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Chapman Student Among Winners at Cannes Film Festival

ORANGE, Calif., June 3, 2008 -- Chapman University freshman Shauna Fleming, 19, teamed up with four other film students to win the Reel Ideas Studio Distinguished Documentary Award for their short documentary at the Cannes Film Festival held in Cannes, France last week.

Their film, titled LE DERNIER ENDROIT ("The Very Last Place") was premiered in the famous Palais Jean Louis Bory Theatre, where many of the top feature films premiered during the 2008 festival.

Forty-five film students representing 13 different countries were placed in teams of five students to compete against each other in making a short documentary about the festival or city of Cannes. Each team had to create, shoot, edit and promote their 5-minute film during their 15 days in Cannes. Professional filming equipment, including Sony HD cameras and Adobe sound and editing software, was provided.

Near the end of the festival, the films were judged by a panel of film professionals, including the Oscar-winning documentarian Roy Epstein; USC School of Cinematic Arts professor Sheila Sofian; film director Christopher Coppola (nephew of Francis Ford Coppola) and Mike Canfer of Adobe Corporation.

Fleming and the other students were selected for the Reel Ideas Studio competition by an intense application and interview process. Once selected, Shauna said she began corresponding with her team through Internet conferencing and email prior to leaving for Cannes to begin planning their documentary.

To be selected as one of only 45 students out of thousands of applicants was very exciting and quite an honor, said Fleming. I knew I would be representing not only Chapman but the United States as well so I wanted to make sure we were ready once we got to Cannes. Chapman was the only film school to have more than one student representative, she added.

In addition to Shauna Fleming, fellow Chapman University Dodge College of Film and Media Arts freshman Carlos Estrada and former Chapman student Matt Hall were selected for the competition as well, but were on opposite teams. After completing their work, the students were able to enjoy themselves and some were able to see movies premiere at the theatres and walk the red carpet.

Shauna and I got tickets to the world premiere of 'Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skulls.' We walked in front of director Steven Spielberg into the theatre," said Hall. "Then we got to see the entire cast inside. We saw the movie before anyone. It was a memorable experience.

Fleming, a PR and advertising major in Chapman's Dodge College, was in charge of creating the PR campaign and assisted in production. She also acted in the film as well. Her other team members were Guilherme Ribeiro, the director, who is studying film at the International Film School in Wales; Glenn McManus, the cinematographer, from Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio; Katrina Bolletta, the film editor, from Humber College in Toronto; and Aldo Murillo, the motion graphics designer, from Mexico City. The winning students each received a \$2,000 cash grant toward their future education and top-of-line Adobe software. They also received accreditation for next years 2009 Cannes Film Festival.

By bringing students from top film schools and professional filmmakers together in the film mecca that is the Cannes Film Festival, the Reel Ideas Studio program offers unique opportunities for students hoping to gain access to industry luminaries whose work they study, said Jim Kenney, Reel Ideas Studio director and founding board member.

For more information or to view the winning documentary, go to www.ReelIdeasStudio.com