Faculty vote to remove poster

After an anonymous faculty vote April 22, Dodge College of Film and Media Arts faculty elected to remove Chapman’s “The Birth of a Nation” poster and an accompanying advertisement from its place in the Marion Knott Studios. The poster has been a source of debate on campus, as the 1915 film depicts blackface and is widely credited with the resurgence of the modern Ku Klux Klan.

Are personality tests accurate?
The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, a popular personality test, is often used in workplaces and classrooms. But is it accurate? Experts weigh in on the validity of personality tests.

1 killed in San Diego shooting
A shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue in San Diego April 27 left one dead and three wounded. A suspect has been arrested in connection with the shooting.

Golfer places seventh
Senior Emily Lewis finished the April 20 conference championships with a score of six-over 78. Lewis will hear whether she has advanced to the finals May 6.
Dodge College faculty votes in favor of removing ‘The Birth of a Nation’ poster

Jasmin Sani | Managing Editor
Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

Dodge College of Film and Media Arts faculty have voted to remove Chapman’s “The Birth of a Nation” poster and one of the 1915 film’s advertising fliers from the hallway of Marion Knott Studios, according to an email sent out at about 4 p.m. April 22 by Bob Bassett, the college’s dean. The poster and flier were removed, he said, after students, faculty, and administrators had voted to remove them. The vote was anonymous, Gulino told The Panther April 22. “I’m absolutely thrilled,” she told The Panther April 22. “I’m just very happy that the faculty finally got a say; they listened to students. They didn’t want to be done to attract black faculty and black students. They wanted to do it, I take my responsibility to speak up for them and fight for them. I feel like they would do the same for me.”

pa told students he would not take the poster down unless there was a faculty vote.

“If the president tells the faculty, ‘You have to take down the poster,’ that is censorship,” Struppa told The Panther after the meeting April 16. “That’s not the way we learn. Instead of erasing, we remember and we criticize and discuss and educate.”

While faculty have voted for the poster to be returned to the DeMille estate, the future of its physical location has not yet been announced. At the April 17 community forum, students and McCants proposed that it be displayed in a museum, like Orange’s Hilbert Museum, The Broad, or the California African American Museum in Los Angeles, where it could be appropriately dealt with,” McCants said at the forum.

“It doesn’t have to be on this campus,” he said.

Dodge professor talks about ‘The Birth of a Nation’ and community diversity

Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

A newly-hired Ron McCants was walking the halls of the Marion Knott Studios in late August 2018 to get the “lay of the land,” he said, when he came across a poster hanging on the wall.

“I took a picture of the poster and sent it to my wife,” said McCants, an adjunct professor at the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts.

“Are we going to do this? Why is this up? I wrote. That was my first encounter.”

Ron McCants, a first-year film production graduate student, was one of the first people on campus to advocate for the removal of Chapman’s “The Birth of a Nation” poster.

“McGaurin proposed that it be displayed in a museum, like Orange’s Hilbert Museum, The Broad, or the California African American Museum in Los Angeles, where it could be appropriately dealt with,” McCants said at the forum.

“It doesn’t have to be on this campus,” he said.

Dodge professor talks about ‘The Birth of a Nation’ and community diversity

Ron McCants, a first-year professor at Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, has supported students advocating for the removal of the controversial “The Birth of a Nation” poster.

**Q**: How would you describe your first year at Chapman?

**A**: I can characterize my first year at Chapman similarly to my first year of undergraduate at Dartmouth College. In the sense, you are stepping into a new world and you don’t know all of the pieces yet. You have a puzzle to solve. Just as you start with the order of a puzzle before you fill it in, it’s getting a sense of what the picture could be by looking at the edges. My experience has been made by the students.

**Q**: Have students come to you personally throughout the experience with the poster?

**A**: I happened to be in the faculty lounge (the day of the April 16 forum) because I was off from work and I said, “Oh, let me check out the faculty lounge and see what’s happening.” I happened to be near the Craft Cultural Center and (Dean of Students) Jerry Price came into the faculty lounge and he was talking to somebody else about the forum he had to attend. I was like, “That sounds like something I want to attend.”

**Q**: How would you describe your first year at Chapman similarly to my first year of undergraduate at Dartmouth College. In the sense, you are stepping into a new world and you don’t know all of the pieces yet. You have a puzzle to solve. Just as you start with the order of a puzzle before you fill it in, it’s getting a sense of what the picture could be by looking at the edges. My experience has been made by the students.

