

4-11-2005

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Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "Laguna Beach Couple Give \$2-Million to Endow Chair in Chapman's Film School" (2005).
Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011. Paper 383.
http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press_releases/383

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Laguna Beach Couple Give \$2-Million to Endow Chair in Chapman's Film School

Long-time Chapman film school supporters Chuck and Twyla Martin endow Dean's chair, named for Twyla Reed Martin.

ORANGE, Calif., April 11, 2005 Twyla Reed Martin and her husband, venture capitalist and Chapman trustee Chuck Martin, of Laguna Beach, have given \$2-million to Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts to name the Twyla Reed Martin Deans Chair in Film and Media Arts, it was announced today by James L. Doti, university president.

Dodge College Dean Bob Bassett will be the inaugural holder of the Deans Chair. This endowment is the second chair in the film school, joining the Marion Knott Filmmaker-in-Residence Endowed Chair.

I am personally very moved by this magnificent gift, said Dean Bassett, as it reflects the tireless commitment of the Martins, particularly Twyla, as ambassadors of our vision of building a distinctive and nationally recognized film school.

Twyla Martin is a member of the Dodge College campaign council. She and Chapman Trustee Nancy Baldwin co-sponsored the April 9 Dodge College Women in Focus conference, which featured six leading women producers. This annual conference brings together successful women in the film industry with film students to share their insights about breaking into the business.

Chuck Martin has been a trustee of Chapman since 1988. Founder of Enterprise Partners, Southern California's largest venture capital firm, he also co-founded the buyout firm, Westar Capital. He has served on the board of directors of 46 public and private companies during his career and invested in more than 120 emerging growth companies and completed more than 90 merger and acquisition transactions.

The Martins have long been active on the Orange County arts scene. We are extremely fortunate to enjoy their advice and support in so many ways that have made a direct impact on the quality of Chapman University," Doti said.

Chapman's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts serves about 1,000 undergraduate and masters students. It is comprised of the School of Film and Television, offering undergraduate degrees in film and television production, screenwriting, public relations and advertising, film studies and television and broadcast journalism; the Conservatory of Motion Pictures, offering graduate degrees in film production, film and television producing, screenwriting, and film studies; and the Institute of the Study of Media and the Public Interest. Construction is underway on Marion Knott Studios, the new \$40-million, 76,000-square-foot home of the Dodge College, slated to open in 2006.