

# neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

## CHAPMAN HOSTS CITY OF ORANGE LEADERS FOR MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

On October 7, City of Orange leaders gathered in Chapman's Musco Center for the Arts for Mayor Mark A. Murphy's annual State of the City address, presented by the Orange Chamber of Commerce. The event opened with an invocation by Pastor Ric Olsen of Beacon Church, the pledge of allegiance led by Orange Chief of Police Dan Adams and the National Anthem sung by the Wimberley Bluegrass Band.

Before the mayor's address, university President Daniele C. Struppa spoke on behalf of Chapman, the event's presenting sponsor, highlighting the many collaborations between the university and the City of Orange in the past year.

"We love being in Orange," said President Struppa. "Those of you who are parents or students may know that one of the things I always advise is that Chapman is a great university, but one of the reasons you should come here is because Orange is a beautiful city and a safe place."

A number of awards were presented during the afternoon, including:

- Nonprofit Organization of the Year: Youth Centers of Orange
- Citizen of the Year – Moira Singer
- Large Business of the Year – Providence St. Joseph's Hospital and Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC)
- Small Business of the Year – PayRunner Payroll
- Corporate Citizen of the Year – Manu Shah of MSI, Inc.

In his speech, which is available for viewing on the Chamber's Facebook page and cable access TV, Mayor Murphy discussed issues such as the future of the



During the annual State of the City event, Chapman University President Daniele Struppa talked about Chapman's long partnership with the City of Orange. (Photo courtesy Orange Chamber of Commerce)

Paseo, housing projects, transportation improvements, the new Fire Station One complex, the growth of the Orange Police Department, and other community services.

"We are very honored to host this important community event," said Alisa Driscoll, Chapman's vice president of community relations. Driscoll will also serve as the next chair of the Chamber of Commerce and was committee chair for the State of the City event. "The partnership between Chapman and the city has a long and vital history, and it will just get stronger as we continue to grow together."

## BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH OFFERS GAME-CHANGING POTENTIAL FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

"We can now predict 100% of food crashes and recoveries three to six months ahead of time. This is going to save lives," said Chapman University Presidential Fellow Joshua B. Fisher.

In a paper published Sept. 29 in the highly respected journal Nature Sustainability, Fisher and three other investigators detail how their breakthrough research model predicted every global food security crisis within record at least three months in advance. What's more, they accurately predicted the length and magnitude of each food crisis.

Going forward, the scientific advance may allow nations, the UN and humanitarian aid organizations to more efficiently direct resources to areas of drought and famine before those regions tip into full-blown crisis.



Chapman ecosystem scientist Joshua B. Fisher and research colleagues have produced results that predicted every global food security crisis within record at least three months in advance.

Existing predictive systems fail to anticipate many crises, resulting in loss of lives and resources, the researchers said. Droughts are the source of two-thirds of those misses.

The researchers' model is called SMART, for Soil Moisture Auto-Regressive Threshold. They achieved their key breakthrough by applying a tool of climate change science called Tipping Point Theory to clarify satellite data that measures the moisture content of soil. Other factors are represented in the model as well, including the price of grain, but they are ancillary contributors, Fisher said.

Reliable early-warning data are a driver of funding for humanitarian response to food security crises, said lead author Krishna Krishnamurthy, who works for the UN World Food Programme as an anticipatory action and planning coordinator.

"Donors don't always want to invest in a setting of uncertainty," he said. "But if we can show that we're getting really high levels of accuracy in our model, that will improve the confidence in the data and in the recommendation to act. Investing in early action and not just after the fact is critical."

It takes about four to eight weeks to mount an emergency response to a food security crisis, Krishnamurthy said. So the chance to prepare for a famine three to six months in advance rather than reacting as many as eight weeks after

systems have tipped into crisis is an exciting prospect, according to the paper.

Since their paper was published, they have received outreach from a number of actors who support humanitarian interventions, including the World Bank, "which is quite encouraging," Fisher say.

### Did You Know?

December marks the 45th anniversary of Chapman University's Economic Forecast, lauded as one of the first and most accurate forecasts in the nation. Business people and investors on local and national levels, from Main Street to Wall Street, faithfully watch the reports each year for economic insights. Chapman's economists, led by President Emeritus James L. Doti, have helped guide and fortify Southern California's business communities for decades. For more information, and for details about this year's presentation on December 13, visit [Chapman.edu/EconomicForecast](http://Chapman.edu/EconomicForecast).

#### 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).

### 58th Annual Holiday Wassail Concert

Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.  
Musco Center for the Arts

The beloved Chapman tradition returns to Musco Center! Join us for a magnificent concert of holiday season favorites performed by the Chapman University Singers, University Choir and Treble Choir along with music performed by The Chapman Orchestra. General admission: \$25.

### Men's Basketball vs. UC Santa Cruz

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2 p.m.  
Hutton Sports Center

Basketball season is underway! Come cheer on our student athletes as they make a run for the SCIAC championship. To see the full season schedule for both men's and women's teams, visit [Chapmanathletics.com](https://Chapmanathletics.com).

### Nochebuena: Christmas Eve in Mexico

Thursday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Musco Center for the Arts

Christmas traditions in Mexico vary from region to region and are a blend of Indigenous culture, Spanish heritage and many other influences. This spectacular concert features a dazzling cast of musicians and dancers presenting traditions, costumes and customs that people in Mexico celebrate during the festive season. Tickets start at \$25.

Before attending any in-person event, please visit [custayinghealthy.chapman.edu](https://custayinghealthy.chapman.edu) for up-to-date information about our COVID-19 status and event guidelines.



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## ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION HONORS CHAPMAN STEMtors

On Sunday, September 25, Schmid faculty and the STEMtors were honored by the Orange Public Library Foundation (OPLF) for their work with the STEAM for Teens program at the Orange Public Library and History Center. The foundation expressed their gratitude for Chapman's willingness to share their expertise and resources with the community.

"Chapman University has been an integral part of implementing the STEAM for Teens and Tweens program at the Orange Public Library," says Lynn-Marie Frediani, the foundation's executive director. "Chapman Professors and STEMtors have provided hands-on programming, outreach and mentorship in STEAM workshops. Their contribution to STEAM education has exposed the youth of Orange to college-level classes, equipment and STEAM careers."

STEMtors, which was founded by Vidal Arroyo '19, Chapman's first Rhodes Scholar, is a campus club that conducts science programs for middle school and high school students in at-risk neighborhoods.

"I became enthralled with the STEMtors' purpose in my first semester here," says Rachel Berns '24, a health sciences major, "because there are so many systemic barriers between students and STEM. Every student deserves to be able to pursue the sciences with equitable access."

After the club hit a bit of a hiatus during the pandemic, Berns is excited to bring STEMtors back to life and continue opening doors for young aspiring scientists in the Orange community.



*Chapman faculty and student STEMtors were honored by the Orange Public Library Foundation for their efforts supporting the library's STEAM for Teens and Tweens program.*

More inside!