



Photos by BONNIE CASH Photo Editor

The Keck Center for Science and Engineering, Chapman's \$130 million new building, opens for classes Aug. 27. The center's lobby includes wooden sculptures of DNA, pictured above.

Keck Center opens for fall 2018 semester

Jasmin Sani | News Editor
Dayna Li | Staff Writer

Chapman's \$130 million Keck Center for Science and Engineering was completed June 10 and officially opens for classes August 27. Forty thousand feet of the new 140,000 square-foot building will house Chapman's new engineering school, to be completed by fall 2020.

The building, which will have its official inauguration Oct. 11, has around 40 research labs and faculty offices. It also houses equipment like a -19-degrees Celsius walk-in freezer, a 90-inch television screen in one of its main lobbies that students can connect to using AirPlay, wheelchair-accessible laboratory hoods and clear dry-erase board spaces on each floor, said Sara Buckley, development coordinator for the Schmid College of Science and Technology.

"We've used the old equipment for so long. I think having the updated equipment will allow you to be in a real world scenario," said Kellie Bacon, a junior health sciences major. "The farther you go in your educational career, the more likely they'll have updated technology that they're trying out and piloting. It's beneficial for us to learn them so we have those skills."

Parking and construction

The expanded parking structure underneath the building will provide an extra 334 parking spaces and 21 electric vehicle charging stations, Buckley said. In September 2017, when 187 spots were removed from the lot due to construction, The Panther monitored how long it took for the Lastinger to fill up on a weekday. It was full by 9:42 a.m.

Construction will continue on the engineering wing of the building while Schmid College of Science and Technology students begin to attend classes in the new facility.

"(The Keck Center) is an expansion that the university drastically needed to encompass the STEM fields," said Roxy Naumann, a sophomore chemistry major.

Rising applications

Applications to Chapman have increased by 7.8 percent since last year, and those to Schmid College increased by nearly 10 percent, Mike Pelly, the vice president and dean of enrollment management, wrote in an email to The Panther.

Over the past five years, there have been more male undergraduate students in Schmid College than



Students sit on a multifunctional staircase in one of the Keck Center's lobby areas. The stairs face a 90-inch screen that can be used for classwork.

female undergraduate students.

But during this time, the gender gap between the two decreased by almost four percent, nearing an almost equal ratio of 10 men to every 9.75 women, according to Chapman's Institutional Research Office.

From fall 2014 to fall 2016, the percentage of women in Schmid College increased by 4.3 percent – but dropped by 1.3 percent from fall 2017. Information about the percentage of women in Schmid in fall 2018 was not available at the time of publication.

"I think (the increase) is a great thing to hear, especially in a time where the lack of females in STEM is a big topic," said Frank Entriken, a sophomore physics major. "This is a good sign of progress towards equality in science and research."

Pelly also wrote that the gender breakdown for admitted Schmid freshmen over the past two years has been around 50 to 50, compared to the incoming freshman class 60 to 40 ratio of women to men.

"Enrollment and demand in the sciences at Chapman has been on the rise for several years and that was intentional based on our most recent strategic plan," Pelly wrote. "(This is) the same strategic plan that resulted in Keck and the Rinker Campus."

Legionella bacteria

On June 19, campus staff identified Legionella bacteria



Laboratories in the Keck Center have wheelchair-accessible fume hoods and other disability-friendly features.

and removed it before students had access to the Keck Center. Jamie Ceman, Chapman's vice president of strategic marketing and communications, told The Panther in an email that the bacteria was found in a heating, ventilation and air conditioning tower located on the roof of the building.

Although illness is uncommon, breathing in mist or water that contains legionella bacteria can sometimes cause Legionnaires' disease, a serious type of pneumonia, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The bacteria came from an outside

water source introduced during construction. Staff immediately shut down the unit and began the cleaning process once the bacteria was identified.

The cooling tower is in a contained system, so no other water sources on campus were exposed to the bacteria, and there have been no reported illnesses. As a precaution, all water cooling equipment was tested for bacteria and treated.

Removing the bacteria took several days, and Campus Planning and Operations did not clear the area until three weeks after the bacteria was discovered.

Chapman Grand apartment complex welcomes first residents

The \$150 million complex can house up to 900 students and is part of Chapman's plan to house all freshmen and sophomores in university-owned housing by fall 2019.

