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Chapman Receives Major Fund-Raising Award

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Chapman Trustee, Wife Establish Italian Professorship

Paul Musco, who joined the Chapman University Board of Trustees a year ago, and his wife, Marybelle, endow The Paul and Marybelle Musco Professorship in Italian to advance the study of the Italian language and heritage.

ORANGE, Calif., June 2, 2005 A new professorship in Italian has been established in Chapman University's Wilkinson College of Letters and Sciences.

The Paul and Marybelle Musco Professorship in Italian was made possible by a gift from Chapman Trustee Paul Musco and his wife, Marybelle, of Newport Beach.

The Muscos establishment of the first endowed professorship in the Department of Languages enables us to substantially move the program forward to further serve our students," said Wilkinson College Dean Roberta Lessor.

Besides providing funding for Italian faculty resources, she added, the professorship will be a major asset to other flourishing programs and interdisciplinary curricula at Chapman.

The Creative Writing program offers a popular summer seminar in Italy and Peter Atherton, director of Opera Chapman, continues to arrange for Chapman's best singers to audition for Operafestival di Roma.

Paul and Marybelle have quickly become a force for our university, said Chapman President James L. Doti. They have a strong vision for perpetuating the study of Italian language and heritage and it has been a real privilege to get to know this gracious and generous couple a real dynamic duo.

Paul Musco is the founder and chairman of the board of directors of Santa Ana-based Gemini Industries Inc. He also serves as chairman of the board for Opera Pacific and is a member of the Los Angeles Opera Co. board of directors.

The professorship raises the number of Chapman's endowed professorships to 15. The inaugural holder of the professorship has not yet been named.