Campus Times

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Lecture brings needed conversation

Ethan Anderson
LV Life Editor



Jai'la Counts

Senior criminology major Malcolm Jones and senior biology major Jenieva Black facilitate a discussion about ableism and classism Wednesday in the Ludwick Center. The talk was part of the weekly Belongingness lecture series.

Ableism and classism were the topics of Wednesday's "Belongingness" lecture event coordinated by the University's Center for Multicultural Services.

Fourteen community members attended the midday event in the Ludwick Center, which also offered engaging activities.

The event was headed by senior biology major Jenieva Black and senior criminology major Malcom Jones. Black covered ableism, and Jones considered classism.

"In general, we in society don't really have open and honest conversations anymore, or we don't really penetrate the surface," Black said. "All of the issues that we talk about in these lectures are super important and relevant to all of us."

Student participants reflected on these social issues, first by doing a visual exercise to determine what daily activity they enjoy the most. Then they visualized what their lives would look like if they did not have the attributes that allow them to do the daily actions.

Black said activities like opening doors, climbing stairs, and verbally communicating, can all be taken from able-bodied people in an instant.

These conversations do not always happen, let alone in a formal, academic setting.

"I hope that that makes people more aware of the issues and more comfortable discussing them because this type of dialogue is necessary in society," Black said.

Students were then given statements surrounding the theme of ableism and students moved from the "agree" side of the room to "disagree" based on their answers to the statements.

Statements and questions like "I think of disabilities on a daily basis," "someone close to me has a disability," and "I've teased someone before."

This engaging activity had everyone involved and students were given the opportunity after each question to make comments, which made for a very impactful dialogue. Students looked inward for their answers, creating a more introspective lecture.

"It was really interactive, which I was thinking it was going to be because Alesha is a part of it," freshman business administration major Remynyse Gilliam said. "She always makes the setting very engaging."

The speakers encouraged these perhaps uncomfortable conversations and during the classism part of the lecture, students were randomly split up into three groups: working class, middle class, and upper class.

Each class was represented by posters with a small list of factors of each class. For example, the middle class poster had a "stable caregiver," representing the middle class's ability to provide, although not always comfortably.

"I think conversations about class are important and it's something we don't really talk about a whole lot in America, and it's something that gets oversimplified," Jones said. "It's a conversation a lot of people aren't necessarily comfortable

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Boycotts bring DEI importance to light

Olivia Russo
News Editor

President Donald Trump, since entering office, has taken many actions to rollback diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, by threatening to withdraw funding where applicable with various types of retaliation for those who don't comply with his so-called anti-woke agenda.

While some companies have obeyed in advance to avoid such penalties, others have reinforced their commitment to these initiatives.

Diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives were created to promote equal opportunity for those populations that have been traditionally disadvantaged and discriminated against. They call for companies to have a diverse range of employees from different backgrounds to create a more inclusive workplace. Additionally, DEI programs promote fairness and inclusiveness in hiring.

With the Trump Administration issuing an executive order to end all federal DEI programs, some of the companies rolling back their DEI programs include Amazon, Walmart, Target and Google, whose CEOs want to stay on the President's good side, so they may benefit from his initiatives that may make them richer.

Organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, have released a "Black Consumer Advisory," which urges Black Americans, and others who value diversity,

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On the Cover

La Verne's Briana Vasquez, freshman pitcher from Los Angeles, takes the mound for the Leopards during the second game of their doubleheader against Bethel on Saturday at Campus West. She pitched an impressive complete game, with five strikeouts and only allowing three hits to win, 10-1. These efforts scored her Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week honors. / photo by Christen Ziska

Arts, *etc...*

Happenings

'Made You Look'

"Made You Look," an art exhibit curated by Gajin Fujita and featuring a variety of Southern California artists who are influenced by street art, is on display in the Harris Gallery on campus through March 21.

Inspirations for each piece vary from lowrider cars to surfing culture.

The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information visit **artsci.laverne.edu/art/exhibition/made-you-look-curated-by-gajin-fujita**.

'Hollow Flame'

The Eclipse Quartet returns to Harvey Mudd College with "Hollow Flame," a concert that includes debuting composers Bill Alves and Boston-based composer Howard Franzin. The concert will also feature two quartets singing compositions by Los Angeles-based composer Akyshaya Avirl Tucker. The concert will take place at 7 p.m. on March 30 in Drinkward Recital Hall at Harvey Mudd College.

Admission is free. For more information visit arts.**hmc.edu/The-Eclipse-Quartet-Spring-2025**.

Han Na Park

Han Na Park performs ballads and nocturnes by Chopin at 7 p.m. April 6 in the Drinkward Recital Hall at Harvey Mudd Colleges.

Admission is free. For more information visit **arts.hmc.edu/Han-Na-Park-Spring-2025**.

