Students gathered in the Aitken Arts Plaza to celebrate Holi, the Hindu festival of color, by throwing brightly colored powder. Holi marks the beginning of spring, and is often celebrated in February or March. See more photos of the event at thepantheronline.com.
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Participation in protests will not affect admissions

Rebecah Glaser | Managing Editor
Jasmin Sani | News Editor

Larissa Salazar, a prospective Chapman student, knew she had to take action after the Parkland, Florida, shooting last month that claimed 17 lives. That day, she and several other students at her high school, which is 20 minutes away from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, began to plan a walkout to protest gun violence.

On Feb. 26, Chapman joined 258 other U.S. universities when it announced that admissions decisions for prospective students will not be impacted if a student is suspended or disciplined for participating in gun violence protests. Salazar has been accepted to Chapman and plans to major in film production.

“I would not want to spend the next four years of my life (somewhere) that doesn’t understand the value of students exercising their right to free speech, civic engagement and peaceful protest,” she said. “I have nothing to lose and I’m fighting for something I believe in, so I will be on (my high school’s) football field at 10 a.m. March 14.”

Chapman’s announcement comes after high school students across the U.S. have skipped or plan to skip school to protest gun violence and honor the victims of the shooting.

“Please be assured your participation in peaceful protests, civic discourse and social activism will not adversely affect your admissions decision, “ said a post on Chapman’s Facebook page.

On the day of the Parkland shooting, more than 1,000 Washington, D.C., high school students walked out of school to demand legislative action on gun control at the U.S. Capitol grounds, according to The Washington Post. In St. Louis, Missouri, more than 200 students from Riverview Gardens High School left school at about 10 a.m. Feb. 27, taking to the streets with signs that read, “Is your semi-automatic worth my life?” and “Teachers don’t need guns!”

“We want to hold a walkout because we aren’t safe in school and that shouldn’t be the case,” Salazar said.

Camille Toomey, another accepted Chapman student, will also walk out of her Indiana high school with fellow students March 14, which has been designated as the day of the National School Walkout by Youth EMPOWER, an offshoot of the Women’s March movement.

“Student activism is crazily important because it’s a chance for the people who will eventually be calling the shots as adults to make a change and have their voices heard,” Toomey said. “The announcement is another way for Chapman to say, ‘We hear you, and we support you.’”

While many colleges have announced support for students who want to protest, some high schools have threatened to suspend students who challenge gun laws. At Needville High School in Needville, Texas, school district superintendent Curtis Rhodes wrote a letter threatening to suspend any students who participate in “protest or awareness” during school hours, according to The Washington Post.

“If life is all about choices and every choice has a consequence whether it be positive or negative,” Rhodes wrote in the letter to students and parents, which was posted on the school’s social media. “We will discipline no matter if it is one, fifty, or five hundred students involved. All will be suspended for 3 days and parent notes will not alleviate the discipline.”

Audrey Lothenbach, another incoming freshman, said that Chapman’s announcement makes her proud to attend next fall.

“I’ve overheard many students attending different universities next year scared to share their opinion because of the fear of being in trouble,” she said. Although the recent shooting has sparked a wave of student protests this year, 9 percent of college freshmen who responded to a 2015 survey by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA indicated that they would participate in student protests while in college – a number that researchers say is the highest in the study’s 50-year history.

Niloofar Rouzroch, who plans to attend Chapman next year as a communication studies major, will also attend the March 14 walkout. She says that some schools are threatening students who have the right to protest.

“What ultimately breaks my heart is the fact that teenage students have taken it upon themselves to be the forefront leaders for change regarding gun control,” she said. “When will enough be enough? So many innocent people have lost their lives to guns. When will action be taken?”

To read Salazar’s column about gun violence, turn to page 9.
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County purchases facility to help homeless

The $26 million mental health facility will help house Orange County’s homeless population.

Jamie Altman | Editor-in-Chief

After at least 700 homeless people were removed from the Santa Ana riverbed last month, Orange County has purchased a property for a $26 million mental health facility in Orange, about a five-minute drive from Chapman University, to help serve the county’s homeless population.

The 44,500 square foot building, which is across the street from the Santa Ana riverbed on Anita Drive, will open within two years, said Andrew Do, chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. There are currently not enough facilities in the county to house the homeless population and those with mental illnesses, Do said.

