Schmid College

The sciences became part of their own school at Chapman University, the Schmid College of Science, in 2009 after President Jim Doti and Chancellor Daniele Struppa decided to develop the University's science offerings. Chapman already had strong departments in Biology, Health Science, and Chemistry, but Struppa and trustees such as Dick Schmid and Scott Chapman wanted to bring a physics program to Chapman. Struppa and others developed a computational science core for the new college while adding programs in the environmental sciences and biochemistry. There are plans for a new building to house Schmid College in the near future.

The first step in creating Schmid College was attracting well-known faculty who could provide students with an exceptional education in these newly developed programs. Menas Kafatos, the founding Dean of Schmid College and Vice Chancellor for Special Projects, came to Chapman in 2008 from George Mason University (GMU). His work focuses on quantum theory and global hazards. "We tend to develop things here at Chapman that are relevant to our students, our community, and of course, the nation," he says. Certainly, new faculty member and world-renowned physicist Yakir Aharonov, who joined Chapmans faculty in 2008 after coming from GMU, would agree. This past year, Aharonov received the National Medal of Science from President Barak Obama. By bringing in new faculty, developing new science programs, and building a new home for the Schmid College of Science, the administration added even more depth and prestige to Chapman's reputation for high quality undergraduate research.

Interview with Dean of Schmid College of Science and Vice Chancellor of Special Projects Menas Kafatos