Campus Times

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Lecture presents bacteria benefits

Jordan Alcasas
Staff Writer

Stacey Darling-Novak, professor of biology, gave a presentation about the benefits bacterial endophytes can provide growing seeds and the process of studying them.

The presentation was titled "The bacterial endophyte journey from seed to seeding: Developmental shifts in the microbiome and potential species interactions." It took place on April 30 in the Quay Davis Board Room in front of an audience of about 20.

Through her studies, Darling-Novak found that bacterial endophytes can have a multitude of helping effects for growing seeds and crops.

Some of these can include decreased drought and salinity stress that can impact macromolecules and a plant's productivity.

"Bacterial endophytes help seeds to get through the vulnerabilities of being a seed," Darling-Novak said. "They can play a big role in helping them out."

Another benefit can be to reduce oxidative stress, which will help to increase plant development and increase crop yield.

Darling-Novak's studies revolved primarily around the orchid. Orchid seeds could be easily contained in high numbers due to their small size, meaning that they would provide for strong statistics and better visualization of the process of germination.

Studying these orchid seeds was a tedious process for which Darling-Novak grew them from seeds.

She and her researchers would wash them around 20 times and put them into cultures to closely examine the effects that bacterial endophytes could have on the seeds.

When studying the seeds, she wanted to understand the process of the bacteria colonizing the seed.

"The goal is to understand the mechanisms that mediate the generational colonization such that we can formulate a bacterial recipe that is beneficial and can be used from parent to seed," Darling-Novak said.

Darling-Novak found that core microbiota are the group that gets passed between generations of seeds.

She drew conclusions that different bacterial endophytes had their numbers peak during colonization stages of development. She broke these bacterial endophytes into tiers.

Tier one was bacterial endophytes that peaked at the first leaf stage, the second stage stayed relatively high at the first leaf stage and a month in, but increased in seedling leaf, and the third had species that peaked after a month.

Darling-Novak also observed that depending on if bacterial endophytes were motile or not, they could have different bacteria counts, such as in tier one.

In tier one, two of the most abundant counts are from non-motile bacteria rather than motile ones.

In tier two, all species with the highest counties are fully motile.

In tier three, both non-motile and motile bacteria followed the same pattern of peaking at one month.

Through her studies on orchid seeds Darling-Novak made a conclusion on the core microbiota that are passed between generations of seeds.



Sheridan Lambrook

Stacey Darling-Novak, professor of biology, presents her research on the use of microbes to benefit plant life to a small group Tuesday in the Quay Davis Executive Board Room.

"While preliminary, it appears that the core microbiota include species of Acinetobacter, Bradyrhizobium elkanii, Kocuria rhizophila, Rayranella soli and Bacillus thermoamylovorans."

Darling-Novak concluded the presentation by answering questions from the audience about the purpose of her studies and her findings.

"That's why we're focused on the core," Darling-Novak said. "It's because they're passed generationally. This is what's happening during germination, it's colonization."

Audience members had varying opinions about the presentation and the methods of study.

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News Briefs

Pomona Hope seeks donations

Pomona Hope, a community-driven, faith-based non-profit, is hosting a school supply drive until May 6.

Donations can be dropped off in green bins at the University of La Verne Campus Center or the Ludwick Center ground floor.

Donations can consist of notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters, rulers, scissors, backpacks, binders, calculators, pencil cases and much more.

The school supplies will go to the After School with Pomona Hope, a no-cost after school program, offered to K-12 grade students Monday through Thursday.

Pomona Hope aims to provide resources and a safe environment for Pomona youths through their programs.

For more information on Pomona Hope, visit **pomonahope.org**.

—Samira Felix

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If you find a mistake in the Campus Times, please let us know at **ctimes@laverne.edu**.

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**.

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City offers new response calls

Samira Felix
News Editor

The San Gabriel Valley Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement Team began operations in the city of La Verne at the end of December 2023. Today the SGV CARE Team offers an alternative response to behavioral health-driven calls to reduce law enforcement workload.

"We're adding another tool to our toolbox and offering an extra layer of support to people that are experiencing a mental health crisis," La Verne Police Department Acting Lt. Jay Alvarado said.

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments established the SGV CARE Team pilot program to respond and improve the outcomes of non-violent service calls and free law enforcement to respond to calls they are trained to handle. The initial program launched in summer 2022 in Arcadia, Montebello, San Marino and South Pasadena.

La Verne City Manager Ken Domer said although police officers are trained in de-escalation and mental health issues they are not professionals, so it is important to have a team that is trained for mental health situations to reach out and engage with a person in need.

The Team works with the La Verne Police and Fire Departments and it is composed of a clinician, drug and alcohol specialist and two EMTs. The Fire Department also provides an alternative response unit, which is an ambulance designated to the Team and its services.

Currently the Team works from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. When calls go

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On the Cover

A worker puts some of the finishing touches on a shelter at the newly constructed Foothill Gold Line station at Arrow Highway and E Street. It will connect the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire to Los Angeles and Long Beach./ photo by Abelina J. Nuñez

Students sells crafts at Maker Fair

Stephen Gilson Jr.
LV Life Editor



Ayalen Ortiz

Starlett Preciado sells her crafts at the Mini Maker Fair on Wednesday on the Citrus Lawn. She shared the table with her sister, senior digital media major Lindsey Preciado, whose handcrafted reversible tote bags were displayed alongside Starlett's knitted stuffed animals.

