Physician's assistant program to end

Sarah Van BuSkirk

The University of La Verne has ceased all new enrollment for the master of science physician assistant practice program in anticipation of a Jan. 1, 2025, program end.

This comes after the University withdrew the program from consideration by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant on April 24.

Faculty, staff and students were informed on April 30 of the program’s end. The program will remain “accredited on probation” until Dec. 31. According to the “FAQs for ULV’s Voluntary Withdrawal from Accreditation Process for Master of Science Physician Assistant Program” on the University of La Verne website, the University withdrew the program to take time to re-evaluate its offerings and determine future options, after studying the accreditation requirements.

“The main reason for withdrawal was really about protecting the stu-
dents and I think that was ob-
viously an appropriate move,” said Paul Alvarez, professor of kinesiology and faculty senate president.

Second-year students ex-
pected to graduate in December 2024 will graduate with a degree from an accredited program as long as graduation requirements are met. First-year students ex-
pected to graduate in December 2025 will be provided with a plan from the University regarding the opportunity to complete the program at another insitution with an accredited PA Program.

“The intention always was to have a viable program and obviously, carry it forward for whoever knows how long. But obviously that didn’t work out,” Alvarez said.

The 27-month program was launched in fall 2018 with the mission to educate diverse, eth-
cial, collaborative and holistic medical professionals. In March 2018 the program received provisional accreditation. It was placed on accreditation probation in October 2021, where it remained until April of this year.

Rick Hasse, instructor of ac-
counting and finance and chair of the faculty of management and compensation committee, said the program was successful at acquiring and engaging students, but it lacked leadership.

“We hired incompetent peo-
ple to run the program, and the people who were supervising them, who are no longer in a po-
sition here in the administration, had their chance to do something, but they didn’t. So we did things wrong,” Risa Dickson, interim pro-
vest since January 2024, and Kathy Duncan, interim dean of the Cástulo de la Rocha Col-
lege of Health and Community Well-Being since January 2023, declined to comment on the pro-
gram ceasing enrollment.

For students enrolled in the pro-
gram along with ULV President Pardis Mahdavi did not respond to requests to interview by press time.

“The Physician Assistant Program was a wonderful ve-
icle to get in, but we did on the cheap and because we did it on the cheap, we didn’t know what we were doing,” Hasse said. “And now we’ve lost the program.”

Samira Felix can be reached at samira.felix@laverne.edu.

Journalism students win nine regional awards

Everyone's a winner: Campus Times, staff, professors

Stephan Gilson Jr.

LV Life Editor

University of La Verne jour-
nalism students cleaned up in this year’s Society of Pro-
fessional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards – winning a total of nine awards, includ-
ing seven awards for Campus Times staff writers, one for the Campus Times, and a total of nine awards, includ-
ing seven awards for Campus Times staff writers, one for the Campus Times.

The results of the annual competition – among college
newspapers and online publications – were announced on April 30.

Among the nine awards were four first place honors and five
finalist, or second place, nods. First place winners move on to the national Mark of Excellence competition later this year.

Kelli Magenetta Kuttreff, se-

ence communications major and Campus Times art editor, won first place in the feature writing category for her story “Local houses go all out for Hallow-
een,” which ran in the Campus Times.

“This story was memorable for me because I got to approach journalism in an old-school kind of way,” Kuttreff said. “A lot of interviews I do are over the phone now, but for this story I (went) door-to-door and asked to talk to homeowners. I was always invited into their homes and that made it a special expe-
ience.”

For the in-depth reporting category, senior journalism ma-
jors and Campus Times editors Sarah Van Buskirk and Samira Felix, and senior communica-
tions major Brittany Snow, won first place for their series “Fu-
ture of Janitor Interns.”

The series detailed how the University almost didn’t except the popular January session, but then aborted the contract plan.

“This story was different than anything else within stories that I have written in the past because it was an ongo-
ing issue that the University was dealing with behind the scenes,” Van Buskirk said. “They were very open about it in pub-
lic meetings that students nor-
mally don’t go to. (And) just be-
cause Samira and I had been to this certain meeting, we caught on the fact that (something) wasn’t right.”

“I think what really made this story stand out was that it was a part of a series that just kept evolving,” Felix added. “Britta-
ny and Sarah both did amazing jobs in getting student reaction in real time and covering the new information that kept developing for the story.”

Senior broadcast journalism major Michelle Reidan, who was a finalist in the television breaking news category for her story “Breaking News: New Kaiser Permanente Strikes,” was also delighted with the results of the annual competition.

“The choice to withdraw was obviously that didn’t work out,” Reidan said. “I definitely set a new bar for myself. After that story, I felt like I have proved myself not only to other people, but myself.”

Additional winners included:

• Breaking News, first place winners, Anabel Martinez and Brandi Peters for “Bon Appetit workers push administrators to help in wage fight,” which ran in the Campus Times;

• Feature Writing, finalist, Kel-

i Mackenna Kuttreff for “Fac-
culty, staff to receive 2% raises amid 7.9% inflation,” which ran in the Campus Times;

• Feature Writing, finalists, Ke-

llie Magenetta Kuttreff and Sam-

ira Felix. For more information on the winners, visit campustimes. org.

The La Verne Magazine is a

The Columbia Scholastic

Press Association is an interna-
tional student journalism orga-

nization uniting student journalists and faculty at colleges through educational conferences, idea exchanges and award programs.

Owned and operated by Columbia College’s Columbia Col-
lege of Journalism, the Association founded in 1925 is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious student jour-

nalism associations.

