



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Kim Weiss
Public Relations
919-272-8615
kjw27612@yahoo.com

Media note: Photo attached.

Samuel Cole Salon Stylist To Compete For Position On U.S. OMC Team

March 13, 2007 (RALEIGH, NC) – Erica Lockhart, a hair stylist with Samuel Cole Salon in Raleigh, is training to compete in the National Cosmetology Association's (NCA) 2007 USA Beauty Open to be held June 10, 2007, in Orlando, Florida, during Premiere Orlando, the largest beauty-industry exhibition in the nation.

The international competition, sanctioned by *Organisation Mondiale Coiffure* (OMC), will help determine OMC's 2008 USA Team, which will compete in Paris in September and Argentina in October, leading up to the World Competition in Chicago in March of 2008.

Lockhart, 22, will compete in the junior division for hair. To prepare, she has been training every weekend since November by completing projects in various aspects of hair cutting, styling, and coloring.

She learned about the OMC competitions through award-winning cosmetologist Ron Hawkins of the International Institute of Hair Design in Raleigh, where Lockhart received her education. He encourages students to participate because "It develops their skill level," he told *American Salon* magazine in its January '07 edition. "Although you're not going to put the styles that we do, with the colors that we do, on a client, if you can do this quality of work, it makes salon work extremely easy."

Lockhart says she is excited about the competition because "I love doing hair, and there are no boundaries [in the competition]. Whatever I feel like doing, I can do. It's a great creative outlet."

Erica Lockhart is one of Samuel Cole Salon's leading stylists. For more information on the salon, visit www.samuelcole.com.

###