Eat your heart out, Old Towne

New law school dean
Matthew Parlow, who previously was a member of the Fowler School of Law faculty from 2005 to 2008, will become the school's dean July 1. Parlow will replace Dean Tom Campbell.

News, Page 6

Swedgentina
Anthony Liechti, a freshman film production major, and his friend created a daily YouTube gaming show.

Features, Page 9

Groundhog Day
Opinions editor Dong Close discusses his love for Groundhog Day and the lessons that he has learned from Punxsutawney Phil.

Opinions, Page 12

Wilson Field
The Wilson Field turf got replaced and the lacrosse teams are the first to practice on it. Read to see what they think.

Sports, Page 14

Choir slideshow
Chapman’s a cappella groups competed in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella last weekend. See photos of the performances and the preview concert online.

thepantheronline.com
**Musco Center causes student concern over parking**

**Patricia Torres | Senior Writer**

As the opening for the Musco Center for the Arts approaches, questions about where the 1,044 patrons will park have risen among students.

While additional parking has not been made for the center, Kris Olsen, vice president of campus planning and operations, said visitors and students do not have to worry about the overcapacity of the lots, as most events will be held after busy school hours.

Visitors will park in Lastinger Parking Lot and Barrera Parking lot and most of the events will take place on evenings and weekends when those structures have plenty of capacity for the patrons of the Musco Center,” Olsen said.

Chief of Public Safety Randy Burba said if an event were to be during busy class times, students would not be allowed to park in those structures.

“Should there be an event during normal heavy class hours they would not be directed to park in those structures but would be sent to the West Campus Structure,” Burba said. “Which is open and available for students every day as well and is served conveniently by our parking lot shuttle service.”

Jenna Anderson, a sophomore screenwriting major, thinks the university should have built a parking structure along with the Musco Center.

“I feel like Chapman does not realize how many commuter students there are. While there are parking spots reserved for commuters, it’s still not enough,” Anderson said. “They need to be more open and maybe get more creative about where students can park.”

Michelle Nguyen, a sophomore kinesiology major, said she’s concerned about how visitors will react to the parking availability.

“I think (students) will be annoyed, but there is not going to be performances all the time, so it should not be that big of a deal,” Nguyen said. “But my concern is if there will be enough parking for visitors if there were to be a big performance.”

Sophomore kinesiology major Thi Nguyen, said parking is always a big problem.

“I think it is going to cause a reaction especially since students already complain about parking,” Thi Nguyen said. “We have to wait to see how both visitors and students will react.”

University Spokesperson Mary Platt said that the Musco Center is publishing an informational brochure that will be mailed to more than 50,000 potential visitors of the Musco Center advising them on parking.

“We know that parking is always a concern for campus visitors and we want Musco Center patrons to be fully informed about the case of parking in the evenings and on weekends in the Lastinger and Barrera structures,” Platt said.

Visitors will have to pay for parking permits that could be purchased online or at kiosks in the parking lots. Olsen said that a parking lot in conjunction with the Musco Center is not in works.

**Crossing guard keeps students safe during construction**

**Jayson King | Staff Writer**

A crossing guard has been stationed at the lighted crosswalk at the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Grand Street to help students safely navigate between campus and the dorms, since the sidewalk leading to the Argyros Forum on Center Street has been closed to start the construction of the Center for Science and Technology. Due to the significant amount of the pedestrian and vehicle traffic in that intersection, the City of Orange and the university deemed it prudent to have a crossing guard for as long as the sidewalk to Argyros is closed,” said Kris Olsen, vice president of campus planning and operations.

The crossing guard, Francisco Arteaga, has been controlling traffic since Jan. 11 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Before coming to Chapman, Arteaga spent eight years as a crossing guard at a school in Anaheim Hills. While some might think that being a crossing guard is not that difficult, there are certain challenges and dangers when dealing with traffic. For Arteaga, controlling the traffic is the most challenging part of his job.

“Some cars just won’t stop,” Arteaga said.

He also has to make sure that all the pedestrians are safe. Arteaga makes sure that everyone walks their bikes or skateboards across the crosswalk, as a way to prevent any accidents.

During times with less activity, Arteaga likes to “watch and relax.” This way, he prevents himself from being caught off guard and is always ready to help students cross the street.

As the weeks wear on, some students are getting more used to having a crossing guard at the crosswalk.

“I feel a little bit safer. There is no stop light, or I don’t even think a stop sign there, and all they have are the blinkers, so it does feel a little bit safer,” said Louis Jameson, a freshman business and economics major.

Michelle Pridgeon, a sophomore health science major, said she feels safer with Arteaga there.

“I think (the crossing guard is) really helpful because a lot of times, students just walk whenever and it backs up the traffic,” Pridgeon said.

Jerry Price, vice chancellor for student affair and dean of students, wrote in an email that students can expect to have a crossing guard at this intersection for the duration of the Center for Science and Technology project, which is set to be completed in the summer of 2018.

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University Singers end California tour at the Interfaith Center

Justine Wims | Staff Writer

Chapman University Singers concluded its tour of 12 high schools at the Fish Interfaith Center on Friday.

Stephen Coker, the director of choral activities at Chapman, said the primary purpose of the tour was recruitment. Live performances and interactive discussions allowed for local prospective students to really get a grasp of what attending Chapman would be like, while creating a buzz about the choir itself.

“(It allows) a connection to the high school choir students, who become inquisitive and ask questions, while demonstrating a performance they can identify with,” Coker said.

Members of the University Singers agreed.

Sarah Brown, a senior vocal performance major and president of the choir, said that high school interactions were the best part of the tour. It created excitement in seeing talent that could become part of the Chapman family.

This specialized kind of recruitment will continue in the spring with scheduled choir festivals on the second Friday of each month.

Performing at Chapman instead of for high school students was a different experience, Brown said.

“Even if you’re singing the same music, it’ll always be different,” Brown said.

The 33 members of the University Singers took the stage dressed in black and broke into harmony. Coker, who conducted the choir, introduced most of the music selections to the crowd in the chapel.

Most songs had no musical accompaniment, just the arrangement of voices creating each composition.

The last number performed before intermission, “Odysseus and the Sirens,” incorporated both vocal melody and complementing wind and sea sound effects by the singers.

Sophia Bui, a junior digital arts major, said the performance “captured the story of the pieces to create images in your head as it goes along.”

Rachel Gallagher, a freshman screen acting major, said that she was impressed by the University Singers’ talent.

“They work inspired me even more, and was a true break from the run-of-the-mill vocal performances we are exposed to daily,” Gallagher said. “It was like Disneyland for your ears. I will gladly track their tour and fully intend to watch them perform again in the near future.”