— Samira Felix

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News

May 17, 2024

La Verne Magazine is among the best

La Verne Magazine has re-
cieved a 2022-23 Silver Crown award for hybrid magazines from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. This win puts the Magazine among the top eight college magazines in the nation for the 2022-23 acade-
amic year.

“This award is a mark of distinction for the whole de-
partment,” said George Keeler, La Verne Magazine’s executive advisor and program chair of journalism and public relations. “It says that we’re the best of the best. Even though we didn’t get the other awards, it’s nice when you do enter, and say, ‘hey, look where we are.’ It’s a point of excellence.”

The La Verne Magazine is a city magazine published once a semester with articles and pho-

tography by students.

“This is a reflection of how good our students are and can be and how they should,” Keeler said. “They should look at this and say, ‘This is how I match up with the students at other col-

leges and universities. I work on one of the best magazines in the country.’ So it should be a real promotion device for them to get a job.”

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association is an interna-
tional student journalism orga-

nization uniting student journalists and faculty at colleges through educational conferences, idea exchanges and award programs.

Owned and operated by Columbia College’s Colum-

ilongrightarrow;
First person experience:

Burdens, rewards of being first

By Abelina J. Nunez

May 17, 2024

As part of the Title III HSI STEM Grant program, students participated in an activity where they answered questions to get to know each other better. Those who are part of the program were able to find their card with a message they wrote at the beginning of the semester, which allowed them to reflect on their goals and aspirations. They meet once a month in the ACC Ballroom.

A s a first-generation college student and an only child, my decision to go to college was not just for myself but also for my family. In high school, I was unsure of my future. I applied to four Cal State, four UCs and to two community colleges for back up. I received emails from private colleges offering free applications, so I applied. I received my first acceptance letter in December 2019. I was accepted to the University of La Verne in February 2020.

When choosing which school to attend, I was not looking for the best parties or even the best academics, I was focused on which school would offer the most scholarship and financial support. Ultimately I chose ULV over Cal State Long Beach because of the financial aid I was offered here.

The 2022 Brookings Institution report “First-generation college students face unique challenges” found that first-generation college students tend to choose less selective colleges over highly selective ones because the highly selective colleges are more expensive and require more resources to get admitted. Two-thirds of these students attend open-admissions colleges, while less than one-third attend highly selective colleges, the report found.

Because I started during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, my entire first year was online. I was somewhat relieved that I got to stay home for one more year before moving onto campus, an hour away from my home in Los Angeles. I am very close to my grandmother and my mom, in part because my dad died when I was 6. I planned to go to La Verne sight unseen.

An hour from my home is not too far, but still a transition, which I ultimately made successfully.

Many first-generation college students struggle with challenges before and during their college years, including homesickness and financial challenges, and even imposter syndrome, they say.

Nearly half the students at the University of La Verne are the first in their families to attend college. “My mom immigrated here when she was younger, so I have that pressure that they came here for a better life,” Jocelyn Castaneda, a senior criminology major and first-generation college student, said.

“I don’t continue that advancement for the generations, I’m discrediting everything they’ve worked hard for,” Castaneda is graduating a year early, she said, adding that she learned about the resources available to her through her work as a resident advisor, or RA.

“Being able to advocate for ourselves is definitely some

Jocelyn Castaneda, senior criminology major, has been serving as a resident advisor, or RA. She said the experience has helped her create more connections with the staff on campus, which has been a great structure for her. She will be graduating a year early.

Although she said it would have been a dream, it would have been too much of a financial burden.

“I have siblings, too,” Castaneda said. “I’m the oldest of all my siblings, so in my mind, I just thought we couldn’t do this. La Verne was … the cheapest option.”

Senior legal studies and French major Isela Chavez, who is also a first-generation college student and president of ASULV, described her transition to college.

I like me started in the fall of 2020, when nearly all classes and activities were online. But she lived on campus that first year. “Housing was at 25% capacity, so there weren’t that many students here,” Chavez said. “And only the residence halls and the dining hall were open, so there wasn’t much to do. In the second semester of my freshman year, I joined Greek life and making those memories made my first-year experience feel different – like I got something out of it.”

The 2023 report Mental Health Among First-generation College Students: Findings from the National Healthy Minds Project found that 33% of first-generation students sought therapy for such issues as depression and anxiety.

That report also found that about 55% of first-generation college students reported feeling stressed often or always, and 15% had suicidal thoughts.

As for me, I did OK my first year online, and even ended up making a good friend in my journalism major.

We decided to take all of our classes together sophomore year, which eased some of my anxiety about moving away from home to start my college journey in earnest.

Still the day I moved into the dorm, after my mom and grandmother left, I cried and had a hard time falling asleep.

I’d chosen a single room, which had its perks, but was also lonely. I called and facetimed my family daily.

“I am an out-of-state student,” Chavez said. “I’ve had to deal with stress from work, financial worries, and a changing family dynamic, because I decided that after graduation, I don’t want to return with my family.”

Many of us first generation students, whose families may not quite understand what’s involved with being a college student, carry the extra burden of needing to prove that we can not only make it, but we can excel and get straight A’s.

My friendships, particularly with other first-generation students, helped because we were going through so many of the same things, so we shared information about resources.

Rooming alone sophomore year, I became friends with Natty Custeln who lived down the hall, and we decided to room together junior and senior years.

Other first-generation students at ULV find support through the Title III Holistic and Inclusive Practices for Student Success STEM Grant, which is designed for students who identify as first-generation, Latinx and people of color.

“Being a first-generation student, I don’t want to return with my family. I want to go to tutoring or have an academic coach,” said Sherly Aviles-Morgado, a program coordinator.

