



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **ACTOR CHRIS TUCKER GIVES TALLADEGA COLLEGE GRADUTES SOME WORDS TO LIVE BY**

The comedian who served as the guest speaker for the class of 2009 was also presented with an honorary doctoral degree by Talladega President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins.

**Talladega, Alabama** – Actor, comedian, and philanthropist **Chris Tucker** delighted guest and the Talladega College graduating class of 2009 when he served as the guest speaker at the 134<sup>th</sup> commencement exercises on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Tucker marched in with Talladega College **President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins** and the class of 2009 shortly before the ceremonies began at **9:30 a.m. on the Quad in front of Savery Library**. The entertainer told the graduating class that they must have faith to succeed.

"You have to put God first if you want to achieve all of your goals," Tucker said. "It was faith and the prayers of my family that got me where I am today."

Tucker also told the graduates that their achievements in college and reward of receiving a degree are just the foundation they need to reach their goals. A crowd of more than 300 cheered as Tucker told his story of how he went from class clown to international fame. **Dr. Hawkins** is honored to have the renowned actor on campus.

"Talladega College is about recognizing accomplishments and excellence," Hawkins said. "Chris Tucker is a truly accomplished talented performer and I know our graduates will benefit from hearing about his experiences."

Tucker, who has come a long way since his stand-up comedy days on Def Comedy Jam is the star of multiple box-office smashes including, Rush Hour 3, Rush Hour 2, Friday, Dead Presidents, and Money Talks. But it was the original Rush Hour, which grossed \$250 million worldwide that proved the actor/comedian to one of Hollywood's hottest talents. Talladega College will recognize the actor for his accomplishments by presenting him with an honorary doctorate degree.

Commencement exercises were the culmination of the **92<sup>nd</sup> Talladega College Alumni Weekend**, which extends from **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Internationally known comedian Chris Tucker was just one of the comedians who took part in the celebration. Comedian **Kym Whitley** hosted a live radio remote on **98.7 KISS FM**, as Talladega College

celebrates being selected the school of the month by the Tom Joyner Foundation. The broadcast began at **5:00 a.m. in front of Sumner Hall on campus.**

Whitley made her TV debut on the series Vinnie and Bobby in 1992. Among her other TV appearances were recurring roles on My Wife and Kids, The Parkers, and The Boondocks, as well as guest shots on Reno 911, Grey's Anatomy, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Arli\$\$, Married with Children, and numerous others.

## **About Talladega College**

Talladega College is Alabama's oldest private historically black liberal arts college and home of the famous Amistad murals, fostering leadership is a tradition. Since its founding in 1867, Talladega has sought to instill in its graduates the values of morality, intellectual excellence, and hard work. The College seeks to nurture the whole person through close, personal relations between faculty and students and by providing experiences that develop a strong personal value system and a sense of responsibility to the local community and to the world. [www.talladega.edu](http://www.talladega.edu)

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