Campus Times

February 21, 2025 | Serving the University of La Verne Community Since 1919 | Vol. 133, No. 15



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Unpresidents' Day fights for peace

Human rights highlighted

Karina Rodriguez
Arts Editor

Approximately 350 people gathered Monday in Pomona for the Unpresidents' Day Pro-Migrant March, fighting to keep Pomona a sanctuary city.

A sanctuary city is one that by ordinance protects its undocumented immigrant residents from deportation despite federal pressure.

Protestors also marched to keep the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, out of Pomona.

"People need to be standing up and be heard," said Dan Kennan, University of La Verne adjunct professor of sociology, who was at the protest. "I saw it work in the '60s and I think it'll work now."

Kennan has been protesting for decades. If protesting worked in the past, he said, then it has the ability to change lives even today.

The March was organized by Gente Organizada, the ICE Out of Pomona coalition. It began at 10 a.m. on Main Street and Mission Boulevard, and protestors marched along Mission Boulevard.

Protestors from various ethnic groups and other under-represented populations participated. Mexican, Salvadoran, American and Palestinian flags could be seen throughout the march, along with LGBTQ+ and transgender flags, which were also displayed.

The La Verne Church of the Brethren and Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren, which are sister churches also participated.

Media outlets, such as Univision and Telemundo also covered the march, bringing the Pomona-based protest to a larger audience across the Los Angeles area.

Among the demonstrators were dancers from the La Puente-based dance group, Danza Azteca Tonatiuh, who performed in traditional Aztec Regalia.

> 'People need to be standing up and be heard. I saw it work in the '60s and I think it'll work now.'
> *—Dan Kennan, adjunct professor of sociology*

Vanesa Morales, a 13-year-old Aztec dancer, said that she was there to support and dance for everyone.

She said that participating in the protest made her happy. "To see everybody here, you know, different races, different colors, everybody," Morales said.

"Really all it takes is a couple of people to start pounding the drums and saying 'hey we need to do something about this'," Kennan said.

Kennan added that he believes that everyone can bring change, and that the energy found in Pomona could be taken over to La Verne and the University of La Verne.

The current political environment also brought Ulysses Gontes, a student and Pomona resident, to the protest.

Gontes said he couldn't ignore what's going on – the chaos of the current political climate.

"These are my people," Gontes said.

"I can't just stand by and let all the chaos ensue like this with all these unconstitutional (orders and actions) like people just can't sit around in times of distress," Gontes said.

He also said he felt great being part of the great environment that the protest brought.

"I'm proud. I'm proud to be with my people, with my people fighting for what we believe in," Gontes said.

Pastor Julie Wheeler of the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren was among those who came out in support of undocumented immigrants.

Wheeler said she believes that to be Christian is to fight for fellow brothers and sisters.

"I'm proud to be a Christian," she said.

"I'm proud to be fighting for my immigrant brothers and sisters, and that's what a Christian, in my opinion, ought to do," Wheeler said.

She said that Jesus died for his community.

"As a matter of fact, he sacrificed and he died. That's what he did for his community. That's what he did for the world," Wheeler said.

The protest remained peaceful and spirited.

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New state law to increase voting accessibility

Anthony Eramya
Staff Writer

At a time when voting rights are less of a sure thing, California has enacted a new law that prohibits local governments from requiring voters to present ID to cast a ballot.

The law, based on state Senate Bill 1174, was authored by Democrat Dave Min, who was recently elected to Congress. Min, who is based in Orange County, put forth the bill in part to respond to a Huntington Beach measure that would have allowed the city to require voters to present ID before casting a ballot there.

The new state law, which took effect Jan. 1, supersedes the Huntington Beach measure, and will prevent other California cities from enacting similar voter ID laws.

According to the text of the new law, "Voter identification laws have historically been used to disenfranchise low-income voters, voters of color, voters with disabilities and senior voters."

"Voter suppression is widespread while voter fraud is extremely rare," said University of La Verne Professor of Political Science Jason Neidleman.

"This law reduces voting barriers, which is much needed."

"Not everyone has a government-issued ID, even if they are legal citizens," added Mary Anne Mendoza, assistant professor of political science at Cal Poly Pomona.

"Since 2020 the argument for voter fraud has gotten stronger, although the evidence has not."

A 2020 Associated Press report (apnews.com) found that in six swing states, only about 0.02% of votes were flagged for fraud.

Mendoza said the new law will benefit students.

"Some students do not have federally issued ID despite being legally allowed to vote. It is much harder for students to find the time to go get an ID," she said.

At the federal level, HR1, the "For the People Act of 2021" – which would have offered several provisions to make voting easier for all U.S. citizens, including increasing the voting timeline, expanding vote-by-mail options and introducing automatic voter registration – ultimately did not get enough votes of the full legislature to pass.

Democratic legislators generally support such voter expansion measures, while Republicans generally do not.

With Republicans in control of the House, Senate and Whitehouse, increasing voting access is up to the states.