“We enjoy our lives in this county. If it asked to live anywhere else in the world, most of us would say that we’re just fine right here,” Dan Young, former Santa Ana mayor and board member of Mind OC, said at the press conference. “But there is a significant issue within our community. We have people who need our help. It’s time for the county to act.”

In late October, about 30 Chapman students, faculty and Orange residents attended a rally at the Altalilla Piazza to advocate for permanent housing for the homeless in the county. They made their way to the Orange County Council meeting, holding signs such as “Being homeless is not a crime.” “Where can they go?”

Do agrees that permanent housing is the end goal, adding that the county’s current approach is working to solve those with mental illnesses has been the end goal, adding that the county’s latest approach is working.

“When we talk about permanent supportive housing, that’s where we’re going,” Young said. “Two months ago, what if this facility was in place?” People “should be able to get the treatment they need,” Do said.

The majority of the funding for the facility will come through Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, Do said. The purchase of the property cost $26 million, when renovations and rent-renting within the next two years will bring the total to about $26 million.

MSA hosts second Hijab and Kufi Day

Alya Hijazi | Staff Writer

The sounds of the oud — a short-necked Arab instrument — floated through the air in the Altalilla Piazza at Chapman’s Hijab and Kufi Day March 1, hosted by the Muslim Student Association (MSA).

This marks the second year that MSA has hosted the event. Last year’s event was held to protest the sentences behind President Donald Trump’s travel ban, said Muhammad Karkoutli, president of MSA.

“At that point in time, the Muslims on campus felt like they needed to do something,” he said. “This year, it’s a way to engage the community and raise awareness on the hijab and kufi. We want to share our tradition and culture with the community,” Dababneh said. “I get to be Muslim can meet up, socialize and be with people who are interested in Islam, or happen to be Muslim can meet up, socialize and learn from one another.”

A subject in Pralle-Sodaro Hall was so crowded for the event and I was so excited seeing people I have never met before ask a little about Islam,” Wakil said. “Our goal in MSA is to play a role in the community, and I feel like Hijab and Kufi Day has done just that.”

The kufi is a traditional cap worn by Muslim men, and the hijab is a head-scarf worn by Muslim women. Junior kinesiology major Kenzie Saleh, a member of MSA, drew henna on the people who attended the event. MSA is a nationwide nonprofit organization that brings students together and promotes tolerance, according to its website. There are 98 registered MSA chapters in the U.S.

(MSA) is not exclusively for Muslims,” Karkoutli said. “We want to provide a space where people who are interested in Islam or happen to be Muslim can meet up, socialize and learn from one another.” Among the people at the MSA table were freshman Noor Dababneh, who is a Jordanian Christian and a peace studies major.

“It’s important for me to be a part of MSA because there’s (this) sense of community,” Dababneh said. “I get to meet people who are from the same background as me and have things in common.”

Senate updates

March 2 meeting

University and Academic Affairs Committee

There will be an active shooter presentation March 8, conducted in coordination with Public Safety. In the open forum the university and academic affairs committee held regarding the presentation, no students expressed interest in Public Safety receiving training to be armed.

Diversity Affairs Committee

The committee is reaching out to students to see how best to utilize the space of Henley Basement, which was previously home to late-night food stop Day’s Place. The committee is also gathering information about vegetarian and gluten-free options on campus.

Funding request for M.E.Ch.A.

M.E.Ch.A. requested a group conference sponsorship, with the Allocations Committee wanting to fund it partially. Last semester, M.E.Ch.A. held yard sale to raise outside funding. The organization will take eight people this year to the conference in Salt Lake City, and most of them are not leadership board members. Student Organiza- tion senator Jackie Palacios is a member of M.E.Ch.A. and testified to the importance of the event for transparency. The funding request was approved in full.

Anti-Semitism Resolution

The anti-Semitism resolution, a student-proposed bill condemning general anti-Semitism, was reintroduced in fall 2017. President Mitchell Rosenberg presented it again at this meeting. In May 2017, Rosenberg said the resolution was “politically charged,” so student government wanted to correct it by revising the resolution and asking more students to show up. The anti-Semitic events have spiked in the past year nationwide, according to the National Public Radio. This resolution will be brought to the floor to be voted in the upcoming senate meeting.

Vice President Sarah Tabsh asked why there is a need for a further statement on anti-Semitism, and Rosenberg said that it is because of the increase in anti-Semitic acts around the world. All politically charged comments related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict were removed from the resolution.

