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President Doti Releases 2010 Summer Reading List

ORANGE, Calif., May 5, 2010 One of the most cherished traditions at the end of each academic year at Chapman University is President Jim Doti's annual letter to the students, wrapping up the year and sharing his recommendations for books and movies they should seek out over the summer break.

This year's letter opens with President Doti sharing a note he recently received from a Chapman junior, Paul J. Ramirez of Yorba Linda, who wrote of being a U.S. soldier in Iraq and the horrific experience of seeing his buddy, PFC Joel K. Brattain of Yorba Linda, killed beside him in 2004. Ramirez wrote, I would just like to say that Chapman is a place that has helped me recapture my dreams and aspirations, and it has allowed me to recuperate from the war and redeem a sense of self-worth. The road I took to get here has not been the easiest, but I know in the end graduating from Chapman will have been worth every step.

President Doti asks the students to seriously reflect upon Ramirez's journey as they embark upon their summer -- and to perhaps pick up one or more of these books during their vacation as further food for thought:

***Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers:** A nonfiction work that explores the impact of the Katrina hurricane through the real-life experiences of one man. I found this to be a very sad book about man's inhumanity to man.

***On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan:** I highly recommend the audio version of this book McEwan's narration is terrific, and a revealing interview with him is included as an extra. What I found particularly provocative is how well the plot conveys the idea that our lives are determined to a great extent by the small, sometimes emotionally charged, decisions we make early in life's journey.

***City of Thieves* by David Benioff:** My favorite book of the year. If you read only one of my recommendations, I hope it's this one. I loved this warm, funny and gripping coming-of-age story.

President Doti usually recommends a movie for students to seek out, as well, and this year is no different:

***Every Little Step*:** A documentary that follows budding performers auditioning for a revival of *A Chorus Line*. You don't need to be a performer to enjoy this movie. All of us who have high aspirations can identify and be emotionally moved by this film.