The University Choir and Singers will perform on April 8 and at the 42nd Annual Sholund Scholarship Concert on May 14. Tickets for both performances may be purchased through the Chapman website, under the College of Performing Arts calendar of events.

Student performances kick off Black History Month

Mark Luburic | Senior Writer

Students performed at Chapman’s Black Student Union and the University Program Board’s sixth annual Soul Fest in the Student Union as part of Black History Month.

This year, the annual event was a part of the University Program Board’s Welcome Week.

“This event is a great opportunity for Chapman to come together as a community with lots of good music, great food and fun mocktails,” said Sam Schleiritzauer, a junior theatre studies major and University Program Board member.

The event included performances from individual students and a cappella groups. There were mocktails served along with cornbread, beignets and ham biscuits.

“It was important to gather people together and celebrate soul music,” said Andrea Thomas, a junior creative producing major.

“I really enjoyed hearing all the different performances. It was cool to see how talented the students are, even if performance isn’t their major,” Thomas said.

Megan Sunborn, a senior communication studies major, enjoyed that the event gave her a break from the stress of restarting school.

“It is a great way to support other students and see their talent,” Sunborn said. “Going to school can be stressful, so having fun events like these on campus for students to unwind, enjoy some corn bread and listen to great music is important.”
Challenger research papers, videos donated to libraries

Nazli Donmez | Staff Writer

On Jan. 28, 1986 the Challenger space shuttle exploded 73 seconds after takeoff, killing seven crew members, including a civilian teacher.

However, due to several minimum temperature the launch was not a good enough reason for NASA, Maier said. "If they waited another day, they would see it," Maier said. "You have to trust your people, they can make the best decision if you give them the knowledge you have to the people making the decisions, whatever your job may be," McDonald said. "If you don't speak up, you can't make the best decision if you don't speak up." McDonald said that the highest ranking person usually is not the one with the most knowledge on all subjects.

"When I talked to other engineers about changing the recommendation, after the launch, they said that the general manager wanted to go ahead and didn't ask for their opinion," McDonald said. "The very few who opposed the decision were fired by 89 engineers said that it was risky, the recommendation may not have been changed. Maier wrote and produced an informational module that was built around interviews with people involved in the Challenger's launch. The module is being used by many institutions and organizations among the nation for training and management issues.

"We care about keeping the story alive," said Maier, who believes leadership should be anchored in caring and service, not power and privilege. "As I introduced Al (Mc Donald) to this new concept of leadership, we both agreed if this was the case back then, things may have been different. We do a taking a tragic event and making it into something positive."

"Both Maier and McDonald believed that people should learn from the errors made in the Challenger's launch, leadership should be anchored in professional ethics, management and leadership.

Looking beyond the technical aspects of it, the Challenger launch can be used as a valuable lesson in professional ethics, management and leadership. "It is your professional responsibility to provide the knowledge you have to the people making the decisions, whatever your job may be," McDonald said. "You owe them your opinion, they may choose to ignore it, but they can't make the best decision if you don't speak up." McDonald said that the highest ranking person usually is not the one with the most knowledge on all subjects.

A Walk Down Wall Street' rescheduled due to blizzard

Madeleine Caraluzzi | Staff Writer

The massive blizzard that hit New York City the week of Jan. 25 made it impossible to complete the trip to Florida as well. Two days before the long-established departure date, finance professor Terence Burnham received a notice that his flight to New York City, along with the flights of 32 finance students enrolled in the interterm travel course, "A Walk Down Wall Street," was cancelled due to bad weather.

After a couple of days of laborious planning, Burnham was able to move everyone onto a different flight, however, the blizzard was unforgiving. "The weather in New York was clear, the flights all said 'on time,' then I get to the shuttle and a student said to me that the new flight was cancelled. And I said, 'that's not a funny joke,'" Burnham said.

Finance 400, or "A Walk Down Wall Street," is an intensive class that aims to teach students about the realities of the finance world by giving them a firsthand experience on Wall Street. "We're in the process of rescheduling (the trip) for spring break," Burnham said. "Some of the students have plans and won't be attending, in which case they get all their money back, but most everyone will be going." Traveling to New York City late-March is not a bad trip, but with the approval of Reginald Gilardy, dean of the Argyros School of Business and Economics, the school will be taking nearly $25,000 from its budget to cover differences in cost between now and March.

"The dean made it happen, (I) don't know exactly what he did, we just know that he did what was in his power to make the trip happen," said Marissa Scully, a junior business administration major.

The three-week class before the trip is a mix of preparing for the Wall Street lifestyle by researching aspects of New York City culture, and continuing to prepare for the finance world by participating in stock market simulation contests and Skyping with Chapman alumni now working in the stock market, Burnham said.

The ultimate goal of the course, however, is to connect Chapman students with Wall Street's hiring network and the program has proven very successful in past years. "The dean made it happen, (I) don't know exactly what he did, we just know that he did what was in his power to make the trip happen," said Marissa Scully, a junior business administration major.

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PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER AWARDED PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL

Sabrina Santoro | Staff Writer

President Jim Doti awarded Public Safety Officer Michael Belay Chapman University’s highest honor, the Presidential Medal, for his efforts in leading an organization collecting supplies to improve the lives of people in his hometown of Temben, Ethiopia through his nonprofit organization Hands Across the Planet to Poor Youth (H.A.P.P.Y.).

The university first instituted the Presidential Medal 10 years ago. As president, Doti has introduced the award as a recipient and recognized individuals who have made a significant impact in business, philanthropy or the arts. The award is presented to individuals sparingly, with one given out between every two years.

“There was a long standing ovation at our holiday party after announcing that Michael would be a medal recipient.” This speaks to the love and regard the community has for Michael and his achievement. I would love for his story to transcend Chapman so more people know about and are inspired by his work so that other people can be helped too,” Doti said. “I think it’s an incredible testament to a person’s humanity that someone with a job that has a modest salary can do so much and have a significant impact on the lives of others.”

Chief Randy Burba of Public Safety said that he has been working with Belay for more than 10 years and has seen him make a difference not only with his organization in Ethiopia, but in the way he interacts with students and faculty on the university campus.

“I certainly think he’s deserving of the Presidential Medal and I think he embodies what Chapman is about: the four pillars, global citizenship, and recognized individuals who have a significant impact in business, philanthropy or the arts. The award is awarded to individuals sparingly, with one given out between every two years.”

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While Belay began helping people in Ethiopia more than 15 years ago, it was not until he founded his nonprofit organization Hands Across the Planet to Poor Youth (H.A.P.P.Y.) that he was able to really contribute to the cause. Through H.A.P.P.Y., Belay has been able to help people affected by war, poverty, hunger, polluted water and a generation of lack of health support. The organization’s focus is on projects geared toward water and hygiene, orphan education and housing, as well as medical clinics and ambulances.