In elections, communities of color wait in longer lines to vote, are subject to more frequent intimidation at the polls and are more likely to have their mail ballots invalidated, according to several recent reports.

The new California law "is definitely going to affect low-income voters more," Neidleman said.

"Anything where the barrier of entry is opened benefits low-income communities, and anything where the barrier gets thicker holds back these same low-income communities."

First-time voters in California still must provide a driver's license number, a California identification number or the last four digits of their Social Security number to register to vote.

"California is very ahead on voter rights. They allow people to cast provisional ballots," Mendoza said.

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Campus Times
Spring 2025

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

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On the Cover
Junior guard Cody Aquino goes up for a floater against Caltech forward Matt Cantor on Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court. Aquino ended the night with 13 points and seven rebounds as the Leopards secured a 65-48 victory. / photo by Emily Casillas

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Lecture boosts immigrants' voices

Author humanizes migration



Olivia Russo

Author Jason De León lectures on the issue of immigration Wednesday in Morgan Auditorium for this year's Frederick Douglass Human Rights Lecture. He began his talk by speaking about how the current political climate has been driven by reaction to immigration.

Jordan Alcasas
Social Media Editor

Jason De León explored the global picture around immigration and often neglected nuances of the complicated issue during his lecture Wednesday in the Morgan Auditorium, before about 100 La Verne community members.

The talk for the annual Frederick Douglass Human Rights Lecture also covered his book "Soldiers and Kings," about the stories of Honduran smugglers moving migrants across Mexico.

De León explained the difference between smugglers and traffickers, along with the bigger issues that immigration is tied to, such as climate change, and issues, such as the increasing lack of resources in some areas, that lead to people immigrating from those areas.

"It's important to decenter America and Trump and think about the things we are experiencing in a global migration crisis," De León said. "I want to think about migration from a variety of contexts and de-center it from this country."

De León delved into a story where he attended a Trump rally in 2016 out of curiosity and later found it to be a window into the future of the United States.

To him, this rally showcased the prevalence of American anxiety in terms of race, class and gender that existed at that time and exists now.

"Everything happening at the U.S. border is a smokescreen for bigger issues that we often do not see or they do not want us to see," De León said.

In De León's book, he tells the stories of Honduran smugglers from his experience with them.

One of the key points is that smugglers are not the same as traffickers, as those being smuggled are willing participants, and oftentimes smugglers are in the same position as the migrant, doing what they can to get by in the world.

Migrants often have to hire people who are willing to take necessary action in order to survive, even with the difficulty involved.

Smugglers are necessary and lifesaving in cases like these, with some even preferring to think of themselves guides instead of as smugglers, a much more charged word.

"If you are a student of history like I am, border walls are no match for a human determination to live," De León said. "Our species' ability to survive is to search for new environments and habitats."

De León delved further into the book later on, where he told the true story of Chino and Jesmyn, a smuggler and a migrant respectively.

In their story, Chino and Jesmyn fall in love, with both deciding they want to settle down eventually.

Through the story, Chino is bold and frequently tempts death, whether it be through his job or the unsafe activities he participates in, such as running across train tops.

Jesmyn, however, is strong-willed and well-aware of the circumstances of hiring a smuggler, along with what her journey will entail.

The story seeks to humanize the two of them as more than just a migrant and smuggler and explore the relationship between smugglers and death.

"People ask why I would study the bad guys, and my response is that smugglers are always there, and yet their voices are very quiet," De León said.

"You cannot talk about undocumented migration without smuggling, despite the role they play. It is crucial, it is a billion dollar industry."

Audience members found the lecture insightful and perspective-shifting on the issue of immigration.

"I thought it was incredibly interesting when he distinguished between smugglers and traffickers," La Verne resident Diedre Vail said.

"I didn't think of it in terms of seeking out versus being victimized by. Maybe with the hopelessness of the smugglers, they're in the same predicament and trying to survive."

Others said the presentation of the information was as important as the content, as it made it easier to digest.

"I think one of the things that was really helpful was thinking about how he incorporates his previous work in archaeology and cultural anthropology," said Lauren Crossland-Marr, assistant professor of anthropology. "It's difficult because oftentimes we make things more complex, but by accessing these stories we can add faces to the issue."

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Music nostalgia excites large crowd

Ethan Anderson
LV Life Editor



Ethan Anderson

DJ Drod plays 1990s and 2000s music at the Sunday Gossip Brunch at Maxximo Italian Restaurant and Banquet Hall in downtown Pomona. This was the first brunch at Maxximo, and was so popular that tickets were sold out.

Music resurrected from the 1990s and 2000s bumped through Maxximo Italian Restaurant's banquet hall Sunday as guests indulged in bottomless mimosas and danced till their hearts' content (or till their knees hurt) at Gossip Sundays Brunch.

On the corner of Thomas Street and Fourth Street in downtown Pomona, this the first Sunday brunch at Maxximo.

The Sunday brunch started at noon and went until 3 p.m.

The party, however, went until 6 p.m.

John Pena, the owner of Maxximo, is a successful businessman who owns other popular establishments in downtown Pomona.

