Five Fowler School of Law students are reported to have the mumps.

Engineering school to become a reality after large donation

$45 million

Dale and Sarah Ann Fowler

Students protest homeless displacement at the Santa Ana Civic Center.

Fashion from the ‘90s makes a comeback

Women’s basketball loses in final game

“(Senators) chose to disregard what students had to say in the belief that, as senators, they know what they are talking about better than students in general do.”

- Annabell Liao, student government president

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Students protest homeless displacement at Santa Ana Civic Center

Malvica Sawhney | Senior Writer

Four Chapman students, a student from Fullerton City College, a few activists and a retired school teacher gathered in front of the Santa Ana Civic Center Feb. 24 to protest the displacement of homeless people from their encampment at the Santa Ana riverbed.

With 10 people in attendance, the group stood by the intersection in front of the Civic Center armed with signs to draw attention to their cause.

“Right now, we want to get the county to act, keep going down to the riverbed, handing out water and making sure (the homeless are) safe and their needs are met,” said[458x801] Malcolm McLellan, a junior peace studies and political science major.

“What we’re trying to emphasize is that this is about them, not us, and that (the homeless people) are at the center of this movement,” McLellan said that she and Brad West, also a junior political science major, decided to start a Facebook page called #StopTheRocks after they organized a group of people to protest the displacement of the homeless population at the Santa Ana riverbed Feb. 9.

“I was on Facebook and I saw an article written by a reporter who was just here from the OC Weekly,” McLellan said. “It was calling the county out on what they’re doing with the homeless people. I was really angry and I asked Brad what we should do. He said, ‘Let’s go down there tomorrow and try to stop it.’

Many people honked from their cars in approval, and one homeless woman and man held signs with the people gathered and stood with them in protest.

“I honestly think that the Santa Ana (homeless) people should have kept their area a lot cleaner than what they had going on over there,” said Jonathan, one of the homeless men watching the gathering who declined to give his last name. “I’ve been homeless for a little, but I’m a firm believer that that doesn’t mean I should be walking around in clothes that are five days old, or that I have to invade somebody else’s private space for my benefit.”

Jonathan said that the other homeless people in the Civic Center courtyard, where some homeless have gathered after being forced to leave the Santa Ana riverbed two weeks ago, don’t behave well and encroach upon his space and belongings, causing him to roam about on the streets.

Orange County Public Information Manager Carrie Braun told The Panther Feb. 9 that the Orange County Sheriff’s Office and Orange County Health Care Agency have been sending outreach teams to the Santa Ana riverbed encampment to help people during the transition.

Braun also said that homeless people are not being directed to the Civic Center, but rather to a nearby Santa Ana shelter.

“I think the government programs aren’t working,” said Michael, a homeless man who has been displaced from the Santa Ana riverbed to the area near the Civic Center. “It’s a giant waste of taxpayer money and they should look into that.”

Michael also declined to provide his last name.

Sarah Wallace, a retired school teacher who attended the sit-in, visited the Santa Ana riverbed and befriended a homeless woman there who she is helping out.

“They’re sending social workers to help people living in ditches? This is insanity. Get them a house first, and then try to help them with their psychological problems,” Wallace said. “Of course, they have psychological problems, who doesn’t? But even if you’re sane going down to the riverbeds, you will be insane within a few days living in such conditions.”

Getting to know Enclave, the student group behind the protest

Rebecca Glaser | News Editor

The sit-in at the Santa Ana Civic Center did not go how new campus group Enclave intended, said Juan Bustillo, and one of the co-directors of the group.

Although the Facebook event for the sit-in said that 97 people had marked themselves as “interested” in the event and 23 had marked themselves as “going,” about 10 people total attended. Four were Chapman students.

“The county is still going forward with all of their plans, we got awareness out there, but it didn’t have as much of an effect as we wanted,” Bustillo, a sophomore political science and screenwriting major said. “We definitely realize that the homelessness issue, as important as it is, is not a sexy issue. We were asking students to become involved with individuals who they have never met before, and will never meet.”

The day after President Donald Trump was elected, Bustillo and sophomore political science major Danny Zavala conceptualized the group, which will have its first official meeting Feb. 27.

“The group aims to help organize social justice clubs like the Black Student Union, Chapman Democrats and the Muslim Student Association, and ensure that club events are not scheduled on the same day. “We saw that the day after the election, there was the Asian Pacific Student Association fair and there was also the student protest,” Bustillo said. “So even though students wanted to be a part of both events because they were really cool events, the fact that they were in the same place at the same time diverted attention and lessened the power of both of them.”

The group, which does not plan to register as an official club with the university, wants to remain as independent from the school as possible - even though this means that they will not be able to hang posters or advertise on campus.

“We want to use funding, hopefully, from the individual member organizations to help us out,” Bustillo said. “A lot of clubs have announcements at the beginning of their meetings, so they can announce stuff like that. And word of mouth is incredibly effective.”
Senate passes proposal despite student survey results

Student government voted Feb. 24 to put a proposal on the March election ballot that would decrease the number of senators, despite receiving survey results indicating that students want the senate to stay the same.

Annahell Liao, president of student government, said that some senators ignored student input before the survey was distributed, and failed to adequately explain the survey to their constituents.

"Senators were agreeing (in the senate meeting) that they had failed to have enough conversations with their constituents to understand their opinions," Liao said. "So they chose to disregard what students had to say in the belief that, as senators, they know what they are talking about better than students in general does."

Liao said that she does not agree with this belief.

In an effort to explain the survey to students, senators were required to meet with two to three students during their weekly office hours during the time that the survey was circulated, Liao said.

"Some senators put more effort into it than other senators," Liao said. "Not every senator actually got even the minimum number of responses that we asked them to." 

In the senate meeting Feb. 24, some senators thought the survey results were skewed or biased, which they believe to be the reason why the majority of the students surveyed voted to keep the senate the same. Others pointed out that the 181 responses are not necessarily representative of the student body.

"A lot of people assume that we would want (student government) to stay the same," Junior Class Senator Sarah Tabsh said during the meeting. "I think that it caused a lot of bias in what people ended up choosing. ... I really think that the results have always been skewed toward what was kept the same because students wouldn't know otherwise."

At-Large Senator Nico Scordalaki said in the senate meeting that it wouldn’t be fair to disregard the students’ opinions.

"Since we gave the survey, I think we have to acknowledge what our constituents want," he said. "I think it’s unfair and just kind of useless to have a survey and then be like, ‘We’re not in favor of that, so let’s just do it our way.’"

As for why most students voted to keep the senate the same, Liao said that the students who were surveyed may not see a problem with the size of student government, or senators did not provide them with enough information to take the survey.

The survey, which was available for nine days, gave students the option to choose between keeping the senate the same or decreasing the number of senators in five categories. In four out of the five categories, students voted for the number of senators to remain the same.

The senate needs a two-thirds majority for a proposal to pass. With 26 senators currently on the senate, this would require that 17 senators voted yes. Liao said that 16 were in favor, three people abstained, five opposed and two were absent.

Because two senators were absent Feb. 24, the senate made the decision late Sunday night that the two-thirds majority would come from the 24 senators who were at the meeting, instead of the 26 total senators, Porterfield said.

Liao said that there was also a miscommunication about abstentions. Liao, who was at the meeting, said that senators were incorrectly under the impression that abstentions were on the side of the majority, meaning that they would be an “informal yes.”

