Campus Times

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Inside

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Convocation rings in academic year

Sonya Sexton
Staff Writer

The University held its traditional Convocation on Aug. 21 in the Sports Science Athletic Pavilion to welcome students back for the 2024-25 academic year.

This year's Convocation speakers included the University's newly appointed interim president Risa Dickson, who set a hopeful tone for the academic year and beyond, and professor of public administration and interim associate provost Suzanne Beaumaster, among others.

Board of Trustees chairman Anthony Revier also spoke, as did Associated Students of the University of La Verne President Julia Thomas, a senior English major.

Thomas said that after attending Convocation since her freshman year she feels she has reached a full circle moment.

She reminisced about her freshman year and that convocation, when she was just an audience member.

This is a big year for the University because of the transition of leadership, Thomas said.

She was referring to the surprising turnover in University leadership following the resignation of University President Pardis Mahdavi at the end of spring 2024.

Mahdavi served as University of La Verne president for less than a year.

In some ways this year's Convocation was a reset.

"Convocation is the time where the campus community is able to come together and connect with one another," said Veronica Ashcroft, director of events and scheduling.

The event also featured musical performances and the traditional ringing of the spirit bell to ring in the new year.

Sonya Sexton can be reached at ***sonya.sexton@laverne.edu***.



Chris Rodriguez

Senior educational studies major Taylor Murphy and piano instructor Jason Lo perform "How Far I'll Go" from "Moana" during the Convocation on Aug. 21 in the Athletics Pavilion. The pair went on to lead everyone in La Verne's alma mater at the end of the event.

Naccachian examines bias in jury selections

Jordan Alcasas
News Editor

Paul Naccachian, assistant professor of law, gave a lecture discussing cognitive biases in jury selection, which can affect the composition of the jury, Tuesday in the Lewis Center classroom. These biases may include factors such as race, education level, gender, even voice, he told the audience of about 20 University of La Verne community members.

The lecture was titled "Measuring Implicit Bias in Jury Selection: Evaluating, Socioeconomic, Geographic, and Psychological Factors with Peremptory Challenges Applying Objectively Reasonable Person Standard."

Naccachian, who shared his ongoing research on biases within the jury selection process that often leads to the dismissal of jurors, said that these biases are part of society and are to some degree unavoidable.

"The overarching intent is to reduce this ratio and the biases involved," he said. "This orderly living is inherently tied to categorization and integral to our cognitive functioning."

Naccachian elaborated on these biases later on in the lecture.

"Once it is learned, it becomes part of our non-conscious systems," he said. "Everybody becomes more convinced about what they believe is true."

Naccachian provided examples of traits that form biases, such as preconceived notions of what troublemakers, weapon buyers, or gun buyers may look like.

"My prediction is that we'll find our jury isn't undereducated based on the census data given the area codes and so on," he said. "This practice doesn't produce an outcome that'll be outwardly beneficial from a tactical standpoint of the defense, but it always allows a potential juror the right to serve on that jury."

Naccachian moved on to speaking about a state law, AB 3070, which took effect in 2022 for criminal cases and will take effect for civil cases in 2026. This law's purpose is to increase transparency in jury selection by requiring lawyers that are exercising peremptory strikes to show clear evidence that their action in juror selection is unrelated to the juror's demographics.

Naccachian said that AB 3070 is a part of a larger effort beyond California to increase jury transparency.

Naccachian concluded the lecture with a brief questioning segment later on.

Audience members had various opinions on different parts of the lecture, from the research itself to the discussion about AB3070.

"Professor Naccachian's research is timely and a welcome conversation for the legal profession," said Kevin Marshall, the dean of the University's College of Law, who attended the lecture.

Other audience members focused on the relevance to current juries and transparency.

"Although some of the conclusions he cited from other literature seemed surprising, all of this background is very relevant to people's everyday experiences in courts," said Alessandro Morosin, assistant professor of sociology. "Of course it connects very well to many of the topics we teach in our sociology and criminology courses."

