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**3,949 CPCU Graduates Receive Designation in Honolulu**

**MALVERN, Pa.**—The American Institute for CPCU honored 3,949 new graduates of the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU®) program—the second largest class of CPCU completers in Institute history—at the 2007 CPCU conferment ceremony in Honolulu, Hawaii. The 2007 class brings the number of CPCU designations conferred since the program’s inception to almost 65,000.

The Hawaiian-themed ceremony was held at the Hawaii Convention Center in September. Peter L. Miller, CPCU, the Institute’s president and CEO, presided over the conferment ceremony and shared some traditional Hawaiian advice with the class, "The proverb *Kūlia i ka nu`u*, to strive for the summit, exemplifies the pursuit of achievement and excellence. Earning the CPCU designation is the beginning, not the result, of an ongoing process. Always reach for new possibilities ... and aspire to excellence in everything you do."

The featured speaker at this year’s conferment ceremony was Erik Weihenmayer, world-class blind adventurer, author and elite mountaineer who, in May 2001, became the first and only blind man to reach the summit of Mount Everest. He is one of only 100 climbers to climb the Seven Summits—the highest mountains on each of the seven continents.

A man who has never let his blindness interfere with his passion for an exhilarating and fulfilling life, Weihenmayer shared an impassioned and motivating presentation.

"In an environment riddled with pitfalls, roping up with good people is the best chance we have," he said. "Imagine your team roped together, building upon each other's strengths, growing day by day. You know if you fall, someone will stop you. If someone else falls, you stop them; it's just automatic.

"People might have different responsibilities, different goals, even motives, but you link together behind one vision. The scope and power of that kind of team is unstoppable."

The profile of the 2007 CPCU class honored at the conferment ceremony reveals the following: The youngest designee is 20; the oldest, 66. Men represent 52 percent of the designees, and women, 48 percent. Around 72 percent of the graduates hold a bachelor's or an advanced degree. New designees come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Graduates also come from Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Designees also come from a wide variety of job functions. Our survey showed that 29 percent work in claims; 18 percent work in underwriting; 11 percent work in reinsurance; 9 percent work in risk management; 9 percent work in sales and marketing; 6 percent work in information processing; 2 percent work in loss control and the remaining 16 percent work in areas such as accounting, finance, and statistical reporting; human resources/education and training and research and planning.

Note to Editors: The American Institute for CPCU and its companion organization, the Insurance Institute of America, are independent, nonprofit organizations offering educational programs, professional certification, and research to people who practice or have an interest in risk management and/or property-casualty insurance. The Institutes offer the CPCU professional designation program; associate designation programs in areas such as claims, risk management, underwriting, and reinsurance; introductory and foundation programs, and online courses.

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