"In Pomona, I own El Jefe, I own Carnival, I'm part owner of Luchador, and I own Krazy J's," Pena said. "This is the first brunch we are doing at Maxximo."

Maxximo Italian Restaurant and Banquet Hall held more than 300 guests as tickets quickly sold out and the ladies showed out.

"I've been doing brunches at El Jefe for about three years," Pena said.

"So I wanted to make sure that once it got a little bit warmer, we start bringing it over here."

By noon, a line of hundreds grew along Fourth Street, along with anticipation as the DJ started his set.

"This is the first brunch right here, sold out. I heard the idea and I said, 'Sign me up, I'm here,'" DJ Blue said.

DJ Blue and his partner, DJ Drod planned a set that consisted of '90s and 2000s music, a sound that is nostalgic and seemingly back from the dead.

"All '90s and 2000s seems to be a trend right now," DJ Blue said. "I feel like you can never remake that stuff, you know what I'm saying?"

With bottomless mimosas at the price of $49.87, many took advantage of the all-you-can drink buffet.

Mini pastries, bruschetta, parfaits, toast, fruit and a chocolate tower were served to guests as they waited for the main courses: eggs, bacon, bagels, meatballs, salad, ravioli a la crème, toasts and french toast.

The majority of the crowd was women of all ages, many of whom showed off their dance moves.

The banquet hall had about 30 tables, each seating up to 10 guests.

The tables were decorated with mini trees that had branches fashioned with white flowers.

Chandelier-like planters hung from the ceiling above the tables, home to ivy plants whose leaves reached over the edges of the planters.

"As far as decor, I think they could've geared it toward Valentine's Day. I feel like I'm at a quinceañera," Janet Desantiago said. "But it's nice, it's cool, it's loud; it feels like a party."

Pink LED lights traced the edges of the textured ceiling, adding to the dainty ambiance.

Disco lights and lasers shot across the room as people began getting groovy in line while waiting for food.

Waitresses wore pink one-piece bikinis and worked hard getting mimosas and champagne to each of the tables.

"We had a couple of walk-ups, so we kind of oversold a little bit, but so far, so good—running smooth and rolling with the punches," event coordinator Ruben Jacquez said.

"We want to create a safe environment for young adults to come drink, dine, dance and have fun."

The next Sunday brunch is March 3, where DJ's will feature reggaeton.

The following Sunday, March 9, will be Maxximo's third Sunday brunch.

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Barbecue honors Black History Month

To honor Black History Month, the Black Student Union and the Campus Activities Board teamed up to host a barbecue Tuesday night on the Citrus Lawn.

Many students came out to enjoy the food and a sense of community.

Food, courtesy of SoCal BBQ & Catering, included brisket, potato salad and much more.

There was line-dancing, a photo booth and red, yellow and black balloons, the colors of the pan-African flag.

"It was a great event and it really showed the diversity of La Verne," said freshman Kayla Covington, who attended.

Black History Month began as a way to honor important people in the history of the African diaspora.

Initially a week-long celebration, in 1970 it was expanded to last the full month of February.

—Alicia Naranjo

Festival showcases bird friends



Thatiana Gibbs

Young artist Alex Murray displays a hand drawn portrait of the Peregrine Falcon towering behind him on Sunday at the Family Bird Festival in the California Botanic Garden in Claremont.

Concert highlights hope, resistance

Songs praise inner beauty

Marina Bravo
Staff Writer



Vicente Rodriguez

Michal Dawson Connor performs with Robert Blake on the piano at the Morgan Auditorium on Sunday. The music was based on Connor's own arrangements of African American spirituals. He shared personal stories about his family history and how they inspired him.

"Songs of Hope and Resistance" was the title of the University of La Verne's Black History Month celebratory concert Sunday, hosted by the music department.

Michal Dawson Connor moved the audience in Morgan Auditorium with powerful African American spirituals he arranged, poems, letters and instrumental pieces.

Hope and resistance are exactly what vocalist Connor left with his audience and etched in the auditorium by singing touching songs like "Plaint of the Black Swan," "Angels Watching Over Me" and "Somebody's Knocking."

Conner shared personal stories about his family history and how it has inspired him to use his gifts to empower others and to reach an understanding.

"I'm bringing (music) not to just Black people, but to all people," Connor said. "It can only help bring more understanding…putting yourself into somebody else's shoes."

Connor shared how family oriented his musical upbringing was through spirituals.

He shared how his great grandmother taught him how to sing, "Somebody's Knocking" and how it's very special for him to remember.

The audience was able to immerse themselves in Connor's emotional expression and storytelling abilities.

Accompanying him was the University's own Sylvia Lee Mann, La Verne Symphony Orchestra director and violist.

Mann was featured in Connor's original piece "The Plaint of the Black Swan," along with pianist Robert Blake. This instrumental piece tells the story of an only black swan, who doesn't realize how beautiful she is and her journey of self-discovery.

This piece in particular hit home for many, including students.