**Q**: What is the ratio of students to faculty at Chapman?

**A**: We have 122 students.

**Q**: Is the ratio of students to faculty that Chapman is at risk of being a place that no one wants to go to that will not be able to fund itself, because there will be other universities that have better statistics in terms of where people feel comfortable?

That’s really what that conversation should be: How do we turn this into an opportunity to attract students of color for the betterment of our university?

**Q**: Students may not have thought to consider the ramifications that they could face when they leave Chapman. Is that a conversation worth having?

**A**: It is. The reason why universities often tamp down on issues like the poster is because it affects the donors’ dollars; it affects peoples’ careers. It’s important to bring this up when we are talking about the ramifications of racism.
20 students gather to honor victims of Sri Lanka terrorist attack

Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

Sophomore Hashini Weerasekera planned to visit her family in Kandy, Sri Lanka this summer – but that was before a terrorist attack targeting churches and hotels April 21 in Sri Lanka’s capital, Colombo, killed at least 250 people.

“I can’t go anymore. My grandmother told me it’s too dangerous,” Weerasekera, a psychology major, told The Panther. “It’s really hard being away from my family.”

Weerasekera, who has family in Sri Lanka and Northern California, is one of many who are feeling the impact of the Easter Sunday terrorist attack in Sri Lanka. Weerasekera’s family in Sri Lanka were left unharmed, she told The Panther, but is shaken by the tragedy, which has been claimed by the Islamic State, according to The New York Times.

In an April 25 memorial in the Fish Interfaith Chapel to honor those killed in the attack, Gail Stearns, dean of the Wallace All Faiths Chapel, addressed an audience of about 20.

“It’s heartbreaking, because we know that the Quran does not advocate for this type of violence. We know that that is not the true act of a faithful person at all,” Stearns said.

“It is said that religion gets tied up in what many would argue is too often an issue of politics,” Weerasekera’s parents immigrated to the United States from Sri Lanka shortly before she was born.

“I am immensely proud of my culture and my people,” she said at the event. “It is heartbreaking to see my people go through such a difficult time.”

The memorial, which lasted about 45 minutes, gave students and faculty an opportunity to share their thoughts about the Sri Lanka attack as well as their opinions on moving forward from the tragedy.

Commemorative events in the wake of tragedies, like the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting Oct. 2018 or the New Zealand mosque shooting March, have been held at Chapman, as they serve “people who are hurting or for those who want to show solidarity,” Stearns said to The Panther.

The Pittsburgh memorial was attended by dozens of students and at least 50 students attended to honor those killed in New Zealand.

But Weerasekera told The Panther that she wished people would “show up for each other” in times of violence.

“They aren’t impacted by something like this personally, be there for the people who are,” Weerasekera was joined by her friend Elizabeth La Scalza, a sophomore sociology major, who she met in an anthropology class.

“We can’t be afraid to study these incidents like the Notre Dame fire are on social media for days and heavily covered by news outlets, La Scalza said.

“No one is talking about Sri Lanka,” she said.

Stearns told The Panther that she views commemorative events as a personal experience for the students who attend, but hopes that they will encourage public dialogue about global problems on campus.

“Everyone is in an anthropology class. Weerasekera’s parents immigrated to the United States from Sri Lanka shortly before she was born. Stearns said that the sheriff’s department is not aware of any additional threats to the community.”

“(I) cannot wrap my head around something like this can happen, let alone so close to my hometown,” Azoulai wrote.

“Nobody should be scared to go to their place of worship or express their religion, but these hate crimes have made it nearly impossible.”

In an April 27 press release, Gore said that he was “devastated” to hear about the shooting. The Chabad of Poway synagogue is located about 20 minutes from Azoulai’s hometown, and she has friends from her area who attend the synagogue.

“I am sending love to everyone back home and will continue to grow stronger with my San Diego community and Jewish community at this time,” Azoulai wrote.
Orange City Council votes to enforce district elections

Carolina Valencia  | Staff Writer

The Orange City Council voted unanimously to move forward with district elections at a special meeting April 23. The vote came on the heels of a February lawsuit aimed at changing Orange’s at-large election method.

