Campus Times

December 7, 2018 | Serving the University of La Verne Community Since 1919 | Vol. 127, No. 13

Snow global warring



Ariel Torres

Freshmen broadcasting major Jacob Barriga and business administration major Jacob Martin have a snowball fight in a large inflatable snow globe in the Campus Center Ballroom Thursday at the Campus Activity Board's Holiday Extravaganza. The event had crafts and food from all over the world including latkes, orange chicken and Mongolian beef. **See story on page 7.**

ULV alumna facilitates self reflection

Heggem hopes for change

Jocelyn Arceo
Arts Editor

Shae Perkins and the Office of Housing and Residential Life held a week long series last week focused on building a healthier relationship with yourself in order to build a better relationship with those around you.

The event was titled, "Healing Identity: Exploring and Empowering Marginalized Voices." For an hour a night in various rooms throughout campus, students were given the chance to delve deep within themselves and reflect with Perkins, an alumna and family therapist who owns Shae' Seasons, a business venture that helps facilitate experiences of self-reflection.

"What you do in here doesn't matter if you don't use it out there," Perkins said. "The purpose is to apply what you learn. They say knowledge is power, but that is very untrue. It's the application of knowledge that is power."

"My hope is that you apply what you take from this space ... It's all about building a healthier sense of self so you can build a healthier sense with others."

Perkins and Resident Life Coordinator Stephen Heggem brought this series to campus earlier in the semester and took the opportunity to provide another session as the semester comes to an end.

Several activities, such as games of true or false and recipe making for the perfect relationship, were used to help students realize who they are, how that affects the people they surround themselves with and what it is they need to implement within themselves to maintain healthier, stronger relationships.

Heggem said he was hoping the program could help start a path toward change at the University, especially in regards to the recent protest calling for diversity and cultural competency training and inclusion.

"The hope is that through the assessments you filled out, we can present this to faculty and staff and say that these demands are doable ... Let this be a very exciting but also scary start to some very needed change on this campus," Heggem said.

On Wednesday a group of five met in ACB 212 and gathered to make the perfect recipe for the perfect relationship. Of the five, one student who had participated in the activity once before was asked to build a recipe for the perfect relationship with himself.

Rudy Amaya, senior social justice in education major, built the perfect recipe for a relationship with himself using various amounts of love, reflection, authenticity, acceptance, adventure, care and grit. Recipes could include cups, tablespoons, teaspoons, quarts or whatever measurement audience members preferred.

"You have to be real with yourself, dig in deep," Amaya said about his one-fourth cup of authenticity. "A lot of times we're so quick to talk about the good, we're a little more hesitant with the bad. We don't want to go to that sacred space. I say sacred space because it really is something beautiful...It's ugly but it's beautiful."

On the last day Perkins asked a room of four to write down their past — more specifically, their struggles — on a piece of paper.

"You have stories in your past that you wouldn't have chosen if you were the one who had the opportunity to do so," Perkins said. "Sometimes people pick up the pen and they write it for you and you're left to just deal with it."

Continued on page 7

Inside The Campus Times



ULV recognized as green college ..... Page 3
Sushi restaurant amps up aesthetics ..... Page 6
Harris Gallery showcases 'Wumbology' ..... Page 8
Sanchez digs place in recordbook ..... Page 10

LV kids light up holidays

Jocelyn Arceo
Arts Editor

The city of La Verne hosted their annual tree lighting ceremony in front of City Hall Tuesday night.

To a crowd of about 100 people, Mayor Don Kendrick gave an opening statement and wished the city a happy holiday season before asking two little girls, Emma and Maggie Elfman, to light the tree.

"I have asked two young girls to help me with this because they are much better at lighting the tree than I am," Kendrick said. "I want to wish every one of you a merry Christmas, happy New Year and have a great holiday season."

As part of opening statements, Kendrick introduced Wayne Hurley, chairman of the La Verne Chamber of Commerce, for a few words.

"On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce we want to thank everybody for being here and remind you to shop La Verne," Hurley said. "Shop small whether it's on Foothill or downtown. It's really important. "We want to be small, we want to be known for that and it takes us supporting those small businesses to be successful, so thank you guys for being here."

After the tree lighting the Bonita High School Chamber Singers performed four Christmas carols beginning with "O Christmas Tree" and ending with "Jingle Bells" as Santa Claus made his way out into the crowd of guests, greeting the children and families gathered around the tree.

"It was good to see everybody here come together to see this ceremony that we do," Noah Veliz, senior chamber singers member, said. "When there are little kids here, they see us and want to be like us. We're like a role model for them and if this keeps happening it'll make for a better community, I think."

As the line to take pictures with Santa grew, guests could see, hear and feel the excitement radiating off the small children who could not wait to give Santa their Christmas lists.

La Verne resident Rachelle Killackey has attended the ceremony for upwards of five years, and this year was no exception. With two young daughters in tow, she was able to grab a photo of them with Santa Claus to use as their annual Christmas photo.

Continued on page 7

President heading ed group

Emily J. Sullivan
Staff Writer

University of La Verne President Devorah Lieberman was recently elected president of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, or CUMU.

CUMU is group of international universities in urban areas with the goal of creating partnerships between the universities and their surrounding communities.

Lieberman's new title was announced at the group's annual conference this fall.

"I'm just thrilled to have Devorah taking on this new role," said Bobbie Laur, executive director of the coalition. "She is a national leader (with an) authentic commitment to supporting faculty, staff and students in their community engagement partnerships."

Lieberman has participated with the Coalition's executive committee for several years. Her term as president of CUMU will last two years.

"The University of La Verne was invited to be a part of CUMU five or six years ago," Lieberman said. "Part of the responsibility of a president is to get connected with national organizations that are aligned with the mission of the university and help with our visibility."

Lieberman said her passion for motivating young students to aspire to higher education is what motivates her.

"At the University of La Verne, we see our mission as a private institution with a public mission," Lieberman said. "Our mission is ... to make our region better and our country better," Lieberman said.

ULV is also involved with programs like Promise Scholars, a regional initiative, that focuses on letting middle and high school students in the Inland Empire know that college is an option.

"Our mission is to enhance our community, be a part of our community and have our community be a part of the university and benefit our students," Lieberman said. "I'm very loud ,and I'm very proud of that."

Emily J. Sullivan can be reached at ***emily.sullivan@laverne.edu***.

Toys at Las Posadas



Natasha Brennan

Angel Flores, trumpet player and singer for Mariachi Odisea Musical 2000, sings to an audience of nearly 200 at the Latino Student Forum's 22nd annual Las Posadas event Friday in the Campus Center Ballroom. Las Posadas is a religious Latinx event centering around the Nativity story. The event included a piñata, dinner and distribution of toys to children.

Creating innovation



Katelyn Keeling

Professor of Management Louise Kelly speaks about her research "Creating a Climate for Innovation" Tuesday in the President's Dining Room. Kelly says that innovation in the corporate world must start at the top.

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzeo

U.S. Department of Transportation

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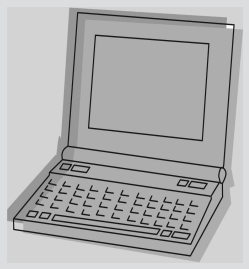

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ULV recognized as green college

Ashley Mubiru
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, the University of La Verne was recognized among 399 other colleges by the Princeton Review for being a green college.

The Princeton Review released their 2017-2018 guide to green colleges on Oct. 16, in which a total of 648 colleges and universities were surveyed.

Each school was given a scores on a scale ranging from 60 to 99. Those receiving a score of 80 or higher were given a green rating. ULV scored 98 out of 99 points, just as it did last year.

Several factors were reviewed, including the use of organic, local or environmentally preferable food expenditures, as well as the availability of mass transit, bicycle share and carpools on campus.

The University was awarded points by the review for having a formal sustainability committee and sustainability-focused academic programs.

The Students Engaged in Environmental Discussion and Service, or SEEDS, club, which meets once a week, discusses areas where they would like the University make changes toward being a more sustainable campus.

"Some examples include pushing the University to install renewable energy, getting more recycling bins outside so that we can increase student access to recycling," Erik Bahson, senior environmental ethics major and SEEDS president, said.

Jay Jones, professor of biology and biochemistry who is involved in the University's sustainability efforts, believes we should do better. While the University has recycling bins everywhere, not all recyclables are in fact recycled, Jones said.