After questions from the audience, Naccachian closed the lecture.

"The argument is that we are too quick to dismiss the individuals who are uneducated for a variety of reasons," Naccachian said. "So, there's an assumption the jury is tainted because of dismissals for that cause."

Jordan Alcasas can be reached at ***jordan.alcasas@laverne.edu***.

On the Cover

Risa Dixon, interim president of the university, speaks during the Convocation on Aug. 21 in the Athletics Pavilion. Dixon spoke of her excitement for the new academic year and the students' experience during their time at La Verne. / photo by Chris Rodriguez

Campus Times
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College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List, Spring 2024

The following students in the College of Arts and Sciences earned a grade point average of 3.75 or better during the Spring 2024 semester. Congratulations from Dean Shannon Mathews and Associate Deans Ngoc Bui and Gerard Lavatori.

Ella Angelica Abad
Hassan Abdul- Qawi
Mahdi M.H Abualghaib
Tess Amberly Adlam
Mario Alejandro Aguayo
Yvette Marie Aguilar
Katheryn Ashley Aguirre
Marynieves Aguirre
Abdulla Essa Al-Sulaiti
Aaliyah Alamillo
Andrew Alexander Alay
Haley Albertson
Amairani Alcantara Montes
Emily Lauren Aldana
Victoria Teresa Alescio
Abdulla Nasser Alkaabi
Srivalli Alla
Alejandro Almada
Haley Jane Almaraz
Abbigail Lynn Almont
Ashley Georgina Alvarez
Emma Alvarez
Isabella Alvarez
Jadan Alvarez
Lorilie Zowie Alvarez
Athzel G Ambrocio Avila
Naseem Amiraslani
Larissa Siann Andrade
Arleen Anguiano
Madison Arbid
Neidenne Melinda Arevalo
Mia A Arias
Isabella Olivia Arrues
Brandon M Aun
Min Htet Aung
Alejandra Avalos
Jennifer Avelar-Cobian
Brianna Esther Avila
Samantha Nicole Avila
Aidan Balderas
Lukes Javier Barbosa
Troy Barnard
Isabel Balbina Batista
Layla Renee Bell
Monique Arielle Belton
Oscar Jesus Beltran
Michael David Benschop
Jenieva Elizabeth Black
Katrina Bohanec
Anthony Ryan Boothby
Rene F Borbon
Angie Daniela Brindis
Samuel Brooks
Sonny Pi'ilani
Kimokeo Brown
Frank Fidel Bryan
Cadence Samantha Burdwell
Monica Eveline Burger
Christopher John Burket-Thoene
Jason Ryan Tan Bustos
Mia Danika Byington
Andrea Nicole Calderon
Madisan Marie Calleros
Orion Timothy Campos
Brianna Canales
Ashley Lileni Cante Cruz
Victoria Cardenas
Mara Faith Carlos
Emily Mariah Casillas
Marvin Xavier Casillas
Diana Rosalyn Castaneda
Leonel Javier Castaneda Paiz
Wendy G. Catalan Lopez
Katherine G Catano
Joseph Anthony Ceniceros
Brian Leamsi Cervantes-Pulido
Alyssa Mercedes Chavez
Erick Dejesus Chavez
Kirsten Leaha Chavis
Eric A Chelette
Uzoamaka Vanessa Chukwu
Taylor Ruth Clark
Alessandra Jeannie Colenzo
Maya Marie Coles
Erica Colin Sanchez
Isabella Lucia Collazo
Akiya Michaela Colyar
Margaret Jenny Contreras
Jessica Lee Coorey
Jacob Alexander Cordova
Anthony Raymon Correra
Fidel Teocalli Cortez Herrera
Emma Michelle Cossey
Cassidy Cruz
Vanessa Cruz
Henry Daher
Brooklyn Erika Daley
Charity C Davis
Sara Grace Dawidian
Daniel Moises Delara
Freda Nicole Deltoro
Melanie Kay Diaz
Nicholas Diaz
Nicholas Dien
Miles Oliver Dripps
Brian Duenas Sanchez
Gavin J Eckler
Gina Diana Ehlenburg
Vincent Engel
Emilia Eulalia Enriquez
Kimberly Equihua
Morgan Deborah Esebag
Julian L. Espinosa
Fernando Espinoza
Jesse Espinoza
Angelina Rose Esquibel
Mark Ian Pulmano Estrellado
Jeremy Glen Evans
Eman Fasih
Mariella Luisa Faura
Anais Felix
Samira Lesli Felix
Sydney Paige Ferris
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Merari Hernandez
Raul Hernandez
Mariana Hernandez Estrada
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Sydne Humphrey
Jiwon Hur
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Jack Michael Janes
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Dayra H Leon
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Preston Quoc Lieu
Ryan Alexander Lin
Joslyn Rae Lopez
Matthew Lopez
Victor Lopez
Jeiana Marie Lottie
Mia Rose Lozano
Samantha Lujano
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A murder, a mystery and dinner

