

THE GREY PANTHER

Newsletter of the Retired and Emeriti Faculty Association of Chapman University



Notes from the Executive Board

SAVE THE DATE: October 16, 2026
The Annual Barbara Tye Memorial Fall Luncheon will be held on 10/16/2026. The speaker has yet to be determined although President Matt Parlow has been invited. As indicated above, the Board has unanimously voted to change the name of the Fall luncheon in honor our founding member for her vision and effort in creating this organization.

Check out our newly refurbished website. It has all our previous Grey Panthers, a section that is in memoriam to faculty that have died, links to members of the board and rights and privileges of retired and emeriti faculty. You can now reach it from the Faculty Affairs site, or as I do, simply google retired and emeriti faculty Chapman University.

From the Editor:

Comments and submissions are welcomed. Send to Karl Reitz at kpreitz@gmail.com

Endowment Reaches One Billion

The annual state of the University address was given on February 17. This was Matt Parlow's first time as president. It focused primarily on the gifts that have served to increase our endowment which now has moved the university into one of the less than one hundred universities that have one billion or more in endowment. The lack of a substantial endowment has always been one of the weaknesses of the university so this is a positive step.



Chapman is still has substantially less endowment than some colleges and universities in Southern California such as USC, Pepperdine, Pomona and Claremont McKenna.

President Parlow shared an interesting picture of himself and the former three presidents, Buck Smith, Jim Doti and Daniel Struppa. Parlow, Doti and Struppa had traveled to Medford Oregon where Buck Smith lives. Buck was not able to travel to the

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investiture so the three of them decided that they would go to him.

He also discussed changes to his administrative team. Those mentioned were Jessica Berger, Executive Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer, Mike Ibba, Executive Vice President, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer, and Amy Rogan-Metha Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff. He announced that Jerry Price was stepping down as Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, but did not name his replacement.

Most of President Parlow's address was devoted to the various gifts that have been received recently and the programs to which they were directed. Most were dedicated to scholarships and financial aid with at least one to a new endowed professorship. He also spent time on highlighting the university's partnership with the Bank of America. His last announcement was of the one billion dollar endowment.

Spring in the Sierras.

This photo is courtesy of my favorite non-profit, the Central Sierra Research Center.



Library Benefits for Retired Faculty and Emeriti Faculty

Our Executive Board is pleased to announce that if you are a Retired Faculty or an Emeriti faculty, you have library privileges at the Leatherby Libraries.

Library circulation privileges for both Retired faculty and Emeriti faculty can be found on the Leatherby Libraries website on the page called, **Borrowing / Circulation**. It is easiest to bookmark the page. Here is the url: <https://www.chapman.edu/library/services/borrowing/index.aspx>

Once you click on Retired Faculty Circulation Privileges or Emeriti Faculty Circulation Privileges, the next page outlines how to create a library account, how to initiate renewals and key phone numbers of library departments. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find a chart that tells you how many items you can check out, what type of materials you may check out and item check-out times.

We are thankful to the Dean of the Leatherby Libraries, Kevin Ross, and his staff for making this possible.

Chapman back in the News

Chapman found itself back in the national news when the California Supreme Court ruled that former Law School Dean John Eastman be disbarred. His lawyer plan to appeal to the US Supreme Court.

Event at the Hilbert

The Association met at the Hilbert Museum on April 9 to view a marvelous new exhibit curated by our own member,

Richard Turner.

This unique and first of its kind exhibition was beautifully done. Our viewing was enhanced by a talk given by

Richard in which he explained why he was inspired to juxtaposition

paintings and artistic rock.

He also explained how he went about choosing both the rocks on display and

the paintings that were paired with the rocks.

After the talk we walked across the street to the Streamliner Cafe for lunch and lively conversation.



Stone and Scene Exhibition

Stone and Scene, curated by Richard Turner, pairs paintings from the Hilbert Museum of California Art with viewing stones from local collectors. The exhibition is inspired by the Japanese practice of displaying viewing stones with scrolls in a *tokonoma*, which is an alcove in a traditional Japanese home used for displaying *ike-bana*, *bonsai*, and *suiseki* accompanied by a scroll. Some of the pairings in the gallery acknowledge the shared similarities of paintings and stones. Others pose questions about the reasons for their juxtaposition. Each, in its own way, encourages creative looking/seeing.