Jasmin Sani | News Editor

Chapman Grand, a university-owned Anaheim apartment building, welcomed its first Chapman residents the week of Aug. 20. The 399-unit building, which Chapman purchased for \$150 million in November 2017 to increase student housing, can accommodate up to 900 residents.

"We had nearly 1.5 times as many people who are interested in campus housing (this year) – which I think is largely due to Chapman Grand – and a higher amount who actually signed up when compared to the previous year," said Dave Sundby, the director of Residence Life and First Year Experience.

On-campus housing was available for every student who applied this year, Sundby said. Chapman Grand has filled 82 percent of its 900 spots.

"Some people are looking at Chapman Grand and saying, 'You only have 740 people?' But internally, when we got to 600, we were ecstatic," he said.

The 1- to 3-bedroom apartments are located on the corner of East Katella Avenue and South Lewis Street, a 10- to 15-minute drive away from Chapman and minutes away from Disneyland, the Angel Stadium of Anaheim, the Honda Center and Interstate 5.

Chapman Grand apartments include a kitchen, living room, a bed frame and twin mattress, and basic household appliances like laundry machines and kitchen devices. Students were initially promised desks and chairs in an email from Residence Life, but staff later said that the information was mistakenly included, and that the desk furniture would not be provided.

"The furniture plan made up a combination of things. We looked at survey data ... and some if it showed students didn't love having a desk," Sundby said.

The apartment complex also features a pool and a hot tub, as well as five courtyards with outdoor lounge furniture.

"The outdoor living space is like a hotel resort," said Mitali Shukla, a sophomore sociology major. "If I want to have a quiet night or grill during a barbecue, there are definitely amenities for that."

The apartment also has access to gym equipment, televisions, pool tables and board games.

"Chapman Grand is a huge facility that is clean and really modern looking," Shukla said. "It has more amenities than you think and is super well-furnished in the lobby."

Soon, the Anaheim complex won't be Chapman's only new housing. The Villa Park Orchards Residence Hall, located near the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at the corner of Palm Avenue and Cypress Street, is under construction and about 30 percent completed, according to university officials.

Originally a packing house, the historic site is being repurposed to create a 400-bed residence hall with suite-style units that have a

living space and a kitchen, similar to the existing Harris and Davis Apartments

Over the summer, construction workers completed the building's foundations and poured ground-floor concrete. Kris Olsen, the vice president of campus planning and operations, wrote to The Panther in an email that Orange is satisfied with the project, which underwent a lengthy approval process due to city preservation laws.

The budget for the Villa Park Orchards Residence Hall is \$47.4 million, while the restoration of the Packing House is \$12.1 million. The residence hall, which will house sophomores and upperclassmen, is set to open in August 2019.

Because the building is located much closer to the university than Chapman Grand, its residents will not have access to all of the same amenities, like an on-site fitness center – instead, students living at the new residence hall will use Chapman's campus facilities.

According to a headcount provided by the Institutional Research Office at Chapman, the Villa Park Orchards Residence Hall units and Chapman Grand's combined capacity could house an additional 1,300 students, or 18.5 percent of the fall 2017 undergraduate population. Information on the fall 2018 undergraduate count is not yet available.

Struppa estimated in 2017 that the construction of Chapman Grand and Villa Park Orchards Residence Hall will allow 60 percent of undergraduates to be housed by the university.

With the new housing comes a new rule – last year, the university announced its plan to require that undergraduates live on campus by fall 2019.

Incoming freshmen are part of the requirement. Sundby said this requirement will be enforced starting with the class of 2022, but will not apply to transfer students, married students or students who have a dependent, like a child.

"We've been thinking about (a housing policy) for years. It's just been on the back burner because we didn't have enough beds," said Jerry Price, the dean of students. "This has always been something that we wanted to implement."

The new policy also won't affect students who live within a 30-mile radius from the university with a family member and want to stay at home instead of paying the 2018-19 housing rates, which can range from \$5,804 to \$28,616.

Erika Castro, a sociology major who commutes from Santa Ana, said she thinks living on campus helps build social connections the first year – but that it shouldn't be enforced.