“We are taking the first step in terms of information and outlining the process,” said Mayor Pro Tempore Michael Alvarez at the meeting. The lawsuit, filed by lawyer Kevin Shenkman on behalf of Luis Ortiz-Franco, alleges that the city’s current at-large election method disenfranchises Latino voters and has “denied them effective political participation.”

The city now faces the decision of settling or fighting the lawsuit. Orange, which has citywide voting, will now be split into districts, meaning that each district’s residents will elect a city council member to represent them. The city council will start the process by finding a demographer company that will draw district lines based on population, Alvarez said.

That process began April 23, Alvarez told the Panther. Kevin Shenkman, the attorney who filed the lawsuit against the city, said he was surprised the resolution to change the election process passed April 23, as the city has not reached out to him about the legal proceedings of the lawsuit.

“It’s one thing to say we are going to switch to district elections and another to actually do it,” Shenkman told The Panther. “It’s completely different to do it the right way. There are a lot of ways districts can be drawn that wouldn’t solve the problem.

An example of a potential issue is gerrymandering, which is the manipulation of district lines to favor a certain outcome or group. It is most common at the state level, where districts are outlined to favor either a Democratic or a Republican candidate. This year, the Supreme Court will hear cases of gerrymandering in Maryland and North Carolina, according to Politico.

The city intends to draw district lines to see how districts might look if districts were established, each district would have a representative in Orange’s city council.

“City council has basically looked over until they actually hold a campaign for city council. Betty Valencia, who ran for city council in November 2018 and will run again against Russo for the open city council seat, said she would maintain citywide elections if elected.

Other Orange residents think district elections could be a positive change, as each district would have a council member elected by its residents.

“Each area should have someone they can count on. We all need someone to represent us,” said Carole Walters, an Orange resident, at the city council meeting April 23.

The lawsuit will be expensive, whether Orange chooses to settle or proceed, said Gary A. Sheatz, Orange’s city attorney. The city of Santa Monica fought a similar lawsuit in February against district elections and lost, with a judge ruling that the city had to begin by-district voting with a special election in June.

“(Santa Monica) was on the hook for $6.8 million,” Sheatz said at the meeting April 23. “The city decided to appeal, which will probably escalate the cost. The (costs for) cities that have settled it have ranged from $150,000 to over $1 million.”

Some people do not want the city of Orange to settle the lawsuit. “We have to take a stand as a city,” said a concerned citizen at the meeting. “I know there are cities that decided to roll over and not fight the good fight. Our election system isn’t broken and I don’t think we need to fix it.”

John Russo, who ran for mayor in November 2018, said that district elections have been brought up for the wrong reasons — he feels it could be divisive. Russo, who is running in an upcoming special election in November for an open city council seat, said he would maintain citywide elections if elected.

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Personality tests are increasingly popular. But how valid are they?

Olivia Harden | Features Editor

Junior film production major Jae Staten grew up at a time when it meant to identify as both black and gay. He is ready to share that journey May 16 at 7 p.m., with the Chapman community in his new film, “Dandelion.” The film is inspired by his life and created for his advanced production class, and will be screened at the Folino Theatre. The story will highlight a black, queer young man with struggle with his identity in a conservative environment.

“He’s finding (acceptance) in everybody else but himself,” Staten said. “It’s really tough to find this acceptance within yourself and learning how to love yourself.

‘Finding acceptance’: Student film promotes inclusivity

Olivia Harden | Features Editor

‘Finding acceptance’: Student film promotes inclusivity

Sierra DeWalt | Staff Writer

When freshman screenwriting major Sarah Bloom was going through the emotionally difficult years of middle school, she turned to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to learn more about herself and her personality.

“I got into it when I was 12 years old,” Bloom said. “When I was young and insecure, I could identify myself with this type that I both related to and admired, so it made me feel better about myself.”

The idea of using a personality test to accurately categorize people into 16 categories began in 1942, when Isabel Briggs Myers and her mother, Katharine Briggs, started developing an assessment to help people learn about themselves through their personality type.

After completing the test, each person is assigned four letters to explain their personality. Each letter represents one of two opposing personality types, making 16 total possible combinations. The options in letters are E (extraversion) or I (introversion), N (intuition) or S (sensing), F (feeling) or T (thinking) and J (judging) or P (perceiving).

“Like any good personality inventory (Myers-Briggs) has demonstrated reliability and validity,” said psychology professor David Pincus. “Any good psychological assessment instrument has to demonstrate reliability and validity.”

