Beene Foundation Event Raises $1.4M

By Karyn Monget

THE 2010 FSP GEOFFREY BEENE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER AT CIPRIANI 42nd Street in Manhattan on Jan. 13 raised more than $1.4 million.

“We are about education and providing support and opportunity...to the next generation of our industry’s leaders,” said Kenneth L. Wyse, president of the 79-year-old YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund, which benefited from the fund-raiser. “Most importantly, tonight we will celebrate the accomplishments of 110 scholarship recipients representing all 28 of our member schools.”

He told the 780 guests the Geoffrey Beene Foundation should be credited for the fourth consecutive year the YMA will be able to provide more than $500,000 in annual scholarships.

Honorees were: Margarita Arriagada, senior vice president of merchandising for Sephora; Thomas A. Kingsbury, president and chief executive officer of Burlington Coat Factory, and Robert L. Mettler, former chairman and ceo of Macy’s West, who received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 110 fashion, marketing and graphic design students each received a $5,000 scholarship, and four got an additional $25,000 from the Geoffrey Beene National Scholarship Awards: Alexandra Dumas, Washington University; Lisa Cohen, University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School; Kasia Wisniewski, Pratt Institute, and Ashley Juskus, Fashion Institute of Technology. The remaining four finalists each received an extra $5,000. They were Alana Abisdris, Syracuse University; Becca Murrow, Indiana University; Kiara Walker, Parsons The New School for Design, and Michael Lin, Otis College of Art and Design.

Arriagada, whose background includes an 18-year tenure as a buyer of housewares and decorative accessories and gifts at Bullocks-Macy’s West, said, “This event says very much about mentoring our teens and for brands in the future.”