College admission shouldn’t have a price tag

In March, dozens of people, including the parent of a Chapman student, were charged in a massive, nationwide college admissions scandal that involved parents buying their children's acceptance to some of the most prestigious universities in the country. This is a slap in the face to families who work hard to provide their children with an education, The Panther Editorial Board writes.

At least 50 students attended a campus vigil for the victims of the New Zealand massacre that claimed the lives of dozens March 15. One student's family member was shot multiple times in the attack.

Members of the women's track and field team have broken multiple records this season – and the team's underdog mentality motivates its members, runners say.
The Mueller investigation is finished. But do students care?

Dayna Li | Staff Writer

The Mueller report has captivated Democrats and Republicans alike for 22 months, and according to an NPR poll, 76 percent of adults in the United States want to see the 300 page report made public, but some college-aged students are not as concerned.

“I'm just busy, so I haven't had time to wrap my head around the Mueller case,” said Rotem Azariya, a senior business administration major. “I have not researched enough to know my opinion.”

The investigation has been somewhat of a cloud over President Donald Trump’s administration for 22 months and has been the subject of varying media coverage and political debate between political parties.

After the conclusions from special counsel Robert Mueller’s findings were summarized in a March 24 four-page letter by attorney general William Barr, Trump took to Twitter to claim “total” exoneration.

The special counsel did not find that the Trump campaign ‘conspired or coordinated with the Russian government,’ according to Barr’s summary of the report, but also said Trump has not been “exonerated” in regards to obstruction of justice concerns.

In the wake of the report’s delivery to Barr and the letter’s contested release to the public, cable outlets and news sources alike covered the news intensely. But do voters feel the same sense of concern? A February Pew Research Center poll found that, on a national level, 55 percent of Democrats and 45 percent of Republicans felt the news was a top story..

Two presidents have been impeached, Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. Nixon resigned before a vote was held regarding impeachment proceedings, for his role in the Watergate scandal.

Special counsel Robert Mueller was appointed by the Justice Department in May 2017. Some Chapman students have not followed the investigation due to busy schedules and lack of interest.

Compton, a political science professor at Chapman who teaches courses in constitutional law, said his students are not as concerned.

“I recommend that students … decide for themselves as opposed to commentators who are antagonistic or support the president,” Compton said.

“There are few neutral commentators, so go to the web, and make your own judgment.”

Mueller did not indict Trump because a sitting president cannot be indicted, though he or she can be impeached, Compton said.

That would totally disrupt the president’s ability to run the executive branch, Compton said.

“Even if the House votes to impeach, it likely won’t pass as the Senate votes by (50-50) or more,” Compton said.

“While there is a popular belief that the President is above the law, in fact, the law is applied equally to everyone,” Compton said. “No one, including the President, is above the law.”

“People think ignorance is bliss, but you miss a lot of important details about who to vote for next.”

Compton said it’s important for students to follow that type of information, because when someone’s being investigated, it’s something to be researched.

“Anti-fascist and anti-hate rhetoric that started here in the United States want to see the 300 page report made public, but some college-aged students are not as concerned.

“I'm just busy, so I haven't had time to wrap my head around the Mueller case,” said Rotem Azariya, a senior business administration major. “I have not researched enough to know my opinion.”

The investigation has been somewhat of a cloud over President Donald Trump’s administration for 22 months and has been the subject of varying media coverage and political debate between political parties.

After the conclusions from special counsel Robert Mueller’s findings were summarized in a March 24 four-page letter by attorney general William Barr, Trump took to Twitter to claim “total” exoneration.

The special counsel did not find that the Trump campaign ‘conspired or coordinated with the Russian government,’ according to Barr’s summary of the report, but also said Trump has not been “exonerated” in regards to obstruction of justice concerns.

In the wake of the report’s delivery to Barr and the letter’s contested release to the public, cable outlets and news sources alike covered the news intensely. But do voters feel the same sense of concern? A February Pew Research Center poll found that, on a national level, 55 percent of Democrats and 45 percent of Republicans felt the news was a top story.

“While there is a popular belief that the President is above the law, in fact, the law is applied equally to everyone,” Compton said. “No one, including the President, is above the law.”

Some members of Chapman’s Muslim community were not surprised by the attack, in light of hate crimes targeted toward certain religions taking place on a local and global scale.

About a week after the New Zealand attack, a mosque in Escondido, California, about 75 miles south of Chapman, was defaced with anti-Muslim graffiti that referred to the shooting. A fire that broke out outside the building is being investigated as potential arson.

“All these instances – we have to be prepared and we have to come together at Chapman so that does not happen,” Wali said.

One of Wali’s professors sent a letter to the Muslim Student Association, he said, and another held a moment of silence during a class.

“It is beautiful to see several deans, professors and people of different religions come together,” Wali said. “It is important to remember the victims, say their names and continue to fight islamophobia, white supremacy and other forms of hate.”

Some members of Chapman’s Muslim community were not surprised by the attack, in light of hate crimes targeted toward certain religions taking place on a local and global scale.