After a few years of trying to raise money for H.A.P.P.Y., Belay said his family’s home and refinanced his car in order to build and furnish a small school with faculty staff and 24-hour security in Temben. The school has an open-door policy to welcome any child that needs an education and more than 1,000 students have graduated from the school since it opened in 2006. However, a majority of students are overcrowded and the building itself needs improvements. Belay’s current goal is to raise $1.2 million to build and furnish a school for more than 1,100 children with 35 students in each classroom.

Belay has also funded the drilling of two water wells, the delivery of supplies to local Ethiopian hospitals and the building of homes for poor families with money donated by numerous benefactors in addition to other fundraising methods. If you would like to donate to H.A.P.P.Y. to fund the building of a school in Ethiopia, don’t don’t donate directly to the cause at happyinethiopia.org. All donations are tax-deductible.
Matthew Parlow selected as new law school dean

Kaitlin Homan | Staff Writer

Chapman’s Fowler School of Law will welcome Matthew Parlow as its new dean on July 1. Parlow will succeed Dean Tom Campbell, who publicly announced in September that he will be stepping down following his five-year term.

“Since becoming dean, Campbell has served as dean of the Fowler School of Law at Chapman University "are special places that attract special people — students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators and supporters." Campbell has served as dean since February of 2011 and said that his greatest accomplishment is the interactions he has had with the students. To Campbell, the most rewarding thing is having a positive influence on students’ careers. Since becoming dean, Campbell has also improved the law school’s curriculum and moved to focus on practical skill. The law school now brings in practicing attorneys to help teach the students how to advance in litigation.

Although a new dean will be named for the Fowler School of Law, Campbell’s choice to step down won’t mean he’ll be going far. It’s been a pleasure and an honor to have this position," Campbell said. "I am, however, a teacher and a teacher should teach." Campbell will continue to work at the Fowler School of Law as a professor. He hopes to read many cases that have been decided over the last five years that he did not have time to read. He said he wants to be completely up to speed when getting back to teaching.

“Last year, I lost an election for a national law student position," said April Marla Cristal, a third year law student. "It was Dean Campbell who reminded me of the good work that can still be accomplished even without an official position, and even amidst the disappointment." Cristal said that her most memorable experience so far has been her experience as the inaugural co-chair for the Social Justice Publication and Symposium. "Dean Campbell has influenced me with inspiration to care for others in the course of my career, as well as to stay positive," Cristal said. "I will never forget how Dean Campbell took the time to speak with me, and his kind words." Cristal said she is thankful to have had the opportunity to know Campbell in almost all of her years in law school, but also knows faith in Parlow and is excited about the new transition going into her final semester. She hopes Parlow will continue the law school’s progression toward becoming a well-respected California law school. "I hope (Parlow) continues to encourage positive interaction between the faculty, administration and students, as Dean Campbell has," Cristal said.

Parlow said he is ready to work and feels privileged to be succeeding Campbell as dean. Parlow said that although the legal education and the legal profession have experienced some dramatic changes and challenges over the last five years, and many of those challenges are continuing and evolving, he looks forward to achieving the next level of success at Chapman’s law school.

Parlow wants to continue the growth of the existing strengths, which include the Practice-Ready Program, which helps bridge the gap between law school and practice by installing a critical skills component to certain courses. Faculty members work with practicing attorneys and jurors to make this program successful. This is something Parlow said he plans to continue on his "to do list" for continuing the growth in excellence at the law school.

"Fowler School of Law is well-positioned to adapt to, and thrive in, the challenges of the current environment," Parlow said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to build on existing strengths and explore new opportunities for collaboration across campus and in the community."

Crime around campus

Nov. 12, 2015: Triple homicide
An SUV with three bodies was found half a mile from campus.

Dec. 15, 2015: Campus lock down
Campus was locked down due to a reported gunman in DeMille Hall.

Recent community crime not affecting safety protocol

Rebecca Glaser | Staff Writer

In just over three months, a triple homicide, a campus lockdown and the escape of three inmates from the Orange County Jail have called the current security protocols in place at Chapman into question.

Public Safety is continuing to work closely with the Orange Police Department to maintain current precautions to protect Chapman students, said representatives of both organizations.

“There are no specific plans (for new security protocols), other than to continue to provide the best police services to the community while creating a safe living environment for everyone, not just students," said Lt. Fred Lopez, public information officer of the Orange Police Department.

Public Safety is constantly reevaluating current safety procedures and determining how efficiently they work for the student community, said Chief Randy Burba of Public Safety. However, recent violent events in close proximity to campus have not spurred a dramatic change in protocol, with both Public Safety and the police functioning much as they did prior to the incidents.

“Random acts of violence are always a possibility,” Burba said. “I would recommend that students continue to practice good safety habits, report suspicious activity and take advantage of the Panther Guardian.

The Panther Guardian is a smartphone application that was released in December 2013, allowing students to connect with a contact who will be alerted if the user is in immediate danger, exhibiting the rising use of technology as a tool to combat campus crime. Burba also supports the use of the Panther Alert system, an alert system that contacts registered students via phone calls, emails and text messages during emergencies. On Nov. 12, a burned SUV with three bodies inside was discovered half a mile from campus in a neighborhood with many Chapman students. The Panther Alert system was not utilized in this occasion because it did not pose a threat to the university, said Capt. Craig Lee of Public Safety. After months of investigation, the triple homicide was determined to be gang-related.

I have so many friends that live near the triple homicide,” said Sophomore Gonzales, a freshman biochemistry major. “The university didn’t even tell students about what happened.”

On Dec. 15, Chapman’s campus was locked down after reports of an armed gunman in DeMille Hall were called in. Public Safety and security of the Panther Alerts were sent to students, warning them to shelter in place and providing security details and descriptions of the suspect.

“I think that (the Panther Alerts) had the opposite effect of what they intended to do,” said Rosan Keldin, a freshman political science major. “Rather than informing the students, they created a widespread panic by using phrasing that was too vague. They painted a different picture than what was actually going on.”

However, students closer to the situation felt differently about the alert system. Connor Broughton, a freshman business administration major, said he was taking a final in DeMille Hall when he received the first alert. “The information and Panther Alerts really came in handy, and it was nice to know that they worked in a suspicious situation,” Broughton said.

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On Jan. 23, three prisoners indicted for violent crimes escaped from the Orange County Sheriff’s Department Central Jail Complex, which is less than 20 minutes away from Chapman. One escaped inmate turned himself in to authorities in Santa Ana Jan. 29 and the remaining two were captured in San Francisco Jan. 30.