Compiled by Jack Eckert
A Facebook post that confessed
Nhieu stepped out to compose from the scammers in class Feb.
After receiving harassing messages
Nhieu responded to the girl's threatening messages with "I forgive you." Eventually, she broke down and confessed she didn't want to be involved in the scams either, but was pressured by her "boss" to catfish men over the internet.

"(My dad said) If anyone sees the video, just tell them that you're a sexy person," Nhieu said. The Huntington Beach police department advised Nhieu against wiring more money, since extortionists rarely release the information they threaten to expose, officers told Nhieu. Brian Gancherov, chief security architect at DynTek, and the "guy who has to tell second graders that there's no such thing as a free iPad" agreed that giving scammers money rarely makes them go away. The best thing to do is immediately cut off communication with anyone making threats, he said.

Despite not following this advice, Nhieu made peace with his tormentors. Following the post, Nhieu responded to the girl's threatening messages with "I forgive you." Eventually, she broke down and confessed she didn't want to be involved in the scams either, but was pressured by her "boss" to catfish men over the internet.

"This girl just wants to go to a university like (Chapman) and reach whatever dreams she has," Nhieu said. "So I told her, 'You deserve to live your dream. You don't have to be in this job ruining lives. What makes me better than you? You deserve to be who you want to be. I sent you $1,000. I hope that's enough.'" Despite the experience, Nhieu considers himself a "trusting" person, but believes he has learned a lesson about staying vigilant online.

Nhieu shared his story on social media and received overwhelming responses. "I decided that I had given this person so much power over my life. I'd lost control," Nhieu said. "I thought, what is the worst thing that could happen? The worst thing is her sending out the video to these people, so I guess the next step is to tell everyone."

After receiving harrowing messages from the scammers in class Feb. 7, Nhieu stepped out to compose a Facebook post that confessed his situation to his hundreds of Facebook friends. Within minutes, he felt he had gained his power back. "I was terrified," Nhieu said. "I was in Dodge sitting outside and people were walking by and it was a very weird feeling because I know these people. I thought once they see this post, everything is going to change. Everyone is going to laugh at me, everyone is going to judge me, but I'd rather them see this post than have them randomly see this video out of nowhere."

Responses to Nhieu's post were overwhelmingly supportive, he said. What angered his friends and family most was that he didn't tell them about the incident before wiring the money. "If anyone sees the video, just tell them that you're a sexy person," Nhieu said. The Huntington Beach police department advised Nhieu against wiring more money, since extortionists rarely release the information they threaten to expose, officers told Nhieu. Brian Gancherov, chief security architect at DynTek, and the "guy who has to tell second graders that there's no such thing as a free iPad" agreed that giving scammers money rarely makes them go away. The best thing to do is immediately cut off communication with anyone making threats, he said.

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Still, both Dworkin and Gancherov agree that the best way to deal with extortion is to avoid getting involved in the first place.

"The user and their judgment is absolutely the first line of defense. If it sounds too good to be true, it is," Dworkin said.

"I realized that I had given this person so much power over my life. I'd lost control," Nhieu said. I thought, what is the worst thing that could happen? The worst thing is her sending out the video to these people, so I guess the next step is to tell everyone."

After receiving harrowing messages from the scammers in class Feb. 7, Nhieu stepped out to compose a Facebook post that confessed
Tennis balls and broomsticks: Quidditch comes to campus

Hayley Nelson | Staff Writer

The Chapman Quidditch team members of 1 University Drive are proud to say that they are perfectly normal, thank you very much. They are the last people you’d expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, but this semester, they’re bringing a new club to campus that is exactly that.

"On the face of it, Quidditch is silly," said team co-captain Matthew Pinkney. "You’re running around with a broom between your legs, there’s a guy dressed in yellow that everyone is chasing... It’s this really funny, silly thing that attracts a different sort of people."

Real life – or Muggle – Quidditch was created in 2005 by students at Middlebury College in Vermont. Today, it is played in at least 100 colleges across the U.S., according to U.S. Quidditch. Though a regulation Quidditch team is made up of seven players, Chapman’s team accepts all students who want to join the team.

"It would be best if the club was relaxed and we just played against ourselves for fun instead of competing against other schools, especially since we would be such a new club," said Fiona Milton, who heard about the team last semester while attending a Marauders of Chapman, the Harry Potter club, meeting. "I’m joining it because it’s Harry Potter and not because it’s a sport."