'SoCal Critters'

The American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona is hosting a new exhibition of ceramic animals by artist Howard Pierce. The exhibit and event aim to raise awareness of local wildlife and conservation efforts.

The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the exhibit will close on June 29.

Tickets are $5 per person or $15 per group of four.

For more information visit **amoca.org/events/critters.**

—Zachary

Morgan Auditorium gets Shamrocked

by Marina Bravo

photography by Vicente Rodriguez



Vocalist Kitty Tereszczuk, guitarist Michael Ryan and vocalist Anne Johnson perform one of Ryan's original songs for the "Spirit of Ireland" concert at Morgan Auditorium. The annual performance showcases all kinds of Irish songs and part of the Sundays at the Morgan concert series.

On Sunday, the University of La Verne community was able to travel across the sea – in their seats – and experience the artistic world of Ireland. Through singing, dancing and instrumental music.

The auditorium was packed Sunday with an anticipating audience for the annual "Spirit of Ireland" concert.

This event was presented and led by the University's very own Michael Ryan, songwriter and professor of music.

About 250 La Verne community members attended.

There were seven total musicians, with Michael Ryan on guitar and vocals, Hai Muradian on flute and vocals, Ken Soderland on guitar and vocals, Danny Oberbeck on vocals and guitar and his son, Dylan Oberbeck, on vocals and mandolin. Julian Johnson played stand-up bass and vocalists Kitty Tereszczuk and Anne Johnson rounded out the band.

Nora Meugniot, junior kinesiology major, shared how she had attended the event for an honors assignment and was going in blind.

When asked about coming back, she was certain she would return next year.

"I came last year and I really like music," Giselle Movalas, a junior creative writing major said. "I really like music and hearing [the band] is great."

The concert also featured dancers of the Tamora School of Irish Dance, Bridgette Murphy and Bethany Hutchins.

"I have been dancing for 16 years and been a part of [this production] for nine years including the pandemic," Murphy said. "I am from an Irish household… and [Irish dance] has always been a part of my culture and heritage."

> 'It is a La Verne music tradition. [Irish] music has so much soul. It has melancholy, it has fun, it has incredible dance and it's just beautiful.'
> *—Grace Zhao, music department chair*

Both returning performers of the event shared their passion for Irish dance and what it meant to them.

"I have been dancing for 10 years and have been a part of this program for six years," Hutchins said. "It is just really special and then being able to show the world that, like, this is my gift."

Along with the dancers, the music had everyone clapping and singing along. There were all kinds of themes to the pieces.

Some were emotional with stories of perseverance. Some were energetic and about being a "lucky guy."

Ryan captivated the audience with an emotional solo performance of "The Fields Of Athenry," where the song had themes of longing and reflection.

The rest of the group showcased their musical talents throughout the show. Playing songs like, "Bottom of a Guinness," "Head over Heels," "All for Me Grog" and Ryan's favorite, "Black Velvet Band," which encouraged the audience to follow and sing along.

"It's 15 years of the show," Ryan said. "Every time I get together with these guys and play, it's like magic."

There is so much history and community that is celebrated in this show, it's so easy to see why it's so special to not only the performers but the La Verne community.

Music Department Chair Grace Zhao encourages people to come out and see the show.

There are many musical events that happen on the University campus but this one in particular is one of a kind.

"It is a La Verne music tradition," Zhao said. "[Irish] music has so much soul. It has melancholy, it has fun, it has incredible dance and it's just beautiful."

This performance was part of the music department's concert series Sundays at the Morgan with more events like this one coming soon.

*Marina Bravo can be reached at **marina.bravo@laverne.edu**.*

Upland artist makes statement through colors and textures

Chaffey Community Museum of Art has an exhibition of the work by Upland-born artist William Graber running through April 20.

The museum has displayed Graber's work throughout the main gallery.

Graber, part of the Ontario Graber olive family, currently resides in Montana. His art is a mix of sculptures and two dimensional work of materials that can be found in everyday life. The bright colors and different shapes of the sculptures are seen throughout the exhibit.

"He is really an enigma to me," museum board member Ruby Leavitt said.

"I feel like his art is a statement that he sounds conflicted. Introspect what this art means to you."

He chose bright colors such as red, blue, oranges and green.

The two dimensional works had a lot of art within the art, such as pictures of buildings, painted on road and colors both muted and bright.

There are a couple of sculptures that take the shape of a person.

There were a few sculptures that did not have the bright multi-color theme, but just one color.

One was all black that looked like a crescent moon arching over what was underneath it.

The art by William Graber are available for purchase within the museum, the prices vary depending on the piece and size.

Chaffey Community Museum of Art in Ontario is open from noon to 4 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays.

Admission is free.

–Margaret Contreras

DEI...

Continued from page 2

to not shop from companies that have rolled back DEI.