“Sometimes people say that abstentions fall on the side of the majority, but in this case, the threshold to obtain a two-thirds majority is higher than a simple majority,” Liao said.

At 4 p.m. Feb. 26, Tyler Porterfield was unaware that the proposal had not actually passed in meeting. She said that typically, she and Liao communicate after senate meetings, but it didn’t happen this particular week until Sunday evening.

At the beginning of the year, Liao told The Panther that she was unhappy with the way the smoke-free campus initiative was passed last year, and with the restructure proposal, she sought to increase communication.

“There still needs to be more work in terms of informing students and collecting feedback (in surveys), especially hearing how little effort some of these senators were putting into talking to their constituents,” Liao said. “It’s not going to work if the senators don’t try talking to their constituents.”

Information from student government structure survey, which was open for nine days and collected 181 submissions.
Catching up with the student government president
Annabell Liao talks initiatives, goals for final two months

Rebecca Glaser | News Editor
Chris Hennigan | Staff Writer

Annabell Liao has been the president of student government since May 2016. At the beginning of this school year, The Panther sat down with Liao to see what her goals were for the year and how she planned to accomplish them. After more than six months in office, Liao’s initiatives this year included attending more city council meetings, increasing diversity and attending Neighborhood Advisory Committee meetings.

Neighborhood relations
Student government has been criticized in the past for a lack of student representation at Orange City Council meetings, including when former Student Government President Josh Nudelman was absent from the meeting during which the plan to amend the “party ordinance” was initially introduced.

“This by time last year, SGA had been present at zero (city council meetings),” Liao said. “This year, we have been present at eight of them, missing only one in August, after the noise ordinance amendment was proposed, and one in December, during finals week.”

In August, Liao told The Panther that she hopes to improve community relations by hosting events for students and residents. More than halfway through her term, Liao said that she has been to every Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting this year.

Increasing transparency
In August, Liao expressed a desire to increase student government transparency. She was elected to office when then-junior Austin Kerman was removed from his position as president-elect after he was caught embezzling money from his fraternity.

Student government has held two special elections so far this academic year, after six senators and Director of Elections Chris Nelson resigned from their positions over the course of full semesters.

Liao said student government has since passed an amendment to implement a term requirement. The requirement mandates that students must be available for both fall and spring semesters - or whatever the remainder of the term is - in order to be eligible to run for office.

Liao also said that the senate amended the election code to require the director of elections to respond to calls and emails within 24 hours of an election.

Diversity, inclusion and sustainability
In August, Liao said her goal was to advocate for “increased sustainability, diversity, awareness and inclusion” during her term.

Liao said that now, there isn’t much in terms of sustainability that she’d like to see improved, because of the efforts of Sustainability Manager Mackenzie Cringer. She also said that whenever she meets with campus planning, she brings up issues like reusable energy, gender-inclusive bathrooms and food options.

In terms of diversity, Liao said that she’s served on the Chapman Diversity Project, which generated a five-year “strategic plan” to address diversity. Liao also purchased poster supplies to support student activism, she said.

Liao said that she served on the new Chapman Center for the Culture, the document said.

Communication with students
Liao said that some of the feedback she’s received has indicated that students aren’t aware of who their senators are and how to contact them.

Catcher, told The Panther that one of her goals was to increase the number of open forums between students and senators.

This year, Liao said, student government has hosted two open forums, and she will continue to meet with their senators and one for students to ask senators questions or express concerns.

Jamie Altman | Managing Editor
Rebecca Glaser | News Editor

Five cases of the mumps have been identified in Fowler School of Law campuses, after students attended a back-to-school event in Newport Beach Jan. 27, according to Associate Dean of Students DeAnn Yocum Gaffney.

In an email sent to the Chapman community Feb. 23, Yocum Gaffney wrote that four students had the virus, and she told The Panther Feb. 24 that another student contracted the virus that he or she had the mumps after reading the email.

The mumps is a contagious disease spread by a virus, and typically includes symptoms of a fever, headache, muscle aches and swollen salivary glands, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The university is working to provide students with vaccinations, which Orange County Public Health provided. Matthew Zahn, medical director of epidemiology and assessment at Orange County Public Health, wrote in an email to The Panther.

Yocum Gaffney wrote in the Feb. 23 email that the odds of contracting mumps from attending the event are low, especially if students have had the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR). She said that sometimes, there are cases with certain health conditions in which this requirement could be waived, but the student would have to provide medical documentation.

This is the first case of mumps at Chapman since Director of Student Health Jacqueline Deats has been working at the university, which is more than a decade, Yocum Gaffney said.

Zahn was not able to specify the exact number of years, and Deats could not be reached for comment.

Zahn said that mumps cases are rare in Orange County, and most of the cases reported are associated with foreign travel.

Right now, this event seems to be a specific exposure event, rather than a larger school outbreak, Zahn wrote. “We are working with Chapman to make sure that any new cases are identified.”

Yocum Gaffney said that 120 people were at the event at Budy’s Pub and Grill in Newport Beach. Most of the attendees were law school students, although they were allowed to bring guests, Yocum Gaffney said.

As of Feb. 26, the restaurant could not be reached.

Zahn wrote that the symptoms of mumps can take 12 to 25 days to appear, so the agency will be contacting the student with Chapman over the next few weeks to monitor the appearance of any new cases.

Kacer said that she doesn’t expect any further cases to be identified.

“I have not received any further notifications that (students) either have the mumps or suspect they have the mumps,” Kacer said. “Students who have not returned to the university, because their incubation period has expired, The student who will not be returning to school on Monday was the most recent diagnosis, Kacer said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 495 cases of mumps were reported in the U.S. from Jan. 1 to Dec. 29. The mumps is highly contagious and can spread through mucus or droplets from the nose or throat of an infected person, according to an Orange County Public Health document. There is no specific treatment for the mumps, the document said.

If students choose to seek medical care for the mumps, Yocum Gaffney wrote, they should bring a copy of the email and ask their healthcare provider to contact Orange County Public Health so they can be tested for the disease.

The California Department for Public Health issued a health advisory in March after five University of San Diego students were diagnosed with the mumps.

“Mumps can spread quickly on college campuses, even when most students have had two doses of MMR vaccine,” the advisory said.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, children should receive the MMR vaccine - one when they are 12 to 15 months old, and another at 4 to 6 years old. Older students should already have received two doses, but can still receive the vaccination if necessary.
Population growth, the legalization of marijuana and the “Los Angelization” of Orange County were all topics discussed during Wilkinson College’s annual academic conference, this year titled “Orange County 2040” and held in Argyros Forum 209 Feb. 23.

The conference, which featured panelists and academics from Chapman and across the country, covered the population growth and demographic shifts in Orange County, addressing what the region will potentially look like politically, environmentally and socially by 2040.

There are 3.1 million residents in Orange County, and by 2040, this number will increase by 350,000, which is about the current population of Anaheim, said Fred Smoller, an associate professor of political science at Chapman. The first panel discussed whether or not it was practical for Orange County to consolidate its 34 cities into one city, which would likely help the region distribute resources and synchronize city governments, Smoller said. The panelists discussed the consequences consolidation could have but did not conclude whether it would happen by 2040.

Panelist Kurt Thurmaier, a professor at Northern Illinois University, specializes in local public budgeting and finance. During the panel, Thurmaier said that the biggest challenge to consolidating Orange County, despite its likelihood of success, would be to gain the trust and the votes of the people.

