


11-8-2007

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### Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "American Celebration Raises \$2.4 Million for Scholarship Fund" (2007). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. Paper 218.

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## American Celebration Raises \$2.4 Million for Scholarship Fund

### **Breaks Record of \$2.1 Million Set Last Year**

### **Rita Moreno Honored With Chapmans Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award at the Black-Tie Event, Held Saturday, Nov. 3**

### **S. Paul and Marybelle Musco Receive Chapmans Corporate Citizens of the Year Award at the Sold-Out Gala**

**ORANGE, Calif., Nov. 7, 2007** Chapman Universitys sold-out 26th Annual American Celebration gala, held on Saturday, Nov. 3, raised more than \$2.4 million for the student scholarship fund, breaking last years record of \$2.1 million. Chapman fund-raising officials believe this total to be a record for any Orange County gala.

The spectacular, fully costumed and choreographed stage show, performed in Memorial Hall by students of Chapmans College of Performing Arts, wowed the crowd of 735 attendees. The show featured scenes and songs from such Broadway hits as A Chorus Line, 42nd Street, South Pacific, Carousel and Hairspray, with a special appearance by two Chapman alumni who have found success as professional opera singers, Deborah Domanski and Peter Lindskoog. The onstage orchestra was conducted by William Hall, dean of the College of Performing Arts, celebrating his 45th year as a Chapman faculty member.

Among the attendees at this years American Celebration were a group of 12 major donors dubbed The Dirty Dozen by Jim Mazzo, who with his wife Kelly co-chaired the gala. Each of the Dozen gave \$100,000 to the cause. Individual tickets to the event began at \$2000, and tables ranged from \$15,000 to \$100,000.

Rita Moreno, star of stage, screen and television and one of the few performers in show business to own Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Tony Awards, added yet another award to her collection when she was honored with Chapman Universitys Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award. The actress-singer, who won her Oscar for her role as Anita in 1962s West Side Story and is currently starring in CBSs Cane, was thrilled with the honor and astounded by the talent of the Chapman student singers and dancers, whom she called marvelous! She also joked that President Doti, who performed as a dancer in the shows opening number, should keep your day job!

Chapman trustee S. Paul Musco and his wife Marybelle, who chaired last years American Celebration, were honored as Chapmans Corporate Citizens of the Year.

American Celebration has netted more than \$13 million for Chapman scholarships over the 26 years of its existence. More than 80 percent of the students at the private university receive some form of scholarship or financial assistance.