Olivia Russo
Staff Writer

A woman came in screaming for help in the middle of dinner – with a large knife sticking out of her.

She stumbled to the middle of the room and let out a final scream before appearing to be dead. Two cops kicked a door open and got right to work.

Suddenly the events of the night became clear: This was not an ordinary dinner, but a murder mystery.

For the next two hours, the guests uncovered clues, questioned guests and had a front row seat in all the action

Mystery Inc. Murder was held on the third floor Campus Center Ballroom on Aug. 21, sponsored by the Campus Activities Board and The Dinner Detective.

"With Scooby-Doo, you think of mystery, and we just thought of a 'whodunit' so that's when we got the inspiration of finding a murder mystery," CAB Co-Chair and business administration major Jimena Suarez said. "We ended up reaching out to a vendor, like a Dinner Detective. They ended up coming out and putting on this event. So it's like a Scooby-Doo theme and it's a murder mystery."

While lining up students were handed blank name tags where they could write anything but their own name.

Once they entered the dining area, guests were presented with a worksheet that would help them discover the culprit. They were then told that no one, even the people they came to the event with, was trustworthy.

At the official start of the event, two cops led the guests throughout the story of the evening. This story entailed a talent manager managing "Ken Dahl," "Megan Thee Stallion" and "Drake" as suspects, and a reenactment of the murder that kicked off the night.

One guest was picked to act out the motions of the death, and Kel Headley, a junior philosophy student, was told to do the screaming.

"I liked being able to participate," Headley said. "I've always wanted to do that. I have always wanted to just scream. But I've never been in a place where I can, so I had the time of my life. It was super fun."

The evening included a lot of interactions from the guests, as well as group activities. This includes everyone singing "Happy Birthday" to those born in August and everyone looking under their chairs for clues.

A highlight of the evening, however, was the performances from the two detectives

"The show itself has very creative writing and it's funny it wasn't meant to be serious," The Dinner Detective Actor Ashley Eddy said. "So as long as you're having fun you should enjoy what you're working and where you're working."

She also shared her own favorite moment from the night: a ballet leap from her partner, Jay De'Dron.

During the third act of the show, both detectives announced they have figured out the mystery.

After getting it wrong, Barbie, under the name "Barbeque," exclaims that she did it because the talent manager was involved with the death of her husband, Ken Dahl.

A shocking twist that ended the great evening, evident from the enjoyment of the students.

"I think more events like this, where we kinda get to interact with performances would be really cool," senior criminology major Machaela Mclain said.

Olivia Russo can be reached at ***olivia.russo@laverne.edu***.

Emo Night wows Glass House crowd

Leila El Sabbagh
Staff Writer

Emo Nite at The Glass House brought a dark and gloomy vibe to Pomona. To the right of the entrance is the stage with the words "Emo Nite" being highlighted on a DJ's turntable.

As the LED gravestone with a crack at the top lit up pink behind the DJ, music quickly started booming from the surrounding speakers.