Genevieve Vacherot, a freshman communication studies and French major who lives off campus, feels differently.

“The lack of change doesn’t really concern me because I don’t really feel threatened on campus,” Vacherot said. “I still feel safe — I think (dangerous events) happen everywhere.”

Lopez said that past recent situations were handled well, with adequate communication between Public Safety and police officers.

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“We work in partnership with Public Safety,” Lopez said. “They do a great job of keeping us informed and calling us with regards to anything they feel creates a safety concern for their students.”
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‘Twas the ‘Finest’ Disney tale

Georgina Bridger | Feature Editor

When I think of Disney, my mind automatically goes to animated children’s movies. So when I saw that “The Finest Hours” was produced by Walt Disney Productions, I was skeptical. How could the company that is predominantly associated with classics like “Pocahontas” and “The Lion King” produce a gripping and interesting historical drama? But, my assumptions were wrong – this film is excellent.

Based on a true story, “The Finest Hours” follows the heroic efforts of two quiet social outcasts, Ray Sybert (Casey Affleck) and Bernie Webber (Chris Pine), as they transform into leaders. Set in 1952, the movie follows the journey of the SS Pendleton oil tanker after it is split in half by a vicious storm. Stranded and sinking off the coast of Cape Cod, it is up to Officer Daniel Cluff (Eric Bana) to recruit a crew and save whoever remained onboard the wrecked vessel.

The film pans between the two hopeless rescue missions of Sybert and Webber as they both attempt to save their crews. By contrasting the efforts of the two men, the director kept me hooked as I wondered what would happen next. The storyline of this movie had me gripping my seat with angst, kept me engaged in the adventure and had me enchanted with its hint of romance. The newfound love between Webber and girlfriend Miriam (Holliday Grainger) was nothing short of a classic old-time romance. Although it was a focus of the movie, romance did not dominate the storyline – it served to heighten the intensity of the rescue.

Affleck fit right into his role as Sybert, but it was Pine’s performance that really brought the film to life. Not only did he portray the character’s rule-following attitude perfectly, he also remained true to the shy and awkward traits of Webber throughout. Although Grainger played her outspoken and bold character well, I would often hear the English accent which, to me, discredited the authenticity of her performance. Knowing that “The Finest Hours” was based on a true story impacted me on a deeper level.

To me, this is one quality film. Not only did it provide me with 157 minutes worth of entertainment in the form of action, romance and a great storyline, but it inspired me to accomplish the impossible.

New album doesn’t ‘Matter’

Rachel Gossen | Senior Writer

If there’s any doubt that the ‘80s are making a comeback in music, those doubts can be stopped by St. Lucia’s sophomore album, “Matter.” St. Lucia is known for high-energy, pop-synth music, but this album is obviously inspired by a different decade.

As I listened to the album, I thought I was listening to the soundtrack of a John Hughes movie. At the end of the lead track, “Do You Remember,” I felt like I should be lifting my fist in the air for a cheesy freeze frame shot. The third track and lead single, “Dancing On Glass,” will definitely be making it onto my pump-up playlist. It’s the perfect song to lift your mood before going out for the night or even going to class in the morning.

The newfound love between Stringer and girlfriend Miriam (Holliday Grainger) was nothing more meaning than just being a personal experience, which gives the song more meaning than just being a

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As I listened to the album, I thought I was listening to the soundtrack of a John Hughes movie. At the end of the lead track, “Do You Remember,” I felt like I should be lifting my fist in the air for a cheesy freeze frame shot. The third track and lead single, “Dancing On Glass,” will definitely be making it onto my pump-up playlist. It’s the perfect song to lift your mood before going out for the night or even going to class in the morning.

The Chapman University ChapTones performed its set at the ICCA preview concert, along with Chapman Sound-Check, on Feb 4.

This week at Chapman

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Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

St. Lucia’s album “Matter” was released on Jan. 29 and is available to download on iTunes.

New album doesn’t ‘Matter’

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SoundCheck sings its way to ICCA semifinals

Kira Weiner | Senior Writer

Wearing their signature colors, red and black, the 17 members of Chapman SoundCheck took to the stage at Pomona College for the quarterfinals of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) on Saturday. For SoundCheck, one of the four a cappella groups on campus, the moment was a long time coming. “We’ve worked so hard and had so many long nights - we put a lot of time into this,” said SoundCheck vice president Jordan Patao, a junior business major. “We’re very competitive when it comes to the ICCAs.”

The ICCA, a competition made famous in the film “Pitch Perfect,” is an intercollegiate competition involving more than 450 a cappella groups from the U.S. and Europe. Winners from the quarterfinals will advance to the semifinals in March along with the first place recipients, Fermata Nostra from Mt. San Antonio College. Chapman’s newest a cappella group, ChapTones, received fourth place and SoundCheck’s Dominique Stewart won the Outstanding Soloist Award.

“Every afternoon Anthony Liechti and Ivan Lovera take their seats in front of a computer in Liechti’s bedroom, put on headphones and press record.”

“Their quest: To find out if they can come together and share one common love, which is music.”

Also absent from the competition was Men of Harmony, Chapman’s all-male a cappella group. “We didn’t see the rush of ICCAs benefiting us in the way that it has in the past,” said Men of Harmony president Brad Joyner, a junior political science major. “A lot of us have done it, and it’s really intense and a lot of work and it’s rewarding, but we were ready to take off a year. If the new members want to do it later, they can.”

More rehearsals await SoundCheck before semifinals in March.

Chapman SoundCheck performed its set at the ICCA preview concert on Feb 4.

“We’re constantly with each other. We’re always hanging out outside of rehearsals - it’s like our family,” Patao said. Stewart left the competition feeling excited for the month ahead.

“As a group, we worked so hard to get to the point where we were today, and we were all so excited to have fun and groove on stage and be with each other,” Stewart said. “We get to do it again for semifinals and spend even more time with each other, so it’s a win-win.”

Playing the game: ‘Swedegentina’

Mily Kirsch | Staff Writer

Every afternoon Anthony Liechti and Ivan Lovera take their seats in front of a computer in Liechti’s bedroom – on headphones and press record.

“We’re just two young guys trying to brighten people’s days by making silly videos for the Internet,” said Liechti, a freshman film production major.

“‘Swedegentina’ is a clever idea. It’s just funny to watch Anthony and Ivan play and … freak out from the scary games.”

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Old Towne Orange preview: The Plaza 2016

Tryphena Wardlaw | Senior Writer

Orange is catching up to other cities like Anaheim and Fullerton with the coming additions of trendy new eateries.

