

# neighbor to neighbor

..... COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE .....

## KAITLYN AMBRIZ HOLL '25 CARRIES ON FATHER'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Born and raised in Orange, Steve Ambriz served on the Orange City Council before his life was tragically cut short at age 35 in a collision caused by a drug-impaired driver in 2006. His legacy lives on through his daughter, Kaitlyn Ambriz Holl, who graduated from Chapman University



From left: Dean Dr. Roxanne Greitz Miller, Trustee Doy Henley, Kaitlyn Ambriz Holl '25, and President Emeritus Dr. Jim Doti.

in May and is pursuing a teaching career — made possible in part by a scholarship promise Chapman made to her when she was just 3 years old.

Ambriz's wife, Bridget '97 (MBA '00), is a Chapman alum, and Steve supported the university for its investment in the local community. Months before his passing, he wrote to then-President Jim Doti praising Chapman for inspiring students to dream big. In return for Ambriz's service to Orange, Doti wanted to ease the burden on the grieving family. He partnered with Chapman Trustee Doy Henley, who has supported the scholarship ever since.

Growing up in Orange, Kaitlyn was familiar with Chapman and knew early on that she wanted to be a teacher. When she discovered Chapman's five-year program to earn both a bachelor's and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction, her decision was easy. "At my

kindergarten career day, I told my class I wanted to be a teacher," she said. "I've always known it was the plan for me."

While studying at the Attallah College of Educational Studies, Kaitlyn stayed in close contact with Doti and Henley, who presented her degree in May. "She exudes a positive spirit that's infectious," said Doti. Henley agreed: "She's going to really make a mark with her life."

Like her father, Kaitlyn is driven to make a difference. She completed over 1,000 volunteer hours in high school, works in after-school programs, and plans to inspire the next generation as a teacher.

"My dad was the first in his family to go to college. His teachers believed in him, and that changed his life," Kaitlyn said. "This scholarship is the most generous gift I've ever received, and I'm committed to paying it forward."

## CALLING ORANGE HOME: CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY GRAD SARAH EVERETT'S JOURNEY

In a charming corner of Old Towne Orange, Sarah Everett greets customers with a warm smile at O Sea restaurant, where she serves as General Manager. A May 2024 Chapman University graduate with a BA in Communication, a minor in Sociology, and Honors Program distinction, Sarah's connection to Orange runs deeper than her years as a student.

It all began with a family road trip. As an eighth grader from Washington state, Sarah visited Orange during a California college tour. Something clicked. "I was drawn to the overall community, not just the school," she recalled. The Orange International Street Fair showed her a kind of vibrancy she hadn't seen back home.

"I felt like the school was so connected to the downtown," she said. "If you were going to Chapman, you were also attending the Orange Circle in some regards."

Sarah started her Chapman journey in fall 2020 via Zoom due to the pandemic. By her second semester, she had moved to California and began volunteering at the Orange Home Grown Farmers Market.

Her part-time job at O Sea during freshman year soon became more than just work — it

was a way to build relationships with locals, professors, and fellow students. Those ties helped her feel rooted and ultimately led her to stay in Orange after graduation.

Now as GM, Sarah creates welcoming experiences for guests. She's so well-known, some locals simply call her "Sarah from the O Sea."

"I love the sense of community here," she said. "But what really makes it special is connecting with people — that kind of connection is pretty special."

(To learn more about Sarah's journey, visit [news.chapman.edu](https://news.chapman.edu))



Sarah Everett '24, General Manager at O Sea Restaurant

### Need to Know

#### Students Return to Campus

- August 19-24

#### Homecoming Weekend

- October 3-5

#### Chapman University Panthers – 2025 Home Football Schedule (All games at 7 p.m.)

- Sept 6 vs. Hardin-Simmons
- Sept 27 vs. University of La Verne
- Oct 4 vs. University of Redlands
- Oct 25 vs. Claremont-Mudd-Scripps
- Nov 1 vs. Pomona-Pitzer

#### Need to be in touch?

- Contact Chapman University's Office of Community Relations at (714) 289-2097 or email [neighbors@chapman.edu](mailto:neighbors@chapman.edu) to engage and provide feedback.
- 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 that neighbors are welcome to attend. Here are just a few. Find more at the university's online events calendar: [events.chapman.edu](https://events.chapman.edu). Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at [tickets.chapman.edu](https://tickets.chapman.edu).

## Tchaikovsky: A Love Letter

September 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Musco Center for the Arts

Intuitv Artship presents a ballet by Vitor Luiz & Tara Ghassemieh, creators of *The White Feather*—a powerful, one-night-only original ballet that explores the final days of the legendary composer's life through six letters, blending poetic choreography with his iconic music to reveal a deeply human portrait of genius, repression, and resilience. Featuring acclaimed artists Vitor Luiz and Tara Ghassemieh, the production is a raw and intimate tribute to truth, love, and the enduring spirit of art.

Tickets: [muscocenter.org](https://muscocenter.org) or call 714-997-6812

## Chapman University Fall Career Fair 2025

September 25, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Attallah Piazza and Bert Williams Mall

Looking to hire bright, talented students or graduates? Don't miss Chapman University's Fall Career Fair — your chance to connect directly with exceptional students and alumni from all disciplines. Whether you're seeking interns, entry-level talent, or future leaders, our diverse candidates are ready to make an impact.

To learn more about participating in the Fall Career Fair, email the Chapman University's Office of Career and Professional Development at [thinkchapmanfirst@chapman.edu](mailto:thinkchapmanfirst@chapman.edu).

## Summer Art Shows

Through September 27  
Hilbert Museum of California Art

Six new summer shows dedicated to Pueblo pottery, Japanese restaurant woodblock prints, the paintings and drawings behind the iconic PBS series *Sesame Street* and portable radios of the 1940s to 1960s.

For information: [hilbertmuseum.org](https://hilbertmuseum.org)



One University Drive  
Orange, California 92866  
1270-12700

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# YOUR INVITATION TO PLAY: JOIN THE CHAPMAN ORCHESTRA FOR THE 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

Chapman University's Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music is inviting local instrumentalists to audition for The Chapman Orchestra (TCO), a premier ensemble known for dynamic, high-level performances on campus and in the community. Led by Dr. Danko Druško, Director of Orchestral Studies, TCO features a mix of student and community musicians who rehearse and perform diverse repertoire together throughout the year.

Past participants have included hobbyists and advanced high school students, many of whom found the experience both musically and personally meaningful.

"I will always treasure the sense of family and the memories I've made performing beautiful music alongside my friends in TCO," said Chapman cellist Kelly Picton. "Community members strengthen the orchestra with their energy and talent."

The 2025–26 season includes *Star Wars: A New Hope In Concert* on October 24 and a February 11 performance with the Martha Graham Dance Company.

TCO is especially seeking violin, viola, double bass, trombone, bassoon, and French horn players. Selected musicians join as official auditors with a \$100 per-semester registration fee. Rehearsals take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 7–9:50 p.m. on Chapman's Orange campus.

The audition deadline is August 15, 2025. Interested musicians should email Dr. Druško at [drusko@chapman.edu](mailto:drusko@chapman.edu) to sign up and request audition materials.



The Chapman Orchestra performs in the state-of-the-art Musco Center for the Arts

More inside!