Campus Times

September 6, 2024 | Serving the University of La Verne Community Since 1919 | Vol. 133, No. 2



Inside

Leos rise in national rankings p7
Colleagues remember law librarian p2
Music fills the air in Claremont p5

La Verne law librarian was beloved

Olivia Russo
Staff Writer

Ms. Jennifer Argueta, assistant professor and coordinator of the University's law library, died Aug. 17 in a car accident. She was 42.

Ms. Argueta worked for the University for five years, mostly in the law library. Just last year she transferred to the main campus, while also supervising at the law library.

"Jennifer was a kind and quiet soul," said Kevin Marshall, dean of the College of Law and Public Service. "She was always present, always available to serve. She helped advance us forward in our journey in these recent years, and she was loved by everyone here at the College of Law."

While driving on Temple City Boulevard in the afternoon, a driver, suspected to be intoxicated, swerved and hit Ms. Argueta's car.

Her 10-year-old daughter, Sabrina Argueta and her husband, Raymundo Argueta Sr., were both in the car. Sabrina was also killed.

Ms. Argueta was born on March 14, 1982, to Stephen and Kathy Auld.

She graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in English. She received her master of library and information science from San Jose State.

Before starting at the University, Ms. Argueta worked at the Los Angeles County Library and at Azusa Pacific University.

She was hired by Kenneth Rudolf, professor emeritus at the College of Law.

"The fact that she had some experience with legal materials was something we really liked," Rudolf said. "Even though she was very quiet in the interview, she was perfect for the job."

At ULV, she worked in collection management from 2018 to 2021, law management from 2021 to 2023, and as assistant professor and law library coordinator from 2023 to 2024.

David Austin, senior library assistant at the College of Law, worked closely with Ms. Argueta.

"Time has passed, but it still hits me quite a bit," Austin said. "I think a lot about it…It just really hits home that something like that could happen at any time. So, you know, it just gives me an appreciation for life."

A month before the accident, Ms. Argueta was honored at the annual faculty and staff recognition ceremony for completing five years at the University. Ms. Argueta brought her family with her, and Austin recalls meeting them as as a fond memory.

Amy Jiang, professor and Wilson Library head of emerging technology and digital initiatives, said she appreciated Ms. Argueta, who supported her during a rough patch in her own life.

"I had her come to my office, and we talked for one hour and 30 minutes," Jiang said. "I will never forget, she touched my soul in that moment. I forever feel very appreciative of her. She's almost like a gentle breeze in your life. Always very warm and makes you feel so comfortable and calm and warm. Every interaction she made us feel that way."

Ms. Agueta is survived by her stepson, Raymundo Argueta Jr., and her husband Raymundo Argueta Sr., who have set up a GoFundMe in honor of Ms. Argueta and her daughter.

To contribute, visit **gofundme.com/f/celebrate-the-lives-of-jennifer-and-sabrina**.

A memorial service for Ms. Argueta will be held at 11 a.m. Oct. 2 in the Ludwick Center Sacred Space.

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

Monkeypox risk is low in Southern California now

Karina Rodriguez
Staff Writer

A Monkeypox outbreak that started in the Democratic Republic of Congo has spread to neighboring countries and continents which had never reported Monkeypox before.

According to the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Monkeypox, recently shortened to Mpox, can be spread by direct skin-to-skin contact with the sores and scabs from a person with Monkeypox.

According to the U.S Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a main symptom is a painful or itchy rash that looks like either pimples or blisters. Other symptoms include fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, muscle aches, backaches, headaches and respiratory symptoms.

The National Library of Medicine explained that there are two types of virus that cause Mpox. One comes from eastern regions in Africa and the other comes from the continent's western regions.

The rapid spread of Monkeypox led the World Health Organization Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhamnon Ghebreyesus, to declare Monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern.

Currently, the risk of contracting Mpox in the United States is low. To date there have been 33,590 cases here, and 60 deaths. To date there have been 6,350 cases in California, including 2,493 cases in Los Angeles County.

According to the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, vaccination with the JYNNEOS vaccine, the same vaccine that offers protection against smallpox, can protect against Mpox.