Immediately, the crowd's attention was drawn to the stage by the first song of the night: Fall Out Boy's "Sugar, We're Goin' Down."

The roar of the crowd singing had set the tone for the rest of the night, as the passion and emotion was prominent with every song played.

The set list was dominated by classic emo bands like Blink-182, Paramore and Panic! At The Disco. Many of the songs were easily recognizable and comforting to sing along to.

As a regular attendee, Stacy Castanon feels that Emo Nite is one of a kind.

"It's the only festival that really is just for rock and emo music. It feels like an emo club," Castanon said.

During the beginning of the performance, wristbands are handed out to the crowd which is an Emo Nite tradition where fans are invited to take the stage and sing their hearts out.

As the night went on, more and more fans got on stage to sing with their friends or enjoy themselves.

This Emo Nite was ticketed as an all ages event, which provided a safe environment for everyone.

Glass House employee Chelsea Petersen shared a little more about the demographic that Emo Nite brings to Pomona.

"You'll see some of the older people that lived when emo was at large and then the younger generations kind of swarming to participate," Petersen said.

Many families attended to enjoy the music. Mothers being accompanied by their newborns as well as fathers with their young daughters were not out of place.

"I love the music, I love the people,"Emo Nite returner Cassandra Ramirez said. "I'm just excited to just hear the music. Honestly just to rock out, get wasted and have a great time."

Ramirez also shed some light on being a parent in the emo community.

"We should all enjoy the music and never be ashamed to be who you are," Ramirez said.

"You know, this is who you are, so never be ashamed of colored hair, piercings, and tats or whatever. Enjoy it all."

Emo Nite focuses heavily on mental health and well being.

One dollar from every ticket sold during the Glass

Continued on page 5

Fair fosters club involvement

Stephanie Amaya
Staff Writer

Over 300 students attended the Involvement Fair Wednesday in Sneaky Park. They gathered to socialize and learn about clubs and organizations, enjoying a free lunch of Korean Street Hot Dogs and Poutine Brothers poutine,a dish of French fries and cheese curd, while the DJ played pop music.

The Fair is an annual event to let students know about the club and organizations on campus. The various clubs hosted booths to let students know about their events and opportunities to get involved.

"I think a lot of clubs and different activities don't get as much attention as they should get, and I think it's a great way to spread awareness," said Ryley Pittenger, dance team captain and junior Kinesiology major.

Pittenger said she tried out for the dance team her freshman year, after visiting the booth at the Involvement Fair.

"I like meeting new people and students on campus," said Jazmin Jacamo La Verne Buddies event coordinator and sophomore political science major. "It's really fun and refreshing."

La Verne Buddies connects students with disabilities and neurodivergent students with neurotypical peers through various activities.

The University's Greek organizations of fraternities and sororities were on hand with their own booths to recruit new members.

"My expectation for today is joining Greek Life," said Tori Loy, a sophomore education major. "Joining a club is really exciting because it just adds another welcoming factor to being at La Verne."

"Being a commuter… the Involvement Fair has helped me to get more involved and meet new people," Larissa Martinez, a sophomore psychology major said. "Once I join a club, I think it will help me break out of my little bubble."

Martinez said she hopes to join a sorority to make new connections.

"Joining a club at ULV has allowed me to make more friends," said Kaharai Clark, vice president of the Speech and Debate Club and senior child development major.

"Our goal is to get as many incoming club members as possible," Clark said, adding that the club is in a transition phase and eager for new members.

Many students said they appreciated the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority booth with their booth pink and white strawberry shortcake theming.

For more information on student clubs and organizations, visit **laverne.edu/student-life/student-organizations**.

Stephanie Amaya can be reached at ***stephanie.amaya@laverne.edu***



Camille C.Nan

Senior kinesiology major Jlyn Bituin, right, greets students at the Campus Activities Board booth at the Involvement Fair on Wednesday in Sneaky Park. The fair featured several campus clubs and organizations who introduced themselves to potential new members.