Despite the fact that the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator fits this criterion, that indicator can still be inaccurate, Pincus said.

“Personality is enormously complex,” he said. “To some extent, personality is always changing over time. (Tests like Myers-Briggs) try to use statistical techniques to simplify personality to make it look clearer and more stable than it really is.”

Test takers are given a detailed composition of their personality strengths and weaknesses, romantic relationships and friendships and information about career paths and workplace habits.

Despite the in-depth explanations, not everyone supports the test’s validity. Thomas Grebert, an undeclared freshman, has his suspicions.

“There’s so much more to people’s personalities than four letters,” Grebert said. “Depending on the situation, people might fall into different categories.”

When asked about his own personality result, ENFP, he said he only partially relates to the test’s interpretation.

“If I look into it, I can be like, ‘Oh yeah, that could be me,’ but at the same time, there’s not enough there to make me feel like, ‘That’s me,’ he said. More often than not, people feel that their type accurately reflects their personality, said Jeanne Walker, director of Chapman’s Student Psychological Counseling Services.

“I definitely will still use (Myers-Briggs) if (the test) comes to mind, with someone who is talking about, ‘Why am I so different? How come I can’t be so social?’” Walker said. The Myers-Briggs test is also used by workplaces to see how coworkers can cooperate and form successful teams. Businesses look to Myers-Briggs to see if it is one of the most used personality inventories in the world, according to Forbes.

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator was taught to Pincus and fellow psychology students as a workplace tool that is reliable and valid.

“(The test) was something we learned as part of our industrial organizational psychology. It wouldn’t be part of a clinical assessment,” Pincus said.

This differs from Walker’s experience. She believes that people use the indicator for personal reasons and that sparked it to become important to the workplace.

“Grebert said the indicator is more worthwhile when it is not connected to work.

“If you want to do it yourself rather than as a workplace thing, you are doing it because you want to do it,” he said. “If you’re doing it because you want to do it, you’ll pay more attention to the results and you’ll actually care about it.”

Bloom found that the Myers-Briggs test has helped her see herself in a new light. The test gave her a way to support her identity, but also her friends and family.

“I start noticing things more because of the test,” Bloom said. “Sometimes I’ll notice, ‘Oh, my friend is showing extroverted intuition,” which is when they’re coming up with fast ideas. “

Walker said the test can help students feel more comfortable with how their personalities work, because they can start finding answers to deep questions about their lives.

“You’re growing up in a place where now you’ve got to figure out, ‘How is it that I fit in this university? How do I fit in this world? What is it I want to do?’” Walker said. “All of that is part of just getting to be an adult. You keep learning as you grow.”

‘Dandelion’ sheds light on a black, queer man’s struggle with identity

MAX WEIRAUCH | Staff Photographer

Producer Dazhun Washington, left, and director Jae Staten, right, named their student film “Dandelion” after a shade of yellow to illustrate their desire to create a colorful world.

“Who’s behind the camera and who’s making the movie?” Rubin said. “We tell stories that we know. We tap into stories that we know.”

Senior screen acting major Arianna Ngonomire worked on the film as a casting director, and Staten and Ngonomire had a vision and wanted to “showcase people of color that generally aren’t shown at Dodge films,” she said. When casting the lead, Staten and Ngonomire chose 2018 screen acting alumnus Tommie Russell, who had a similar experience to Staten, as Russell also grew up in Texas.

“Tommie was just the perfect person. He’s another black gay male. We’ve all gone through something, so it was easy to talk to him and easy to relate.”

The film is expected to be around 10 minutes, Staten said. Rubin believes that the most important reason for the film industry to be more inclusive is to make minority groups feel visible.

“It validates the fact that you exist. When the people on the screen don’t look like you, don’t talk like you, don’t have your same set of life experiences, you feel that you’re left (out). You feel that you don’t matter,” Rubin said. “That’s why those stories are so important.”

‘Dandelion’ sheds light on a black, queer man’s struggle with identity

Photo illustration by CASSIDY KEOGA | Photo Editor

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator represents 16 possible personality types. The types all embody different characteristics. ESTJ, nicknamed the ‘executive,’ are known for being driven and organized, while INFPs, nicknamed the ‘mediator’ are known for being artistic and dreamy.
Kanye’s ‘Sunday Service’ creates more authentic festival experience

Chloe Pace | Contributor

On April 21, I stood in the warm, beaming, morning sunlight. It was 7 a.m. at the campgrounds in Indio, California. The day began and crowds gathered, surrounding a vibrant grassy hill in eager anticipation.

