

neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

ORANGE HIGH STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON FARM-TO-TABLE EXPERIENCE

During the spring and summer 2019, Chapman's Agriculture Outreach Program provided hands-on farming experience to eight Orange High School (OHS) students from the Special Education Department. Incorporating interactive lessons and field trips, the program allows students with learning disabilities to grow vegetables from seeds and serve them in their school after harvest.

"My students truly benefited from this experience as many of them did not fully understand where their food comes from and how it is grown and harvested. It was also exciting to see how willing they were to eat new vegetables that they previously had not tried or were otherwise unwilling to eat," said Daiman Paez, the special education teacher from OHS.

It all started with a fun class activity in April. After a brief PowerPoint lecture, students were asked to match the plant pictures from the lecture with actual seedlings in trays. The activity was followed by planting seeds from nine vegetables in trays filled with potting soil.

Next was a field trip to South Coast Research & Extension Center in Irvine, CA. Two weeks after planting the seeds, the students transplanted the germinated seedlings into the field and hand-watered them.

"Being out of the classroom was an enjoyable experience for these students," said Dr. Hagop Atamian, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Chapman and Head of the Agriculture Outreach Program. "They didn't mind getting their hands dirty. I could feel their enthusiasm as they ran up and down the field with seedlings in their hands."

Towards the end of the academic year, they held their second field trip to harvest the fruits of their labor. This was the most exciting part of the program for the students. Some of them were overly excited to see the barren piece of land filled with lush greenery.



A student from Orange High School proudly shows off the vegetables he harvested as part of Chapman's Agricultural Outreach Program.

"It was really great seeing their faces every time they dug up a potato, pulled up a beet, and harvested zucchini or green beans and with a big smile saying: 'look what I grew,'" said Paez.

Dr. Atamian plans to continue the program next year with funding from his National Science Foundation grant. He hopes to expand the program to include other schools in the community.

"It was a very rewarding experience to reach out and interact with the students," said Atamian. "I was amazed by how engaged they were in the different activities and more importantly how appreciative they were of the experiences the program provided."

3D PRINTERS BRING HALLOWEEN COSTUMES TO LIFE FOR LOCAL TRICK-OR-TREATERS

Just a few days before Halloween, students in Chapman University's new class, "Topics in Computer Science: 3D Printing and Design," gathered to present the costumes they'd spent hundreds of hours creating. The first major project for the class (after assembling their printers) was to design and print Halloween costumes for Higher Ground, a nonprofit dedicated to mentoring youth in underserved communities.

Printing Halloween costumes was an ideal way for Chapman students to start designing—and to show kids how cool engineering can be.



Students from Higher Ground dressed up as their favorite superheroes with custom made accessories that included light-up masks and gauntlets.

The class met with youth to ask what they wanted to be for Halloween. They came up with a range of ideas, from "Guardians of the Galaxy" hero Star-Lord to a character from a popular anime show to the creepy Anabelle doll from "The Conjuring."

Biological sciences major Sanika Pandit says, "That was a big challenge. We had to interpret what components of the costume to print ourselves and ask, 'How do you make something that is wearable and not clunky or heavy, but also functional?'"

All told, students spent hundreds of hours designing, printing and assembling their costumes. Nothing came out perfectly on the first try, so the project benefited from material donations. Matterhackers donated filament and Adafruit provided the electronics that helped students add key details, such as the red lights around Star-Lord's eyes.

Kaitlyn and her project partner, Brandon, presented their Gauntlet to a grade school student who tried it on, moved the fingers, and watched as the

jewels on the knuckles lit up. The youth of Higher Ground talked about how they couldn't wait to show off their costumes and go trick-or-treating. Holding his Star-Lord helmet, Juan Jimenez says, "It's cool that they built this with computers."

Did You Know?

Winterfest may be over, but you can still enjoy the beautiful holiday lights on display through Christmas. Take an evening stroll through Attallah Piazza to see Doy's Holiday Tree, a magnificent blue spruce decked out in the season's finest. And you won't want to miss Dee the Panther (lit up with 5,000 LED lights) prowling across Beckman Hall!

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.

56th Annual Holiday Wassail Concert

Friday, Dec. 6 & Saturday,
Dec. 7, 8–10 p.m.
Musco Center Main Stage

The beloved Chapman tradition returns! Join us for a magnificent concert of holiday season favorites performed by the Chapman University Singers, University Choir and Women's Choir, and The Chapman Orchestra. \$15-25.

Nochebuena: Christmas Eve in Mexico

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Musco Center Auditorium

Celebrate the holidays Mexican-style with this colorful evening of music and dance featuring two of L.A.'s most acclaimed performance ensembles: Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles (BFLA) and Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar. \$25-58.

A Southern California Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec 15, 4 p.m.
Musco Center Auditorium

Join us as more than 150 performers from across Southern California bring you a holiday spectacular packed full of your favorite carols. From the triumphal tones of a brass fanfare to the thrilling sound of a chorus in full voice on top of the sugarplum dreams woven by dancers' feet, there's something for all ages in this merry delight. \$25-58.



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READING PROMISE FESTIVAL SHARES THE MAGIC OF READING

On Sunday, Sept. 29th, hundreds of families gathered to experience the magic of books. The Reading Promise reading festival, hosted by the Orange Elks with support of the Orange Public Library Foundation, invited families from nine Title I schools in the Orange Unified School District to participate in free activities designed to encourage a love of reading.

This inclusive and interactive environment offered numerous activities to the children, including decorating bookmarks, face painting, photo booths and stories told by favorite characters. In keeping with the theme "Reading is Magic," there were multiple showings of a magic show for families to enjoy.

The highlight of the event was the distribution of free backpacks filled with books for each of the children in attendance. Over 400 backpacks and books were given away, a record amount for

the event, which is in its fifth year. While many kids take such items for granted, the families at Reading Promise were ecstatic to receive these and expressed sincere thanks.

Volunteers included those from the Orange Elks, the Orange Public Library Foundation, and Chapman's Office of Community Relations as well as Chapman University students and other local community members. The Orange Elks are overjoyed with the outcome of Reading Promise 2019 and are looking forward to planning next year's Reading Promise.



Hundreds of families enjoyed games and activities designed to promote a love of reading at the free Reading Promise event sponsored by the Orange Elks.

More inside! 