This year's Mini Maker Fair was held Wednesday on the Citrus Lawn, along with an Innovation Block Party, which offered students the opportunity to display their academic work on poster boards to share with their peers.

About 120 students and faculty showed up for the events, which also featured food trucks from Roll 'Em Up and The Habit.

DJ Santana was also playing current hits on the turntable with an ensemble of students performing songs such as "About Damn Time" by Lizzo using barrels and other unique instruments in between songs.

"An event like this takes a team to organize," Assistant President of Strategy and Implementation Shannon Capaldi said. "It took representatives from the president's office, the library, advancements, and events then delegated the tasks. This event came together in about six weeks."

Guests could earn free food from the food trucks by going around the lawn and talking to students who were presenting their work.

After talking to 10 presenters, they could go to the main stand and receive a voucher to eat food at whichever stand they would like to enjoy.

A multitude of stands were available for students to purchase a variety of items, such as succulent plants and hand-made jewelry.

Some stands decided to use the funds they generated from the event to go towards charity efforts for different causes they support.

"Right now we are selling an item that goes between your seat and center console to prevent things from falling under your seat," junior business administration major Cinthia Rodriguez said. "I know personally I can drop an airpod in between my seat and get distracted trying to get it while I'm driving. A lot of students get easily distracted, so it's a product that promotes safety and convenience."

All of the profits from Rodriguez's stand will go to the Streets Are For Everyone non-profit organization, whose goal is to minimize road fatalities from pedestrian, bicyclist and driver accidents.

Other stands coincided with different clubs on campus. Those stands elected to use their funds to continue funding the day-to-day operations of their respective clubs and to market them to a new demographic.

"As president of the Crochet Club, I felt the need to come out here and market my passion," sophomore computer science major Haylee Hewton said. "Compared to other hobbies, crocheting is super cheap and I wanted a new hobby. Now I like to teach other people how to crochet."

In the center of Citrus Lawn, many of the participants sat in their chairs to enjoy their food and discuss the event with their friends and classmates.

Other participants showed up in support of their friends who were showcasing their academic work for the poster board walk.

"Some of my friends are presenting here, so I wanted to be here to support them," sophomore biology major Eman Fasih said. "I'm also interested in looking at the different research from the different faculty are doing."

With the school year winding down, the Mini Maker Fair and Innovation Block Party allowed students to take a step back from their end-of-the-year workload and take some time to feel the sunshine breathe some fresh air.

With the success of the Mini Maker Market and Innovation Block Party, plans are currently underway for next year.

"We are an educational institution, so they should be able to showcase what they are doing and show everybody what is happening," Capaldi said "We do want to make this an annual event and we do see this expanding based on the interest of this first event.

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CAB fair encourages mental health awareness

Students connect over fears

Margaret Contreras
Staff Writer

The Campus Activities Board hosted a Mental Health Fair on Tuesday on the Citrus Lawn to kick off Mental Health Awareness Month which started Wednesday.

The event featured games related to the theme and Baby's Badass Burgers food truck was on hand.

Over 250 students attended the fair. They were encouraged to participate in activities at six stations.

The guests were given a sheet of paper with the names of the stations, and once they completed the activity at each station, they received a stamp.

Event organizer Mikalay Dacpano, junior psychology and child development major, was excited to put on a mental health event, even though some of the issues are hard to talk about.

"The topics of mental health, drugs and alcohol, sexual assault and suicide," Dacpano said.

"I wanted to bring awareness to… what students might be going through."

Two of the stations a true-or-false trivia game, and a mix-and-match game.

The games were related to recognizing different mental health issues, or information and risks around suicide.

Machaela McLain, junior criminology major and CAB member, said she liked that students were open to attending an event like this to help with their mental health.

"Now that mental health and mental illnesses have become less (stigmatized)," McLain said.

"There is still fear in finding out there is something you need help with. This event helps people feel supported. It lets them know it's OK not to feel OK."

There was a station where students could write something positive on a board.

At one station guests could also share a secret anonymously.

Yesenia Velazquez, senior biology major, said the share-a-secret station was a good idea.

"It lets people be more open about the secrets they have," Velazquez said. "It shows you that people have the same internal fear. It alleviates some of the pressure."

The secrets were pinned on a board by the check-in table.

The board also had facts about different mental health issues, with brain scans illustrating the issues.

It also offered some signs to look for to know if someone is considering suicide, and showed celebrities who struggle with mental health issues.

"We all have our secrets," said Katheryn Aguirre, junior biology major. "Even the people that are confident."

The on-campus Counseling and Psychological Services, and off-campus Tri-City Mental Health had information tables as well.

"If you search for it, you can find resources you need," Dacpano said.

She said that students at the University don't always take advantage of available resources.

"If you talk to someone, they will connect you to that resource," Dacpano said.

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Fair food mixes, matches flavors

April Cambero
Social Media Editor

The Los Angeles County Fair held a private fair food preview Wednesday, showcasing some of the food that will be available at the fair, which opens Friday and runs through May 27.

The event also featured entertaining farm animal races.

The different foods showcased at the event were a mix of traditional fair foods and some non-traditional foods as well.

The farm animal races happened halfway through the event and attracted many of the guests there.

The farm animal races included running pigs, waddling ducks and trotting goats.

We cheered for each of the animal groups as they made their way around the track and back into their corrals for a treat.

