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NEWS release

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CONTACT: Roger M. Yaffe
roger@ngca.com
PH (800) 381-0769

KELLEY HESTER TO BE HONORED WITH THE 2012 GLADYS PALMER MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA (November 28, 2011) – Kelley Hester, current Women's Golf Coach at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA has been named the 2012 Gladys Palmer Meritorious Service Award Recipient, the National Golf Coaches Association (NGCA) most prestigious honor. Hester will be formally recognized at the NGCA Hall of Fame Luncheon which will take place on Tuesday afternoon, December 6, 2011. The ceremony will take place at Planet Hollywood Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kelley Hester was a standout for the University of Georgia from 1992-96 and in many ways, her experiences as a student-athlete are what she hopes to emulate for her golfers. She was a member of Georgia teams that placed fourth at the 1993 NCAA Championships and captured the 1993 and 1994 Southeastern Conference Championships. Individually, Hester recorded 21 top-20 finishes in 40 tournaments.

Kelley was a standout off the course as well. She graduated cum laude, was a two-time NGCA All-America Scholar, served as president of UGA's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was selected to be the female student-athlete to the Athletic Board as a senior.

After two years on the Futures Tour (1996-97), a stint as an assistant pro at Idle Hour Club in Macon (1997-99) and a season as head coach at Mercer (1998-99), Hester returned to Athens as an assistant coach for three highly successful teams from 1999-01. She was then chosen by UNLV as its first-ever women's golf coach in February 2001 and was charged with building a program from scratch to begin competition that fall. Hester's efforts paid immediate dividends. Hwanhee Lee captured medalist honors at the fourth tournament in UNLV history. Though Hester left UNLV after one season, her influence continued. The team she put together earned a bid to the 2004 NAAs where Sunny Oh, a Hester signee, won the 2004 West Regional and then finished 11th individually at the NAAs.

Hester ventured to her SEC roots and had a similar effect on at Arkansas. The Lady Razorbacks won two team titles, produced one medalist and made one NCAA Regional appearance in their first seven seasons of existence. Hester led Arkansas to a pair of fall victories in her initial season, a campaign that culminated with the Lady Razorbacks securing the first of five straight Regional bids. Arkansas advanced to the NCAA Championships for the first time ever in 2005 and posted its first top-10 effort a year later. The following spring, Stacy Lewis won the 2007 NCAA individual title.

Weeks later, Hester was announced as just the fourth head coach in Georgia golf's history. She has had a positive influence on the Bulldogs' fortunes. In a story-book script, Hester's first team title at Georgia came at the 2008 Liz Murphey Collegiate Classic. Georgia not only

captured four tournament titles during Hester's first four seasons, the Bulldogs rewrote the school record book in the process. Hester's UGA teams now own the four best tournament team tallies in UGA history. Individually, five Bulldog golfers have earned All-America recognition under Hester's tutelage. Headlining that ledger is Marta Silva Zamora, who won National and SEC Golfer of the Year accolades in 2011.

About National Golf Coaches Association

The National Golf Coaches Association, founded in 1983, is a non-profit organization representing women's collegiate golf coaches. The NGCA was formed to encourage the playing of college golf for women in correlation with a general objective of education and in accordance with the highest tradition of intercollegiate competition. Today, the NGCA represents over 500 coaches throughout the U.S. and is dedicated to educating, promoting and recognizing both its members and the student-athletes they represent.

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