"We waste so much energy, water, our landscaping still needs to modified," Jones added.

Ashley Mubiru can be reached at ***ashley.mubiru@laverne.edu***.

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1.800.656.HOPE
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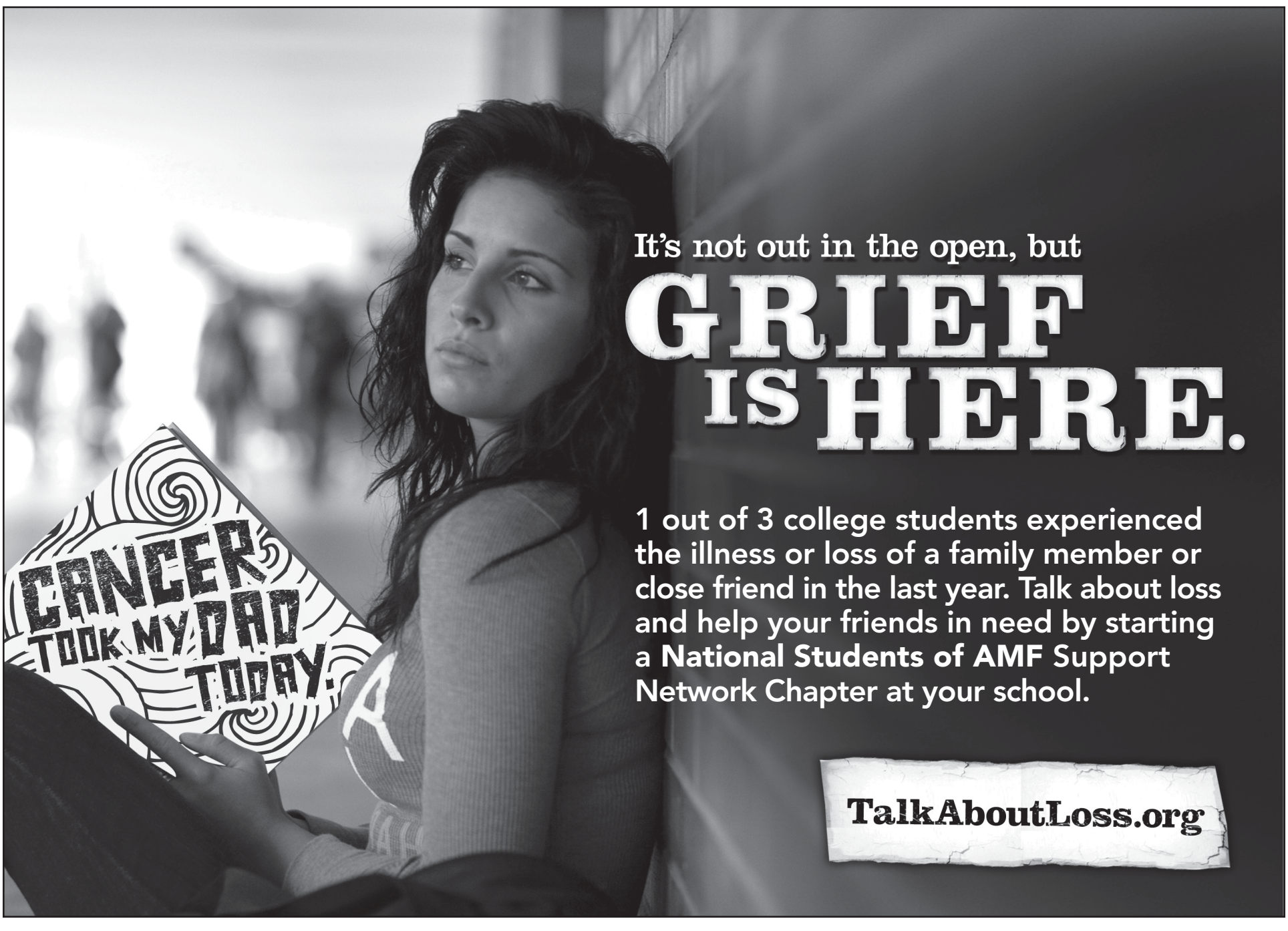
Ruedas for students



Celeste Drake

Alumna Julia Ruedas has been elected as a governing board member of the El Monte City School District and will be sworn in Monday. She said she plans to make decisions on behalf of the district that can positively impact the academic success of the students. Ruedas received her master's in public administration from the University of La Verne in 2018.



On diversity, work to do

For years at the University of La Verne there has been evidence of inequality from administration and faculty.

The recent protests this semester by Decolonize ULV has brought issues of discrimination and microaggressions to the administration in an attempt to make positive and necessary changes for the University.

Protesting is not an easy thing to do, but it is necessary to facilitate change. The changes these students are demanding are doable and would help the relationships between students and faculty. The problems of inequality have been swept under the rug for far too long, and it is time for the University to takes steps to correct these longstanding issues and prevent them from persisting in future.

The first demand was that the provost, each presidential cabinet member, all deans and the president create curricular and co-curricular strategic plans that promote diversity and inclusivity in their departments on campus. One of the core beliefs in the University's mission statement is diversity and inclusivity. As the University has grown, so has diversity on campus. The University of La Verne is recognized as a Hispanic serving institution. Being able to create an inviting culture in and out of the classroom can bring more and more people together, and if each department promoted these values, it would go a long way in changing the culture between students and staff.

Secondly, Decolonize ULV demanded a change in the faculty and employee handbook that addresses training in diversity, inclusion, neurodiversity, mental health, gender, disabilities, sexuality, socioeconomic status, to name a few, as appropriately directed by the chief diversity and inclusivity officer. This is important. The University can talk about promoting diversity and being inclusive, but making changes to the employee handbook that addresses these topics will hold employees more accountable than they have ever been and will help curb discrimination and microaggressions toward students.

Decolonize ULV also demanded that diversity competencies are enforced and are a part of all evaluative processes and any merit pay increases. If the University was serious about address the issues raised, they would take this demand into serious consideration. Evaluations should be an important determining factor in pay increases and promotions. Evaluations can give a good idea of not only how effective a professor is at teaching curriculum, but also an indication of classroom culture and temperature.

Also, Decolonize ULV demanded a change in what it describes as a Eurocentric and patriarchal curriculum to match the diverse backgrounds of students on campus. There should be an effort on the part of the professors to introduce the work of underrepresented groups and not just focus on European history and culture while excluding a wider view of the world.

Lastly, Decolonize ULV demanded that cultural competency, as listed above, be a part of the tenure evaluation process. If a professor has been found to be culturally insensitive or discriminatory toward students, then that should be a factor in the tenure process. Becoming a tenured professor is very difficult, but there are no excuses for this type of behavior toward students. Coming to school and paying to be belittled is not acceptable. The students who are protesting now are attempting to change a culture that has existed for a long time.

Hopefully the administration, faculty and staff are accepting of these demands because they will help the entire campus and create a better working environment for everyone who chooses to come here.

Climate change is real

Our president regularly denies scientific evidence, which shows not only that climate change is happening but also that human beings are the cause, saying that people with high intelligences like himself do not see the evidence.

Trump is not alone, as of 2015, 56 percent of Republicans in Congress have denied human responsibility for climate change, according to thinkprogress.org. There is a public controversy over whether climate change is real, turning factual, scientific research into nothing more than politics, because, quite frankly, there is no denying that climate change is real.

A large portion of the debate has to do with whether human actions contribute to climate change. Many argue that the melting ice caps and increase in temperatures are nothing more than natural or cyclical changes in weather. Others argue that the science behind it is far too uncertain.

However, the scientific consensus on climate change states that the climate on Earth is affected by greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans, according to scientific research conducted by sciencemag.org. Several scientific outlets have all come to similar conclusions regarding greenhouse gas emissions and human's role.

Their conclusion states that humans are causing the rise in temperature all over the globe, and that the problem remains not only serious, but in dire need of major reform. With no reform, we are looking at an expected increase in temperature degree that could lead to droughts, extreme heat waves and a massive increase in poverty.

Our president not only denied the existence of climate change as a whole, but he even denied a warning from his own administration's caution of a horrible further impact in response. Many politicians refuse to acknowledge the critical need for regulation in the area of climate change, due to their siding with massive corporations, such as that of the oil and energy companies.

