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"State of the University" is Excellent, President Says

ORANGE, Calif., Feb. 21, 2007 Chapman University president James L. Doti presented his annual State of the University address in Memorial Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 20 before a packed house of university faculty, staff, administrators and students. In the speech a fast-paced multi-media overview of where Chapman has been in the past year and where its headed Dr. Doti outlined the story of a university that is in the midst of a highly successful year and is not content to rest on its laurels. This is a historic moment in the life of our university, Dr. Doti said in presenting his recap of Chapmans immediate past and his initiatives for the future.

Highlights of the address included:

* In 2006, Chapman tied with Trinity University (TX) as #1 in student selectivity of the 126 universities in its category (masters, Western region) in the important U.S. News and World Report Americas Best Colleges rankings. (Fifteen years ago, in 1992, Chapman ranked #92 in student selectivity.)

*The Chapman School of Law has just approved a new Emphasis Certificate in entertainment law and a new LL.M. degree in prosecutorial science, which will be the first of its kind in the country. Dr. Doti thanked School of Law Dean Parham Williams, who is retiring this year, for his outstanding leadership of the law school throughout its first decade of existence and the schools many incredible achievements in a very competitive environment.

*As of December 31, 2006, the net assets of Chapman University stood at \$421 million, and the endowment fund was at \$231 million up from \$18 million 15 years ago.

*Dr. Doti presented an overview of the new facilities under construction in Chapmans Erin J. Lastinger Athletics Complex, including the 2,500-seat Ernie Chapman Stadium for football, soccer and lacrosse; the Zee Allred Aquatics Center and Olympic Pool with its 500-seat Frank and Mary Ann O'Bryan Aquatics Stadium; a shared press box overlooking both the football field and the pool; and the James and Nancy Baldwin Family Pavilion with coaches offices, weight room and classrooms.

*Plans for the Chapman-owned former citrus packing plant located on the corner of Palm and Cypress, just across from the new Marion Knott Studios, are still in the works. Potential uses still under review could include graduate student housing, a food court for the Chapman community, possible additional studio space for the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, and potential space for a commercial bookstore or other retail tenant. Because it's a historic property, we will certainly be working closely with the Old Towne Preservation Association and other community organizations to preserve that vital history, Dr. Doti said.

*Dr. Doti reported that Chapman's innovatively designed Merle and Marjorie Fish Interfaith Center and Wallace All Faiths Chapel, opened in 2004, recently won the prestigious *Interior*

Design Magazine Award for the nation's best institutional architectural achievement (announced in the magazine's Dec. 2006 issue). He congratulated architect David Martin and his firm, AC Martin Partners of Los Angeles.

*Construction is set to begin this summer on a new student residence hall (the old Braden Hall will be demolished) that will feature 300 beds, a 150-space underground parking facility, conference facilities that will accommodate up to 500 people, and a signature tower with a rock-climbing wall inside it.

*Landscape renovation will begin this summer on the central part of campus, between the Leatherby Libraries, Beckman Hall and Wilkinson Hall. Chapman really needs a central gathering place, Dr. Doti said. A water feature, a large-scale sculpture, seating areas and an outdoor amphitheatre are all part of the renovation, which will be completed by the time classes begin in the fall.

*The Dodge College of Film and Media Arts recently underwent a restructuring, with the following academic components now making up the college: the Sodaro-Pankey Undergraduate School of Media Arts, the Conservatory of Motion Pictures (graduate students), and the Institute for the Study of Media in the Public Interest.

*Chapman University College (CUC), Chapman University's network of satellite campuses aimed at adult learners, located in 22 cities in California and the state of Washington, will undergo reorganization. CUC will be given its own chancellor and board of regents, becoming a separate corporation; it will also be accredited independently. Dr. Doti will remain president of both the main Orange campus and CUC. Chapman Provost Daniele Struppa will become chancellor of the Orange campus, with the new CUC chancellor to be named in the future; both chancellors will report directly to the president. By giving University College separate accreditation and its own board of regents, it will have the kind of central leadership it deserves, with the kind of mentoring and stewardship at the volunteer level that will make the program and academic outreach to adult learners more successful than ever, said Dr. Doti.

*A new College of Performing Arts will be created from the Chapman School of Music and departments of theatre and dance. We believe that by connecting theatre and dance to music, we can have the kind of bundling of programs at the undergraduate level that we can't offer right now, said Dr. Doti, who envisions, among other things, a new program in musical theatre that will involve faculty from music, theatre and dance. The administrative structure of this new college will be in place by June 1. The present School of Arts and Communication will be disbanded, with the art and communication departments going to the Wilkinson College of Letters and Sciences and the theatre and dance departments to the new College of Performing Arts.

I'm still having a wonderful time at my job, Dr. Doti added in closing his speech and thanking the faculty and staff. It's always exciting coming here and working with all of you. Each and every day is a great day at this dynamic, growing, evolving university.