International mixer marks change



Anthony Eramya

Natalie Wong, a sophomore computer science from Hong Kong, and Ruthanne Chipeta, a Tanzanian sophomore English major, organize stickers of countries by continent at the International Student Mixer on Monday in the Ludwick Center.

The Office of International Services and Study Abroad held an international student mixer Monday in the Ludwick Center Sky Bridge.

About 30 students from different countries and states, along with some locals from Southern California, ate sandwiches, cookies and fruit.

The event was open to all.

"I wanted the students to be able to make connections," said Maribel Rodríguez, and assistant vice president who works in ISSA office.

"I didn't know that this event was going on," freshman Rebels Padilla said. "I walked in and saw it happening. (It) is a great idea to see the different cultures."

Attendees talked in small groups.

The ISSA office holds events throughout the year.

For more information, follow them on Instagram at **@international_ulv**.

—Margaret Contreras

Events highlight pop culture



Mia Byington

John Magoo, an artist from Active Airbrush, makes personalized tote bags and trucker hats for students Aug. 22 in Sneaky Park.

From Aug. 19 to Aug. 23, the University of La Verne hosted welcome week, a week-long event for new students hosted by the Campus Activities Board.

Events included "Leo Time," a breakfast event, "Inside Out 2" movie night, "Pawprints and Play," complete with dogs to pet for stress relief, and "Murder Mystery Inc," a spooky participatory game.

Another popular event was "Into the Leo World," a Coraline-themed activity with a moss-making kit, and a Coraline shirt giveaway.

"It's … a good way to forget about the stress with having to deal with the first week of college," Savanna Mzuri, freshman anthropology major said. "(It was) flexible timing with the events to just stop by and check it out..".

"I think it was a great way to meet new people," Roxane Olivera, freshman chemistry major, said.

—Bryce Anthony Edwards

Emo Nite...

Continued from page 4

House performance will be donated to the Living The Dream Foundation, a non-profit organization, has a mission to help children and young adults from life-threatening illnesses.

The message of respect and courtesy was very prominent throughout the night.

Performing DJs constantly ensured that everyone in the crowd was looking out for each other.

First time Emo Nite attendee Melissa Banuelos shared what got her into emo music.

"Early 2000s movie sound–tracks," Banuelos said. "That was definitely the stereotypical emo but I always loved it."

More information about Emo Nite dates and future tickets are available on the Emo Nite website under "tour."

Leila El Sabbagh can be reached at ***leila.elsabbagh@laverne.edu.***



Ceramic exhibit shows artist's vision

Emma Gonzalez
Staff Writer



Jonas Holt

"The Ceramics of Ruenell Foy Temps" exhibit is on display at the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College and will run through Sept. 15. Temps said she found love in ceramics and sculpting when she was a little girl during World War II.

The Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery in Claremont is currently showcasing "Evolving Ideas: The Ceramics of Ruenell Foy Temps."

The exhibit shows the artist's intricate pattern choices. Patterns range from cheetah prints to shades of brown and blue.

The exhibit features various cups and furniture of unique shapes and sizes.

"It's not decorative, it's not trying to describe something in nature," said Kirk Delman, collections manager at the Gallery. "It's just this kind of something organic, and I guess just something quite beautiful."

Temps fell in love with ceramics and sculpting as a little girl during World War II.

She discovered her passion for ceramics when she would build things out of adobe clay in her back yard.

"She had a natural ability to make patterns, she was making patterns for doll clothes when she was 7 or 8 years old sewing," Clifford Temps, Ruenell Foy Temps' husband, said. "She went on and did alterations for the Marines in the Marine basement."

Ruenell Foy Temps died in 2020.

Temps' inspiration was driven by working long nights and getting lost in her own experience with the art itself.

Temps added that she passed away before having a solo show and feels like she deserves to be remembered.