And we tried the food. Chicken Charlie's had three different options to sample.

They offered bacon wrapped pickles, hot honey chicken potstickers dusted in Hot Cheeto dust and hot honey funnel cake chicken sandwiches.

The hot honey chicken potstickers dusted in Hot Cheeto dust was an interesting dish; it ended up being my favorite item on that menu.

Pizza Slicer offered favorite Italian-American dishes.

Their menu items range from simple dishes like pizza by the slice and meatball subs to more exciting dishes like pizza fries.

The pizza fries were traditional skinny, salty fries covered in mozzarella cheese and pepperoni.

They were the perfect mix of my two favorite dishes from my childhood.

Draft Beer Depot provided alcoholic beverages that were perfect to pair with the dishes at the event.

On the menu were espresso martinis with a whip shot topping, ice-cold margaritas and draft beers.

The margaritas were the right mix of salty and sweet and kept me hydrated throughout the event.

La Mexicana had options including quesabirrias with consomé, sopes and bite size tortas.

A quesabirria is a taco filled with melted Mexican cheese and slow-cooked beef.

The quesabirria was filled with flavor and perfectly seasoned.

The Dough Spot specialized in pretzel bread buns filled with your choice of pulled pork, pulled chicken or carne asada.

Buns had different flavors, such as teriyaki and traditional.

The buns were not my favorite item of the day, however, the concept of the buns was a great idea.

Tasti Whip was one of the options available for a sweet treat at the event.

Their interpretation of the classic Dole Whip was perfect for the hot day.

Their menu items included soft serve, soft serve floats and Chimangos.

There were multiple flavors for the menu items such as strawberry, lemon, pineapple and mango.

The pineapple soft serve was the perfect way to end the food filled event and I will definitely be going back for more on opening day.

Other foods offered included caramel apples, spam fries, taquitos and ramen tacos.

For more information on the Los Angeles County Fair, visit **lacountyfair.com.**

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Sarah Van Buskirk

La Mexicana provides an array of Mexican food like the recently popular quesabirria, a quesadilla filled with birria and served with a side of consommé, a rich flavored broth for dipping, at the Los Angeles County Fair food preview day Wednesday at the Fairplex in Pomona. The city of Pomona is known for its multicultural cuisines that are reflected in the variety of dishes at the Fair.

La Verne pours it up at annual Wine Walk

Taylor Moore
Editor-in-Chief

La Verne hosted its 10th annual La Verne Wine Walk on Saturday.

Residents enjoyed rich pours of red and white wines, as well as delicious foods from more than 30 local businesses in downtown La Verne.

Guests were given a commemorative wine glass, 12 wine pours and unlimited tastings from the various food vendors collaborating with Old Town's small businesses.

The city came alive with live music from eight different cover brands throughout the wine walk.

Tickets cost $65, but to encourage safe drinking, a designated driver ticket was also available for $35 for those only participating in food tasting.

George Henderson, owner of Henderson Insurance and Chamber of Commerce member, said the Chamber of Commerce started planning and organizing the event three months in advance. He said this year's wine walk was a sold out event, with about 900 guests attending.

"There's a lot of old faces I haven't seen in a long time, a community event," Henderson said.

"We even meet new friends and new people in La Verne. I already met some new families that are here for the first time. It's wonderful."

Karen Vanegas, Pomona resident, is a regular at the annual La Verne Wine Walk.

She came in a group of 16, made up of her friends and family, and said they enjoyed the event so much that they made custom burgundy shirts that they wear each year.

Their shirts had various puns on them, with Vanegas' saying, "Wine well with others" next to a wine glass.

"We love supporting all the different small businesses here," she said. "The food has been amazing. There's a lot of good things to try."

Sean Franco is the owner of Chase's La Verne, a steakhouse located on 2079 Bonita Ave.

He said the wine walk is a great opportunity to meet up and talk to everybody in the community and saw both familiar and unfamiliar faces, as some were regulars at his restaurant.

Chase's served their specialty artichoke dip, a popular appetizer from their happy hour menu.

Guests formed a line to get a taste of the fan favorite food.

"We've been in La Verne since 2007," Franco said.

"My wife, Dory, has been in the restaurant business for 21 years. This (Chase's) is like her baby. I'm more of the support for my wife."

Micky's Jewelry Studio, located at 2343 D St., partnered with Sweetly Twisted Company to serve gourmet fudge to pair with the wine being served.

Guests chose between a variety of red wine flavors, including Grüner Veltliner, Rosé, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Zinfandel.

Sweetly Twisted Company offered milk chocolate, dark chocolate cherry, orange cranberry walnut chocolate and salted pecan chocolate, each assigned to a specific wine.

The dark chocolate cherry fudge paired with the Zinfandel red created a flavorful sensation of rich sweetness, with the chocolate only enhancing the wine's taste.

The Corner Butcher Shop, located at 2359 Foothill Blvd., served their signature lobster macaroni and cheese in Micky's Jewelry Studio.

Sometimes the taste of seafood can be overpowering, but the blend between the lobster and pasta was effortless, smothered in creamy cheese, breadcrumbs and bacon pieces.

Krystina Lindsey is the owner of WYLDFLWR Beauty + Boutique, located on 2336 D St.

Her boutique does custom clothing, including prints and embroidery.

She also offers beauty treatments like botox and permanent makeup.

"I was always in the fashion industry since I was young," Lindsey said. "(The boutique) is one of those where we mixed (beauty and fashion) together and it's my perfect cup of tea."