The Latino Freeze Movement, likewise has also urged Hispanic Americans allies to stop spending their money entirely at places that do not support DEI.

"I think there's power in numbers," said Allyson Villa, a junior psychology major who said she supports the Latino Freeze Movement.

"I think that when people actually participate in things like this, it can make a difference."

Boycotts have been a popular method to inspire change and to show companies that their own consumers are not happy with their company decisions. The problem, however, is getting enough people to make a change that the company listens to.

"It's just the power of our economy now is so much at the top of big companies," Rick Hasse, professor of accounting and finance, said. "There's no more small mom-and-pop businesses or small companies that can be affected by a boycott. But Amazon and Walmart control about 75% of the retail sales."

"Marginalized groups already are not that high up," Villa said. "So when you're also basically telling them that you agree with this administration, you are saying that you don't really care about them. And why would I want to support that," Villa said.

Crtain boycotts have broken through. The economic blackout initiated by The People's Union USA. The boycott ran for the entire day of Feb. 28, and people were expected to not make any purchases, whether online or in person.

"I know there was a specific one on this past Friday," said Zaria Shabate, general manager of the Target in La Verne. Target is one of the numerous corporations that announced it would end DEI initiatives after Trump's inauguration. "We did feel that one a little bit, but as for February and this much of March, not so much."

Other companies that have followed the President's lead in ending DEI initiatives have felt the effects of boycotts to varying degrees.

Among the largest retailers, Walmart has seen a slight decline in revenue, while Amazon's sales have remained stable, the data shows.

Some businesses, such as Sprouts farmers Market based in Southern California, do not seem to have DEI on their radar.

Walter Sama, general manager of Sprouts in West Covina said he was unaware of the DEI commitment from the Sprouts corporate office, and was unaware of the concept of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Trader Joe's and Aldi stores, on the other hand, have both pledged to continue to support DEI initiatives in the workplace.

For information about companies that have made a commitment to DEI, go to resources like the Latino Freeze Movement website, the Black Consumer Advisory, and GlassDoor, which rates every company on their commitment to DEI.

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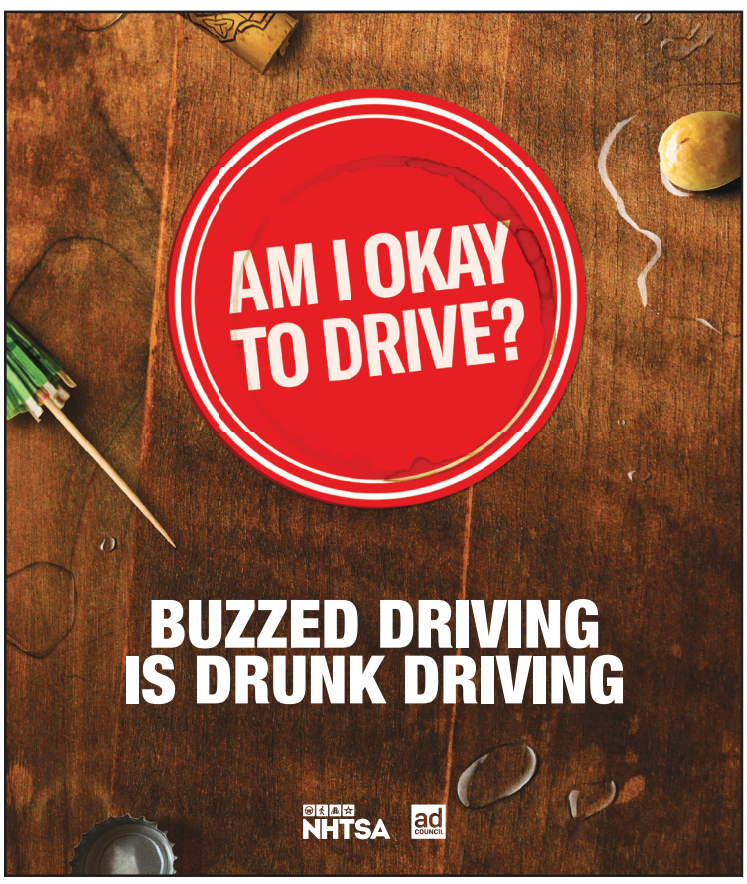

Orchestral concert features classics

Eric Linholm, professor of music and conductor at Pomona College, enthralled the audience leading a bold performance Sunday in Bridges Hall of Music on the Pomona College campus.

During the first half of the concert, the orchestra played music from "Hänsel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck and "Violin Concerto" by Alban Berg.

Violin soloist and Pomona sophomore Aria Wang played a beautiful section.

The orchestra featured strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion sections.

"When playing music, you gain a greater sense of appreciation for different kinds of styles," Wang said.

"You're more able to pick up details and analyze music that way."

"This was the popular music of its day," Lindholm said.