*Karina Rodriguez can be reached at **karina.rodriguez@laverne.edu**.*

Campus Times
Fall 2024

Editor-in-Chief
April Cambero

News Editor ..... Jordan Alcasas
LV Life Editor ..... Margaret Contreras
Arts Editor..... Stephen Gilson Jr.
Sports Editor ..... Jonas Holt
Photography Editor ..... Chris Rodriguez
Assistant Editors ..... Ethan Anderson
Thatiana Gibbs

Reporters
Samantha Acevedo, Stephanie Amaya, Lillian Barocio, Bryce Anthony Edwards, Leila El Sabbagh, Emma Gonzalez, Justin Ries, Karina Rodriguez, Olivia Russo, Sonya Sexton, Joshua Villegas

Photographers
Mia Byington, Emily Casillas, Camille C.Nan, Anthony Eramya, Liberty B. Garcia, Stephen Gilson Jr., Jonas Holt, Vicente Rodriguez, Chris Rogers

Advertising Manager ..... Jayleen De La Cruz

Chief Adviser ..... Elizabeth Zwerling
Photography Adviser/
Production Manager..... Eric Borer

Campus Times Online

The award-winning Campus Times online edition is updated throughout the week with event coverage and breaking news. Visit **lvcampustimes.org** for additional current and past stories. You can like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram **@campustimes,** TikTok **@campustimes** and Bluesky **@campustimes.bsky.social** for all the latest updates on local and on-campus news. Send us story ideas over social media or email to **ctimes@laverne.edu**.

Corrections

The Campus Times is committed to accuracy. When we make mistakes, however, it is our policy to correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention.

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**.

*The Campus Times is published weekly by the Communications Department, except during examination and vacation periods, by journalism students of the University of La Verne, 1950 Third Street, La Verne, California, 91750. The Campus Times is a laboratory publication for Newspaper Production classes Journalism 220, Journalism 320 and Journalism 408. Signed columns are the opinion of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Campus Times. For advertising information, call 909-448-4761 or email **ctimesad@laverne.edu**.*

©Campus Times, 2024

Mentorship event creates connections

Sonya Sexton
Staff Writer

The Center for Multicultural Services and the Black Student Union held a welcome back party on Aug. 28 in Sneaky Park to celebrate the beginning of the academic year, and introduce students to the Rise Together mentorship program.

The program connects current students and recent graduates with ULV alumni who are excelling in careers that match the students' interests.

The on-campus event was designed to make students feel welcome and connected. Several sororities and fraternities were on hand.

The party also included food, music and giveaways, including barbecue and a shaved ice truck.

Skylar Patterson, a freshman criminology major, said she attended the event to learn more about the BSU and to connect with more black students on campus.

Jayla Spence, a freshman political science major, had a similar idea.

"Coming from a high school that doesn't have a lot of black students, it's nice to be around other black students," Spence said.

Spence said she also wanted to put faces to the different clubs and names she hears about around campus each day. Spence said she hopes to get involved with BSU and may be interested in leadership in future.

There was a DJ playing music as the students arrived at Sneaky Park and throughout the event. Tables and chairs were placed across the park so attendees could sit and enjoy their barbecue and shaved ice, as well as the performances.

Students also learned more about the mentorship program, which is a collaboration between the Office of Alumni Engagement and The Center for Multicultural Services.

Mya McCain, a freshman psychology major, also came out to connect with BSU, as well as some of the other students on campus

Angel Oparah, a junior journalism major and academic relations chair for BSU said she has enjoyed seeing the growth of students from their freshman year until now.

"This year the goal was to build a bigger community of Black students,' Oparah said. "Over the years, our rates of Black students has been up and down, but this year (we're) doing good, and we want it to continue."

Oparah said she was not very involved on campus freshman year. Then she found BSU and decided that it was something she really wanted to be a part of, so she ran for an officer position.

Oparah encourages others to run for office because it can be a great learning experience and it looks good on a resume.

"If you are an incoming student, make sure you are involved on campus,' Oparah said. "Find where you fit in, find what suits you."

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

On the Cover

Graduate student libero Kaitlyn Patterson gets excited following her teammates' block to win the opening game against Centre College on Aug. 30 at the Frantz Athletic Court. The Leopards started the preseason in the annual Pacific Coast Classic with a win, 3-0. / photo by Emily Casillas

Professor values power of words

Lillian Barocio
Staff Writer

For the first "What Matters to Me and Why" talk of the semester Veronica Escoffery-Runnels, associate professor, school psychology and program chair of educational counseling, spoke about the importance of choosing one's words carefully.

Escoffery-Runnels explained that there is power in words, during the Aug. 29 talk before roughly 40 community members in the Ludwick Center sacred space.

Words are communication, they can build us up just as fast as they can tear us down, Escoffery-Runnels said.

"Words are everywhere and they help us navigate the world," she said. "Words are life-giving, they have the power to shape our realities."

Escoffery-Runnels told a story she dubbed the "deodorant story."

It began when her parents arrived in the U.S. in the 1960s, as immigrants seeking the American dream.

They landed in Los Angeles.

Escoffery-Runnels said her father, who spoke heavily accented broken English, entered the store looking for a particular item to which her father pronounced "deo-door-ant" making the store clerk confused until figuring out he meant "deodorant."

