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Chapman University Media Relations

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Students Launch New Online Magazine

ORANGE, Calif. Chapman University's spring magazine-production class has launched a new, full-color online campus magazine aimed at students, faculty, staff and friends of the university. *PROWL* magazine (www.chapman.edu/prowl) named to associate with the Chapman Panther mascot debuted today with an issue bursting with campus news and features, including an anchor story that looks ahead at Chapman's next ten years, spotlighting interviews with Chapman President James L. Doti and other university officials.

Other sections include Profiles, which includes an interview with Chapman provost (soon to be chancellor) Daniele Struppa on his mountain-climbing avocation; Campus Life, with articles on the Chapman mentoring system and upcoming enhancements to the sports program; To Do, featuring stories on travel and events; Music; Health and Fashion. All stories are regular feature-length magazine articles, illustrated with color photos and drawings.

PROWL debuts just a few days before Chapman's spring commencement, but faculty advisor Jerry Hicks, who instructed the 10-student magazine production class in the Chapman journalism department, is confident the Chapman community will read and enjoy it. *PROWL* was put together on a shoestring budget, said Hicks. We looked into producing a standard magazine, but the costs would have been prohibitive. Susan Paterno, head of the Chapman journalism program, suggested an online magazine which would save money and paper and give us some design freedom. The plan was then presented to Richard Ruppel, chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature, who gave the project the green light, plus \$500 to hire a web designer.

Hicks added that the students made all the decisions on *PROWL* throughout its creation. My only role was a bit of guidance. They chose the name, decided on the stories and did all the writing. The group hired Jeff Streed, a professional web designer, to actually put it together. He did a great job, says Hicks, but he followed the students' directions all the way through. He came to class numerous times to hear their ideas, and took careful notes about what they wanted. About halfway through the whole process it was pretty clear Jeff would be working for free the rest of the time but he generously kept donating his time.

Will there be more issues of *PROWL* after this? Hicks says that depends on a number of factors. Naturally, the students hope that they have begun something that would be produced each semester, or more. But that's not our decision to make. We are just grateful we were given this opportunity.