

A Glorious Tradition

Golden Circle Theatre Parties

In 1967, the Santa Clara University Board of Fellows decided to stage a Hollywood style gala initially to increase the University's endowment fund and, since then, to respond to the President's funding priorities for the University. More than four decades later, the Golden Circle event continues to be among the most spectacular and successful annual fundraising black tie events in Silicon Valley. Over the years, the Board never lost sight of their original goal established under its founder, Walter E. Schmidt, S.J. — "Raising some funds, making some friends, and having a little fun along the way."

The original host, Fess Parker, a founding member of the Board, had persuaded Jimmy Durante, Rosemary Clooney and Ed Ames, and the Doodletown Pipers to perform. The 35 member Board had no trouble selling out the 650-seat Montgomery Theatre. After the show, entertainers mingled with guests at the first After Theatre Party.

The early years at the Civic Auditorium, Benson Center on campus, and the Hyatt House brought big names to the Santa Clara Valley to raise money to help build the Louis B. Mayer Theatre. In later years, responding to the University's infrastructure and scholarship needs, the Fellows continued to raise funds for capital projects and in support of the Golden Circle Endowed Scholarship Fund.

As the Valley burgeoned, the Board switched the Golden Circle's emphasis from a performance to an entire evening of fun and entertainment. The current format — an early evening show followed by dinner and dancing at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose — was adopted in 1991. In recent years, this fundraising event, attended by over 2000, brings together Fellows, friends, University staff, and faculty along with leaders of Silicon Valley.

The Board of Fellows has grown to 175 enthusiastic women and men united in their goal of raising funds and increasing the local community's awareness and understanding of Santa Clara University. They continue to commit to their original intent by meeting the President's challenge to fund the current and future needs of SCU's students.

GOLDEN CIRCLE PERFORMERS

1967 Jimmy Durante
1968 Bob Hope
1969 Jonathan Winters
1970 Milton Berle
1971 Bob Newhart
1973 George Gobel
1974 Frank Sinatra
1975 Andy Williams
1976 Buddy Ebsen
1977 Bing Crosby
1978 Sammy Davis, Jr.
1979 Paul Anka
1980 Frank Sinatra
1981 Hal Linden
1982 Liberace

1983 Ethel Merman
1984 Robert Goulet
1985 Glen Campbell
1986 Melissa Manchester
1987 Ray Charles
1988 Diahann Carroll &
Vic Damone
1989 Ben Vereen
1990 Neil Sedaka
1991 Pia Zadora & Bob Hope
1992 Alan King &
The Temptations
1993 Frankie Valli &
Beach Blanket Babylon
1994 Harry Blackstone

1995 Paul Anka
1996 Harry Belafonte
1997 Johnny Mathis
1998 Bob Newhart
1999 B.B. King
2000 Dana Carvey
2001 Huey Lewis and The News
2002 Smokey Robinson
2003 The Magic of Broadway
2004 The Magic of Hollywood
2005 Jay Leno
2006 Jason Alexander
2007 Beach Boys
2008 Kenny Loggins
2009 Gladys Knight
2010 Huey Lewis & the News