

**For Immediate Release
July 7, 2008**

Local Inspirational Speaker & Speech Coach to Receive Award and to Preside as Chief Judge at Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking

Dr. Dilip Abayasekera, Owner & President of Speaker Services Unlimited, a speech coaching & training company based in Summerdale, PA will receive one of the highest honors given by Toastmasters International in August of 2008. Dilip is also a special assistant to the President of Central Pennsylvania College also located in Summerdale.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit organization founded in 1924. Its mission is to help people develop their communications and leadership skills through practice and feedback in a supportive atmosphere. It is learning through hands-on experience in listening, speaking and leading. Is there any better way to learn than by doing? Active Toastmasters groups exist in ninety countries with more than 11, 000 chapters and more than 220,000 members.

“Dr. Dilip” is a past president of Toastmasters International and resides in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. A gifted public speaker since childhood, he has helped others learn the art of communicating thoughts effectively. He is featured in the August 2008, “Simply the Best” issue of Harrisburg Magazine. An article titled “Say What?” is a four-way perspective of public speaking how to overcome the fear that some people associate with talking in front of a group, written by Steven Blair, alumnus of Central Penn College and Penn State Harrisburg.

Dr. Dilip will attend the 2008 Toastmasters International convention in Calgary, Canada, August 13-16, 2008. It is there that he will receive one of Toastmasters International’s highest honors, a Presidential Citation for outstanding service, dedication, and leadership to Toastmasters International. He will also preside as Chief Judge for Toastmasters’ annual international speech contest finals, which is also known as the world championship of public speaking. It features the ten best competitive speakers in the organization for the year. Abaysakera was twice a finalist at the World Championship, placing second in 1992 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dilip will also moderate a panel discussion at the conventions on how Toastmasters districts can become “Distinguished.”

For more information, visit www.toastmasters.org.

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