

In The News

YMA FSF Dinner Raises Over \$1 Million

January 09, 2009

NEW YORK—For the fourth year in a row, and despite the miserable economy, this week's YMA Geoffrey Beene Fashion Scholarship Fund Dinner in New York raised more than a million dollars. The event, which was attended by more than 700 people, raised a total of \$1.1 million.



Pictured above: Les Steiger, Mindy Grossman and Zac Posen.

The dinner honored designer Zac Posen, HSN CEO Mindy Grossman and Macy's Central Men's GMM Les Steiger. It also bestowed \$25,000 scholarships to four lucky students.

The \$25,000 Geoffrey Beene National Scholarships were given to four talented students among eight finalists from across the country after an intensive competition. The winners were chosen on Tuesday and announced for the first time at the dinner Wednesday night. They were Heber Martinez of Cornell University; Jessica Steele of Philadelphia University; Christine Wu from

Parsons The New School for Design, and Danielle Sponder of Iowa State University. The four remaining finalists' \$5,000 scholarships were doubled.

The evening was cheerful and both the cocktail hour and dinner well-attended. The organization's new logo, a FSF motif for "Fashion Scholarship Fund" was unveiled. After Chairman Emeritus Paul Rosengard's opening remarks and a presentation about the scholars, host Tim Gunn surprised Rosengard on stage with a personal check. The amount wasn't disclosed, but the look on Rosengard's face conveyed its generosity.

Peerless Clothing's Ronny Wurtzburger's very personal introduction to honoree Les Steiger had the audience laughing and applauding. Steiger, whose wife and two young children could not attend, was visibly moved by the honor.



Above: The eight Geoffrey Beene National Scholarship finalists.



Above: FSF president Ken Duane, board member Bob Skinner, president-elect Ken Wyse and chairman Paul Rosengard.

Steiger praised the YMA's work in recent conversation with *MR* editor Karen Alberg: "But seriously, how great is the work that the YMA has been doing: providing more than 700 scholarships (so far) to talented kids, many of whom might not otherwise get to college? Look at the \$2 million donation from the Geoffrey Beene Foundation; it's just remarkable! And the committee just keeps outdoing itself: Paul Rosengard, Ken Duane, Ken Wyse, Doug Jakubowski, these are the real heroes. Because it's so important for us to get top talent in our industry. These

top kids could choose a bunch of other industries but we need them in ours! Those companies that attract the next Ralph Lauren, the next Terry Lundgren, these are the ones that will succeed in the years to come.”

To see more than 30 additional photos from the event, [go to our Schmoozing page](#).

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