I’ve scrolled through videos of Kanye West leading a chanting gospel choir in a field somewhere unknown. West has conducted these private services frequently since January. Slumped on my couch, I wished so badly to zap through to the other side of the screen.

March 31, Coachella’s Twitter account tweeted, “Kanye West’s Sunday Service on Easter, Weekend 2.”

After 20 minutes of the 15-person band jamming out on that vibrant grassy hill, West walked to the center of the gathering. Were we still at Coachella? Swapping the chunky, black stage and high-quality visual and light systems for a stumpy grass hill behind the RV camping section helped create a scene of authenticity, as the power of West’s backing choir’s pure vocals were the focus of the show.

Each choir member wore long, tattered, dusty purple clothing that billowed in the warm morning breeze. The choir created layered circles around the band, all jamming to light jazz music, or as the shaggy-haired man behind me called it, “lit elevator music.”

As the show progressed, the intensity increased and slowly built up as the audience members’ hands began to lift. People pointed toward the clouds, fingertips trembling as they took in the powerful energy of the gospel choir’s dominant, harmonizing tones.

“Ultralight Beam’ is coming,” I said excitedly. But it wasn’t another hour until Chance the Rapper emerged and powerfully chanted his verse from “Ultralight Beam,” his clenched fist in the sky. It was a peak of the performance to hear Chance’s loud, clear voice radiating through the grassy meadow. The song felt so powerful in this moment, and the bellowing choir that accompanied him was bold and authentic.

Though often criticized for being selfish, West’s egotistical tendencies were left at the door during his performance. He shifted the focus toward the performance of the gospel choir. He was almost removed; the creator more than the star. But as the group covered song after song of West’s, I wished he had regained some of his selfishness and taken over the show. Hearing his songs covered live with him listening and not contributing was almost painful, despite the beauty and grace of the talented choir.

But West didn’t leave us hanging. A juxtaposition of old and new melted upon the crowd, as he rapped to “All Falls Down,” a 2004 song from his “The College Dropout” album. He also introduced a new track fitting of the service called “Water.” Embracing the reflections of gratitude and recognizing the beauty of our world, the service wasn’t religious. It didn’t feel forced. The crowd was connected by the music that energized us when we were younger. Concerts are common, but an Easter service conducted by Kanye West himself, open to the public, was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
Opioids cause more pain than they cure

While I was on my way to my formal last year, rapper Travis Scott dropped his single “Watch,” featuring Lil Uzi Vert and Kanye West. When I listened for the first time – and countless times after – one line stuck out to me: “Opioid addiction, pharmacy’s the real trap.” This line from Kanye’s verse is one of three in which the 21-time Grammy winner refers to his struggle with prescription opioids that began after a liposuction procedure in 2016.

Kanye equates the pharmaceutical industry to a trap house – a place where illegal drugs are sold. And in a lot of ways, he’s not wrong. Opioids like codeine, morphine and oxycodone are prescribed by doctors to treat pain, especially after surgeries, and rose to popularity during the 1990s. Soon after they were introduced, opioids became the most prescribed type of medicine in the nation. In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies assured doctors and patients that opioids weren’t addictive, which only increased the number of prescriptions, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. That statement couldn’t be further from the truth.

Now, the opioid crisis in the U.S. is the worst drug addiction epidemic in the nation’s history, according to Time Magazine. Nearly 64,000 Americans die from drug overdoses each year, and synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in those overdoses. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, in 2017, 47,000 of the 64,000 people died as a result of opioid overdoses. Many of these overdoses involved fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is not only prescribed by doctors, but is also made by drug cartels – who sell it plain and mix it with other illegal substances. A dose of fentanyl the size of just six to seven grains of salt – two milligrams – is enough to kill someone. Because such a small amount of fentanyl can get someone extremely high, mixing it with drugs like cocaine and methamphetamine is profitable for dealers.

With this crisis so well-documented, and with more than 130 people dying from an opioid overdose every day, why are doctors still prescribing them to their patients? Because they are paid to do so.

