delighted to present Ms. Rowell. The Institute was established with generous grants from the Bornblum Foundation and sponsors the visits of notable scholars and intellectuals to LeMoyne-Owen College to deliver public lectures and engage in dialogue with students. Previous Bornblum Lecture Series speakers have included actor Tim Reid, journalist Ed Gordon, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Director Howard Dodson, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Edward P. Jones, and noted astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Mr. Bert Bornblum, for whom the institute is named, is a philanthropist and entrepreneur with a particular interest in education. LeMoyne-Owen College awarded him the Doctor of Humane Letters degree in May 2005 in recognition of his contributions to education.

For more information, see the contacts listed above.

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