

SWISS BANK WHISTLEBLOWER RECEIVES FULL SCHOLARSHIP FROM CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

(1998)

Nov. 18, 1998 Chapman University announced today that Christoph Meili the Swiss bank guard who gained international acclaim after saving Holocaust era documents from being shredded, is being awarded a full, four-year scholarship to the university.

Mr. Meili 30, will begin studying at Chapman in the fall semester of 1999. He currently lives in New Jersey, where his family fled after receiving threats and hate mail from individuals in Switzerland, leading him to seek asylum in the U.S.

The threats followed news reports that Mr. Meili uncovered documents that were about to be destroyed which revealed the true ownership of Jewish assets seized during the Holocaust. Mr. Meili passed these documents on to a Jewish cultural group in Switzerland. His actions led to a \$1.25 billion settlement to Holocaust survivors, their families and Jewish groups.

"In meeting Christoph, I was struck by his deep convictions and values orientation," stated James Doti, president of Chapman University. "He also exhibited a love of learning and a strong desire to continue his education. Christoph will add greatly to the university community. His willingness to act on his beliefs and values and bear whatever the consequences is a true profile in courage and a wonderful example for others."

The "1939" Club, a Southern California group consisting of Holocaust survivors and their families, has established a living expense fund for the displaced Meili family. William Elperin president of The "1939" Club, helped Mr. Meili evaluate a number of scholarships offered to the ex-bank guard. After extensive discussions with Mr. Meili and his wife, Elperin recommended that he accept a scholarship from Chapman.

"Christoph deserves to be honored for his brave actions, and a college education from Chapman University will enable him to build a better future for himself and his family," said Elperin, a Los Angeles attorney. "I like that Chapman is well established, more than 130 years old. Chapman is small enough so that Christoph won't get lost, but it has impressive breadth in its academic programs. Christoph has a variety of interests, such as computer science, film, history and pre-law, all of which are available at Chapman. Both Christoph, who is Christian, and I were particularly impressed by Chapman's Holocaust education program, founded by religion and history professor Marilyn Harran.

"We also were impressed by the university's required Freshman Seminar Program and its Berlin Wall project. All this represents Chapman's emphasis on global citizenship, a commitment Christoph shares."

Mr. Meili and his wife were particularly taken with the beauty of the campus, the small town atmosphere and the friendly enthusiasm of everyone they met.

"I cannot express how happy I am that Chapman University and the "1939" Club have gone to such lengths to support me and my family," Mr. Meili said. "I was just one of the little people who felt I should do what I could to see justice done.

"I love my native country, Switzerland, and I am saddened that we can no longer live there. Unfortunately, there are those who in an effort to forget the past would turn their backs on those who were persecuted in the Holocaust. I am not one of those people. I look forward to starting a new life at Chapman University and making my home in Southern California." Mr. Meili and his family will move to Southern California in the summer of 1999. He has not yet decided on a major. Chapman's fall semester begins Aug. 30, 1999.

Chapman University is the largest and oldest independent university in Orange County, Calif. Founded in 1861, the university is comprised of two colleges and six schools, including a school of film and television and a law school, which received provisional ABA approval in 1998.