

# neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

## CHAPMAN STUDENTS GIVE BACK, RIGHT IN THEIR BACKYARD

Last Fall, students in CES 103 – Helping Professions in Chapman University's Attallah College of Educational Studies took their learning beyond the classroom through a new pilot fieldwork partnership with the Friendly Center, a community-based nonprofit serving families in Orange and Buena Park.

More than 60 students across three sections of CES 103 participated in the initiative. Each student completed a minimum of 10 hours of service learning with the organization, gaining hands-on experience while contributing meaningful support to programs that directly impact children and families in the local community.

Each class focused on a distinct area of the Friendly Center's work, allowing students to apply their skills in focused and practical ways. Together, the sections addressed three core pillars of the organization's mission: marketing and outreach, educational programming, and food distribution.



Students in CES 103 – Helping Professions with Friendly Center staff after their final presentation.

One section concentrated on marketing and media support, helping the Friendly Center strengthen donor and volunteer recruitment efforts. Students created an extensive library of video clips and photographs that can be used for future marketing and storytelling. Many participants were from Dodge College, bringing creative and technical expertise that resulted in polished, professional assets.

Another section focused on after-school programming, developing lesson plans on a variety of topics, including Computers 101, physical fitness, and financial literacy. These ready-to-use plans were designed to be engaging, accessible, and adaptable, supporting the Friendly Center's ongoing educational enrichment efforts.

The third section supported the Friendly Mart, the Friendly Center's emergency food distribution program. Students created recipe books, helped improve food tracking efficiency, and planned and coordinated on-campus donation drives to support families experiencing food insecurity.

Dr. Kenia Cueto (Ph.D. '17), President and CEO of the Friendly Center, praised the partnership, saying, "Watching these students bring their ideas to life was inspiring. Their work created thoughtful, exciting projects that will continue to support children and families across our programs."

This pilot program highlights the power of service learning, showing how Chapman students are preparing for careers in helping professions while giving back in meaningful ways right in their own backyard.

## CHAPMAN ECONOMIC FORECAST POINTS TO SLOW GROWTH FOR OC IN 2026



President Emeritus and economist James Doti presents Chapman University's annual Economic Forecast, projecting modest growth and a cooling labor market in 2026.

"Orange County is not all that much unlike California in terms of where we stand, lower than the nation," said Doti, adding that the Inland Empire is the one outlier in California that is doing extremely well in terms of job creation thanks to growth in high tech establishments.

The housing market, which has struggled under higher mortgage rates, may see relief.

"With mortgage rates projected to dip below 6% in 2026, our forecast suggests a meaningful recovery in home sales is on the horizon," added Raymond Sfeir, Ph.D., director of the Anderson Center for Economic Research at Chapman. "Lower borrowing costs will make homeownership more accessible for many families and could help stabilize prices in key markets."

To watch a replay of the forecast, visit [economicforecast.chapman.edu](http://economicforecast.chapman.edu).

Chapman University released its annual economic outlook, projecting 2% real GDP growth next year, a slight improvement over 2025.

"We don't see a recession unless there's a major correction in AI," said economist James Doti, President Emeritus of Chapman, who has been leading the Economic Forecast since 1977.

At the same time, the report warns that recent tariff increases, the largest in about a century, could push up prices for imported goods and strain both businesses and consumers. Though the labor market overall is projected to remain stable, job growth is expected to cool, especially in California.

### Need to Know

#### Campus Schedule

Spring Semester Begins:  
**February 2**

State of the University Address:  
**February 27**

Spring Break: **March 23-27**

#### 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).

### **Route 66: Happy 100th Birthday to America's Mother Road – Paintings by Joan Gladstone**

Through May 30, 2026

Hilbert Museum of California Art

Eighteen spectacularly vivid oil paintings of the iconic road and its bold, colorful signage, inspired by artist Joan Gladstone's travels, archival images and imaginative reinterpretations. This long-anticipated exhibition constitutes the Hilbert's proud contribution to what is expected to be a nationwide tribute to the beloved interstate highway in 2026. The museum is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free.

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

### **The Groundlings**

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 p.m.

Musco Center for the Arts

Say "yes and" to a night of unforgettable laughs! For almost 50 years, The Groundlings Theatre has tackled the chaos of living with one simple cure: laughter. This iconic LA improv and sketch troupe is where comedy legends like Melissa McCarthy, Jennifer Coolidge, and Will Ferrell got their start, and is now home to the next generation of comedic trailblazers. You never know—one of the current cast members could be the next Kristen Wiig! They're bringing their bold and outrageous talents to Musco Center for the Arts, so don't miss it!

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

### **Paul Taylor Dance Company**

Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.

Musco Center for the Arts

Experience the renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company, a global leader in modern dance. Driven by the belief that dance conveys complex truths about the human experience, their works have been hailed as some of the greatest of the 20th and 21st centuries. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Esplanade, alongside other groundbreaking works, showcasing the company's continued innovation and excellence in modern dance.

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



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**NeighborsofChapman.com**

## CALLING ORANGE NEIGHBORS: BE PART OF CHAPMAN'S TOWN & GOWN

For 57 years, Chapman University's Town & Gown has served as a bridge between campus and the City of Orange community, inviting neighbors to connect, engage, and support student success. Town & Gown is more than a membership organization; it's a tradition rooted in connection, scholarship, and shared purpose.

Members include alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, friends, and neighbors throughout Orange who believe in Chapman's mission. Through membership, the community directly supports students by contributing to the Town & Gown Endowed Scholarship Fund, helping deserving students thrive academically and personally.

A highlight of the year is Town & Gown's signature Lunch at the Forum program, which brings together distinguished Chapman professors, university leaders, and scholarship recipients. These gatherings foster meaningful conversations, celebrate academic excellence, and build relationships that last well beyond the event.

This year's theme, "Rooted in Tradition, Growing Through Membership," reflects the impact of every member. By joining, attending events, or inviting a friend, community members help ensure the next generation of Chapman scholars and leaders continues to flourish.

Discover how to get involved and connect with Chapman at [chapman.edu/support-chapman](https://chapman.edu/support-chapman).



President Matt Parlow outlines his vision for Chapman at Town & Gown Lunch at the Forum.

More inside! ➔