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**THE UMSTEAD HOTEL AND SPA MARKS SPECIAL OCCASIONS WITH
VALUE, LUXURY AND NORTH CAROLINA HOSPITALITY**

*AAA Five Diamond Hotel Unveils "Special Occasion" Packages for
Engagements, Babymoos and Everything in Between*

CARY, N.C., Oct. 14, 2008 – The Umstead Hotel and Spa (www.theumstead.com) has debuted two packages to address the travel trend of shorter, customized trips that deliver a personalized vacation experience tailored specifically to the desires of guests. A **Special Occasion Package** has been designed for milestone anniversaries, engagements, birthdays, honeymoons or other once-in-a-lifetime events. The new **Umstead Baby Bundle Package** has also been unveiled to further fuel the continuing trend of “babymoos,” the final couples’ trip before baby arrives.

“We’ve seen a huge growth in bookings this year with couples and families looking to host special celebrations at The Umstead, many of which are now return guests,” said Bob Schofield, managing director of The Umstead Hotel and Spa. “These packages speak to this audience and underscore the many strengths of the Umstead experience with our convenient location and amenities that set us apart such as our spa, dining, art collection and Gift Shop.”

The **Special Occasion Package** includes accommodations in one of the property’s spacious guest rooms, a \$100 Gift Card applicable anywhere in the hotel including the spa, Herons restaurant or the Gift Shop, chocolate-covered strawberries upon arrival and an option of one of the following: roundtrip transportation to The Umstead (up to 100 miles roundtrip distance); two plush Umstead bathrobes with personalized names; or an Umstead Gift Basket with a porcelain philodendron leaf bowl, Dayna Decker Botanika candle and three full-sized Umstead spa products. Concierge staff will contact the guest prior to arrival to confirm a selection and assist with other arrangements. The Special Occasion Package starts at \$545 per night.

The Umstead - Special Occasion Packages/2

For “expecting” guests, the **Umstead Baby Bundle Package** features a wealth of pregnancy-friendly activities and amenities for the couple. It includes luxury accommodations, a 50-minute Mother-to-Be Massage and Classic Pedicure for her and a 50-minute Custom Massage for him, three-course dinner for two at the award-winning Herons restaurant to satiate pregnancy cravings, welcome amenity of chocolate-covered strawberries for her and beer of choice for him and a special Umstead Gift Basket just for baby featuring plush baby blanket, Little Twig bath products and cuddly puppet. The Umstead Baby Bundle starts at \$955 per night based on double occupancy.

The above rates do not include tax on the guest room portion of the rate. All packages are based on double occupancy and availability. To book one of these special packages at The Umstead Hotel and Spa, please call (919) 447-4050, call toll-free at 866-877-4141 or visit www.theumstead.com.

The Umstead Hotel and Spa (www.theumstead.com) is nestled against a beautiful three-acre lake, steps away from walking and jogging trails as well as The Umstead State Park. The 150 oversized guest rooms include luxurious furnishings and signature amenities. State-of-the-art technology enhances the customer experience on all levels. Adjacent to the hotel, the plush Umstead Spa features the finest treatment rooms, a “meditation” courtyard and more. The treatment menu includes a variety of massages, facials, body masks, body polishes and exfoliation treatments, hydro-therapy baths and showers, hand and foot treatments, manicures and pedicures. The Umstead Hotel and Spa is North Carolina’s first hotel to receive AAA’s coveted “Five Diamond Award” as well as being a member of Leading Hotels of the World and Leading Spas of the World. For reservations and information, call toll-free at 1-866-877-4141. Images available upon request.

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