Lindsey said she loved that an event like the wine walk brought life to the streets of La Verne.

Jennifer Breakey, owner of Serendipity at 2144 Bonita Ave., a day spa, has been running her business for 16 years.

The business currently has three estheticians, each specializing in a different spa treatment.

"We're really small, but we have a ton of years of experience between the three ladies," Breakey said.

Once Breakey became a mom, she knew she wanted to make her workspace welcoming to other women balancing a work life and family.

"I wanted a safe place for moms to be able to work because it's hard to find places that allow flexibility with soccer schedules and parent teacher conferences, things like that," she said.

Free Wing was one of the bands performing at the La Verne Wine Walk, covering songs from bands the members grew up with in the 1970's, including Queen, The Doors and The Beatles.

"I just loved music from the moment I saw The Beatles," Aldo Quiroga, founder of the band and guitarist, said. "I knew that's what I wanted to do."

Vernon Espiritu, who plays bass, Fernando Hernandez, on drums, and Quiroga are three of the original members from 1973, when they started the band at Alhambra High School.

"That song 'Cinnamon Girl' by Neil Young…we played that in the Alhambra High School Battle of the Bands in 1972, and we're gonna play it again today," Espiritu said.

Guests enjoyed the festivities until the last pour was called at 8:30 p.m.

Taylor Moore can be reached at ***taylor.moore@laverne.edu.***

Lecture...

Continued from page 2

"I think this problem of colonization you can do in the lab, but not in the field," said Kenneth Marcus, professor of history, who attended. "There's the process of lab conditions and real life conditions and that discovery is interesting."

Other audience members found themselves more interested by the results and details regarding seed germination and bacterial growth.

"The bacteria being able to help the plants grow and the other aspects that they can observe, I never thought about it that way," said Xiiaoyan Liu, mathematics professor. "It's very interesting and beautiful, especially the pictures she took of the bacteria."

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Happenings

‘Let’s Play’

The University of La Verne’s Sundays at the Morgan concert series presents the “Let’s Play” faculty concert at 6 p.m. Sunday in Morgan Auditorium. Students, alumni and guests will be featured in the celebrations of Latin symphonies. All donations support the music department.

Admission is $20 general admission and free for students with an I.D.

For more information visit **bit.ly/ulvmusicshows**.

‘Lost and Found’

“Lost and Found: Rediscovering the Archive,” a group exhibit of student and alumni work, is on display in the Ground Floor Gallery in Miller Hall. The exhibit is curated by senior Kim Toth, and features works by Liberty Garcia, Mia Byington, Abelina Nuñez, Amanda Torres, Cassandra Martinez and Maxwell Sierra. It runs through May 24.

For more information email Fred Brashear Jr. at **fbrashear@laverne.edu**.

‘Push and Pull’

The Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography is currently displaying the 2024 senior project exhibition “Push and Pull,” featuring work by senior photography majors Kim Toth and Ethan Bermudez. The photography represents the complexity of individuals within the dynamic of both familial and romantic ties. The show runs through June 30.

For more information visit the photography department’s Instagram **@ulvphotography**.

The Haven

Sunset Palm presents performances by Sluttony, Funds for Jimmy, Integra Pink and Trashdays live from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday at The Haven at 296 W. Second St. in Pomona. Tickets start at $15.50.

For more information visit, **thehavenpomona.com**.

—Sarah Van Buskirk

Renaissance group joins Chamber Singers

by Michael Roccia

photography by Chris Rogers



Roberto Catalano, Michael Ryan, Dylan Oberbeck and Ken Söderlund perform an evening of Renaissance music on Sunday in Morgan Auditorium. This concert was a fundraiser to help raise money for the University of La Verne Chamber Singers to prepare for their upcoming tour of Germany.

The University’s Chamber Singers took its audience back in time Sunday with an evening of Renaissance music in the Morgan Auditorium.

Around 60 people attended the event, which was also a fundraiser to support sending the singing group to Germany this summer, where they plan to perform some of the traditional music in the land where they originated.

Audience members were transported as they listened to songs from the 1400s all the way through to the 1600’s. The Chamber Singers were joined by the Renaissance Music Troupe.

The Renaissance Music Troupe performed first to get the crowd warmed up for the rest of the playful and whimsical night that was ahead of them.

The troupe performed using a variety of instruments, including guitars, flutes, lutes and recorders.

They not only impressed audiences with their skills, but also got them in on the fun as well.

They chanted the old drinking song “We Drink to Remember.”

They also sang the “Rain Song” for which they had the audience sing along to the chorus to further integrate them into the world of renaissance music.

One of the members of the Renaissance Music Troupe, Michael Ryan, who is also professor of music at La Verne.

Ryan, who has been playing Renaissance music for years, said he thinks it is something the audience will always enjoy as it transports them to different time periods in a way that not many other things could.

“It’s like a time machine,” Ryan said. “It’s like you are looking back to the past and getting the feeling for how these people wrote music and how they felt. It’s hard to get that reading a book or even watching a movie. But when you’re actually hearing the music and you’re around all these people dressed like the time period, you really feel like you’re there.”

Ryan said he loved performing with his small renaissance troupe, and he enjoyed when the Chamber Singers joined them on stage and sang “La Marmotte.”

