

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Center for American Places to Call Columbia College Chicago Home
Arts and Media College Acquires Respected Imprint**

NOTE: Steven Kapelke and George Thompson are available for interview.

CHICAGO, IL – Columbia College Chicago, the nation’s largest private arts and media college, and The Center for American Places (CAP/the Center), publisher of works that “enhance the public’s understanding of, appreciation for, and affection for the places of the Americas and the rest of the world—whether urban, suburban, rural, or wild,” have signed an agreement of acquisition, announced Columbia President Warrick L. Carter, Ph.D. The acquisition will take effect on December 31, 2007.

CAP will be a wholly-owned imprint of the college and will be known as The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago. Business and marketing operations will shift to Chicago offices on the Columbia campus, while design functions will remain in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and editorial functions in Staunton, Virginia.

CAP was founded in 1990 by George F. Thompson, a former editor at the Johns Hopkins University Press. Since that time, the Center has brought to publication more than 320 works across dozens of disciplines, including geography, history, landscape and urban studies, photography, and creative nonfiction. The Center has won or shared more than 100 editorial prizes, including best-book honors in 31 academic fields.

A relationship first formed with Columbia College in 2001 when Thompson worked with Bob Thall, chair of the school’s photography department, and forged an agreement to co-publish fine art photography books. The first volume in the co-publishing arrangement was Melissa Ann Pinney’s critically acclaimed *Regarding Emma: Photographs of American Women and Girls* (2003). As the publishing relationship progressed, the two organizations came to recognize a common philosophy and mission, as well as mutually beneficial business objectives, according to Columbia Provost Steven Kapelke.

“The Center’s motto is ‘Books live. Books endure. Books make a difference. Books are gifts to civilization.’—and that is a sentiment that resonates deeply with Columbia’s values and our emphasis on the importance of a solid liberal arts education,” says Kapelke. “At Columbia we work across disciplines and encourage our faculty and students to explore collaborative and innovative approaches to the arts and media. The vision and commitment of George Thompson and the publishing history of the Center has emphasized connections between art and science, photography and literature, architecture and the natural environment. This is a great match.”

“For 17 years, the Center for American Places has been committed to developing and bringing to publication books of lasting value whose authors reflect the culture of our times,” says CAP founder George Thompson. “In becoming the Press of Columbia College Chicago we wish to enhance the visibility and impact of both the Center’s books and Columbia’s educational mission. Just as books make an important contribution to civilization, so too do

our students and teachers, scholars and artists.

“Chicago has always been very good to our books,” Thompson added. “We already feel a warm embrace in Chicago, one of North America’s great cities, and we look forward to being a very good neighbor in the years to come.”

Among the Center’s award-winning titles are: *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago’s Parks* by Julia Sniderman Bachrach, *Route 66: Iconography of an American Highway* by Arthur Krim, *New Orleans: The Making of an Urban Landscape* by Peirce F. Lewis, and *Biography of a Tenement House in New York City: An Architectural History of 97 Orchard Street* by Andrew S. Dolkart.

Upcoming titles, scheduled for release in 2008 under The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago imprint, include: *Forests Forever: Their Ecology, Restoration, and Protection* by John J. Berger; the Center’s first novel, *The Great River* by Chicagoan Charles Dee Sharp, the Center’s first memoir, *Southern Comforts: Rooted in a Florida Place* by Sudye Cauthen, *Urban Wilderness: Exploring a Metropolitan Watershed* by Eddee Daniel, *Civil Rights Memorials and the Geography of Memory* by Owen Dwyer and Derek H. Alderman, *From Yard to Garden: The Domestication of America’s Home Grounds* by Christopher Grampp and *Cleveland: The Flats, The Mill, and the Hills* by Andrew Borowiec, among others.

The Center for American Places’ exciting new *My Kind of...* series will be launched in Spring 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The University of Chicago Press will continue to serve as the principal distributor for both backlisted and future titles published by The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago. More information on the Center’s publications and history can be found at www.americanplaces.org.

Columbia College Chicago, an urban institution committed to open access, opportunity and excellence in higher education, provides innovative degree programs in the visual, performing, media and communication arts to more than 12,000 students in more than 120 undergraduate and graduate programs, including film & video, art & design, arts management, television, radio, music, and interactive multimedia—all within a liberal arts context. Founded in 1890 as a communications school for women, Columbia College Chicago was revised in 1963 as a liberal arts college with a “hands-on minds-on” approach to arts and media education and a progressive social agenda. Under the current leadership of President Warrick L. Carter, Ph.D., Columbia is aggressively pursuing this mission. Columbia is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The college is accredited as a teacher training institution by the Illinois State Board of Education. For further information visit www.colum.edu.

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