"'The Plaint of the Black Swan' resonated with me especially because of the message of the black swan not recognizing her own beauty. I really loved the viola and the song," said senior biology major Jenieva Black.

> 'His performance infused each note with hope, strength, and incredible beauty.'
> *—Grace Zhao, music department chair*

"His performance infused each note with hope, strength, and incredible beauty," Zhao said.

Connor even shared how University of La Verne Music Department Chair Grace Zhao said she thought Connor brought his emotional intensity to each arrangement.

singing has helped him connect with his community around him during difficult times like the during the pandemic and the recent Altadena fires.

Connor dedicated the piece "Angels Watching Over Me" to two dear friends.

"I dedicate this song to them because of their constant faith," Connor said.

"I'm very glad I came out. It's important … because it brings people together," said senior educational studies major Lilly Dyer.

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Art Walk provides safe space for local artists

Margaret Contreras
Editor-in-Chief

Artists and vendors lined the streets and galleries across downtown Ontario's art district Saturday evening for the city's quarterly Art Walk, an event that allows local artists to show and sell their art.

There were food vendors and food trucks, selling Mexican and Salvadorian food, pizza, crepes, churros, desserts and more.

There was also beer and non-alcoholic drinks, smoothies and horchata. Artists sold items such as handmade bags, pins, jewelry, crochet accessories, T-shirts and framed paintings and prints by local artists. A tattoo artist was also on hand offering tattoos for $50 each.

"This is my first time doing this Art Walk," said Zenesia G. from Imperfect Creationz. "I like the vibe here. I am actually going to display some of my artwork in (Holt x Palm) next month."

Art stores and galleries along the streets of the event were open for guests to buy art, supplies and more.

"I make all the copper rings," Cruz Osorino, owner of Oso Handcraft said, showing her jewelry on display. "The stones come from Mexico and I test which ones work together."

When guests purchased or even inquired about what the vendors were offering, they would give them a raffle ticket.

There were drawings with prizes awarded throughout the evening.

"I create music," said Jordan Carey, a Riverside-based hip-hop artist. "All these albums here are my music. I also make pins."

Some of the vendors selling their own artworks and crafts, created them during the event.

Some said they also participate at other local art walks and local conventions such as Comic-Con and Collect-A-Con.

"We like to do these kinds of things," graphic designer Jose Angel said. "The people we meet at these places are really cool."

Galleries, including Ontario's Untitled Art Gallery, displayed artwork from artists across the region.

"We want them to have a safe place to allow them to display their art," said Diana Echeverria, an event coordinator. "Some of these artists have other jobs that have nothing to do with being creative. Our goal is to be objective. They post their art on social media and that is how we find them."

"We had a pretty good turn out for it being cold in February," Osornio said. "It does get bigger when we have warmer weather."

The quarterly Ontario Art Walk takes place the third Saturday of February, May, August and November.

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Leopards can't complete comeback

Lexi Giacobbe
Staff Writer

It was a competitive game from the La Verne Leopards baseball team but fell short to the University Of Chicago, 6-3, on Sunday at Ben Hines Field.

Chicago came out swinging against the sophomore pitcher Mikey Rogozik who started the game off strong with his fastball.

He struggled on the mound in the third inning to throw strikes and find the zone.

Rogozik ended his day with four earned runs, three walks and four strikeouts in 2.1 innings.

"The first inning gave Chicago alot of momentum and confidence, after we got doubled off," junior catcher Nate Perry said.

The Leopards were in a tough situation in the third when senior pitcher Ethan Galindo came in to pitch.

The bases were loaded for Chicago freshman first baseman Max Wiesner. He sent a towering fly ball to left center field for a grand slam.

Galindo bounced back and helped the Leopards stay in the game. He ended the day with two earned runs and one strikeout in 1.2 innings pitched.

On the other hand, Chicago senior pitcher Drew Bryan had a dominant pitching performance. He was keeping the Leopards offense on their heels.

It was not until the fifth inning that Nate Perry sent a double over the right fielder's head to get the Leopards' offense going.

Senior outfielder Jason Givens then hit a single up the middle to drive in the run and end Bryan's day.

He gave up three hits, one earned run, one walk and three strikeouts.

"Our guys battled hard. We had a really good pitching performance from McFadden," head coach Scott Winterburn said. "I am proud of the way we fought."

Some outstanding performances from the Leopards was junior pitcher Justin McFadden, who made quick work of the Chicago offense.

He threw a lot of strikes and kept his pitch count low to keep the Leopards in the game, throwing 3.2 shutout innings.

"I tell myself before I step on the mound that I did all the work during the week and offseason and it's time to go compete and remain calm through adversity if it comes my way in an outing and to adjust," McFadden said.

With little time left, the Leopards had to find a way to fight.

With one out in the eighth inning, senior third baseman Logan Corthel hit a triple over the right fielder's head to get the offense going.

"Keeping it simple works best for me. See the ball, hit the ball." Corthel said.

Senior first baseman Noah Garcia hit a ground ball to score the runner from third but the Leopards still trailed 6-2.

"Our strength is our offense; it's capable of stringing together some really big innings," Winterburn said.