“Voters don’t believe in efficient government,” he said during the panel, which he said could delay the process of merging some of Orange County’s cities.

The second panel of the day discussed how the rising average age of residents will shape Orange County. It is estimated that by 2040, residents older than 65 years of age will make up a quarter of the population, compared to 14 percent in 2015, according to Orange County’s annual Community Indicator Report, released last summer.

One of the panelists was English professor Tom Zoellner. “We know by some of the demography done by this institution (Chapman) and President Emeritus Jim Doti that housing is getting more expensive, and high-wage jobs are not growing at the rate they need to be," Zoellner told The Panther. “So do we risk becoming a kind of a country club atmosphere of older folks without that sense of new energy?”

Orange County has lost 16.3 percent of its high-paying information jobs since 2007, which is largely due to the surge of technology jobs in the Silicon Valley, according to a Chapman study titled “OC Model: A Vision For Orange County’s Future.” The panel also focused on the arts in Orange County and how “Los Angelization,” the encroachment of urbanization to suburban areas outside Los Angeles, could threaten its culture in the future.

Jon Small, a junior political science and communication studies major, attended the conference and agreed with the panel.

“I think for the most part, there’s no one identity that could mark Orange County, aside from the individual cities that make it up,” Small said.

The panel also discussed the responsibility of local governments to involve themselves at the state level to ensure proper regulation of Proposition 64, which legalized recreational marijuana in California.

The panel addressed the call for infrastructure to accompany Orange County’s rapid population increase and income disparity, concluding that creating affordable housing options for Orange County residents is essential for future success.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income in Orange County from 2011 to 2015 was $76,509 – about $20,000 above the nation’s average – with 12.7 percent of residents living below the poverty line.

Former Mayor of Los Angeles Antonio Villaraigosa said during the panel that the county will need to accommodate its growing population with not only affordable housing, but public transportation. “You can’t build yourself out of this. You’ve got to grow smarter, you’ve got to grow together and you’ve got to grow denser,” Villaraigosa said.

Smoller told The Panther that he used a grant from Fieldstead and Company to coordinate the conference. Smoller did not specify the amount, but said it was enough to fund three conferences, of which this was the last.
New engineering school receives $45 million donation

Jamie Altman | Managing Editor

Chapman received a $45 million donation for the construction of a new engineering school, which will be part of the new Center for Science and Technology. President Daniele Struppa announced at his first State of the University Address Feb. 24.

The donation, which comes from Dale and Sarah Ann Fowler, makes the Fowlers the university's largest donors. The donation for the construction of a new engineering school, which will be part of the new Center for Science and Technology, President Daniele Struppa announced at his first State of the University Address Feb. 24.

The Center for Science and Technology, funded by a $45 million donation from Dale and Sarah Ann Fowler, is projected to be completed in the fall of 2018.

Fast facts about the new Center for Science and Technology

- A $45 million donation will fund the new engineering school, which will be located in the center if approved.
- Approval for the new engineering school will take place in the fall.
- The center is projected to open in the fall of 2018.

The number of students who apply to engineering programs in California far exceeds the number of available spots, Struppa said in his address. The new school will include studies in computer, software and electrical engineering.

The Center for Science and Technology, which is already under construction and is set to open for the fall of 2018, will consist of two halls -- one for science and one for technology -- which will be connected by a central arch.

Struppa also discussed the accomplishments of student-athletes.

"I know you are used to lacrosse results," Struppa joked. "I promised myself I wasn't going to do that, but they were the 2016 (Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association) National Champions, which is an incredible accomplishment."

Sophomore business administration and accounting major Molly Mackris appreciated Struppa's optimistic perspective.

"He seemed professional, but could incorporate humor, and all the donors and students loved that," Mackris said.

Emma Reith | Staff Writer

Expansion, a new engineering school and first-generation students were among the topics President Daniele Struppa discussed at his first State of the University Address in the Musco Center for the Arts Feb. 24 at 11 a.m.

During the address, Struppa proposed the new agenda for the upcoming five-year plan for the university, which includes adding a new school of engineering that will be included in the new science center building. A $45 million donation from Dale and Sarah Ann Fowler will fund the construction of the new school.

The School of Engineering would occupy 40,000 square feet of the 140,000 square foot Center for Science and Technology building, which is expected to be completed by fall 2018.

The university is also aiming to encourage first-generation college students to show their pride through the 1G campaign, Struppa said, in which students can wear a pin that reads "1G" to represent being the first in their family's generation to attend college.

Struppa discussed Chapman’s plan to expand its on-campus housing, adding that the university’s purchase of a $6.5 million parcel of land behind Panther Village in December.

"Behind (Panther Village), we worked with the city and acquired this piece of land, and we want to build residence halls there," Struppa said.

Junior theatre performance major Hannah Zickel of Fillmore, Calif., described the opportunity to live a little farther from campus.

"It’s pretty important because students have trouble finding housing, so giving them the opportunity to live a little farther off campus is really cool," Zickel said.

Other new additions to the university include the Lastringer Tennis Center, the Cross Cultural Center, a concept for a new residence hall near Marion Knott Studios and the Smith Center for Political Economy and Philosophy.

"It’s not just about the student, but what they do after that," Struppa said. "The community here is welcoming, and we’ll welcome you and work with you." Struppa also said that this year is especially successful in terms of academics.

"This is the smartest incoming class in Chapman history," Struppa said. "If you look at GPA, it was 3.71 this year. This is the highest we’ve ever been."

The university has also received an increased number of applicants and higher graduation rate, Struppa said. "We have 15,000 applications this year," Struppa said, adding that this year brought the second most number of applications, behind 2014. "Students want to come here, but when they’re here, they stay -- and when they stay, they graduate."
Students combat Islamophobia with Hijab and Kufi Day

Kate Hoover | Staff Writer

The sounds of the oud, a traditional Arabian stringed instrument, filled the Attallah Piazza Feb. 23 at Hijab and Kufi Day. Hosted by the Muslim Student Association, the event aimed to dispel misconceptions about the Islamic religion and combat Islamophobia, said Kenzie Saleh, president of the association.

The event was prompted by President Donald Trump's travel ban that affected seven Muslim-majority countries and the subsequent student march against xenophobia Feb. 1. said Hakeem Wakil, a freshman news and documentary major, and member of the Muslim Student Association.

"Once the Muslim ban occurred, I felt like it was a necessity," Wakil said. "I had an obligation to educate others and do something about it. I couldn't just sit around."

Hijab and Kufi Day allowed students to wear the hijab, a headscarf traditionally worn by Muslim women, or the kufi, a cap typically worn by Muslim men.

The Muslim Student Association received support from the Islamic Institute of Orange County, which donated about 150 headscarves and about 25 kufis for the event. Arianna Ngnomire, a sophomore screen acting major, posted on the event's Facebook page beforehand that, while she wanted to participate, she was concerned about culturally appropriating by wearing a hijab, but Wakil explained that participating in the day was about showing support.

"We have multiple mosques who support what we're doing, and I don't think that a religious institution is going to support an event that is considered cultural appropriation," Wakil said. "Wearing the hijab on that day and wearing the kufi on that day is not cultural appropriation, it's showing your solidarity."