The paintings on the north wall of the gallery take the viewer on a journey from California's mountain ranges across the desert to the seashore. The stones on the accompanying pedestals and table are a distant mountain, a low range of desert mountains, a shore stone and an island stone.

Across the room on the south wall is an installation by Paul Harris that is a response to three watercolors by artist Phil Dike. *Tidal Shelves* evokes an outcrop of coastal rocks crusted with shells and hollowed by boring clams, where perching birds might watch over nested eggs. To the left of this installation are two stones on pedestals, one of which is a ventifact, shaped by wind-blown sand, and the other a stone from the Eel River where it was formed by flowing water. The accompanying paintings suggest the respective landscapes where these stones might have been found.

The paintings and viewing stones on another wall of the gallery reference the Asian origins of viewing stone appreciation. A Chinese Lingbi stone and a Japanese chrysanthemum are paired with a painting of Los Angeles' Chinatown and a painting by Millard Owen Sheets of the west coast of Japan. Elsewhere in the gallery, an Indian Blanket stone is accompanied by a native American weaving from the Hilbert collection.

Stone and Scene runs from February 7 through October 4, 2026 at the Hilbert Museum of California Art in Orange, Ca.

Lessons on Cyber Security

The association hosted the first of what is hoped to be a series of Zoom lectures of interest to our members. Our guest speaker was Keith Barros, Chief Information Security Officer. He was introduced by board member Dawn Hunter who had heard his presentation to the Faculty Senate. His job at Chapman is to protect the university from the ever present danger of cyber attacks. He also helps protect students and faculty from the variety of cyber crimes that are common in today's world. He noted that anyone that uses the Chapman internet system can be a source of entry to the system and so educating the campus community is an important function of his duties.

One of the stories he shared was that of the CFO of the architectural firms that designed the Sydney Opera House. He was invited to a Zoom meeting that included a number of important individuals that he knew. However, what he didn't know was that all of the other individuals on the call were deep fakes. At one point in the meeting he was asked to issue a large check to a fake account which he did, and it was not until later that he found out that he had been duped.

Keith gave those of us at the meeting a number of tips and answered a number of our questions. For example, he suggested that we use the two factor authentication systems often offered by financial and commercial institutions. He suggested that we use 20 character passwords and change them at least yearly. He also suggested that we take advantage of the California state DROP program that requires data brokers to delete our data at least once a year.

He spoke at length about our need to protect ourselves from the proliferating and sophisticated attempts to gain our private information and money. He cited the use of AI to fake us into believing requests are legitimate and gave us suggestions on how to protect ourselves.

Survey of Members

Dawn Hunter surveyed members to guide the board on how the organization can best be of service. The results of the survey are summarized at the end of this newsletter. The Board wants to thank Dawn for her work and the members who responded. The responses will guide the Board in their work.

Faculty Named in Epstein Files

After the Epstein Files were released, the name of a Chapman Presidential Fellow was discovered among the many names included in Epstein's emails. Jack Horner, a paleontologist, taught Chapman courses on Darwin and Dinosaurs. He was the inspiration for the Dr. Alan Grant character in Michael Crichton's novel, Jurassic Park. He also served as an advisor to the movie based on the novel.

According to the released files, Horner visited Epstein's New Mexico ranch. In an email he thanked Epstein and referred to his hosts as "girls." According to the email, Horner used the ranch for residence while he searched for fossils. He evidently only found sea shells.

Subsequent to the revelation of Horner's connection to Epstein, it was announced that Horner was no longer affiliated with Chapman. In a statement released by the professor, he said that he regretted using the term "girls" and admitted using "extremely poor judgement."

Faculty Senate Resolution

Resolution of Academic Freedom

‘Be it RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Chapman University stands with our university and college colleagues throughout the United States in our support of academic freedom: that is, the freedom of teachers, researchers, and students to teach, study, investigate, and publish ideas and findings without unreasonable interference, censorship, or retaliation. This includes the freedom to choose research topics and methods and to present and discuss ideas or results from one’s work, even if those ideas or results may be controversial or unpopular.’



Protest at Chapman in support of the Palestinians

Anti-Semitism Controversy at Chapman

Recent articles in the Los Angeles Times and the Daily Pilot have focused on a long simmering controversy about whether Chapman has insufficiently protected its Jewish students from anti-semitism. In response to the US Department of education investigation into this matter, in the fall of 2025 Chapman adopted a controversial definition of antisemitism. This definition is often referred to by the initials of the organization that created it (IHRA, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance).

