Changes coming to Neighborhood Advisory Committee

At the February meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC), Chapman University unveiled a new membership structure and meeting schedule for the advisory group.

Membership will now include residents from East Orange and the northeastern residential area by the Chapman University campus. Representation from the Old Towne Preservation Association, the Orange Barrio Historical Society, City of Orange, students, and members-at-large from the business community will continue.

Jack Raubolt, vice president of community relations will chair the committee moving forward with Dean Jerry Price and Chief Randy Burba serving as committee members. Other University officials will be invited to meetings to provide expertise as needed or requested.

The meetings will be reduced from monthly to quarterly. A smaller advisory council will meet regularly with Mr. Raubolt and help set agenda topics for the quarterly NAC meetings.

The changes come on the heels of a productive year for the NAC, whose members strongly advocated for a revised City of Orange disturbance ordinance, which city officials say has been a useful tool in cutting down on unruly parties. The NAC was also instrumental in helping the University to step up its efforts to plan and build more student housing and expand a variety of community outreach programs. Especially valuable were the frank conversations about sometimes difficult issues that the NAC tackled, said Daniele Struppa, president of Chapman University.

“I really want to thank you for all you’ve done over the last several months,” President Struppa said. “This committee accomplished quite a bit. As president, you helped me understand some of the issues we face. One of the major things you’ve done is encouraged us in the acquisition of city-owned property adjacent to our current Panther Village residence hall. Your attention and insistence upon the need for additional student housing really made it happen.”

How an assignment in the neighborhood sparked learning and friendship in the classroom

Editor’s Note: Wilson Parnell ’17 graduates in May with a degree in Psychology (MA ’18). In the following he reflects on his recent experience teaching leadership skills to students at Orange High School.

By Wilson Parnell ’17

Being a Chapman student certainly has its perks. Personally, I’ve enjoyed playing intercollegiate water polo, meeting people from around the world and even being able to work in the Community Relations office!

One unique opportunity was provided this semester in a course called LEAD 380, Service in Action Practicum. In LEAD classes you learn by doing rather than listening to classroom lectures.

One of our first big projects assigned by our professor, Kim Hayashi, charged the class with creating, marketing, facilitating, and coordinating a day-long leadership conference for Orange High School students. The initial excitement from this daunting task soon faded as we all realized how difficult it is to not only teach leadership, but to also hold the attention of high school students. Soon, we centered our theme on, “Start Your Spark” and thus, preparation for our Leadership Conference was put into effect.

The days leading up to conference were stressful, but our class had prepared well. We created fun activities that prompted the high school students to think about their values, goals and actions with the idea of igniting a flame within each of them to strive for better. I ran a workshop on process and actions, which city officers say has been a useful tool in cutting down on unruly parties. The NAC was also instrumental in helping the University to step up its efforts to plan and build more student housing and expand a variety of community outreach programs. Especially valuable were the frank conversations about sometimes difficult issues that the NAC tackled, said Daniele Struppa, president of Chapman University.

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Did You Know?

Chapman University is busy creating plans for three new student housing projects that will house significantly more students. Upcoming fairly soon will be the Villa Park Orchard Residence Hall, plans for which are nearing the final review stage with the City of Orange. Meanwhile, conceptual drawings are in the works for new housing near Panther Village and replacement structures for the old low-density residence halls and apartments on the north side of campus. Stay tuned for updates?

Need to report a concern?

• Contact Chapman University at (714) 997-6763 or email neighbors@chapman.edu
• To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444
Tiki in Orange County
Now through Aug. 25
Leatherby Libraries
County of Orange archivist Chris Jepsen curates this guest exhibition showcasing the art, décor, music and local lore surrounding the Tiki phenomenon of mid-20th century America and its revival in popular culture today. Free and open to the public. Exhibit is located in the Frank Mt. Pleasant Library, fourth floor. Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Surviving the End of the World
Panel discussion, Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m.
Memorial Hall
A quirky zombie theme and panelists that include World War Z author Max Brooks, and The Walking Dead actor Sarah Wayne Callies, preparedness experts and scientists come together in an event that will explore why we love disaster movies but avoid preparing for real disasters. Admission is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m. Seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. For more information, visit chapman.edu/cu-survive.

Choral Camp for High School Singers
Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23
Chapman University
Under the direction of Keith Hancock, 2017 winner of the GRAMMY Music Educator of the Year, Chapman University's weeklong Choral Music Camp features mixed choir, women's choir and men's choir as well as small ensembles for students entering grades 9-12. Priority registration deadline is April 1, overnight applications are accepted until May 1, and commuter applications until June 1. For more information and to register, go to chapman.edu/copa/music/summercamp/.

Chapman opens long-awaited Cross-Cultural Center in hub of campus
After two years of planning, surveying students and revamping an office suite in a central campus location, Chapman University unveiled its Cross-Cultural Center last month.

Located on the third floor of Argyros Forum, the center features a central area designed for informal gatherings and socializing, flanked by a collection of unique meeting rooms highlighting different cultural identities through art and media displays. In addition, the center is open until midnight each day, offering students an additional social hub on campus.

But its function as a meeting place is just part of its mission, said Jerry Price, Ph.D., vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students.

“We believe this space will be the cornerstone for programs and experiences that will enhance student learning in several ways. We believe it will expose all students to diverse perspectives and identities,” Price said.

The kind of opportunities the center will provide can be profound, said President Daniele Struppa. In a personal reflection he recalled how his world view was changed when he arrived in the United States as a graduate student from Italy and for the first time in his life found himself in a community with cultural, religious and ethnic diversity.

“Within the first few months a new world was opened to me, a universe that I didn’t know existed,” he said.