In "Muggle" Quidditch, there are four positions: three chasers, two beaters, one keeper and one seeker. There’s also a designated team member who acts as the snitch, who runs around the field with a sock and tennis ball attached to their waist and tries to avoid the seekers from both teams, similar to flag football.

"UCLA’s (Quidditch team) is like Major League Baseball, and we’re like your high school softball team," Pinkney said. "I always say this to people coming in, if you don’t know how to play Quidditch, don’t worry. It’s a lot easier to learn once you get into it."

Chapman Quidditch will be gender inclusive, Pinkney said. This follows the U.S. Quidditch rulebook, which states that teams must maintain gender equality, meaning there can’t be more than four players who identify as the same gender on a team.

While no student will ever be turned away from the team, the captains will do their best to maintain an equal gender balance to keep the sport co-ed and inclusive, Pinkney said. "You don’t have to be athletic... it sounds like a fun way to enjoy Harry Potter in a new, less intellectual way, while getting to hang out with new people who care about the same things I do," Milton said.

Pinkney predicts that practices will be once a month or every two weeks, depending on club members’ preference. Club creators emphasize that anyone – Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin – regardless of athletic ability, will be welcome to play.

Always.

Chapman will join at least 100 other colleges across the U.S. that play "Muggle" Quidditch.
Located on the third floor of Argyros Forum, down a bright little hallway covered in “I am Chapman” photos and illustrations of famous activists, lies my favorite place on campus.

Gracie Fleischman
Opinions Editor

I first heard rumors about the Cross-Cultural Center on my first day at Chapman. I was then a pre-orientation director of the Cross-Cultural Center, but at that time, in the fall of 2016, the center was merely a dream. A year later on Monday, Feb. 26, the center celebrated the one-year anniversary of its opening.

In 2005, then-President Jim Doti said that a multicultural center would “ghettoize” Chapman. He later repeated this sentiment in a 2011 court deposition, vowing that no such center would open while he was president of the university.

Doti defended his statements in a deposition for The Panther in 2014 by giving his definition of the word “ghetto,” leaving out the racial aspect of the word. He claimed that he “did not want multicultural thoughts and ideas to be centered in a designated place.”

It is obvious that Doti’s comment was racist. There’s no way around it. You cannot deny that a group of people without starting a discussion about racism. Chapman has always been a mostly white university with large conservative donors, which was reflected in Doti’s approach to being president. To me, his comment was a center that would ghettoize Chapman means that it would attract more people of color to the university, making it less prestigious.

Despite Doti’s comments, Argyros Forum 304 officially became the Cross-Cultural Center thanks to immense student efforts and support from student government, Dean of Students Jerry Fracaro and President Daniele Struppa.

I am lucky enough to work as a desk assistant in the Cross-Cultural Center along with my inspiring peers. Students and staff are fiercely dedicated to making the space inclusive and accepting of any student at Chapman, no matter their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

At Chapman, I fit in. As a middle class, white cisgender woman, I don’t really need a safe space on campus. But, nothing has made me happier than to work at the Cross-Cultural Center and step foot into that beautiful center with its friendly, smiling faces.

This special place has allowed me to become a strong ally for people in communities other than my own. No matter if it’s a busy finals week or if it’s a quiet Thursday night around 9 p.m., I can see and feel the impact of the Cross-Cultural Center.

Whether I’m helping people find the perfect studio room, directing them to the perfect study room, or even just sitting there smiling and talking, my life (somewhere) that doesn’t understand the value of students exercising their right to free speech, civic engagement and peaceful protests,” Larissa Salazar, a high school senior who has been accepted to Chapman, told The Panther.

The moves show an effort by the university’s administration to live up to the its values of creating global citizens. Hopefully, this decision sends a message to future Chapman students that our school will foster their education and civil rights.

This week, President Daniele Struppa told The Panther that it’s important to him that everyone has the right to voice their opinions, even if everyone doesn’t agree.

“I think it’s very important that we tell prospective students to express themselves. That’s what democracy is about,” Struppa said.

Our president has the right idea, but Chapman’s own way of handling the issue isn’t in line with some of those beliefs. At Chapman, it is at professor’s discretion to excuse students for missing class to attend a peaceful protest, Struppa said.