"She lit candles, stood back and looked at six pieces that she created," Clifford Temps said. "Her first thought was, 'I wish I made those,' because she almost didn't know where they came from."

Along the way of her art career, Temps encountered difficulties along the way and faced sexism.

"As part of our history, you kind of see ways in which the work of men gets kind of championed," Erin M. Curtis, Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery director, said.

"She hasn't received the recognition of all of these artists that she worked with, she taught alongside, worked alongside, and so on."

> 'She was in the shadow of some of the greats at the time, breaking away from traditional pottery, and not many women broke through that.'
> *—Clifford Temps, husband of Ruenell Foy Temps*

Temps obtained a bachelor of fine arts at the San Francisco Art Institute, and her a MFA at UC Berkeley.

"She had finished her bachelor's degree at the San Francisco Art Institute and had applied for their master's program," Curtis said. "She was accepted to that program, but the admissions committee, upon finding out that she was a woman, revoked her acceptance."

After being denied admission at San Francisco Art Institute, Temps was connected to artist Peter Voulkos, an instructor there who was fascinated with her work and allowed her into the master's program.

"I do definitely think there's still a lot of like discrimination when it comes to women in a lot of fields," Ava Colleran, Scripps College freshman, said.

"When you think of art, it feels very kind of female dominated space, but then also there's the stereotype of the starving artist," she said.

Collections manager Kirk Delman emphasized the importance of persevering through any challenges in life.

Delman said that one must not take no for an answer and how important it is to be passionate because of the leading possibilities.

"That's the takeaway for any of us in any position, any job that we have, that it's not enough to just clock in," Delman said. "Take every job that you have, every paper that you write, every interest that you have seriously, learn everything about it that might lead you to."

"I think she wants to be remembered mostly through her work," Temps said.

"She was in the shadow of some of the greats at the time, breaking away from traditional pottery, and not many women broke through that."

The exhibit runs through Sept. 15. The Gallery, at 251 E. 11th Street in Claremont, is open from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Emma Gonzalez can be reached at ***emma.gonzalez@laverne.edu.***

The Answer rocks in Claremont



Vicente Rodriguez

Members of The Answer – keyboardist Aaron Archer, drummer Rob Pry and lead singer Van Mosley – perform "YMCA" on Monday at Memorial Park in Claremont. This was the final concert in the city of Claremont's Monday Night Concert Series.

Leopards welcome new softball coach

Ethan Anderson
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne announced its new softball head coach, Danielle Kaminaka.

The San Diego native has 17 years of collegiate coaching experience, the last 11 spent as an assistant coach at NCAA Division I Sacramento State.

"I've always wanted to come back to Southern California," Kaminaka said. "However, I had a great experience at Sacramento (so) I wasn't in a rush to just go anywhere."

Kaminaka attended Loyola Marymount, where she posted impressive stats: a .326 career batting average, 47 home runs, 43 doubles, and 149 RBI. After graduating in 2005 with a bachelor of arts degree in English, Kaminaka spent two years teaching English in Japan, where she made plenty of friends and memories playing in local leagues.

"Softball has always been a way for me to learn about a person and their culture," Kaminaka said.

Kaminaka coached one season at Southwestern Community College in San Diego before returning to LMU, where she earned her master's in English literature and continued her coaching career.

Kaminaka then began coaching at Colgate University in Upstate New York.

"It was a very different experience for a California girl," Kaminaka said.

Kaminaka later moved to Sacramento State, where she stayed for 11 years.

Kaminaka looks forward to sharing her experiences, knowledge and advice with the student athletes of La Verne. She is making an immediate impact within the department.

"People are really loving her energy in the department," said Anthony Avila, assistant athletic director. "She seems very positive, upbeat, and easy to work with."

Kaminaka plans to spend the fall focusing on team-building and getting to know the players, especially since new turf installation will keep them off the field for the next month.

As the season approaches, Kaminaka will challenge her players more, ensuring they understand the repercussions when they do not rise to the challenge, creating the sense of urgency and pressure felt during game time.