"I live off campus because it's cheaper, and I ultimately just wanted to save money," Castro said. "Freshmen might not mind (having to stay on campus) the first year, but the second year, they'll probably want to rent out because we're all (in college) for independence."

The new housing requirement offers students advantages that aren't found in on-campus housing, including not worrying about monthly rent or utilities, and access to shuttle rides to and from campus.

Mike Pelly, the vice president and dean of enrollment management, told The Panther in an email that 17 percent of fall 2018 freshmen are from Orange County, meaning the other 83 percent are not local.

Some have expressed worry that they won't be able to find housing after their first year, Sundby said. One of the reasons the housing policy was put into action is to



Photos by BONNIE CASH Photo Editor

Chapman Grand residents can opt-out of paying \$278 for a commuter parking permit and instead take the shuttle, which drops students off at Chapman's Schmid Gate on campus.



Residence Life and First Year Experience led check-in day in the Chapman Grand lobby Aug 23. Students were given a one-hour unloading parking permit to move in to the complex.

reduce that concern – at least for underclassmen.

"I wish we could guarantee housing for all four years, but the math doesn't add up," Pelly wrote.

“ I wish we could guarantee housing for all four years, but the math doesn't add up. ”

- Mike Pelly, vice president and dean of enrollment management

But Pelly said he's optimistic that the university will be able to accommodate the upperclassmen who want to live on campus once Villa Park Orchards' construction is complete.

Campus housing options also allow students to have more access to resources, like Chapman's Public Safety, since they are owned and managed by the university, Struppa told The Panther in November 2017.

Chapman isn't alone in implementing this type of policy. "Schools that we look to compare Chapman to – like Santa Clara, the University of San Diego and Pepperdine – have a one, two or three-year living requirement," Sundby said.

Another motive is to alleviate tensions between the Chapman community and other Orange residents who may be opposed to the amount of college students living in the neighborhoods that surround Chapman – in 2016, the Orange City Council passed amendments to an ordinance that is punitive toward "loud or unruly" gatherings

in residences, which some saw as targeted toward Chapman students.

"A lot of (Chapman's) neighbors wanted to see us diminish the number of students who were renting homes in the area," Price said. "Our goal is to really make a commitment to the city and to the neighborhood to, as quickly as possible, get to (housing) at least 50 percent (of undergraduates)."

56%

more students said they are interested in on-campus housing this year



1.44x

increase in students who signed up for Chapman housing this year



Graphic by EMMA REITH Art Director

Information from Residence Life and First Year Experience.

Professors request report on Koch donations

Rebecca Glaser | Editor-in-Chief

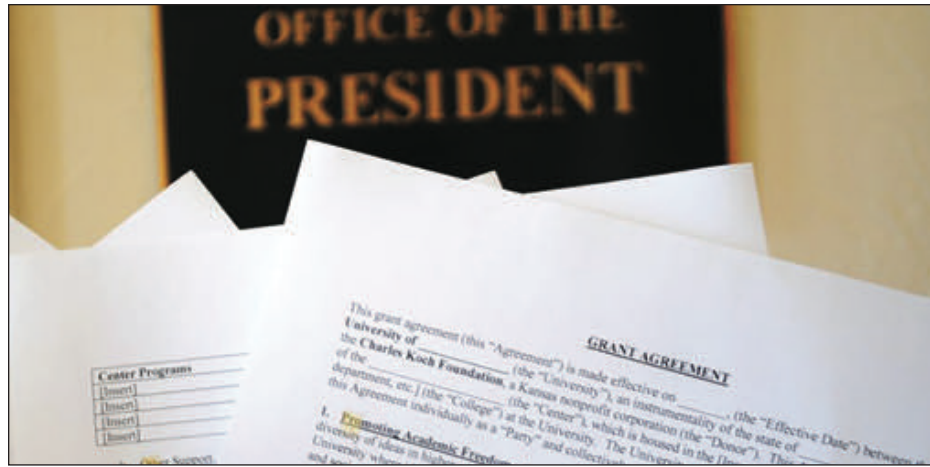
Seven professors requested that Chapman's faculty senate create a "fact-finding" report by November about donations from the Charles Koch Foundation in 2016, according to an Aug. 16 email outlining the request that was provided to The Panther.