About a week after the New Zealand attack, a mosque in Escondido, California, about 75 miles south of Chapman, was defaced with anti-Muslim graffiti that referred to the shooting. A fire that broke out outside the building is being investigated as potential arson.

“All these instances – we have to be prepared and we have to come together at Chapman so that does not happen,” Wali said.

One of Wali’s professors sent a letter to the Muslim Student Association, he said, and another held a moment of silence during a class.

“It is beautiful to see several deans, professors and people of different religions come together,” Wali said. “It is important to remember the victims, say their names and continue to fight islamophobia, white supremacy and other forms of hate.”

At least 50 attend Chapman vigil for victims of New Zealand shootings

Carolina Valencia | Staff Writer

Freshman Farhan Khan came home around 4 a.m. after a night out and checked his Twitter. A live video of the March 15 Christchurch shootings in New Zealand that left almost 50 dead popped up on his screen.

He didn’t know that a family member would be one of the 50 people left wounded.

“My mom’s cousin was in the attack and he was shot three times. He is in critical condition still, and he has three young children,” said Khan, a business administration major who is part of Chapman’s Muslim Student Association (MSA). “A lot of people have sympathy for it, but I have a personal connection.”

“You can’t be a global citizen if you don’t know there are world religions.”

- Shaykh Jibreel Speight, director of Muslim Life

On March 26, MSA honored the victims of the mass shooting with an event at the Fish Interfaith Center called “Terrorism Has No Religion.” About 50 students, staff and faculty members attended, including Khan, some wearing red to show solidarity and honor those who were killed in the attack.

Gail Stearns, dean of the Wallace All-Faiths Chapel and Dean of Students Jerry Priester were among those in attendance.

“Red symbolizes love something that can bring us all together,” said Hakeem Wali, president of MSA. “We wanted to denounced Islamophobia and bring the Chapman community together in light of this attack.”

The event began with a prayer followed by an introduction by Wali. Stearns and Shaykh Jibreel Speight, Chapman’s director of Muslim Life, spoke.

“The best thing we could do is to understand world religions,” Speight told The Panther. “You can’t be a global citizen if you don’t know there are world religions – Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, et cetera. Students and faculty are ignorant about this.”

Mahmoud Samer El-Farra, director of the California branch of advocacy group March Our Lives, also spoke to those in attendance about coming together to create change.

“We still have a lot of work to do. We can’t ignore it, fight against it,” El-Farra told The Panther. “[The shooting] was motivated by white supremacist and white nationalistic rhetoric that started here in the United States, so we have to set an example to rest of the world to denounce hate and any form of racism, religious intolerance.”

Some members of Chapman’s Muslim community were not surprised by the attack, in light of hate crimes targeted toward certain religions taking place on a local and global scale.

About a week after the New Zealand attack, a mosque in Escondido, California, about 75 miles south of Chapman, was defaced with anti-Muslim graffiti that referred to the shooting. A fire that broke out outside the building is being investigated as potential arson.

“All these instances – we have to be prepared and we have to come together at Chapman so that does not happen,” Wali said.

One of Wali’s professors sent a letter to the Muslim Student Association, he said, and another held a moment of silence during a class.

“It is beautiful to see several deans, professors and people of different religions come together,” Wali said. “It is important to remember the victims, say their names and continue to fight islamophobia, white supremacy and other forms of hate.”

Hakeem Wali, president of Chapman’s Muslim Student Association, spoke at a vigil for the victims of the March 15 mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand. Some, like Wali, wore red to honor those killed.
Jade Yang | Staff Writer

Most Bibles don’t have a gold-outlined depiction of the Twin Towers or a microscopic image of the AIDS virus. But the St. John’s Bible, hand-written by a group of scribes and painstakingly illustrated in a project that cost $8 million, is a new take on the Christian text.

Chapman’s Office of Church Relations is raising $225,000 in hopes of acquiring a copy of the St. John’s Bible, a seven-volume, hand-bound leather copy. The Bible’s construction began in 1998, and is built to last for 1,000 years, said Nancy Brink, director of church relations.

“This is not an average Bible, said Tim Ternes, director of the St. John’s Bible project at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library in Minnesota.

“The St. John’s Bible is not a picture book,” Ternes told The Panther in a phone interview. These artworks are invitations into the world, they invite conversation. By its very nature, the Bible is communal. It is my hope that the Chapman community will embrace the communal nature of the world and gather around these artes.

“Everytime you see gold in this Bible, the artists are suggesting the presence of God or the divine,” said Nancy Brink, director of church relations at Chapman.

Chapman will display a copy of the Gospel and Acts volume of the St. John’s Bible during the 2019 school year. Students can view and interact with the volume.

History professor William Cumiford, a member of the committee that brought the St. John’s Bible to Chapman, told The Panther that he finds the chance to view the book a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ opportunity.

“It’s the most important international art project of the past 30 years and it speaks to what’s going on in the world right now,” Cumiford said.

“Chapman wanted to be a part of this legacy because nothing like this will ever happen again,” he said.