"There (are) some people who work on music today that hope it will still be heard in 100 years," Lindholm said.

"The music is written to be played by a large number of people, there is always going to be ways for all of the people who are performing to interact with one another."

For the second half of the show, Harvey Mudd College student and violin soloist Aimee Co displayed her gifts through her solo, "Violin Concerto in D" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

—Isabella Huerta

Lecture...

Continued from page 2

having on a grand scale, and I think that's something that should probably change."

The last portion of the lecture involved students walking over and standing next to the class they think best answers the question. Jones prompted them to go to the neighborhood they felt the most safe in. Every student of color moved to the working/middle class, and every white student was standing under the upper class poster. When the statement was flipped, so did the students to the opposite side.

"I feel like these are conversations that cause division, but in an academic setting you're able to take away your feelings and really dissect what's going on," Ahsha Jones, sophomore psychology major, said.

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

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Students silently hit the dance floor

Tati Foor
Staff Writer



Olivia Russo

DJ Santana plays music for students attending a Silent Disco hosted by the Campus Activities Board on Wednesday in the Campus Center Ballroom. Santana played popular hits into the headphones of those attending for a dance party that was silent to the outside world.

Students gathered in the Campus Center Ballroom and danced in what appeared to be complete silence, with headphones glowing in green as they moved to music only they could hear.

The Silent Disco was put on by the Campus Activities Board Wednesday with food and drinks included for guests. Featuring free Raising Cane's meals and Chick-Fil-A wraps as an additional draw, the event attracted about 30 students in all.

A silent disco is a dance party where attendees listen to music through headphones instead of speakers.

Typically, everyone participating can choose their own channel they want to listen to, however at this event there was only one channel so everyone was dancing to the same songs at the same time.

When watching from afar, it looks like a room of people dancing in complete silence.

The ballroom was decorated with bright colored decorations on the walls and a large open floor space for students to dance on.

The DJ's table was on one end, and on the opposite side of the room was a table set up that had free glowing sticks, glasses, bracelets and bunny ear headbands.

"Honestly, it was more than I expected," sophomore business major and event organizer, Emily Melkonyan, said. "I'm pretty happy with [the turnout] because a lot of people stayed to actually enjoy the silent disco dance, which I think is pretty cool."

Melkonyan had noted she had initial concerns about attendance because typically students just come to CAB events for the free food or merchandise and then leave, but about half of the people who showed up and got food ended up staying for the event itself.

This event was Melkonyan's first event of the spring semester as the CAB music chair. She mentioned that students can look forward to more events in the coming months, including a musical bingo night.

While the DJ maintained control over the music being played, students were welcome to make requests throughout the night. The playlist featured a diverse range of genres including Latin music, hip-hop and 2000s club music.

"The music was good," sophomore political science major Amyah Smith said. "2000s club music - Britney Spears, Kesha, Lady Gaga."

For some students, this wasn't their first silent disco experience. Senior educational studies major Lilly Dyer has attended CAB's silent disco events since her sophomore year.

"It's one of my top five things to do, I'm not even joking," Dyer said. "I feel like it's a lot of fun to dance and no one really knows if you're singing or not."

When asked whether the headphones made the experience more immersive or isolating, Dyer believed they enhanced the experience.

"I would say that I can be pretty extroverted anyway, but I think for someone who's more introverted, it can be good for them too," Dyer said. "Everyone can kind of do their own thing, but everyone's listening to the same thing."

CAB's engaging events like the silent disco exemplify how La Verne creates opportunities for students to interact and build community through fun activities. The campus center ballrooms are large and despite the turnout, freshman psychology major Mia Montano-Velasquez appreciated the communal aspect of the event.

"It feels so much better because everybody's listening to the same song," Montano-Velasquez said.

Tati Foor can be reached at ***tatiana.foor@laverne.edu.***

Fairplex Farm hosts gardening classes

The farm at the Fairplex in Pomona hosts four-week gardening classes through which participants can earn University of California vegetable gardening certificates.

The latest session runs every Sunday through March.

Besides certification, the class offers skills that can be applied to home and community gardens. Participants learn about plants and soil health, irrigation, composting, pest management, and small-space utilization.

At the end of the class, seeds, seedlings and cuttings from the plants on the farm are given out for those to take home and grow their own mini farms.

Volunteer and master gardener Adam Armit was on hand on a recent Sunday. He's been involved in this program since 2021, though he said he's been gardening and teaching classes for years.

This program started in 2018.

Another participant on hand Sunday was Ronnda Hamilton, a Long Beach-based chef.

"Growing vegetables started meaning a lot more to me," Hamilton said.

During breaks of class, participants could explore the farm for inspiration from fabulous fruits and vegetables, including strawberries, artichokes and various mint plants, including strawberry mint, orange mint, sweet pear mint and more.

The Fairplex farm also features numerous flowers, some of which are actually fruit blooms.