The program aims to support students’ academic, personal and professional growth through mentorship, workshops, dinner series, student programs and one-on-one support.

Throughout my four years at La Verne, my community of supportive friends expanded. Despite my struggles I pushed through – and even made dean’s list each year.

“Being a first-generation Latina college student is something I’m very proud of,” Chavez said. “I’ve had a lot of struggles throughout my journey because of where I come from and who I am. It has shaped me into the person I am today and what I plan to become as a professional.”

Abelina J. Nunez can be reached at abelina.nunez@laverne.edu.
Farm teaches food science and fun

Sarah Van Buskirk
Editorial Director

Cheers at the pigs races, laughs in the petting zoo and educational cow milking demonstrations encapsulate the Farm at the Fairplex during the Los Angeles County Fair.

Located at the Fairplex in Pomona, the Fair runs until May 27.

The popular attraction provides more than fun with farm animals.

It informs fair-goers about where their food comes from and the science of raising an animal.

Emma Cronshaw and Tyler De Leon from West Hollywood came to the Los Angeles County Fair for the first time after always attending the Orange County Fair and said their favorite part is the Farm.

"Walking through the tours you see the milk demonstrations and where your fruits, vegetables and meat come from, which I think is important," De Leon said.

"If that is what you are going to consume, you should probably be aware of what you are taking in."

Because of the fast, technological state of the world, society can forget the basic fundamentals of growing food for oneself and farm tours can help rekindle the distance people traveled away from their natural human instincts.

"In the city where a lot of us live, agriculture is a lost and dying industry so it’s important to educate the community on where everything comes from," Cronshaw said.

The Budweiser Clydesdales line the entrance leading up to the Farm and once the sounds of the rockabilly bands get louder, an herb garden with over 40 beds bloom with a variety of mint and oregano strains to greet fair-goers.

Unique flavors of mint such as chocolate, lavender and pink candy pop intrigued those rubbing the leaves together to capture the essence of the herb.

Anne Macintosh, a tenured volunteer at the fair taught about propagating herbs and encouraged people to take home as many of the herbs they wanted.

"After the fairground discontinued the horse racing about 10 years ago, they had all of this property and never a vegetable garden, only the animals at the farm," Macintosh said. "Don DeLano, a farmer that worked here for a number of years now retired, helped establish this. They thought it would be a great place to put a bunch of unusual plants."

The farm has hydroponic and aquaponic displays with a koi fish pond to demonstrate the renewable water cycle used to water the crops at the Farm.

People shuffle through the chicken coupe like cattle loading onto a truck to see 13 diverse chicken species: La Fleche, Polish and Ayam Cemani.

Through Julie’s Bunny Patch led people to the Farm where Purple Passion asparagus, Bright Lights swiss chard and Hot and Spicy oregano grew.

Several other beds grew a variety of seasonal vegetables and wildflowers as Cabbage White butterflies flutter above the plants.

Inside the Big Red Barn is a goat and sheep petting zoo. For $3, card only, people can feed the large sheep and baby goats.

The Little Red Hen Chicken Coop and Hatchery plays videos on the process of hatching and fertilizing eggs.

A group of baby pigs sleep in a pile of hay and two baby calves and three cows walk around their corral.

But beyond the animals are the farmers and educators that keep the process of farming and livestock moving.

The Cal Poly Pomona Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture students sit at information stations.

The Los Angeles County Fair visitors about the Exotic Garden. Fairgoers taste tested some of the unique and hard-to-find foods the Farm at the Fairplex grows year-round.

The Los Angeles County Fair is back in town, and so are the notoriously thrilling, but also questionable, rides.

From rides that literally swing guests into the air, to ones that throw visitors into a whirlwind obstacle course, guests can expect a thrilling time.

The Remix 2 adds a twist to the standard swinging ride. Guests not only swing, but spin in continuous circles to the trendiest pop hits, like Hozier’s "Too Sweet."

The bouncy, upbeat songs completely contrast the addicting anxiety that guests feel as they are swung around several feet in the air.

Even though this ride might not be as crazy as the other ones we rode, consider The Remix 2 as a warmup round.

G Force is not for the faint of heart, but for thrillseekers. Guests are securely strapped down to ensure that they can withstand the gravitational force about to crash down on them.

This ride swings guests back and forth, progressively getting higher each time until it feels like it is going to swing around in a complete 360 degree motion.

Screams of both delight and terror could be heard around the area surrounding G Force. For those who enjoy the feeling of free falling, this ride is a perfect match.

OMG! will have guests saying OMG! throughout the whole ride, as it is not for the faint of heart. Guests are secured in their seats with an over the shoulder harness while their feet dangle freely.

The ride loops guests around while they also rotate around in their seats. The flashing lights and the fast paced music add to the thrill of the ride making guests scream the whole time.

This ride is an adrenaline rush that leaves you excited and wanting more.

Endeavor takes guests on a journey in a single seat where they are first spun closer to ground-level until the axis rotates, and they whirl through the air unaware of the direction they are going.

Right before it feels like they will smash the ground face first, the ride scoops them up and swings them back into the air where the night sky is all they see.

Techno music hypes up the riders before their screams drown out the beats.

Ice Jet is the perfect ride for those looking to go fast without all of the loops or drops that other rides offer.

Passengers are secured into two-seat snowmobiles, and they go round and round in a circle around the attraction at high speeds. The ride gradually builds speed until it reaches the point where your snowmobile turns on its side as it goes around. After a few moments of full speed, the ride then gradually goes slower until it reaches a full stop to complete the ride. Throughout the entire ride, electronic dance music or EDM is blasted through the speakers, giving the ride an upbeat vibe that gets the ride goers pumped up.