An edition of the Bible like St. John’s has not been produced since the Middle Ages, Cumiford said.

“Since everything now is going digital, this is a very traditional and non-digital approach,” he said.

“The unique illustrations, which address modern-day issues like sexism and ethnic diversity, combine medi eval approaches with current events, Cumiford said.

“It highlights important things about ethnic and gender diversity, because when men wrote the Bible, they left women out of it for most of the time,” Cumiford said. “This Bible is inclusive in focusing on women’s issues and different cultures.”

For Cumiford, the St. John’s Bible does not just cover religious issues; it’s a lesson in history, art and inclusiveness.

“It’s important for this community,” he said.

Rand Boyd, the Special Collections and Archives librarian at Chapman, said the St. John’s Bible has allowed him to bring special materials and collections out for students to view.

“It’s very exciting to have the St. John’s Bible here in the library because it brings attention to the books and collections that we have already here,” Boyd said.

President Daniele Struppa will lecture on the St. John’s Bible April 9 at 7 p.m. in Wallace All Faiths Chapel.
Los Angeles chain Afters Ice Cream is set to take the place of A La Minute, located in the historic Old Towne Orange Plaza, recently closed. Situated among the area's antique shops and retail stores, the ice cream shop was known for unconventional flavors like beet, avocado and vanilla with olive oil. A La Minute closed March 22, had a 4.5 star rating on Yelp and was a go-to for some Chapman students.

One of the shop's draws was its unique use of liquid nitrogen, which was poured over the ice cream mixture to eliminate ice crystals, making it creamier. Established in 2012, the ice cream shop used organic milk and locally sourced ingredients. Minna T h r a l l, former shift leader at A La Minute and junior history major at Chapman, told The Panther that the shop's closing was due to increased rent and slow business. (“Employees) were all expecting that we were going to be closing at some point because business is slow, but we were thinking it was going to be more toward summer, because that's when we get a lot of business,” she said.

Employees were told by the shop's owners at a March 8 meeting that Afters Ice Cream had bought the location, with the transition expected to happen in April. Afters Ice Cream, which has 24 locations across California, offers flavors of ice cream like cookie monster, which is a blue-colored vanilla ice cream with cookie bits, and milk and cereal, along with the store's popular ice cream sandwich, the Milky Bun, a sliced glazed donut with ice cream in between the halves.

“All of our customers (have come) in asking if this is permanent and are very upset. People really love this ice cream, so it's really hard to see it go,” said Thrall, who has been working at A La Minute for a year and a half. Elly Aronson, a junior news and documentary major, said she was surprised to hear about the shop's closing. “One of the first times I visited Chapman, my mom and I went to A La Minute,” she said. “It was so good, and one of the first memories I have in the Circle. It will definitely be missed”.

The remaining A La Minute shops are located in Redlands, Temecula and Claremont, with the Redlands location about 30 minutes away from campus. “We (had) a lot of regulars who come in and we all know them by name … we are grateful for this community we have had around us,” Thrall said.
HILBERT MUSEUM
OF CALIFORNIA ART
GT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

NEW EXHIBITIONS
NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 19

Sincerely,
Norman Rockwell
Celebrating a New Acquisition

FREE admission and parking! Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–5pm | 714-516-5880
167 N. Archison St., Orange, CA 92866 | HILBERTMUSEUM.org | @HilbertMuseum

Hilbert Museum is located on the west campus of Chapman University, next to Partridge Dance Center and DAC, and across from Kelsey’s Diner and the main station. Just a short walk from the main campus or the free Chapman ‘Parking Lots’ shuttle bus drops off and picks up right across the street.

The Magic and Flair of
Mary Blair

Bay Area Scene Painting
THROUGH APRIL 27
FEATURES

Sierra DeWalt | Staff Writer

When Chapman sociology professor Bernard McGrane went through both familial and romantic relationship struggles over thirty years ago, he discovered the Karnei Cholting meditation center in Vermont and started practicing meditation. After reading The Heart Sutra, a classic text of Buddhism, McGrane went through a profound internal experience.

"Something very, very deep in me (clicked) and I started shedding tears left and right," McGrane said.

Now, he incorporates meditation at Chapman. He starts each class off with three to five minutes of sitting meditation and guides his students to think about relaxing each part of their body. He ends the session by instructing students to follow a sound of a small gold, bowl-shaped gong.

"It is important that mindfulness psychologically is very nourishing for us."

Gail Stearns, dean of the Wallace All-Faiths Chapel, said meditation can help students manage anxiety and identify stress inducers.

"It is important that mindfulness is introduced on our campus by people who practice it regularly and understand its benefits and limitations," Stearns said.

Meghan O’Connell, a junior sociology major, is one of McGrane's students who feels inspired when meditating.

"When I enter a classroom, I'm already thinking about all the things that need to be done or that need to be turned in," O'Connell said. "When I enter Professor McGrane's class, those thoughts still come, but then I get that minute of mindfulness and then I'm able to reflect and say, 'OK, I can get this done.'"