A 2015 study conducted by Harvard University researchers found that doctors who prescribed the most opioids to their patients received the most money from pharmaceutical companies. These companies are also known to have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to U.S. senators through political action committees. There are people who financially benefit from the deaths of thousands of Americans, yet no one has been found guilty of this.

I believe in the benefits of pharmaceutical medications. I don’t think that essential oils and crystals can cure pain. But I also don’t think it was necessary for my dentist to prescribe me a bottle of oxycodone pills after I had my wisdom teeth removed when Advil worked just fine.

There are scenarios in which strong painkillers like opioids are the best option for treatment, but that isn’t always the case. And when it is, the patients should be monitored closely by trained professionals, because around 21 to 29 percent of people who are prescribed opioids misuse them.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has started to make steps towards putting an end to this epidemic, by researching alternative pain treatments and promoting overdose-reversing drugs. But still, every day more than 130 families are devastated by the loss of a loved one.

No amount of money should be worth pushing drugs that have the capability of so easily ruining lives. The pharmaceutical industry should be held accountable for the damage they have caused.
It’s time to arm the good guy

Alex Harrington, senior political science major

As someone who also wants to study film production major, is about a young Afghan movie "Eat Pray Love." When a "good guy" with a gun is brought into the scene. These victims have to wait for the police because the officers are armed with handguns. The time between when a shooting starts and when a "good guy" with a gun is brought into the equation needs to be shortened to stop the "bad guy" as soon as possible. This wait time could be reduced if the police arrive at the scene. These victims have to wait for the police because the officers are armed with the right tools to stop an active shooter. These families want to be protected from their homes. They want to feel safe in their homes. They want to feel like they can go about their daily lives without fear of being targeted. This will make all the difference in the event of an active shooter. In 2015, an Uber driver with a sidearm opened fire on a crowded campus. The shooter was met with another firearm only moments after he began shooting, the only reported injuries were sustained by the shooter. No law will prevent all mass shootings, but allowing CCW holders to carry on campus will serve as a strong deterrence and an effective means of defense. Already, 12 states allow CCW holders to carry on campus and another 22 states allow individuals to decide whether to permit concealed carry. I would also like to see Chapman’s Public Safety armed, but I believe a much more effective policy.

We are sitting ducks. It’s time to arm students and faculty with the tools to successfully deter shooters and shorten the time between when a shooting starts and ends.
**Chapman alumnus helps lead men’s lacrosse team to success**

Nathanyal Leyba | Staff Writer

Andrew James (AJ) Rafter has always been committed. He’s carried this sentiment with him throughout his athletic career. “It’s a waste of time not to give your full effort in what you do... time is valuable and you can never get it back,” said Rafter, a 2014 alumnus.

Playing both football and lacrosse, Rafter saw the differences in both sports, and his love for lacrosse is the “name of the game.”

Growing up in Tustin, California, Rafter first began playing lacrosse in eighth grade at Hewes Middle School. When he graduated, he was given a choice: going to Tustin High School for football or Foothill High School for lacrosse. He loves football’s toughness and the grit it takes to play, but he also loves how he has more freedom in lacrosse. When it came down to it, Rafter had planned to attend Tustin High School, play football, while playing lacrosse with Foothill’s club team.

Rafter was ready to take on the challenge of playing two sports, but there was an issue: Foothill became a sanctioned California Interscholastic Federation team and Rafter couldn’t play without attending the school. Rafter was forced to stop playing competitive lacrosse.

“I wasn’t overly bummed. I had only played lacrosse for a year. There wasn’t anything I could do about it, so I just moved on,” Rafter said.

Tustin established a lacrosse team during Rafter’s freshman year, but after

Chapman, he felt like he was a strong athlete, but his body was shaped more for football rather than lacrosse. Regardless, Rafter continued to improve as time went on, playing all four years at Chapman and accumulating a total of 43 ground balls, 52 goals and 23 assists.

He played 78 games during his lacrosse career with the team. Graduating in 2014 with a bachelor’s in kinesiology, Rafter is now an assistant coach for the men’s lacrosse team he played on five years ago. He’s been coaching for two years and while he is 27, Parker Core, a senior finance major and midfielder, doesn’t see a setback when it comes to Rafter’s age.

“He came and established that authoritative figure, but he still helps us out because of his young mindset,” Core said. “He rides that fine line of being an authority figure, but also being mellow and being able to know how we feel. There’s no doubt that he can be fun, but when he says to do something, we understand.”