Along with showing students how to wear the hijab and the kufi, the Muslim Student Association provided students with pamphlets on the Islamic religion, henna tattoos, traditional Middle Eastern desserts and live music from Muslim Student Association member Muhammad Karkoutli, who played the oud.

Saleh estimated that more than 100 students stopped at the event's table to show their support by putting on the traditional Muslim garments for the day and said that Hijab and Kufi Day made her aware of her lack of knowledge about Islamic traditions, which she said can lead to stereotyping and Islamophobia.

"For me, I didn't completely understand the purpose of wearing the hijab until this event. One of the members of (the Muslim Student Association) explained that, for her, she wears it in order to allow people to judge her by her opinions and personality instead of by her appearance," Sturhann said. "She wears it as a way to express her identity, and not because she is oppressed."

According to the BBC, women wear hijabs for a variety of reasons, one of which being for religious practice. Saleh also said that Hijab and Kufi Day served as a way to address misunderstandings about the Islamic religion.

"It's uncomfortable to be a Muslim in this political climate, especially when a lot of people support Donald Trump's xenophobic views," Saleh said. "It makes all of us look like the bad guys. It lump's all Muslims into this category of terrorists."

Saleh said that, along with other members of the Muslim Student Association, she has experienced how difficult it is to be an American Muslim during this time.

"You just have to be strong and put your best foot forward these days. It's hard sometimes. You get comments every once in awhile, " Saleh said. "Just be positive. Do good things and good things will happen to you."
When I grow up: Students discuss their childhood dreams

Courtney Cummings | Staff Writer
As a child, Taylor Ford dreamed of fighting fires and saving lives as a firefighter, like his grandfather.

Now, as a senior screenwriting major, he’s realized that his dreams and goals have changed drastically as he’s grown up, but he’s not alone.

According to a study conducted by Trade Schools, Colleges and Universities, 78 percent of adults do not end up in the job they dreamed of as a kid. Of the 22 percent that do pursue their childhood dream jobs, 88 percent report having a high satisfaction rate with their occupation.

“I want to be a TV writer and showrunner,” Ford said. “Being a firefighter just felt like something I thought I should do, but then I realized I want to make people laugh and give them an escape from real life.”

Like Ford, Serena Brouelette, a junior health sciences major, had a dream that didn’t last. Brouelette said she wanted to be a ballerina when she was young.

“When I was a little kid, all I wanted to be was a ballerina,” Brouelette said. “But, I got exposed to more career opportunities and became passionate about helping others, and I realized I didn’t see myself as a dancer.”

Jordan Cahill, a junior screenwriting and communication studies major, tried pursuing her childhood dream in college but later changed her career path.

“I had a lot of different childhood dreams,” Cahill said. “I first wanted to be a competitive dancer, then I wanted to work for the FBI because I love math and science.”

Lily Yasuda, a junior screenwriting major, continues to pursue her childhood dream of being a writer.

“After going into college as a math major, Cahill realized her true passion was writing.”

“I’ve always been good at writing,” Cahill said. “And I ended up having a teacher in college tell me I should really pursue writing as a career. It completely shifted my perspective.”

Though the majority of people end up pursuing something different from their childhood dream jobs, there are those who try to follow their childhood dreams to the end. One of these people is Lily Yasuda, a junior screenwriting major.

“I have always wanted to be a writer,” Yasuda said. “From the moment I learned how to write, I would compose handwritten books that I illustrated and still have today.”

While the type of writing Yasuda wanted to pursue growing up changed, from novelist to journalist to screenwriter, she had always known she wanted to do something with writing.

“I’ve been very fortunate with professors (at Chapman). I have had great screenwriting professors in Dodge who have always challenged me to do more,” Yasuda said.

Similar to Yasuda, Sarah Rabin a senior psychology major, also followed her childhood dreams through college and plans to pursue them as a career.

“My biggest aspiration in life has been to help people,” Rabin said. “I’ve always wanted to be a military psychologist and it has carried me through college. It’s something I still wish to pursue in life.”

While Rabin has had the same goal of wanting to help people, as she’s gotten older and had more experiences, she said that she’s been looking at more career options, something she thinks everyone should consider.

“I’m open to a different path, and I never thought I would say that,” she said. “But that’s how life takes you, and I think everyone needs to be open to the possibility of switching direction.”

‘90s fashion takes the 21st century

Gracie Fleischman | Staff Writer
Although many Chapman students were not old enough to experiment with ‘90s fashion at the time, the styles of the era have made a comeback today for students to experience.

Trends go in and out of style over the decades, the recurrence of ‘90s fashion may have to do with the attitude of today’s trendsetters, according to Vogue’s “Wonder Why the ’90s Are Back?”

Trends go in and out of style over the decades, the recurrence of ‘90s fashion at the time, the styles were not old enough to experiment with ‘90s fashion during college and plans to pursue them as a career.

“My biggest aspiration in life has been to help people,” Rabin said. “I’ve always wanted to be a military psychologist and it has carried me through college. It’s something I still wish to pursue in life.”

While Rabin has had the same goal of wanting to help people, as she’s gotten older and had more experiences, she said that she’s been looking at more career options, something she thinks everyone should consider.

“I’m open to a different path, and I never thought I would say that,” she said. “But that’s how life takes you, and I think everyone needs to be open to the possibility of switching direction.”

“Today, stores like Brandy Melville sell ‘90s classics like crewnecks, college sweaters and plaid. ‘It’s very hipster and trendy, definitely aimed at teens,” Halvorsen said. “They’re just following the trend.”

Nguyen agreed, saying that a lot of big retailers are catching on, making the ‘90s style a little “basic.”

“However, I think it can still be unique,” she said. “While I can’t wear everyone wearing that style, I feel like I’d probably like them. It takes courage to dress differently.”

Sophomore business administration major Nikki Nguyen shows off her ‘90s-style oversized denim jacket.

Junior political science and peace studies major Rebekah Halvorsen wears her interpretation of ‘90s style with high-waisted jeans.

“Another show that exemplified classic ‘90s fashion is “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.” Will Smith had amazing style, with his favorites the being light wash pants, neon clothing and sometimes the crop tops the actor wore,” Stanton said.

“Those big, oversized bomber jackets were so cool,” Stanton said. “Every time I saw him on the show I thought he looked poppin’.”

For Stanton, incorporating that color into my everyday wardrobe is by mixing vintage clothing like her oversized Levi’s denim jacket with modern pieces.

“I used to have a choker in the third grade, so when that style came back, I was super excited,” Halvorsen said.

Like Halvorsen, sophomore business administration major and fashion blogger Nikki Nguyen was inspired by ‘90s fashion from her childhood. She said she grew up watching the classic sitcom “Friends,” which featured styles such as “mom jeans” and flannels.

“I’ll watch ‘Friends’ and see Rachel wearing something I saw on the street today,” Nguyen said. “That’s so inter-esting to me.”

Another show that exemplified classic ‘90s fashion is “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.” Will Smith had amazing style, with his favorites the being light wash pants, neon clothing and sometimes the crop tops the actor wore, Stanton said.

“Those big, oversized bomber jackets were so cool,” Stanton said. “Every time I saw him on the show I thought he looked poppin’.”

For Stanton, incorporating that color-ful style into his everyday fashion is a delicate balance.

‘90s fashion had a lot of color, so you have to be able to pick things that mix and match without clashing,” he said.