Like McGrane, communication studies professor Sophie Janicke-Bowles also incorporates mindfulness and yoga into her classes. When her students seem hyperactive and energetic, she guides them through meditation. When the students are feeling lethargic, she takes them through a few yoga exercises like the tree pose.

"We know from research that when people are hyper-stimulated, these are states where we cannot learn well," Janicke-Bowles said.

McGrane has practiced meditation in his class since the late 1990s, when he first launched a single-credit course in mindfulness and meditation. He’s received positive feedback in his course evaluations that discuss how the class’s unique strength lies in the few minutes offered to relieve stress.

"A lot of people don't know healthy ways to deal with (stress), and a minute of mindfulness is much better than taking a shot of tequila to calm you down," O’Connell said.

Another effective, yet commonly overlooked, way to deal with stress is to get enough sleep, said Jeanne Walker, director of Chapman’s Student Psychological Counseling Services.

"If there is one thing that will make a difference, it is sleep," Walker said. "Our brains don’t function well without adequate sleep, but most students do just the opposite by staying up late and doing all nights." O’Connell believes that the small moments of calm reflection go a long way.

"It really just doesn’t take a lot to recognize all the emotions that you’re feeling," she said. "Just take that moment for yourself to decompress and refresh your mind."

Some super bloom visitors endanger flowers, officials say

Mitali Shukla | Staff Writer
Satvi Sunkara | Staff Writer

How far are you willing to drive to get the perfect Instagram pictures? Well, if you’re a California resident, you don’t have to go too far. California’s 2019 super bloom brought a noteworthy display of hundreds of flower species growing along the west coast, causing thousands of flowers to bloom and be visible from space. This year’s bloom has attracted many to visit the fields — and take Instagram photos.

But, the crowds the super bloom attracts may have a detrimental effect on the fields. Some visitors have walked over and stepped on the field’s greenery, including California’s state flower, the golden poppy.

"People were obviously there to take pictures, just like my friends and I,” said Ashley Birdsell, a freshman integrated educational studies major who went to see the super bloom at Walker Canyon in Lake Elsinore, California. "There were clear paths where we could walk without stepping on the flowers."

But despite these existing paths, many visitors have gone off trail to pick flowers or lay down in fields to get a photo for their social media posts. According to The Washington Post, a helicopter illegally landed in a field of poppies in Lancaster, about 70 miles north of Los Angeles, and its passengers began a hike.

Instances like this, along with traffic congestion issues, temporarily shut down public access to Walker Canyon on March 18. Since then, the park officials have required visitors to take $10 shuttles on weekends to see the flowers.

"By attracting the general public to see this natural beauty, hopefully people will walk away with a greater appreciation of open spaces, as opposed to more housing tracks and strip malls," said Chapman biological sciences professor Jennifer Funk.

In what might be considered the biggest bloom in the past two decades, the California Travel and Tourism Commission reported that the seven inches of rain since July 2018 is to thank for the weather conditions that caused the bloom.

"When the rain comes just right, we start getting these soaking rains from fall through winter," said Betsy Knaak, the executive director for the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association. "The water is just the right amount to germinate these native annual seeds that are stored in the ground here."

After eight years of drought in southern California, the rainfall accumulated throughout the past year helps seeds have time to spread and germinate.

"We experienced between nine to 19 years of drought," Knaak said. "When you have a year with more traditionally average rainfall, you get the seeds responding."

The Pant...
Satti Sunkara | Staff Writer

Passes to the Coachella Valley Music and Art Festival start at $429. The festival is 100 miles away from Chapman, but can be further and more expensive if a flight is necessary to get there. And outfits for the festival, which takes place in April, can range from $40 to $500. But self-taught stylist, fashion entrepreneur and Chapman junior Sally Park might have a solution, if only for the expensive outfits.

“I’m really excited to offer festival clothing for the first time,” said Park, a business administration major who founded clothing company Oh She’s That Bomed. “What I make is affordable, can’t be easily duplicated and is a tailored process with the customer.”

The high price tags associated with the cost of attending Coachella and finding clothing to wear to the music festival is something that some students don’t want to spend.

“It’s a huge appeal to anyone to have something be one-of-a-kind. I wanted a few statement pieces and it was so much more appealing to go to Sally than some store,” said Rebekah Halvorsen, a senior peace studies major who wanted to customize festival outfits for Coachella and the Ultra Music Festival. “Other companies charged upwards of $500 to $700 for a custom jacket.”

Park, who is working on a festival collection, intends to offer a more high-end collection and offers payment plans for her clothing. Her current merchandise ranges from $15 for simple tops to $250 for a customized jacket, depending on what customers want and what materials they choose to use.

“Clothing like this should be fun, not a financial burden,” Park said. “It will be very different from a lot of festival clothing. I’m going to keep my theme of using a lot of industrial materials and harsher accessories with softer fabrics.”

Creating a festival line isn’t what Park is used to — as she describes her fashion as an intersection between overexposed vintage and street-style clothing. Within the past month of her business being open for custom orders, Park has received and delivered various orders that include tops, custom sorority letters and soon, trendy festival outfits.