The requested report, which would be put together by an impartial senate committee, aims to strengthen Chapman's faculty manual procedures for "selecting, vetting and hiring faculty," obtain a copy of Chapman's grant agreement with the foundation and set guidelines for similar donations, according to the email.

"(If we continue to) get these (faculty) appointments that are made from a donor who's highly involved and who has the history that the Charles Koch Foundation has of interference in higher education – we need to look at that," said English professor Tom Zoellner, one of the faculty spearheading the effort. "We should not be afraid of finding out the facts."

In December 2016, Chapman received a \$5 million donation from the controversial Charles Koch Foundation to help establish the Smith Institute for Political Economy and Philosophy, which aims to combine the studies of humanities and economics.

Some professors have questioned the transparency and integrity of the donations at Chapman, as, up until May, administrators had only shown excerpts of the agreement



Panther Archives

One request for the proposed report is that it include a copy of Chapman's grant agreement with the Charles Koch Foundation. Pictured above is a sample agreement.

during faculty presentations.

In May, The Panther and David Pincus, the 2017-18 faculty senate president, viewed the full grant agreement between Chapman and the Charles Koch Foundation, which includes a stipulation that the university couldn't acknowledge that an agreement existed without written permission from the foundation.

If created, the proposed report would join others at different schools that have also received Koch donations, including George Mason University, Florida State University and Wake Forest University.

Student group Transparent GMU sued George Mason in April, seeking access to its agreements with the Charles Koch Foundation, according to the Washington Post. Although the university released some documents, a Virginia

judge ruled July 5 that the private university isn't subject to public records laws.

Chapman English professor Ian Barnard, who is also part of the group requesting the report, said he is more concerned with the proposed report's impact on the future than on existing donations.

"What happened in the past, we can't do anything about that. What I'm concerned about is going forward," Barnard said. "We can say that in the future it has to be made public, and if someone's not willing to make it public, then we don't accept their money."

In July, the foundation pledged to make all multiyear grant agreements available online, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Including a copy of Chapman's grant agreement in the report likely won't be a problem, President

Daniele Struppa wrote in an email to The Panther, as the foundation has previously agreed to his requests to make it available.

"I believe the agreement itself will be posted on the (Charles Koch Foundation) website, visible to all," Struppa wrote. "As I said many times, and as several people (including [The Panther] and the past senate president) have seen personally, there is nothing to hide in the agreement."

Struppa wrote that he is aware of the request for the report and that he spoke to Zoellner about it over the summer.

Paul Gulino, the faculty senate president, said that if a senator is interested in creating a committee to generate the report, he or she can propose the idea to the senate's executive board, which will discuss the proposal and decide whether to move forward. The board's first meeting is Sept. 7.

"It's very likely that we'll be discussing it whether a senator brings it up or not," Gulino said. "Seven respected faculty members have expressed a concern, and when people do that, that's what faculty governance is for."

Zoellner said his intent with requesting the report is not to "vilify" anyone.

"If we don't do this, it's going to be a kind of a perennial question. Was this done right?" Zoellner said. "This isn't about people. This is about policies. If I had to underline anything, that's what I'd put in darkest pen."

'Class of 2122': Convocation welcomes freshmen

Bonnie Cash | Photo Editor

Chapman ushered its new freshman class into the future at the annual Convocation ceremony on Wilson Field Aug. 21 by distributing stoles that said, "Class of 2122." The university promised freshmen that the embroidery misprint would be corrected.

In his convocation address, President Daniele Struppa spoke to the crowd about Chapman's admission into Phi Beta Kappa, a national academic honor society that "celebrates and advocates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences," according to its website.

There are 286 chapters including Ivy League schools like Yale University, Harvard University and Princeton University. Chapman's chapter, supported by a \$3 million endowment, is set to open this fall.



Incoming freshmen watch as the annual Convocation fireworks ceremony begins Aug. 21.

Photos by BONNIE CASH Photo Editor



President Daniele Struppa greets the class of 2022 at Convocation Aug. 21. He spoke about the university's admission to Phi Beta Kappa, a national academic honor society.



The freshman class' stoles were misprinted with the year 2122. Stoles with the correct year will be redistributed.

Chapman's declassified school survival guide



"Email your teachers about your books. Rent, rent, rent those suckers."