“I’ve heard of (The Pie Hole), but I haven’t been. I’d like to go,” said senior strategic and corporate communication major Anna Thomas. “I feel like the burger and pizza thing is kind of everywhere, but the pie place is interesting and unique.”

In 2016, a number of new businesses will be opening in the Orange Plaza to provide a wider range of eateries to people in the Orange community.

“As the city, it is not our job to judge the businesses,” said Public Information Officer Paul Sitkoff. “Our job is to make sure that we are welcoming and that we make it as easy as possible to do business,” Sitkoff said.

Old Towne Orange will see the opening of The Pie Hole, Burger Parlor, Watson’s Soda Fountain & Cafe and The Aussie Bean.

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**The Aussie Bean**

The Aussie Bean is located off Glassell Street and Maple Avenue and serves artisan coffee.

The mobile coffee bar, The Aussie Bean, has now made a more permanent home in the Plaza at 112 E. Maple Ave. and officially opened on Feb. 6.

The campus truck will remain on campus this semester although it was not there for January.

The store offers more traditional Australian coffee but does not have wireless Internet.

The Aussie Bean serves artisan coffee from around the world and the company aims to “encapsulate a truly authentic coffee experience,” as stated on its website. All of the drinks are based on Australian style beverages.

“I love their coffee. I just wish their truck was still on campus because it was just so much more convenient just because I am on campus,” said Thomas.

“They actually know what they are doing as opposed to the slacking quality at Starbucks,” said senior strategic and corporate communication major Jake Ravdin. “They use better beans, they don’t burn their stuff and their customer service is much better.”

**Pricing:** $ (Yelp) Drinks range from $2.50 to $4.50
**Rating:** 4/5 stars on Yelp
**Opening Date:** Feb. 6
**Location:** 112 E. Maple Ave.

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**The Pie Hole**

The Pie Hole, a family run gourmet Los Angeles-based pie and coffee shop, is replacing The Old Towne Grinder & Ice Cream Parlor at the end of March.

Lindsay Heffner, owner and director of sales and marketing for The Pie Hole, said the company paired up on the project with Rick and Madeleine Anaya, who had always dreamed of having a coffee shop.

“We selected Orange as our first location because we found this community to be attractive and the people to be warm and friendly. We love the people, the antique stores, the eateries and the events that are all a part of Orange,” said Rick Anaya.

“Outside of the unfortunate name, I am quite certain they will have good pies. I hear they have savory options, which is a plus,” said junior film production major Spencer Flynn.

Heffner is excited for the opening of the Orange shop.

“We are so thrilled to go into our space in Orange because it is a historic building and the gorgeous brick, huge windows, all help contribute to the warmth and beauty we like to create for a community gathering space,” said Heffner.

**Pricing:** $ (Yelp) Food items range from $2.50 to $7.25
**Rating:** 4.5/5 stars on Yelp
**Opening Date:** Plans are set for mid to late March
**Location:** 177 N Glassell St.

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**Burger Parlor**

Although The 149 Sports Grill struggled to maintain business as stated in the Orange County Register, the Burger Parlor is opening soon in its place.

“It would be nice to have a good burger besides In-N-Out,” said junior digital arts major Ian Wooster.

The Burger Parlor will serve shakes, malts, craft beer and a selection of different burgers. The eatery will offer vegan and vegetarian options.

**Pricing:** $ (Yelp) Burgers range from $7 to $12
**Rating:** 4/5 stars on Yelp
**Opening Date:** In a month or two
**Location:** 149 N. Glassell St.

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**Watson’s Soda Fountain & Cafe**

The new Watson’s Soda Fountain & Cafe will be serving shakes and gourmet burgers as well as beer floats and alcohol infused shakes.

After the 149 Sports Grill struggled to maintain business as stated in the Orange County Register, the Burger Parlor is opening soon in its place.

“Watson’s brings the traditional diner back with its burgers, steaks, shakes, malts and will now serve craft beer. For sure I’ll go. Especially if I am in the area,” Thomas said.

**Pricing:** $ (Yelp)
**Rating:** 3/5 stars on Yelp prior to closing
**Opening Date:** March 14
**Location:** 116 E. Chapman Ave.
Leah de Leon | Staff Writer

Yuri Scharan was on his way to class when his phone buzzed with a news alert, “Zika Virus a Global Health Emergency, World Health Organization Says.”

“I was a little worried for my family since it’s huge right now down in South America,” the senior television and broadcast journalism major said. “I definitely felt concerned, but I trust that they will be OK.”

As of Feb. 1, the World Health Organization declared the Zika virus an international public health emergency due to the rapid spread of the virus. The mosquito-transmitted disease has spread to over 20 countries in South America and infected 31 people in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Scharan grew up in Sao Paulo, Brazil and continues to visit his hometown twice a year.

“I’ve grown up around tropical diseases my entire life and was very aware of mosquitoes,” said Scharan. “I think most Chapman students may not be aware of these issues.”

Nathalie Larrea, originally from Peru, did not know what the Zika virus was.

“I was surprised because I wasn’t aware of it at all,” said Larrea. “I am not scared since I live far from the affected areas and there is only one case confirmed in Peru.”

Still, Larrea said it’s important everyone is educated about the virus.

“It is on the other side of the country,” Larrea said. “But I do want to know more about the transmission and treatment.”

Director of the Center for Global Education James Coyle said that it’s important to prepare students who are going abroad to at-risk areas.

“Although there are no vaccinations for the Zika virus, other tropical diseases such as malaria and dengue can still be protected against,” said Coyle. Chapman offers immunization clinics for people studying abroad and encourages students to do thorough research on potential viruses in the areas they plan to travel.

The major concern is that the Zika virus may be connected to microcephaly, a condition that results in birth defects according to the World Health Organization.

“There is absolutely nothing that directly connects the Zika virus to microcephaly,” Coyle said. “However, in Brazil, there was a massive outbreak at the same time.”

Most people infected do not have symptoms, but if they do the most common can include a fever, rash, joint pain and/or red eyes, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Director of Student Health Services, Jacqueline Deats believes that the symptoms are mild, but all students should remain wary.

“The symptoms are not that severe for our young, healthy population,” said Deats. Deats encourages female students travelling to be on birth control if they plan to be sexually active abroad, especially after a report that the virus has been sexually transmitted in Dallas County, Texas on Tuesday.

“Since the Texas report about the sexually transmitted case, we must do our best to educate our students about safe sex,” said Deats. “The more you know, the better you can protect yourself.”