Staten said he prefers to wear today’s skinny jeans and pair them with over-sized jackets.

“I really want to wear throwback shoes, like Air Jordans, but those are crazy expensive,” he said.

Like any trend, some students think that like any other trend, styles tend to rotate every 20 to 30 years.

“While Rabin has had the same goal of wanting to help people, as she’s gotten older and had more experiences, she said that she’s been looking at more career options, something she thinks everyone should consider.”

“I’m open to a different path, and I never thought I would say that,” she said. “But that’s how life takes you, and I think everyone needs to be open to the possibility of switching direction.”

“Today, stores like Brandy Melville sell ‘90s classics like crewnecks, college sweaters and plaid. ‘It’s very hipster and trendy, definitively aimed at teens,” Halvorsen said. “They’re just following the trend.”

Nguyen agreed, saying that a lot of big retailers are catching on, making the ‘90s style a little “basic.”

“However, I think it can still be unique,” she said. “While I can’t wear everyone wearing that style, I feel like I’d probably like them. It takes courage to dress differently.”

Sophomore business administration major Nikki Nguyen shows off her ‘90s-style oversized denim jacket.
Children at heart: The Chapman community discusses the importance of play

Haley Stern | Staff Writer

Whether she’s dancing in the rain or stopping to smell the roses, Sophie Janicke said she always tries to find a way to play to unplug and enjoy the present moment.

Janicke, a positive media psychologist and assistant professor of communication at Chapman, said that allowing oneself to play has many benefits, including reduced stress, more meaningful connections and the ability to be present. She also has a Facebook page called #RealBreak that helps people disconnect from technology.

Stuart Brown, the founder of the National Institute for Play, conducted 8,000 interviews regarding play and its possible correlation to the ability to cope with life circumstances and found that the act of play increases creativity and ability to sustain social relationships, according to his book, “Play: How It Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul,” which was released in 2009.

Some members of the Chapman community incorporate elements of their inner child into their day-to-day lives in a variety of ways, as a means of reducing stress, being authentic to themselves, and staying present.

“Being an adult, sometimes it gets a little too serious. I think it is important for the sake of keeping your sanity not to worry about anything once in awhile,” said Ian Policarpio, a freshman music education major.

“We drop from our head to our heart and intuition,” Janicke said. “When we are letting out our inner child like that, we are more in the present moment.”

Janicke said that play is also beneficial because it allows for the safe opportunity to make mistakes and realize that failure can be an opportunity for growth.

“The more we can do with our whole body, so really just moving around with our whole body, the more we literally let our guard down from the head into the body, into the intuitive field of our being,” Janicke said.

Policarpio said he sits cross-legged in class with his shoes off, an example of how he lets out his inner child in little ways. He said that he is not ashamed of the four stuffed animals sitting in his Glass Hall dorm or of his desire to sit on top of every climbable object he sees.

“Personally, I think that we shouldn’t let others intimidate us into conformity,” he said.

An idea is an idea no matter who inspired it

Students explain how reading Dr. Seuss impacted them

Lorig Yaghsezian | Assistant Features Editor

Growing up, freshman health sciences major Jessica Danens would beg her parents to read her a Dr. Seuss book, and she couldn’t fall asleep without hearing at least one of his stories, she said.

With Dr. Seuss’ birthday around the corner on March 2, students at Chapman reflected on their experiences with his writings and illustrations growing up, and their influence today.

“Dr. Seuss did more than just write books and draw pictures. He created a movement that has been going on for decades, and I am sure it will continue,” Danens said.

Although Danens chose a major in the science field, she originally wanted to be an author. She said she appreciated the amount of imagination it must have taken to write and illustrate all of Dr. Seuss’ books.

“It’s hard to believe that one man came up with that many different creative plot lines that are still relevant to children in this generation and many more to come,” Danens said.

There are also hidden messages that children may not realize while reading the books, Danens said. One example she gave was from “The Lorax.” The story emphasizes the need to save the environment and make sure that we keep enough resources around for future generations, Danens said.

“The best way to express an idea to young children is to make it entertaining, and I really think Dr. Seuss did that with the message about saving the environment within ‘The Lorax,’” Danens said.

In elementary school, she remembers how the classroom used to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday with a day dedicated to reading.

“We used to come to school in pajamas, and we would bring sleeping bags and just lay on the floor and read all day,” Danens said. “It was always my favorite day of school.”

Inspired by the non-structured feel that Dr. Seuss’ illustrations have, senior graphic design major Sadie Goff said she has created artwork that resembles his.

“Knowing that he was successful despite his breaking of formal art rules is a small comfort to someone with a less-refined drawing ability like me,” Goff said.

She believes that Dr. Seuss’ stories and illustrations are timeless.

“Unfortunately, since history is currently repeating itself, except this time with America falling victim to a fascist government, his political cartoons from the World War II era are depressingly relevant again today,” Goff said.

She believes that the work she does resembles many of Dr. Seuss’ characters with political messages. She believes that Dr. Seuss did this as well, but made it more discreet for children.

“I like Yertle the Turtle because it’s so light and childish, but when you know what it’s really about, you realize how heavy-handed it is. When I was a kid, I just thought it was a fun book about a random turtle,” Goff said.

“Yertle the Turtle” is known by many to be about Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime. There are many symbols through-out the book, and Yertle is meant to be Hitler himself, according to the Atlantic.

Another student who enjoyed the works of Dr. Seuss when she was young-er is sophomore business administration major Maria Donoso.

Donoso works at a child’s care facility where the Dr. Seuss movies are still played and the books are read to the children. This is why she believes they are timeless as well.

“The thing about Dr. Seuss is that it has spread across so many generations even today, especially now that they are being turned into movies,” Donoso said.

An idea is an idea no matter who inspired it.
Working for the mouse

How students balance working at Disneyland and school

Gracie Fleischman | Staff Writer

Megan Harger, a junior television and broadcast journalism major, had always dreamed of working at Disneyland.

Once Harger got to Chapman and met her “big sister” in her sorority, who worked at the theme park, she realized that her dream could become a reality.

Chapman students like Harger work at Disneyland, despite the minimum wage pay and long hours, because of their love for the theme park and the satisfaction of bringing joy to their guests.

“It meant so much to me growing up. It’s really great to be a part of something that’s bigger than just going to work to get paid,” Harger said. “All of a sudden, I had this window of opportunity to do something I was really passionate about.”

Some other Chapman students, like junior business administration major David Mandel, didn’t grow up as fans of the legendary theme park. As a child he preferred Knott’s Berry Farm and Six Flags Magic Mountain over Disneyland. Now, after working there for two years, he said his love has grown.

“I’m ashamed to say it, but I’ve been sucked in,” Mandel said.

Freshman film production major Alex Joyce applied to Disneyland online during the fall semester with the help of a friend.

“She is obsessed with Disneyland and checked the website constantly,” Joyce, who now works at the Star Tours attraction in Tomorrowland, said.

Others took the path of auditions, and they tried to get the parts of characters like Tinker Bell or Winnie the Pooh. Freshman integrated education major David Mandel, didn’t grow up really passionate about Disneyland. Now, after working there for two years, he said his love has grown.

“People can be really inconsiderate parts of the job, Whitlow said.

“Work is consistently the reason I can’t hang out, but it’s not going to be something I do for the rest of my life, so I can give up some things,” she said.

Although the hours are long, the community Chapman students find something they paid a lot of money for tickets.”

