

neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

CHAPMAN LENDS A HAND AT THE WOODEN FLOOR

Chapman University’s relationship with its community is on display at The Wooden Floor, a local nonprofit that transforms the lives of young people from low-income neighborhoods through the power of dance and access to higher education.

As children danced in the Santa Ana studio one afternoon, Chapman alumna Alix Portillo watched closely. Not so long ago, she was a student at The Wooden Floor before earning acceptance to Chapman and graduating with a degree in business in 2015. Today, she works in banking as a compliance specialist and serves on The Wooden Floor’s board of directors as the organization’s first alumni representative.

“When I was younger, I lacked a lot of confidence. Being around people who were supportive was a boost,” she said. “It felt like a second home.”

Portillo is one of many Chapman connections to The Wooden Floor. Jennifer Bassage Bonfil ’02 leads young students as a dance education and curriculum specialist. Other alumni serve in the administrative offices – Tianna Haradon ’01 as director of annual giving, and Derek Bruner ’08 as director of strategic initiatives. Chapman undergraduates work in the tutoring center, and graduate students from Crean College’s Marriage and Family Therapy program conduct a variety of workshops for the dancers and their families.

Since its founding in 1983, The Wooden Floor has enhanced the lives of more than 90,000 low-income boys and girls and their families. And since 2005, all seniors have graduated high school on time and immediately pursued higher education, some of them at Chapman.

All the relationships and collaborations with Chapman are no coincidence, said Dawn Reese, the organization’s CEO.



Chapman alumna Alix Portillo, once a student at The Wooden Floor, now serves on its board of directors.

“There’s this thread that goes through all of the Chapman people we see here. It goes back to that global citizen idea that the University has about developing great citizens for the community,” Reese said. “They are an extension of our values here.”

CHAPMAN’S OC SURVEY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR LOCAL TRANSIT

While Orange County remains car-centric, the door may be opening to mass transit as long as it directly serves county residents. That’s one of the many relevant findings in the latest Chapman University Orange County Annual Survey released during the University’s fifth annual Public Policy Conference, this year titled The Future of Transportation.

The survey found that residents support mass transit, as long as new projects address local traffic issues. There is majority support for the OC Streetcar light rail line connecting Santa Ana and Garden Grove that is scheduled for completion in late 2021, as well as for a possible rail connection between Orange County and Los Angeles International Airport. But most respondents don’t support California’s \$77 billion high-speed rail project, known as the bullet train.

The Orange County Annual Survey takes the pulse of county residents on critical policy issues, and in its second year polled 704 county residents, with a focus on transit concerns. Yet despite frustration with traffic, residents are not likely to give up their automobiles soon.

“Seventy percent said that even if a more efficient public transportation system were available, they would still drive their cars to work,” said Fred Smoller, Ph.D., associate professor of political science and co-director of the survey. “Orange

County people like their cars and use their cars every day.”

Orange residents have the advantage of easy access to Metrolink, and the February opening of the Old Towne Orange Metrolink Parking Structure at 130 N. Lemon St. eases local parking congestion by creating 608 spaces to replace a 172-space lot.

In addition, more than 100 spaces are available free to people visiting local shops and restaurants on weekdays, and the entire garage is available to visitors on weekends, when the other 500 spots are

not reserved for transit riders. No student parking is allowed in the structure.

When students move into the new Chapman residential village at Cypress Street and Palm Avenue this fall, any students with cars will be required to park in Chapman’s West Campus structure at 230 N. Cypress St. (The University offered courtesy parking to the public in that structure during construction of the Metrolink Parking Structure as well as in the nearby Palm Lot, but that has now ended.) Chapman students, faculty and staff are prohibited from parking on city streets surrounding campus, except for on the curb bordering the University.



Orange County residents support the OC Streetcar project, but not California’s high-cost bullet train./Courtesy of OCTA

Did You Know?

One in every six students admitted to Chapman for fall 2019 would be among the first generation in their family to graduate from college.

Need to report a concern?

- Contact Chapman University’s Office of Community Relations at **(714) 289-2097** or email 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 events, and neighbors are always welcome. Here are just a few. Find more at the University's online events calendar, www.chapman.edu/events. Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at www.chapman.edu/tickets.

Heartbeat of Mexico

Sunday, May 26, 12 p.m.- 6 p.m.
Aitken Arts Plaza

A free outdoor festival on the plaza in front of Musco Center for the Arts featuring an array of family-friendly music, art, food and dance is the finale of a three-day celebration of Mexican and Mexican American Culture. Other weekend events include a free ballet folklórico performance Saturday at noon in Chapman's Memorial Hall. Free.

Choral Camp Concert

Friday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.
Musco Center for the Arts

Under the direction of Chapman alumnus Keith Hancock, the 2017 Grammy Music Educator of the Year, the University's annual Choral Music Camp for high school students concludes with a performance in the beautiful 1,044-seat Musco Center. The mixed choir, women's choir and men's choir will perform a varied repertoire. Free.

3rd of July Celebration

Wednesday, July 3, 4 p.m.
Grijalva Park

Chapman reminds its neighbors that the traditional City of Orange 3rd of July Celebration and Fireworks Spectacular will move to Grijalva Park at 368 N. Prospect Ave. this year. The celebration starts at 4 p.m. and features live music, a petting zoo, pony rides, children's activities, food booths and, of course, fireworks. \$7; free for children 2 and younger.



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CHAPMAN'S ALISA DRISCOLL AMONG WOMEN OF YEAR

Congressman Lou Correa came to Chapman's George Bush Conference Center in March to honor more than 100 remarkable women for their contributions to the 46th Congressional District he serves.

Alisa Driscoll, a familiar face and friendly liaison between the University and the local neighborhood in Chapman's Office of Community Relations since 2016, was among the University alumni and employees recognized as 2019 Women of the Year in front of an overflow crowd.

Driscoll assists Jack Raubolt, Chapman's vice president for community relations, as communications and operations manager. She recently earned a master's in leadership development from Attallah College of Educational Studies, and is co-chair of Chapman's Advisory Group on the Status of Women, a committee that works to promote diversity and inclusion with such events as

International Women's Day on campus. Driscoll also was selected 2018 Volunteer of the Year by Friendly Center, a local family resource nonprofit.

"Alisa is a hard worker who participates in many ways, from helping with to leading projects and events," Raubolt said. "She always has a smile and a kind word for everyone."

Other Chapman women honored included:

- * Alumna Antoinette Balta '03 (JD '06, LL.M. '11), president and co-founder of the Veterans Legal Institute.
- * Employee and alumna Laura Gorospe '05, business manager of the School of Pharmacy.
- * Alumna and adjunct professor Monica Shukla-Belmontes '06, '07 (Ph.D. '15).
- * Graduate student Beatriz "Betty" Valencia (Ph.D. '20) who is pursuing a doctorate in leadership studies.



Alisa Driscoll of Chapman's Office of Community Relations is greeted by Rep. Lou Correa.

More inside!