For more information visit **fairplex.com**.

—Alicia Naranjo

Yoga encourages relaxation

Johannah Bradley, owner and instructor at MPower Yoga, brought a wave of relaxation and emotional unity to her workshop titled "Love Wellness and Bloom" Saturday at the Garner House in Claremont.

The mood was set via bright sunlight, smiles and positive vibes.

A majority of the 20-or-so participants were trying yoga for the first time, and found that the workshop to be a great intro.

"I wanted something that was about wellness, women coming together and using this beautiful space for our community to get together," said Shelly Mei, event coordinator and Garner house manager.

"It was originally going to be a simple yoga session and then it turned into a full blown wellness event. I talked to Johanna, who then introduced me to Charlotte and it was just like a domino effect from there."

Tall daisy flower stands surrounded the group.

Bradley encouraged her students to open their minds and hearts to the tranquility of yoga. Through Pranayama, or breath control, Bradley created a comfortable environment .

"Yoga is about coming home to ourselves and being safe in our bodies," Bradley said.

"It's really about moving mindfully, breathing deeply and managing the thoughts that go through your brain."

Mocktails and smoothies also were served.

Yoga has its roots in Hinduism and Buddhism, though much yoga practice is secular, and focused on inner peace and self awareness. It can reduce stress, anxiety and physical pain. Yoga encourages being fully present in the moment.

As yoga merges focus on the body's breath and the sensations within the body during each pose, a space is created where mental focus can tune out distractions and aid consciousness to pay closer attention to inner thoughts and feelings.

"I have been practicing yoga for 30 years," Bradley said, adding that it has helped her cope with trauma.

—Isabella Huerta

New club fosters connection and art

The University's new Friendship Club held its first event, "Bad Art Night" on March 6, with 11 attending.

The club was founded by sisters Jazmin Jacamo, sophomore business major, and Jaelynn Jacamo, freshman business major and vice president, club president and vice president respectively.

The sisters had started a similar friendship club in high school.

"When I first came to La Verne as a freshman, I already knew I wanted to start a friendship club," Jazmin Jacamo said.

She said getting the club going here was an involved process.

The club became official two days before its first event.

The first event with an "unartistic" painting contest, free ice cream and free bracelets had a loose famous painting theme, with creative liberties, club leaders explained.

Participants tried to recreate Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," Edvard Munch's "The Scream" and Vincent van Gogh's "The Starry Night."

Pop music played while participants emulated the masters, or tried.

Jennifer Jared, writing instructor and the club's faculty advisor, also attended the event.

Jaelynn Jacamo said the club homes to bring people together and connect with the Friendship Foundation, which organizes social activities for people with disabilities.

"Our goal is to expand as much as we can, try to find volunteer opportunities for students to be a part of within the Friendship Foundation," Jaelynn Jacamo said.

"I want it to be a more diverse and inclusive environment because usually there is a gap that is unspoken between neurodivergent peers," Jazmin Jacamo said.

The Friendship Club meets Thursdays.

For more information follow them on Instagram at **@ulvfriendshipclub**.

—Monique Arambula



Thatiana Gibbs

Jazmin Jacamo, sophomore business administration major, and Jae Jacamo, freshman business administration major – sisters and co-presidents of the Friendship Club – judge participant artwork for the club's "Bad Art Night" event March 6 in Founders Hall room 21. Both sisters participated in their high school's Friendship Club before bringing it onto ULV's campus.

Various braiding techniques learned

About 20 University of La Verne students attended the Vista La Verne dorm hair braiding event March 6, where participants shared their hair-do skills, along with some of the cultural origins and significance of braiding.

Thatiana Gibbs, senior journalism major and Vista La Verne resident advisor, came up with the activity.

She'd been talking with friends about braiding and some of the challenges of natural hair, and she realized it could be an educational activity.

"Proper sectioning and tension control are … crucial to creating neat and even braids without causing discomfort or damage," Gibbs said. "Patience and practice are key. Braiding takes time to master, so beginners should start with simple styles before progressing to more intricate techniques."

The event offered an educational overview covering the history, techniques, and care of braiding, followed by a fun and interactive quiz led by sophomore kinesiology major Fiyona Haile, where participants will have a chance to win a silk pillow.

"The main goal I hoped to achieve with this event was to help residents learn their hair type and how to manage it (and) learn different types of hair styles and braids to feel more confident," Haile said.

Wintana Tsegaye, sophomore legal studies, led a hands-on braiding lesson. Demonstrating techniques that participants practiced using mannequin heads provided for the event.

Participants rotated through different stations to refine their braiding skills and socialize.

Students also got their questions about specific techniques, product recommendations, and hair maintenance routines answered.

—Lexi Giacobbe

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday for everyone

Saint Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17, falls on Monday.