“T HIS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME GROWING UP. IT’S REALLY GREAT TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING THAT’S BIGGER THAN JUST GOING TO WORK TO GET PAID.”

-Megan Harger, a junior television and broadcast journalism major

“Working at Disneyland as a stub-

ent can be extremely difficult, even though Chapman is close by, Harger said.

“The hours are really hard,” she said, “I work so late sometimes and then I have to get up early for classes.”

Harger said time management and perseverance is key.

“I’ve found that if you want it enough you’ll find the time and find a way to make it work,” she said. “I just genuinely love it and don’t I want to give it up.”

Harger said that her work schedule can sometimes prevent her from seeing her friends.

“Work is consistently the reason I can’t hang out, but it’s not going to be something I do for the rest of my life, so I can give up some things,” she said. Although the hours are long, the community Chapman students find something they paid a lot of money for tickets.”

“T HIS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME GROWING UP. IT’S REALLY GREAT TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING THAT’S BIGGER THAN JUST GOING TO WORK TO GET PAID.”

-Megan Harger, a junior television and broadcast journalism major
When an umbrella popped open and the soundtrack responded as though the cursed spirit itself materialized on-screen, I thought “Rings” was going to be one of those kind of movies. You know, the movies that deliver their shock factor by assigning creepy crescendos to objects, like mugs falling on the ground or a friend patting the main character’s back, with the actual monster only making an appearance here and there. But some movies acknowledge this. As a sort of wink to the audience, they throw in an exceptionally over-the-top scene to appease the viewers’ need for horror. This strategic move arrived right at the beginning in “Rings.”

Traditionally, the spirit of Samara Morgan will creep out of your television screen and kill you via the blow of her death stare seven days after watching her cursed VHS tape. This usually takes place in a room, but that was too basic for “Rings.” Instead, the movie opens with an airplane spiraling down as Samara inches out of every single passenger’s personal movie screen. I almost rolled my eyes. Scenes that slowly build your dread and play with your anxiety—that’s what I’m a fan of. But after the airplane scene, I worried “Rings” was going to be a string of scenes that competed with one another by who could scream the loudest “boo.”

And that’s why the reinvented backstory surprised me. After the whole business of showing that there’s a terrifying ghost child out for vengeance was put aside, the movie revealed its true mission. This wasn’t a horror movie about fighting the ghost. It was a horror movie about fighting to get to know the ghost, an undertaking our unique heroine Julia (Matilda Lutz) takes on. Yes, Julia is the classic “Chosen One” movie character trope. But once again, the movie knows this and uses the cliche to tease us. Is Julia exempt from the curse because Samara has mixed it more into the cream soda like the caramel was, it would have tasted better and perhaps been more accurate to the original drink. If Sodexo decides to hand out these drinks again and you are in the mood for a very sweet cream soda, I highly recommend giving it a try. However, if you are trying to get a taste of actual Harry Potter Butterbeer, I wouldn’t recommend this for you.

Butterbeer, the first image to pop according to wizardingworldpark.com, should be vanilla ice cream, but instead Sodexo used marshmallow whip, which was frustrating. Maybe if the marshmallow whip was Muggle approved.

Sodexo Butterbeer was Muggle approved

Lorig Yaghsezian Assistant Features Editor

Sodexo served its rendition of Butterbeer at a University Program Board event on Feb. 20.

Lorig Yaghsezian Assistant Features Editor

When you hear the word “Butterbeer,” the first image to pop into your head is most likely “The Wizarding World of Harry Potter,” not necessarily “Sodexo.” Butterbeer is the sweet drink invented by author J.K. Rowling that Harry Potter and his friends consume throughout the “Harry Potter” books and movies. During the University Program Board’s movie screening of “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” Sodexo served its own rendition of Butterbeer and I was pleasantly surprised by the taste.

The line to receive my free Sodexo Butterbeer was about 20 minutes long. That was a bit much for this fake magical beverage Butterbeer. The only part of the drink that was accurate with all recipes, online and at “The Wizarding World of Harry Potter,” is the cream soda. Then the ingredients for this Butterbeer were a bit off from the original one. Instead of butterscotch syrup, Sodexo used caramel, a Sodexo worker said at the event. The difference was not major, however it was noticeable that this drink was not an accurate representation of Butterbeer.

The next ingredient in the recipe, according to wizardingworldpark.com, should be vanilla ice cream, but instead Sodexo used marshmallow whip, the Sodexo worker said. When I took my first sip, I enjoyed it. I know. This was very shocking to me, as well. However, it did not necessarily taste like Butterbeer. It just tasted like a caramel-infused cream soda with extra sugar, which I enjoyed regardless.

The caramel was mixed in well and I tasted it within every sip, but the marshmallow whip was an issue. It was sitting at the top of the drink, and it was virtually impossible to get a taste of it while I was drinking.

At the end, I had no cream soda left, just a glob of marshmallow whip, which was frustrating. Maybe if the marshmallow whip was an accurate representation of Butterbeer, it would have tasted better and perhaps been more accurate to the original drink. If Sodexo decides to hand out these drinks again and you are in the mood for a very sweet cream soda, I highly recommend giving it a try. However, if you are trying to get a taste of actual Harry Potter Butterbeer, I wouldn’t recommend this for you.
Hijabs, kufis and cultural appropriation

Cultural appropriation can be something a lot of people generally think they understand. Cultural appropriation is defined as “a term used to describe the taking over of creative or artistic forms, themes, or practices by one cultural group from another. It is in general used to describe Western appropriations of non-Western or non-white forms, and carries connotations of exploitation and dominance,” according to Oxford Reference. It’s common for people who don’t have a good understanding of cultural appropriation to think it’s similar to cultural exchange. Those people are wrong. Cultural exchange is consensual and cultural appropriation is not.

Cultural exchange tends to benefit both cultures. It’s a kind of sharing that should be equal or should result in some form of compensation for the culture that shares, making it beneficial. Cultural appropriation can even be taken one step further and become gentrification.

Gentrification often happens in urban neighborhoods, making the neighborhood more palatable and therefore more expensive for the people who already live there. This can lead to restaurants of ethnic origin being owned by white people. Popular choices include tapas, pho and boba.

The Muslim Student Association held Hijab and Kufi Day on Feb. 23 in which students were encouraged to wear a hijab, or headscarf traditionally worn by women in the Muslim community, or a kufi, a cap worn by men, to experience what it is like to be a Muslim, according to the event Facebook page. Some students were concerned with the issue of cultural appropriation. The association addressed those concerns by assuring the approval of many mosques and offering an alternative way of participating in their event.

Is wearing a hijab cultural appropriation? I’m not entirely sure, but hijabs and headscarves of some sort are worn by women in relatively every major religion such as Catholic nuns, devout Christians, Muslim women Jewish women, and so on. Many people often forget culture is distinct from religion. They equate oppression laws in some Muslim countries to Islam as a religion, but they are not the same.

The Muslim Student Association is giving students an opportunity to better understand their culture, which speaks more to cultural exchange than appropriation. I think there’s an incredible opportunity here to learn about something that seems foreign to many students. Muslims are often discriminated against because they are so visible in their traditional garb. It would be beneficial for students who support Muslims in this country to become empathetic to that community.

Hakeem Wakil, a Muslim freshman student at Chapman, already a step in the right direction. A stronger stance, the open communication is important for the students’ concerns to retain their validity and not ignore what is happening.