Although Struppa is confident that professors would allow students to miss class to protest, this weakens the university’s statement. If activism is encouraged among high school students, the same should apply to college students. Professors should unconditionally allow their students to miss class for peaceful protests.

With the shift since the Parkland shooting, the younger generation is becoming more outspoken. Student activism has always been an important part of our society, whether it was University of California, Davis students protesting tuition hikes in 2011 or the “free speech movement” of the 1960s in Berkeley, California.

Now more than ever, high schools and colleges need to make it safe and accessible for students to stand up for their rights and fight for change they believe in.
Stop buying into ‘fast fashion’

We’ve all been there. You’ve been eyeing a new sweater from your favorite People or Nordstrom. It’s perfect, just your color, the exact size and upwards of $100. So you do some quick browsing and come across a similar deal on a brand website like Forever 21 for $15. At this time, you’ll only be set back $15. Sounds perfect, right? Well, it’s not as perfect as you might think. By clicking the “buy now” button, you’ve created a series of irreparable impacts. What these brands—which include chains like Zara and Topshop—promote is called “fast fashion,” which is when companies make fashion purchases. These companies often outsource their conditions, according to a report by the Human Rights Watch. Workers are physically intimidated for not engaging in these unethical and environmentally damaging practices are all around us. Even The Gap, Inc., a place where I sometimes shop, has been accused of outsourcing its production to companies that use child labor. Buying ethical clothing can be incredibly expensive. Products from companies like Everlane that pride themselves on ethical production are pricey—a white sweater can cost almost $70, which most college students can’t afford.

So it’s OK to start small. Buy fewer clothes and second-hand, saving in a few hours. Instead of throwing your clothes out when you get tired of them, sell them on a community board (like Panther Couture), give them away to friends or donate them to charity. When you need to buy new, try browsing the aisle of your local Goodwill instead of rushing to the mall.

No one is perfect, and chances are you won’t give up all your favorite brands in one day. But even if you decide just once this month to hold off on buying that $15 sweater, it’s a step in the right direction.

The life of a dog dad

Four destroyed Mac laptop chargers, countless pairs of ripped socks and blankets, and a couch that’s been re-sewn three times. These are just some of casualties I’ve experienced from owning my 6-year-old Australian shepherd puppy, Tucker.

The No. 1 question I’ve been asked is, “How did you know you wanted a puppy?” But what question really means is, “Why would you want a puppy as a college student?”

That’s a much tougher question to answer. I’ve known since junior year of college that I wanted to get a dog. I wasn’t sure what kind or whether I’d buy one or adopt, but I knew that I was a much happier person with a dog. I’ve grown up with dogs my whole life, and I care more about dogs than I do most people.

After countless dog quizzes research on different breeds and their size, temperament, shedding and health problems, I decided I wanted an Australian shepherd. They’re very energetic, loyal and independent. That was the easiest part of the process—then, I had to find a dog. This part is when reality sets in. The idea of a puppy is appealing enough, but actually following through, being responsible enough to save money and caring for your dog, is exhausting. The summer I saved nearly all the money I made for Tucker, before I’d even named him. I made a spreadsheet for everything I could think of: the cost of buying him, pet insurance, vet appointments, food, dog beds, a crate, toys, treats, dog bowls. His food and insurance alone are $100 a month.

I thought I’d covered everything. But the thing about getting a puppy is that there are countless things you can’t factor in.

You don’t plan for your dog to eat a tiny piece of plastic and throw up five times, forcing you to take him to the 24-hour emergency vet at 2 a.m. As with most dog-related issues, he just pooped it out, but it was one costly poop.

For the first few months, I was overly cautious and carried Tucker around in a bag to protect him from the risk of parvovirus—a contagious disease among dogs that’s often deadly to puppies. His little bladder could only hold itself for a few hours, so I was at the hospital at 3 a.m. and back for every possible appointment again at 6 or 7 a.m.

Our dog isn’t the only dog, though. He’s old and has had anxiety from my past job. Every night I would have to give him a sedative, which makes him spend too much time with me, but I have to make sure it’s safe. I have to be there every night, which means that I often spend too much time with some dogs.

These are not complaints, but they are the reality of owning a puppy. You have to spend time to train them, exercise them and make sure they’re not doing something that will kill themselves, because they try to do that a lot.

It’s hard to want to get a puppy, plan for the worst case scenario and overestimate your fears. Make sure you have enough money, and invest in health insurance because if that worst case comes true, you’re going to need it.

