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Top Faculty Awards Announced at End-of-Year Ceremony

ORANGE, Calif., May 19, 2010 -- Chapman University presented its annual faculty awards at the Fifteenth Annual Chapman University Faculty Honors Convocation on May 14, including the elite Wang-Fradkin Professorships, the university's highest faculty honor, which are awarded to one senior and one junior faculty member.

Sean Heim, Ph.D., associate professor of music, received the senior Wang-Fradkin Professorship. The assistant Wang-Fradkin Professorship went to Victoria Carty, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology.

Granted in memory of Hua-Cheng Wang, Chapman professor of political science, diplomat, and expert on international law; and Cheng-Mei Fradkin, distinguished teacher, scholar, and administrator, the Wang-Fradkin Professorships are two-year monetary awards to further teaching and scholarship.

Dr. Sean Heim holds a Ph.D. from The University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, and has taught at Rowan University, Rutgers University, and the Settlement Music School. He currently resides in Southern California and is Associate Professor of Music at Chapman University. The primary focus of Sean Heim's work as a composer has been to develop an imaginative personal language that strongly reflects the compositional techniques and aesthetic of his own western tradition as well as the distillation and infusion of philosophical ideas and musical elements found in numerous cultures. His work also reflects a deep interest in the visual arts, physics, and the natural world, out of which he has created unique fusions that continually evolve through aesthetic and technical abstraction. Heim has received numerous prizes, awards, honors, and commissions from such prestigious institutions as the Fromm Foundation at Harvard, the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, the American Music Center, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, The American Composers Forum, The ASCAP Foundation - including the Rudolf Nissim Prize and the Morton Gould Young Composers Award, Chapman University, Arizona State University, and The University of Queensland. Sean's music has been performed to critical acclaim throughout the United States and abroad by such distinguished performers as the California E.A.R. Unit, Piano Spheres, Ensemble Green, the Focus Festival at Juilliard, the Thailand International Composition Festival, inauthentica, Topology, the Auros Group for New Music, Perihelion, and the New York Miniaturist Ensemble. His music is available on Capstone Records.

Dr. Victoria Carty's research interests focus on social movements in the United States, Mexico, and Panama across the dimensions of labor and peace issues. Her recent work looks to the Global Justice Movement as an umbrella social movement that brings together previously distinct mobilizing efforts. She has published several journal articles and chapters in edited volumes on these topics. Her most recent work examines how the Internet is impacting mobilizing efforts for participants engaged in both contentious and electoral politics, with a specific emphasis on the role of the Internet in the 2008 presidential campaign. She is currently writing a book on how new information communication technologies (such as MySpace, Facebook and YouTube) are affecting social, political, and everyday life.

Valerie Scudder Awards went to Jennifer L. Funk, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences; Peter Jipsen, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics; Judy K. Montgomery, Ph.D., professor of education and Can Usley, Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing. The Valerie

Scudder Awards recognize outstanding achievement in teaching, scholarship, advising, and/or service.

The Sponsored Research Million-Dollar Club Award went to Christopher Kim, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry.

Personalized Education Teaching Grants went to: Douglas Dechow, Ph.D., associate librarian, Leatherby Libraries; Jennifer Funk, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences; Jason Keller, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences; Baron Kelly, Ph.D., assistant professor of theatre; Roxanne Greitz Miller, Ph.D., associate professor of education; Veronique Olivier, Ph.D., assistant professor of languages; and Susan Paterno, professor of English.

Scholarly/Creative Grants went to: Mark Axelrod, Ph.D., professor of English; Alexander Bay, Ph.D., assistant professor of history; Mauricio Benitez, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science; John Benitz, assistant professor of theatre; Stephen Berens, assistant professor of art; Margie Curwen, assistant professor of education and Anaida Colon-Muniz, Ph.D., associate professor of education; Logan Esdale, Ph.D., assistant professor of English; Patrick Fuery, Ph.D., professor of English; Michael Griffin, Ph.D., professor of chemistry; Lori Cox Han, Ph.D., professor of political science; Lynn Horton, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology; Peter Jipsen, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics; Christopher Kim, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry; Anna Leahy, Ph.D., assistant professor of English; Liliana Leopardi, Ph.D., assistant professor of art; Alison McKenzie, D.P.T., professor of physical therapy; Lilia Monzo, assistant professor of education; Anuradha Prakash, Ph.D., professor of food science and nutrition; Melissa Rowland-Goldsmith, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences; David Shafie, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science; Ken Sumida, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences; Angela Tumini, Ph.D., assistant professor of languages; Lilian Were, Ph.D., assistant professor of food science and nutrition; and Anna Wilson, Ph.D., associate professor of education.

Awards of Excellence were awarded to: Jeff Swimmer, associate professor of film and media arts, and Daniel Wellman, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, for Excellence in Teaching; Jason K. Keller, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, Brennan Peterson, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, Lawrence E. Rosenthal, professor of law, Peiyi Zhao, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science, for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity; Karen Gallagher, Ph.D., instructor of German, and Anna Leahy, assistant professor of English, for Excellence in Service; and Leland Estes, Ph.D., associate professor of history, for Pedagogical Innovation.