

# neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

## ORANGE COUNTY'S FIRST COLLEGIATE MARIACHI ENSEMBLE GIVES MUSIC STUDENTS A NEW WAY TO BE HEARD

Mariachi is a beloved musical tradition, the cheerful music that marks celebrations ranging from birthdays to weddings throughout Mexico and the American Southwest.

But for Chapman University students Erandi Sanchez '22 and Lino Sanchez '25, it is also family, life and heritage. In addition to their classical music training, the sister and brother have studied and performed the traditional folk music since childhood, grateful to continue a beloved tradition from their culture.

"When I play mariachi it's a completely different feeling from when I play classical music or jazz. I have some deep emotional connection to it," Erandi Sanchez says.

For Lino Sanchez, "Playing it fills me with a sense of honor ... It makes me proud, it makes me happy."

Now that passion is helping shape a new student performance ensemble in Chapman's College of Performing Arts. The group performs under the name Mariachi Panteras, a nod to Chapman's venerable Pete the Panther mascot, and is Orange County's first collegiate mariachi ensemble. They debuted in May at Heartbeat of Mexico.

"The students are very proud to see their cultural heritage reflected in the music curriculum and to also create an inclusive space for students," says Assistant Professor Tammy S. Yi, a violinist, strings specialist and orchestra conductor who teaches music education and is a finalist for the 2022 GRAMMY Music Educator Award.

Indeed, Yi envisions the ensemble as a way to help grow campus diversity. Through a partnership with the mariachi program at Santa Ana High School, she occasionally lectures there and their instructor assists with the Chapman class. "This is all part of a bigger goal. I want Santa Ana High School mariachi



*Mariachi Panteras performs in Attallah Piazza. The ensemble experience supports career goals for music education majors. High schools across the Southwest are keen to grow their programs, especially in states like Texas, where mariachi competitions are as competitive as Friday night football.*

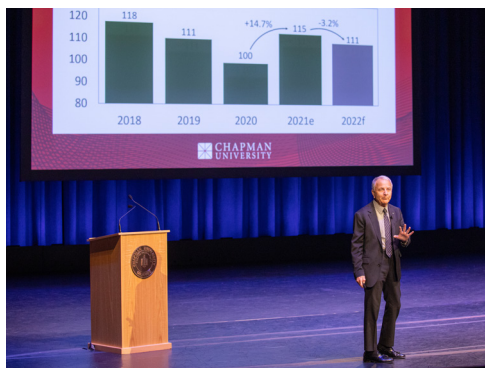
students and Chicax students to see themselves at Chapman and to continue playing mariachi," Yi says. "I love the fact that we can build community with mariachi."

"It's important that students of color and those who come from immigrant families feel seen, valued and have their traditions recognized. For students who may not come from a mariachi background, they still benefit from learning about the rich culture of Mexico," she says.

## ECONOMY WILL GROW, BUT INFLATION IS STICKING AROUND AND RECESSION IS LIKELY, CHAPMAN ECONOMISTS SAY

Chapman University economists delivered a mixed-bag economic outlook for the coming year, predicting growth and job gains, but also rising inflation and a potential recession in 2023.

"We see inflation being very persistent and stubbornly high ... Structural inflation is tough to beat," Chapman economist and President Emeritus Jim Doti said in the annual Economist Forecast presentation on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Noting historical patterns, Doti added, "Generally, you can only beat it with a recession."



*Chapman Economist and President Emeritus Jim Doti explains the benefit of trade on California's economy during his presentation of the annual Economic Forecast at Musco Center for the Arts.*

On the plus side, the forecasters see real GDP growth of 4.4 percent in 2022 and continuing improvements in job numbers, especially in California where they forecasted a 4.2% increase in employment – although that is still about 300,000 below pre-COVID highs.

In response to inflation, the Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates, a turn that Chapman forecasters say will lower home values.

"As mortgage rates are forecasted to rise from 3% to 3.9% in 2022, housing prices are forecasted to decline about 4% by year-end," they wrote in their full report.

Despite supply chain issues, California is benefiting from the billions of dollars in import trade coming through its ports, especially from Pacific Rim countries. Imports from China alone increased 19% from September 2020 to September 2021.

In this year's analysis, Orange County fell to No. 13 out of the top 50 innovation hubs across the country. The reasons for that are still uncertain but will be a research focus for the economists, Doti said. The attention is important because the average annual wage in innovation industries is \$125,000, compared to a \$66,000 average for all other Orange County jobs.

### Did You Know?

Luke Nichter, Ph.D., has been appointed to the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). "It's not just about the historic sites themselves. We're in the people business; what we're about is preserving people's stories, people's history, their heritage," says Nichter, who holds the newly created James H. Cavanaugh Endowed Chair in Presidential Studies at Chapman. Nichter has also been appointed to the board of the Old Towne Preservation association, which aims to to preserve, protect and enhance Old Towne Orange.