Climate change reform would mean corporations would have to shell out more money to not only change standards, but possibly risk losing business entirely should we ever move into only clean, renewable energy.

The scientific consensus on climate change has been determined through the research of 18 different scientific associations consisting of groups like the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society, among several others.

With that being said, the consensus was agreed upon not by politicians, or random everyday people. The consensus was agreed upon by legitimate scientific research, factual evidence and based upon scientific claims. There is no room for denial when it comes to scientific facts.

Climate change should have never been considered a political stance. Climate change is scientific research, and it always has been. We need to stop allowing political motives to rule over whether or not we save the planet, our only home available.

Inmate firefighters save lives

As fires raged across California last month, more than 1,500 inmates traded their prison issue jumpsuits for flame retardant gear and faced unrelenting flames, smoke and ash.

These men, women, and teenagers all worked tirelessly as the world around them burned. For only $2 a day plus $1 an hour.

They risk their lives, safety and well-being. They are badass, and their lifesaving work should be honored with better pay for starters.

The inmates are trained as part of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Conservation Camp program in conjunction with the California Department of Corrections and rehabilitation. They operate out of 43 camps across the state that house more than 4,300 inmates and wards, of those 2,600 of those are trained to work fire-line.

Out of the 43 camps there are 196 fire crews, including some for female inmates and juvenile offenders.

According to the Department of Corretions, to be eligible to serve in the program are those inmates that are classified as "minimum custody." They must be sentenced to a minimum of 10 months and cannot have history of gang-affiliation, sexual offenses, arson or escape using force or violence. To participate in the program the inmates must volunteer. Those who volunteer must undergo extensive physical, intellectual, and psychological screenings before they join the program.

The fire-line trained inmates go to places where fire rages and clear out vegetation in order to prevent the fire from spreading. They regularly have to engage flames directly in what is called front-attack when flames are moving too quickly.

These fire crews perform more than three million hours of emergency response across fires, mudslides, floods and search and rescue operations according to Cal Fire. A study done by WBUR, Boston's NPR news station, estimates the inmate fire crews save the state $100 million per year.

For days and weeks at a time, these people are not inmates, they are just firefighters. Residents whose homes are kept safe by the inmate crews do not shrug off gratitude because these people had a conviction.

In fact in 2017, after a Santa Rosa neighborhood was kept safe by a group of incarcerated firefighters the residents lined up to thank and hug the men. Hugs and recognition, are great,but simply not enough.

While the inmates do get non-financial perks including conjugal visits, more comfortable housing and extra time for days served, the risks outweigh the reward.

Putting their lives on the line is not hyperbole, in 2016 Shawna Lynn Jones, an inmate firefighter was killed when she was struck by a boulder while fighting a brush fire in Malibu. She had only two months left on her sentence.

For California to turn a profit on the backs of human beings who are risking their lives is wrong. We need to do more for these people who turn their mistakes into a chance at redemption, and an opportunity to do something good. If these people are going to continue providing a life-saving service to California then they deserve to be incentivized as such. The state should also arrange life insurance policies for all inmates who work the front lines. Most importantly, these people need to make more than $1 an hour as they brave scorching fires.

CAMPUS TIMES
FALL 2018

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Mark Acosta

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The Campus Times is published weekly by the Communications Department, except during examination and vacation periods, by journalism students of the University of La Verne, 1950 Third Street, La Verne, California, 91750. The Campus Times is a laboratory publication for Newspaper Production classes, Journalism 220, 320 and Photography 327.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the Campus Times editorial board. Signed columns are the opinion of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Campus Times. Letters to the Editor are due by Tuesday at 3 p.m. Letters must be typed, no more than 400 words in length, relate to a topic covered in the Campus Times, and are subject to editing for clarity and space.

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Commentary

Judge's ruling endangers young girls



LAYLA ABBAS

Female genital mutilation, a procedure that cuts young girls' genitalia for social, cultural and religious reasons, has been banned in the United States for more than 20 years – until a recent ruling from a federal judge in Michigan.

United States District Judge Bernard Friedman ruled that the 1996 federal law banning female genital mutilation was unconstitutional because Congress did not have the power to regulate the behavior in the first place.

Friedman threw out mutilation and conspiracy charges against all defendants charged in federal court in Michigan for connection with the genital mutilation of nine girls from Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois between 2015 and 2017.

The procedure is condemned by the United Nations and is commonly practiced in parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East as a way of controlling a girl's sexuality.

Friedman said this is a discussion that needs to be dealt with at the state level since they have the authority to define criminal law; something that falls outside of the constitution's power structure.

Those forced to participate in female mutilation should be able to answer on behalf of their own body; to cut off external genitalia without their consent or even ability to comprehend what is happening should be illegal in all states.

As of 2017, only 27 states have outlawed female genital mutilation, leaving the other 23 states to be a prime designation spot for these procedures.

The reason people participate in female genital mutilation falls under five categories according to the United Nations Population Fund: pyschosexual, sociological and cultural, hygiene and aesthetic, religious and socio-economic reasons.

Ethnicity is the most influential factor of mutilation cases – with most young girls subjected to the procedure before undergoing through puberty.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 20 million girls and women around the world have undergone female genital mutilation and 3 million girls are at risk of the procedure every year.

Since most girls do not have the ability to take charge of their own body at such a young age, mainly from a place of not understanding the importance of what is taking place, a direct violation of their human rights and detrimental health effects await.

The World Health Organization has condemned the practice citing medical consequences, including direct complications from the procedure (anesthesia or sedation complications, bleeding, acute infection), increased risk of death for both mother and infant in subsequent pregnancies, post-traumatic stress disorder and urinary tract infections.

Since no federal law currently bans female genital mutilation in the United States, young girls are still at high risk for these invasive procedures.

Leaving this for the states to decide is dangerous, and implies fighting for women's rights and health is not a concern at the national level.

We must stand by young girls and women who are forced against their will to participate in the cutting of their own body. It is up to the woman to decide what happens to her body; this is not the responsibility of anyone else.

Layla Abbas, a junior journalism major, is LV Life editor for the Campus Times. She can be reached by email at ***layla.abbas@laverne.edu***.

Commentary

America capitalizes on fetishizing underage girls



JOCELYN ARCEO

Our society has a major issue with the sexualization of underaged children in the media. However, this does not mean that using children as models for their own clothing and age range is sexualization.

The sexualization happens when 14-year-old child stars are being described as the hottest of the year, or when a grown adult woman is modeling as an innocent, underaged girl to make advertising more sexually appealing.

In the past, American Apparel has taken a minimalist approach in their advertising campaigns – many of the models being half-naked or undressed in a pale-white background, more often than not. However, that is not necessarily the issue. The issue comes up when those advertisements have models posing on their stomachs in a child-like manner, feet in the air and blowing bubblegum in their mouth. These advertisements play on the image of childish naivety.

The long-known archetype of the "sexy school girl" is still common all across the world. Whether that be through various versions of Halloween costumes, lingerie or the more troubling Japanese school girl industry, "Joshi Kosei," that allows men to pay for various activities with schoolgirls. The Joshi Kosei industry previously used underaged girls, literal school girls, for their commercial gain.

This has since ended as of 2017. The industry now only employs those who are of age – but still manages to profit off of the use of pedophilia.

Aiming to look and act like a child in a sexual manner for commercial gain is just as horrific as if an actual child was used in doing so.

The high fashion industry preys upon girls who are small enough to look like pre-pubescent children, dressing them in polka-dots and baby doll dresses, only perpetuating the issue of children being sexualized in the wide-spread media.

Let us not forget the popular memes all over Twitter showing pictures of full-grown adults with the caption, "she's in your bed but she's 16, what would you do?" Or the "if she 16 I'm 16" format that some would call a joke, but really only perpetuates a culture of child predators.

Users on Twitter have gone as far as to come to the aid of those who sleep with minors because they look like adults, stating that if she "looks and acts grown, she is grown."

This rhetoric is disgusting, and only feeds into the corporate pedophilia that so many decide to look over because it is simply "what sells."

The sexualization of children has become so normalized in mainstream media that Ali Michael, a 27-year-old model, found nothing wrong with telling 15-year-old "Stranger Things" star Finn Wolfhard to "hit her up" in four years, when he is no longer a minor.