With two outs senior designated hitter Matt Diaz walked which kept the Leopard alive.

Junior right fielder Jake Hernandez walked and Perry hit a single to left to score the Leopards' final run to make the game 6-3.

"We had an unfortunate inning. Our guys fought hard all day. Chicago had some really good arms, our guys battled, we got ourselves back into the game but we just ran out of time," Winterburn said.

The Leopards head to Oregon this weekend to play Lewis and Clark and Pacific University.

"We are heading out there to compete. It is going to be cold but we will play anywhere and the Leopards favor the rain," Perry said.

The Leopards' first game against Pacific University will be at 2 p.m. Friday. The game will be available to watch on Flow Sports.

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College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List, Fall 2024

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

Hassan Abdul-Qawi
Tess Adlam
Mario Aguayo
Katheryn Aguirre
Marynieves Aguirre
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Isabella Alvarez
Jadan Alvarez
Janessa Alvarez
Syndri Alvarez
Abigail Ampong
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Isabella Arrues
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Cherie Atalor
Brandon Aun
Min Aung
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Jennifer Avelar-Cobian
Samantha Avila
Sandra Avila
Brenda Ayala
Annabelle Baggio
Rylee Balatico-Fujioka
Brandy Bantau
Troy Barnard
Bella Barrera
Aiman Begum
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James Berumen
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Gelsey Chan
Erick Chavez
Ruthanne Chipeta
Uzoamaka Chukwu
Maya Coles
Jessica Coorey
Anthony Correra
Kayla Covington
Logan Cruz
Christopher Cummings
Brooklyn Daley
Martrisha Davis
Helen Davtyan
Sara Dawidian
Jayleen De La Cruz
Stephanie Del Rio
Nicholas Diaz
Nicholas Dien
William Dodge
Gregory Dominguez
Miles Dripps
Gina Ehlenburg
Leila El Sabbagh
Maximus Elder
Eden Engebretsen
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Samantha Franz
Emily Freeman
Giana Froio
Taylor Fukunaga
Meena Furutan
Benjamin Galaz
Aidan Galindo
Lorelie Garces
Alejandra Garcia
Hailey Garcia
Liberty Garcia
Lizzette Garcia
Nathan Garcia
Aidan Garvey
Meriam Gerges
Jazlyn Gholizadeh
Riley Godfrey
Alexander Gomez
Natalie Gomez
Ricardo Gomez
Tadeo Gomez
Belynda Gonzales
Garrett Gonzales
Audrey Gonzalez
Diego Gonzalez
Emma Gonzalez
Everlyn Gonzalez
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Marcus Lewinsohn
Preston Lieu
Olegario Lita
Daniel Liu
Lizette Longoria
Damien Lopez
Denise Lopez
Samantha Lopez-Velasquez
Mia Lozano
Samantha Lujano
Phoebe Jonahlyn Luu
Nati Macias
Sofia Magno-Garcia
Vanessa Maldonado
Nadia Manzano
Matthew Markey
Charlotte Marquez
Kimson Martinez
Matthew Martinez
Trevor Martinez
Esperanza Martinez-Morales
Amore Mason
Kael Matias
Aracely Maturino
Alec Maxwell
Jessica Maya
Machaela McLain
Jacquelyne Medina
Marcelino Mejia Marban
Valeree Mendez
Alexander Mendez-Morales
Roselyn Mendoza
Stephen Meredith
DeAnthony Merritt
Vanessa Miranda
Onika Mitchell
Jessica Molina
Madeline Molinar
Ryan Molloy
Kevin Moncayo
Joseph Montes
Megan Montez
Giselle Morales
Karen Morales
Krystal Morales
Madyson Morales
Mark Morales
Lauren Morales Pasquier
Maya Morrell
Abigale Morrison
Ruben Munoz Sanchez
Jolette Murillo
Edwin Navarro
Miguel Navarro
Kaitlin Neal
Crystal Neitman
Adam Newell
Sean Newland
Albert Nguyen
Patricia Nguyen
Joseph Nicosia
Quinn Novak
Samantha Nunez
Reese Oliver
Jizelle Ortega
Kevin Ortega
Taiz Ortega
Isabel Ortiz
Isabelle Ortiz-Luis
Audrie Pagano
Kyle Palmer
Marijo Pena
Denise Perez
Serina Perez
Haley Pham
Brenden Pi
Olivier Pimpare-Charbonneau
Grace Pollock
Marin Porter
Jasmine Prajitno
Andres Pranza
Lindsey Preciado
Adrianna Procida
Dalya Qahtan
Marlene Quinones-Echeverria
Michael Quirarte
Isabella Rabelo Dos Santos
Sarah Ramos
Vivianna Razon
Ryan Reaza
Stephanie Redmond
Eden Reyes
Joseph Reyes
Matthew Rice
Xavier Rice
Steven Rios
Jonathan Rivera
Raquel Rivera
Gabriel Robinson
Justine Robinson
Diana Robles
Michael Roccia
Christopher Rodriguez
Desteny Rodriguez
Karina Rodriguez
Vicente Rodriguez
Christopher Rogers
Jacob Romaine
Ashley Rueda
Shanelle Ruelas
Andrew Ruiz
James Rumsey
Olivia Russo
Melanie Saenz
Nicolas Saenz
Andrew Salaiza
Emily Salisbury
Adrian San Martin
Kelly Sanchez
Maya Sanchez
Natalia Sanchez
Kimberly Sandoval
Sarah Sandoval
Jesus Santiago
Marbella Santiago
Talar Sarkissian
Aiden Scaletta
Roxlynn Schott
Lily Schubert
Spencer Scott
Juan Serna
Aseel Shalabi
Sophia Sharifi
Mohamed Shilleh
Omar Shilleh
Madison Silva
Logan Simmons
Zachary Smail
Autumn Smith
Yvonne Solorio Ramos
Charles Sorbel
Julia Soto
Jayla Spence
Matthew Statler
Avery Stewart
Zhigang Su
Madelyn Sugita
Shelby Summerhays
Amnaa Taha
Dakoda Talamantes
Shirley Tan
Maylah Taylor
Nathan Terrazas
Julia Thomas
Natalie Topete
Michael Torre
Amandalys Torres
Gino Torres
Winston Tran
Joaquin Trinidad
Allie Tucker
Andrew Valdez
Emily Valdez
Johanna Vargas
Nicole Vasquez
Jasmine Vazquez
Sergio Velez Valentin
Natalie Vidarte
Zarah Vidriezca
Isabella Villalobos
Reiniery Villalta
Valeria Villasenor
Ashlee Viveros
Isaac Vizcarra
Alfred Vonhundley
Yijia Wang
Taylor Ward
Lucas Watts
Mariah West
Lauren Williams
Ava Wilson
Kendall Winn
Natalie Wong
April Wright
Madison Xie
Austine Xu
Imunique York
Zhanfeng Yu
Morgan Zafra
Christen Ziska