“When we sang La Marmotte with them, that was such a highlight,” Ryan said. “It was fun to have the whole group up there. It’s one thing to have just our small group, but then to have all these voices supporting it, it’s like, ‘Oh, wow, that’s nice.’”

After the Renaissance Music Troupe performed with the Chamber Singers, there was a quick intermission before the concert began again with even more performances.

This time, the Chamber Singers performed solo and captivated the crowd with their talent.

One of the Chamber Singers, Zachary Grech, a junior communications major, said he believes this year’s group is one of the best ever.

“The new group is amazing,” Grech said. “You’re gonna hear this new sound that the Chamber Singers have. We have a lot more guys than we did last year, so you’re going to hear more of the basses and tenors present. It’s going to be a lot of fun.”

Another one of the Chamber Singers, freshman music major Mario Aguayo, said he knows how important fundraising is, especially when it comes to clubs and programs in the arts. He wants everyone to be able to attend the trip and hopes donations allow for that to happen.

“Raising money is so important because our goal is to get all the students here to go without paying anything out of pocket.” Aguayo said. “We fundraise like this so people from lower income families can go on this trip and enjoy this wonderful experience for nothing. I really hope that people come here to enjoy the music and to support us as well.”

After seeing the performances, Mira Kleier, a friend of one of the performers and a guest at the event thought the admission price was more than fair and was pleasantly surprised at the amount of talent she got to enjoy.

“I think that the setlist was well made and I really liked the harmonies,” Kleier said. “I was also just stoked that the people were wearing Renaissance outfits, and that brought me a lot of joy. I also like that it was educational too. It taught me about the history of renaissance music.”

Tickets for the event were $20, and free for students.

The event raised close to $2,000 for the Chamber singers.

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Photos capture human connection

Anisa Salazar
Staff Writer



Olivia Modarelli

Senior photography majors Kim Toth and Ethan Bermudez discuss their work at the opening reception of the "Push and Pull" exhibition on April 25 in the Irene Carlson Gallery of Photography in Miller Hall. Toth and Bermudez are the two featured artists in the photography department's senior exhibition, which runs through June 30.

"Push and Pull," a senior photo exhibition featuring the work of senior photography majors Kim Toth and Ethan Bermudez, captures the dynamics and complexities in human relationships and connections.

The exhibition on display in the Carlson Gallery of Photography in Miller Hall kicked off with a reception April 25.

It runs in the gallery through June 30.

Toth's work is an abstract display of colorful images using lumen prints. She was able to capture the images by placing flowers on top of photo-sensitive paper and then glass on top of that.

After leaving them out in the sun, condensation from the flowers collected on the glass. Using a macro lens is what allowed guests to see such a close up image.

With help from adjunct professor of photography Fred Brashear, two of Toth's photos were displayed in light boxes.

"When I was making the images I knew it would be interesting to see them lit up from behind," Toth said. "The paper I chose for the ones that aren't in light boxes are on metallic paper so it gives a more shiny look and ties them back to it being under glass."

Bermudez's work was a series of stills he had chosen from his film.

When walking down the hallway of the gallery, the stills are chronologically in the same order as the scenes in the film.

After shooting and going through to select all the images he wanted, there were about 100 stills to choose from, Bermudez said.

"When it got down to the nitty-gritty, I wanted to be able to have the viewer be accessible to the relationship of the couple and I think that was most important to me," Bermudez said. "There are many different moments that I could have included, but ultimately I just wanted it to be about the core of that relationship and encapsulate their romance."

Having helped on past installations, Brashear found this one unique to others.

"This is the first, that I've seen, where we didn't use plexiglass," Brashear said. "We heat-mounted these. This exhibit is completely different from past exhibits where we just had normal photographic paper against the wall, with plexiglass and things like that, so this one is a little bit different in that regard."

Early on there was a concern that because the two styles of photography were so different that they wouldn't work together, Toth said.

They then realized that because of their differences, that is what really complemented each other and conveyed the push and pull aspect.

"I really enjoyed how different each of their works were," Karina Gonzalez, freshman criminology major, said. "One was more thought-provoking, while with the other I was able to follow the story to the end and see how the relationship developed."

While Toth's work left guests completely up to their own interpretation of relationships, Bermudez's series of photos allowed people to follow a couple's relationship journey.

"The relationship is very in your face so you kind of have to interpret it, or take in the storyline for what it is," Bermudez said. "Everyone has their own experiences in relationships, so I feel like the interpretation of the situation is accessible to a lot of people. The interpretation for how things played out is more left open to the viewer on the relationship and less on the grand concept of it all."

The Carlson Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Response calls...

Continued from page 3

into the LVPD dispatch centers, depending on the criteria, the dispatchers will radio the Team and let them know about what is happening and the location.

"They're very well versed on dealing with the homeless population, but also mentally ill and the drug abuse situation," La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn said. "It's a very great program. It's working out well and it's getting better and better."

Alvarado said there has been a significant impact since the program began.

During the first three months the Team saw nearly 40 calls and for half of those calls the alternative response unit was used to transport people.

The alternative response unit will transport people to local hospitals where they will be medically cleared and then they are transferred to a facility that specializes in mental health.

Alvarado said a couple dozen people were placed on 72 hour evaluations based on the outcome of the calls.

"All those minutes this team spends with these people are really valuable because not only are they getting the extra care, but you're freeing up law enforcement to serve the community," Alvarado said.

The city is currently working with the University of La Verne to establish a regional dispatch center that would be called during a mental health crisis instead of calling 911.

