

Voces Novae: Chapman University Historical Review, Vol 2, No 2 (2011)

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## Athletics

Chapman University is an NCAA Division III Independent University, but will join the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in July 2011. Originally a Division II school, President Jim Doti made the decision to switch divisions so that athletes could focus on being students first and foremost.

Coaches, for example, play an important role as educators. In 1990, Director of Athletics, [David Currey](#), joined Chapman and oversaw a period of transformation and development for the Chapman Athletics Department. Currey received his bachelor's degree from Cal State Los Angeles and his master's degree from Stanford University. He then became an assistant coach at Stanford and went to the Rose Bowl twice. Currey has been a football coach at Long Beach State, Cincinnati, and UCLA prior to coming to Chapman.

David Currey helped transition Chapman into Division III and revived the football program after a 62-year hiatus. Now, Chapman has 18 intercollegiate athletic teams and five club sports. Over the past 20 years, Chapman has won national championships in softball (1995) and baseball (2003), and had the football team ranked in the top-25 in the nation. The school's 18 intercollegiate teams have gone to the NCAA playoffs 74 times in the past 16 years. Now, its baseball, lacrosse, basketball, and soccer teams regularly appear in the post-season and many Chapman coaches have recently received honors as the best coach of their sport among Division III Independents. Currey feels that "the quality and the integrity and the passion" Chapman athletes have for what they do "is a great message for anybody that would like to know about Chapman."

### Interview with Athletics Director David Currey