“The variations I can throw into it is why it’s so fun to make my own clothing in that style,” she said. “And with small, individualized businesses like Park’s, customers are able to closely work out the design to get what they paid for.

“I loved that I knew where my clothing was coming from and that it was handmade,” said Mira Thokdi, a sophomore graphic design major who received a personalized sorority letter jacket. “Sally made it easy to get good quality, personalized clothing.”

Park started the business in February after not being able to buy a top that was sold out from brand AllSaints, realizing she could make it herself. Customers place orders for existing pieces or customized outfits through Park’s Instagram page and meet with her to discuss ideas and delivery dates.

Despite having no experience in fashion design, Park taught herself how to make custom outfits during the school year. While her work is inspired by the women in her life, it’s a one-person business.

“I got my first sewing machine, made friends with all the workers at Jo-Ann Fabrics, watched more YouTube tutorials than you will ever know and re-worked those traditional techniques into my own,” she said.

With the much anticipated Coachella and Stagecoach festivals, Park hopes to keep busy. More than 127,000 people attended the Coachella festival last year, according to USA Today.

“I am keeping most details of the festival collection hidden as a surprise, but expect a lot of sparkle and a lot of confusing hardware,” Park said.

Coachella outfits are expensive. But a Chapman designer has a solution
Two of my friends have summer internships in San Francisco. One will be working in New York City. One will be in Austin. Two more were hired in Denver. Me? I’m still waiting to hear back from most places I applied and the companies who did respond didn’t hire me.

During a family brunch over spring break this year, my grandma asked what my plans for the summer were. I got a little sweaty and told nearly my entire family that I didn’t have any yet. When my cousin was asked the same question, she said she got an internship, which my her father went on to describe as (maybe not in these exact words) a fantastic stepping stone on the way to a profitable career and fulfilling life. I got a little sweaty. It seems like everyone around me will be spending their summers gaining valuable work experience to prepare them for their future careers, while I’m thinking about working retail. I’m not opposed to the potential discounts on cute clothes I might receive, but I wish I could be spending that time building my resume instead.

I know that any experience is good experience to have under your belt, but I was really hoping to be in an office building instead of behind a check-out counter this summer. Honestly, I don’t know what I want to do after college, but the pressure to become a more desirable future employee, no matter the career, is getting to me.

Initially, I naively only applied to one summer internship. I had toured the company in spring 2018 and became totally fixated on it. The people were welcoming, the office was beautiful and the company atmosphere seemed like a good fit for me. It was set on working there. I had even already decided on my first-day-of-work outfit.

From the interviewer’s tone of voice and the fact that she said things like “How are you today?” and “It was so nice to talk to you, Maura Kate,” I definitely assumed I’d be hired, but unfortunately I wasn’t. Evidently, I was just being polite and I just have no clue how interviews work.

After sadly talking on the company’s LinkedIn, I discovered that the interns they’d selected are graduating college this year or will be going into their senior year. While that made me feel a little better about not getting the internship, it also made me worried about the possibility of me being hired elsewhere.

Some of my older friends have reassured me by saying that the summer going into junior year is a difficult time to find an internship and that they also struggled when they were in my position. But at the same time, some of the friends who are my age who are being hired at amazing companies – and I’m not. I’m happy for them, but it’s hard not to compare myself. Now, I’m scrambling to apply to any and all internships I think might be a good fit, beefing up my LinkedIn and waiting for the summer store clerk applications at Urban Outfitters to open up.

Maybe this just isn’t my year to be the bright-eyed, bushy-tailed intern and eventually, I’ll accept that. Right now, the wound is a little fresh, but with time, it’ll heal. And that clothing discount sounds better and better the more I think about it.
I am a go-getter. It's in my blood to succeed, to win, to get whatever I want and to be whoever I want. I went to a high school where the motto was literally "Quest for Excellence How fitting. In high school, I was the senior class president, a varsity athlete and maintained a 4.0 GPA to impress the colleges I was determined to get into. Eventually, I was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania, a school I had been perfecting my resume, drafting cover letters and spending way too much time on LinkedIn. I've had rejection emails while in my mailbox and I've cried, eyes out to my mom about how I can't seem to find a lead. I know I'm not the only one in this position, and if you're in the same place, or any position that makes you question your worth, here's a piece of advice: Be persistent.

Persistence is in your best friend. You might forget her about once in a while, but it's time to give her some well-deserved attention.

When I talk about persistence, I mean setting small, achievable goals each day. We all have persistent minds until we meet a tall wall of rejection.

Persistence is understanding that the grind of hard work can be what fuels you. Failure can be what gives you grit. We follow the expectation that after one thing is accomplished, we move on to another quickly. For example, we finish school, we graduate college... and then what? The gray area of vagueness after graduating with a bachelor's is the hardest pill to swallow. But when I found myself in this state of self-doubt, I also found truth.

