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## Escalettes Give Major Gift to Name Chapman Art Collection

**ORANGE, Calif., Dec. 8, 2009** Phyllis and Ross Escalette of Newport Beach have given a significant seven-figure gift to Chapman University to endow and name the university's burgeoning permanent collection of modern art. The gift will allow the university to continue acquiring, managing, preserving and displaying major pieces of contemporary art, most by living American artists.

Ross Escalette, a longtime member of the Chapman Board of Governors who was recently elected to the Chapman Board of Trustees, and his wife are avid supporters of the arts. After giving to the Chapman Art Collection for a number of years, we felt that it had achieved a stature that required more financial support, said Mr. Escalette. The University and its Curator, Maggi Owens, have done an excellent job of growing the collection and housing it in the classroom buildings and grounds where it is available to the entire Chapman community. Art enriches the educational experience, so we are happy to be able to support the collection's continued growth and expansion.

Chapman President Jim Doti said, The Chapman permanent art collection is always one of the most visible and memorable impressions for visitors to our university, and it is of inestimable value in the cultural education of our students. The Phyllis and Ross Escalette Permanent Art Collection will inspire, educate, challenge and enlighten all of us on a daily basis. On behalf of the university community, I want to express our gratitude to Ross and Phyllis for this magnificent gift, which will help us continue to acquire and display the highest-quality art on our campus, from both established and emerging artists. They have ensured that our expanding and strategically augmented collection will provide rewarding experiences in perpetuity for all who view it.

Under the direction of university curator Maggi Owens, the Phyllis and Ross Escalette Permanent Art Collection currently includes more than 700 pieces of art and cultural/artistic artifacts, with particular strengths in the modern and emerging contemporary masters, African art and Russian iconography. The university regularly utilizes these works for exhibition, classroom and research purposes.

Chapman's collection, displayed inside its campus buildings as well as outdoors, includes pieces by such modern icons as Robert Rauschenberg, Tony DeLap, Richard Serra, Claes Oldenburg, Lita Albuquerque, Billy Al Bengston, Laurie Brown, Bruce Naumann, Ed Ruscha, Hubert Schmalix, Josef Albers, Hilary Baker, Nathan Oliveira and Joan Miro, among many others.

Ross Escalette founded Brasstech/Newport Brass Inc. in Santa Ana, and served as its chairman and CEO for 15 years. Prior to that, he was founder and president of Auburn Brass, a division of Anchor Hocking Corporation.