This sexualization of minors has become so normalized that Wolfhard's co-star, Millie Bobby Brown, was named one of the hottest actresses of 2017 by W Magazine at only 14 years old.

This sense of corporate pedophilia runs rampant throughout not only American society, but society across the globe. It seems as though cultures can agree upon one thing – childlike youth and naiveté are sexy.

Can this be in part due to the fact that our society is completely patriarchally driven? The male gaze has accepted, and continually desired, this childlike sexuality that remains so common in mass media.

The issue seems systemic, making it appear as that much more difficult to combat. However, we as a society need to stop feeding into the narrative that exploiting children for sexual and financial gain is simply just something that happens.

We need to hold accountable those responsible, and we need to protect children from this kind of inherent abuse.

Jocelyn Arceo, a junior journalism major, is arts editor for the Campus Times. She can be reached by email at ***jocelyn.arceo@laverne.edu***.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On Oct. 25, 2018, a group of students met in the corridor outside the President's and Provost's offices to share their experiences and state their demands for changes to address the University's treatment of minority groups on campus ("Protest calls for diversity training," Oct. 26). On Nov. 14, 2018, at Faculty Assembly, students representing the same issues presented their interests ("Faculty supports diversity training," Nov. 16). This letter is an initial response to their expressed concerns and demands.

The Faculty Senate recognizes and supports the students' expression of their lived experience here at La Verne. We fully understand and agree that there is much to be done and renew our pledge to ensure that the University pursues its mission and values in a way that supports all students.

We also want to acknowledge that many faculty members have already worked independently and collaboratively with administration to advance culturally informed educational practices and diversity awareness. This includes efforts to require diversity training for faculty, integration of cultural awareness in the curriculum, and the recently revised Faculty Handbook with expectations for cultural competence.

However, it is clear that at the university level, what has been done so far has not resulted in an educational environment where all students feel welcomed and accepted, and respected.

Successfully responding to the demands regarding hiring and retention of faculty of color, Faculty Handbook additions, and diversity training will be given serious attention by the Faculty Senate in a timely manner. Meanwhile, we present the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. Place Social Justice Reporting information in our syllabi and understand the reporting process.

2. Discuss all university non-discrimination policies when we review our syllabi. Guide any faculty, full-time or adjunct, who report to us to also do so.

3. Add at least one area of growth related to diversity and cultural competency in our Professional Growth Plans.

4. Add culturally relevant information and resources to our courses.

5. Address cultural insensitivity when we see it.

6. Create small learning communities that can support and inform our growth.

7. Get on the agenda at department, program, all college meetings, faculty retreat, Senate and Faculty Assembly to report our experiences and create conversations about the effects of micro aggressions on student mental health, academic performance, and graduation or retention rates.

At our next Senate and Faculty Assembly meetings we will move forward by identifying next steps and further actions.

With positive expectations and hope,

University of La Verne
Faculty Senate

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Campus Times encourages readers to submit letters to the editors regarding topics covered in the paper. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length and are due by Tuesday at 3 p.m. The Campus Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, space and libel. Letters may be sent to **ctimes@laverne.edu**.



Claudia Ceja

Chef Dan Hon makes a veggie roll in the Shota Sushi and Grill kitchen. Hon has previously cooked for Canadian celebrities. The restaurant offers specialty rolls, sashimi, maki, rice bowls, tempura, terriyaki chicken and soups. Shota Sushi and Grill, which opened this fall, is at 2855 Foothill Blvd., in the La Verne Village apartment complex. Shota Sushi is open Sunday through Thursday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m, and Friday through Saturday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Restaurant Review

Sushi restaurant amps up aesthetics

Michael Sprague
Copy Editor

La Verne's newest sushi restaurant, Shota Sushi and Grill, offers sashimi, sushi and a variety of appetizers in various sizes and styles.

Shota resides in the space that previously held Nancy's Pizza. While the theme of the restaurant has changed, the decor and furniture has not changed, the red brick walls and red vinyl booths were holdovers through the transition. To shift the motif the wall art was changed from pictures of beer brands and traditional Italian cooking to pictures of sushi rolls.

Shota's menu is entirely a la carte, so those seeking all-you-can-eat look elsewhere. Individual two-piece sushi plates range from eel ($4), to foie gras, a fattened duck liver and amaebi, a sweet-shrimp ($14). They also have various tuna, salmon, and fish options available.

Plating and presentation plays a large role in the dining experience of Shota. They offer appetizers, and sashimi in what they refer to as a "Box of Dreams," a dark brown wooden box divided into nine cubes, which each hold a small white plate with a different item.

The starter Box of Dreams ($16) comes with nine tapas size appetizers including fried tofu, slices of cajun tuna, edamame, seaweed salad and more.

A sashimi Box of Dreams ($30) is also available, in the same immaculate boxed presentation but with small servings of various types of tuna, salmon and shrimp.

The sushi rolls and entrees come with various adornments and aesthetic enhancements. The Salmon Battera ($11), Shota's signature roll that had pressed salmon in the middle and seared salmon on top, was served with an empty soy sauce dish that was on fire as the server brought it to our table.

Other plates served throughout the restaurant had banana leaves, small shrubs and sauces fancily draped alongside rolls.

On the more decadent side – although Shota does not have all-you-can-eat it does not mean that you can not get excessive amounts of raw fish. Shota has a premium lobster sashimi boat ($128) served in what looks like the top of a wooden barrel it features sashimi, oysters, amaebi, and uni.

All of this was sitting in a beautiful arrangement topped with a rose – as if it were a grave for all the fish that went into making it.

Some incarnations of the lobster sashimi boat have came with an ice sculpture. I suggest ordering it just so you can see what piece of visual art will accompany your $100 dish.

For those who do not enjoy seafood, Shota offers several bento boxes with chicken and beef choices including teriyaki, chicken, katsu and even a tofu option.

The bento boxes all come with California rolls, miso soup, a tempura option and dessert.

It is hard to asses the level of freshness of sushi, but every piece of sushi served at Shota was beautifully cut and prepared and tasted like some of the freshest fish I have ever ordered.

For a sushi restauraunt Shota has more dessert options than you would expect; including a soybead pudding ($5), a matcha mousse ($6) or mochi ice cream ($3).

Overall La Verne's newest sushi spot taught me a thing or two about the benefits of a-la-carte ordering.

Michael Sprague can be reached at ***michael.sprague@laverne.edu.***

Dave and Maggie's Café



Celeste Drake

Dave and Maggie's Café intern Chris Johnson and manager Charles Rodriguez, prepare food for the one-year anniversary of the café's opening last month. Through the transitional youth program, the interns at the café acquire real world experiences. Dave and Maggie's Café is located on the David and Margaret Youth and Family Services property at 1351 Palomares Ave. in La Verne. David and Margaret was founded as an orphanage over a century ago and helps over 1,700 people each year.

Winter festivities abound

The Campus Activities Board's Holiday Extravaganza Nov. 29 spanned three floors of the Campus Center, with each devoted to a different winter holiday.

The first floor, themed "happy New Year," had decorations including bright white lights, "happy New Year" headbands, and treats including apple cider, fried mac-and-cheese balls and chocolate covered strawberries.

The second floor was decorated for Hanukkah and Asian Lunar New Year. On the Hanukkah side, activities included creating Stars of David with popsicle sticks, coloring menorahs and eating potato latkes.

For Lunar New Year, there was a hand-drawn Bodhi tree which students could use to post their thoughts on sticky notes, create lanterns and eat Asian cuisine.

"Other places would do just Christmas," said Joann Gaters, junior communications public relations major and CAB executive board co-chair.

Lunar New Year is celebrated in Korea, Vietnam and China, Gaters said.

"They are really big on enlightenment," she added.

The third floor honored Mexican and American Christmas traditions with food including arroz con leche, tamales and hot chocolate, and activities like decorating stockings.

"I hope from this event, that people understand that December isn't only about Christmas," said sophomore biology major Itzia Chavez.

—Destinee Mondragon

Inspecting the spectrometer



Kayla Salas

Professor and Department Chairman of Chemistry, Nixon Mwebi, works with a mass spectrometer at Founders Hall chemistry lab. This is Mwebi's first semester teaching at the University of La Verne. Previously he taught at Jackson State University in Jacksonville Alabama. Here he teaches topics in modern chemistry, environmental chemistry and other classes.

Voices...

