



President Dynes with Nobel Laureate George Smoot (left), Gayle Wilson (center) and COSMOS Scholar Elizabeth Johnson; Dynes with Fred Kavli (left) and COSMOS Scholar Erica Rios (center); and Dynes with COSMOS Scholar Jilliane Jackson.

**Remarks by President Robert C. Dynes
Getty/COSMOS/Nobel Laureates Dinner Toast
November 6, 2006**

This is one of those evenings that says that we do something right here in California. If you look at the numbers, you find many reasons why this celebration of our Nobel Laureates and our COSMOS scholars is a very special occasion.

Tonight marks the fifth anniversary of our annual event. I want to congratulate the organizers for reaching this milestone and the benefactors who have made it possible.

Last month, when the 2006 Nobel Prizes were announced, nine recipients were honored. We were delighted that California is home to three of the nine.

Now I'll be parochial. One of the two Physics Laureates is a colleague of mine from UC Berkeley, George Smoot. George became the 50th Nobel Laureate affiliated with the University of California. I'm happy he's here this evening.

Last but certainly not least, our COSMOS program celebrated its own milestone this summer with the largest-ever class of 555 outstanding young scholars.

Earlier this evening, I had a chance to visit with some of our COSMOS scholars, and I'm really happy that I'm not competing with them to get into one of California's premier research universities. They're really terrific.

As the students described their research projects to me, I saw how fired up they are, I saw the fire in their eyes, and it reminded me of how excited I was at that age about science. California has a truly astonishing track record for scientific innovation. But with these brilliant youngsters waiting in the wings, we have an even more brilliant future.

So I'd like to propose a four-part toast:

To our Nobel Laureates, who have brought California and its great research universities such immense distinction;

To our COSMOS scholars, our Laureates-in-training, who hold such enormous promise;

To the families and friends who have given all our scholars – past, present, and future – their unconditional support.

And to California.

#