Andy Vargas, junior



"Clubs are great, but don't be disappointed if you miss the first meeting. You can join after the first one."

Haley Teves, junior



"Student organizations have on-campus food sales or discounts at places like restaurants or boba shops."

Cheryl Lee, sophomore



"Limit Target shopping. You will spend money on a bunch of stuff you don't need."

Michelle Separzadeh, sophomore



"Don't be afraid to ask for help. It's important to make sure that you have people you can turn to to help you ensure your academic success."

Faith Smith, sophomore



"I wish I knew how bad the cafeteria food is. It's all cool and decent in the beginning but it low-key rapidly descends."

Kamil Zieglen, sophomore



"Economic Science Institute (ESI) experiments are clutch."

Anna Owenson, sophomore



"Follow the Chapman 'Free & For Sale' Facebook page."

Abby Tan, junior

Photos and story by TALIA CUTTITTA Assistant Features Editor

Student illnesses spike at beginning of semester

Kate Hoover | Features Editor

It was Thursday of orientation week, and then-freshman Laura Belzner's parents had left the day before. Her roommates were awake and starting to get ready for the day, but she couldn't move. She had a 101-degree fever, but she was shivering. Every bone in her body hurt, and she wasn't sure she could even climb out of bed. She didn't know exactly what was wrong, but she knew she was very, very sick.

With flu season beginning, the weather getting colder and hundreds of new students cramming into five residence halls, the fall semester typically sees a spike in student illnesses, said Jacqueline Deats, Director of Student Health.

A total of 945 students visited the health center in September 2017 alone, she said.

"It's like being in preschool again," Deats said. "Students are living in close quarters, they're sharing drinks, not sleeping as much as they probably should be and trying to figure out their schedule and how things work, so they're high-risk."

The most frequently reported illnesses at the health center are the common cold, bacterial infections, sinus infections, bronchitis and gastrointestinal (GI) diseases, Deats said.

There have also been "upticks" in certain illnesses throughout the year, such as strep throat, hand, foot and mouth disease and GI upsets, but most of the time there will be a few incidents and then it passes, Deats said.

Chapman had 12 cases of mumps and one case of bacterial meningitis, or meningitis B last semester.

Belzner, senior business administration major, said she ignored her flu symptoms at first because of "Orientation Week adrenaline."

"I wish I would have gone to urgent care or something, but no, I just chose to suffer and see if it would pass, and it didn't for three weeks," she said. "The fever went away, but I felt horrible for the first three weeks of school."

Senior dance major Sarah Boardman also came down with the "worst flu of (her) life" the day before orientation week.

"I'm talking a 102-degree



BONNIE CASH Photo Editor

Chapman's Student Health Services saw 945 students in September 2017.

fever, vomiting, vertigo, and the rest," she said. "I spent all of Orientation Week wrapped in a blanket on my grandparents' couch watching Bob's Burgers."

Boardman had to miss most of her classes the first week of school in order to recover, she said.

"If I had to guess, I'd say it was a result of how nervous I was to start school," she said. "I think it was my body's way of saying 'Nope, no thank you' to the newness of it all."

New students aren't used to managing their own health, Deats said, but this increase in illnesses isn't just among the incoming freshmen classes, it can also include returning students. Orientation Leaders and other

students that are involved with incoming freshmen in some way are also affected, Deats said.

Hand washing, not sharing drinks, food or utensils and using disinfectants with bleach to kill viruses can help students stay healthy as they return to Chapman this semester, Deats said.

Proper nutrition, sufficient sleep, exercise, and hydration can also help students keep their immune systems strong even if they are exposed to viruses and bacteria, she said.

"(If) they are not feeling well, or they are not sleeping enough or if they're not eating enough, there isn't a parent there to guide them and get them back on track," Deats said.

Climate change is setting California on fire



Gracie Fleischman
Opinions Editor

In case you haven't noticed, California is in flames. Fire can be cleansing, but it can also be destructive and deadly, as it has proven to be over the past couple years.

This summer, the Southern California Aliso fire burned 175 acres, displacing thousands of homeowners in Laguna Beach and Aliso Viejo. At one point, the fire was literally across the street from my childhood home. It was a nerve-racking experience

but thankfully, my home and family were both safe.

