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## Marion Knott Gives \$5 Million to Name Film/TV Studios

Gift follows Knotts 20-year involvement with burgeoning film and television program.

**ORANGE, Calif., Jan. 19, 2004** Businesswoman, philanthropist and Chapman trustee Marion Knott has given \$5 million to Chapman University to name the new building that will house its School of Film and Television, it was announced today by James L. Doti, university president.

The building will be named Marion Knott Studios. The state-of-the-art facility will feature a working sound stage, a 500-seat stadium-style digital cinema, and all-digital post-production facilities.

The gift brings the acclaimed film school about halfway to its \$31-million campaign goal. Construction will begin once the funds are in place and the City of Orange approval process is complete. Anticipated move-in would be in summer of 2006 if everything stays on schedule. The studios will be part of a nine-acre parcel adjacent to the Orange campus purchased by the university on the north 200 block of Lemon Street, between Palm Ave. and Maple Ave.



Knott, whose family founded Orange County's Knott's Berry Farm, has supported Chapman's film and television program for more than 20 years, according to Bob Bassett, dean of the School of Film and Television. In the early days, the program consisted of just a few classes. With 300 percent enrollment growth since the founding of the film school in 1996 and one place for every four applications, Chapman has built one of the nation's hottest film schools.

Knott took a real, hands-on interest in the program from the beginning, according to Bassett. For example, there was the time she was visiting campus and found Bassett, on his own time and with his own money, painting the classroom that doubled as a studio.

She asked why I was doing this, and I told her that I thought it was better to use the limited funds we had for cameras, Bassett recalls. She wrote a check on the spot. From that minute on, she became our guardian angel. She has always been there for us, and there is no name more appropriate for our new building than that of Marion Knott.

We are grateful beyond words for her seemingly endless generosity and inspired by her confidence and belief in our vision and mission. I can't wait to screen the first student film bearing a credit Filmed in the Marion Knott Studios.

Knott, who has supported the university in many ways over the years, has never agreed to put her name on anything before. What makes this time different? Building the studios represents the culmination of the dream Bob and I have shared for the film school for more than two decades. I'm proud to lend my name to this incredible new studio complex that will support our students in doing their very best creative work.

Doti shares Bassetts enthusiasm. Marion is a treasure not just to Chapman but for the Orange County community, he says. I hold her in the highest regard and for years have looked to her for what has proven to be visionary insight.