

Voces Novae: Chapman University Historical Review, Vol 2, No 2 (2011)

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Home > Vol 2, No 2 (2011) > **Dodge College of Film and Media Arts**

## Dodge College

Chapman's Film School, now Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, began as a small entity in the Communications Department. **Bob Bassett**, now Dean of the College, was the only Film Professor when he came in 1981, teaching all of the film classes in his office. Due to magnanimous gifts from people like Trustee **Marion Knott**, whose family opened Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, the school was able to acquire more equipment and faculty. When the program broke off from the Communications Department to become its own department in 1992, it moved into DeMille Hall. After growing in size to eventually become a distinct school in the University, Bassett, the founding Dean, and his colleagues pursued their vision of a film school reminiscent of the major film studios. With generous donations from Knott and **Kristina and Larry Dodge**, Chapman erected Marion Knott Studios as the home for the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts.

Chapman's film studio is not the only feature that has attracted attention to the program. Dodge College also has professors with extensive filmographies. **John Badham**, who directed *Saturday Night Fever*, *War Games*, and *Short Circuit*, guides young filmmakers in the directing process. He came to Chapman in 2004 along with Bill Dill and Larry Paull. Chapman also recently hired Martha Coolidge, the first female president of the Director's Guild. Dean Bassett attributes much of the current success of the Film School to these professors because they help Chapman students get the kind of hands-on training that they couldn't get at other film schools: "Our pedagogy is based on doing [...] so we put a camera in students' hands day one."

**Interview with Dean of Dodge College of Film and Media Arts Bob Bassett**



**Interview with Trustee Marion Knott**



**Interview with Trustee Kristina and Larry Dodge**



**Interview with Film Professor John Badham**