Struppa has also tackled concerns of diversity through action. For years, students advocated for a cross-cultural center. Doti opposed the idea of a center and said he felt that it would “ghettoize campus.” This kind of rhetoric speaks to Chapman’s diversity issue addressed by The Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 2014 when it criticized Chapman after some employees said that the school “is not a place that values diversity.”

Struppa disagreed and began work on the Cross-Cultural Center as soon as he became president. Working quickly, the Cross-Cultural Center was set to open this Feb. 27. This center is going to support diversity clubs and organizations as well as individuals on campus who want to perform activist work, who want to celebrate diversity and who want to discuss diversity issues. This center has been fighting for existence since as early as 2003, and Struppa listened to the student body and made it a reality.

He also made his perspective known when some students became concerned over President Donald Trump’s travel ban executive order. He sent an email to the Chapman community January 30. While we wrote an editorial demanding a stronger stance, the open communication is already a step in the right direction.

Between this and his transparency about the university’s thoughts on the “All Lives Matter” incident, it’s refreshing to have a president who publicly acknowledges the activist movements on campus. Keep it up.

The Panther Newspaper

We appreciate your approach, Struppa

In recent months, activism has spiked on Chapman’s campus following the election of President Donald Trump. There have been anti-xenophobia and anti-Trump rallies on campus, protests at the Santa Ana riverbed and the formation of a new activist group, Enclave.

Since activism on campus has become more prominent, there has been the response from the administration at Chapman. The level of engagement has changed drastically now that Daniele Struppa is president. And that’s a good thing.

While Dean of Students Jerry Price is usually the spokesman when it comes to student activism, President Emeritus Jim Doti never addressed the Chapman community directly.

This can be seen in spring 2015, when an unofficial social justice club called the Student Review wanted the university to require more diversity training. Doti didn’t send an email to the university addressing the concerns of these students, allowing Price to dictate the university’s stance.

Struppa has chosen to take a different approach. He emailed the Chapman community directly after the incident on Feb. 9 where an “All Lives Matter” flag was posted over the pan-African flag in front of the Leatherby Libraries.

While Struppa may not have addressed specific concerns of racist rhetoric, he did address the incident and advocated for free speech on Chapman’s campus.

The acknowledgement that Chapman is a diverse community with complicated issues by Struppa is the kind of rhetoric that needs to be heard by Chapman’s students. Whether or not the university agrees with the aggrieved group of students, it’s important for the students’ concerns to retain their validity and not ignore what is happening.

The Panther Newspaper

Have a question, comment or idea? Contact us at thepanthernewspaper@gmail.com.
We can no longer dance on politically correct lines

Oliveia Ducharme, junior creative writing major

On Feb. 9, precisely three months after the results of the 2016 election broke, a Chapman student took it upon himself to hoist an “All Lives Matter” flag over the front of the Leatherby Libraries. While there were two separate incidents of this flag being hung over the front of the Black Lives Matter flag, there was no issue with the safety of our students. There comes the question of when freedom of speech crosses to hate speech. In the dorms, there was a swastika hung in a window, a reference which were called in response. But, when “All Lives Matter” flag was hoisted, there is a nonviolent debate and a student who barely gets a slap on the wrist for it. Is the swastika a more serious offense because we have a greater Jewish population on campus?

No matter the size of a demographic on campus, we must remember the safety of students first, and when the “All Lives Matter” flag hung over the front of the Black Lives Matter flag, many students felt threatened. The “All Lives Matter” movement only spawned from Black Lives Matter because people of color were oppressed and suppressed with a largely white demographic and failed to acknowledge the 1 percent of African-American students on campus. These students posted on Facebook the day the flag rose that they felt they did not belong on campus, feeling unsafe. It’s time administration acknowledges the gaps in both messages.

As a society, we arrive to be progressive, to be inclusive and to maintain the rights included in the First Amendment. As a whole, we must remember the safety of our students. There comes the question of when freedom of speech crosses to hate speech. In the dorms, there was a swastika hung in a window, a reference which were called in response. But, when “All Lives Matter” flag was hoisted, there is a nonviolent debate and a student who barely gets a slap on the wrist for it. Is the swastika a more serious offense because we have a greater Jewish population on campus?

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Women’s basketball deserved at-large bid

For seniors on the women’s basketball team, the Panthers’ 65-54 conference final loss felt all too familiar. It was just three seasons ago when the Athenas beat Chapman in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) finals 78-60.

However, there’s one big difference: In 2014, the Panthers received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament. At-large bids are awarded to teams that do not win their conference championship but are deemed competitive enough to earn a spot in the national tournament.

For whatever reason, the NCAA selection committee has chosen to award none of its at-large bids to SCIAC teams this year, instead having only the winner of the conference compete in the NCAA tournament.

I’ll acknowledge the argument that the committee may have decided to only send one team because SCIAC teams haven’t had very much success in the tournament beyond just qualifying for it.

Beginning in 2014, the Athenas have finished on top of the SCIAC regular season standings and gone on to win the playoffs and a berth in the NCAA tournament. But the teams deepest in NCAA tournament run came in 2016 when the Athenas made the second round of the tournament.

Yes, in a tie-breaking scenario, the Athenas beat the Panthers three times this season. But according to the NCAA’s second regional rankings released Feb. 15, the Panthers had a harder schedule this season than the Athenas. Chapman’s in-division strength of schedule was ranked higher than Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, yet the Panthers finished the season with an identical conference record (13-3).

So if the Panthers are missing out on the NCAA tournament for losing to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, then why are the Athenas being rewarded for having the same record as the Panthers against weaker teams?

Granted, the Athenas’ strength of schedule is probably lower than Chapman’s due to the fact that Claremont-Mudd-Scripps can’t play itself (as the highest-ranked team in the SCIAC). But while two of Chapman’s three losses came against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, the Athenas’ three losses this season came against Occidental College, California Lutheran University and the University of Redlands — all teams that the Panthers beat.

On top of that, the Panthers also played five games against NCAA regionally-ranked teams, while the Athenas only played three. The Panthers lost all five of those games, while Claremont-Mudd-Scripps managed to win one. All of these games were at the beginning of the season when teams like the Panthers were still finding their rhythm, and I don’t think results of early non-conference games should be a significant factor in determining who makes the NCAA tournament almost five months later.

Also, the Chapman team that received an at-large bid to the tournament in 2014 was very similar on paper to this year’s team. The difference is that the Panthers beat the Athenas twice during the regular season that year.

If the Panthers had managed to beat the Athenas just once this season, then I bet the NCAA tournament selection committee would have had a much tougher time snubbing the Panthers. Because when you look elsewhere for an explanation, there doesn’t seem to be much of one.

Panthers lose in conference finals

The women’s basketball team’s season comes to a close on Saturday night as the Panthers fell 65-54 in the conference finals to first-place Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, who the Panthers have not beaten since 2014. The Athenas have now won the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) for the fourth year in a row, including defeating the Panthers last time they made it to the finals in 2014.

The Panthers struggled offensively in the first half, and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps went into halftime with a 25-18 lead. The Panthers turned the game around in the third quarter, grabbing the lead for the first time with a three-pointer from junior guard Jaime Ham-Nishikado as the score remained close through the quarter.

But the effort wasn’t enough to defeat the Athenas.