Continued from page 1

Once done, she asked each participant to tear up the paper and throw it away. This was her way of choosing her own story.

"In this day, I throw away the story that was placed upon me. I throw away the experiences that were placed upon me. In this day, I am not that. I am what I choose to be," Perkins said.

Relationships are vital for human survival, and that includes the relationship with ourselves, Perkins said.

"Sometimes we need a driving force, and there's nothing wrong with you being your driving force," Perkins said. "At the end of the day, when you lay your head down at night... You are all you got for certain, so why wouldn't you choose to be your own driving force?"

Perkins said she hopes this series could one day turn into a class. If not, she said she at least hopes to continue offering the series to students on campus.

*Jocelyn Arceo can be reached at **jocelyn.arceo@laverne.edu**.*

Lighting...

Continued from page 1

"It's a family tradition and we look forward to it every year," Killackey said. "I think it's good for the city to keep these traditions going."

Killackey's 10-year-old daughter, Becky, forgot her Christmas list at home but said she would instead be giving it to her "Elf on the Shelf" to give to Santa Claus for her.

"It's a lot of fun and if people in La Verne can't get to San Dimas or somewhere to have a celebration, they can come here," Killackey said.

The ceremony ended with families gathered in a line to take pictures with Santa Claus as they began the start of their holiday season with a communal Christmas tree lighting.

*Jocelyn Arceo can be reached at **jocelyn.arceo@laverne.edu**.*





Happenings

'Distancing'

The Carlson Gallery in Miller Hall is featuring the exhibit "Distancing" by Kes Efstathiou.

The silkscreen, landscape photographs will run through Dec. 14.

Admission is free.

Holiday Spectacular

The University Chorale and Chamber Singers will celebrate the holidays while performing traditional, classic Christmas songs at their annual holiday concert at 6 p.m. Dec. 9 in Morgan Auditorium.

Admission is free.

Tall Wall Space

"Edifice Artifice" by Cole M. James is on display in the Tall Wall Space in the Arts and Communications Building. Materials include velvet, lace and glitter among others.

The exhibit runs through May 17, 2019.

Admission is free.

'The Perfect Christmas'

The Candlelight Pavilion Theater is hosting a Christmas themed musical dinner theater titled, "The Perfect Christmas."

After the performance, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will stay to meet guests, as is tradition.

For tickets and information, call **909-626-1254**.

Senior Art Exhibit

The art department is hosting "Wumbology," the 2018 senior art exhibition, in the Harris Gallery through Thursday.

The exhibit features the work of 10 different graduating senior art majors.

Admission is free.

Chinese Lantern Fest

The Fairplex in Pomona will hold a Chinese Lantern festival with handcrafted lanterns, live with martial arts and other various activities through Jan. 6, 2019.

For ticket information visit **fairplex.com.**

—Emily J. Sullivan

Harris Gallery showcases 'Wumbology'

by Erica Sanchez

photography by Melody Blazauskas



Los Angeles freelance film editor Martin Kauper admires the work of senior art major Austin Howland Wednesday in the Harris Gallery during the senior art exhibit reception. "Wumbology," the exhibit, displays work from 10 senior art majors and will run through Thursday. The Harris Art Gallery is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Several seniors presented their senior projects in an exhibit titled "Wumbology" Tuesday night in the Harris Gallery.

Energy was high with the constant flow of family and friends congratulating the artists for their hard work throughout their last semester.

Smiles lit up the room, and the artists faces beamed as they displayed their work.

Tiffany Huerta, senior studio art major, used acrylic paint on canvas to portray the different prejudices one has in a relationship.

"I started out with a different concept," Huerta said. "I wanted to do something regarding age, but I developed it into it being more about relationships where it's about prejudices we face within relationships."

A painting done using a color scheme of warm, deep yellow depicted a woman who was laying on her bed pregnant and naked.

"She's supposed to be a young woman who is pregnant which is seen as wrong in different religions," Huerta said.

Her second painting depicted two lovers sleeping together, with more warm tones of rustic red, that were consistent throughout the whole piece.

"This one is about a couple, but they are living together out of wedlock and you're not supposed to live like this in some religions," said Huerta.

Huerta said she highlighted the significance of love conquering all within her pieces.

"Both of them mean love overcoming stigmas, and enjoying your life whether other people think it is wrong or not," Huerta said.

> 'Both of them mean love overcoming stigmas, and enjoying your life whether other people think it is wrong or not.'
> *—Tiffany Huerta, senior studio art major*

Huerta said she would like to pursue art as a full time job after she graduates.

Artist Joshua Padilla, senior studio art major, said he saw his alter ego within his paintings.

The artist painted men who looked like him to represent his other self. Having painted three different pieces of naked men wearing crowns, with some holding flowers, he said that the men depicted the vulnerability of god-like figures.

Padilla said the pieces he created were done all throughout his lifetime, and that it took heavy training to get to this level.

"It was looking at the tensions between the heart and the mind that sometimes dictate different things in your personality or your life," said Padilla. "It was looking at how that affects me, asking what are the dominant and submissive side of me."

The three paintings were acrylic on canvas, something the artist described as a comfortable medium for him.

"These pieces symbolize vulnerability," said Padilla. "I look at them and I know it's not myself. But in a way they are, it's an alternate self."

The most challenging part of creating the art was finding peace with the end the result, he said. Art is an activity where at times it can be hard to let go, which was the hardest part of the process.

Molly Garry, senior studio art major, explored different mediums by using screen printing, collage pieces, sculpture and various mixed media aspects.

Garry sculpted a leg with trees and rose quartz glued onto them, where she implemented a hand hanging while holding a shaving razor.

Continued on page 9

Symphony debuts local compositions

Inspired by the synagogue

Danielle De Luna
Staff Writer

The La Verne Symphony Orchestra highlighted local musicians and performed a member's debut arrangement last Sunday in Morgan Auditorium.

Students, faculty and community members from La Verne and the surrounding cities gathered to listen to classical and contemporary pieces performed by the 39-piece community orchestra, which covered every square inch of the Morgan Auditorium stage.

The concert consisted of five pieces, two of which were composed locally; Leslie L. La Barre's "Echo" and excerpts from "Songs from the Synagogue" arranged by viola and alto saxophone player Malcolm McGee.

"I really wanted to feature the strengths of the group and highlight composers from our community," Conductor Rachel H. Huang said. "So I was excited to help Malcolm arrange, since he's from our own orchestra."

McGee's arrangement, "The Shofar" and "K'dusha," featured an echoing reverent, ceremonial harmony from the brass and wind section.

The composition mimics the rich tones of the shofar, a ram's horn used as an instrument in synagogue services, McGee said.

A surprising intermingling of piano with high sweet notes from the strings section brought full-bodied variety to the piece, reflecting its joyous ceremonial nature.

"This is my first time having a piece played by a full orchestra," McGee said.

"I was inspired by synagogue music after Dr. Rentz at Chaffey College invited me to attend down the street. The only other piece I have had performed was by a string quartet here last semester."

Jazz was an essential influence in McGee's arrangement, McGee's girlfriend, Carissa Waite, said.

"He started playing piano three years ago and viola after that; he's self taught," Waite said. "He applied his knowledge of music theory to compose, and he's been particularly fascinated by jazz and incorporates those chords into what he writes and plays."

McGee is currently a student at UCI, and said he might join its orchestra soon, though he added that he is reluctant to leave La Verne's orchestra.

"The neat thing is that there's money here to do some amazing things; we just need the people," McGee said.

The orchestra's musicians come together to play outside of their professional lives and share their passion for music.

Concertmaster and senior economics major Jonathan Rios said his time in the orchestra has directed his career.

> 'The neat thing is that there's money here to do some amazing things; we just need the people.'
> *—Malcolm McGee, viola and alto saxophone player*

"I started out playing with the orchestra my freshman year," Rios said. "I plan on becoming an orchestra director. My involvement has lead me to become involved with arts patrons and arts nonprofits, and this is the work I truly enjoy."

Other concert pieces featured individual sections of the orchestra to demonstrate their strengths. Joachim Raff's "Sinfonietta, Op. 188" harnessed the high pitches of the winds and brass.

Bassy notes filled the room with a firm foundation as the higher lilting notes of the flutes, clarinets and oboe danced above. The varied tones separated, then returned to meet each other with competing intensity, until they settled into a teasing dance.