"When she got hired, she had individual meetings with pretty much all of us returners, and that goes to show how dedicated she is," senior infielder Erika Garcia said.

"I am excited for the new dynamic and to get to work," Senior pitcher Kirsten Sanchez said.

"Consistency (is) huge for me," Kaminaka said of her coaching style.

"Showing up, doing things right, and treating everything as a learning opportunity."

Kaminaka wants to win, but more than that, she emphasizes the importance of good softball.

Kaminaka can live with a loss if the opponent simply plays better, more fundamental softball and she wants to create an environment where lifelong skills are developed.

Kaminaka takes academics seriously as well.

She's proud that her previous team at Sacramento State had a 3.27 overall GPA.

"Those kids come from somewhere where that's not easy, so I'm very proud of them," she said.

Kaminaka is a softball coach who sees deeper than what is on the diamond.

She sees an opportunity to share her love for the game and make deep connections with people.

Kaminaka said she hopes not only to get this program on a winning path, but also to share her core values of respect, consistency, and inclusion as she mentors these young adults through the most important years of their lives.

Ethan Anderson can be reached at ***ethan.anderson@laverne.edu***



Liberty B Garcia

New softball head coach Danielle Kaminaka starts to get emotional when addressing how hard it is for student athletes to put as much work into the classroom as well as the field. Kaminaka who comes from Sacramento State takes over a team that went 13-24 last season.

Athletes gear up for competitive fall season

Jonas Holt
Sports Editor

The fall 2024 season is here, and the Leopards are geared up to return to competition.

Here's a look at how each team is shaping up as the year kicks off.

Volleyball

Two sets away from an Elite Eight appearance and winning an NCAA Division III regional championship, the Leopards volleyball team is primed to get back to that stage and go even further this fall.

"We're returning almost our entire starting lineup," head coach Jeff Hendershot said.

"We lost that regional final in Wisconsin last year and it was immediately, 'we're gonna get back to that stage'.

The goal for us is to make the regional final again, which is a huge lofty goal, but this group is more than capable of doing it."

The Leopards will start the season ranked as the No. 15 team in the country and their first official match will be at 12:30 p.m. Friday against Centre College at Frantz Athletic Court.

Women's Soccer

Women's soccer will have high expectations this year with a veteran-led and bolstered squad, after a difficult 2023 season, which saw them lose many close games in the final minutes.

"We have been training a lot this summer and know what to expect in the conference," senior defender Miranda McGarry said. "It's just a matter of putting in the work everyday and we're excited to see our hard work pay off. We lost a ton of close games last year and with a big group of returning players and seniors, we know how to learn from those mistakes."

The Leopards have their first official match against Oberlin at 7 p.m. Friday at Ortmayer Stadium.

Men's Soccer

After a postseason berth in 2022, the men's soccer squad missed out in 2023 after an up and down campaign.

With the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference postseason expansion from four to five teams, they will have a greater chance of playing postseason soccer.

"Every practice matters, every scrimmage matters, every game matters for us," head coach Trevor Persson said.

"Our culture within the group is a little bit different than in past years with a lot of players coming back with experience, so everyone is excited to hit the ground running."

The Leopards open the season at home against Westcliff University at 4:30 p.m. Sunday at Ortmayer Stadium.

Men's Water Polo

Men's water polo faced a lot of adversity in the 2023 campaign, but with the return of most of the same squad, and senior captain Peter Trinh returning for another year, they expect to make some noise in the SCIAC this year.

"We were low on depth last year, but you could see the progress in our guys toward the end of the year," head coach Pat Beemer said.

"Now all those guys are back and they know what this is about now."

The Leopards open their season at the Loyola Marymount Mini Tournament on Sept. 7, facing Loyola Marymount University at 10 a.m. and Chapman at 1 p.m..

Cross Country

The cross country program went through a big change this summer with the resignation of coach Jamie Norton.

New head coach Rob Lander has now been announced as the man who will lead the Leopards going forward as cross country and track and field long distance running coach.

