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Dr. Marilyn Harran Honored With Anne Frank Award

Director of Chapman Universitys Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education Will Formally Receive the Award on Anne Franks Birthday, June 12, in New York City

ORANGE, Calif., March 12, 2008 Dr. Marilyn Harran, Stern Chair in Holocaust Education, director of the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and professor of religious studies and history at Chapman University, will be honored with the 2008 Spirit of Anne Frank Outstanding Educator Award, which will be formally presented to her on June 12 at a ceremony at the Pierre Hotel in New York City. She is one of only three educators (and the only university professor) in the U.S. to receive the prestigious award this year.

Sponsored annually since 1996 by The Anne Frank Center USA, the Spirit of Anne Frank Awards honor educators, students and citizens of all faiths and backgrounds bridge builders, peacemakers, and role models who have demonstrated outstanding personal courage and commitment in working to promote tolerance, inclusion, and social justice in their communities.

Dr. Harran, who has taught at Chapman University since 1985, was the driving force behind the creation of Chapmans Holocaust education program, which has grown from a single course into a distinctive multi-faceted program. She was also key to the establishment of the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education one of the very few such centers in the United States located in and supported by a private university and Chapmans Sala and Aron Samuelli Holocaust Memorial Library. Under her aegis, the Rodgers Center has expanded its reach to Southern California middle and high schools, with the centerpiece event being the annual Holocaust Art & Writing Competition. Thousands of schoolchildren participate, and the contest culminates each year in an awards ceremony that brings students, parents, teachers and Holocaust survivors to the Chapman campus.

To me this award is a tremendous affirmation of our program in Holocaust history and education and their role in our community, said Dr. Harran. I am especially pleased about the recognition it gives to our university administration and to our benefactors, who are the ones who have made these programs possible. Most of all, it inspires me to try to do more to create the world of which Anne Frank dreamt.

The June 12 presentation date is significant; it marks Anne Franks birthday. The now-world-renowned diarist, who died in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1945, would have been 75 years old this year.