Many were not so lucky. Many California residents, including Chapman students, faculty, administration and alumni know, fires can cause devastating damage to property and ruin lives. As of Aug. 7, 16 active fires were still blazing through California and destroying wildlife and property. At this point, with so many people affected directly, I think it's time we all acknowledge the true culprit – climate change.

The state of California was in an official state of drought for five years until April 2017 – and dry-and-wet periods can be influenced by climate change.

This summer, the state hit record high temperatures. In nearby Santa Ana, the high was 114 degrees on July 6. In Death Valley, California, the average temperature in July was 108.1 degrees and, hit 127 degrees from July 24-27, at its highest.

These conditions can result in fires starting and spreading quickly and easily and becoming more and more difficult to contain. I am not suggesting that climate change is literally causing the fires to start, but it is creating conditions that allow these frequent and steady blazes to occur.

Over the past five years, spring snow has started to disappear more quickly, according to an Aug. 22 report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This means that, without the cover of snow, the surface of the Earth is exposed to sunlight more, leading to higher temperatures – which can result in flammable dry brush and vegetation in places like California.

These catastrophic fires mean that it's more and more dangerous to discount the existence and magnitude of global climate change.

According to Gallup's annual climate change survey, only 35 percent of Republicans and 62 percent of independents believe humans are the cause of climate change, and those statistics are down from last year.

It's not a surprise that many have become less willing to accept the reality of climate change – President Donald Trump has discredited the scientific consensus around its existence since 2011.

As of June 2017, he had tweeted about his distrust of scientists and those who embrace the reality of climate change more than 115 times, according to Vox.

On December 28, 2017 he tweeted, "In the East, it could be the COLDEST New Year's Eve on record. Perhaps we could use a little bit of that good old Global Warming that our Country, but not other countries, was going to pay TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS to protect against. Bundle up!"

Trump's secretary of state in 2017 was Rex Tillerson, the CEO of oil and gas company ExxonMobil. After Tillerson was nominated for his cabinet position, his ties with the fossil fuel industry sparked protests among environmentalists.

Although Tillerson has since been replaced, the White House continues its anti-environmentalist campaign – this month, the Environmental Protection Agency announced its plan to weaken air pollution standard for the coal industry.

In order to prevent further fire damage in California, we need to fight Trump's efforts to weaken the environmental protections that are in place to help the slow climate change. We also need to ensure that California fire departments are fully funded – which can be done by heeding fire officials' recent request for \$100 million from California lawmakers.

Voting in midterm and local elections in November is also paramount. In order to protect the environment, we need to vote for leaders who support that cause. Ask your senators to vote yes on Senate Bill 833, which would require the Office of Emergency Services to set guidelines by July 2019 for when and how fire alerts would be sent.

And although it may seem counterproductive, we need to allow experienced fire officials the permission to prescribe controlled burns for at-risk areas, which would get rid of flammable grasses and vegetation. We should also build infrastructure in places that have been affected by fires with fire-resistant material, like tempered glass.

Frequent fires like the ones that have torn through California over the past few years and burned down neighborhoods, destroyed property, killed pets and wildlife and worsened air quality. The danger of climate change is becoming more and more real, and we have to meet it head-on.

EDITORIAL



Illustrated by Gaby Fantone

Live and let live (off campus)

The Panther Editorial Board

It's no secret that Chapman is trying to expand its student housing. Although providing students with more places to live has been a topic of discussion for several years, the university kick-started those efforts with its November 2017 \$150 million purchase of the 399-unit Chapman Grand apartment complex, which welcomed its first student residents the week of Aug. 20. The Villa Park Orchards Residence Hall, which could house an additional 400 students, is set to open in August 2019.

Based on the fall 2017 undergraduate headcount, those 1,299 slots alone could house 18.5 percent of Chapman's fall 2017 undergraduate population, according to the Office of Institutional Research. That's a step toward Chapman's longtime goal of housing 50 percent of undergraduates on university-owned property. Problem solved, right? Well, not for everyone.

Around the same time the university purchased the Chapman Grand apartment complex, administrators also announced the plan to mandate that all freshmen and sophomores live in university housing by fall 2019.

This new mandate, coupled with the new housing additions, might be practical for easing community relations in Orange and taking full advantage of expensive-to-build new housing facilities, but it's just not feasible for every student.