The dispatch center would be for the cities of La Verne, Pomona, Claremont, San Dimas and Glendora.

Hepburn said the city is working with University of La Verne President Pardis Mahdavi and her staff to figure out how they can utilize a piece of property for the SGV CARE Team and the dispatch center.

"We're looking forward to discussing and figuring out how we can do that," Hepburn said.

La Verne Community Services Director, Yvonne Duran said the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is very happy with the La Verne SGV CARE program and the direction it is going.

She said there are conversations about extending the program after the initial one year pilot program, but it will depend on funding.

"We want to help these individuals, we don't just want to tell them, 'OK, go do this or call us back,' if something happens'," Duran said. "We're really trying to provide resources and services for them and letting them know it's OK to have these crises. It's OK. It's not that it's normal, but we're here to help. It's OK. You don't have to be scared."

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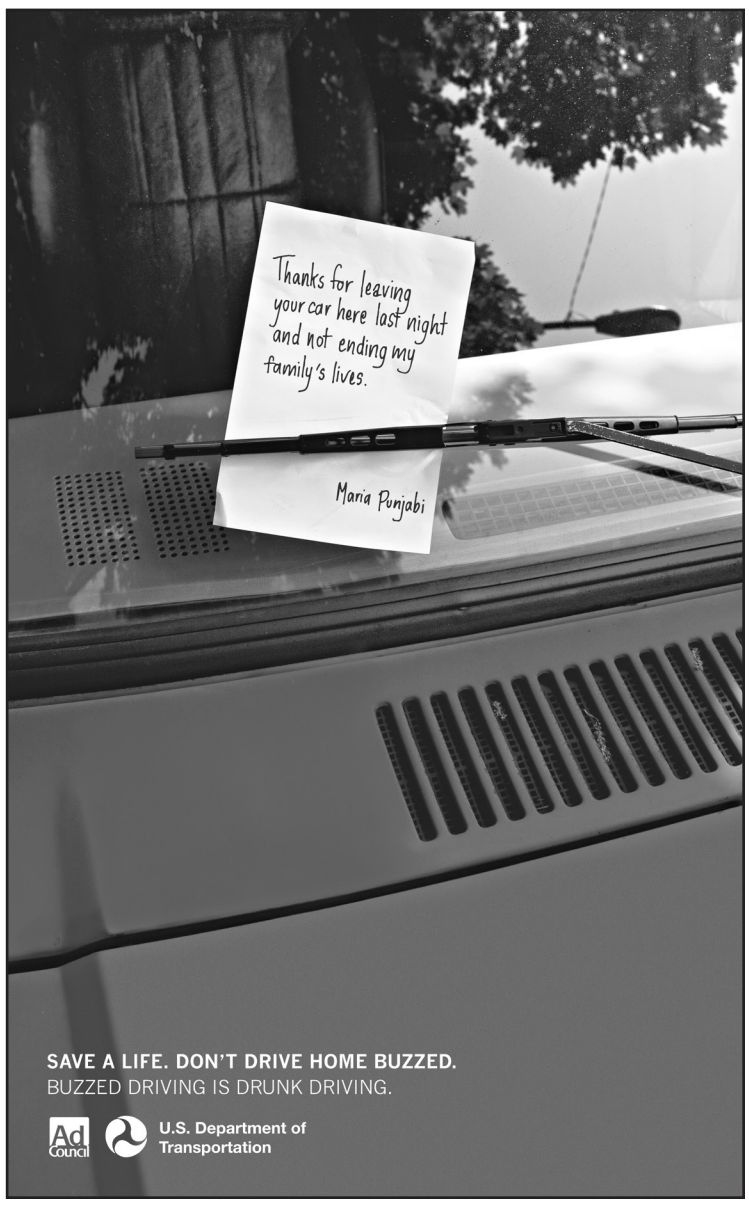

Pianist raises money for Ukraine

Jordan Alcasas
Staff Writer

"The Beautiful Game" was an original program April 27 in Morgan Auditorium by Grammy award winning pianist Nadia Shpachenko. The performance was part of the Masterful Keys series.

About 100 people attended the concert, a fundraiser for to support Ukraine. Shpachenko is from Kharkiv, one of cities in eastern Ukraine that was hardest hit by the Russian invasion.

"The Russian Invasion of Ukraine is personal for me," Shpachenko said. "I am from Ukraine and my father still lives there."

"The Beautiful Game" is a program for which Shpachenko commissioned 10 American composers to create contemporary classical pieces. She said it is something very special to her.

"It is a very unique project that was never done before, in which I am bringing my two big passions together… my love of music and my love of soccer," Shpachenko said.

"I have been touring this program extensively and have recorded it for my upcoming CD release. My CD "The Beautiful Game" will be coming out this summer on the Reference Recordings label."

Shpachenko also derived the inspiration for "The Beautiful Game" from her family.

"My son Ace is a serious soccer player who competes nationally and internationally," Shpachenko said. "My husband Barry Werger-Gottesman is the producer of this project and has been instrumental in putting this program together with me and the composers from the start."

She views it as a family project, not something that she has completed alone, similar to her previous family project "The Poetry of Places," which she and her husband won Grammy Awards for in 2020. She finds that a large part of inspiration and joy derived from this program comes from that family element and the impact it could have on future generations.

"As you can observe from my projects, I love combining different art forms to bring major unique repertoire into the international classical music scene that I hope will be picked up by pianists of this and future generations, and to broaden the impact these programs will have by engaging diverse communities."