The playful romantic melodies were broken up by warring, regal crescendos in Georges Bizet's "L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2."

La Barre's "Echo" provided a contemporary break from the courtesan charm of the classical selections. Instruments produced the controlled chaos of nature's rhythms, mimicking the sounds of wind, water and animals.

The La Verne Symphony Orchestra is offered as a class as well as to the public, and gives musicians the opportunity to collaborate in the community as well, Rios added.

The La Verne Symphony Orchestra will play at Morgan Auditorium once again in May.

Danielle De Luna can be reached at ***danielle.deluna@laverne.edu.***

Drummers present traditional Ghanian music

Ashley Mubiru
Staff Writer

Loud, synchronized percussion filled the room as Ellen Rondina's West African Drum Ensemble walked onstage to drum along a West African rhythm Wednesday night in the Dailey Theatre.

Rondina's class of 13 students performed multiple drum sequences for the crowd of no more than 60 audience members.

The performers were dressed in all black, along with orange, blue and white stoles with an African print to complete their outfits.

The audience was full of students, friends and family members of the performers, with all eyes geared toward the stage as the crowd paid full attention to the performance.

Rondina said that the performance was a "performance, lecture, and workshop," as it was an opportunity for audience members to participate as Rondina and her class provided context behind their drum performance.

Students worked in small groups to research the two pieces they performed, which come from a tribe in Ghana called Ga.

The audience was given a bit of background about the country of Ghana, including its history and music, as the show began.

Of the two pieces performed, the first piece was titled "Patsa," which is a Ghanaian dance associated with puberty rights, rituals and the supernatural.

"Patsa" is frequently performed in tribal ceremonies, Christmas and Easter celebrations.

The Ga people make their own drums, by hand, in order to express their spirit and their culture.

Their culture is largely represented by festivities and peaceful traditions.

The second performance was titled "Kpanlogo," a recreational piece that emerged in the late 1950s around the time Ghana gained its independence.

While performing "Kpanlogo" through drumming, the students sang a traditional song in the native Ga language.

A bell rang through the theater in a cadence fashion, piecing together the thunderous sound of the drums.

Rondina said that dancing and singing all go hand in hand with one another in West Africa. There is no one without the other.

Senior psychology major Mariah Cordova liked that the class not only learned to play the drums, but also learned about the cultural background.

"You don't necessarily have to be a musician to learn music," Cordova said.

Rondina has been teaching the course for 20 years. Prior to teaching, she traveled to Africa to study drumming.

"For seven years that's all I wanted to do, and I knew I was a drummer," Rondina said.

Rondina finds fulfillment in the transformations students have when they take her course.

"They think it's going to be one thing, and it's really different from what they think it's going to be," Rondina said.

Rondina said students transform, love and embrace this course, though it tends to be a lot harder than they initially believe before taking it.

Junior chemistry major Frankie Antillon has learned a lot about teamwork from this course.

"When you see West African drumming, you think that it's so easy," Antillon said. "I didn't realize how much teamwork really goes into play."

Walnut Valley Unified School District employee Mary Harms attended the show to watch her friends perform.

"It seems fun, it seems like a great release," Harms said. "The historical aspects of it are really interesting.

The West African Drum Ensemble class is not only open to ULV students but to community members as well.

Ashley Mubiru can be reached at ***ashley.mubiru@laverne.edu***.

'Wumbology'...

Continued from page 8

"Originally my idea was about my emotional maturity from when I was 12 years old to now," said Garry. "These pieces are about how advertisements affected how I saw myself and the leg is about how I feel now and how no matter what I do or how I look, I am comfortable with myself."

Her pieces reflect the consumerism aspect of life that was thrown at her at such a young age, she said.

Damairis Lao, senior studio art major, created 10 different pieces which included drawings and acrylic paintings.

Each of the pieces symbolize something different, with themes of Asian American identity, being a person of color, queerness, femininity, wealth disparities, and the concept of replacing wealth with love, said Lao.

"I combined my personal narrative and experience into a format that I thought was appealing, finding a way to tell my story through visual imagery," said Lao.

The most challenging part of creating her different pieces was finding new ways to express herself through art, she said.

"I have gotten very comfortable with the way that I paint and I wanted to break out of that, so I started abstracting my brush strokes and conceptualizing thinking about paint differently," Lao said.

The Harris Gallery will be showcasing "Wumbology" until Thursday.

Erica Sanchez can be reached at ***erica.sanchez2@laverne.edu.***



Sanchez digs place in record book

Andrew Alonzo
Staff Writer

After four years of volleyball, Kristen Sanchez will graduate this spring having collected the second most digs in school history.

Sanchez's focus helped shatter school history records, ranking No. 7 in service aces with 121, No. 4 in sets played at 414 and No. 2 in digs with 1,969.

Sanchez made volleyball her priority, and with the support of some of her most passionate supporters, it is clear to see how she achieved her accolades and established her legacy in the University's history book.

Sanchez was not always the dominant volleyball player she is today. In fact, it was not even her first sport.

Sanchez first played soccer and softball in her early years, but it was not until junior high that Sanchez found volleyball. Soccer and softball were fun, but her passion and heart were elsewhere, she explained.

While volleyball is vastly different from soccer and softball, Sanchez said it taught her some of the most valuable lessons and played a role in the person she is today.

"It's things like having a team dynamic, learning how to communicate, and working with others," Sanchez said.

"But it's also the more personal ones like setting goals for myself, working hard, wanting to accomplish those while also trying to balance out life."

After high school, Sanchez looked for schools that would not only help her succeed in her education, but also give her an opportunity to play volleyball.

After talks with Jenna Panatier, the head coach at La Verne, and some volleyball players, Sanchez knew exactly where she wanted to be.

La Verne became Sanchez's destination. The quaint classrooms and community made her feel more at home.

Kristen could also play volleyball and her family would be able to come out to support her for more games.

"After talking with Jenna and some players I knew it was the school I had to be at, and so far it has been the best decision I've ever made," Sanchez said.

Sanchez left her mark on La Verne athletics and volleyball history because just like in volleyball, her numbers don't lie.

In her debut season, Kristen took to the program like a duck to water. She was a starter as a freshman and continuously built on all aspects of her game to show that she had what it takes to make it at the collegiate level.

In her sophomore season, Kristen proved herself by making the 2016 second team All-SCIAC.

Kristen took it one step further, however, in her junior and senior years, she was not only named a team captain, but also earned a spot on the First Team All-SCIAC for 2017 and 2018.

In addition, she also received a 2018 All-West Region Honorable Mention by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

"Her dedication to her craft, our team and our program has dynamically affected her teammates," said Panatier.

"They have witnessed firsthand the positivity that results when you put into practice the tenets of a strong culture."

However, Sanchez is not the only person with dedication to volleyball. She brings some of the greatest supporters that have ever graced a stadium's seating: her family.

Sanchez's support system consists of her parents, her older brother, and her No. 1 fan, T.J. Sanchez, who also happens to be her twin.

T.J. and Kristen have been two peas in a pod ever since they were kids, and T.J. said he has been screaming his head off for his sister since she played her first serve in high school. He is one her biggest supporters.

"As a brother, I got to see the work that she was putting into what she loves," T.J. Sanchez said.

"As a fan, I could see what was coming of it. Her talents and stats kept increasing after each season so being along for the ride on both sides, I was probably having as much fun as she was."

Ever since her freshman year, Kristen Sanchez has been firing on all cylinders, her final stats tally enough to put her in the La Verne history books.



Jaren Cyrus

Senior Kristen Sanchez, libero for the women's volleyball team and a kinesiology major, hopes to work in the physical therapy field with an emphasis in spinal cord injuries. In her free time, Sanchez enjoys going to the beach and playing with her dogs.

Not only did Sanchez excel on the court, she proved she is a double threat academically as well. Kristen was recognized as a University scholar athlete.

Sanchez also made the Dean's List in 2015 and 2017 and was a part of the SCIAC All-Academic team in 2015-2017.

"There's nothing she can't handle," said teammate Teagan Griffiths. "She's the type of person to give 150 percent no matter what and having someone like that as our captain makes us want to be better players and people."

As the curtain closes on the beloved star's collegiate career, her actual volleyball career will see the light once more in Brazil when she travels with Panatier and teammate Kelsie Sievers on USA Division III Volleyball Select team.