Gold medalist inspires ULV athletes

Speaker shares her journey

Zachary Grech
Staff Writer

A "Gold Standard" motivational speaking event was hosted by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Tuesday, in the Athletic Pavilion before an audience of about 20.

The speaker was three-time Olympic gold medalist-turned motivational speaker and author of "The Gold Standard: 14 Ways to Live a Life of Excellence"

Leah Amico, who was on the Olympic gold medal-winning U.S. softball teams in 1996, 2000 and 2004, discussed how to navigate life as an athlete with resilience.

Amico talked about her athletic journey in softball. Through hard work and dedication to her sport she found major success first in high school as a league champion at Don Antonio Lugo High in Chino. In college she won three national championships at The University of Arizona, then she was on to the Olympics.

"I believe just the competitiveness to chase greatness and wanting to do it with other people… that impacted them, and they impacted me," Amico said.

"And each setting I was in, we found ways to achieve our best possible outcome."

Amico said she prided herself on being a hard-working athlete who had to earn her success compared to other athletes who she considered more gifted. She said the formula to her success started with the "gold standard" mindset that she wanted to share with the audience.

"I believe that you have to be disciplined and when you put in the work, you're going to overcome even your ability that you have," Amico said.

She referred to her "map of excellence," where she focuses on three points: mindset, action, and people. Amico said that if you can take care of these three categories it will pave the way for greatness. Amico's message resonated with her audience.

"She talked about accountability and being your true self, which like she said, doesn't mean just making everyone else accept who you are, but wanting to be the best version of yourself," said Danielle Kaminaka, La Verne softball coach, who attended the Tuesday talk.

"She's a girl from Chino, a local homegrown kid," women's volleyball coach Jeff Hendershot said.

"And I think if you're an athlete at La Verne and you come from the area or even if you don't, there's somebody right here that's done the things that you're going through and has gone on to play at the highest possible level."

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Anthony Eramya

Olympic gold medalist Leah Amico speaks about women in sports Tuesday in the Athletic Pavilion. Amico won three gold medals playing softball for Team USA in the 1996, 2000 and 2004 Olympics.

In her lecture she focused on three main points for the athletes. Their mindset, action and the people. When you take care of theses three areas it will pave away for greatness, the gold standard.

Beavers chew through Leopards' defense, 71-68

CC Flaherty
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team put up a good fight against the Caltech Beavers on Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court but fell short in the end, losing 71-68.

The energy and high level play was consistent throughout the game and it became physical between these two teams as they matched up for the last time this season.

La Verne held the lead throughout the first half, shooting 50% from field goal range and 40% from 3-point range.

With the score 16-10 at the end of the first quarter, the Leopards took advantage of every opportunity by playing scrappy, aggressive defense.

This put stress on Caltech's offense, causing miscommunications that led to turnovers. The Leopards had 10 points off of Caltech's turnovers in the first quarter.

The La Verne bench was a huge factor in the first half with nine out of the 18 points being scored was from players off the bench for La Verne compared to two of the 12 points being from Caltech's bench.