**Siginueza places 7th in 400-meter hurdles at conference championship**

Pri Jain | Staff Writer

Sophomore psychology major Gabi Siguenza didn’t break any significant records during her high school track career. But that changed in college, and Siguenza now holds the Chapman record for the 400-meter hurdle event. She’s even found herself breaking this record multiple times this season with a current school record time of 1:06.06.

During the track team’s tournament April 28, Siguenza clocked her 400-meter hurdle in at 1:07.42, placing seventh in the event at the Southern California Interscholastic Athletic Conference (SCIAAC).

“I want to keep rebreaking that record,” Siguenza said. “I also want to be able to score for my team and contribute to our team getting better as a whole, whether it be on relays or scoring at individual events.”

Siguenza helped bring home another school record at the championship meet this weekend. With a time of 4:08.29, the women’s 4-by-400-meter relay team – which consisted of Siguenza, sophomore Tish Tajii and freshmen Angelica Kolar and Carly Trent – also came in seventh place.

Though Siguenza’s performs well at an individual level, women’s track and field head coach DeAndrèe Woods said he is more focused on the team as a whole rather than individual achievements. “We don’t really bigh on individuals standing out, but all my athletes work really hard,” Woods said. “(Siguenza) truly understands that there is an opportunity for her to get better and help her team; she’s very competitive and that makes her stand out more.”

Siguenza said her parents, who both ran track in high school, are her biggest fans. “They love to hear about my track career here and they wish they could be at every meet,” Siguenza said. “They were super excited to hear when I ran the hurdles for the first time.”

At Chapman, Siguenza turns to Woods for support and guidance. “(The team’s) expectation is to come to practice, work hard and have fun. That’s how we have fun – by working hard,” Woods said. “We started at the bottom of the conference and now it’s time to do the best we can to climb up the ladder.”

Siguenza’s teammates look to her as a confident, talented athlete. Siguenza’s teammate, sophomore public relations and advertising major Maddie Jacobs, also has high regard for Siguenza’s achievements. “She’s grown as a person throughout her time and she’s definitely become a stronger leader,” Jacobs said. “That’s something that has really helped her confidence and helps her find her passion with hurdles. She keeps believing in herself more, which allows her to keep breaking all the records she’s been breaking.”

Woods said he is excited to see how Siguenza progresses from this point onward. The track team has two non-conference meets May 3 and May 11, before heading to the NCAA Division III championship May 23 in Geneva, Ohio.
After 8-game win streak, softball team aims for victory

Lucca Evans | Staff Writer

On game day, when the Chapman softball team is in the dugout, goals in fielding and hitting are displayed by one particular board. One player is assigned to monitor this board at each game. Their job? To add a smiley face next to the team’s completed goals and an “X” next to those unfulfilled.

“When you look at the board and you see a lot of Xs… it gives you three things that you can focus on throughout the inning, when maybe your mind is thinking about other things,” said senior pitcher and third baseman Samantha Whalen.

This board has become so important to the team that late in a tied game March 29 against the University of La Verne, the coaches grouped the players together in a huddle and gave them a simple message: to look at the goal board, which was littered with Xs.

“We try to do one thing better than the other team does,” said head coach Janet Lloyd. “(The game) was close… we scored seven runs in the ninth inning to beat them by seven runs.”

Whalen said she felt the team was unbeatable, noting that game as a turning point in the team’s season. “We were down, but there was never a point in the game where we thought that there was no way that we can’t score, however many runs we needed to come back and win,” Whalen said.

The March 29 ninth-inning scoring spurt is one example of a trend that’s comprised the Panthers: a late-inning takeover. After a slow start, the team ripped off a late-inning offensive spree.

Despite the competitive atmosphere at the tournament, Lewis said she felt “comfortable” when playing her final hole, that she batted her emotions. Since it was the last championship tournament of Lewis’ career, she said the “glowy” weather seemed to mirror her mood, serving as a melancholy backdrop for the day’s lively events. But she had her friends, parents, coaches and teammates cheering her on.

“When I got to hole 18, there were about 30 to 50 people watching me on the green,” Lewis said. “They were all yelling for me and they were the loudest people out there. That made the experience extra special.”

Fueled by their encouragement, Lewis, a business administration and accounting major, scored a six-over 78. She finds out May 6 if she will progress to nationals.