Lander brings in tons of experience to the Leopards program, having coached at the NCAA division I, II junior college, and high school levels.

"I want to help build this program into a Division III national powerhouse where we are competing at the highest level and competing for national championships, while building amazing relationships along the way," Lander said.

The Leopards open their cross country season at the Mark Covert Invitational on Sunday, with the race starting at 8 a.m. at Carbon Canyon Regional Park in Brea.

Football

Football will be looking to bounce back from a challenging 2023 season, and look to be heading in the right direction ending the season with a win on senior day.

The Leopards are set to kick off the season on the road against Willamette on Sept. 7. Their home opener is on Sept. 21 against Puget Sound.

Jonas Holt can be reached at ***jonas.holt@laverne.edu.***

Leopards dominate in exhibition game

Norco drops the ball, 8-0

Justin Ries
Staff Writer

The Leopards' women's soccer team faced off against the Norco Mustangs in an exhibition game Aug. 21 to kick off their 2024 season.

The Leopards were 4-8-5 last year with a record of 2-6-4 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The Leopards came out strong, steamrolling Norco into an 8-0 win.

The Leopards dominated the first half, controlling the ball on both offense and defense.

During the first half, the Leopards scored four goals and dominated by keeping possession on Norco's side of the field for the majority of the 45 minutes.

Senior forward Serenity De La Torre got the scoring started in the eighth minute of the game.

"I feel like it just opened the floodgates for our team to just go out there and score eight," De La Torre said. "It was a good momentum starter for us."

Senior defender Miranda McGarry was like a ball magnet in the first half.

She constantly had the ball at her feet and kept it away from the Mustang players.

McGarry's impressive speed allowed her to torch the Mustang defense throughout the game.

In the second half, Norco put pressure on the Leopards, however the Leopards' defense handled the pressure inside their box.

Despite an increase in pressure, the Mustangs never came close to scoring.

Norco had a flurry of three free kicks within a span of five minutes, but every chance they took fell wide of the net, failing to give the attackers a good chance to score.

The Leopards ended up scoring four more goals in the second half to put the game completely out of reach for the Mustangs.

Head coach Lauryn Pehanich praised the amount of depth she sees in this year's team.

"We brought in 13 freshmen and at the end of it I was telling someone we had nine of them on the field," Pehanich said.

The veteran players brought their experience and knowledge of the game to the match, which allowed the nine freshmen to play, grow, and develop within the program.

"It is a good way to start a competition and be able to see the different types of things that we have been working on and be able to capitalize on it as well. It's really exciting," Penanich said.

Not only did the team have good depth, but they had a strong sense of camaraderie.

Ortmayer Stadium was filled with encouraging cheers from both the field and the bench.

"I just can't wait to build with this team and finish as a top team in the SCIAC," senior defender Jessa Caropino said.

"We have a lot of chemistry and I think we all get along on and off the field so I feel like that translates to the game, we feel very content with where we are right now," senior forward Alyssa Marquez said.

The Leopards are looking to carry their momentum against Norco into their first official game against Oberlin at 7 p.m. Friday at Ortmayer Stadium.

Justin Ries can be reached at ***justin.ries@laverne.edu***.

> 'I just can't wait to build with this team and finish as a top team in the SCIAC.'
> *—Jessica Caropino, senior defender*

Men's soccer stumbles in matchup against Mustangs





Left: Freshman defender Julian Arellano takes a chance on a free kick in hopes of a team comeback on Wednesday at Ortmayer Stadium. The Leopards started the preseason with a close 3-2 loss against Norco. The Leopards play Saturday at 4:30 against Providence Christian.

Above: Freshman defender Daniel Covea dribbles the ball up the field through two Norco forwards Kai Beam and midfielder Isaac Solorzano during the teams' match on Wednesday at Ortmayer Stadium. The Leopards came out with a loss against the Norco Mustangs, 3-2.

photography by Emily Casillas