And after you’ve done all that planning and stressing, enjoy the love of your puppy, because it’s the purest kind of love there is.
Flipping onto the podium

Chapman's swim and dive teams have had exceptional seasons. In the conference championships, both men's and women's teams scored their highest-ever finishes and set 17 new school records. Three divers qualified for and competed in the NCAA Regional Championships this weekend.

I have never attempted any dive more complicated than a cannonball. Trying to create as big a splash as humanly possible is right up my wheelhouse – anything else is a disaster waiting to happen.

In fact, I've never liked to swim. If I can't stand or sit in something floating atop the water, it's a hard pass for me. Maybe it's my personal disdain for water-based activities that makes every competent diver seem like a Greek god or goddess to me, or maybe it's the uniqueness of what they do.

As a sport, diving has never made sense to me. These merpeople willingly hurl themselves into the water headfirst like elegant kamikazes. Meanwhile, most people can't take a dive off a ground-level diving board without belly-flipping. Yet these athletes willingly and repeatedly climb up three to 10 feet and jump. In one fell swoop, they combine the strength of a champion weightlifter with the technique and grace of ballet dancers.

It's like watching that brief second of a gymnastics vault, where a massive amount of energy is carefully compacted into a graceful windmill of body. Except in diving, there's the added aesthetic quality that comes when the diver plunges into the deep and simultaneously tries to avoid leaving evidence they ever touched the water.

But despite its visual appeal, diving isn't the easiest sport to follow. Even after many years of TV commentators for the Olympics pointing out the size of splashes and form errors in slow motion, I couldn't tell you what differentiates a good dive from a great one in real time.

That's something that's up to judges to decide, and it's hard to say what their preferences are. It's also tough to imagine they catch every inch of every dive while watching live, so there must be at least a little bit of guessing involved.

At least with swimming competitions, there's a clear victor. It can get complicated with the sheer number of events in a meet, but you at least know that whoever finishes first is the winner.

With diving, it's all about judgment. It's fascinating how, after watching events in the Olympics for all of two minutes, viewers are comfortable saying, 'Oh, she almost had it right there, but did you see that splash? That's definitely going to be a deduction.'

It's always fun to criticize something you'll never be able to accomplish. We take these near-perfect demonstrations of athletic excellence down to the most minute fraction, and decide whether they were good or bad.

That's what makes the accomplishments of these divers so impressive. Diving is a highly specific sport that takes immense athletic ability and a zen-like focus to even be decent at, and Chapman's divers have far exceeded that level.

No breaks for accounting ace

Junior tennis player Igor Belineli, known for his work ethic, taught himself English after growing up in Brazil

Emmie Farber | Staff Writer

Junior tennis player Igor Belineli spent his childhood in Vitoria, Brazil – a coastal capital city in Espirito Santo renowned for its beaches. But his name, in its abbreviated version, is not traditionally Brazilian.

His first name, Igor, is Russian; his parents chose it because it meant peace. His last name, Belineli, is Italian, from his mother, Nilda's side. His mother's family is from Italy and his father, Fernando's family is from Portugal. His full name, Igor Belineli, Manhaes da Silva, has two of his father's last names, as is customary in Brazil.

"In reality, I am a very big mix," Belineli said. "If you were to do a DNA sample on me, I would be just a mix of everything.

Belineli only returns home twice a year, but when he does, everything is nearby. His aunt lives next door to his grandmother, who lives next to his parents' home. Besides the familial closeness, there is a sense of friendliness in Brazil that Belineli said he hasn't found in the U.S.

"People are much warmer and approachable in Brazil, and in the U.S., people are much more reserved," he said.

Belineli had to deal with that culture shift while navigating the English language. Growing up, he only spoke Portuguese and had to teach himself to speak English before coming to the U.S.

"When I moved here, I thought I had a (good) level of English but it wasn't good enough, and that was a shock," Belineli said.

With the cultural and language differences in his way, it took Belineli a while to develop close friendships at Chapman.

He had friends from Brazil who moved to the U.S. to play tennis and he wanted to follow in their footsteps, but only somewhere that had a similar environment and weather to Brazil. California was the answer. "I don't do well with cold weather," Belineli said.

Despite the sometimes challenging transition to the U.S., Belineli, an accounting major, has made progress toward a career in accounting.

