

UCSD and Del Mar Thoroughbred Club host benefit for undergraduate scholarships

July 25, 1998

Media Contact: Pat JaCoby, (619) 534-7404, pjacoby@ucsd.edu

UCSD AND DEL MAR THOROUGHBRED CLUB HOST BENEFIT FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of champions were celebrated tonight as the University of California, San Diego and the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club joined in a benefit for UCSD undergraduate scholarships held in the Del Mar Arena at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

More than 750 persons attended the event chaired by Pam Wygod, with comedian Tim Conway serving as master of ceremonies and Burt Bacharach and his band providing concert music.

Tying in art works displayed at a preview party Thursday and in tonight's cocktail setting, a huge gilded picture frame containing a scrimmed photo of a starting gate greeted guests as they arrived. Attendees walked through the frame to enter an area containing the art show and an enormous 96-foot bar covered in wheatgrass.

Other large gilded frames later led guests to the dining area, where they were greeted with a mass of dark blue chair covers each, in actuality, a UCSD sweatshirt. Green astro-turf covered the sod where horses normally go through their paces, while table arrangements of votives, candles and flowers added color with a variety of the jewel tones used in jockey silks.

Wygod, lauded as a champion herself for pulling together the unique event, welcomed guests, followed by remarks from UCSD Chancellor Robert Dynes, Vice Chancellor Joseph Watson, and Joe Harper, president of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club.

Awards were presented by Harper to champions of the 1997 meet: Bill Shoemaker, Emeritus Award; Bob Baffert, Trainer of the Meet; Golden Eagle Farm, Owners of the Meet; Kent Desormeaux; Jockey of the Meet; Gentlemen, Horse of the Meet and also Top Older Horse; Souvenir Copy, 2 year old; Vivid Angel, 2 year old filly; Lakota Brave, Sprinter; Anet, 3 year old; Famous Digger, 3 year old filly; Rainbow Dancer, Grass Horse; and Radu Cool, Top Older Filly/Mare.

Betty and Gary Biszantz served as honorary chairs of the event, while Wygod was assisted by Carol G. Penniman, co-chair; Barbara and Dick Enberg and the Harpers, program chairs, and Valerie Cooper, dinner chair.

Major underwriters and strong corporate supporters included Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan, Synetic Foundation, the Dr. Seuss Foundation, the Mercedes Benz Dealers of San Diego, Sempa Energy, Hollywood Park Racetrack, JMI Inc., Los Angeles Turf Club, Inc., Pacific Bell, Microsoft, Agouron, and CliniComp.

Chancellor Dynes noted that the scholarships enabled by tonight's benefit will help increase student diversity by rewarding high achievers from the region's high school who would not otherwise be able to attend UCSD.

(July 25, 1998)