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American Celebration 2005 Raises More Than \$1.3 Million for Scholarships

ORANGE, Calif., Nov. 15, 2005 American Celebration, Chapman University's annual gala and spectacular Broadway-style stage revue, raised \$1,327,308 toward student scholarships this year. The event which held its opening night Friday, Nov. 4 and black-tie gala Saturday, Nov. 5 on the Orange campus was sold out, drawing more than 950 people for each night of its two-night run. The live show, performed entirely by talented Chapman students along with special guest vocalist Jerralyn Glass Refeld, featured fully costumed scenes and songs from such hit Broadway shows as *42nd Street*, *Cats*, *Spamalot* and *Rent*.

The black-tie American Celebration gala after the stage show on Nov. 5 honored Academy Award-winning Hollywood director William Friedkin (*The French Connection*, *The Exorcist*) and his wife, producer and former head of Paramount Pictures Sherry Lansing, with Chapmans Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award. Orange County businesswoman and philanthropist Zee Allred was honored with Chapman's Corporate Citizen of the Year Award.

The gala featured a sumptuous dinner catered by Sodexo, the campus food service, and its executive chef, Jim Douglas. Lobster martinis with roasted pepper salad were the innovative appetizer, followed by blue-cheese-crusted tenderloin of beef paired with pan-seared halibut with tomato relish and a mushroom polenta. Dessert was a maple-and-mascarpone cheesecake. The dinner and awards presentation were held in the special-events tent set up outside Memorial Hall, with fabulous décor featuring bronze lanterns and centerpieces bedecked with Tiffany-blue marabou feathers.

The American Celebration Gala 2005 Host Committee was co-chaired by Marta Bhathal and Marybelle Musco. Committee members were Julia Argyros, Nancy Baldwin, Linda Boone, Lynn Booth, Leslie Cancellieri, Peggy Goldwater Clay, Eleda Cohen, Lynne Pierson Doti, Phyllis Escalette, Judi Garfi-Partridge, Lynn Grant, Lula Halfacre, Catherine Hanley, Doy Henley, Barbara Johnson, Ruth Ko, Becky Kuhl, Sharon Malloy, Twyla Martin, Randy McCardle, Betty Belden Palmer, Joan Riach, Mary Roosevelt, Harriet Sandhu, DeeDee Sodaro, Gigi Werbin and Nancy Wynne.

Guests of note at the gala included Oscar-nominated actress Shoreh Agdashloo (*House of Sand and Fog*, Fox TVs 24), Orange County Sheriff Mike Carona with wife Debbie, Don and Dorothy Kennedy, Wylie and Betty Aitken, Lawrence and Kristina Dodge, Paul and Daranne Folino, James III and Patti Edwards, Ben and Carmela Du, Rick and Heidi Sherman, Doug and Kristi DeCinces, Hadi and Barbara Makarechian, Frank and Linda Mariani, Joe and Shirley MacPherson, Chuck Martin, the Hon. Milan and Milena Panic, the Hon. Loretta Sanchez, Dennis and Becky Kuhl, the Hon. George and Julia Argyros, Darrel and Marcia Anderson, Roger and Kathy Hobbs and many more.