The Fair also has its fair share of obstacle courses. One course, called "New York, New York," offered a great amount of obstacles for challengers to overcome. From spinning wheels to claustrophobia-inducing slides, participants can expect to get a miniature, albeit entertaining experience.

Continued on page 11
County Fair gardens amaze guests

Display lights up the night

Taylor Moore
Editor-in-Chief

The Los Angeles County Fair is back in full swing, and with it are the beautiful garden exhibits. This year, guests are treated to two displays, each unique from each other. The first is the Imaginarium light up display located at the top of the Hill at the Fairplex in Pomona. Though normally a winter display, the Fairplex gave it a spring-themed makeover.

The glow in the dark flowers, all ranging in sizes, light up the night and provide guests with the perfect photo opportunity. The Imaginarium is the longest running light festival in America, with the Fairplex being one of the many venues.

The center of the display is covered with thousands of roses filled with LED lights, with a variety of large light-up flowers such as hibiscus, lilies, and tulips, all surrounding the giant “Imaginarium” sign in the middle.

Guests walked up the pathway to enjoy the rest of the display, adorned with the larger light up displays and spread out from one another so guests could enjoy every magnificent detail of the sculptures.

Guests lined up to take pictures in front of the giant, glowing white stag lying in a field of glowing flowers and butterflies.

Instead of having just two large horns at the top of his crown, he had multiple covering his head, neck and upper back, glowing a brilliant light blue.

“This is absolutely phenomenal,” Jennifer Smith, Pomona resident, said. “This is better than the Pasadena Rose Parade to me. I love it. It’s gorgeous.”

Cassandra and Josh Velasquez, both Pomona residents, went to the fair for a date night and to take advantage of the Resident Discount Days.

The couple went on May 9, Pomona Day, where Pomona residents were given a special admission of $1 ticket.

Josh Velasquez said he had never seen the display before, but thought it was amazing.

“It caught our attention from far away,” Cassandra Velasquez said. “It’s so beautiful. I love it.”

The second garden exhibit at the fair is the Flower and Garden Pavilion: We Are L.A. in Expo Hall H2.

As guests walked through the doors, they were immediately greeted with luminous, vibrant colors and relaxing music.

The display was directed and curated by Lore Media & Arts, and meant to symbolize the electric streetlights that make up the essence of downtown Los Angeles.

The center of the display had a gazebo with an angel statue at the top, glowing in orange, purple and pink hues.

According to a statement from Lore Media & Arts, “We Are L.A.” honors the historical origins, as well as the modern and current narratives of Los Angeles County, showcasing iconic places and embracing the people that have made the county a global metropolis with cultural diversity.

Each mural told a story that represented an aspect of Angelino culture.

One of the murals, titled “Lighting the Way,” was made up of street lamps glowing a faint orange light, illuminating the rows of pink roses and white lilies.

Lore Media & Arts’ statement in the exhibit said there are more than 400 different types of lamps scattered over nearly 470 square miles that makeup the “City of Lights.”

Now, electric street lights symbolize the deep history and endless possibilities that exist in the spirit of all Angelinos.


“I love all the art, it really captures the essence of the (Los Angeles) culture,” Desiree Elise, Anaheim resident, said “I wasn’t expecting all of this. It’s really pretty.”

The eye catcher was the large waterfall with rows of flowers lined up along the sides of it.

There was a small painting shining through the water of a group rowing on a kayak in the sea, with the glowing orange sunsets illuminating their silhouettes.

This was the most colorful piece of art, full warm toned colors to reflect Mexican culture.

Crystal Cervantes, Moreno Valley resident, said she loved seeing all of the color through out the display.

“It’s very abstract,” Jovan Fernandez, Covina resident, said. “It’s really mellow, too, with the music. It brings in Hispanic culture, which is a huge part of the L.A. culture.”

The Fair runs every Thursday to Sunday, May 3 to May 27. Tickets can be purchased at the Fairplex website.

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Fair visitors get funky at new roller rink and arcade

Skaters and families grooved under the spinning disco ball and metallic hanging stars at the new Skate-R-Cade at the Los Angeles County Fair on Mother’s Day.

The Skate-R-Cade is a new feature at the Los Angeles County Fair this year and offers free skate play and skate check-out for one hour with a signed waiver and classic arcade games such as pinball and Pac-man for a cost of $5 for one hour, $8 for one and half hours and $20 for all day.

The Los Angeles County Fair featured this new attraction in collaboration with Grand Park Foundations for May’s mental health month. GFP promotes mental health awareness, brain wellness and healthy living.

All fair guests were welcome to discover what Expo Hall 9 had to offer. At the front of the expo hall, the arcade area was in the center of the room. There was excitement in the air, and the noise of clackers from the classic pinball machines echoed throughout the hall.

There was plenty of room for visitors to watch their loved ones enjoy the quaint roller rink at the back of the hall, as well as the mix of genres and eras of tunes that the DJ had spinning.

On the roller rink, there was a mix of skaters rolling around. From more experienced guests skating backwards to new skaters hanging onto the rails, there was room for every level of skater.

To ensure the safety of the skaters, referees were present to keep the flow of the rink moving while cheering on new skaters.

Families skated together, holding hands and singing along to music like “Love On Top” by Beyoncé, “Blow the Whistle” by Too Short and “California Love” by 2Pac, Roger and Dr. Dre.

Guests who did not want to skate were on the sidelines cheering on their loved ones and enjoying the music and vibes of the event.

The Skate-R-Cade is open to guests at the Los Angeles County Fair from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Thursday through Sunday until May 27.

For more information about the Los Angeles County Fair visit lacountyfair.com.