“I think we fought hard coming back from a deficit in the first half of the game,” said senior guard Lauren Sato. “But in the end, our shots just didn’t fall and we did not compensate for that on defense. I truly don’t believe (Claremont-Mudd-Scripps) is a better team than us — we just didn’t play all 40 minutes the way we should have.”

The Panthers had more shooting opportunities than the Athenas — 59 compared to 47 — but they shot under 30 percent in both the first and second quarters, as opposed to the Athenas’ 46 percent.

In its final 13 games of the season, Chapman’s only losses were to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, including a defeat that ended the team’s eight-game winning streak Feb. 18.

“It was definitely the toughest loss, especially it being my last game and not turning out the way I had envisioned,” Sato said. “Even though I wish I could go back in time and redo that game over again, I hope that the returners next year work even harder so that when the time comes around again, they will be successful.”

The Panthers bounced back after halftime, outscoring the Athenas 20-15 in the third quarter to set up a tense final 10 minutes with Claremont-Mudd-Scripps leading 40-38.

But Claremont found its scoring rhythm late, and the Panthers had to start fouling to try to keep the game close. The Athenas kept their cool from the free-throw line and scored 25 points in the fourth quarter to secure a 65-54 victory and a berth in the NCAA tournament.

Sophomore guard Jaryn Fajardo led the Panthers with 14 points and nine rebounds. Chapman was coming fresh off a dramatic 66-64 win in the SCIAC playoff semifinals against California Lutheran University on Feb. 23 going into Saturday night’s conference finals game.

“The seniors have left their leadership and legacy with us,” Ham-Nishikado said. “We will take what they have left behind and build it up even stronger and that starts in the offseason. We’ll start playing in open gyms and just work on playing together and communicating on offense and defense.”

The seniors will be without seniors Sato, guard Courtney Krysl, guard Megan Charles and forward Wendy Shiga next season.

“I think the freshmen and sophomores got a taste of the excitement,” Sato said. “I hope this experience has ignited a desire in them to work on their game for next season. If they stay motivated and dedicated, I do think Chapman can win (the SCIAC) next year.”

Women’s basketball versus Claremont-Mudd-Scripps by season:

### 2013-14
- Jan. 4: 55-48 away win (SCIAC regular season)
- Jan. 30: 73-69 home win (SCIAC regular season)
- March 1: 78-60 away loss (SCIAC tournament finals)

### 2014-15
- Jan. 10: 59-51 home loss (SCIAC regular season)
- Feb. 4: 60-54 away loss (SCIAC regular season)

### 2015-16
- Dec. 9: 58-52 home loss (SCIAC regular season)
- Jan. 16: 50-44 away loss (SCIAC regular season)

### 2016-17
- Jan. 18: 50-47 home loss (SCIAC regular season)
- Feb. 18: 71-62 away loss (SCIAC regular season)
- Feb. 25: 65-54 away loss (SCIAC tournament finals)

 Graphic by Doug Close
Although the game was tied 1-1 in the first game of their series, and beat the Sagehens (4-9, 0-3) 12-2 traveling to Pomona-Pitzer on Friday, our bats got off to a slow start. "Without our pitching and keep pitching and playing defense got rolling, all we needed to do was keep pitching and playing defense and that's what we ended up doing to preserve a big lead at the end," Blodgett also batted in four runs off of his two hits. "Any time you can contribute like that, it's a good feeling," Blodgett said. "Without our pitching and defense today, it probably would have been a much different ballgame considering our bats got off to a slow start."

The Panthers (9-2, 6-0) then traveled to Pomona-Pitzer on Friday and beat the Sagehens (4-9, 0-3) 12-2 in the first game of their series. Although the game was tied 1-1 at the end of the fourth inning, the Panthers scored nine unanswered runs to lead 10-1 by the end of the sixth inning. Penniman had three runs, while Love, senior infielder John Wiehe and Cook had two runs each. "We went up against one of the better pitchers in our conference and came away with a big win to set the tone for the rest of the series," Cook said. "It helps show the young guys on our team that there's no pitcher out there good enough to stop us when we're doing the things we need to be doing."

In Saturday's 12-1 win, the Panthers ran away with the game early, scoring six in the second inning and building a 9-0 lead after just three innings and taking advantage of the Sagehens' 11 errors. Senior pitcher Ben Vietze went on to pitch six innings, allowing just two hits. Vietze was followed by one inning of relief pitching from sophomore pitcher Christian Cosby. "(Dave Edwards) is a mastermind as a pitching coach, so it makes my job easy," Vietze said. "I just throw the ball where it's called. Getting a few double plays and the triple play was big."

The Sagehens scrapped together a run in the top of the seventh, taking advantage of an error and two wild pitches. But the Panthers had already scored the 10 runs needed for the mercy rule to take effect, so the game ended after the third out was called in the seventh inning. The Sagehens' offense didn't pick up until the sixth inning of the next game, when a bunt single started a five-run rally. The Sagehens added two more runs in the top of the seventh, but the Panthers relied on their pitchers to carry them through the game. "There was no sense of panic amongst anyone, and we all just trusted our pitchers that they would go do the job and we would get them some runs," Cook said.

This calm composure was proven as the Panthers looked to carry a win in the bottom half of the inning and had a 1-2-3 inning on defense, before reclaiming the lead with a three-run eighth inning. "(This) shows the character of our team, that we're always in it, regardless of the score," Cook said. At home Feb. 28, The Panthers host Redlands Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. On top of the Feb. 21 win, the Panthers beat the Bulldogs in all four matchups last season.
1 day, 2 walk-offs for softball against Cal Lutheran

Natalie van Winden | Staff Writer

The softball team had two walk-off wins on Saturday in a doubleheader against last-place California Lutheran University, with the first game going into extra innings.

At their home field at El Camino Real Park in Orange, the Panthers won the first game 2-1 and the second game 2-1.

“We’ve been splitting (series) 1-1 the past couple weekends, so we were really focused today on winning both games,” said freshman infielder Vanessa Gilles. “It was great to see everyone push through for two walk-off wins and figure out how to win.”

Both teams’ offenses started the day off slowly, until Cal Lutheran (0-4, 0-2) put up two runs at the top of the fourth inning of the first game. The Panthers (5-3, 3-1) continued to gain momentum from a run in the sixth inning to tie the game when Gilles batted in freshman outfielder Christine LoVerde.

The Panthers had 10 hits compared to the Regals’ four, but the game remained a tie until the eighth inning when junior infielder Kristen Wesser singled to right field, batting in freshman infielder Samantha Tong for a walk-off win.

The Regals looked to bounce back quickly in the second game of the day, scoring a run in the second inning and keeping the lead until the sixth inning, when freshman infielder Michaela Feisy scored off freshman infielder Heaven Wong’s single to tie the game.

Chapman closed off the seventh inning with a run batted in by LoVerde for the second walk-off win of the afternoon for the Panthers.

“This season, our team is reaching to make a name for ourselves in the conference,” Gilles said. “I think a lot of what had to do with the wins today is that we’ve been getting a lot closer as a team.”

Chapman finished last season in seventh place with a 20-8 conference record.

“Working together and knowing that everyone’s roles are important,” Gilles said. “I’m excited for the potential our team has to be strong.”

Chapman’s next game is March 3 at home against the sixth-place University of Redlands, who the Panthers lost to in all four of the teams’ matchups last season.