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Welcome Week, Aug 19-22, Rolls Out Events for New Freshmen

ORANGE, Calif., August 15, 2008

WHAT: Chapman University's annual "Welcome Week" helps new students transition to college life.

WHO: Chapman's freshman class -- the Class of 2012 -- numbers more than 600 this year.

DETAILS AND SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, Aug. 19: Freshmen Move-In Day – starts 7:30 a.m.

The vast majority of the 600-plus freshmen class will move in to their residence halls today. All meals for freshmen and families will be served outside today and tomorrow, at tables set up on the campus grounds.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 – Official Opening Convocation -- 8:30 a.m.

President Doti and the entire Chapman faculty, gowned in their academic regalia and led by a bagpiper, will parade into the Hutton Sports Center to welcome students and their families and officially open the Chapman academic year. Keynote speaker: Chapman professor and Nobel economics laureate Vernon Smith.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 – Freshman Playfair – 6:30 p.m.

The entire freshman class gathers in Ernie Chapman Stadium for a series of icebreaking, get-to-know-you games and exercises, including the forming of giant circles of new friends on the field. This is followed at 9 p.m. by one of the most hallowed campus traditions...

Wednesday, Aug. 20 – Traditions Ceremony and Candlelighting – 9 p.m.

The entire freshman class gathers on the Bert Williams Mall (the lawn in front of Memorial Hall) to hear veteran faculty and staff members speak about the history and traditions of Chapman University. Then the entire class will light candles in the darkness, symbolizing the knowledge they will gain during their college career. Considered the symbolic moment when the freshman class truly enters the Chapman community.

Thurs., Aug. 21 - Freshman Symposium and Author Teleconference – 10 a.m.

The entire Chapman freshman class was assigned to read Sherman Alexie's novel "Flight" over the summer. At this event in Memorial Hall, they will participate in a live teleconference with the extremely popular writer/filmmaker to discuss his book and share their thoughts with him.

Fri., Aug. 22 – Entertainment Night – 7 p.m.

Chapman students enjoy their last weeknight of freedom (for a while, anyway) with a performance by the comedy troupe Culture Clash (7 p.m. in Memorial Hall) and an outdoor movie following the show.

Monday, Aug. 25 – Chapman University Fall Classes Begin