He interns for EY, formerly Ernst and Young, where he hopes to receive a job offer when he graduates. Eventually, Belineli said, he wants to become a certified public accountant in the U.S. Belineli applied to all nine schools in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. When he realized he wanted to go to school in the U.S., he reached out to head coach Will Marino, sending him various emails and highlight videos. Marino liked what he saw and offered Belineli a spot on the class of 2019 tennis team.

"Igor is always the first player at practice and games and the last one to leave," Marino said. "He is a great leader and shows extreme dedication to this program."

Junior teammate Brock DeHaven said Belineli’s passion extends to his care for teammates off the court.

"If I could describe Igor in one word, it would be kind," DeHaven said.
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Love is the heart of the baseball team

Rahul Setty | Staff Writer

When senior first baseman Jared Love hears the words “launch angle,” his excitement is palatable – and not because he’s thinking about the flight path of one of his 17 career home runs. A physics major and mathematics minor, Love appreciates the science behind baseball.

A career .339 hitter who has a chance to break Chapman’s home run record this season, Love is eager to discuss the fly-ball revolution – a recent trend in baseball in which players focus on hitting the ball through the air instead of on the ground.

“I love it. People can get lost in the sauce,” Love said. “I like utilizing that (batted ball and launch angle) information to try to build myself as a player, but you also have to understand you don’t hit the ball as hard as (professional players).”

Love was a three-sport athlete and valedictorian of his high school. He’s a first-team All-SCIAC award winner, owner of a bevy of scholar-athlete accolades, team captain and irreplaceable cog in the batter’s box.

Junior first baseman Andrew Mendonca has known Love for three years and said that Love is the hardest worker he’s ever played with.

“He genuinely takes interest in every single one of his teammates, which is his best quality – not everyone can do that,” Mendonca said. “But somehow, he manages to have a personal connection with every player on the team, which is (expletive) impressive.”

Head coach Scott Laverty said that Love is the best leader he’s seen in his 19 years as a coach.

“The way his teammates respect him, the work ethic he puts in, (it’s) amazing,” Laverty said.

While Love has played just once this season due to his wrist injury – the product of inadvertently playing through a broken bone – he is accustomed to powering through obstacles.

He successfully transitioned from pitcher to hitter, nearly being cut from Chapman’s team in 2015 after having Tommy John surgery on the ulnar collateral ligament in his throwing elbow.

“I had so many people try out (in 2015) and Jared was just kind of OK,” Laverty said. “He’s got good size, can move decently, but he was just doing OK.”

After initially cutting Love in 2015, Laverty changed his mind, calling him back to his office 10 minutes later.

“I just had a feeling,” Laverty said. “And he’s been our first baseman ever since.”

Three and a half years, 106 runs scored and 104 runs batted in later, Love has made good on Laverty’s intuition. Last season, Love recorded a .501 on-base percentage with a .671 slugging percentage, walking 10 more times than he struck out. With 151 hits in 120 career games, 58 of them going for extra bases, Love has served as a driving force at the heart of Chapman’s lineup.

For the baseball team’s renaissance man, the accolades and success he’s earned are only as valuable as what they help bring his teammates.

“Seeing how your success can help bring along other guys who have their own passions is the best thing about baseball,” Love said. “I was able to be successful because it’s fun to be, but I’ve (also) sweat and bled with these guys for four years, and I know if I’m doing my job, they’re benefitting too.”

Women’s basketball feels hot and cold in Minnesota

Jacob Hutchinson | Sports Editor

Traveling cross-country is not part of the standard Division III diet. When it does happen, like it did last week for Chapman’s women’s basketball team, there can be a clash of culture that’s both regional and distinct to each university.

When Chapman took its midnight March 1 flight to Saint Paul, Minnesota for the NCAA tournament, it was met with some unseasonably warm Minnesotan weather, with highs of 40 degrees.

“It was actually warm, according to their standards,” said head coach Carol Jue. “I even brought my London Fog (jacket) that I’ve had for 25 years, and I didn’t have to use it.”

With a full day ahead of their March 2 matchup against the University of St. Thomas, the team took a roughly mile-long walk from its hotel to the Mall of America.

Every stop on the walk was an invitation for makeshift snowball fights, using the leftover snow from a three-day blizzard that coated Saint Paul days before the team arrived.

Chapman also felt a balance of its hotel to the Mall of America.

Jue declined to have Chapman take a roughly mile-long walk from

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