The first known case of the Zika Virus was reported last May in Brazil and has since spread to more than 20 countries in South America.
An ode to Groundhog Day

Last Tuesday marked one of America’s most wonderfully archaic holidays – Groundhog Day.

Yes, even to this day, droves of people clamor together in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to witness whether or not famed groundhog Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow or not, either ushering in six more weeks of winter or an early spring, respectively. And this year, he predicted an early spring, for whatever it’s worth.

And yes, there is an exclusive group of old men dubbed “The Inner Circle” who tend to Phil year round in secrecy and plan his ceremony. They can be found wearing top hats and tuxedos. And yes, the year 2016.

And yet, almost the notion of a large rodent named Philip predicting geothermal forecasts based off of whether he notices the shadowed outline of his figure against the ground is totally stupid, there’s something strangely encouraging about the outdated holiday.

Take Punxsutawney Phil as a prime example. You may not know this, but Phil has been through quite a lot over the years.

Legal disputes, threats against his well-being and vicious backlash against some of his predictions have landed right in Phil’s little groundhog lap on more than one occasion.

In the particularly frigid spring of 2013, an Ohio prosecutor made waves in the media when made an official, formal indictment against Punxsutawney Phil calling for the death penalty for Phil’s “misrepresentation of early spring” as an “unclassified felony against the peace and dignity of the state of Ohio.” However, just when things were starting to look particularly morbid for Phil, the prosecutor announced that he would not be filing charges against Phil because his handler had taken responsibility for being unable to understand Phil’s ruling about his shadow as he could not speak “groundhog-ese.”

But the law was not done with Phil. In 2015, New Hampshire’s Merrimack Police Department went and issued an arrest warrant for Phil after officials felt he had failed to predict the extreme amounts of snow that almost immediately preceded Phil’s prediction of an early spring.

Phil has also lived through his fair share of personal tragedy. During a Groundhog Day ceremony in 2014, New York mayor Bill de Blasio dropped a squirrel that landed on Chuck, a groundhog friend of Phil’s. Months later, it was revealed that Chuck had in fact died a week after the infamous drop due to internal injuries, and that there had even been a cover-up to prevent groundhog justice from being served. This definitely is something I’m sure haunts Phil every day.

So, with the new semester upon us, I think there is something we can all learn from Punxsutawney Phil. Every year, Phil prepares thoroughly with his Inner Circle to do what he was meant to do in life – predict the forecast for the upcoming spring. And, despite all his hard work, he has to put up with the vitriol of those who do not appreciate his predictions despite all of his effort.

But does he quit, run back into his little groundhog nook and never predict another spring? Nay. He just gets back at it despite the hate he may receive. Be like Phil, and stick with your passions no matter what roadblocks may stand in your way.

This is how much it costs to skip class

In most Chapman classes, attendance isn’t just encouraged – it’s a direct part of your final grade. Many professors choose to factor attendance into their grades, with the only excusable absences requiring proof of sickness or an extreme circumstance.

On top of that, there is often a temptation among college students to skip class for a variety of personal reasons, which can lead to conflict with their grades and their professors should they choose to give into said temptation.

Though some students may wish their professors had looser attendance policies, all of this begs the question – reasons aside, how much does it cost in tuition money to miss a class?

For many full-time students, their usual course loads are around 15 credits per semester. One semester for a full-time student at Chapman costs $23,250 in tuition.

Do some quick division, and for a 15-credit student, that comes out at $4,650 per every three-credit class. If those classes meet three times a week for 50 minutes, that means that each one of those individual class periods costs $110.71.

If the class meets twice a week, it’s $166.07 per class meeting.

If it’s a once a week class, it’s $332.14 for every class meeting.

And while these numbers are based off the assumption that you are a full-time student with the aforementioned set of scenarios (and it should be noted that tuition pays for much more than just classes), the point is that going to school here is a serious financial privilege. Missing a once-a-week class costs the same as 96 Double-Doubles from In-N-Out. A skipped twice weekly class costs more than it would for you to feed a family of four for a week according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And it costs more than a one-day ticket to Disneyland to miss a three-times-a-week class.

So, whether it be through illness, a scheduling conflict or any other reason, if missing class doesn’t put a dent in your participation grade, rest assured it will certainly put one in your wallet. And if you find yourself not making class a priority, perhaps it would be best for yourself and others to put that immense amount of money being spent on missed classes into something that will actually make a difference.
Why “hashtagging” the slogan isn’t enough

W ith social media running rampant, with #Bernie2016, “Make America Great Again!” or an “H” with a distinctly placed arrow, it’s not hard to retrofit something and feel like you’re part of a good deed. Your whole social media network now knows your prejudices and is probably checking to see if this really helping the candidate? Most importantly, are you helping yourself become an informed citizen? As much as mainstream media makes this election seem like a Miss America beauty pageant, it’s so difficult to base your decision strictly on ideology. Issues like gun rights, or the environment dictate that policy takes a back seat to personality.

Innovations like The Skimm and the The Daily 202 newsletters make it so easy to get a hearty overview of news. It is almost as if media outlets want to spoon feed you information. The hour-long TV segments and multi-page news spreads of the past, and before Snapchats and Twitter offer condensed news from great sources, making it virtually impossible to see what they really can take, especially younger millennials who are voting for the first time, in their own way.

In the last election, our president won the 18-29 year-old vote by more than 5 million voters, according to USA Today. Just a little food for thought for those who don’t think they’re making a difference, and who think twice when changing “The Bachelor” to their party’s debate.

Prowling Panther

Compiled by Hannah Spellman

Which new restaurant in the plaza are you most excited for?

Amanda Starn, sophomore percussion performance major

“The Pie Hole is gonna be pretty hype because I love pie and I don’t have it often enough.”

Naveed Goudarzi, junior film studies major

“I’m pretty excited for the new Watson’s dîner to open up.”

Bobby Gilmore, freshman marketing major

“Aussie Bean, because I used to stop by their truck when it was outside of Beckman.”

Michelle Voronel, sophomore business and economics major

“I’m excited for The Pie Hole because it’s a really funny play on words, and who doesn’t love pie?”

Check out the Prowling Panther video on thepantheronline.com.

How Jason Mraz made me distrustful of the world

Sydney Adams, senior kinesiology and psychology major

I’ll admit it – when I was 14 I had a really big crush on Jason Mraz. It started when his smash hit single “I’m Yours” had just been released and I had never heard a song so romantic in my life. Really, nothing touched my soul quite like the line “I’d be cool if you were cool back” did. It was poetry, it was art, and I committed the song to memory. I began asking anyone I knew who had mild musical talent if they knew the song, and if they could play it for me so I could sing along in wistful bliss. I just knew that if I sang the song loud enough, Jason Mraz would hear me from wherever he was, would fly to hear me and would instantly fall in love with me. We would live in Bora Bora with four dogs. He seemed like the guy who would live in Bora Bora with four dogs.