The holiday is a day of celebration for Saint Patrick who is known as the patron saint of Ireland and the Apostle of Ireland.

The day was originally a religious feast day. Today it is more frequently marked by drinking Irish beer and eating corned beef and cabbage or green bagels.

Saint Patrick was born in the Fourth Century in Roman Britain. Later on he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and enslaved in Ireland.

He eventually escaped and became a Christian missionary. He is believed to have converted much of Ireland to Christianity.

There are legends that say that Saint Patrick drove snakes and venomous beasts out of Ireland as well as using a shamrock to explain to people the Christian Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People can be found on Saint Patrick's Day going to pubs and drinking a pint of Guinness beer, one of Ireland's most famed beers. People can be seen dressing in green attire so they do not find themselves getting pinched for not wearing green.

Entire cities have gone all out for Saint Patrick's Day with Chicago, Illinois dyeing the Chicago River green.

Even university fraternities have come up with a party weekend titled St. Fratty's in honor of Saint Patrick's Day.

Though Saint Patrick's Day began as a solemn holiday to remember Saint Patrick, it has evolved into much more. It has evolved into a day of festivities that unites us all and for one day, we all possess the Irish spirit.

—Karina Rodriguez





Leopards win 10th game in a row

Talar Sarkissian
Staff Writer

The baseball team won, 18-3, against Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Sunday at Ben Hines Field.

The game ended in the seventh inning by mercy rule, giving La Verne its 10th straight win and a 12-1 record.

With the winning streak, head coach Scott Winterburn emphasized the importance of staying focused.

"This group has been together for four years, so they know how to handle success," Winterburn said. "They've been ranked before, and they understand that moving up or down doesn't mean much until the end of the season."

La Verne started off strong, with three quick outs in the first inning. The game stayed scoreless until the bottom of the second when La Verne loaded the bases with one out and scored the first run.

Senior first baseman Noah Garcia got on base after being hit by a pitch, followed by two walks that loaded the bases. Two more walks and a fielder's choice gave the Leopards three more runs for a 4-0 lead.

"Our early pitching set the tone," Winterburn said. "If our pitchers can give our offense a chance to work, good things happen."

MIT had the opportunity to turn things around in the fourth. They had two runners on base with one out but La Verne's defense kept them from scoring.

In the bottom of the fourth, junior catcher Daniel Moreno executed a hit-and-run which helped junior shortstop Aiden Salcedo move to third base.

By the end of the fourth inning, La Verne had the lead, 7-2.

"We knew MIT was going to come out swinging," junior catcher and outfielder Nathan Perry said. "So we had to make sure we were throwing a lot of strikes and executing on offense."

MIT tried to build momentum at the top of the fifth with the first home run of the game from senior designated hitter Malachi Soqui, which cut the lead to 7-3. La Verne answered back at the bottom of the fifth with a single up the middle, followed by two walks that loaded the bases and set them up for a big inning.

The Leopards stayed aggressive, scoring again on a single to left center and a hit by pitch which gave them another run that was followed by a wild pitch, opening the lead to 11-3.

A single on the left gave La Verne another run, followed by an RBI single. A miscommunication by MIT's center field gave up two more runs.

"Our team is starting to play as one unit," Moreno said. "We're an upperclassman team, so there's a lot of accountability. Baseball is a lot more fun when you put up this many runs."

The Leopards added two more runs, followed by a bases-loaded walk to take the lead to 18-3, taking full control of the game.

La Verne's defense was aggressive for the last two innings. In the top of the sixth, La Verne struck out MIT's batters and finished the seventh inning with a mercy rule win.

"It feels great being part of this team," sophomore pitcher and outfielder Jacob Castro said. "Everybody's close, always cheering each other on, and that's what you need when you're on a hot streak."

The Leopards are ranked 8th in Division III baseball and are one of the top hitting teams in the country.

The red-hot team will next take on non-conference foe Franklin and Marshall at 3 p.m. Friday at Ben Hines Field.

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Rylee Fournier

La Verne senior third baseman Logan Corthell takes a powerful swing at the plate during Sunday's game against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He went 2-for-3 in the game with a walk and two RBIs.

Softball cruises through Royals in six innings

Leila El Sabbagh
Sports Editor

The Leopards secured a run-rule win over the Bethel Royals in six innings, 10-1, during the second game of their doubleheader Saturday at Campus West. Freshman pitcher Brianna Vasquez pitched the entire game, adding another win to give her two in her first season with the Leopards.

"I was super excited to be able to finish out the game," Vazquez said."I'm doing all of this for my team and am super happy I could contribute in the circle."

The game started out slow with the Leopards and Royals trading two shutout innings. It wasn't until the third inning where La Verne was able to wake their bats up.

Sophomore right fielder Annica Luna led off the inning with a line drive up the middle for a single. Freshman shortstop Mackenzie Johnson followed Luna with a line drive to the left side for another single.

