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Business Alumnus Wins Top Student Entrepreneurship Award

ORANGE, Calif., Nov. 10, 2006 – Mike Brown '06, a business entrepreneurship and honors program alumnus of Chapman University, has received the First Place Global Student Entrepreneur Award in an award ceremony held at the 2006 Annual Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization Conference in Chicago in early November.

Brown is the CEO of www.ModBargains.com, a website he co-created as a student at Chapman University that focuses upon supplying automobile modification parts. He grew the business to more than a million dollars in revenue while carrying full-time studies.

The Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA), a Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization program in partnership with Mercedes-Benz Financial, is the most prestigious honor recognizing university student business owners. GSEA, founded by the Smurfit Stone Center for Entrepreneurship at Saint Louis University, recognizes the efforts of a new generation of risk-takers who are simultaneously juggling course work and cash flow – and succeeding at both.

Finalists from Canada, the Caribbean, Sweden and the United States competed in international-level finalists' presentations held in Chicago in November, after advancing through several rounds of elimination competitions at local, regional and national levels. Prominent business leaders from around the world, including some billionaire entrepreneurs, served as judges.

Brown will receive \$12,500 as part of his award, in addition to mentorship from the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization and enrollment in a CEO rapid business growth accelerator program. He will also give a presentation at next year's CEO conference, and will be featured in a lead chapter in an upcoming book, *Student Entrepreneurs: Giving Back*, that will be distributed to every college and university entrepreneurship program in the world.

Dr. P. K. Shukla, director of Chapman University's Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics, is very proud of Brown's tremendous achievement. "Mike deserves this award for both the efforts he put into his studies and for his efforts at growing his business simultaneously," Dr. Shukla said. "He competed against the top student entrepreneurs in the world – and many of the other finalists were from larger universities with more established entrepreneurship programs. Mike's accomplishment brings credit to the quality of the programs at Chapman's Argyros School of Business and Economics, and his victory highlights the caliber of students at Chapman University."