Escoffery-Runnels said she never noticed the cultural differences with words until someone would correct her.

Her father also never forgot the deodorant story.

Her father was determined to teach his family to speak English perfectly.

Escoffery-Runnels finished her presentation by reminding the audience to be mindful of the way they use words.

> 'Words are everywhere and they help us navigate the world. Words are life-giving, they have the power to shape our realities.
> —*Veronica Escoffery-Runnels, associate professor of school psychology*

The presentation was followed by Q & A.

"She uses words to brighten our day and she does it so effortlessly, I don't even think she notices but it has a positive impact," Danielle Meseberg, a field work specialist for the LaFetra College of Education, who attended the talk.

"Her speech was a reminder of how powerful words are," university chaplain Zandra Wagoner said.

The monthly series is sponsored by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Black Student Services and the Center for Multicultural Services.

The next "What Matters to Me" talk will be Sept. 19. Grace Xia Zhao, professor of music, will speak.

Lillian Barocio can be reached at ***lillian.barocio@laverne.edu.***



Mia Byington

Veronica Escoffery Runnels, associate professor of school psychology, speaks Aug. 29 at the Ludwick Center Sacred Space for the "What Matters to Me" lecture series. Runnels described the impact of words and why they matter to the people around you.





Karaoke brings out inner rock stars

Ethan Anderson
Staff Writer

A performer timidly headed to the stage Friday night at Ironbark Ciderworks.

His friends cheered him on and clapped as he found his footing on stage.

The crowd quieted down as anticipation grew among the audience.

That is when the classic bass-and-snatch beat of J. Cole's "Neighbors" began playing, and there was no turning back for first-time performer Cameron Slim.

"I was nervous as hell for sure," Slim said. "It doesn't help when you bring the wrong energy to it."

Every Friday night folks can step outside of their comfort zones, spend time with friends, and listen to some surprisingly good performances, all while enjoying tasty cider made on-site at Ironbark Ciderworks in the Claremont warehouse-based venue at 1420 North Claremont Blvd.

Karaoke starts at 7:30 p.m. and goes to 11 p.m.

Would-be rock stars of all ages come and share their love for music, performance, and of course, cider.

Bill Lumbergh, an artist and songwriter, never wanted to do karaoke, but is sure glad he did.

"Karaoke found my best friends, and my wife," said Lumbergh.

Like many shared hobbies, it is always bigger than what it is on the surface.

Karaoke is another way for people to get themselves out there and find not only themselves, but friends and even family along the way.

Chad Hendrix, a karaoke veteran, loves seeing reactions to his voice.

"People dance to this stuff when you get it right," Hendrix said.

It is also important to understand that the point of karaoke is to simply have fun and ultimately feel fulfilled through expression.

"I don't try to please people. Sometimes if I can just pull off the song, then it's satisfying," Hendrix said.

That was evident in the way everyone was so supportive and inclusive of each other on Friday night.

Performers that many would say were objectively bad, were applauded, in some cases, more than the experienced performers.

That goes to show the kind of inclusion and safe space that DJ and event manager KJ Justine and her husband Patrick are creating.

"They've really made the whole environment really welcoming and friendly," Michelle Pham, karaoke regular, said. "I didn't know anyone coming here and now I can say I confidently have my friends through here."

The place is very colorful and flamboyant, with the walls displaying artwork with feminist themes and a pink-violet bar.

Floodlights changing color added to the ambiance of performances, and disco balls made it a party.

The bartender seemed helpful and friendly and went about her job professionally, while also being personable and easy to talk to.

KJ Justine was very inviting to anyone brave enough to perform. Justine also made sure to introduce everyone as they came up, as well as encouraging applause afterward.

The crowd was also very friendly, not hesitating to offer a smile and potential friendship. Everyone seemed very supportive of each other, even people of different groups.

Everyone was respectful enough to stop what they were doing and clap for complete strangers.

"You can find more than just a friend at Ironside on Friday nights," Justine said.

"You may even get lucky and meet someone you want to spend the rest of your life with."

Justine eventually memorized the menu and was offered a job as a bartender.

She took it and soon after began hosting karaoke nights.

She then became the events manager that she is today.

"I never saw myself being a bartender," Justine said. "I never saw myself being a DJ."

Stepping outside of your comfort zone can teach many lessons, and can sometimes even end up changing your life for the better.

Karaoke night at Ironbark is the perfect environment to be accepted for who you are and to express yourself.

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

> 'I don't try to please people. Sometimes if I can just pull off the song, then it's satisfying.'
> *—Chad Hendrix, karaoke veteran*

Open houses showcase resources for students

The Abraham Campus Center and the Ludwick Center hosted safari-themed open houses last week for students to learn about on-campus resources in both buildings.