Chapman's 2018-19 housing rates put the nine-month price tag on a two-bedroom Chapman Grand apartment with two residents at \$13,778. A two-bedroom suite in the Sandhu Residence Center for the same time period is \$16,880. That means that – for these particular residences – each student

would pay anywhere from around \$1,500 to \$1,800 if they made monthly payments.

But living off campus, students are able to choose from houses or apartments with multiple bedrooms, which can significantly lower what students pay.

As of July, the average house rental price in Orange was \$3,150, according to real estate website Trulia. Many single-family homes in Orange have three or four bedrooms, meaning that students living in these homes pay an average of about \$790 to \$1,050 per month – even less if they're sharing a room.

Although the Harris and Davis Apartments do have lower rates than other on-campus housing – around \$640 to \$850 a month per student – students aren't guaranteed a spot in those less expensive residences, meaning that when housing selection rolls around, a student could be stuck with a pricier residence than he or she expected.

It's unfair to mandate that students choose from a preapproved list of housing options, especially when many who aren't freshmen are just beginning to explore their independence – 91 percent of freshmen lived on campus in fall 2017, but only 30 percent of sophomores did.

The higher cost of on-campus residences is understandable, because after all, those rates can include things like utilities, Wi-Fi and maintenance. And some students choose to live in on-campus housing for a variety of reasons: being a Resident Advisor, proximity to classes and on-campus jobs, or simply to get the "college experience." Still, it's not an experience everyone can afford – and Chapman shouldn't deny its students their right to decide what living arrangement is best for them.

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Women's soccer goalkeeper wants to bring 'fresh' style

Kali Hoffman | Managing Editor

Orientation Week can be an intense start to the year for freshmen, but freshman athletes have the added intensity of juggling their first week of college while simultaneously kick-starting their college sports careers. Women's soccer goalkeeper Kelsey Bland is one of six freshman players and four new transfer students on the team poised to take the field.

Bland was on the sidelines for the team's first scrimmage Aug. 24 while recovering from an ankle injury, but looking ahead, the freshman business administration major is ready for whatever this year has to throw (or kick) at her.

Q: What has the transition to college soccer been like so far?
It's a lot quicker, a lot more physical. It's just a different pace of play.

Q: Did you start practice immediately after you moved in?

Yeah, I moved in Aug. 24. We had fitness testing that Friday on move-in day and then throughout the weekend.

Q: How did you get injured?

It was the second practice on Sunday. I dove and made a shot and saved it. I tried to get the rebound, but I pivoted wrong and the tendon on my calf slipped over my ankle bone.

Q: What was it like not being able to play the first week?

It was hard, because coming in as a freshman, I wanted that scrimmage game – because it doesn't necessarily count towards league and it's good to get under your belt, but it's a process.

Q: What's it like being on a team with so many incoming players?

I think that it does bring you strength. Your legs are fresh, in a way. Freshmen have a different perspective on the team – we've come in with different ways of playing and the other girls are used to a certain way of playing for the past couple years. We have a different perspective that, hopefully, will help the team do a little better.

Q: What are the most difficult and most rewarding aspects of being a goalkeeper?

The most difficult aspect is probably balancing the mental challenges throughout the game, like staying focused and engaged the whole time and being able to bounce back after mistakes or a goal against. The most rewarding is making a save and working with the team to beat our opponent.

Q: What was it like to already be part of a team your first week of college?

It was nice, because you don't feel super singled out. You immediately have your group of friends. We're all in the same boat together and all working to play together as a team.

Q: How has your experience on the team been so far?



KALI HOFFMAN Managing Editor

Freshman Kelsey Bland played both soccer and lacrosse at San Clemente High School where she graduated this year with a 4.3 GPA.

It's great. We all get along super well and we're super team-oriented. We're all playing for each other – making sure we're all one unit and it's not an individual thing.

Q: What's the biggest challenge you've had to overcome as an athlete?

Probably the mental side of the game. Just learning to move forward when you make a mistake or you

get injured, and knowing that it just keeps going and you have to dig yourself out of that hole.

Q: What are you most excited about for the upcoming year?

I'm excited to get to know the team and hopefully we'll get to the conference playoffs and win. Hopefully we'll just go far together.

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