Students were inspired by Shpachenko's performance.

"As I watched the concert, I felt a sense of urgency," Natalie Vidarte, a freshman computer science major, said.

"I believe she made a great job of putting emotion into the performance, and it really enforced how paramount donations and aid can be in times like these."

Other students had similar responses.

"As someone who already knew about the conflict, I feel like I was being called to do more," Jazmin Jacamo, freshman political science major, said.

Schpachenko has set up a fundraiser through the "Invasion: Music and Art for Ukraine" project. All who donated $50 or more will receive a free CD.

"The situation in Ukraine is terrible and I want to make sure the public doesn't forget about this war that was waged on Ukraine for no reason," Schpachenko said.

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Chris Rogers

Grammy Award-winning pianist Nadia Shpachenko performs selections from "The Beautiful Game" at the Masterful Keys concert on Saturday in Morgan Auditorium. Admission was free, but donations were collected to fund different aid organizations operating in Ukraine.

West Gallery exhibit features new abstract work

Kelli Makenna Kuttruff
Arts Editor

The "Asymmetry and Alignment" exhibition, featuring vibrant new paintings from artist Oliver Sutter, is open now on the second floor of the Campus Center in the West Gallery.

This solo exhibition features six eye-catching paintings in this non-traditional gallery space that surrounds a study area. Director of Art Galleries and organizer of this exhibition Dion Johnson had followed Sutter's work closely and invited him for his first solo exhibition at the University of La Verne after previously being a part of a group exhibition.

"I think he understands how art and creative thinking and also academia intersect in a wonderful way," Johnson said. "I like that his paintings are conceptual… about ideas… they're very inviting for people to come see and look at, and it's a great way for students and others to see an in-depth body of work."

Immediately upon entering the gallery, a painting featuring rich shades of blue with a pop of orange can be seen. Different brush strokes and pressures with contrasting shades of blue combine to create an abstract piece that welcomes viewers to enter the gallery by drawing them into the experience.

When moving further into the gallery, a series of three green paintings graces the left wall. Each painting uses seemingly similar brush strokes to create the abstract work, but stands on its own in a measure of uniqueness. This series of paintings from far away clearly use different shades of greens, but upon closer inspection also features hues of pink and yellow.

Underneath the "Asymmetry and Alignment" gallery sign lies a striking red painting with white geometric shapes, sitting across a juxtaposed bright triangular piece featuring different shades of yellow.

Johnson believes that these paintings are generous and invite people to spend time in the gallery.

"I think that good ideas invite people to spend time, and look and discover… I think his work does that," Johnson said.

"Because all of the works are clearly painted by the same person with a very similar technique… they all feel like they're of the same universe, but with distinct personalities."

Sutter believes that having his paintings displayed in a university makes a certain statement. This space is located in an area that is frequented by a multitude of members of the ULV community.

"There's an awareness for me that even if I make something that is highly formal, highly abstract and ultimately on most levels really just about the color red… it's still doing something… and its position within a public space at a university makes a statement," Sutter said.

He created his paintings with an understanding that this gallery is not a space like other museums may be, and recognized that people will be walking by them on their way to class, or viewing them as they sit and study which would not occur in a traditional space.

He also recognized that with all of the natural light pouring in from the glass walls that enclose the Campus Center, his paintings would look different depending on the time of day.

"I hope it's going to feel different to look at them in the morning than it would in the evening," Sutter said. "It's also a building with that large atrium space that has the cafe downstairs. So there's noise, but that noise is the life of human activity. Maybe if there's a message, it's that art is a thing to be lived with."

This is true for junior computer science major Cherie Atalor, who comes to this space to do her homework on the couches in front of the gallery instead of the library for a more quiet and less congested environment.

Atalor believes it is nice to have a place to study where she can look up sometimes and see the art exhibited on the walls.

"It's nice to look up and have something to look at, something that's not just a white wall," Atalor said.

She describes the art adorning the walls as interesting and very abstract, and loves the shapes of the objects in the paintings.

Also frequenting this space to study is sophomore journalism major, Angel Oparah. Both she and Atalor recommend this exhibition and space to other students. Oparah feels that compared to other paintings she has seen in this space, these showed more freedom from the artist.

"It's a beautiful exhibition," Oparah said. "It might look simple when you look at it, but I feel like the person who made it put their heart and soul into it."

The "Asymmetry and Alignment" exhibition is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day through May 24. Admission is free.

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Baseball keeps winning streak alive



Jonas Holt

Sophomore infielder Aidan Salcedo dives back to second base safely in the Leopards' 8-3 win against the Whittier Poets on Friday afternoon at Ben Hines Field. Salcedo finished the game with one hit, one run and three RBI. The Leopards also swept the Poets in a doubleheader Saturday.

Leos one win away from title

Jack Janes
Sports Editor

Freshman left-handed pitcher Niko Urquidi struck out 11 batters and the Leopards' offense had two big innings in their 8-3 win over the Whittier Poets on Friday at Ben Hines Field.

Urquidi threw six strong innings, giving up three earned runs on five hits, 11 strikeouts and two walks.

The three runs all came in the third inning, when Urquidi hung a breaking ball over the heart of the plate for senior center fielder Lew Rice to hit a three-run home run.