The IHRA definition by itself is rather vague but was accompanied by a number of statements which were meant to elucidate how it could be applied. Critics of the definition claim that using the definition stymies free speech and academic freedom. The problem is that criticizing Israel and/or Zionism could be defined as anti-Semitic under the IHRA definition.

This is precisely what happened to Chapman when two students sued Chapman in civil court for violating their civil rights by claiming that the University did not sufficiently protect them from anti-semitism.

By adopting the IHRA definition of anti-semitism Chapman has taken itself off the radar of the current administration and some organizations such as the Anti Defamation League, but on the other hand may end up chilling free speech and academic freedom. As Chapman Professor Shira Klein said to the Daily Pilot “Every day that I walk into my classroom, I, a Jewish Israeli finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, could be accused of anti-semitism because of this definition,”

In response the Faculty Senate adopted a resolution supporting academic freedom at Chapman and other institutions.

Summary of Emeriti and Retired Faculty Survey Results (4/9/26)

The Executive Board of the Retired and Emeriti Faculty Association at Chapman University were invited to complete a survey to help guide the Associations priorities and initiatives. Listed below is summary of the results of the survey question by question. If you would like a copy of the complete results please send Dawn Hunter (dhunter@chapman.edu) an email and she will send you a copy of the results of the survey in it's entirety.

Please share your name and preferred email address:

- Thirty members responded to the survey.

What do you believe should be the top priorities for the Association?

- Enabling members opportunities to meet, interact, stay in touch with, share news about, and support each other and our interests.
- Advancing the rights of retired and emeritus professors.
- Providing for a community of scholars now retired with the opportunity to share our post-retirement work.
- Keeping us informed, engaged, and connected to the university initiatives, policies, and decisions that are aligned to our organization.
- Supporting one or two initiatives that help the Chapman student community.
- Acting as a valuable resource to Chapman (e.g., serve as mentors to students and junior faculty).
- Continuing access to Chapman services such as email, the library, and utilizing member benefits.
- Welcoming new members.
- Keeping the website updated.
- Continuing the Gray Panther.

What new initiatives would you like to see the Association undertake?

- Supporting current students through philanthropic events, mentoring students, providing grants to them and other efforts to support their wellbeing in the midst of troubled times.
- Providing more social activities of interest to the members and possibly establishing a social network group.
- Maintaining connections to the Chapman community, and supporting or initiating ways for retired faculty to engage with current University projects and events.
- Participating in and having more visibility at campus events.
- Bringing university leaders to speak to the association.
- Participating in campus fundraising initiatives.

- Comparing our Association with other institutions related to status of retired and emeritus faculty.
- When a new member joins the Association send out via email a paragraph about the new member.
- Providing more benefits for retirees and emeriti faculty (e.g., discounted tickets for Performing Arts and other events at the University).

What could the Association do to support your interests and needs as a retired or emeriti faculty member?

- Provide social and educational programs and events to connect with faculty colleagues and friends.
- Promote the interests of its members, and provide updates on changes for retirees.
- Mentoring initiatives to engage with current students.
- Advocate for future transitions to emeritus status to take place concurrent with retirement date.
- Provide Zoom lectures on topics of interest to member (e.g., health issues that affect seniors, travel talks, guest lectures from faculty at other institutions).

Are you interested in supporting the Retired and Emeriti Faculty Association of Chapman University in any of the following ways:

- Serving on the Technology Committee: one member yes, three members maybe
- Serving on the Benefits Committee: five members maybe
- Serving on the Membership Committee: two members maybe
- Serving on the *Grey Panther* Newsletter Committee: two members yes, five members maybe

Are you interested in serving on the Executive Board? If so, in what role?

- Three members indicated they may be interested in serving as a Member at Large on the Executive Board.

Are you interested in attending any of the following types of events if arranged?

What other event ideas would you like to suggest?

- No additional suggestions

Activity	Yes	Maybe	No
Gardens	6	7	4
Historical places	8	7	3
Art galleries	8	7	3
Museums	7	8	3
Theatre productions	3	8	6
Book club	4	3	11
Musical venues	6	7	4
Lectures	11	3	4
Nature parks	6	5	6
Hiking	5	3	9
Sporting events	1	6	9
Theme parks	0	1	14
Picnics	3	9	4
Day trips	2	8	5
Breakfast, lunch, or dinner gatherings	7	7	4