STUDENTS, FACULTY 3D PRINT 3,000 FACE SHIELDS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

You’re washing your hands, staying at home as much as you can and wearing a mask when you must go out. But you can still feel helpless, especially when a family member is on the front lines, caring for COVID-19 patients. Schmid College student Alexandros Drivas ’21 and his younger brother, Matt, knew they had to do something to help after hearing stories from their mother, an emergency medicine physician assistant who works long hours at a hospital in Los Angeles County.

“Every day we hear about the battles she and her co-workers face, given COVID-19,” Drivas said. “We hear about the scarce levels of equipment her hospital and all other hospitals around the country [are facing].”

To protect their mother and other healthcare workers, the Drivas brothers started 3D printing face shields and distributing them to local Southern California hospitals. Their efforts are part of a larger mobilization by Chapman students and faculty. Using Chapman 3D printers set up in their homes, students and professors are printing several hundred shields per week and have now donated more than 3,000 shields to hospitals in Southern California and around the country. The shields are produced following strict guidelines to ensure sterility – including minimal handling that is only done with gloves and face shields – and the models have been vetted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Chapman is collaborating with Orange County-based MatterHackers – which builds and supplies 3D printing equipment – to coordinate distribution to local hospitals.

The face shields are part of vital protection healthcare workers need to stay safe as they treat patients.

Dear Neighbors,

Over four years ago, I returned to Chapman University to serve as the Vice President of Community Relations. I was tasked with creating an office where our neighbors could come and get answers to their questions and concerns as it relates to Chapman, as well as building meaningful relationships with residents, business owners, non-profit organizations and other groups. It feels like yesterday when we packed up our family home in Ontario and moved to Old Towne Orange. It is bittersweet to let you know that this will be my last Neighbor-to-Neighbor publication, as I will be retiring effective May 31.

Since that time, I have been fortunate to rediscover what a unique place the City of Orange truly is. I will miss walking the Plaza and checking in with some of my favorite local businesses. I will miss the gorgeous historic homes and the sense of pride that our community has in Orange. But more than any of that, I will miss the incredible people I have encountered over the years. I have been honored to contribute to the betterment of our community by serving on the boards of Friendly Center, Youth Centers of Orange, Orange Home Grown and the Orange Chamber of Commerce. I count myself as very fortunate to have been able to give back in this way, especially to a neighborhood that is so special. I will take all of these fond memories with me as my wife, Hong, and I travel the U.S. in our motorhome. We have also purchased a home in Seal Beach and intend to stay local while spending more time with our family.

I want to assure you, our neighbors, that Chapman is still committed to its surrounding communities. A search is currently underway to replace the Vice President position. I am sure the University will keep you updated as the process continues. Please know that you can always reach out to the Office of Community Relations by calling (714) 289-2097 or by emailing neighbors@chapman.edu. Every call and every email will be returned.

Thank you for embracing me into the City of Orange. After a 45+ year career in higher education, I am honored to conclude my professional career here with each of you.

Sincerely,

JACK RAUBOLT

As VP of Community Relations for Chapman University, Jack Raubolt has become a familiar face at local events here in Orange.

Alexandros Drivas ’21 finds motivation in protecting his mom, an emergency physician assistant.

The Frances Smith Center for Individual and Family Therapy is offering free group therapy sessions for first responders and others on the front lines of health and safety. “These are heroes in Orange that are doing this work every day and that takes a mental toll on folks,” said Janeen Hill, dean of Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, where the center is housed. Call (714) 997-6746 and press “1” to schedule an appointment.

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.
CHAPMAN OFFERS HOUSING TO FIRST RESPONDERS

Through an agreement with the City of Orange, Chapman will offer temporary housing in university-owned apartments that offer private rooms with kitchens. The university has prepped 20 units in Panther Village apartments for the cause. The university welcomes the opportunity to offer this important temporary housing that helps protect first responders’ families, said Chapman President Daniele C. Struppa. “First responders are putting themselves at risk every day to keep our community safe,” Struppa said. “As a member of the Orange community, it’s our honor to do what we can to support them and provide them with housing while they are away from their loved ones.”

The agreement directly benefits health and safety in the community, said Sgt. Phil McMullin of the Orange Police Department. “The Orange Police Department appreciates the support and partnership with Chapman University during these unprecedented times. This agreement will help protect our first responders who are dedicated to providing public safety in our community,” McMullin said.

Other efforts the Chapman community is making to help in the coronavirus battle include:

- The university’s Thompson Policy Institute on Disability (TPI) developed a series of education webinars for teacher candidates who are desperately needed to fill an existing teacher shortage worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.
- With the goal of helping find solutions to the pandemic, Chapman awarded nearly $95,000 in coronavirus rapid response research grants to faculty in fields ranging from bioscience to public health policy.
- Students of physics professor Stephanie Bailey wrote thoughtful letters of encouragement to residents of Plaza Senior Community Living in Orange, all of whom are confined to their apartment units during the pandemic.

Panther Village Apartments, located about a mile from Chapman’s Orange campus, will be available to local first responders in need of temporary quarantine housing following suspected exposure to COVID-19.

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The planning for a fall return to campus for students, faculty and staff continues to take shape. In May, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Harold Hewitt established fourteen separate task forces to begin preparation for the “CU Safely Back” initiative. Faculty, staff and administrators from across campus have been tapped to contribute to or actively participate in a task force to begin the monumental challenge of evaluating every aspect of campus life and putting measures in place to bring the Chapman Family safely back together.

As stated in the charge to the task force leaders, campus will open—following the prevailing guidance from State and County health authorities—as scheduled, with instruction beginning August 31. With many unknowns, planning continues preparing for possible contingencies such as blending in-person and remote instruction to accommodate social distancing and group size caps, and even the less-likely scenario of remote learning for the first part of the semester.

The overarching goal across all task force work is to assess the risk and establish a phased re-opening plan that takes into account five established mitigation strategies:

- Physical Distancing
- Symptom Monitoring and Surveillance
- Public Health Interventions
- Face Coverings
- Sanitation Protocol

These task forces will work with experts in their respective fields both inside and outside of Chapman, including an infectious disease epidemiologist. As it is available, more information will be released.