"It was a really exciting moment for me," Luna said. "I just thought, get in the box and do what I've been doing for the past years, so it was really important to keep it simple."

Senior left fielder Sydney Diaz laid down a nice bunt to keep the inning going and load the bases. The Royals got two force outs at home, however senior center fielder Ashley Rodriguez hit a line drive up the middle to bring in the Leopards' first run of the game.

Freshman first baseman Raegan Hallett put the ball through the five-six hole to score another run but miscommunication caused the runner at second to get in an unwarranted pickle situation giving Bethel their last out. The Royals put one run on the board during the fourth inning. However, the Leopards used their scrappy hitting to get them through the next couple innings putting them up 8-1, using their discipline at the plate to gain free bases.

Vasquez continued to shut Bethel out until the sixth inning where freshman third baseman Aries Alonso pinch hit for her.

Alonso hit an RBI double to end the day, capping the score at 10-1 for a Leopards win.

"Honestly I am so turnt right now," Alonso said. "I am so happy that I closed the game, I can't wait to do it again."

Head softball coach Danielle Kaminaka said she changed her approach going into the second game of the doubleheader after they lost their first game against the Royals, 5-1.

"We really talked to them about choosing to be present for each other and working together and not allowing what anyone else on that field was doing to impact what we were doing," Kaminaka said.

Despite the long day, the Leopards maintained their energy all the way through. The contagious energy coming from the La Verne dugout had an impact on players' performances on the field.

"I think we were super loud and had a lot of energy," Vasquez said. "We really flipped the switch from the last game and we just wanted to do way better than we did the first game and I think we achieved that."

The Leopards are 5-3 overall.

They will open up Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic play with their next doubleheader at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Friday at Campus West against the Cal Lutheran Regals.

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Battle in the rain ends in defeat for water polo

CC Flaherty
Staff Writer

The women's water polo team came up short with an 18-15 loss to Saint Francis, a fierce Division I team, on a rainy evening March 6 at the La Verne Aquatic Center.

The Leopards put up a solid fight after coming off a strong win over the Caltech Beavers the night before, 16-9.

Given the rain and harsh conditions, the Leopards continued to have great communication and grit throughout the game. They were improving on things that will help them in their Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference games.

During the first quarter the Leopards were down 5-3 and Saint Francis came out strong with two goals in the first three minutes of play. The Leopards hung with them as the first two goals were scored by center graduate student Olivia Taylor and senior attacker Reiley Burton.

"I was excited for a non-conference game to practice, so I think it was pretty lighthearted and fun." Burton said. "But also working on things so we can shape up for conference."

As the second quarter was underway both teams stayed agressive from the offensive and defensive side of play. The Leopards were bringing frustration to Saint Francis with their loud presence and energy.

It was back and forth on the scoreboard until Saint Francis finished above the Leopards going into halftime with the score being 9-6.

"I thought the ladies did well. They were communicating in the first half because it was difficult for them to really see the field of play," head coach Robert Echeverria said."Just bringing out the energy, defense, and then being confident on the offensive end."

In the first half it was a three goal game at the end of half, so our offense was really going which kept us in the game."

The Leopards' bench was fired up with their loud cheering and supportiveness.

"The thought process there is just we have to get back up and still go as hard as you can. Also pick it up a notch and just keep pushing," Taylor said.

As the third quarter started Saint Francis scored three goals within the first four minutes and kept the Leopards' fiery offense from scoring until five minutes in. Senior center Brianna Zapata scored back-to-back in the third quarter for the Leopards with assists from Burton.

Saint Francis stayed aggressive on offense, scoring a goal with seconds left on the clock closing out the third quarter, 14-9.

"I don't think there was any wavering thought that we weren't still in the game. I think we still thought we were in the game," Zapata said.

The Leopards had a great start to the fourth quarter with three goals in the first three minutes. Saint Francis was trying to keep their lead and added four more points to their score.

Zapata showed her confidence and grit, ending their scoring run with a goal for the Leopards with a minute left in play. Despite the 18-15 loss, the Leopards showed up and put up a fight against Saint Francis University.

The top performers for the Leopards were Zapata with six goals, Burton with three goals and one assist and Taylor with two goals.

La Verne returned to conference play with a 21-10 loss to the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens on Wednesday in Claremont.

The loss drops them to 2-11 overall and 1-1 in conference. The Leopards will host the Whittier Poets at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the La Verne Aquatic Center.

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Howell awarded Ed Baldwin honor

Zachary Grech
Calendar Editor

The Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference awarded Marissa Howell, senior point guard for the La Verne women's basketball team, the Ed Baldwin Sportsmanship Award on Wednesday.

This award is presented to the senior who exhibits exceptional sportsmanship throughout conference play.