The team’s head coach Ming Lao said that Lewis “played like a hero.” Sophomore business administration major Lauren Settle attributed Lewis’ performance to her laser-focused attention attitude.

“She’s very serious on the golf course. She wants to win,” Settle said.

A light-hearted yet goal-focused mentality and propensity for comebacks has the team’s confidence at a high, Whalen said. It’s coincided with a run of success: over the most recent 14 games, the team sports a record of 11-3. The Panthers rank as No. 3 seed in the conference with an overall record of 18-10 — Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens seeded No. 1 and No. 2, respectively.

“There’s no way going in that we can’t beat anybody at this point,” Whalen said. “I have a lot of confidence going in that we can win. And we should win.”

Golf team finishes 4th at conference, Lewis looks toward nationals

Kayya Maran | Staff Writer

Chapman’s golf season came to an end April 19 at the Southern California Intercolligate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Championships with the women’s team finishing fourth and senior Emily Lewis tying for seventh place after three rounds at the Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena, California.

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Jack Clendening | Staff Photographer

Senior pitcher Samantha Whalen has appeared in 89 softball games in her four years at Chapman, with an earned run average of 3.70 in her college career.

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Gabriella Anderson | Staff Photographer

Senior Emily Lewis placed seventh at the conference championships April 19. With this accomplishment, she will find out May 6 if she is selected for nationals.
Rebeccah Glaser | Editor-in-Chief

Speed is in DeAndra’ e Woods’ blood. His brother ran. His sister ran. So did his mother. His great-uncle too. So when Woods, at age four, joined the MLK Blasters track and field club team in his hometown of San Diego, California, the rhythm of the sport came easily. “I fell in love with coming around the turn,” Woods said. “Even coming around the turn in first, that anxiety or feeling that excitement that takes over … it’s pretty cool.”

Woods is stocky and muscular; he looks like a powerhouse. His body seems to hum with a pent-up, staccato energy that seems to threaten to burst out at any second. Before Woods became head coach of Chapman’s track and field team in 2017, he danced from sport to sport, eventually landing back at track in high school.

After Woods broke away from track and field he tried his hand at baseball. A little football too — but nothing stuck for long. In the early 2000s as a student at Steele Canyon High School in Spring Valley, California, Woods wound up back on the track — he liked the victory of it and the fact that whatever you put in, you got out. In the 100-meter dash during high school, Woods’ time averaged at just over 11.5 seconds.

“When it’s only a team sport, you can work really, really hard … but you may not be a starter. Or you may not be the one that gets a chance to make the game-winning catch,” Woods said. “The cards don’t always align like that.”

As he ran, he realized this was what he might want to pursue as a career. But “this” didn’t end up being track. It was coaching.

Majoring in kinesiology at California State University, Fullerton, Woods served as team captain from 2010 to 2012. In 2010, he cut his time for the 100-meter sprint to his a personal best of 10.88 seconds. After a stint assistant coaching at Concordia University, Irvine, Woods landed at Chapman, where he’s brought the track and field team to record-setting heights. Cal State Fullerton is Division I and Concordia is Division II — so bringing his expertise and professional expectations to Chapman’s Division III sports program was, as Woods puts it, “difficult.” But Woods doesn’t see his expectations as high. To him, it’s just doing things the right way.

“This is a commitment, regardless of the division,” Woods said. “All athletes are athletes.”

And for Woods and his athletes, having a “Division I attitude” on a Division III campus is starting to get the team results. At the Ben Brown Invitational March 9, sophomore Gabi Sigueneza broke a school record in the 400-meter hurdles, coming in at 1:07.96. She broke it again by a second and a half the following week. One rising freshman track star Arabella Reece ran 17:42.62 in the 5000-meter race, beating a school record established in 1988 by a little less than 12 seconds.

“We had electrical performances,” Woods said.

Sophomore Aki Shigeyama, who hit a personal best of 51.87 seconds in the 400-meter at the March 9 meet and knocked it down to 50.27 at a March 30 conference multi-duals meet, said he knows Woods as a players-first coach. Shigeyama joined the team as a freshman with no prior track experience. “When I first met Coach Woods, I knew he was going to be all in,” Shigeyama said.

And Woods is not in coaching for the glory of it. He’s in it for his players. “When you’re able to push them to the limit and they get better and you see their excitement, you see how pumped up they get, that changes for you,” Woods said.