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Opinion

## Expansion is good for everybody

08/30/2015 • by The Panther Editorial Board • [Add Comment](#)



*Sophia Nielson*

On Aug. 26, Chapman announced that it will be postponing any further expansion until 2016 or later, following a meeting between university President Jim Doti and Chancellor Danielle Struppa and the Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA), a vocal opponent of the university's planned expansion.

The proposed expansion plans included an increase in student enrollment, the addition of a university bar and the expansion of many existing buildings on campus, according to documents from the City of Orange.

The Panther Editorial Board will support future university expansion once more on-campus housing for upperclassmen is created.

Moving forward, we believe that the most important aspect of the university's relationship with the city should be an ability and willingness to compromise.

OTPA President Sandy Quinn stated that the "aggressive expansion proposed will further deteriorate the fabric and integrity of our historic district" and that "the current student population is a big impact on the problem relating to adverse impacts to the Old Towne Historic District."

Calling the current students that consistently bring their business to Old Towne on a regular basis a "problem relating to adverse impacts" to Old Towne seems harsh to say the least. As for university expansion, groups like the OTPA should realize that with success comes new demand. Chapman's increasing popularity means that new students and upperclassmen alike simply need places to live.

If Orange residents don't want more and more students seeping into their neighborhoods, then this means more on-campus housing is needed. It cannot happen both ways.

This is all part of a growing issue that has existed for years; longtime Old Towne residents are wary of the change that a growing population of college students could bring to a town accustomed to a relatively quiet way of life.

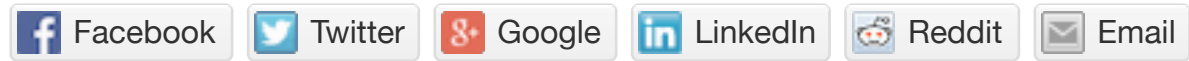
The positive economic impact that Chapman has had on Orange has been massive, and the university will continue to be a catalyst for business in the community for years to come.

In postponing further expansion plans, Chapman has gone almost past the point of compromise to cater to the OTPA's concerns. The actions do seem to reflect Doti's statement that this move was made in the interest of being "a good neighbor," but groups like the OTPA cannot expect Chapman to completely go stagnant in terms of growth. Permanently capping the acreage of campus and the student population does not make sense for anyone, including the businesses in the historic district that thrive due to Chapman's presence in the community.

We agree with Doti that we should definitely strive to be good neighbors as a university and

student body, and we hold the belief that eventual expansion following an increase in on-campus options for student housing is a step in the right direction to benefit both longtime Orange residents and Chapman students.

Because future expansion is inevitable, the two sides would be best served by figuring out a way to fairly share the space. Perhaps the OTPA could focus its efforts more on the preservation of historical places rather than stunting the growth of their Chapman neighbors.



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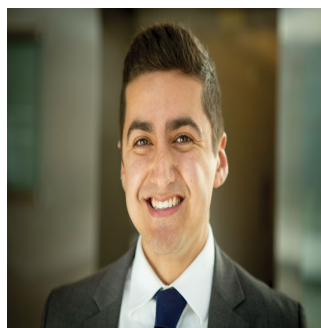
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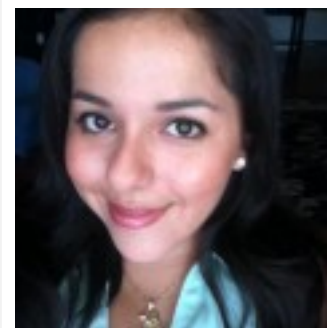
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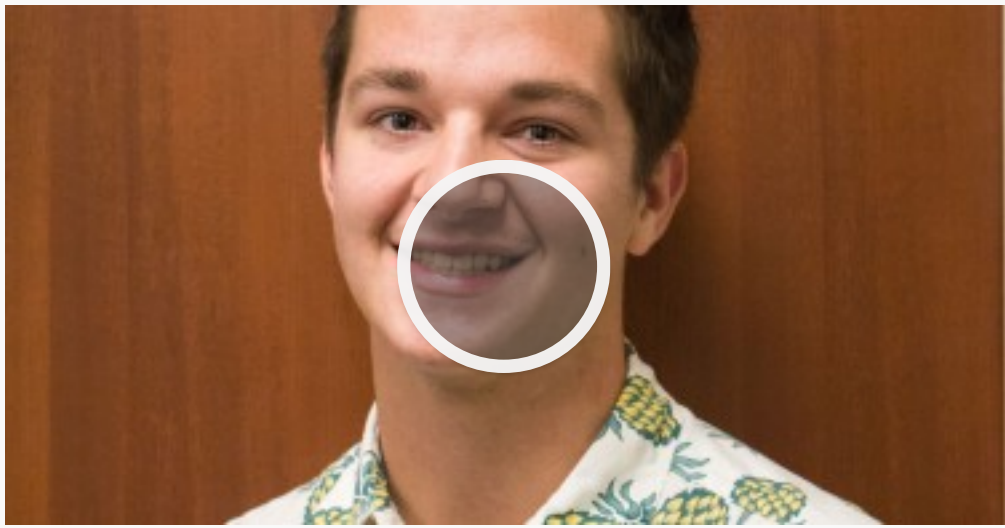


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The Panther is Chapman University's student-run newspaper and publishes weekly on Mondays during the fall and spring semesters. The Panther newspaper staff is dedicated to producing a quality publication in design, article content and business practice through the highest level of journalistic integrity.

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