

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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Pickering to Deliver Commencement Address at Oglethorpe University

Atlanta - Sam Pickering, author and model for the teacher in the movie "Dead Poets Society," will address the 280 graduates of Oglethorpe University on Saturday, May 11, on the Academic Quadrangle of the Peachtree Road campus. The ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Pickering will deliver the commencement address, "This Great Gift," and will be presented with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree. Previous honorary degree recipients at Oglethorpe commencements have included Bernard Baruch, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Herbert Lehman, Tom J. Watson, T. Woodrow Wilson, and more recently Daniel Boorstin, Andrew Young, Anne Rivers Siddons, Billy Payne, Karl Haas, Yoel Levi, Max Cleland and Zell Miller.

Pickering has written numerous books, articles and essays in fields including eighteenth and nineteenth century English literature, familiar essay, children's literature, and nature writers. His most recent books include "The Last Book," "A Little Fling," "Deprived of Unhappiness," "Living to Prowl," and "The Blue Caterpillar." Pickering has been teaching English at University of Connecticut since 1978. His professional career began in 1970 when he taught at Dartmouth College after receiving degrees from University of the South (Sewanee), Cambridge University and Princeton. Pickering was born in Nashville, Tenn. in 1941.

Providing a superior education in the liberal arts, Oglethorpe University is located in the heart of Brookhaven, just north of Buckhead. The university is a highly selective, independent, co-educational institution that enrolls approximately 1,200 students each year. Oglethorpe's students represent the best of their graduating classes, with an average GPA above 3.6, and average SAT above 1,200. Following graduation, students often go on to the best graduate schools in the nation. Recent placements include Cambridge University, Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Princeton University and Yale University.

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