The ACC is home to various services and opportunities for students, including the Campus Activities Board and the Holistic and Inclusive Practices for Student Success organization.

The open house there featured leopard-spotted balloons throughout the building guiding students to the various stations.

Student volunteers and staff donned animal ear headbands, safari guide hats and binoculars to get into the theme.

A small scavenger hunt was also incorporated into the Campus Center event as students searched for leopard stuffed animals.

Alexzandra Jimenez of the Holistic and Inclusive Practices organization offered information about how to get involved with that group, which has a rolling application process.

Lorie Vazquez-Ramiro, a career advisor and student support coordinator, emphasized the many resources the Campus Center provides.

"Those students that don't take advantage of or explore… they don't know about these resources," Vazquez-Ramiro said.

Across campus, the Ludwick Center offered another scavenger hunt to promote ethnic and international student services.

A trail of blue pawprints on the floor of that building led students to the Sacred Space. The scavenger hunt ended with smores at the second floor.

Ludwick is also home to the offices of Civic and Community Engagement, Spiritual Life, International Services and Study Abroad, along with the Multicultural Center, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

For more information, visit **laverne.edu/acc**.

—Leila El Sabbagh



Vicente Rodriguez

Ray Palacios, graduate admission counselor, and Lierin McClure, academic and career advisor, discuss graduate plans with freshman biology major Diana Lamas at the Abraham Campus Center open house Aug. 29. The open house event showcased advising and graduate programs for all students throughout each floor at the Campus Center.

Arts, etc...

Happenings

Parallax

The Harris Art Gallery will debut the "Parallax" exhibit, featuring both watercolor works and hand drawings by Jon Leaver and sculptures handcrafted by Keith Lord. The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The show runs through Oct. 10. Admission is free.

For more information visit **artsci.laverne.edu/art/exhibition_tag/harris-gallery**.

Art class

Pomona Valley Pride hosts a weekly art class and workshop at 3:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at 235 W. Mission Blvd. in Pomona. The Sept. 10 workshop will be a special clay-making session featuring artist Francisco Martinez. Admission is free. For more information visit **eventbrite.com**.

Colour Haiku

The Fox Theater in Pomona will host a vibrant explosion of creativity at the Colour Haiku 2024 Poster and Art Festival from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 14. Invisible Industries and the Fox Theater in Pomona are sponsors.

For more information visit **colourhaiku.com**.

'Architectural Pottery'

The American Museum of Ceramic Art will hold an opening reception for "Architectural Pottery: Ceramics for a Modern Landscape" from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. The exhibition will display mid-20th century architecture and design from artists in California.

For more information visit **amoca.org**.

'Art of Healing'

The Ontario Museum of History and Art is showcasing "The Art of Healing: Holistic Expression." The exhibit uses art to cope with physical and mental health issues. The show runs through Nov. 17.

For more information, visit **ontariomuseum.org**.

—Stephen Gilson Jr.

Bands rock out in Claremont

by Margaret Contreras

photography by Anthony Eramya



Dzuls band members – backing vocalist Helga Zambrano, bass player Joe Davacens, lead singer Mark Dzula and drummer Jeff Brown – play jazz music in the Claremont Village Plaza on Aug. 30 for Claremont's Friday Nights Live. Three other bands located throughout the Claremont Village also played assorted genres of live music for guests to enjoy all evening. Friday Nights Live continues every Friday through Sept. 27.

Bands played live music throughout downtown Claremont Aug. 30.

The Friday Nights Live event hosts concerts in three spots weekly: Shelton Park at 320 N. Harvard Ave., the Village Plaza at 101 N. Indian Hill Blvd. and in front of the Chamber of Commerce at 205 N. Yale Ave.

Amazing Tone Benders played soft rock, where about 90 people enjoyed the live performance in Shelton Park.

Kids were running around the park playing tag with one another, while parents were sitting and enjoying the music.

There were even couples there, enjoying an evening filled with music.

"Usually my husband and I come to the park and listen to the music," Karen Valdez, event attendee, said. "It's like a date night for us, we usually come just the two of us."

People gathered around the band, while they played in an open stage theater. Some of the attendees greeted friends and family they ran into.

In the Village Plaza, there were about 300 people in the audience.

Dzuls was playing a mix of soft rock and '90s hits. Some attendees were dancing in the center of the plaza in front of the band.

Mark Dzula, the lead singer, enjoyed seeing the energy of the crowd.

"I enjoy playing in venues like this. It's a different feeling with this type of crowd," Dzula said.

Throughout the plaza, even those eating at nearby restaurants enjoyed hearing the band play.

In the plaza, on a makeshift stage the Dzuls was in front of the Laemmle movie theater. Guests sat in chairs that were already provided by the restaurants that were closed.

