December 3, 2007

Books for Africa Book Drive

Students Asked to Think Locally & Act Globally for Textbook Drive

Aiming to combat third-world illiteracy and educational shortcomings, the College of Charleston SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team has collaborated with Better World Books to encourage students to think locally and act globally by donating their old textbooks to Books for Africa. Instead of throwing the books that the bookstore will not buy back into your closet for the rest of eternity, SIFE is encouraging students to donate their textbooks to Books for Africa.

The textbook drive accepts college textbooks and study guides, any book recently used in a college class, trade paperbacks, workbooks, and in general books that cover college subject matter. We do ask that the textbooks have copyright dates from the past five years. Books can be deposited at the following designated drop sites:

- Beatty Center 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th floors
- Stern Student Center Lobby
- Lightsey Center (1st Floor)
- Liberty Dorm Lobby
- Berry Dorm Lobby
- Warren Place Lobby
- College Lodge Lobby

The books collected will be donated to Books for Africa, a non-profit organization whose goal is to end book shortages in Africa, or sold online. Books for Africa sends approximately 22 tons of books to Africa every week and has shipped more than 15 million books to 28 African countries since 1988, according to the organization's website. There is a lack of educational materials in Africa which contributes to illiteracy and the continuing cycle of poverty.

Better World Books will also give funding to SIFE for each of the books sold online that was donated from the drive. SIFE will use the money it raises to fund another ongoing project: Technology for Africa. Plans for this project include setting up computer labs in three regions of Cameroon, Africa. Ten students and two advisors from the College of Charleston will go to Cameroon, Africa during Spring Break 2009 to setup the labs and teach the basic computer skills to trainees. The SIFE team is currently working on fundraising and sponsorships for this project. For more information, please contact Harriett Lee at helee@edisto.cofc.edu.

Through this first textbook drive, the SIFE team hopes to make a difference in Africa and continue this tradition for years to come. Everyone deserves the opportunity for education and SIFE hopes to make an impact in the lives of the impoverished in Africa.