The infatuation spread among my fellow mid-pubescent gal pals, until one of them had the unthinkable about our future husband. “I heard that at one of his shows, he asked the crowd if anyone had marijuana, and to send up to the stage,” my horrified friend revealed to us one day. “My heart broke into a million pieces over this fact.”

I remember crying to my mom, “How could someone as caring and look how the love of my life could ever even think of touching a drug.” How a man capable of making such a moving melody would dare ask the crowd for “a marijuana.” My mother tried to reason with me by explaining that a good majority of musicians did drugs, not that it was right, but that it was just the way things were.

At this tender age, I still lived in blissful ignorance about the real world and had a serious belief that if you ever saw a drug you would go to jail. My feelings for Jason Mraz turned from adoration, to grief, and then to hatred. I would change the radio anytime I heard just two missing chords, but since this song was in its peak popularity at the time, I usually ended up just turning the radio off, much to the disdain of my mom who was my chauffeur to and from middle school. If anyone wanted to share iPod earbuds at lunch and listen to music, I would oblige, on the condition that we would play the tunes of that untruthful scum.

To this day, I do not like the song, and will not listen to it. I have trusted a man in a fedora playing the ukulele ever since.
For the first time since 2006, Chapman athletes will open their seasons on a brand new turf field. The men’s and women’s lacrosse teams will be the first to set foot upon the newly installed surface of Wilson Field this spring, with practices already underway and the start of their seasons less than two weeks away. Both the men’s and women’s teams will open their seasons on Feb. 20, though the women’s team will get to play its inaugural game on the new field a little over a week earlier than the men’s team, facing off against the University of Redlands. The men’s team will open its season on the road at Sonoma State and University of California, Berkeley before it returns for its home opener on Feb. 29 against the University of Florida.

“It’s nice. It has more of the actual real grass feeling to it because the pellets are loose, and that’s what you want,” said men’s lacrosse head coach Dallas Hartley. “After a turf field is around for a long time, the pellets get smashed down. It starts to feel harder.”

Women’s lacrosse head coach Kirkpatrick said the field had a lot of under-patches last year.

“It was not really safe for the athletes,” Kirkpatrick said. “But this year, since the men’s team and we were kind of the first team that’s using it, it’s fresh in my mind and a little bongiepon, a little bongi squish.”

Senior attacker and a captain of the men’s team Steve Koressel, said the new turf is “way nice.”

“I’d say it’s a lot smoother,” he said. “The last one, the ball could not get getting old and this one is super nice and smooth, no potholes.”

In addition to being safer for athletes, the new surface also appears to provide tangible improvement in the fluidity of gameplay.

“It seems to play faster. Our guys seem to be flying around,” Hartley said. “The ball takes a nice true bounce off of it.”

Though the women’s lacrosse team will have to wait to have its lacrosse lines painted on, whereas the men’s team has sewn-in lines, senior attacker Gretchen Rodenberger said she was happy to have the new surface and excited for the upcoming season.

“I like the top layer - it looks like cork or something,” Rodenberger said. “The black rubber stuff doesn’t get all in your shoes as easily.”

New field aside, Rodenberger said she was excited for the season. The women’s lacrosse team (8-6, 6-6) finished third out of six teams in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference last season, a result Rodenberger said the team was eager to improve on.

“I’m expecting the other teams to be ready for us,” Rodenberger said. “Redlands was our biggest competition last year and always has been, and we beat them twice and so, since they’re our first game, I’m assuming they’re going to come out really fired up. But I expect us to be ready.”

Kirkpatrick said he expected his team to compete for a conference championship, but understood improvement in the teams consistency would be needed for that to be accomplished.

“That was a bit of a struggle for us last year, and I think we’ve talked about that a lot as a team and trained with our fitness and our stick skills, and I think we can adjust to the different teams.”

The men’s lacrosse team will have very high expectations set for itself this season as well, as the Panthers will enter the season ranked No. 4 by the Division I club lacrosse coaches’ poll.

The men’s lacrosse team (16-4, 6-0) won the southwestern Lacrosse Conference North Division last year, but lost to Grand Canyon University, who won the DI Men’s Collegiate Lacrosse Association national tournament last year.

“We’ve got a real tough schedule and we think we’ve got a really good team,” Hartley said. “I’m just excited for the first weekend of games up in Northern California. We start with two top-25 teams, Sonoma State and Cal, so it should be a tough atmosphere on the road.”

Koressel said that the team would be well prepared for the season, despite losing All-Americans Zack Dutra and Brennan Croteau, along with Chris Herrmann and Colm Laviola.

“Other than that, we got all of our starting attack back, most of our starting defense and our goalie, so I think we have a solid squad,” Koressel said.

As far as what he expects from the season, Hartley said the team has to take it one game at a time.

“I think our overall goals are to win league, the SLC North and then get into our league final four and make some waves there, and go into nationals with a high seed,” Hartley said.

Daniel Starkand | Senior Writer

The Chapman men’s basketball team traveled to Pomona-Pitzer on Saturday and was forced to play without its top scorer, freshman guard Cam Haslam, who missed the game with a hamstring injury. This is the second straight game Haslam has been out with injury, and without him, the Panthers struggled offensively and fell 64-54.

Chapman (14-5, 8-3) was outrebounded by Pomona-Pitzer (9-10, 3-7) 46-18 on the night. The Panthers also shot just 35.5 percent from the field, which was well below their season average of 42 percent.

“The flow of the game was also something that frustrated us. We missed shots we normally make, but there’s nothing we can do other than come back to practice Monday and work toward our goal of making it to the conference tournament,” Hamlin said.

Sophomore forward Rob Nelson led all scorers with 18 points on six of 17 shooting. He was the only Chapman player to score in double figures compared to three for the Sagehens.

The Panthers were unable to capitalize on a great disparity in turnovers, with Pomona-Pitzer turning the ball over 23 times compared to Chapman’s nine turnovers. With the Panthers struggling in transition, the rebounding difference ultimately determined the outcome.

The loss will be particularly disheartening for the Panthers, as Pomona-Pitzer sits eighth in the conference standings. Though Chapman will maintain its sole grasp of first place, it can ill-afford to have repeat performances of Saturday’s game if the team hopes to maintain that top seed.

Earlier in the week, the Chapman hosted La Verne at the Hutton Sports Center. Despite trailing early, the Panthers were able to battle their way back and earn a 76-67 victory.

Chapman was without Haslam (20.8 points per game), but it didn’t seem to affect them as much in this game.