It's not about that pattern of reaching the bare minimum and then stopping. We often forget that being persistent doesn't mean just finishing the job. It's taking the time to appreciate the pain and tears that come with it and realizing that hard work is pushing past doubt and making progress. We can't stop learning this all over again this semester. Instead of spending time worrying about the gray areas of my life, I'm going to focus on being persistent. I am making a commitment to myself to not let anything stand in my way; I'm making a commitment to myself. What's in your day? I'm asking that of you, because I believe that you are capable of being persistent.

Therefore, I give you a challenge. Let's learn to be persistent and challenge all the fears and thoughts even when negativity is at the forefront of your mind. Every day is your day to show the world that you are persistent.

Remember that we are all in the same rocky boat. Learn to love hardship and to love the struggle because it's the struggle that will help you grow. So keep going. Keep learning. Keep growing. Keep being persistent.

The moral of my story? Success is gratifying, but it's temporary. Find appreciation in your work ethic. Challenge yourself beyond the classroom, going beyond your relationships and interests. These are just a few challenges ahead, but persistence will give you a little push when you need it.

If you can follow a pattern of reaching the bare minimum and then stopping, we often forget that being persistent doesn't mean just finishing the job. It's taking the time to appreciate the pain and tears that come with it and realizing that hard work is pushing past doubt and making progress. We can't stop learning this all over again this semester. Instead of spending time worrying about the gray areas of my life, I'm going to focus on being persistent. I am making a commitment to myself to not let anything stand in my way; I'm making a commitment to myself. What's in your day? I'm asking that of you, because I believe that you are capable of being persistent.

Therefore, I give you a challenge. Let's learn to be persistent and challenge all the fears and thoughts even when negativity is at the forefront of your mind. Every day is your day to show the world that you are persistent.

Remember that we are all in the same rocky boat. Learn to love hardship and to love the struggle because it's the struggle that will help you grow. So keep going. Keep learning. Keep growing. Keep being persistent.

The moral of my story? Success is gratifying, but it's temporary. Find appreciation in your work ethic. Challenge yourself beyond the classroom, going beyond your relationships and interests. These are just a few challenges ahead, but persistence will give you a little push when you need it.
Lakers owner talks criticism, hardships of NBA spotlight

Luca Evans | Staff Writer

Despite the signing of superstar LeBron James prior to the start of the 2018-19 NBA regular season, the Los Angeles Lakers have struggled to find themselves progressing, through the team’s sixth straight season with more losses than wins. As part of a swirl of rumors surround whether the team’s offensive plans, a headline emerged asserting the Lakers were in pursuit of the Los Angeles Clippers’ head coach Doc Rivers to replace their own Luke Walton, explained Lakers owner Jeanie Buss. Yet, according to her, the rumor held no true.

“The headline … was completely not true. It’s crazy,” Buss told Jeff Pearlman's sports journalism class March 29.

Three days later, Rivers responded to the rumor establishing his intent to stay with the Clippers, a clear decision as he is under contract with the team until the end of the season in 2021. The next day, Buss said she believes the headline read “Lakers lose to Clippers again.”

“There was nothing to that at all,” Buss said, with a shake of her head. “How are you supposed to respond to that? I mean, should you respond to it?”

Buss spoke candidly about her career and sharing insight into today’s media criticism. She spent much of her life under the scrutiny of the Hollywood lights — when she was just 18, her father Jerry Buss bought the Lakers and ushered in the team that won championships in the 1980s. Buss said her father left each of his four children a stake in the Lakers when he passed away in 2013. In 2017, she outlasted her brothers in a legal battle to be named the controlling owner of the Los Angeles Lakers.

“We haven’t lived up to the brand that (my father) created, and he created a culture of winning and success,” Buss said. “The Lakers were always relevant and they were always in the conversation, and I felt like the team had lost that importance. However, the Lakers still remain one of the most profitable teams in the league, ranked No. 2 overall on Forbes’ annual valuation list, with a value of $1.87 billion. One student asked what Buss’ vision for the team was beyond winning championships.

“We want a team the community can be proud of, and we bring in players that can fit part of something bigger than their individual selves,” Buss said. “(I want to) build something special that, just as my dad said so many years ago, that the community can be proud of.”

Working to formulate that team over time has led to its share of sports journalism criticism. Unlike others, Buss said she doesn’t pretend like it doesn’t affect her. Buss said to Pearlman that words, in fact, do hurt.

“If you respond to (a rumor) of non-credible sources, ‘Buss said. “Yet, particularly, you’re giving credibility to the Rivers controversy can be extreme clarity difficult.”

“If you respond to (a rumor) officially, you’re giving credibility to non-credible sources,” Buss said. “Yet, by not responding to it, then it has a life and it gets into the psyche of fans.”

From being named the general manager of the now-defunct Los Angeles Strings at 19 to studying business at University of Southern California to becoming a sports executive in a male-dominated industry, she learned a lesson — everybody’s out to beat you, she said.

Now, with 20 years of experience working for the Lakers under her belt, she summed up her ability to tune out the white noise with a simple statement and a smile.

“I can take it, at my age,” Buss said.