Families sat on the stone structures that decorate the plaza.

Some of the kids were playing around the structure and others were dancing with their parents.

"This is a three-hour gig where we played 34 songs," bass player Joe Davancens said.

"It's a great way to be part of the community," said concert goer and Claremont resident Esteban Sosa. "It's good for the seniors to come and get involved…They like to come out and dance."

"We come every Friday," Cherby Belandria, who was there with Sosa, said. "We like the music and the bands they have."

Friday Nights Live runs weekly through Sept. 27.

Margaret Contreras can be reached at ***margaret.contreras@laverne.edu.***



Leopards drop non-conference match

Stephanie Amaya
Staff Writer

The Leopards faced the Whitman College Blues on Saturday at Ortmayer Stadium and were defeated, 1-0.

The Leopards came out strong, keeping possession of the ball and strong aggressive defense during the first half of the match.

"We had some great defensive tactical pieces on what they were doing in the midfield," head coach Lauryn Pehanich said.

She said that while they had great defensive movement from transitioning from defending to finding weak spots of Whitman, the team had missed opportunities to secure a goal.

The Leopards had 11 attempted shots with five on goal.

Junior forward Kristen Smick led with three attempted shots and senior goalkeeper Abigail Macedo made two saves.

"Finding the weak side of the other team and noticing a far shift which helped discover outside pockets in the long ball over we were pretty successful," junior defender Kylie Klein said.

The Leopards shut down the Blues on defense. It was a scoreless first half with a tense atmosphere to start the second half.

"We plan on working to improve what went wrong in the second half of the game for the next game and going forward," Klein said.

"We learned in the second half that crossing was a good technique to use against Whitman," freshman goalkeeper Ryan Jenks said.

Four minutes into the second half, Whitman's sophomore midfielder Leah Barnes scored the first and only goal of the game at 48:24.

"I thought we played well. We had a good game with a bad moment where the team capitalized on it and fell short to counter," senior defender Miranda McGarry said. "Whitman were a little slower on the line, which came in handy in terms of tactics to use during the match."

The turning point of the game came when tensions rose as a foul was given to the Leopards.

Fans in the stadium became unsettled as the referee carded an assistant coach on the Leopards.

"It's a hard balance, but it's one that we try our best to showcase to them. There is always going to be ups and downs in every sport, that's why it's such a beautiful thing to play a sport," Pehanich said. "We have to do a good job of letting the moment go and continuing the next play. We are all human and it shows we have passion and that we care."

Pehanich highlights that the seniors are doing a good job of explaining and taking the freshmen along with them under their wings.

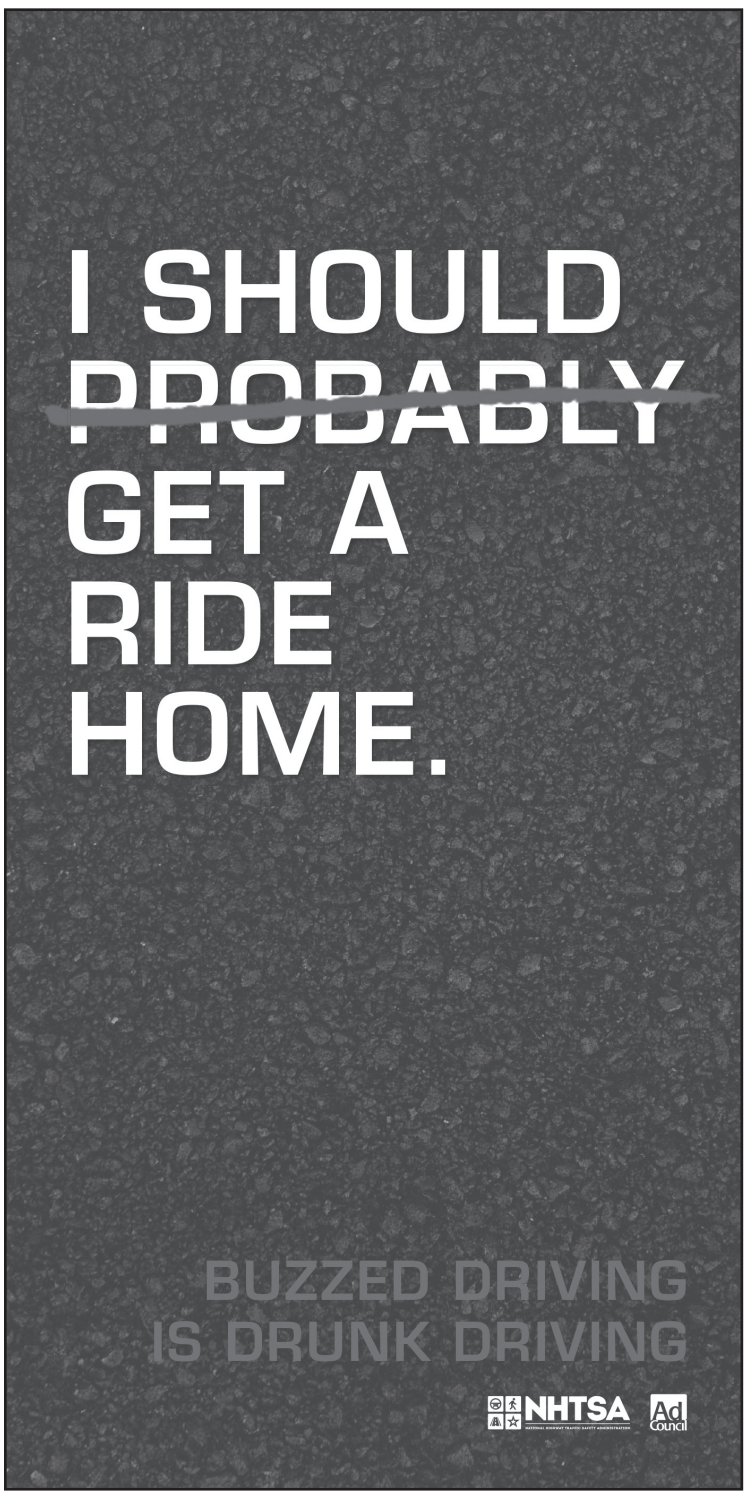
"I think it is a good dynamic to have such a large group of seniors because it makes having a large group of freshmen easier," Pehanich said.