— April Cambero
Pomona: all times of day, any day of the week. The sex workers are either “renegades,” group.

Some names have been altered to protect their identities.

POMONA – “I once knew a woman who is not a sex worker. Never mind her profession, she’s a family friend of my cousin who lives there.

Alex, a sex worker in Pomona, who asked that her full name not be used for safety reasons. She began working in Pomona after she moved in with her cousin, who lives there.

Sex workers talk about their lives.

“Guys want something and I don’t 100% hate it,” Alex said. “I know this sounds so cliché, but I guess it’s because of that context I was in and the way it’s being played out the men’s fantasies, it’s just a job.

Alex found the fast cash attractive. She began working in Pomona in 2017. She worked as a cashier at Buffalo Wild Wings, a restaurant she describes as the most money but made it hard to work at.

In 2021, California decriminalized prostitution via Prop 137, which is similar to what happens in many countries around the world. The sex workers are often afraid of getting caught.

A resident of Pomona, who asked that her name be altered to protect her identity, said that she was once caught for a petty crime.

The city’s Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, a non-profit that aims to heal those suffering from sexual trauma, has already requested the location to be searched for anyone else until she saw Smith.

The experiences of the sex workers are very different. Some of them are forced into sex work by their families.

In 2022, Sepeda founded Project Resilience, a non-profit sexual assault services, a non-profit that serves the Pomona area.

Therefore, the sex workers often don’t think of the city as a place where they can find help or support. They feel abandoned by the system.

Alex left her job as a cashier and started working as a sex worker.

The City

The city’s Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force is a group of people who are working to help the flow of business when they’re caught for a petty crime.

The City

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The City
Sex workers: Stepping out of the shadows

Online sex work, stripping prove safer than prostitution

by Sarah Van Buskirk & Lindsey Pacela

She refuses to create fully nude photos and short videos of her. According to a research project conducted in 2018 called "Beyond the Gaze: Summary Briefing on Internet Sex Work," 65% reported that they would not take part in sex work if it was not for the Internet. The study finds that online sex work provides safety and convenience for producers and consumers. The producer needs only a smartphone, and receives such benefits of being self-employed like not operating under the control of a pimp and setting their own rates. The lack of physical interaction between the sex worker and solicitor prevents so-called John-on-prostitute violence, which is a common occurrence among street sex workers. Online sex work is not only a safer option for the worker but for the consumers as well who can request specialized services from the comfort of their own home, diminishing the threat of violence, sex trafficking, drugs and STDs.

"It’s safer than reality — there’s no risk of rape or assault," the OnlyFans worker said.

According to the "Beyond the Gaze" study, all respondents to the survey who were online sex workers had not experienced sexual assault in the past five years. And many content creators don’t even do much of the work themselves anymore. The OnlyFans worker said that she has a team of people, via an agency that found her on social media, that she has matured past the need of physical modifications to protect their identities.

She got them removed and has found her name not be used for safety reasons, currently dances at a club in Downtown Los Angeles and began sex work in 2021, during the pandemic. She has experience working in a gentleman’s club and an urban club, which are euphemistic names for strip clubs.

A gentleman’s club tends to be primarily one-on-one with the sex-worker, where quotas are necessary to keep the job. The workers prowl the floor and spark up conversations with lonely men. Once they create a connection, they lure them back to a private room in the back for a dance that can cost up to a few hundred dollars.

At an urban club, the clientele is more diverse; women can walk in, dance and expect money to be thrown. Bay normally works at the end of the week, from 1 a.m. to 8 a.m.

The street prostitution scene such as pimping and drugs can find its way into these clubs and Bay knows some girls who have now turned to OnlyFans. She is frequently asked to perform services outside of the club environment by patrons but always refuses. Bay said stripping is a ‘gateway’ to prostitution, and a lot of women lose their jobs until they had grown up, but never touched alcohol again. She realized that she had become an alcoholic.

One study, “Effects of pole dance on mental wellbeing and the sexual self-concept—a pilot randomized-controlled trial”, by Jaldra Lena Pfeiffer et al. in 2023, found that “…pole dance has become increasingly popular over the past decade… [it has] an empowering and sexual liberating notion, as the increasing de-stigmatization of pole dancing challenges societal norms and constructions of female sexuality.”

Stripping strengthens self-confidence

Ryder, a Generation X sex worker of 14 years, who asked to use her stage name for privacy reasons, currently dances four days a week at Tropical Lei, a strip club in Upland.

She started exotic dancing to financially take care of her kids. At first, she needed to drink to get through the night, but then she realized that she had become an alcoholic. “I either had to quit the drinking or stop dancing,” Ryder said.

Ryder quit the drinking and never touched alcohol again. She didn’t tell her kids about the job until they had grown up, but said that they respected her for doing it. Now, she does it because of the joy it brings her. A few years ago, Ryder got breast implants, she said, to improve her self-confidence and make more money in the profession. However, she recently went to the hospital after having a struggle with physical modifications to maintain her self-confidence. Research shows that online sex work and stripping present a safer form of street prostitution. However, safety remains a concern and is not guaranteed in these legal forms of sex work as solicitors continue to push the boundaries, asking for services outside of the club or online spaces, that are not legal. Sarah Van Buskirk can be reached at sarah.vanbuskirk@laverne.edu. Lindsey Pacela can be reached at lindsey.pacela@laverne.edu.

Need Help Now?
If you or a loved one have experienced sex trafficking and are looking for help, call or visit:

• Project Sister Rape Crisis Hotline: 909-626-4357
• Project Sister Child Abuse Hotline: 626-966-4155
• Project Sister Website: projectsisiter.org
• Project Resilience Number: 909-643-1635
• Project Resilience Website: project-resilience.org
• National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-373-7888

*This story contains graphic info- formation of sexual content and violence. Names of those identified in the story have been altered to protect their identities.