Buss’s vision for the team involves the intersection of team success and community, because “everybody can be under the flag” of the team’s class purple-and-gold. The Lakers are a brand, Buss said, and she doesn’t plan to take her foot off the gas until she delivers a team the community is happy with.

“We won’t stop until we’re proud.”

Men’s lacrosse hopes to take second national championship

Nathanial Leyba | Staff Writer

For the men’s lacrosse team at Chapman, being up for a championship isn’t novel. In 2017, the team secured its first national championship against the California Polytechnic State University Mustangs in a 9-5 home win at Wilson Stadium. Fans rushed towards the black steel fences while players threw their gear in the air in celebration. Fans cheered and clapped ecstatically as the team went to the 50-yard line and gathered on the Men’s Exposition Lacrosse Association (MCLA) stage.

Over the next two years, the team would return to the national championships twice, finishing both times as runner-ups, to Grand Canyon University in 2017 and Michigan State University in 2018. This season, the team carries a record of 7-2. Senior goalie and strategic and corporate communication major Daniel Aguilar is confident in the team’s future as the month of March comes to a close.

“We are starting to find our identity and have been stacking great ranked road wins against Cal Poly and Colorado State University, Boulder,” Aguilar said.

Although Chapman is a Division III university, the men’s lacrosse team plays on the Division I level in the Southwestern Lacrosse Conference (SLC). But, as a club team, they still differ from NCAA teams like Duke University or Cornell University, who are not in the MCLA.

When the team first joined MCLA, they were considered a Division II team. AJ Rafter, Chapman 2014 alumna and former player for the men’s team from 2011-2014, said the team’s move to Division I at least 10 years ago was needed.

“We essentially compete better with the Division I. The competition is better and it’s more friendly for our traveling,” Rafter said. “A lot of the better Division II schools are east and in the Midwest.”

According to the MCLA website, Chapman has been a part of the conference since 2009, when it was established. The conference consists of 11 teams, a majority of which are from California.

Chapman has averaged 13.36 goals per game this season, while their opponents have scored an average of 9.54 goals against them. Despite the two losses, Jack Phillips, a midfielder and junior strategic and corporate communication major, said one of the things that makes the team successful is unity.

“We started off rough. It’s tough with a light roster,” Phillips said. “But it’s fun to battle through everything. What makes us so good is the brotherhood we have, no matter how cliche it sounds.”

When the team secured the national championship title in 2016, they sported a 39-person roster. The team had 34 players in 2017 and 32 in 2018. During Rafter’s senior year in 2014, the team had 53 players on its roster. This year, it has 28. Dallas Hartley, head coach for the Panthers, said this year is an odd one in regards to the incoming freshmen and the senior class.

There is no exact reason for the decreasing roster length, other than the two classes being smaller when compared to previous years, Hartley said.

“We usually try to recruit 15 freshmen and our senior class is usually 10. But we only have five seniors this year, along with seven freshmen,” Hartley said.

Aguilar, who has seen the program develop over the past four years, said Hartley drives the team’s passion.

“His heart went into it nine years ago and it’s the culture he has established. The fine line he rides as an authority figure but also hanging out with the guys is what sets a good base for the program that allows us to have a great culture,” Aguilar said.

With four games left in the regular season, player like Phillips, hope a national championship is in the works.

“It’s definitely in the headlines. … We have to start working on our systems more and start trusting each other more on slide packages,” Phillips said. “But I definitely believe we will make it back to the championship.”
After doubleheader wins and losses, softball looks forward

Kayya Maran | Staff Writer

Before spring break, Chapman’s softball team had a mercurial weekend, with two sweeping wins against the Occidental Tigers March 9, followed by two losses to Ithaca College on March 10. Crowds of enthusiastic fans and parents gathered in the stands at El Camino Real Park in Orange to support Chapman’s softball team in its first home game of the season. The Panthers tore into the field March 9 to deafening cheers. Junior Sarah Hartmann, a right-handed pitcher, said that the team’s morale was at an all-time high.

The team opened its first game of the doubleheader with a “bang,” scoring nine runs in the first inning, said senior Hope Ballard, an outfielder on the team. “I wanted to make sure that we weren’t playing the game as if we were nine runs ahead,” Ballard said. “We needed to play the game like it was 0-0 and we still had something to fight for.” The team continued to beat Occidental 13-3 and 12-9 in the first and second games. Riding the high of these wins, Ballard said the Panthers went into the next day’s games against Ithaca College brimming with confidence. “Our team really took the momentum off of the Occidental wins and we tried to use that going forward,” Ballard said. But the March 10 doubleheader didn’t go as anticipated, with the Panthers losing both games against Ithaca with scores of 4-1 and 6-2. In the two weeks that followed, the team saw a total of eight losses and two wins. For the Ithaca games, which didn’t go as anticipated, Ballard said the Panthers would not go on a loss streak, Ballard said the Panthers ended the team’s four-game winning streak, Ballard said the Panthers “struggled” to keep up because they’d never faced such skilled pitchers before. “That’s not an excuse, though. We need to be able to come in and face any team and hit any pitcher they throw at us,” Ballard said.