"There is just so much to teach them and guide them but having a lot of seniors, we are noticing a lot of freshmen stepping up."

Coming off the loss and a 1-1 tie against Oberlin on Aug. 30, the Leopards brought all the pieces together with a dramatic three-goal comeback win against the Life Pacific Warriors on Wednesday to win, 3-2.

The Leopards return to the field at 7 p.m. Saturday against Stanton at Ortmayer Stadium.

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



It's Not Your Fault.
1.800.656.HOPE
National Sexual Assault Hotline
Free. Confidential. 24/7.
(Operated by RAINN—the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)

Cross country kicks off season

The men's and women's cross country teams began their 2024 season Saturday at the Mark Covert Classic, hosted at Carbon Regional Park in Brea. The event was the first competition under new head coach Rob Lander, who is eager to build on the team's strong performance.

In the men's race, the Leopards finished ninth out of a group of competitors that included NCAA Division I and II, NAIA and junior college teams.

Senior Thomas Taniguchi led the way for La Verne with a time of 25:57.3. Sophomore Finn McClure followed with a time of 26:09.4. Junior Zyeir Shabete completed the course in 26:22.5. Graduate student Jared Albaugh finished in 26:45.3.

One of the highlights of the men's race was Roberto Reynoso's personal best of 27:04, which was 20 seconds faster than his previous best. Freshman Logan Ciszek had a debut time of 27:04 and Nicolas Saenz set a personal record with a time of 27:09. The Leopards' performance was notable, as they finished ahead of four SCIAC opponents.

The women's team, competing in the 5K race, was led by sophomore Marissa Hehir, who finished with a time of 19:12.9. Lizbeth Garcia set a personal record with a time of 20:39, improving her previous best by 21 seconds, and Ryleigh LaRue finished with a time of 21:25.6. Emily Guzman (21:26.5) and Peyton Carrera (21:34.8) also delivered strong performances, helping the team to a 12th-place finish.

The meet showcased promising performances from both teams and provided a solid foundation for the rest of the season.

The Leopards will next compete at the UC Riverside Invitational on Sept. 21.

—Jonas Holt



Liberty B. Garcia

Junior Thomas Taniguchi runs at Mark Covert Classic cross country invitational Saturday at Carbon Canyon Park in Brea. Taniguchi was La Verne's top finisher in the men's 8K race with a time of 25:57.3.



Liberty B. Garcia

Freshman Chloe Chong runs the women's 5K at the Mark Covert Classic. She finished with a time of 26:08.8.

Nationally ranked Leos dominate

ULV picks up where they left off

Jonas Holt
Sports Editor

The Leopards, ranked 15th in the nation, kicked off their 2024 volleyball season with a 3-0 sweep against the Centre College Colonels on Friday at Frantz Athletic Court to open the Pacific Coast Classic tournament.

The victory signals the Leopards' intent to build on their successful 2023 campaign, where they finished with a 25-5 record and were two sets away from a NCAA Division III regional championship.

"The goal is to win the SCIAC and compete for a National Championship," graduate student libero Kaitlyn Patterson said.