“I can make $74,000 in one month,” a 23-year-old OnlyFans online sex worker, who asked her name not be used for safety reasons, said.

OnlyFans is an online subscription service that is primarily used by sex workers to earn money for their content, which may contain photos, videos and personalized chat rooms with one’s favorite creator.

Online platforms like OnlyFans have thousands of young adult creators making a higher salary in a month than the average American makes in a year.

Online sex work and stripping are potentially safer methods of prostitution. Working online or at clubs decreases the chance of sex workers witnessing or being involved with violent crimes.
Former sex workers turn advocates...

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After she brought forth the idea to the Pomona City Council in 2021 and spoke to community members, she received government funding through the Los Angeles Department of Public Health’s American Rescue Plan Act, which aims to promote peace and healing in communities disproportionately impacted by violence across the country.

With that grant, she started her own non-profit, Project Resilience, in 2022 because the organization was eligible for the funding labeled under “trauma informed care.”

Project Resilience continues to thrive through city support from Pomona Hope C.A., a non-profit that aims to heal those suffering from trauma, violence and incarceration within communities. They partnered with other community-based orga-

izations and stakeholders like the Los Angeles County Depart-
ment of Public Health and Rising Communities, a non-profit committed to applying justice, equity, diversity and inclusion to achieve sustainable policy and system change, to establish the Pomona Community Action for Peace, or Pomona CAP. Their commitment to address root causes of violent acts to create a safer community granted Proj-
ect Resilience $10,000 in 2023 and helped fund the non-profit’s hygiene bag distribution days they schedule to connect with individuals in need throughout Pomona.

Project Resilience’s hygiene bags are filled with menstrual items, toothbrushes, gum and snacks, as well as gift cards for fast food restaurants, with the purpose of aiding the sex work-
ers, not the sex workers. Sepeda said the organization has built such a comfortable and welcom-
ing presence to the sex workers that they know exactly who they are when they do community outreach days.

Known as The Blade, it is a nation-
ally known corridor where one can see a sex worker strutting down at any time of day, any day of the week.

The rest of the sex workers are renegades, often traveling in from other states because of the laws becoming stricter. “I don’t fu** with pimps,” Nae-Lani, independent sex worker from Texas, who has recently been working on The Blade and gave an alias for safe-

ness reasons, said. “Whatever a man can do, I can do myself.”

Nae-Lani, 22, makes around $1,500 a night, only working two days a week on The Blade because the rest of the week, she makes her money online. A large portion of Nae-Lani’s in-
come comes from her following for online sex work on sites like Facebook and OnlyFans.

“I had a pimp who gave a fu**,” Stacey, 34, a sex worker on Holt Avenue, whose name has been changed for safety, said.

She’s worked on Figueroa, and had boyfriends who were workers tend to congregate to-
gether on street corners, whereas the younger ones are glued to their phones, refusing to speak to the workers next to them. “Some of them like petite,” Johnson, an officer of the Pomo-
a Police Department Investigative Services team, said. “There are all shapes and sizes — we even have a dwarf.”

“These men like oral sex and they don’t get it at home,” Sepeda said.

The main demographic of solicitors are married Hispanic men with families. She believes that these men lack commitment and just want their needs met. There’s not a lot of talking during the transaction and absolutely no kissing. They’re not looking for an emotional connection, but a service. Kissing is reserved for their wives at home — the sex workers are looked down upon, as if they are just objects.

“There are some sick individ-
uals,” Sepeda said.

She’s seen arrests of men who have held sex workers hostage. Even though some Johns

treat these sex workers so hor-
ribly, they often can’t and don’t want to escape the life.

“[One] was beaten an inch away from death,” Sepeda said, in refer-
ence to one of her ex-boy-
friends.

She said she didn’t know how to choose a healthy relationship because she had such a rocky re-
lationship with her mother.

The sex workers believe the police are the enemy because they have been brainwashed to think so. The gang and drug re-
lated lifestyle of the streets con-
tinues to trap sex workers into the cycle. Sex workers are op-
pressed from the start, bound to be shamed. This only makes the efforts of community outreach harder.

City efforts

“The city lacks financial re-
sources to build a larger SET team,” Sepeda said. “Only about one percent get out.”

Sepeda got out of the life by finding her “higher power” and embrac-
ing spirituality.

She shed her shame and guilt and now imparts this to the sex workers she meets on the streets. Sepeda incorporates mantras and affirmations in the work she presents at events held for the community such as self-esteem seminars as well as sex trafficking prevention work-
shops for families.

Weekly women support groups are held every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 101 West Mission Blvd, in Po-
mona, welcoming survivors of all forms of trauma.

In June, Sepeda will gradu-
ate from Mt. San Antonio Col-
lege after six years of studying towards her associates degree in sociology and plans on work-

ing in one of San Bernadino’s social work programs. Her four children and five grandchildren are what continue to push her through her internal battles to-

day.

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Lindsey Pacela can be reached at lindsey.pacela@laverne.edu.

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The numbers of sex workers increases as the sun sets but their light up stoplights and phone flashlights lead their way to the next corner.