This select team is comprised of 10 players from other Division III schools from across the country.

Sanchez will play various clubs and teams from around the world with the select team, after she graduates in spring 2019.

Andrew Alonzo can be reached at ***andrew.alonzo@laverne.edu.***



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Sievers earns All-American honor

Ashley Mubiru
Staff Writer

Senior outside hitter Kelsie Sievers was recognized by the American Volleyball Coaches Association as an All-Region selection and also an All-American Honorable Mention for her outstanding season, in addition to being named first-team All-Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

While achieving her title as the All-American honorable Mention Award, Sievers has worked hard to achieve her accomplishments on and off the court.

Sievers changed positions from her junior to senior year. As a junior, she was a middle blocker. As a senior, Sievers was an outside hitter. In her new role this season, she thrived and was instrumental in the success of this year's team.

"I know there's votes based on your stats, and in order to get All- American, you have to get All-SCIAC," Sievers said. "I found out I got All-SCIAC a week before season ended, the next week I found out I got All-Region, the next week All-American."

This past season, Sievers ranked first in SCIAC with 3.58 kills per set. She also was third on the team with 60 blocks. For her career, Sievers racked up 608 kills, 142 blocks and 119 digs.

Sievers first became interested in volleyball because of her tall stature as a child.

"When I was little, everywhere I went people told me, 'You've got to play volleyball or you've got to play basketball, pick one'," Sievers said.

Once she entered the ninth grade, the 6-foot-1-inch outside hitter tried out for her school's volleyball team and has been playing ever since.

"My team is my favorite part about playing," Sievers said."This year we had a group of girls who really cared about each other, and they made playing so much fun."

Sievers recalls a specific conference game where ULV lost to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps in five sets, but because the team played so well, she still enjoyed it.

"I remember saying, 'If I get to play with you guys, and lose the rest of the season and feel like this, I'd rather do that than win'," Sievers said.

Madison Maynes, junior setter, said she has seen a huge difference in Sievers' work ethic since her freshman year.

"She has always worked hard and tried her best but this past year she became a strong leader as well and helped pushed the rest of us to give our all, too" Maynes said.

Senior libero Kristen Sanchez said she has enjoyed her time with Sievers. Sanchez noticed improvements in Sievers' work ethic and said her effort is apparent during games.

"When you improve yourself in the weight room, it also shows on the court," Sanchez said.

Like Maynes, Sanchez said she appreciates Sievers' efforts of leadership on and off the court.

"She's put in so much time, and effort," Sanchez said. "She's been a leader, when she works hard it pushes us to work hard too."

During her freshman year, she never got off the bench. Once sophomore year came around she began playing a few games. After sophomore year, Sievers was tired of being told she was not strong enough, or fast enough.

She started going to the gym and training, once she started doing that, huge strides were made in her overall game.

Sievers said that her newfound impact on the team is a result of wanting to be better than just mediocre.

"Jeff Hendershot, associate head coach, said that as Sievers began to see results from her hard work, it made her work even harder.

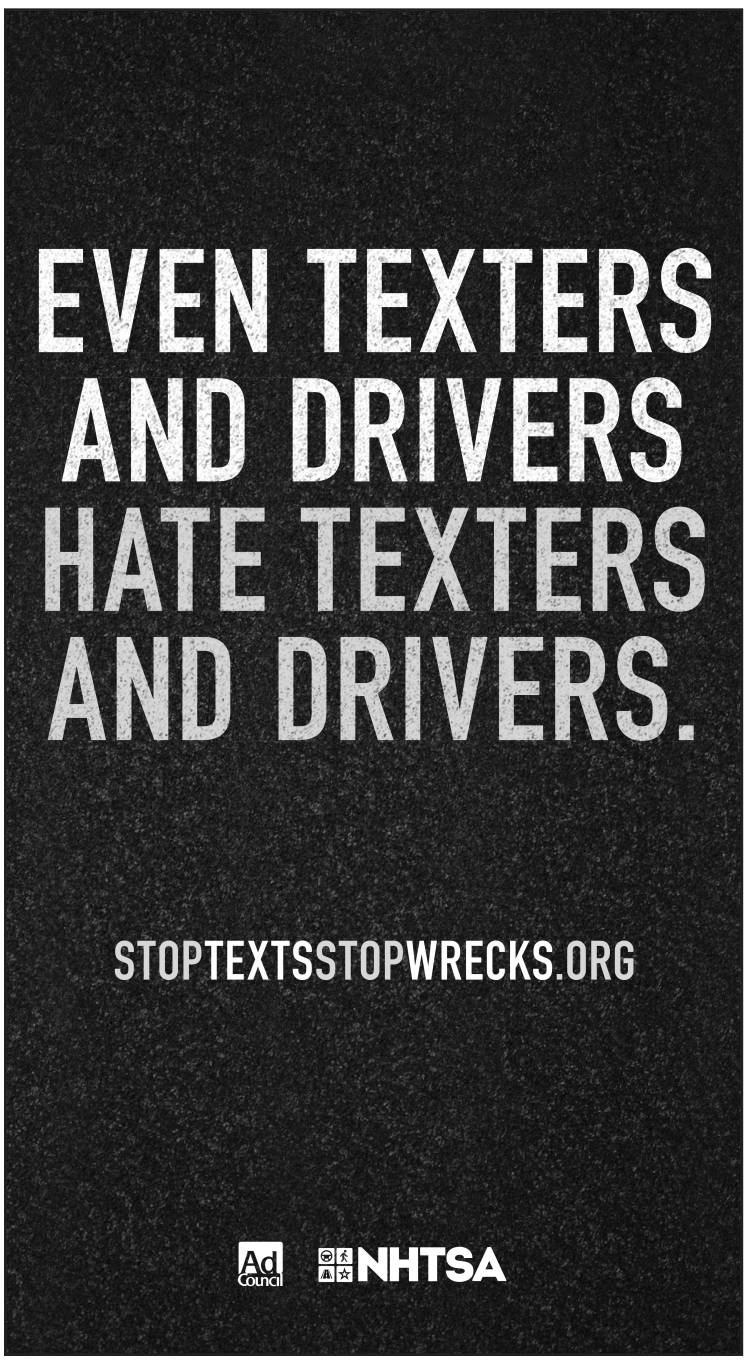
"Kelsie deserves the All-American honors because for her it was all about wanting to help the team," Hendershot said. "Not about her personal accolades."