"I think for today, it's going to be important for our players off the bench to give us good focused minutes," head coach Anthony Mason said.

The Leopards continued to be aggressive from the 3-point line in the second quarter. They had great ball movement and a pass-cut-focused offense and used their screen method strategically.

La Verne's defense kept Caltech shooting only 33% in the first half and the Leopards went into halftime leading, 34-22.

Senior guard Marissa Howell had 16 points and three 3-pointers.

"I try not to look at any games as any pressure," Howell said. "Because at the end of the day we go out there to have fun and try to remember that I am supposed to be out there having fun.

Win or lose, I am just going to try my hardest."

The Beavers came out ready to fight in the second half. The score became closer as the Beavers were making more of their 3-point shots and driving in the paint to get fouled.

Caltech outscored the Leopards in the third quarter, 19-15. The Beavers' defense held La Verne to just 28% shooting from the paint and 22% from the three.

"At this point in the season, we are looking at our mistakes and working on cleaning it up. Along with how to execute better down the stretch," Mason said.

As the clock counted down, the fourth quarter was one to remember. The Beavers kept their offensive rhythm going by shooting 73% from the field goal range along with 100% from the 3-point line.

The Leopards didn't back down, especially sophomore forward Alyssa Smith, with assists from junior guard Christen Ziska and Howell.

Both Ziska and Howell contributed with strong shooting from the floor and with staying aggressive and driving in to get fouled.

Their free throw shooting helped keep them neck-and-neck with the Beavers.

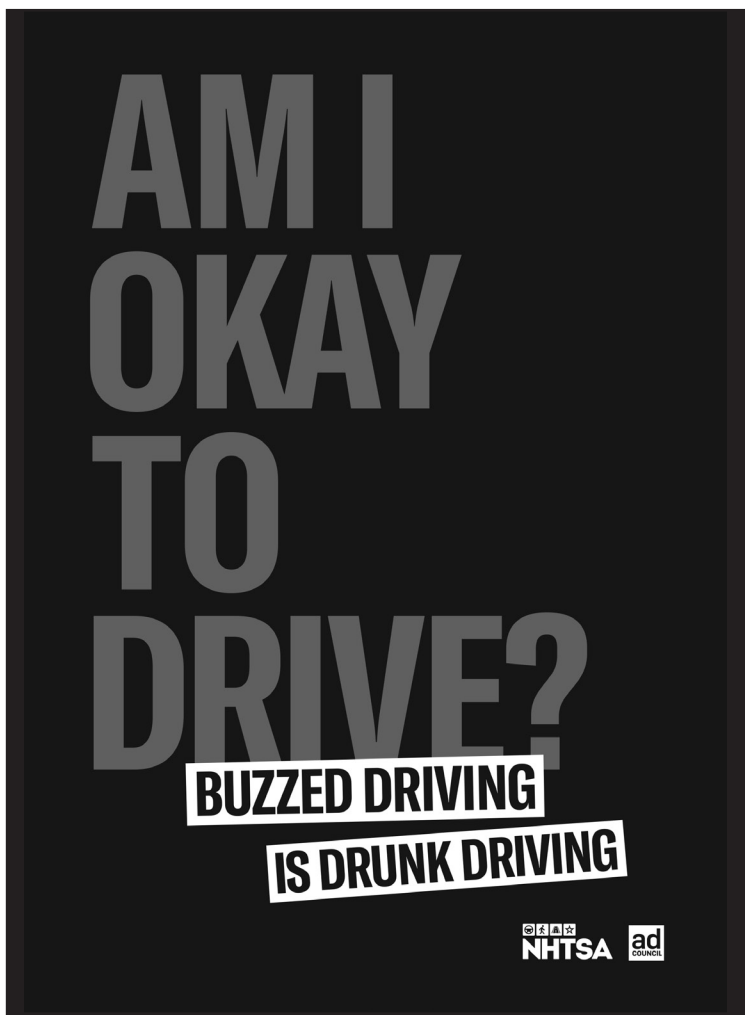
However, it was not enough as a late surge gave Caltech the win, 71-68.

"The team's mindset is to go out there and compete to the best of our ability and let the results take care of themselves," Mason said.

The loss makes La Verne's record 7-16 overall and 4-11 in Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play.

The Leopards will take on the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens at 2 p.m. Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court for their senior night.

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Leopards begin season with victory

Leila El Sabbagh
Sports Editor



Christen Ziska

Ashley Rodriguez, La Verne senior center fielder, approaches a celebration by her teammates at home plate after she hit a homerun Monday afternoon against Brandeis. The Leopards were fueled by the first inning blast and kept their momentum going, coming out with a win over Brandeis, 9-1, in the second game of their doubleheader.

Leopards softball was able to walk away with their first wins of the season against Brandeis with a doubleheader sweep, 7-5 and 9-1, Monday at Campus West.

The Leopards started off strong with a one-two-three inning by freshman pitcher Briana Vasquez. The bottom of the first inning is where La Verne struck first. Leadoff hitter and senior outfielder Angelina Alderete was hit by a pitch to get the ball rolling.