The first set saw the Leopards face adversity right away. After jumping to an early 3-1 lead, thanks to a kill from All-American junior outside hitter Mya Ray, the Leopards found themselves in a tight battle.

The Colonels quickly answered back, tying the set at 3-all with a kill from sophomore middle blocker Abby Schwartz.

The set remained close as both teams traded points, with the Colonels taking advantage of some early jitters from the Leopards.



Emily Casillas

Sophomore middle blocker Zacky Coaston, freshman opposite Kimi Watanabe-Mayhew and sophomore outside hitter Lauren Gott celebrate a block by Coaston and Watanabe-Mayhew that moved the Leopards one point closer to victory against Centre College Aug. 30 at the Frantz Athletic Court. The Leopards came out with a big win to open the Pacific Coast Classic, 3-0.



Emily Casillas

Graduate student libero Kaitlyn Patterson serves the ball against Centre College on Aug. 30 at the Frantz Athletic Court. La Verne came out with a win against Centre, 3-0. The Leopards will co-host the Whittier Invitational at home starting Friday against Austin College at 2 p.m.

"Any time you've got that ranking in front of your name, it's a huge target on your back," said head coach Jeff Hendershot. "It was clear there were first game jitters so we just had to get comfortable and settle in."

The Colonels went on a run, fueled by key plays from junior setter Madi Winfield and freshman defensive specialist Emersyn Pannell, eventually pushing their lead to 18-14, prompting Hendershot to call a timeout to regroup.

Coming out of the timeout, the Leopards began to claw their way back into the set.

Sophomore outside hitter Lauren Gott delivered two crucial kills, bringing the score to 19-17.

Despite the Leopards' efforts, the Colonels responded with an ace from senior defensive specialist June Padilla to extend their lead to 23-17.

Facing their largest deficit of the game, the Leopards showed poise, rallying with three consecutive points, capped by another kill from Ray, reducing the deficit to 23-20.

The Leopards continued to chip away at the Colonels' lead, tying the set at 24.

The two teams traded points, pushing the score to 27-all, until sophomore middle blocker Zacky Coaston delivered a clutch kill to give the Leopards the advantage at 28-27.

The set ended with a huge dig from Patterson, allowing Gott to get the set-winning kill.

"One thing about me is that I just get after it and always play the same game," Gott said. "I don't play any different in any moment of the game, I'm always myself."

The Leopards came out firing in the second set. Freshman opposite Kimi Watanabe-Mayhew and senior outside hitter Allison Whiteman led the charge as the Leopards jumped to an early 7-4 lead.

The Colonels managed to tie the set at 7, but the Leopards quickly regained control with kills from Gott and Whiteman, giving them a 9-7 advantage.

The Leopards began to pull away, with Whiteman delivering a crucial ace to force a timeout from the Colonels at 14-11.

"We just had to hold our composure as a team and we'd be fine, we all have each other's backs and the culture is great in the team," Whiteman said.

The Leopards' dominance continued as they built a 19-14 lead, fueled by a kill from Watanabe-Mayhew and an ace from Ray.

Centre attempted to rally, but their efforts were stopped by a block from Coaston that halted their momentum.

The Leopards closed out the second set with five consecutive points, winning 25-17 and taking a commanding 2-0 lead in the match.

In the third and final set, the Leopards maintained their momentum, starting strong with an ace from sophomore All-American setter Malia Capistrano.

The Ray-Capistrano connection continued to shine, as the Leopards took firm control, jumping out to a 10-5 lead.

The Colonels fought back to tie the set at 12, capitalizing on a couple of errors from the Leopards.

But any hopes of a Colonels comeback were quickly dashed as Whiteman delivered a timely kill to halt the Colonels' momentum and put the Leopards back in front at 13-12.

The Leopards broke the set open, pushing the lead to 17-13.

The Leopards continued to press their advantage, eventually closing out the set 25-18 with another ace from Gott to complete the sweep over Centre.

> 'Any time you've got that ranking in front of your name, it's a huge target on your back. It was clear there were first game jitters so we just had to get comfortable and settle in.'
> *–Jeff Hendershot, head coach*

La Verne swept through the rest of the tournament, beating Wisconsin-River Falls, 3-1, on Friday night and Skidmore, 3-0, on Saturday afternoon. The wins pushed the Leopards to No. 11 in the nation.

The Leopards will be back on the court Friday, co-hosting the Whittier Invitational.

They face Austin at 2 p.m. and UC Santa Cruz at 7 p.m. On Saturday, they'll go up against Puget Sound at 3 p.m. and Edgewood at 5:30 p.m.