Senior Emily Claudy, a right-hand pitcher on the team said the Panthers faced a lack of confidence at bat. “We all know that our team can hit well,” Claudy said. “It’s just the matter of having the same confidence in every situation, no matter how much pressure is put on you.” Ballard said the team has learned to accept failure as part of the sport. “The game doesn’t remember what happened yesterday,” she said. Focusing too much on failures can be detrimental and counterproductive to the team, Hartmann said. “We play so many games and we play so frequently that there’s no point focusing on ‘that one loss’ or ‘that one bad pitch,’” Hartmann said. “A few losses is not going to stop us and we’re not going to let it take our momentum away.” Freshman Ayanna Sanchez, a utility player, said what defines an athlete is not a loss, but “how you come back from that loss.”

Freshman-heavy women’s track and field team breaks multiple records

Luca Evans | Staff Writer

Head coach DeAndre Woods has instilled a nine-word motto into the Chapman women’s track and field team: Believe in, all in, buy in, locked in. “It reminds us every week what we’re doing this for,” said sophomore psychology major and team member Gabi Siguenza. “It’s not just to score points, and it’s not just to be on the team — it’s that you’re contributing something bigger.”

This season, Siguenza said the team’s achievements are built around the energy of the younger runners. Siguenza and Woods commended the team’s focus and readiness to work hard, and Arabella Reece — a freshman communication studies major who has broken Chapman records — used the word to describe the youthful presence on the team. “A lot of us are mostly freshmen and sophomores, so it’s allowing a new energy on the team to be fostered,” Reece said.

Since Woods took over as the Chapman coach at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year, the new focus on self-positivity, Woods said, has coincided with a slew of successes. Just six meets into the season, five school records have already been broken since the season began in February. Siguenza broke a former nine-year-long record March 9 in the 400-meter hurdle at the Ben Brown Invitational, then broke that same record by a second and a half just a week later at the Irwin Collegiate Scoring Meet March 16. “I’ve had to reassure myself a lot this year that I can do these things, because I know that I’m capable of them,” Siguenza said. “This year, I’ve been taking a lot more time to work through anything that might be holding me back.”

She remembers a particularly grueling practice earlier this season she said was rewarding to the team’s chemistry. The workout consisted of six cycles of running “broken 400s,” a drill in which the runners sprint 300 meters over hurdles, take a 30-second break and sprint another 100 meters. “[That] was really awful physically, but when we finished we were just hugging it out,” Siguenza said. “It’s moments like that where you’re continuing to support each other through the worst of it.” Despite the female Panthers’ hard work, their success sometimes goes unnoticed due to the small size of their program, Woods said. Reece said that an “underdog” mentality serves to motivate the team and surprise people who “aren’t looking for an outstanding effort.” “I keep reminding our student-athletes that it’s OK to not have people recognize who we are,” Woods said. “If anything, it’s a good thing because the pressure isn’t on us.” Siguenza believes as the season continues, the team will gain more attention on campus and across Division III. “What Coach Woods likes is that we’re not noticed right now,” Siguenza said. “But I think pretty soon, people are going to start noticing.”

Sophomore psychology major Gabi Siguenza broke the 400-meter hurdle record at the Ben Brown Invitational March 9, then broke the record again by a second and a half March 16.
Pri Jain | Staff Writer

As business administration major Adrien Rooney faced off against the second best Division III tennis team in the nation, he came into the singles match against Bowdoin college thinking he was going to lose by a large margin because of the athletic ability gap between him and his opponent. But, Rooney put up a fight and lost 6-7 and 4-6 in the first two sets.

“We all just have to stay focused,” said Rooney.

As a freshman, Rooney said there are few expectations of him when compared to the sophomores, juniors and seniors on the team. He said his freshman season gave him an opportunity to improve and build on his weaknesses.

“If I win, I help the team. If I lose, I move on and learn from it,” Rooney said. “I have four years here so I can make my mark.”

Rooney’s doubles partner, freshman strategic and corporate communication major Luke Bennett, believes that the team needs better discipline during its practices.

“At the beginning of the season, we weren’t doing much in terms of overall discipline and bonding as a team,” Bennett said. “One thing that has really helped us get focused. ‘That has really put us in the zone and gotten us closer.’

Although Bennett said he and Rooney have different personalities, he said they complement one another as teammates.

“In terms of Adrien, he’s always there, always pumping me up and getting me stoked to play,” Bennett said. “I’m more of a laid-back person so for him to have that kind of energy – it really translates on the court and hopefully it will lead to some wins this season.”

Although the two have very different personalities, Rooney said Bennett is the perfect doubles partner for him. While Bennett describes himself as more laid-back, he said Rooney never fails to fire him up before matches.

“My relationship with Luke … he’s my best friend, I couldn’t ask for a better partner,” Rooney said. “He plays well and we get hyped before matches together. I’m looking forward to winning a lot of matches with him this season.”

After losing their doubles match against Bowdoin College, freshmen Adrien Rooney and Luke Bennett lost their next doubles match against Haverford College 8-5.