

THE GREY PANTHER

Newsletter of the Retired and Emeriti Faculty Association of Chapman University



New from the Executive Board

After a two year delay, the Retired and Emeriti Faculty Association of Chapman University is up and running with a new board and a revised set of by-laws.

Board members now consist of a President, a Website and Technology Director, a Membership Director, two Co-Directors of Events and two at-large Members. The current President is Claudia Horn, the Website and Technology Director is Jeff Cogan, the Membership Director is Virginia Carson, the Co-Directors of Events are Joe Matthews and John Koshak, and the two Members At-Large are Charlene Baldwin and Karl Reitz.

Another big change is that the Association now has a working web-site <https://www.chapman.edu/retired-and-emeriti-faculty-association/index.aspx> thanks to Jeff Cogan. It can be found through a Google search.

Our next event is the annual Holiday Celebration on December 8 at 2 p.m. at the home of John and Nancy Koshak. You will be receiving a formal invitation to the occasion.

From the Editor

This newsletter has been revived with the hopes that it will foster a community of former colleagues and scholars. Comments and submissions are welcomed. Send to Karl Reitz at kpreitz@gmail.com

Provost Norma Bouchard Presentation at the Fall Luncheon

The featured speaker at the annual Retired and Emeritus Faculty Association luncheon was Provost Norma Bouchard. The title of her talk was, "How Chapman's Strategic Plan Guides the University on the Path to Greatness." Norma gave a comprehensive view of the initiatives that she is trying to accomplish at Chapman. The list was extensive.

Norma talked about the pillars of a standard university that include academics, facilities, and advancement to which she added organizational excellence. As provost, she concentrated on the academic pillar but said that when she arrived at Chapman, she insisted that organizational excellence is an important goal that needs to be in place.

The provost contends that one arm of organizational excellence is student success, particularly as it is measured by national standards, including the rankings of the *U.S. News & World Report*. Student success is often measured by retention and graduation rates. One of the areas of concern is students who enter "undecided" as their major. Norma believes that calling these students "undecided" is somewhat pejorative. Chapman now prefers to label the former "undecided" major as Exploratory Major. Students who declare their major as Exploratory are required to take a one-credit course. Faculty from all the schools send a representative to speak to these students about their particular field. The university's

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hope is that by exposing the students to all the available majors, a particular one will spark enough of an interest for them to declare an academic major, thus increasing retention and graduation rates.

Another initiative the provost has focused her attention on is advising. In order to increase the quality of advising at the university, Norma encouraged the hiring of staff advisors. They have hired many advisors but there is a need to hire more. The result of this initiative resulted in an increase in the retention and graduation rates.

Provost Bouchard made another initiative a priority and that is increasing the percent of students who participate in study abroad opportunities. She discussed the reality that study abroad experiences can have a profound effect on a student's learning experience. She admitted that this is an expensive endeavor, especially when students want to go to places like Florence, Paris or London. She suggested that a student can gain just as much from a study abroad program in Prague, Budapest, Buenos Aires or Santiago, Chile. In order to encourage participation in these other locales, the university is placing limits on the number of students going to the aforementioned popular cities. The provost stated that the number of students participating in study abroad increased from 674 to 748 students in the last two years. She also mentioned that the percentage of Hispanic students at Chapman is around 22% so that, hopefully, adding Spanish speaking cities to the program will be attractive to them.

The provost talked about the need to increase the rate of research among the faculty. Because research often requires outside support, Norma has encouraged the submission of grant proposals. She cited the fact that the number of proposals submitted by the faculty increased from 120 to 145 in the last two years and for the same time period, the amount of funds granted increased from 17.6 million to 22.6 million dollars. This increase has been accomplished by encouraging and helping faculty members to submit grants.

Another area of concern to the provost was the percent of courses being taught by full-time faculty. In the last two years, that percent has increased from 54% to 57%. The provost said that her goal is that 60% of courses be taught by full-time faculty.

She noted that the School of Business needs a figure of 75% in order to maintain their accreditation.

The provost's final topic was the need for better organizational excellence. She clarified this statement by saying there needs to be an increase in the ability to have meaningful data that can be shared across the institution. This increase of data sharing includes the need for reviews across the various sectors of the university along with better data management.

Altogether, the provost reported that all these measures increased the university's national standing. She cited the following statistics: In the *U.S. News & World Report* category of national universities, Chapman's ranking went from 133 to 121. For private universities, Chapman's ranking went from 64 to 61, and for R2 universities the ranking moved from 24 to 22. However, among California universities, Chapman maintained its previous position.

During the question-and-answer period, Claudia Horn asked the provost if the faculty manual statement regarding the benefits, rights and privileges of retired and emeriti faculty could be better and more clearly defined.

Following the presentation by the provost, members proceeded to the Marvin Meyers Athenaeum for lunch and fellowship.



Detours! Twenty Years Ago....

By Charlene Baldwin, Dean and Librarian Emerita

Detours!