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Sex workers fill the street on Clark Avenue and Holt Avenue, inter-
nationally known as “The Blade” in the street prostitution lifestyle.
Spring concert mixes it up

As the grand finale to the spring season and semester, the La Verne Symphony Orchestra presented its spring concert Saturday in Morgan Auditorium. This free concert welcomed all music fans to hear the orchestra perform the wide repertoire of music. The orchestra has been practicing and perfecting for months. The 47-piece orchestra in this concert featuring strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion and more, came together to enchant the audience with an incredible array of sound. About 65 people in the audience were able to experience the moving classics of Beethoven with “Egmont Overture,” to the romantic compositions of Ralph Vaughan Williams with his Prelude “Rhosymedre,” all the way to the Latin rhythms in a tango piece called “Por Una Cabeza” by Carlos Gardel. In selections such as “Symphony No. 8 in B minor,” the unfinished work by Franz Schubert that followed the intermission, the different instruments played as if in melodic conversation with different sections speaking to each other, with each having a unique story to tell. The blend of sweet and contrasting powerful sounds played in different rhythms in this piece was just one of the carefully crafted selections of the concert. The Orchestra is made up of musicians of different levels including students, working musicians, and community members. It was founded in 2013 and has been further matured in the past six years. The Orchestra community and student members meet once a week to hone their skills, and prove their skills to be able to provide a really good quality musical experience for those who come hear the concerts,” Gunn said. Under her direction, the La Verne Symphony Orchestra has been welcoming a new audience each semester. Every concert features a variety of music from all genres and eras. It was just one of the carefully curated music pieces performed in this concert. “Symphonic music is not for everybody and sometimes it’s hard to engage with it or feel it if you just listen to recordings. But when you’re here, you don’t just hear the music. You feel the feelings of the musicians… that is a thrill you can’t get any other way.” Gunn believes that listening to live music is a unique opportunity, and that the support in the community of the Orchestra has been incredible.

“I think that people have really lost the concept of listening to live music,” Gunn said. “Symphonic music is not for everybody and sometimes it’s hard to engage with it or feel it if you just listen to recordings. But when you’re here, you don’t just hear the music. You feel the feelings of the musicians… that is a thrill you can’t get any other way.”

Gunn loves being able to hear the concert in a new way and experience the work of the orchestra as an audience member. She encourages more people to join, and laughed that the University will have to build another auditorium for this robust and ever-growing group of musicians.

“I hope that the audience can see what we can do when we come together as a community to produce something exciting and beautiful,” Gunn said. “I hope they can see that people of all ages and disciples can join together and do something like this.”

The diverse collection of musicians featured in the Orchestra forms a unique musical experience, and they are always looking for new members with no audition required.

Kelli Makenna Kattruff

As the art department’s senior project exhibition, “Incandescence,” is open in the Harris Gallery and plays a group of art majors’ hard work over the past four years. The exhibition is filled with paintings, mixed media, sculptures, digital media and installations.

The exhibition runs through Tuesday and admission is free.

“Lost and Found”

“Lost and Found: Recovering the Archive,” a group exhibit of student and alumni photographic 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, Abelia Nuñez, Amanda Torres, Cassandra Martínez and Maxwell Sierra. The exhibit runs through May 24. For more information email Fred Brashear at fbrashear@laverne.edu.

“Push and Pull”

The Irene Carlson Gal- lery of Photography is currently displaying the 2024 senior project exhibition “Push and Pull.” The gallery is featuring senior photography majors Kim Toth and Ethan Ber- nuz. Their work represents the complexity of individuals within the dynamic of both familial and romantic ties. The show runs through May 30.

For more information visit the University of La Verne’s photography Insta- gram @ufpphotography.
Barnes’ journey leads to Team USA

Tragedy turns into triumph
Jonas Holt Staff Writer

At 26, Jared Barnes exemplifies the resilience and determination of a true warrior. His story is one of overcoming immense adversity and relentlessly pursuing his dreams.

Born in Linda Vista, San Diego, Barnes’ early years were a tapestry of fond memories filled with basketball, Dragon Ball Z and the joy of childhood adventures. Barnes’ life took a tragic turn when he lost his mother to scleroderma at the age of 13.

“My mother was sick with scleroderma, so I had to take care of her every day, helping her with everything from washing and clothing her to cooking and cleaning,” Barnes said. “It taught me the value of love and dedication. When I love something, I give it my all.”

As Barnes prepares for the World Games for Team USA this upcoming fall, Barnes said he found solace in mixed martial arts and basketball after his mother’s death when he was 13 years old.

“Through all the ups and downs, Jared would always pick us up to boost the morale,” freshman shooting guard Elijah Akande said. “If anyone was in need of help or in trouble, Jared would be there instantly.”

“Jared was a big brother to everybody, and that’s the best way to put it,” freshman guard Amare Holmes said. “He just does all the small things and loves everyone.”

As Barnes’ dedication to MMA and mixed martial arts became his anchor during his years of homelessness, Barnes said, “Training rigorously, he honed his skills in various disciplines, becoming proficient in striking and kicking.”

Barnes’ striking has been nothing short of remarkable. Training rigorously, he honed his skills in various disciplines, becoming proficient in striking and kicking. His hard work and perseverance paid off when he was selected to join Team USA for the World Games in Romania this coming fall.

“The World Games is an incredible opportunity for me,” Barnes said. “I mean I finally get to step foot outside of the United States and travel and at this point in my life, I never thought that I would be able to experience new things like that. Competing on the world stage is both exciting and humbling.”

Barnes said, “It’s not legal to practice with animals,” Siguenza said.

Student journalist Elizabeth Zwerling is chief advisor for the Campus Times, Journalism Professor George Keeler is chief advisor for the La Verne Magazine and Journalism Operations Manager Eric Borrer is photographer/adv for both publications.

