



## Media Advisory

May 26, 2010

### **Penn State Alumni Association welcomes the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers as an Alumni Interest Group**

**What:** The Essence of Joy Alumni Singers (EOJAS) are pleased to announce their new status as an Alumni Interest Group (AIG) of the Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association (PSAA). The PSAA – a powerful network of 161,234 members – is the largest dues-paying alumni association in the world. The mission of the Alumni Association is to connect alumni to the University and to each other, to provide valued services to members, and to support the University’s mission of teaching, research and service. AIGs are chartered by the Alumni Association as groups of alumni and friends of Penn State who have common interests arising out of their University-recognized co-curricular activities or common cultural or professional postgraduate interests, and who relate to and support the mission of the University.

“We are honored to be recognized as an Alumni Interest Group. This AIG status comes after more than a year of work on behalf of the choir and our Board of Directors,” said Joshua Edwards, EOJAS President. “This AIG status will provide our organization with the opportunity to more formally recognize our existing relationship with Penn State and increase our ability to reach out the University and community at large.”

**Who:** The Essence of Joy Alumni Singers perform sacred and secular music from the African and African-American tradition. The choir, founded in 2005, is composed of alumni of the Essence of Joy Choir of The Pennsylvania State University. EOJAS has performed extensively in locations such as Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Washington D.C., Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. EOJAS’ purpose is to learn, present, and promote African and African-American sacred and secular music in an effort to entertain, inspire, affirm and unify the worldwide community. EOJAS artistic director, Dr. Anthony Leach, is an associate professor of music and music education at The Pennsylvania State University and is Penn State’s current Laureate. He is the director and founder of Essence of Joy and the director of the Penn State University Choir

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The choir would be happy to accommodate any requests for interviews

[www.eojas.org](http://www.eojas.org)