FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FONKOZE TO RECEIVE HAITIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION’S “AWARD FOR SERVICE”

The Board of Directors of the Haitian Studies Association (HSA) will honor Fonkoze with their prestigious 2009 “Award for Service.” The ceremony will take place at the HSA’s 2009 21st annual conference at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, November 12-14, 2009.

HSA honors Fonkoze with its “Award for Service” for “being instrumental in paving the way for microfinance institutions in Haiti for the past 15 years.” According to Dr. Marc Prou, HSA Executive Director, “few grassroots organizations are more deserving of this award.” “Fonkoze’s involvement with Haitians at home and abroad has inspired many to become more actively engaged in the economic development of Haiti,” continues Dr. Prou, “Fonkoze has demonstrated resilience, commitment and has instilled a new way of working with women and their families in Haiti.”

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The Haitian Studies Association (HSA) is a tax-exempt educational organization that promotes research on Haiti and Haitians, and has an international network of experts to address Haitian issues. HSA serves as a resource for various institutions and policy makers in and out of Haiti. The association is hosted by the Haitian Studies project in the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. www.haitianstudies.umb.edu

Fonkoze is Haiti’s alternative bank for the organized poor. It is a family of three institutions working together towards a single compelling mission: building the economic foundation for democracy in Haiti by providing the rural poor – mostly women – with the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Visit www.fonkoze.org