Associate Professor of Broadcast Journalism Valerie Cummings is chief advisor for the Football Community News. Lastly, adjunct professor and Campus Times alum Michael Saakyan served as chief advisor for the Campus Times during Zwerling’s spring 2023 sabbatical.

“Working with basketball students, I’ve learned that it makes a really big impact on my professional career,” Barnes said.

As the manager of the Leopards’ men’s basketball team this past year, Barnes has been a role model for younger players, always offering support and guidance.

“Through all the ups and downs, Jared would always pick us up to boost the morale,” freshman guard Amare Holmes said. “He just does all the small things and loves everyone.”

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Despite being eliminated from the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference playoff tournament, the No. 14 ranked Leopards earned an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament Monday morning, their 12th in appearance in the NCAA tournament in program history.

“We saw Cal Lutheran get a bid and we were nervous because we have never seen four SCIAC teams get a bid,” senior right-handed pitcher Austin Klopfenstein said.

“We were all excited to have an opportunity to keep playing but everyone knew that the job isn’t done.”

The Leopards will travel to San Antonio, Texas, to face No. 13 Trinity in a two-team regional that will be a best-of-five series.

Last year, the Leopards won their regional at Birmingham-Southern and was one win away from a College World Series appearance in their Super-Regional loss at East Texas Baptist.

The road to earning their bid started with a 26-11-1 regular season record and a regular season SCIAC championship with a 18-6 conference record.

Although they saw great success in the regular season, the gauntlet of the SCIAC playoff tournament did not go the Leopards’ way.

Since the Leopards won the regular season title, Ben Hines Field was the host of the SCIAC playoffs and the Leopards began the tournament with a Thursday matchup against No. 23 Cal Lutheran.

Both teams threw shutout innings until the sixth, when Cal Lutheran scored four runs in the top half of the inning, and then the Leopards responded right back with a pair of runs in the bottom half.

Facing the same 4-2 deficit in the bottom of the ninth, the Leopards rallied for three runs to come from behind and win in walk-off fashion, 4-3, thanks to a sacrifice fly by sophomore catcher Nathan Perry.

Senior outfielder Matthew Diaz went 2-for-4 and junior outfielder Logan Reese went 3-for-4 at the plate.

On the mound, freshman left-handed pitcher Niko Urquidi threw seven innings, giving up four runs, three earned, on eight hits with two walks and 11 strikeouts.

The next day, the Leopards squared off against No. 15 Pomona-Pitzer.

This game did not bode well for the Leopards as they lost 15-0 to the Sagehens, only getting three hits as an offense and giving up 23 hits as a pitching staff.

Graduate student second baseman Anthony Salcedo got two out of the three Leopards hits on the day.

That set the stage for an elimination game against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on Saturday.

Both pitching staffs were on top of their games, each not allowing a run until the fourth inning.

Senior left-handed pitcher Chase Pederson started on the mound for the Leopards and threw four innings, only giving up two earned runs, both coming on a single by sophomore outfielder Bryce Didrickson in the fourth inning.

The Leopards responded with a run scored on a sacrifice fly by sophomore third baseman Aidan Salcedo in the bottom half of the fourth inning.

This would unfortunately be the only run in the game for the Leopards.

“We really just couldn’t finish an inning,” sophomore shortstop Ryan Vosika said.

“We could get guys on, but we just couldn’t get that hit to drive them in and those hits can spark an inning, but we just didn’t get any sparks this weekend.”

Vosika was the only Leopard hitter to have multiple hits in the game, as he accounted for two out of five hits.

Claremont-Mudd-Scripps added to their lead with a two-run home run by graduate student catcher Adam Dzikiewicz to make it 4-1 Stags.

The score held on the rest of the way and the Leopards lost, eliminating them from the SCIAC playoff tournament.

“This game was tough because I just felt like we pitched good enough to win,” head coach Scott Winterburn said.

“But we just didn’t score, we didn’t score enough.”

Of the pitchers that pitched well for the Leopards, Urquidi threw two shutout innings just two days after throwing over 120 pitches in game one of the tournament.

“There’s a lot of adrenaline when you go into these types of games so there wasn’t really any fatigue,” Urquidi said.

“When I came back out for the second inning, I noticed I was a little tired, but during a game like that, it just kind of goes to the back of your head.”

The Leopards look to move on from the SCIAC tournament and focus on their upcoming regional at No. 13 Trinity starting at 10 a.m. PDT Friday then a doubleheader at 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Since it is a best-of-five series, there are games scheduled for 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday if necessary.

Jack Janes can be reached at jack.janes@laverne.edu.

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The 2024 golf season is now complete and both the men’s and women’s golf teams finished exciting seasons, each finishing with top-five placings in numerous tournaments.

The men started the season with a first-place finish in the Leopard Spring Invitational, with freshman Jay Alvarado-Wing at the top of the individual leaderboard with a score of -3 and sophomore Jason Bustos right behind Alvarado-Wing at second place with a score of -1.

On the women’s side of the tournament, the Leopards placed fourth with sophomore Alexis Aguilera finishing in the top-10. Freshman Patrick Laguazu finished in fourth place with a score of -3. Kumaresh placed sixth with a +3 and Bustos tied for ninth place at +6.

The women’s team placed seventh in the tournament against Aguileria again leading the Leopards and she finished tied for 25th place.

Kumaresh and Alvarado-Wing each earned all-conference honors with Kumaresh earning a First Team All-SCIAC selection and Alvarado-Wing being named the Ken Sherman Newcomer of the Year and earning a Second Team All-SCIAC selection.

“I think the team did really well, we had a very young squad so I feel like as they go on they’re going to mature a lot more and it’s going to be great the next couple years,” junior team captain Noah Geeser said.