

3-27-2007

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Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "Chapman University Announces Creation of New College of Performing Arts" (2007). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. 259.

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Chapman University Announces Creation of New College of Performing Arts

ORANGE, Calif., March 27, 2007 Chapman University will establish a new College of Performing Arts, effective June 1, which will join together the university's School of Music and the existing Departments of Dance, Theatre and Art, said Chapman Provost Daniele Struppa in an official announcement to university faculty and staff. Dr. William Hall, the present dean of the Chapman School of Music, will serve as dean of the new college.

The dance, theatre and art departments currently exist within the College of Arts and Communication, which will be disbanded. The Department of Communication Studies, also currently within the College of Arts and Communication, will join Chapman's Wilkinson College of Letters and Sciences.

The announcement comes at the end of nearly three months of discussions, involving individual faculty, departments, schools and colleges, external advisory boards, faculty senate, trustees and administration.

The new College of Performing Arts, said Dr. Struppa, will build on the remarkable success of the Chapman School of Music to project the performing arts as a focus for the efforts of the entire Chapman community. Our strong departments of dance, theatre and art will find, in this new structure, the coherence and sense of purpose that will make it possible for them to express their potential to its fullest extent.

Dr. Struppa noted that in embracing the new College of Performing Arts, it was also important to reflect upon the great contributions made by the outgoing School of Arts and Communication. We are greatly indebted to its faculty and its leadership for providing the seed for what has become our Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, and for making it possible to move in this new and exciting direction. I would like to thank Dean Myron Yeager for his dedicated leadership and enthusiastic commitment. Change is the only constant in our dynamic society, but successful change occurs only when the right conditions have been created.

Chapman University's College of Performing Arts, said Dr. Struppa, will be a highly visible, public enterprise by its very nature. I am convinced that the entire Orange County community will embrace our efforts, and that our College will become a resource for the arts in our community. We have the high-quality faculty, students and leadership to rapidly become one of Chapman's most visible units on the national scene. I am personally committed to seeing this goal achieved over the next five years.