"He really just made one mistake," head coach Scott Winterburn said. "He had a couple runners on and he hung a slider to a guy in about the only place he could get it in the air, and he made him pay. But other than that, he battled and maybe threw a lot of pitches just because they're swinging and missing so much and he wasn't getting some early outs like he normally does."

Offensively, the Leopards got rolling in the bottom of the second inning when sophomore infielder Aidan Salcedo came up to the plate with the bases loaded and hit a bases-clearing triple to open the scoring.

Salcedo then got the offense going again in the fourth inning with a lead-off walk and then reached second base because of a slash to first base by sophomore shortstop Ryan Vosika.

Graduate student second baseman Anthony Salcedo got a two-strike double to score his younger brother, Aidan, to retake the lead at 4-3.

"We were just grinders," Anthony Salcedo said. "We get into 0-2 counts and we pride ourselves in our 2K (two strikes) plan. So just staying in those at-bats regardless and having something for it if it's over the middle and then spoiling the corners."

Six out of the Leopards' 10 hits in the game came in two-strike counts, including Aidan Salcedo's triple.

> Offensively, the Leopards got rolling in the bottom of the second inning when sophomore infielder Aidan Salcedo hit a bases-loaded bases-clearing triple to open the scoring.

The sixth inning was another big one for the Leopards' offense, as they scored four runs on four hits and got some help from the Poets, who committed three errors in the inning.

It all started when junior first baseman Noah Garcia laid down a drag bunt and beat the throw to first for a lead-off hit.

Garcia advanced to second base on a passed ball and then to third base on a ground out by Aidan Salcedo.

Garcia scored when Vosika hit a ground ball to Poets junior third baseman Ty Aldridge, who threw the ball too low for senior first baseman Ian Watanabe to handle. Watanabe then threw the ball away trying to get Garcia out at home, allowing Vosika to reach second base.

The next batter, junior left fielder Malachi Francois, hit a line drive to right field and Poets senior right fielder James Stirton dropped the ball, allowing Vosika to score and Francois to reach first base.

A single into left field by senior outfielder Matthew Diaz then scored Francois.

Junior right fielder Logan Reese got his third hit of the game with a single into right field to advance Diaz to third base.

Then, Reese took off early from first base to draw a throw and get in a run down, which allowed Diaz to score from third base for the final run in the inning to make it 8-3 Leopards.

"Just staying calm, looking for a good pitch to hit and going the other way," Reese said about his approach at the plate.

Senior right-handed pitcher Austin Klopfenstein began the season as a starter, but has since been moved to the bullpen to be the Leopards' closer. He got the call into the game with no outs and runners on first and second base in the eighth inning. Klopfenstein struck out the first batter he faced and then got back-to-back fly outs to right field to get out of the eighth-inning jam.

Then in the ninth inning, Klopfenstein struck out the first batter again, got a fly out to right field, then froze Watanabe on a changeup to strike him out looking and secure the 8-3 win for the Leopards.

"It's not really a big adjustment," Klopfenstein said about his transition to the closing role. "I think your process is fairly similar, but just feeling out situations of the game when you think the team is going to need your arsenal and you just read based on what's going on in the game and you just be ready to go whenever your name is called."

The Leopards finished the series the next day with a doubleheader at Whittier, winning both games to complete the series sweep in dominating fashion, 26-4 and 12-5, to extend their winning streak to seven games.

The Leopards are now 25-9-1 on the season and 17-4 in Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play.

This weekend, the Leopards will wrap up the regular season with a three-game slate against the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Stags starting at 3 p.m. Friday at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and finishing with a doubleheader at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at Ben Hines Field.

With the Leopards at the top of the SCIAC standings and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps three games behind in second place, the Leopards just need one win this weekend to clinch their second consecutive SCIAC regular season championship.

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Track finishes season strong

The men's and women's track and field teams celebrated remarkable record-breaking achievements at the 2024 Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Track Championships on Sunday at Strehle Track at Pomona-Pitzer.

Leading the charge was sophomore sprinter Tyler Thomas, who became the fastest man in the SCIAC with victories in both the 100-meter and 200-meter events, setting new school records along the way. His electrifying 10.54-second sprint in the 100-meter not only surpassed his previous best, but also ranks 15th in NCAA Division III.

Thomas continued his dominance in the 200 meter, setting a SCIAC meet and La Verne record with a lightning-fast time of 20.94 seconds.

Junior Dawson Bell emerged as a standout performer for the women's team, securing a first-place finish in the 100-meter dash with an impressive personal best time of 12.25 seconds.

Graduate student Zachary Reid reclaimed his SCIAC crown, winning the 110 meter hurdles.

His winning time of 14.31 set a new school record and also broke a SCIAC meet record of 14.48 set in 1976.

The Leopards secured a dramatic win in the 4x400 meter relay, with graduate student Austin Haines, senior Ivan Estrada, junior Jayden Figueroa and Thomas crossing the finish line at 3:17.26. Figueroa managed to avoid a collision between runners from Pomona-Pitzer and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, propelling the Leopards into the lead. Thomas then anchored the team to victory, leaving the competition behind.

In the men's 4x100-meter relay, freshman Davion Fields, freshman Russell Maxie, Estrada and Thomas finished third with a time of 41.25, which is the fifth-fastest time in school history.

In the 400-meter hurdles, senior Joshua Collier finished second with a season-best time of 53.65.

Sophomore decathlete Hunter Bond finished sixth after setting personal bests in five events.

—Jonas Holt