The orientation assistants for the freshman class in 2003 chose “Detours” for their theme. Why? Because for their next year, the center of campus was fenced off to finalize the most sweeping and ambitious building project in Chapman’s history. Thanks to the vision of President Jim Doti, the dedicated work of EVP for Development Sheryl Bourgeois, the committed support of the Board of Trustees, and the generosity of many donors, FOUR buildings were being constructed all at the same time. Which were they?

Oliphant Hall became the modernized addition to Berteau Hall to support the College of Performing Arts, specifically the Conservatory of Music. The Hall was named in honor of Rachel “Toni”

Oliphant, one of the Knott sisters, daughter of the founders of Knotts Berry Farm. The building, designed by Los Angeles-based architectural firm AC Martin,

would feature soundproof practice rooms, teaching rooms, a lecture hall, orchestral recital halls, and a lavish office for then Dean Bill Hall, complete with his grand piano.



The Leatherby Libraries was also designed by AC Martin, to occupy the same footprint as the former Thurmond Clarke Memorial Library, but 5 times larger. Over 50 founding donors gave a total of \$27 million to design and build the new library, named in honor of the Leatherby Family, especially the late Board of Trustee member Ralph Leatherby and spearheaded by his daughter, Board member Joann Leatherby. The library would feature nine distinct libraries representing

the major disciplinary foci of Chapman’s research and teaching. The library would include group study rooms, a café, a terrace overlooking the athletic field, a large reading room with gallery walls, multi-media preview rooms for state of the art access to digital information, plenty of room for physical and digital collections and computers, service centers to help students with their research needs, classrooms, and a variety of seating throughout the 5 floors. With an emphasis on art exhibitions, lecture series, and special collections such as the Center for American War Letters, the Holocaust Memorial Library, and the Huell Howser Archives, the library attracted people throughout the campus and community. Millions of people have visited the Leatherby Libraries since its founding. The “Millennial Dean”, Charlene Baldwin, was part of the project from its inception.



The Fish Interfaith Center. A chapel on campus had been the dream of the faith based communities at Chapman and the City of Orange for decades, and the Fish Interfaith Center with its Sanctuary, Garden of the Senses, Columbarium, Meditation and Prayer Room, and Chapel finally realized that dream. It was designed by David Martin of AC Martin, and named in honor of Merle and Marjorie Fish whose family remains committed to its success even to this



day. The Dean of the Chapel, the Rev. Ron Farmer, shepherded the creation of the Fish Interfaith Center truly to become the welcoming home of all faiths, and a showcase of symbolic art.

Glass Hall. To complete the swath of construction, and in order to meet Chapman's growing student population, Glass Residence Hall was also under construction at the same time. Named for Jerrold and Jacqueline Glass, it would become the residence for first-year and continuing undergraduate students. The Hall would feature secure gated access, study rooms, shaded courtyards, and modernized, safe, and functional residential spaces. Dean of Students Joe Kertes shaped the vision for this new residence hall, also opened in 2004.



So, in the Fall of 2004, these buildings were completed and ready to open and welcome Chapman's faculty, students, researchers, and the wider Chapman community. How to celebrate this monumental achievement? Each building offered separate dedications throughout the semester, but on homecoming weekend, 2004, a succession of events at each new facility welcomed everyone to campus. It was quite a success!

Now, here we are twenty years later, in the Fall of 2024, and we celebrate again. Each building, in its own way, will commemorate this anniversary. The Library welcomed Pete the Panther to distribute cookies to hungry students. The Fish Interfaith Center will dedicate a new dais in the Wallace All-Faiths Chapel. Oliphant Hall will welcome a new dean. Glass Hall will start the new freshman class on a path of academic success. But, as in all things, academic leadership changes. However, with the solid foundation these buildings provide, the commitment remains.

President Jim Doti is Emeritus and his successor, President Daniele Struppa has announced his retirement in 2025. Former Dean of the Law School, Matt Parlow, has taken over the

post of EVP of Development. The Board of Trustees remains strong under its Chair, Parker Kennedy.

And what about the leadership of these 4 buildings...

Bill Hall retired, Guilio Ongaro took his place, and now he is retired, and we have a new Dean, Ann F. Hogan.

Founding Dean Charlene Baldwin retired Emerita in 2021, and the former Associate Dean, Kevin Ross, has risen to the Deanship.

Ron Farmer, the founding Dean of the Wallace All Faiths Chapel of the Fish Interfaith Center retired, and the Rev. Dr. Gail Stearns took the Fish Interfaith Center to a new level of commitment to ethics and spirituality, as well as diversity and inclusion. She retired Emerita, and her long-time associate, the Rev. Nancy Brink, has assumed the leadership as Executive Director of the Center.

Dean of Students Joe Kertes retired Emeritus, and Jerry Price has been the popular Dean of Students since 2008.

As a final note: The **Attallah Piazza** was finalized a bit later and became the gathering place to bind these buildings together. The Piazza features a majestic fountain with the 4 pillars of a Chapman education engraved on its 4 mighty monoliths. These 4 buildings, that Detoured Chapman students for a brief moment in time, now solidly symbolize 3 of these pillars: Intellectual, Spiritual, and Social. What about the Physical pillar? Well, as Chapman continues



to grow, we have plenty of space to walk between and around and through our beautiful and functional campus buildings, built twenty years ago!!