#### Need to report a concern?

- Contact Chapman University's Office of Community Relations at (714) 289-2097 or email [neighbors@chapman.edu](mailto:neighbors@chapman.edu).
- To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Join us for these engaging events at Chapman

There are many terrific Chapman University in-person and virtual events, and neighbors are always welcome. Here are just a few. Find more at the University's online events calendar, [Chapman.edu/events](https://Chapman.edu/events). Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at [Chapman.edu/tickets](https://Chapman.edu/tickets).

### Town & Gown Lunch at the Forum (Virtual)

Town & Gown is proud to present its 28th season of Lunch at the Forum, featuring Chapman University's outstanding faculty members and academic leaders speaking on their research, studies, and experiences.

Feb. 3 – California's Wetlands: Scary Swamps or Beneficial Ecosystems?

March 3 – Concussion: What Is It, What Happens After and What Can You Do?

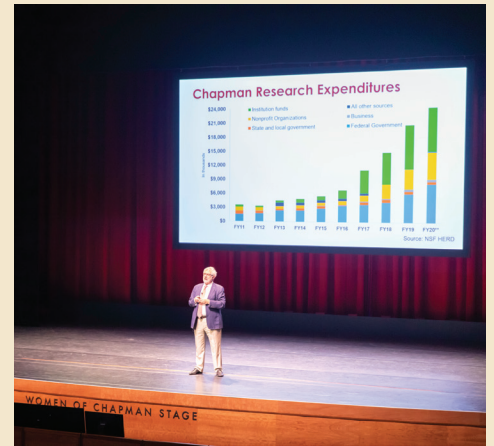
More info: [Chapman.edu/tglatf](https://Chapman.edu/tglatf)

### State of the University (Virtual)

February 11, 11 a.m.

Join us online to watch the presentation and learn about Chapman's progress and successes over the last year as well as our plans for 2022.

More info: [Chapman.edu/SOTU](https://Chapman.edu/SOTU)



*Recognizing the possible impact of COVID-19 on events, Chapman University is closely monitoring the status of COVID-19 and the new variant in conjunction with consulting scientists and state and local officials. Please visit the website provided for each event as well as [cusafelyback.chapman.edu](https://cusafelyback.chapman.edu) for up-to-date information about events and COVID-19 guidelines.*



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Find more news at  
[NeighborsofChapman.com](https://NeighborsofChapman.com)

## CHAPMAN STUDENTS GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

### Holiday Festivities in Orange

Students from Chapman's Student Government Association manned a booth at December's Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Orange Plaza, with crafts for the kids, glow in the dark necklaces and a giveaway featuring four pairs of tickets to upcoming shows at the Musco Center.

"I was very excited to get out there to see the tree light up and connect with our friends and neighbors in Orange," said James Gerrard, Community Relations Manager.

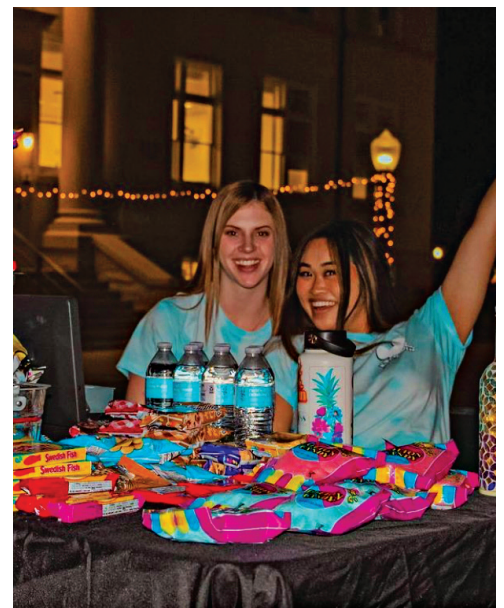


### ΑΓΔ Raises Funds for Meals on Wheels

Chapman's Greek community recently raised \$18,643 for Meals on Wheels at the Alpha Gam Movie Awards, during which campus organizations make their own renditions of movies that are screened on Burt Williams Mall and ranked by a group of judges.

"In the U.S. there are more than 38 million people who are food insecure, and the pandemic has made this worse," says Jessica Gibbons, VP of Philanthropy for Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. "Volunteering and raising money for these organizations is an important step in making sure all of these people have access to the food they deserve!"

Chapman strives to maintain contact and develop ongoing relationships with non-profit and public service agencies in our community. Non-profits – find out how to become a community partner by contacting Justin Koppleman at [jkoppel@chapman.edu](mailto:jkoppel@chapman.edu).



More inside!