"My reaction to winning the award was very grateful, and just to know that the other coaches in the conference recognized and believed that I was able to carry sportsmanship very well throughout my four years," she said.

Nicknamed "The Orchestrator," Howell has been a valuable player to the team for the past four years. Through her memorable performances on the court and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, she has left her mark on La Verne athletics history.

For Howell, this is another award to add to her decorated playing career. Howell has surpassed 1,000 career points, played in 100 games, and is the record holder for the most made 3-pointers in La Verne women's basketball history.

She earned First-Team All-SCIAC honors in 2023, Second-Team All-SCIAC honors in 2024, and now the Ed Baldwin Sportsmanship Award in 2025.

When Marissa Howell steps onto the basketball court the other team has this immense amount of pressure on them to stop her from taking over a game.

"No matter where she is, if you leave her open she is going to shoot the ball," women's basketball forward Alyssa Smith said. "I'm pretty sure on the scouting report it says, you cannot leave her open no matter where she is on the floor."

Smith also talked about how the opposing teams that they faced always made sure to locate Marissa Howell on the floor, and tried to find ways to stop her offensively.

She is such an offensive threat that is hard to guard in games. She creates ways to score by finding ways to outsmart the defense through her shot-creating ability.

"I just made sure that whatever play we were running at practice, I would do it at full speed and treat it like a game-like situation," Marissa Howell said.

As one of the most high-level scorers in the SCIAC, whenever she was in the act of shooting, Howell projected a mindset of knowing that the shot was going in before she even released the ball out of her hands.

Being a point guard for the team, Howell had the job of running the offense for her team, creating opportunities for her teammates to score. One of the most effective parts of Howell's game is creating separation from opposing players to help her score more efficiently.

"The plays that I like to run are ones coming off screens," Howell said. "I think I'm good at reading screens which allows me to get myself open pretty easily."

One area that her head coach raves about is how she understands all facets of the game.

"Marissa's greatest asset she brought to us was her high basketball IQ, and her incredible work ethic," coach Anthony Mason said."She has one of the highest IQs of anybody I ever coached in my 20 years of coaching, and her work ethic is second to none."

Even when "the orchestrator" is not scoring she also leaves an impact on her teammates through her leadership.



Emily Casillas

Senior women's basketball guard Marissa Howell has received the Ed Baldwin Sportsmanship award to end her collegiate career as a generational talent at the University of La Verne.

She said that setting an example and demonstrating what it meant to put in a lot of effort each day was the most crucial aspect of being a team captain.

"She leads by example, and I like how when I am out on the floor and I need someone to have my back, or if I need someone to hit a shot I can always count on Marissa," freshman point guard Jasmine Prajitno said.

Prajitno also said that Howell leads by example through close games. One game, in particular, this past season was against Pomona-Pitzer.

"She hits this stepback… just an absolute circus shot, and I'm like I should probably go rebound and [Marissa] sinks the shot," Prajitno said.

Throughout her career, Howell has provided stability for the women's basketball team. She has left a legacy that is built on the foundation of hard work, resilience, and humility.

"I just want people to remember me as someone who worked and just played with all their heart," Howell said. "I left everything out on the floor and I hope people can recognize that and can learn from that."

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LEOPARD SCOREBOARD

AT THE BUZZER

Baseball, March 8
G1 **La Verne- 10**
Willamette - 1
G2 **La Verne- 10**
Willamette- 5

Softball, March 8
G1 Bethel- 5
La Verne- 1
G2 **La Verne- 10**
Bethel- 1 6 Inn.

Baseball, March 9
La Verne- 18
MIT- 3

Women's Water Polo, March 12
Pomona-Pitzer – 21
La Verne - 10

SCHEDULE

Friday
Men's track & field at NCAA Dlll Indoor Track & Field Championships @ Rochester, NY, all day
Men's and women's track & field at PLNU Ross & Sharon Irwin Invitational @ San Diego, all day
Women's golf at Willamette Invitational @ Salem, OR, all day
Baseball vs. Franklin and Marshall, 3 p.m.
Softball vs. Cal Lutheran, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Saturday
Men's track & field at NCAA Dlll Indoor Track & Field Championships @ Rochester, NY, all day
Men's and women's track & field at PLNU Ross & Sharon Irwin Invitational @ San Diego, all day
Women's golf at Willamette Invitational @ Salem, OR, all day
Baseball vs. Franklin and Marshall, 9 a.m.
Women's water polo vs. Whittier, 11 a.m.
Softball vs. Washington University St. Louis, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

BASEBALL STANDINGS

	SCIAC	Overall
La Verne	**3-0**	**12-1**
Cal Lutheran	3-0	11-3
CMS	5-1	10-3
Pomona-Pitzer	4-2	10-4
Redlands	4-2	13-7
Caltech	2-4	3-7
Whittier	1-5	4-10
Occidental	1-5	4-11
Chapman	1-5	2-11