“His a big part of all of our success,” said sophomore forward James Taylor of Haslam. “But we have a really great overall team that’s filled with guys that are ready to step up. We knew that we all had to work extra hard to make up for his absence and I think we did a great job tonight.”

The Panthers had to rely on their veteran leadership, with junior guard Luke Hamlin and senior forward Davis Dragovich helping lead the team to victory in Haslam’s absence.

Hamlin posted a game-high 22 points on nine of 15 shooting. Ten of those points came in the second half when Hamlin was able to get to the basket with ease.

Dragovich was just shy of a double-double with 14 points and nine rebounds.

“Personally I have really tried to be more of a vocal leader this year and I think the team has benefited from that,” Dragovich said. “But honestly we may be a young team but we are very talented so we all really listen to each other and everybody keeps everybody in check.”

La Verne (9-11, 7-4) came out strong offensively in the first half, jumping out to a 27-18 lead. But Hamlin, who scored nine points in the last five minutes of the first half, led Chapman to a 33-31 lead at halftime.

The start of the second half looked much like the start of the first half for La Verne, as they started on an 11-3 run to take a 41-35 lead. However, Chapman responded decisively, turning the tides in their favor as they went on a 14-0 run to take a 49-41 lead, which they would hold for the remainder of the game.

Sophomore forward Rob Nelson was a catalyst for the Panthers, scoring 13 of his 18 points in the second half.

Chapman and La Verne were evenly matched for the most part, as was evident by the team statistics. Chapman shot 42.1 percent from the field compared to 41.9 for La Verne, and both teams had exactly 39 total rebouds, seven assists, and 30 points in the paint.

“This win was huge for us not just because we gave our self a little bit of a separation at the top of league but also because some other guys stepped up tonight which is going to the help their confidence down the stretch,” Dragovich said.
With the graduation of key senior talent and leadership, the men’s basketball team needed some of its younger players to step up and fill the void this year in order to build on last year’s Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship. Luckily for the Panthers, freshman guard Cam Haslam continues to light up the scoreboard night in and night out.

As of right now, he is averaging 20.8 points a game, which leads the conference in scoring and also makes Haslam the highest scoring freshman in the nation in all three NCAA divisions. This is without mentioning Haslam’s efficiency from the field, which is evident both by his 43.8 shooting percentage from the three-point line (third in conference) and 46.2 field goal percentage (12th in conference).

1. How long have you been playing basketball? Did you play any other sports growing up?

I have been playing basketball since the first grade. I also played baseball growing up.

2. What made you choose to continue your career at Chapman after such a successful high school career?

I heard about Chapman from Brian Watson who is also on the basketball team and is also from the Seattle area, and our dads went to college together. Then, when I was in high school tournament in San Diego, the coach at Chapman came to watch and said I should come check out the school. After that, I visited campus and ended up falling in love with the school and really liked all that the academics have to offer.

3. How have your teammates helped in your success in getting the team off to such a great start?

Even though we are a young team, we don’t lack any leadership and all of the guys on the team have been really helpful in getting me accustomed to college play and the hours it takes to get better. I definitely think we are more experienced than our years.

4. What has the transition from playing in high school to playing in college been like? Has it been difficult to balance academics and a social life?

It’s actually been a lot easier than I thought it would, even though there are a lot of hours you have to put in to play a sport in college. I found the most difficult part has been adjusting to the physicality of play because I am now playing against bigger and more experienced guys. In terms of academics and social life, I have had plenty of chances to meet new people and experience all that college has to offer. I also think I am more motivated academically because I am studying what I want to study and I have been able to find the time to put in the work.

5. Do you have any pregame rituals?

My main ritual is praying with four or five of the guys on the team before every game, but other than that, I just try to focus on getting my mind right.

6. What do you hope to be doing 15 years from now?

I just switched to an IES (integrated educational studies) major, so in terms of working, I would like to work with a nonprofit and maybe something like Relay For Life. I don’t know exactly what that would be like, but I think that’s what I eventually want to do. I would also like to move back to Seattle at some point.

7. What are the team’s goals for the rest of the season?

Ultimately, it would be great to make it to the national tournament, but right now, we are really just focused on winning our next game and not looking too far ahead.
With four regular season games remaining, the Chapman women’s basketball team is playing its best basketball of the season. The Panthers traveled to Pomona-Pitzer Saturday night and came away with an 81-56 victory.

“This was one of the first games our coach actually felt like we played well for almost the entire game,” said junior guard Lauren Sato. “We usually have a tendency to let teams back in the game once we have a lead on them, but this time we felt once we got the lead that we just kept building on that and played hard for the entire 40 minutes.”

Sato provided a well-balanced effort for the Panthers, adding three rebounds, four assists and four steals to her six points on three of four shooting.

Chapman (15-6, 10-2) was ignited by a 13-0 run right before halftime, led by junior guard Megan Charles who scored a game-high 21 points. Charles set the tone early for the Panthers, scoring 10 points in the first quarter.

Chapman also outrebounded Pomona-Pitzer 38 to 24, in large part to the efforts of senior forward Natalia Ebrahimian, who pulled in five offensive rebounds.

The Panthers’ bench also had an impressive showing, as they outscored Pomona-Pitzer (8-12, 5-6) 37-12 on the night.

The win marked the sixth straight victory for the Panthers, and their 13th in 14 games. With only four games left on their schedule, Chapman has already secured at least a third-place finish in the conference.

Chapman currently sits tied for second place with California Lutheran (16-5, 10-2) in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Sitting atop and undefeated in the conference is Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (17-4, 12-0).

“We definitely can’t let up and keep in mind that we are always striving for a greater goal, which is to win the SCIAC championship tournament and move on to the NCAA tournament,” Sato said.

Earlier in the week, the Panthers hosted University of La Verne and led the whole game en route to an 84-68 victory.

The Panthers are hitting their stride at the right time, as the Thursday night win provided the team with its fifth straight win with only five games left.

“Perhaps the biggest factor in the game was turnovers, as Chapman only had six, while scoring 31 points off of La Verne’s (3-16, 2-9) 26 turnovers. Leading the Panthers’ fast-paced, transition-focused game was Sato, who had six steals in addition to her 15 points on the night.

Ebrahimian catalyzed the Panthers’ offense, leading all scorers with 22 points. She also pulled in 11 rebounds, giving her a double-double.

Charles, who is the team’s leading scorer, had 17 points on six of 14 shooting. It was another consistent and balanced scoring effort for the Panthers, who have four players on the team averaging double figures in points.

“I think that we all know that we can’t beat opponents one-on-one, it has to be together as a team and that’s when we play our best basketball,” Charles said.