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

Second half rally ignites Leos' win

Justin Ries
Staff Writer



Liberty B. Garcia

Freshman forward Alex Singleton gets tripped up by two Rhinos defenders Tuesday at Ortmayer Stadium. The Leopards faced Southern California Leadership University in an exhibition game, which La Verne won, 3-0.

The men's soccer team continued its early season campaign with a 3-0 exhibition win against the Southern California Leadership University Rhinos on Tuesday at Ortmayer Stadium.

The Leopards were looking to bounce back from their 2-1 loss to Westcliff on Sunday.

This was the first game of the inaugural season for Southern California Leadership. As a new program heading into the 2024 season, the Leopards were unsure of what to expect from their competition heading into this exhibition game.

In the first half, the Leopards monopolized the ball, but they were unable to capitalize on their opportunities in the box.

The Rhinos were able to clear the ball out or block the shots, which stopped the imposing threat of the Leopards.

The Rhinos were then able to flip the field quickly after getting the ball back with their speed and their ability to counter up the field with their crosses.

Senior forward Adan Villareal had the best opportunity for the Leopards in the first half.

After senior goalkeeper Logan Reese sent a ball from the box to the 30-yard mark which flipped the field quickly and gave Villareal a chance to score, he took the shot but it went right to the keeper.

Junior left back Anthony Bastidas flew all over the field with the ball at his feet constantly.

He helped create many of the chances the Leopards had to get on the scoreboard.

"My coach holds a high expectation and I have to keep a high standard for myself and help the team as much as I can," Bastidas said.

Another chance came when sophomore midfielder Alexander Bastidas chipped the ball into the box.

Villareal flicked it back to Bastidas who then tried to cross it into the box.

The Rhinos were able to clear it out of their box.

In between chances for the Leopards, the Rhinos were able to go on the counter-attack which put goalkeeper Reese into action.

During one scoring opportunity, he saved a cross that went toward the net, which he flicked over. On another attempt, Reese saved a shot that was low and in on the left post at his feet.

"I try to get in a good position to block it and hold my ground and try to get it away from the goal," Reese said.

During halftime head coach Trevor Persson told his team to slow down and stop rushing their possessions.

"Relax and settle down because even toward the end of the game we put blinders on and it is OK to slow down," he said. "In the first half, we just saw the goal and went, we got to try to score. It is OK to slow down and have numbers."

In the second half, they did just that. The Leopards scored their first goal at the 49:15 minute mark when senior defender Kimson Martinez took a cross from his teammate, took the shot and put it into the back of the net.

Villareal was finally able to get his goal in the second half at the 63:33 minute mark. This was after beating the defender and beating the keeper in open space. His ability to finesse a one-on-one situation put the Leopards in a good position for the remainder of the match.

The final goal at the 87:45 minute mark was crossed in from freshman forward Alex Singleton to junior forward Juan Martinez.

Singleton was able to put it right at Martinez's feet for an easy tap in goal. This made the final score a dominant 3-0 win for the Leopards.

Even when things got physical or the Rhinos tried to push back, the Leopard defense was able to slow them down.

"We have our tactics in place," senior center back Michael Duran said. "When we all stick to it as a team it makes it easier on the field for everybody to match up with the type of physicality and speed on the field. We can match up against anybody."

The Leopards will look to add to the win column as they take on Stanton at home at 7 p.m. Saturday. Then they will open up Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Ortmayer Stadium against the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens.

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

LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Volleyball, Aug. 30
La Verne - 3
Centre College - 0

La Verne - 3
Wisconsin-River Falls - 1

Women's Volleyball, Aug. 31
La Verne - 3
Skidmore - 0

Women's Soccer, Aug. 31
Whitman - 1
La Verne - 0

Women's Soccer, Sept. 4
La Verne - 3
Life Pacific - 2

SCHEDULE

Friday
Volleyball vs. Austin College, 2 p.m.
Volleyball vs. UC Santa Cruz, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Men's water polo @ Loyola Marymount, 10 a.m.
Football @ Willamette, noon
Men's water polo vs. Chapman @ Loyola Marymount, 1 p.m.
Volleyball vs. Puget Sound, 3 p.m.
Women's soccer vs. Stanton, 4:30 p.m.
Volleyball vs. Edgewood, 5:30 p.m.
Men's soccer vs. Stanton 7 p.m.

Tuesday
Women's soccer @ Westcliff, 4 p.m.

Wednesday
Men's soccer vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

	Overall	SCIAC
Cal Lutheran	2-0	0-0
Chapman	3-0	0-0
La Verne	**3-0**	**0-0**
Claremont-MS	2-1	0-0
Occidental	2-1	0-0
Whittier	2-1	0-0
Caltech	1-1	0-0
Pomona-Pitzer	2-2	0-0
Redlands	1-2	0-0