



## The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

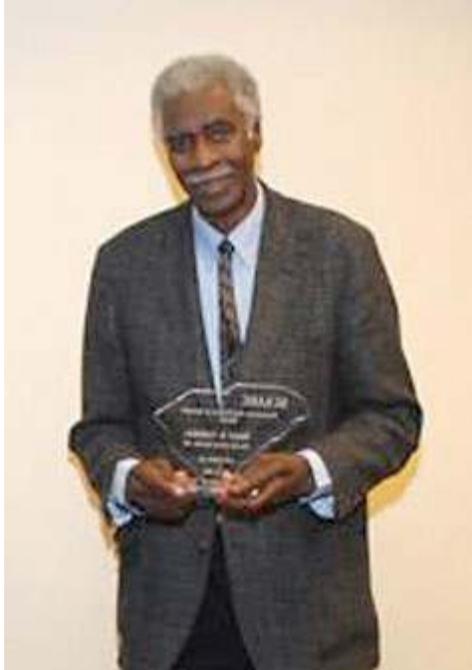
### "Preserving Our Places in History Awards"

On the evening of Thursday, January 25, 2007, during its annual meeting in Columbia, the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission presented the second annual *Preserving Our Places in History* awards. The awards recognized individuals, an organization and a project that have demonstrated or made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of African American history and culture in South Carolina during the past year.



Cecil J. Williams, Bernie Wright, and Senator Kay Patterson. Photo by Abel Bartley

**Cecil J. Williams** of Orangeburg received the individual award for his ongoing work as one of the state's most significant photographers. His work documents African American life in South Carolina from the 1940s to the recent present.



Emory Campbell photo by Abel Bartley

**Emory Campbell** of Hilton Head was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong commitment to the preservation of the African American experience in South Carolina. He is executive director emeritus of the Penn Center on St Helena Island. During his twenty-year tenure, he organized the nationally recognized Penn Center Heritage Days, revised the Center's family farm program, and expanded its museum program to assist writers, filmmakers and authors. He continues to do African American heritage tours of the Sea Islands, to work with other communities to preserve the property rights of African Americans on the Sea Islands (in the face of creeping development), and to write and publish about Gullah-Geechee history and culture.



Marvin Dulaney, Jennie Stephens, executive director of the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, and Michael Allen. Photo by Abel Bartley

The **Center for Heirs' Property Preservation** in North Charleston received the organizational award for its work in providing education and legal services to African Americans in the Lowcountry on how to preserve heirs' property. Created in 2005 by the Coastal Community Foundation, the Center provides pro bono legal counsel, court representation, family mediation, and community based education to enable its clients to actively protect and preserve their property rights.



Rep. Lonnie Hosey (far right) and Bernie Wright present the Project Award to (from l to r) McKenzie Kubly, Ashley Guinn, Linday Crawford, and Patricia Shandor.

Not pictured are Dr. Robert Weyeneth, Lindsay Maybin, Santi Thompson, and Louis Venters. Photo by Abel Bartley

The **Camden African American Heritage Project** completed by seven graduate students in Dr. Robert Weyeneth's History 712 "Historic Preservation Practicum" class at the University of South Carolina received the project award. The Camden African American Heritage Project not only documented African American history and Culture in Camden, South Carolina (including the discovery of a little known slave revolt planned in the city in 1816), the project also had the real world impact of being used by public officials in Camden to secure a \$100,000 grant to establish a local African American history museum.