Ashley Mubiru can be reached at ***ashley.mubiru@laverne.edu.***

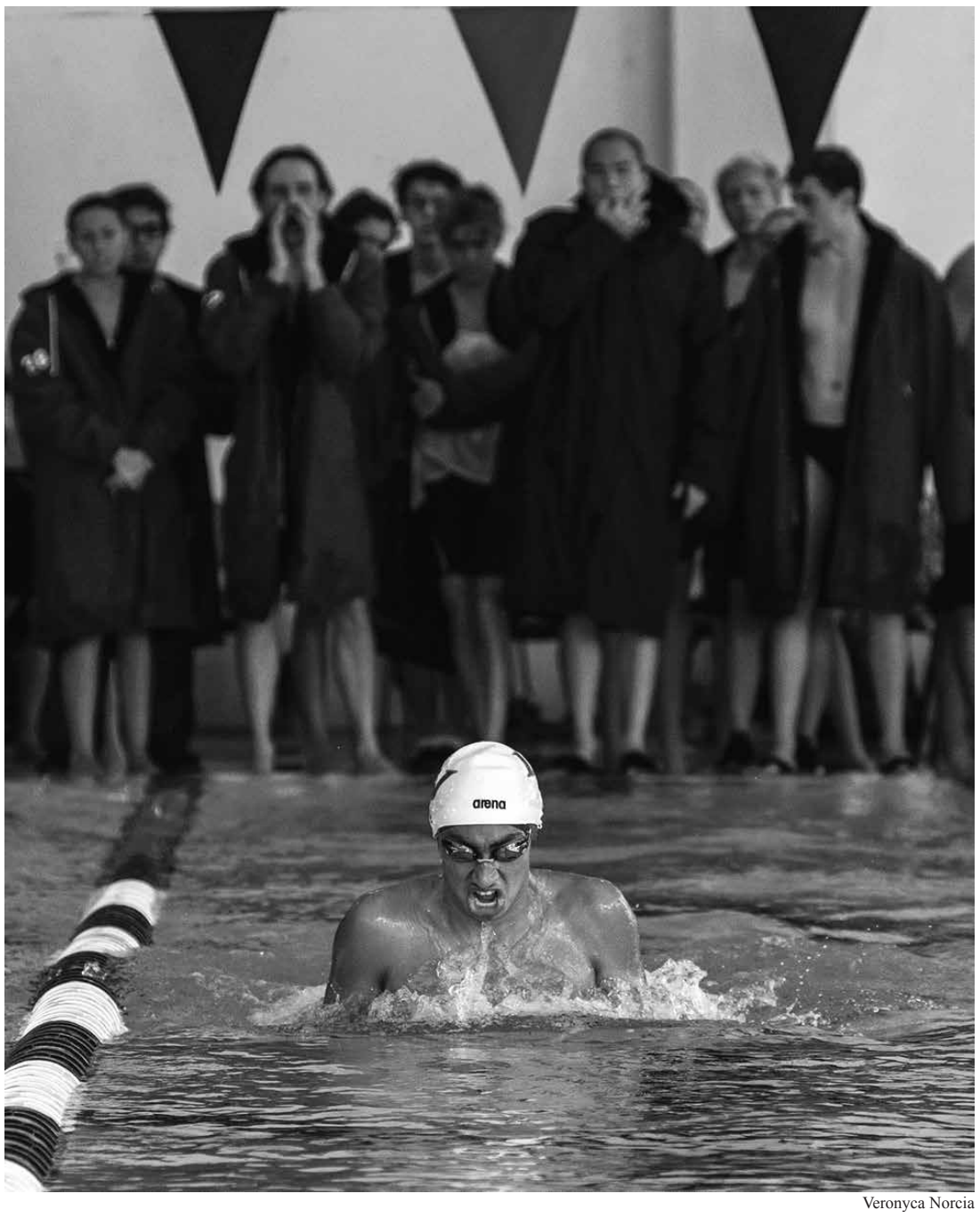


Claudia Ceja

Senior outside hitter and volleyball captain Kelsie Sievers received All-Region and All-American awards from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Outside hitter Sievers finished her career with 608 kills, 142 blocks and 119 digs, leading the Leopards in their fifth consecutive appearance in the SCIAC Postseason Tournament.



Men's swim takes second place



Veronyca Norcia

Sophomore swimmer Lorenzo DeLeon takes the lead in the men's 400 individual medley during the preliminaries on the second day of the Collegiate Winter Invitational Saturday at South Gate Swim Stadium. DeLeon later placed third in the event with a time of 4:24.14. The men's team took second place overall. DeLeon also finished top-three in the 200 yard backstroke.

Freshman Enoch leads ULV in loss

Leos push Tigers to the brink



Jaren Cyrus

La Verne freshman guard Donnell Leffridge IV defends Occidental junior point guard Ryan Kaneshiro in the closing minutes of the game Wednesday at Frantz Athletic Court. The Tigers beat the Leopards, 77-73.

Joey Matsuzawa
Staff Writer

Despite keeping the game close late in the second half, the Leopards were unable to secure a win, falling to the Occidental, 77-73, on Wednesday at Frantz Athletic Court.

After a going 1-1 at the UCSC Thanksgiving Classic, the men's basketball team looked to pick up another win against their undefeated conference rival, Occidental, in their Southern California Intercollegiate Conference opener.

La Verne entered the game with a 1-3 overall record and Occidental sported a 5-0.

"The biggest thing was to try and limit their offensive rebounds, trying to limit our turnovers, and overall try to force them to take bad shots," senior center Evan Gustafson said.

Head coach Richard Reed had a difficult job this offseason –filling huge gaps in the roster left by graduating seniors.

Because of this the squad he has put together is very young and lacks experience.

"Over the course of the last two seasons we've graduated about 12 to 13 guys. We tried to fill some needs we needed to address so we brought in nine freshmen to fill those holes," Reed said.

Unlike many of their previous losses, La Verne started the game full of energy, leading to an early 6-0 lead thanks to quick scores by Gustafson and senior guard Alec Vucinich.

But after La Verne's quick flurry of baskets, the Tigers managed to claw the lead back after taking advantage of the Leopard's sloppy turnovers on offense.

The Occidental offense was a two-pronged attack, with seniors Zach Baines and Austin DeWitz leading the team in scoring, racking up 19 and 11 points in the first half respectively.

"We wanted to play hot and bring the intensity," freshman point guard Sinai Enoch said. "We wanted to keep their leading scorers from getting on the board and in the paint because we're a little undersized."

Though the Leopards held strong on defense and were able to keep the score even at 18-18. But with five minutes left to go in the first half, both teams went all out on offense as the game quickly progressed into a shootout.

However Occidental would eventually pull away with the lead as La Verne began to stall on offense, ending the first half 43-32, Occidental.

After halftime La Verne came out firing on all cylinders, with junior guard Luke Evans sinking a three point jump shot to start the half.

Sophomore small forward Jordan Allen helped cut Occidental's lead to seven, after making a basket and getting fouled.

Allen completed the three-point play by making the free throw.

DeWitz continued to come up big for the Tigers, shooting them back in the game to stretch their lead 57-44 with 13 minutes left in the half.

Fortunately, Enoch had a standout game off the bench for the Leopards, nailing back to back threes cutting Occidental's lead to six.

The freshman would finish the game leading the team with 15 points, shooting 5-9.

"Honestly it was a little difficult for me at first [transitioning to college level], the pace of the game is much different," Enoch said. "Guys are more aggressive and are a lot stronger."

As Occidental's lead diminished, La Verne did not relent and began to pick up the pace.

After layup from Allen, sophomore point guard Tevin McClain managed to steal the ball away from Occidental's Ryan Kaneshiro, and dished it to Vucinich who nailed the ensuing layup – causing the home crowd to erupt.

Gustafson proved to be clutch in the paint for the Leopards, getting a crucial defensive rebound to set up sophomore Michael Curley who sank a three point shot from downtown to tie the game, 62-62.

Gustafson would finish the game recording six rebounds as well as six defensive rebounds.

The Leopard offense also displayed patience and ball control on offense, being able to spread the ball around the court with ease.

But the Leopards were still unable to slow down Baines and DeWitz, each of whom continued to make clutch layups and free throws to continuously give Occidental the lead back.

Baines and DeWitz would finish the game with 27 and 23 points respectively.

With the Tigers taking the lead back 71-69, the game reached its breaking point when McClain missed a jump shot only to have Vucinich slam the ball back in for a put-back dunk, sending the crowd into an uproar.

"[McClain] put up a shot and I was going in for the rebound and when it tipped in my direction I was able to finish it," Vucinich said.

In spite of La Verne's highlight plays, clutch free throws from Baines would eventually put the Tiger's lead out of reach, sealing the game, 77-73, Occidental.

With the loss, the Leopards drop to 1-4 overall and 0-1 in SCIAC.

Despite the loss, players feel that they performed well and are excited to see glimpses of the team's potential.

"I'm proud of the fight we had. We were down double digits that first half and we came back and lost by four," Gustafson said.

"The fact that we put ourselves in that hole and we were able to fight back and take this game down to the wire, I think it's great."

Much of the synergy problems plaguing the team seem to have passed, as players credit their newfound intensity to their much improved team chemistry.

"We're getting used to playing with each other and we're trusting each other more," Enoch said.

The Leopards travel north to Washington on Saturday, where they will play Whitworth at 1 p.m.

"We have no business playing a conference game in December," Reed said. "I don't get to make the schedule. With our younger group we're not ready yet. We'll get there. We'll be a different team by January and February as long as those guys in the locker room keep believing, one day at a time."

Joey Matsuzawa can be reached at ***joe.matsuzawa@laverne.edu.***

LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Women's basketball, Nov. 1
Redlands - 63
La Verne - 72

Women's basketball, Nov. 5
Occidental - 84
La Verne - 93

Men's basketball, Nov. 5
La Verne - 73
Occidental - 77

MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

	SCIAC	Overall
Occidental	1-0	6-0
Redlands	1-0	6-2
Chapman	1-0	4-2
Pomona-Pitzer	0-0	5-1
Caltech	0-0	2-1
Claremont-M-S	0-0	3-2
Cal Lutheran	0-1	2-3
La Verne	0-1	1-4
Whittier	0-1	1-6