Laying down a bunt, senior outfielder Sydney Diaz reached first on an error then senior outfielder Ashley Rodriguez struck out swinging.

With one out, senior catcher Alyssa Campbell hit a bomb over the left field fence to score three runs, giving the Leopards an early 3-0 lead.

"It really feels good honestly," Campbell said. "I feel like it started momentum for our team, so I was happy to be able to participate in putting our runs on the board."

The top of the second inning was another three up, three down for La Verne with an incredible play made by sophomore second baseman Julia Miramontes where she was able to snag a high line drive to get the second out.

"I feel like our team has really had that chemistry and it was just so fun to ball out with these girls today," Miramontes said.

Heading into the top of the third inning, Brandeis was able to answer back, scoring a scrappy two runs to update the score to 3-2 La Verne.

The fourth inning was another big one for the Leopards. Miramontes was able to sit on a changeup, finding the five-six hole between Brandeis graduate student third baseman Haley Nash and junior shortstop Bells Burdenski.

To keep the momentum going, Alderete was able to lay down a bunt and beat it out, moving Miramontes to third after she stole second.

After a strikeout by Diaz, Rodriguez had an RBI fly out to center bringing in one run, bringing the Leopards up, 4-2.

During Campbell's fourth at-bat Rodriguez stole third to put herself in scoring position then came home on a wild pitch, giving the Leopards a three-run lead, 5-2.

"I think that's something we practice for," Campbell said. "It happened a lot last season so just reminding each other that we have to keep it simple and letting the little things go."

The Leopards struggled during the top of the sixth with Brandeis able to bring in a run, making the score 5-3.

Senior pitcher Kirstin Sanchez came into the game looking to secure the win for the Leopards.

The top of the sixth is where the Leopards sealed the win, scoring two runs on an RBI hit by Rodriguez, updating the score to 7-3 La Verne.

At the top of the seventh, Brandeis junior right fielder Maddie Manes hit a two-RBI double to make the score 7-5. However, Sanchez was able to regroup and strike out the final batter to cement the La Verne win.

"I'm glad I could come in and push through for my team," Sanchez said. "We just need to keep this same energy, take the momentum every inning and win every pitch."

This is La Verne head coach Danielle Kaminaka's first win as Leopards head coach.

"I'm so excited for this season and am so proud of everything that my players did today," coach Kaminaka said. "We're ready to get the next win though that's for sure."

The Leopards took the second game of the doubleheader in five innings, winning 9-1.

Their next game will be a doubleheader against George Fox at noon March 1 at Campus West.

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Aggressive approach leads to win for men's team

Tati Foor
Staff Writer

The La Verne men's basketball team ended their five game losing streak on Saturday with a 65-48 win against Caltech Beavers at Frantz Athletic Court.

La Verne's aggressive offensive approach was led by senior Logen Howard, who had a game high of 22 points.

"Coach (Richard) Reed gives us plays where I am able to play off the ball and keep moving," Howard said. "As long as I keep moving I can call up the sets and then get the ball when the time is right."

La Verne took control over Caltech early in the game, taking a 35-19 lead going into halftime.

The Leopards' offensive trio of guards consisting of Howard, junior Cody Aquino and graduate student Paul Antonis were too strong for the Beavers' defense to contain.

"When I was on the court I was looking at the match-ups," Aquino said. "I saw that they were guarding Paul and Logen tighter because they know they are our main scorers, so I took what I can get."

> 'We only have two games left. We would like to win both games, to send our seniors out on a high note. We owe it to the seniors and to the alums at the game to finish this season out strong.'
> *–Richard Reed, head coach*

La Verne's aggressive approach offensively kept Caltech's defense knocked off balance throughout the entire game.

The 17-point lead at the half allowed the Leopards to maintain control throughout the rest of the game, which made it difficult for the Beavers to have a chance of coming back and winning.

"We talked a lot about our jobs," Antonis said.

"And how important it is for each individual person to fill their roles and do what they're supposed to do."

The victory showcased La Verne's ability to effectively stick to their game plan from start to finish.

It was something that head coach Richard Reed emphasized was crucial to breaking the team's losing streak.

"We had to do a better job rebounding," Reed said.

"But we wanted to win the battle of the boards… we got a nice little lead and we were able to hold on at the end."

This win held special significance for Antonis, who recently achieved the milestone of 1,000 career points.

"It feels really good because I put in a lot of work to be able to get to where I am today," Antonis said.

"Being able to come back through every injury even stronger has been really important for me, but I couldn't have done it without the help of my coaches and teammates and the athletic training staff here."

As a team, this victory also carries added meaning as the season approaches its final stretch.

"We only have two games left," Reed said.

"We would like to win both games, to send our seniors out on a high note. We owe it to the seniors and to the alums at the game to finish this season out strong."

The Leopards were unable to bring home a win against Occidental on Monday, having lost 89-87.

Their record now sits at 7-16 overall and 2-12 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The team's final game will be against Pomona-Pitzer at 4 p.m. on Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court for Senior Night.

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